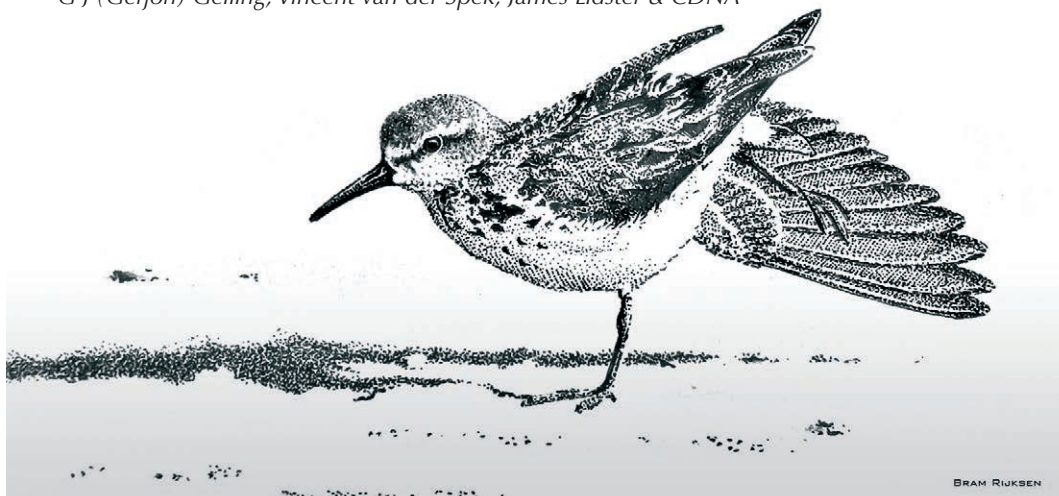


Rare birds in the Netherlands in 2019

G J (Gerjon) Gelling, Vincent van der Spek, James Lidster & CDNA



This is the 40th annual report on rare birds in the Netherlands to be published in Dutch Birding. Most records are from 2019 but belated and re-considered records dating back to 1891 have also been included. These have been assessed by the Dutch rarities committee (Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna; CDNA), a joint committee of the Dutch Birding Association (DBA) and the Nederlandse Ornithologische Unie (NOU). Records are assessed digitally over a maximum of four rounds (the first round is blind) by eight voting members. Records of all taxa accepted up to and including 2019, as well as pending reports, can be found in the online database www.dutchavifauna.nl. Please note that some reports from 2019 and earlier are still under review or awaiting submission and are therefore not included.

Recorded species in 2019

Rare, rarer, rarest: 2019 was a memorable year with no less than seven new species added to the Dutch list, the highest number so far this century (2006 and 2016 had six). Several of these species are incredibly rare, or even previously unrecorded in north-western Europe. Furthermore, there were another 19 records of birds with less than 10 records. This series of 26 stand-out records was remarkable given the grand total of 176 records. The Dutch list also lost a species: Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* was removed from the list of wild birds (see 'Not accepted'). With a total of 379 species recorded, it was a fairly good year for spe-

cies diversity (figure 1). With a few records still pending, this number may rise. Highlights included:

- 1st** Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* (second or third for the Western Palearctic 'sensu BWP'; hereafter WP), Red-wattled Lapwing *Vindicus* (first for western Europe), Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* (ninth for the WP), Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*, Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*, Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus* and Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida* (first for western Europe)
- 2nd** Balearic Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator badius* and Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata*
- 3rd** Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*
- 3rd-4th** Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* and Brown Shrike *L. cristatus*
- 4th** Turkestan Shrike *L. phoenicuroides* and Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*
- 5th** Stilt Sandpiper *C. himantopus*
- 6th** Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* and White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*
- 7th** Pygmy Cormorant *Microcarbo pygmaeus*
- 8-10th** Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
- 9th** Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum*
- 9-10th** Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

In addition, 2019 was a record year for Little Crane *Zapornia parva* (five; previous maximum was four in 2012 and 2016), Baltic Gull *L. fuscus fuscus* (eight; was six in 2018), Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (nine; was six in 2015, not regarding

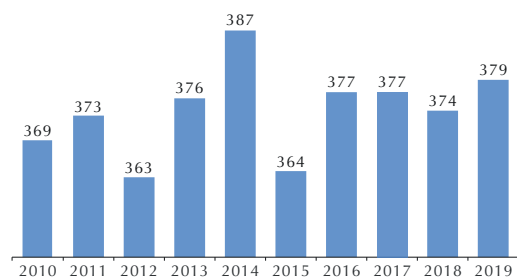


FIGURE 1 Number of species recorded in the Netherlands per year in 2010-19 (average 374) / aantal vastgestelde soorten per jaar in Nederland in 2010-19 (gemiddeld 374)

the number of individuals involved), Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (five; was four in 2010 and 2013) and Iberian Chiffchaff *P. ibericus* (10; was six in 2010 and 2018). Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* (five) equalled its best year (2000). Baltic Gull and Griffon Vulture will no longer be considered from 2020 onwards.

Workload

This report contains 250 reviewed reports, of which 176 (70%) got accepted. On average, 1.77 rounds were needed to draw a final conclusion. In recent years we have strived to shorten the circulation time, without compromising the quality of the assessments. The average circulation time per submitted file was 31 days (41 in 2018). The fastest assessments were completed within a day, the longest took 263 days. 90% of all submissions were assessed within 67 days after they went into circulation (113 days in 2018).

Additional committee work

The committee met in February and July. The committee's handbook was updated and a new protocol for rare birds originating from reintroduction programmes was added. Furthermore, a protocol for 'DNA-records' was added (see also Gelling et al 2019). Based on current knowledge, some taxa cannot be identified with certainty in the field (eg, Siberian Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea blythi* without DNA analysis). For some taxa, new insights are (sometimes: long) awaited. Sightings of such rare taxa have long been placed in the so-called 'freezer'. New guidelines were set up in order to assess most of these records, some after many years. In 2019, the ties with many European rarity committees were intensified. Sharing information is very useful and we strive to continue doing this in the future. It is interesting to note that

regarding the status of birds, sharing information on birds seen in multiple countries did not always lead to the same outcome. We published two papers (Fijen et al 2019, Gelling et al 2019).

Members

The following CDNA members voted on some or all records in this report: Garry Bakker, Christian Brinkman (secretary until early 2019), Thijs Fijen, Diederik Kok, James Lidster (treasurer since 2019), Eddy Nieuwstraten (chairman), Hans Schekkerman (voting member since 2019), Vincent van der Spek (secretary since 2019) and Rik Winters (treasurer; departing member after two four-year terms in 2019). Gerjon Gelling (archivist) and August van Rijn (assistant) supported the committee as non-voting members by submitting many reports published on national and regional websites.

Glossary

Details included for each record are, if available: date(s); location and/or *municipality* (municipal divisions as of 1 January 2019); province; number of birds, age and sex; type of record if ringed, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed or found dead (and where specimen is stored, if known); names of up to three observers involved in finding, identifying and recording, and relevant references in the literature, which normally include (inter)national but not regional journals, and published photographs. Records from 2018 lasting into 2019 that already have been published in the 2018 report (Gelling et al 2019) are repeated here without reference. Observations not (yet) submitted but mentioned in the 2018 report are not repeated in this report. The sequence of the records in the species accounts is from the current year backwards, with records within one year presented per province (starting with the province with the first record of the year), and then chronologically within each province. Numbers after each (sub)species' name refer to the total number of individuals **1** from 1 January 1800 to 31 December 1979, **2** since 1 January 1980 but excluding, **3** the current year. Taxa marked with an asterisk * are new to the Dutch list. For the sake of completeness, date extensions of records accepted earlier are presented in this report.

Abbreviations for provinces are: DR Drenthe, FL Flevoland, FR Friesland, GE Gelderland, GR Groningen, LB Limburg, NB Noord-Brabant, NH Noord-Holland, OV Overijssel, UT Utrecht, ZL Zeeland and ZH Zuid-Holland. For ageing, calendar-year is abbreviated to cy prefixed with 1, 2, 3 or 4 to indicate first, second, third or fourth. The

symbol # indicates corrections or extensions of date(s), location(s) or other details concerning a record.

Decisions regarding taxonomy have been delegated to the Dutch committee for avian systematics (Commissie Systematiek Nederlandse Avifauna; CSNA) and are not under the responsibility of the CDNA.

Reports can be submitted through the electronic form directly on www.dutchavifauna.nl or by using the link on www.waarneming.nl.

Accepted

Greenland White-fronted Goose / Groenlandse Kolgans

Anser albifrons flavirostris 14,80,1

ZEELAND Prosperpolder Noord, Emmadorp, *Hulst*, 6-19 March, photographed (K Hessel et al; Dutch Birding 41: 207, plate 256, 2019).

This bird, found by a Belgian rarity committee member, was mostly seen on the Belgian side of the border, where it was accepted as the eighth for the country (17 birds). During its stay, it occasionally wandered into the Netherlands.

King Eider / Koningseider

Somateria spectabilis 1,18,0

FRIESLAND Richel, and Noordzee, Pad van Zes, *Vlieland*, 14 May to 15 September, also seen at Waddenzee, Paal 33, *Texel* NH, 18 May, adult male, photographed (F Prak, N van Duivendijk, D Kok et al).

A returning individual, first seen in March 2018.

Surf Scoter / Brilzee-eend

Melanitta perspicillata 3,34,4

FRIESLAND Noordzee, north of Ballum, *Ameland*, 26

April to 14 May, four males (three adult and one immature), photographed (B-J Prak, D Hoekstra et al).

14 out of the now 31 records are from the coastal zone of the North Sea bordering the Wadden Sea islands. A few sites on the eastern islands are among the very few areas in the country where big rafts of scoters occasionally come close enough to the shore to obtain decent views. This year's flock of four is only surpassed in size by five birds at neighbouring Terschelling, Friesland, in November-December 2000.

Ring-necked Duck / Ringsnaveleend

Aythya collaris 5,39,5

GRONINGEN Appingedam-Oost, *Appingedam*, 3 January to 8 February, and 1-14 April, and 22 December, also seen at Ezumakeeg Noord, and Egbert Schuldink-eiland, and R J Cleveringsluizen, Lauwersoog, *Noord-east-Fryslân* FR, 1-17 March, and Polder de Warren, and Grutte Wielen, *Leeuwarden* FR, 20-31 March, adult male, photographed, videoed (A Niehof et al; Dutch Birding 41: 138, plate 164, 2019, 42: 66, plate 102, 2020).

ZUID-HOLLAND Dintelhaven, Europoort, *Rotterdam*, 17 January to 14 March, adult male, photographed (R Slaterus et al; Dutch Birding 41: 144, plate 172, 2019).

Surfplas, and Plas Broekvelden, Reeuwijksche Plassen, *Bodegraven-Reeuwijk*, 27-28 March, adult male, photographed (P Steenbergen et al; Dutch Birding 41: 205, plate 254, 2019).

Krabbeplas, *Vlaardingen*, 2 November to 8 December, male, photographed (B Gaxiola, M van der Ham et al;

526 Greenland White-fronted Goose / Groenlandse Kolgans *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, adult, with Greylag Geese / Grauwe Ganzen *A anser*, Emmadorp, Zeeland, 14 March 2019 (*Vincent Legrand*)



Dutch Birding 42: 69, plate 109, 2020).

GELDERLAND Drempt – Rechter Oever, *Bronckhorst*, 30 October to 9 November, adult male, photographed, videoed (M Gal, R Stolk et al; Dutch Birding 42: 69, plate 107, 2020).

FLEVOLAND Veluwemeer, *Dronten*, 27 November to 12 December, male, photographed (H Wieleman et al).

1982 # DRENTHE Mensinghe, Roden, *Noordenveld*, 24–26 April (was 24 April), adult male.

The Groningen bird was a returning individual, first recorded in February 2017. Plumage analysis by the committee revealed that this individual made appearances at sites both in Friesland and Groningen, which was not noted in previous winters.

Lesser Scaup / Kleine Topper

Aythya affinis 0,19,2

NOORD-HOLLAND Dijkwielen, *Hollands Kroon*, 7–27 March, adult male, photographed (F Visscher; Dutch Birding 41: 205, plate 255, 2019).

Gouwe, *Waterland*, 23 November to 25 December, adult male, photographed, videoed (A Dwarshuis, P Sleuring et al).

FLEVOLAND Harderbroek, *Zeewolde*, and Bremerbergdijk, Biddinghuizen, *Dronten*, 26 November to 4 December, adult male, photographed, videoed (H Wieleman, K Dol, P Dol et al).

Whether some birds are returning rather than new individuals is often hard to determine. The Hollands Kroon record was considered a returning bird, first seen in December 2015.

Bufflehead / Buffelkopend

Bucephala albeola 0,8,0

NOORD-HOLLAND Zuiderhaven, Den Oever, and IJsselmeer, and Dijkwielen, *Hollands Kroon*, 9 October 2018 to 13 February, and 1–17 August, and 16 October to 12 January 2020, adult male, photographed (F Visscher et al).

NOORD-BRABANT Spaarbekken Petrusplaat, Brabantse Biesbosch, and Zwaluwedijk, Lage Zwaluwe, *Drimmelen*, 25 May to 21 August, and 15 September to 5 October, adult male, photographed (A Verheij, K Verheij).

Both records concerned returning individuals.

Blue-winged Teal / Blauwvleugeltaling

Spatula discors 6,37,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Grote Vlak, Den Hoorn, *Texel*, 2 October to 16 November, 1cy female, photographed (R Dokter, A Wassink, R F J van Beusekom et al; Dutch Birding 41: 445, plate 619, 2019).

This bird was found when hurricane Lorenzo – the easternmost category 5 Atlantic hurricane to date – hit the WP.

Oriental Turtle Dove / Oosterse Tortel

Streptopelia orientalis 0,7,3

NOORD-HOLLAND Limmen, *Castricum*, 22 January to 9 March, 2cy, *S o meena*, photographed, videoed (via N F van der Ham, H Schekkerman et al; de Vries &

Ebels 2020; Dutch Birding 41: 130, plate 154, 139, plate 166, 2019, 42: 254, plate 318, 2020).

DRENTHE Rietlanden, Emmen, *Emmen*, 9–21 February, photographed (W Vergers; de Vries & Ebels 2020; Dutch Birding 42: 255, plate 319–320, 2020).

FRIESLAND De Domp, Sneek, *Súdwest Fryslân*, 28 December to 11 March 2020, *S o meena*, adult, photographed, videoed (D Pruiksma, A Zijlstra et al; de Vries & Ebels 2020; Dutch Birding 42: 141, plate 196, 257, plate 321, 2020).

Three in a year is a record, and two present at the same time was a novelty. The first record was as recent as December 2009 but with 10 records in 10 years this species has rapidly become a more or less regular vagrant. Seven out of 10 records, including the three birds from 2019, have been found wintering in urban gardens. Six out of 10 were accepted as Rufous Turtle Dove *S o meena*, including this year's birds at Limmen and Sneek. The subspecies was not determined of the other four. The Emmen record was only seen by the residents of the house. This chunky looking bird could have been the nation's first *S o orientalis* but the photographic evidence was too poor to identify the subspecies. The bird at Sneek was first accepted from 30 January 2020 (the day when the news broke) but de Vries & Ebels (2020) reported that the first date was actually 28 December 2019, which the committee adopted.

Alpine Swift / Alpengierzwaluw

Tachymarptis melba 7,61,5

ZEELAND Telpost Breskens, *Sluis*, 20 April (C Beeke et al).

Telpost de Nolle, Duinen Vijgheter, *Vlissingen*, 22 September, photographed (M Pattikawa, R Sponselee, M Klootwijk; Dutch Birding 41: 445, plate 616, 2019).

NOORD-HOLLAND Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, *Zandvoort*, 26 April, photographed (H Buckx).

FRIESLAND Westerplas, *Schiermonnikoog*, 27 September, 1cy, photographed (L B Steijn, D Kok, R Karskens; Dutch Birding 41: 442, plate 614–615, 2019).

ZUID-HOLLAND Sliedrechtse Biesbosch, *Dordrecht*, 8 October (R van der Made, P Verhelst).

Five equals the record year of 2000. Aside from the remarkable streak without an accepted sighting in 2006–08, this species has been annual since 1991. Alpine Swifts are most often seen in April (21) and May (15), followed by September (13) and October (nine).

Pallid Swift / Vale Gierzwaluw

Apus pallidus 0,26,5

NOORD-HOLLAND Polder Wassenaar, *Texel*, 15 October, 1cy, photographed (J Veeken; Groenendijk & van der Laan 2020).

Robbenjager, *Texel*, 18 October, 1cy, photographed (A Holzem, F Holzem; Groenendijk & van der Laan 2020).

FRIESLAND Schlei, and Kobbeduinen, and De Marlijn, *Schiermonnikoog*, 24–25 October, 1cy, photographed (J de Leeuw, J Oosterhuis, T Burger et al; Groenendijk & van der Laan 2020).

Oostervallei, and Stortemelk, and Kooisplek, *Vlieland*, 26 October, 1cy, photographed (J van der Laan et al;



527 Rufous Turtle Dove / Meenatortel *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, second calendar-year, Limmen, Noord-Holland, 3 February 2019 (Arnoud B van den Berg)

Groenendijk & van der Laan 2020; Dutch Birding 42: 265, plate 329-330, 2020).

Waddenzee, *Schiermonnikoog*, 3 November, 1cy, photographed (W Wind et al; Groenendijk & van der Laan 2020).

30 of the 31 individuals have been recorded in 2013-19. Within that period only 2016 lacks a record. All records have been between 13 October and 15 November (Groenendijk & van der Laan 2020).

Great Spotted Cuckoo / Kuifkoekoek

Clamator glandarius 7,19,2

FRIESLAND Makkumersúdward, Piaam, *Súdwest-Fryslân*, 14 April, 2cy, photographed, videoed (J Postma, T Andringa).

GRONINGEN Osdijk, and Oeverlanden Zuidlaardermeer, *Groningen*, 3 August, 1cy, photographed (M Zonder-van, D Wijnenga, A Selles).

The first records in four years. Both were not reported until well after the observation: the first was found in a restricted area during a breeding bird survey and was therefore suppressed, the second was seen by inexperienced observers. The dates of this year's records are fairly typical since April (five) and August (six) are the best months.

Little Crane / Klein Waterhoen

Zapornia parva 36,33,5

DRENTHE Matsloot Noord, De Onlanden, *Noordenveld*, 24 April to 1 June, sound-recorded (M Wijnhold).

OVERIJSEL Wetering West, De Weerribben, *Steenwijkerland*, 10 May to 11 June, male, sound-recorded (J Bredenbeek et al).

NOORD-BRABANT Visvijvers, *Valkenswaard*, 18 May to 4 June, male, sound-recorded (R Verbraak et al).

GRONINGEN Oostpolder, Zuidlaardermeergebied, *Groningen*, 24 May to 1 June, female, sound-recorded (H van de Noord, L Brinkhuizen, R Oving).

NOORD-HOLLAND De Noord, *Heerhugowaard*, 9 September, 1cy, found dead, probable window victim,



528 Little Bustard / Kleine Trap *Tetrax tetrax*, second calendar-year, De Zilk, Zuid-Holland, 15 February 2019 (Arnoud B van den Berg)

skin in collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden ZH, photographed (Y Oudemans, J Oudemans). Five is a record year, after 2012 and 2016 with four. The first arrived somewhat early but otherwise the observations fitted the known pattern, with (calling) adults in spring and a young bird in early autumn. Date extremes of all records are 13 April and 8 October.

Baillon's Crane / Kleinst Waterhoen

Zapornia pusilla 172,57,-

1891 LIMBURG Echt, *Echt-Susteren*, 26 September, 1cy, skin in collection of Museum voor Natuurwetenschappen, Brussel, Belgium, photographed (collection of Baron de Chestret de Haneffe, via C van Seggelen and J J F J Jansen).

The bird is labelled as belonging to the subspecies *Z p intermedia*. This species is no longer considered since 1 January 2007 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before this date.

Little Bustard / Kleine Trap

Tetrax tetrax 32,15,2

ZUID-HOLLAND De Zilk, *Noordwijk*, 10-27 February, 2cy, photographed, videoed (H Buckx et al; Dutch Birding 41: 125, plate 139, 137, plate 162-163, 2019).

NOORD-HOLLAND Poolland, Kolhorn, *Hollands Kroon*, 24-25 December, photographed (A Brenkman, P Snoeken et al; Dutch Birding 42: 69, plate 110, 2020).

1895 # ZEELAND Haamstede, *Schouwen-Duiveland*, 21 September (was 21 September 1894), female, dead (via R J J Vlek; Albarda 1896, contra Albarda 1897, Eykman et al 1949, Beekman et al 1986, van den Berg & Bosman 2001).

There was a 10-year gap between the records of 2000 and 2011 but seven have now been found over the past nine years: a remarkable series, given the steep population declines. The bird at De Zilk was observed very well in a flower bulb field, creating a beautiful contrast of a

not so typical bird in a very typical Dutch (cliché) setting. The second of the year was found by observers searching for the Little Curlew (see below), raising the question whether it would have been found had there not been 100s of birders in the area. How many more are out there hiding in less well-covered bulb fields and polders?

Cory's Shearwater / Kuhls Pijlstormvogel

Calonectris borealis 2,4,0

2018 ZUID-HOLLAND Noordzee, Kijkduin, *Den Haag*, also seen at Monster, *Westland*, and Tweede Maasvlakte, *Rotterdam*, and Ouddorp, *Goeree-Overflakkee*, and Westkapelle, *Veere* ZL, 25 October, photographed, videoed (R van der Vliet, T Luiten et al).

This is the first field record of a *Calonectris* shearwater accepted to species level (other field records were accepted as either Cory's Shearwater or Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea*). This record circulated for a long time, since it proved difficult to rule out the less likely option of a Scopoli's. The world's experts on this subject were consulted in order to help with the assessment. After it was found, it moved south-west fairly slowly, thereby offering birders the opportunity to drive to a good vantage point and wait for the bird to pass by. In the evening and the following morning it was also picked up along the Belgian shore, at Wenduine and Oostende, West-Vlaanderen, on 25 October and De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, on 26 October. There are now six records of Cory's and 11 of unidentified Cory's/Scopoli's.

Great Shearwater / Grote Pijlstormvogel

Ardeanna gravis 9,9,1

FRIESLAND 't Schoor, Ternaard, *Noardeast-Fryslân*, 2 March, found dead, skin not retained, photographed (A Fokkens). The first for March. Despite the small number of records (19), Great Shearwaters have been found in nine out of 12 months. Only May, June and August still lack a record. The absence in August is remarkable, since this is a peak month for the species in Britain and Ireland.

Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver

Microcarbo pygmaeus 0,6,1

GELDERLAND Hurnse Kil, *Maasdiel*, 3 June, also seen at Keent, Oss NB, 5-6 June, adult summer plumage, photographed, videoed (G de Jong, M Koning, F Bos et al; Dutch Birding 41: 281, plate 378, 284, plate 385, 2019).

The first twitchable in nine years. The sighting in Gelderland was reported belatedly. Plumage comparison by the committee confirmed it was the same individual as the one in Noord-Brabant: both missed the same tail feather, and the summer plumage pattern was identical. Not surprising, given the two sites are only 30 km apart and the dates nearly connected. Based on corresponding tail moult, it possibly concerned an individual that was first seen in Belgium in 2018.

American Golden Plover / Amerikaanse Goudplevier

Pluvialis dominica 1,53,4

GRONINGEN Punt van Reide, and Breebaartpolder, *Delfzijl*, 4 June, adult summer plumage, photographed (T Mulder).

Emmapolder, Ruidhorn, *Het Hogeland*, 29-31 August, adult, photographed, videoed (J G Bosma et al).

UTRECHT Natuurontwikkelingsgebied Willeskop, Polsbroekerdam, *Oudewater*, 11-12 August, 2cy, photographed, videoed (A Boele, K de Leeuw et al; Dutch Birding 41: 368, plate 504, 2019).

ZUID-HOLLAND Polder Het West Nieuwland, Ouddorp, *Goeree-Overflakkee*, 24-27 September, adult, photographed, videoed (G Tanis et al).

Four constitutes a fairly good year. Since 1991, only 2005 and 2011 passed without any record. None were seen in May this year, normally the best month (Fijen et al 2019). The Delfzijl record was remarkable. An American Golden Plover was reported four times between 25 May and 4 June and this series of sightings was submitted by the initial finder. An analysis by the committee, however, revealed that the distant and therefore poorly photographed bird on the first dates actually concerned a Pacific Golden Plover *P fulva* rather than an American, eg, based on the whitish flanks and toes apparently projecting beyond the tail in flight. The long primary projection observed in the field might have been caused by a missing tertial. Confusingly, photographs taken at the site on 4 June showed an undisputed American. The flanks, shape of the 'boa' and cheeks left no doubt that this was a different individual. This led to the remarkable outcome that the initial report was not accepted (Pacific is no longer reviewed since 1 January 2019) whereas a presumed follow-up sighting 10 days later was.

***Grey-headed Lapwing / Grijskopkievit**

Vanellus cinereus 0,0,1

FRIESLAND Workumermeer, Workum, *Súdwest-Fryslân*, 27-28 June, adult, photographed, videoed (L Zijlstra, K Kuipers, J Hooijmeijer et al; van den Berg 2019; Dutch Birding 41: 269, plate 361, 283, plate 381, 2019).

Grey-headed Lapwing seems to be a species on the move. It is expanding its Asian wintering range both towards the west (Wiersma & Kirwan 2020b) and south (Bakewell 2014), and there are several recent records of vagrants in Australia (Wiersma & Kirwan 2020b). Still, even after sightings in Oman (2012), Turkey (2018), and Norway and Sweden (May 2019), this record came as something of a shock. A search by the committee revealed that the species seems to be virtually non-existent in captivity. Its moult perfectly mirrored a wild bird, both in sequence and timing. The lack of pale fringed juvenile coverts, only moderately instead of strongly worn old primaries and perhaps iris colour indicated it was an adult. The jury is still out whether the individual in Norway and Sweden earlier in 2019 was the same bird as the Dutch one. With the recent range expansion in Asia, the question is whether more European records can be expected in the near future?

***Red-wattled Lapwing / Indische Kievit**

Vanellus indicus 0,0,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Polder de Robbenjager, and Eierlandse Duinen, and Polder Wassenaar, *Texel*, 19 June, also seen at Grootstlegt, *Ameland* FR, 23 June, adult, photo-



529 Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Microcarbo pygmaeus*, adult summer, Hurnse Kil, Gelderland, 3 June 2019 (*Genol de Jong*) **530** Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw *Elanus caeruleus*, Keent, Noord-Brabant, 4 November 2019 (*Alain Hofmans*) **531** Red-wattled Lapwing / Indische Kievit *Vanellus indicus*, adult, De Tuintjes, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, 19 June 2019 (*René Pop*) **532** Grey-headed Lapwing / Grijskopkievit *Vanellus cinereus*, adult, Workum, Friesland, 27 June 2019 (*Jaap Denee*)



graphed (J van den Berg, A Wassink, R Pater et al; van den Berg 2019; Dutch Birding 41: 268, plate 358, 282, plate 379-380, 2019).

During a year full of unexpected records, this was perhaps the most unexpected one. At the time of the sighting, many regarded it an escaped cage bird but its credentials changed when plumage analysis by a keen birder showed that the same individual had been photographed on Pag, Croatia, on 14 May. That made it very plausible that Red-wattled Lapwings (poorly) photographed in Bayern, Germany, on 31 May and at Kieldrecht, Belgium, on 11 June also involved the same individual. Beforehand, the vagrancy potential of this species might have been seen as questionable as it is not known for long migratory flights but this unringed and undamaged bird covered a large distance in good health. All encounters of this bird were brief: it did not seem to stop moving along its route. The distance to Pag (c 1150 km from Texel or Ameland in a straight line) is c a third of the total distance to the nearest breeding grounds, and the direction points directly back towards its supposed home soil. Furthermore, this species seems to be very scarce to rare in captivity, and the committee could not find a single sighting of a proven escape. It therefore got the benefit of the doubt, though the committee is aware that opinions on this bird differ. For instance, it was accepted in category A in Croatia, whereas it was placed in category D in Belgium (it has not been assessed in Germany yet).

Greater Sand Plover / Woestijnplover

Anarhynchus leschenaultii 1,16,1

ZUID-HOLLAND Slufterstrand, Maasvlakte, Rotterdam, and Kwade Hoek, Goedereede, *Goeree-Overflakkee*, 20-23 May, female, photographed, videoed (C Fokker et al; Dutch Birding 41: 284, plate 386, 2019).

There are now seven spring records (27 April to 27 June) and 11 summer/autumn records (18 July to 5 September). August (seven) is the best month.

***Little Curlew / Kleine Regenwulp**

Numenius minutus 0,0,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Several locations, *Hollands Kroon*, and *Schagen*, 23 December to 18 January 2020, 1-2cy, photographed, videoed (S Algera, F Visscher, E B Ebels et al; Algera & Ebels 2020; Dutch Birding 42: 49, plate 68, 65, plate 98-99, 81, plate 118, 82, plate 119, 83, plate 120-123, 144, plate 205, 2020).

Right before Christmas, 2019 had one more surprise in stock. The ninth Little Curlew for the WP was found by an observer reading Eurasian Curlew *N arquata* rings. The date was remarkable, since very few winter records from the Northern Hemisphere are known. With relatively few accessible sites in Asia and Australia to connect with this species, it was a new bird for many a world lister and it therefore did not only draw Dutch but also quite a few foreign birders to the site.

Stilt Sandpiper / Steltstrandloper

Calidris himantopus 0,4,1

UTRECHT Waverhoek, and Polder Groot-Mijdrecht,

Mijdrecht, *De Ronde Venen*, 14-20 August, adult, photographed, videoed (P Rijk et al; Dutch Birding 41: 368, plate 503, 2019).

Remarkably, plumage analysis revealed this to be the same individual as the one photographed on the evening of 11 August on Rathlin Island, Antrim, Northern Ireland, c 800 km west-north-west of Waverhoek. Previous records were in 1998, 2000, 2004 and 2016.

Pectoral Sandpiper / Gestreepte Strandloper

Calidris melanotos 10,96,-

1988 # GRONINGEN Hoeksmeer, Garrelswear, *Loppersum*, 10-13 and 19 May (was 10-13 May), adult summer plumage.

This concerns a date extension. This species is no longer considered since 1 January 2000 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before this date.

***Western Sandpiper / Alaskastrandloper**

Calidris mauri 0,0,1

FRIESLAND Westhoek, *Waadhoeke*, 15-19 August, adult, photographed, videoed (W van Zwieten et al; van Zwieten & Ebels 2020; Dutch Birding 41: 361, plate 493, 2019, 42: 157, plate 215, 159, plate 216-219, 2020).

Another new bird for the country, this one more or less expected. A regular visitor to one of the most spectacular high tide wader roosts of the country photographed a 'peep' he did not recognise. He shared photographs on Facebook and it was not long before the bird was correctly identified. It remained for another four days but was only seen around high tide. In order not to disturb this very important Wadden Sea roost that holds 10 000s of waders, the 100s of birders that visited the site did not approach the mudflats but stayed on the dyke at a safe distance of c 150 m. Since the bird had the habit of foraging on the front edge of the huge flock, it still allowed very reasonable scope views.

Lesser Yellowlegs / Kleine Geelpootruiter

Tringa flavipes 2,52,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Mariëndal, *Den Helder*, 17 July, also seen at Wide Mar, Stiens, *Leeuwarden* FR, 18 July, adult summer plumage, photographed, videoed (P Ferwerda, J Breidenbach et al; Dutch Birding 41: 364, plate 496, 2019).

Based on the strong similarities in plumage and the connecting dates, it was decided that the same bird was involved at these two sites, that are c 80 km apart as the yellowlegs flies. The last blank year was 2010, and one record is nowadays considered a poor year.

Great Snipe / Poelsnip

Gallinago media -,44,1

GRONINGEN Wolfsbarge, Zuidlaardermeer, *Midden-Groningen*, 15 May, photographed (R Oving).

Possibly two birds were involved but the single photograph and the description were not conclusive and therefore only one was accepted.



533 Greater Sand Plover / Woestijnplevier *Anarhynchus leschenaultii*, female, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 20 May 2019 (Jacob Molenaar) **534** Baltic Gull / Baltische Mantelmeeuw *Larus fuscus fuscus*, first calendar-year, Haventje Noord, Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland, 28 September 2019 (Achim Holzem) **535** Stilt Sandpiper / Steltstrandloper *Calidris himantopus*, adult, Waverhoek, Utrecht, 20 August 2019 (René van Rossum) **536** Western Sandpiper / Alaskastrandloper *Calidris mauri*, adult, Westhoek, Friesland, 15 August 2019 (Wim van Zwieten) **537** Little Curlew / Kleine Regenwulp *Numenius minutus*, first-winter, with Eurasian Curlew / Wulp *N arquata* and Common Starling / Spreeuw *Sturnus vulgaris*, Kolhorn, Noord-Holland, 25 December 2019 (Alex Bos) **538** Little Curlew / Kleine Regenwulp *Numenius minutus*, first-winter, Kolhorn, Noord-Holland, 28 December 2019 (Leo J R Boon)

Black Guillemot / Zwarte Zeekoet

Cephus grylle 31,67,-

2006 ZEELAND Telpost Zeedijk, Westkapelle, Veere, 12 November, adult winter plumage (A Vink, R Vermoo-
len, L Kaaij).

This species is no longer considered since 1 January 2007 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before this date.

Long-tailed Jaeger / Kleinste Jager

Stercorarius longicaudus 24,109,-

1979 # ZUID-HOLLAND Grevelingendam, Goeree-Over-
flakkee, 22 September (was 21 September), 1cy male,
found dead, skin in collection of Zoölogisch Museum
Amsterdam, now Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden
ZH (J Everaers, M van Drunen; Scharringa & Osieck
1981).

This concerns a date correction. This species is no longer
considered since 1 January 1993 but the CDNA still wel-
comes reports from before this date.

Audouin's Gull / Audouins Meeuw

Larus audouinii 0,2,1

NOORD-BRABANT Kanaalpark, Rosmalen, 's-Hertogen-
bosch, 18 April, 3 or 4cy, photographed (R Keijzers;
Keijzers & Ebels 2020; Dutch Birding 42: 189, plate
241-244, 2020).

The young observer did not hesitate to fire a series of
camera shots when he saw a medium-sized gull with a
red bill passing by, thereby securing the third record of
this species. Previous records were in 2003 and 2008.
The committee could not determine whether it was a
'fast' 3cy or a 4cy. After the assessment, Sylvain Reyt
(Dutch Birding 42: 361, 2020) stated the bird can best be
aged as a 4cy.

Baltic Gull / Baltische Mantelmeeuw

Larus fuscus 0,43,8

ZUID-HOLLAND Binnenwatering, Katwijk aan Zee,
Katwijk, 23 March, and Lombardijen, Rotterdam, 15-
17 May, adult, wearing colour-ring, photographed
(A Marijn, R van Pelt).

Zandmotor, Ter Heijde, Westland, 3 August, 3cy,
wearing colour-ring (M Zevenbergen).

Kapittelduinen, Hoek van Holland, Rotterdam, 12
September, 2cy, wearing colour-ring, photographed
(M Zevenbergen).

Strand, Katwijk aan Zee, Katwijk, 19 September, 2cy,
wearing colour-ring, photographed (A Marijn).

Haventje Noord, Brouwersdam, Goeree-Overflakkee,
28 September, 1cy, wearing colour-ring, photographed
(A Holzem).

Vrederust, Den Haag, 29 September, 1cy, wearing
colour-ring, photographed (T van der Knaap).

Zandmotor, Ter Heijde, Westland, 1 October, adult,
wearing colour-ring, photographed (M Zevenbergen).

Polder Het West Nieuwland, Ouddorp, Goeree-Over-
flakkee, 1 October, adult, wearing colour-ring (J Nag-
tegaal).

The second record year in a row, exceeding the six from
2018. Five out of eight had been ringed at Horsvør archi-

pelago, Nordland, Norway, the natal ground of most re-
cent records. Another had been ringed in Sweden, where
the taxon was first described by Linnaeus in 1758. Not
only did it wear a colour-ring, it was also equipped with
a datalogger. Baltic Gull is a bit of an oddity amongst
Dutch rarities. Only 2cy birds can be diagnostically iden-
tified on plumage, and only during certain months of the
year (Altenburg et al 2011). In all other plumages, only
birds ringed as chicks in pure *fuscus* colonies are accept-
ed. Both identifying immature gulls and reading gull rings
is work for specialists. This is reflected in the relatively
low number of different observers. For instance, of the 51
records, one observer has now 10 records and another
one has six (imagine that for another species with an
equal number of records, like Lesser Yellowlegs!). Despite
the taxon being such a niche-market bird, 2003 was the
last year without any record and since the first in 2001,
the average number of records is 2.7 a year. With only a
small percentage of individuals being diagnostically iden-
tifiable, by a small number of observers only, and taking
into account that a series of good sightings has never
been submitted, combined with the fact that a steady
number of birds has been found in all but one year since
2001 nonetheless, we have concluded that this taxon is
so heavily underrepresented that it must be too common
to be considered in the first place. Therefore, from 1 Janu-
ary 2020 onwards, records will no longer be considered.

Roseate Tern / Dougalls Stern

Sterna dougallii 3,37,2

NOORD-HOLLAND De Putten, Camperduin, Bergen, 20
May, adult summer plumage, wearing metal rings on
both legs, photographed (B van Gennip, B Kers).

ZEELAND Noordervroon, Westkapelle, Veere, 8 July, adult
summer plumage, wearing metal ring, photographed
(T Luiten et al; Dutch Birding 41: 365, plate 499,
2019).

As is often the case, the inscriptions of the rings were not
read. Both turned up on sites that have had records in the
past. In 2018, a double-ringed bird was also present at
Camperduin, so this could have been the same individu-
al.

Black-winged Kite / Grijze Wouw

Elanus caeruleus 1,33,7

OVERIJSSSEL Haaksbergervreen, Haaksbergen, 30-31 March,
photographed (J van Zuijlen, P Knolle, H Noordkamp et
al).

UTRECHT Telpost De Horde, Lopik, 5 April, photographed
(A Boele, F Engelen, K de Leeuw et al; Dutch Birding
41: 205, plate 253, 2019).

FRIESLAND Mandeleijen, De Miumer, Opsterland, 6 April
(C de Vries).

GRONINGEN Telpost Eemshaven, Eemshaven-Oost, Het
Hogeland, 21 April, photographed (J van Deijk et al).

ZEELAND Terhole, Hulst, 10-11 May, 2cy, photographed
(M Sponselee et al; Dutch Birding 41: 279, plate 375,
2019).

NOORD-HOLLAND Dijkgatbos, Hollands Kroon, 22 May,
photographed (L Kelder, M Berkhout).

NOORD-BRABANT Keent, Oss, 2-6 November, adult,

photographed (I Doedel, J J F J Jansen et al; Dutch Birding 42: 66, plate 100, 2020).

If the number of records continues to rise at the same speed it did over the past five years (and there is no reason to think otherwise), this species will meet the criteria to leave the fold of the committee within a few years from now. The average over the past decade (2010-19) is 3.5 a year, and over the past five years (2015-19) a staggering 6.4. In Belgium, the species is no longer assessed by the Belgian Rare Bird Committee (BRBC) since 2019 (Baeten et al 2019). It is in a not too distant past that this was a real prize bird anywhere in Europe, when the species' breeding range was restricted to a tiny part of the Iberian Peninsula. Even there it was thin on the ground, which makes the quick and rapid recent expansion (Ławicki & Perlman 2017) all the more remarkable.

Griffon Vulture / Vale Gier

Gyps fulvus 9,415,14

NOORD-BRABANT Beuven, Strabrechtse Heide, *Someren*, 19 May, 2cy, photographed (F Neijts, R Kastelijn).

Ullingse Bergen, and Vlagtberg, Oploo, *Sint Anthonis*, 4-5 June, three, 2cy, photographed (A Bouwmans et al; Dutch Birding 41: 288, plate 398, 2019).

LIMBURG Voormalige vuilstort Postbaan, *Maastricht*, 21 May, two, photographed just across the border in Belgium (B Alards, M Verbeek, A van Halbeek).

Sluisbeek, Oud-Geleen, *Sittard-Geleen*, 1 June, two, photographed (P P Cilissen).

Molenhoek, *Mook en Middelaar*, 21 June, photographed (E Yilmaz).

ZEELAND Mortiere, *Middelburg*, 2 June, photographed (L van de Zande).

OVERIJSEL Het Wilbert, *Hengelo*, and Noord Deurningen,

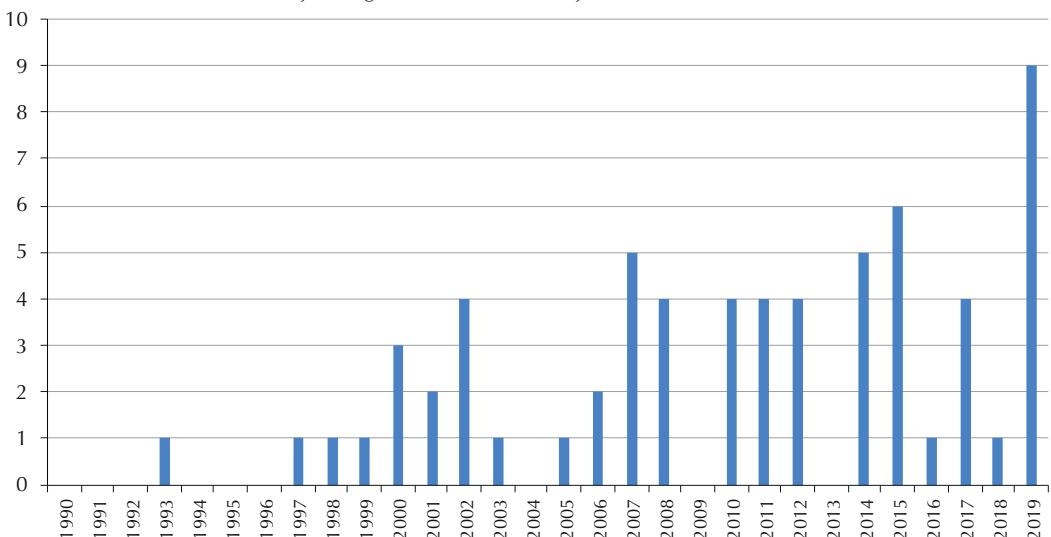
Dinkelland, 9 June, 2cy, photographed (A te Brake, C Jansen).

Haaksbergerveen, *Haaksbergen*, 23 June, two, photographed (C Derks).

GELDERLAND Malburgen, and Centrum, *Arnhem*, 9 June, and Oud-Reemst, Hoge Veluwe, *Ede*, 10 June, subadult, photographed (B van Dam et al; Dutch Birding 41: 288, plate 399, 2019).

Nine is the best year so far in terms of the number of records, exceeding the six from 2016. However, with many singles and a maximum group size of three, the total number of individuals (14) remained relatively low: there have been seven years with more individuals. There were four scattered records between 1904 and 1975 (nine birds), and 64 since 1993 (figure 2). The average number of records over the past three decades is now 2.1 a year and as a consequence, this was the final year this species was assessed. The number of sightings started to pick up since the 1990s and since 1997 it has been nearly annual. Despite the increase, there are still years without records, most recently in 2004, 2009 and 2013. Well over half of all records concerned singles (n=39) but large groups show up regularly. The most impressive groups contained 27 (2017), 29 (2015), 35 (2015), 41 (2007), 60 (2017) and 61 (2007) birds. The best years in terms of numbers were 2007 (113), 2017 (94) and 2015 (78). The total number of individuals now stands at 438. Birds have been seen in all months between April and October (date extremes: 6 April and 23 October) but they evidently peak in (especially: late) May (n=15) and June (n=35). During sunny June days with warm southerlies, they are now more or less expected to show up. Rings prove that birds from France, Italy and Spain have reached the Netherlands.

FIGURE 2 Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* records in the Netherlands in 1990-2019 (n=64). There are four records prior to 1990: in 1904, 1930, 1944 and 1975. / Gevallen van Vale Gier *Gyps fulvus* in Nederland per jaar in 1990-2019 (n=64). Er zijn vier gevallen van voor die tijd: 1904, 1930, 1944 en 1975.





539 Griffon Vulture / Vale Gier *Gyps fulvus*, with Common Buzzard / Buizerd *Buteo buteo* and Carrion Crow / Zwarte Kraai *Corvus corone*, Sint Anthonis, Noord-Brabant, 5 June 2019 (Harvey van Diek)

540 Cinereous Vulture / Monniksgier *Aegypius monachus*, second calendar-year, Hellendoorn, Overijssel, 25 May 2019 (Julian Bosch)



Cinereous Vulture / Monniksgier*Aegypius monachus* 1,1,2

LIMBURG Voormalige vuilstort Postbaan, Maastricht, 21 May, 3cy, photographed just across the border in Belgium (B Alards, M Verbeek, A van Halbeek).

DRENTH Eelderdiep, De Onlanden, and Eelderwolde, Tynaarlo, and Weeringsbroeken, and Peizerveering, De Onlanden, Noordenveld, also seen at Vloelvelden Suikerunie, and Corpus den Hoorn Zuid, and Stadspark, and De Held, and Hoendiep, Groningen GR, 24 May, and Hellendoornse Broek, and Hellendoornse Berg, Sallandse Heuvelrug, Hellendoorn, and Luttenberg, Raalte, and Wesepe-Boxbergen, Olst-Wijhe OV, and De Maten-Noord, and Vogelbuurt, Apeldoorn GE, 25 May, 2cy, photographed, videoed (T Kompier et al; Ebels 2019; Dutch Birding 41: 214, plate 267-268, 271, plate 365, 280, plate 377, 284, plate 383, 2019).

The ink of our policy for birds originating from reintroduction programmes was still wet when no less than three Cinereous Vultures turned up within 16 days, all with a different background story. These birds therefore formed an interesting test case for the new directives. Wild-born rarities originating from self-sustaining reintroduced populations are eligible for acceptance. Two sightings were accepted (third and fourth record), whereas the third one was not. The Limburg bird was seen and photographed well in Belgium, near the Dutch border. When it took off (in the company of a Griffon Vulture) it passed the southern tip of the Netherlands where it was seen by three birders. This wild-born bird had been ringed as a nestling with white ring FUH on 9 June 2017 at Parc Naturel des Grands Causses, Aveyron, France, where a reintroduction programme started in 1992. Birds were last released as long ago as 2004 and this population is now regarded as self-sustaining. White FUH was therefore accepted (it was placed in category C in Belgium). The Drenthe bird was unmarked and (therefore) also wild born. Because vagrancy to north-western Europe has occurred long before the start of reintroduction programmes (with, for instance, a bird shot in the Netherlands in 1948), birds showing no signs of originating from a reintroduction programme are treated as wild birds by the committee. A third bird that flew over Noord-Brabant and Limburg and into Germany on 9 May was not accepted. This individual (dubbed 'Brinzola') was never actually seen in the field but its GPS tracker revealed it crossed the Netherlands a day after it was seen in Belgium. It was subsequently seen in Germany, Sweden and Norway, where it crashed into a wind turbine and died in March 2020. It was born in the wild in Spain in 2016 where it was picked up weakened near Palancia that same year. After its recovery, it was included into a reintroduction programme at Sierra de la Demanda, La Rioja, where it was released in October 2018. Six months later, it started wandering north. 'Brinzola' was transferred twice (75 and 175 km) and lived in captivity for c 80% of its life (over two years) before it was seen in the Netherlands. 'Brinzola' thereby showed many similarities to a not accepted bird in 2005 ('Carmen'), that spent 22 months in captivity and was transferred several times, that also showed up in the Netherlands shortly after it was released (back) into the wild. The committee regards the unusual

life history of 'Brinzola' to be similar to that of an introduced individual rather than a wild bird and it was therefore not accepted on status.

Greater/Lesser Spotted Eagle / Bastaardarend/Schreeuwarend*Clanga clanga/pomarina* 0,5,1

NOORD-BRABANT De Maashorst, Uden, 19 April, 2cy, photographed (A Hofmans; Dutch Birding 41: 205, plate 252, 2019).

Although this 2cy bird was photographed reasonably well, the identification could not be clinched because it could have been a hybrid between both species.

Booted Eagle / Dwergarend*Aquila pennata* 0,30,2

ZEELAND Yerseke Moer, Yerseke, and Schor van Waarde, Reimerswaal, 14 May, and Groot Cambronpolder, Luntershoek, Hulst, 15 May, 2cy, intermediate morph, photographed (M Hoekstein, P L Meininger et al).

UTRECHT Lekdijk, Steenwaard, Houten, 21 June, also seen at Beesde Lage Veld, and Landgoed Mariënwaerd, West Betuwe GE, 29 June, 2cy, pale morph, photographed (R Bos, B Kasius, P van Veen).

Plumage analysis shows that the intermediate morph bird in Zeeland had also been seen in Tienen, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium, 10 days prior to this record. The moulting pattern of the pale morph photographed at West Betuwe revealed it was the same individual seen at Houten eight days earlier. Despite being in different provinces, the localities of these two sightings are only 4 km apart as the eagle flies.

Golden Eagle / Steenarend*Aquila chrysaetos* 10,8,1

OVERIJSEL Olde Maten, Rouveen, Staphorst, 24 May, 2cy, photographed (J Bredenbeek, L Hollander, P Hollander).

The observer also rediscovered 2017's Eastern Imperial Eagle *A heliaca* at the very same site. Like this one, most records concern fly-bys. The last one lingering for a longer period is as long ago as 2002. There are no clear peaks during the year: the 19 records are divided over 10 months, and there is not a single month with more than three records.

Eurasian Pygmy Owl / Dwerguil*Glaucidium passerinum* 0,9,1

FLEVOLAND Golfpark, Lelystad, 31 August, found dead, skin in collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden ZH, photographed (J P E Schrijver, via J D Eerdman; Dutch Birding 41: 374, plate 518, 2019).

The 10th record, and the first for Flevoland. All records are from the 21st century, and thereby the species has turned from a mega-rarity into a more or less biannual bird within a short time span.

Eurasian Scops Owl / Dwergooruil*Otus scops* 5,6,1

UTRECHT Soesterkwartier, Amersfoort, 24 May, sound-recorded (J Jordaans).



541 Saker Falcon / Sakervalk *Falco cherrug*, juvenile, Stroe, Noord-Holland, 20 July 2019 (*Maurits Martens*)
542 Brown Shrike / Bruine Klauwier *Lanius cristatus*, adult male, Keent, Noord-Brabant, 12 October 2019 (*David Spelt*)
543 Balearic Woodchat Shrike / Balearische Roodkopklauwier *Lanius senator badius*, second calendar-year, Oostvaardersveld, Flevoland, 14 June 2019 (*Maurits Martens*)
544 Citrine Wagtail / Citroenkwikstaart *Motacilla citreola*, female, Lentevreugd, Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, 20 May 2019 (*Arjan Portengen*)

The 12th Eurasian Scops Owl has the honour of being one of the first accepted nocturnal migration ('noc-mig') rarities. Since continuous recording of bird calls during the night has gained popularity, it can be expected that more vagrants will occasionally be captured on tape. Noc-mig is still in its infancy and there is still a lot to be learnt. Future submissions of (presumed) rarities could be tough nuts to crack, with potential fraud (known to have happened in other countries) adding another layer to an already difficult matter. Amateur birders play a key role in adding new knowledge by sharing their recordings. It is not a practice for the faint-hearted though. Imagine the shock when you discover a bird like this Eurasian Scops Owl on your recordings and then realize it was calling right above your head while you were asleep...

European Bee-eater / Bijeneter

Merops apiaster 105,139,-
 1970 FLEVOLAND location unknown, 24 June, photo-

graphed, skin in collection of Natuurhistorisch Museum Rotterdam (unknown, via R E van der Vliet).

1955 # NOORD-HOLLAND De Dennen, Den Hoorn, and Dorpszicht, De Cocksdorp, *Texel*, 30 May to 1 June (was Den Hoorn, May), 10 (ten Kate 1956, 1957).

1938 ZUID-HOLLAND Monster, *Westland*, 3 July, skull in collection of Cornell Museum of Vertebrates, Ithaca, New York, USA, photographed (formerly collection of C J Marinkelle, via R E van der Vliet).

This species is no longer considered since 1 January 1993 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before this date.

*Saker Falcon / Sakervalk

Falco cherrug 0,0,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Bierdijk(erveldweg), and Smerp, Stroe, *Hollands Kroon*, 18-20 July, 1 cy, photographed, videoed (J van der Vegt, M Martens et al; van den Berg 2019; Dutch Birding 41: 260, plate 343, 293, plate

401, 361, plate 492, 2019).

A crisp juvenile, unringed and fully winged Saker Falcon, without the faintest hint of mixed genes, not showing any odd behaviour, during the time when youngsters normally disperse: all signs were positive for this bird. Ringing results and satellite tracking prove juvenile Saker can disperse over large distances before migration starts. The number of records of such wandering birds in countries (south-)east of the Netherlands appears to be on the increase.

Brown Shrike / Bruine Klauwier

Lanius cristatus 0,2,2

FRIESLAND Kazerne – Schietkamp, Vliehors, *Vlieland*, 3-5 October, 1cy, photographed (N Gilissen et al; Dutch Birding 41: 446, plate 623, 2019).

NOORD-BRABANT Keent, Oss, 12 October, adult male, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (M Koning, A Mooren et al).

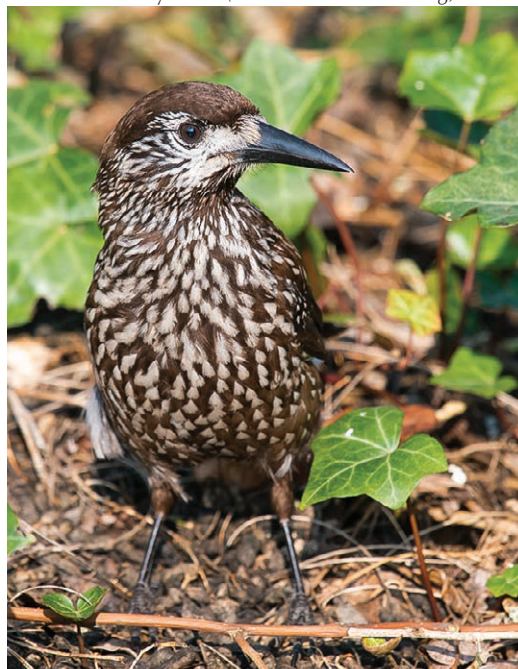
A small influx in Europe resulted in the third and fourth record. The first two were as recent as 2014 and 2017. These were both in winter but the 2019 birds, which included the first adult male, were found on dates perhaps a little bit more expected for this species.

Red-tailed Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier

Lanius phoenicuroides 0,3,1

FRIESLAND Bantpolder, Lauwersmeer, *Noardeast-Fryslân*, 16 August to 8 September, >1cy female, photo-

545 Spotted Nutcracker / Notenkraker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*, first-winter, Wageningen, Gelderland, 5 February 2019 (Arnoud B van den Berg)



graphed, videoed (M Stienstra, J Bosma et al; Dutch Birding 41: 369, plate 506, 2019).

Quite typically, this very early autumn bird turned out to be a Red-tailed Shrike rather than a Daurian Shrike *Lisabellinus*. It was actively moulting its wing and tail feathers during its stay. In this good year for rare shrikes, it was the less rare twin species Daurian that was missing in action. Previous records were in 2000, 2002 and 2014.

Lesser Grey Shrike / Kleine Klapkester

Lanius minor 21,36,2

GRONINGEN Polder Vereniging, Grijpskerk, *Westerkwartier*, 18 June, male, photographed (K Bode et al; Dutch Birding 41: 285, plate 387, 2019).

ZEELAND Jan Geertseweg, Meliskerke, *Veere*, 31 August to 5 September, adult male, photographed (B van Jaarsveld, W Karst et al; Dutch Birding 41: 371, plate 513, 2019).

Given the population declines in Europe, it could be an observer effect that this species is increasingly recorded. In 2010-19, a grand total of 19 individuals was seen in eight out of 10 years.

Woodchat Shrike / Roodkopklauwier

Lanius senator 38 [since 1957],79,-

1998 FRIESLAND Westerduinen, *Schiermonnikoog*, 8 May (R Baars, E de Bruin, S Sybrandi).

This species is no longer considered since 1 January 2004 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before

546 Red-tailed Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides*, female, Anjum, Friesland, 30 August 2019 (Eric Menkveld)





547 Calandra Lark / Kalanderleeuwerik *Melanocorypha calandra*, Goedereede, Zuid-Holland, 25 April 2019 (Leo J R Boon)



548 Iberian Chiffchaff / Iberische Tjiftjaf *Phylloscopus ibericus*, Solleveld, Den Haag, Zuid-Holland, 17 May 2019 (Gerjon Gelling)

this date. The total excludes both Balearic Woodchat Shrikes *L s badius*.

Balearic Woodchat Shrike / Balearische Roodkopklauwier
Lanius senator badius 0,1,1

FLEVOLAND Oostvaardersveld, Oostvaardersplassen, Lelystad, 14 June, 2cy, photographed, videoed (F van Groen, P Hartog, J-P Jongejans et al; Dutch Birding 41: 276, plate 374, 285, plate 388, 2019).

With the first being as long ago as 1993, this record was long-awaited. During the one-evening event, both sides of this large-billed bird were photographed, also in flight, allowing good views of the primaries, and proving that a primary patch was absent left and right, the key feature to secure the identification.

Spotted Nutcracker / Notenkraker

Nucifraga caryocatactes -, -, 1

GELDERLAND Wageningen-West, and De Buurt, Wageningen, 19 November 2018 to 1 July, 1-2cy, probable *N c macrorhynchos*, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (W de Jong et al; Dutch Birding 41-1, cover, 41: 67, plate 92, 2019).

OVERIJSEL Beerze, Ommen, 19 September, photographed (M de Bie).

Records of this species were not assessed in 1979-2018 but as of 2019 it has been added to the list of rarities. The number of sightings has dropped dramatically over the past two decades. The last (small) invasion was in 2008, and very few reports exist since. For instance, despite digital photography increasing in popularity, only one was photographed between 2009 and 2017. This led to the conclusion it must have become a rarity. The confiding Wageningen bird proved very popular amongst birders, and it lingered for a long time. Surprisingly, a second bird was photographed, on what was formerly considered a fairly normal date for a bird in autumn.

Crested Lark / Kuifleeuwerik

Galerida cristata -, -, 1

GELDERLAND Stationsgebied, Apeldoorn, 4 November to 15 March 2020, male, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (M Jansen et al; Dutch Birding 42: 70, plate 113, 2020).

This species is now extinct as a breeder and it was placed on the list of rarities in 2015. After three years without records, this long-stayer suddenly popped up.

Calandra Lark / Kalanderleeuwerik

Melanocorypha calandra 0,5,1

ZUID-HOLLAND Jillesweg, Goedereede, Goeree-Overflakkee, 25-26 April, photographed, videoed (F Rosmalen et al; Rosmalen & Hart 2019; Dutch Birding 41: 210, plate 264, 2019).

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first record of a mega-rarity where the finder identified the bird using identification software (the Merlin app from Cornell Lab of Ornithology). Despite this being the sixth record, and the fourth this century, it was only the first to be admired by the crowds.

***Green Warbler / Groene Fitis**

Phylloscopus nitidus 0,0,1

ZUID-HOLLAND Holy, Vlaardingen, Vlaardingen, 24 June, singing and calling, sound-recorded, videoed (F Domenie et al via R Slaterus; van den Berg 2019, Slaterus 2019; Dutch Birding 41: 292, figure 1-2, 2019)

A video with a sound recording of this bird was posted on Facebook by an inexperienced observer in the morning, asking which species was singing in her neighbourhood. It was quickly identified and reported as a Greenish Warbler *P trochiloides*. This is a very scarce but annual species, and since this was a Monday morning, it was only visited by a handful of local birders. It was not until a former committee member and bird sound specialist listened to the recordings around noon when alarm bells went off. To his ear, the calls sounded more like a Green

Warbler and the song was also odd for Greenish. A thorough analysis of all taxa within the Greenish Warbler complex – later resulting in what must have been the finest submission of the year – revealed that indeed both the call and song fitted Green and excluded all other taxa. Unfortunately, it was one of the hottest days of the year and the bird was not heard nor seen after 11:00, so even the birder that revealed its true identity was not rewarded with a glimpse.

Western Bonelli's Warbler / Bergfluit

Phylloscopus bonelli 5,41,2

NOORD-HOLLAND Vogelringstation Castricum, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, *Castricum*, 22 August, 1cy, ringed, photographed (T van der Meer et al; Dutch Birding 41: 373, plate 516, 2019).

FRIESLAND Derde Kroonspolder, *Vlieland*, 20 September, 1cy, ringed, photographed (G Bochem, C Zuhorn, R Meijer).

No feather sample was collected for DNA analysis of the Vlieland bird. Based on biometrics, in addition to some slightly suggestive plumage features, the committee decided Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P. orientalis* was sufficiently excluded.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler / Pallas' Boszanger

Phylloscopus proregulus 9,85,-

1996 # NOORD-HOLLAND Petten, *Schagen*, 26 October to 12 November (was 26 October to 10 November).

This species is no longer considered since 1 January 1997 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before this date.

Radde's Warbler / Raddes Boszanger

Phylloscopus schwarzi 2,46,2

OVERIJSSSEL Vogelringstation De Kooi, Hasselt, *Zwarte waterland*, 8 October, ringed, photographed (J Schmidt, H Luten, J Westera).

UTRECHT Telpost Kwintelooyen, Veenendaal, *Rhenen*, 24 October, sound-recorded (J de Jong, P-G Gelderblom, A Vink et al).

Remarkably, the first two ever to be recorded inland were also the only two of the year. Needless to say, this was a new species for both land-locked provinces.

Iberian Chiffchaff / Iberische Tjiftjaf

Phylloscopus ibericus 2,48,10

NOORD-HOLLAND De Tuintjes, De Cocksdorp, *Texel*, 8 April, singing, photographed, sound-recorded (A Wasink et al; Dutch Birding 41: 210, plate 263, 2019).

OVERIJSSSEL Keizersteeg, *Dalfsen*, 16 April, singing and calling, photographed, sound-recorded (V Martens et al).

LIMBURG Grenspaal 516, Wemmer Veen, *Bergen*, 18 April, singing, photographed, sound-recorded (H Don).

UTRECHT Sportpark Oud Wulven, Polder Vechter- en Oudwolverbroek, *Houten*, 10 May, singing, photographed, sound-recorded (J Bosch, N Bosch et al; Dutch Birding 41: 285, plate 390, 2019).

ZUID-HOLLAND Oude Broekpolder, Kwintsheul, *Westland*, 11-17 May, singing, sound-recorded (W Kolber, H Kolber et al).

Solleveld, *Den Haag*, 16-17 May, singing, photographed, sound-recorded (T van Schie, K van Schie et al).

FRIESLAND Stortemelk, *Vlieland*, 13 May to 22 June, singing, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (H Bouwmeester et al).

Veenkloosterbos, Veenklooster, *Noardeast-Fryslân*, 18 May to 18 June, singing, photographed, sound-recorded (S Schotanus et al).

FLEVOLAND Atolwijk, *Lelystad*, 14-20 May, singing, photographed, sound-recorded (H van de Heuvel, J-P Jongejans et al).

ZEELAND Van 't Hofweg, and Golsteinse Weg, Sint Laurens, *Veere*, 29 May, singing and calling, photographed, sound-recorded (J Walhout et al).

A record year with 10 for this increasingly recorded species, exceeding the seven from 2018. A chiffchaff widely twitched in the city of Groningen, Groningen, usually (but not always) sang and also looked like a proper Iberian but it called like a Common Chiffchaff *P. collybita*. Since calls are inherited (rather than learnt), this pointed towards mixed genes and therefore the sighting was not accepted. The committee decided to implement a pragmatic approach for the assessments: reports like the one in Groningen will be rejected, whereas birds that solidly sing like Iberians but do not call, will be accepted. Mixed genes are considered to be the exception to the rule. This is supported by the fact that all birds previously accepted of which both the song and calls were recorded, showed no mismatches. A more conservative approach would therefore result in throwing out the baby with the bath water.

Eastern Subalpine Warbler / Balkanbaardgrasmus

Sylvia cantillans 1,36,1

FRIESLAND Noorderduinen, *Schiermonnikoog*, 26 April, male, photographed, sound-recorded (K Tjoelker et al; Dutch Birding 41: 210, plate 264, 2019).

2018 NOORD-HOLLAND Vogelringstation Paradijsveld, Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, *Zandvoort*, 6 May, male, *S. c. cantillans*.

The 2018 bird was already accepted. An mtDNA analysis now available in GenBank showed it belonged to the nominate subspecies *cantillans*. This is the first time an Eastern Subalpine Warbler has been accepted to subspecies and therefore this is a new taxon for the Netherlands.

subalpine warbler / baardgrasmus

Sylvia inornata/subalpina/cantillans 4,38,1

FRIESLAND Klein Vaarwater, *Ameland*, 26-27 April, 2cy, photographed (R Pater, B-J Prak et al; Dutch Birding 41: 211, plate 265, 2019).

Possibly a Western Subalpine Warbler *S. inornata* (which should be renamed *S. iberiae*, cf Zuccon et al 2020) but despite several good photographs, the tail pattern was just not captured well enough to exclude an eastern taxon. At the time, some birders suggested this bird could have been the country's first Moltoni's Warbler *S. subalpina* but given its moulting pattern this seems highly unlikely.



549 Upcher's Warbler / Grote Vale Spotvogel *Hippolais languida*, first calendar-year, Wormerland, Noord-Holland, 14 October 2019 (Vincent van der Spek). By October, adults should be far more worn than this bird.

Dartford Warbler / Provençaalse Grasmus

Sylvia undata 1,10,1

ZUID-HOLLAND Tweede Maasvlakte, Rotterdam, 11-20 October, 1cy male, *S u dartfordiensis*, photographed (F J Hoogstra et al; Dutch Birding 41: 448, plate 630, 2019).

A classic site for this species: this is already the fourth for the Maasvlakte and immediate surroundings.

***Upcher's Warbler / Grote Vale Spotvogel**

Hippolais languida 0,0,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Polder Wijde Wormer, Wijdewormer, Wormerland, 12-14 October, 1cy, mtDNA analyses (based on faeces samples) stored in GenBank, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (K Vaartjes, D Kok et al; Dutch Birding 41: 449, plate 629, 2019).

This bird was photographed in a garden in the middle of a 'random' Dutch polder. The images immediately stirred a discussion about its identity. Though definitely not settled, the general consensus went towards the long-expected first Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*. The following day, it was still present when Upcher's Warbler was suggested as an unexpected but better option by a few keen birders. Despite the perhaps not very typical length of the first primary (a bit on the long side for Upcher's but too short for Eastern Olivaceous), they showed its plumage features, structure and behaviour (it often swung its tail sideways, and fanned it) better fitted Upcher's. Unfortunately, no permission from the land-owners was granted to trap the bird. Although measure-

ments would have been valuable, in hindsight this proved to be unnecessary for the identification. A few recorded calls on the second day fitted Upcher's and seemed to rule out Eastern Olivaceous. Moreover, out of 15 faecal samples randomly collected on leaves of its favourite bush the day after it departed, two belonged to the bird (others belonged to Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Song Thrush *T philomelos* and House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*). The mtDNA analysis confirmed the identity as Upcher's (Peter de Knijff in litt), the first for western Europe. The committee identified it as a first calendar-year bird (see plate 549).

Melodious Warbler / Orpheusspotvogel

Hippolais polyglotta 2,46,-

2003 # LIMBURG Haeselaarsbroek, Echt-Susteren, 16 June to 18 July (was 18 June to 14 July), singing.

Melodious Warbler is no longer considered since 1 January 2004 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before this date.

Booted Warbler / Kleine Spotvogel

Iduna caligata 0,31,1

FRIESLAND Derde Kroonspolder, Vlieland, 20 September, 1cy, ringed, photographed (G Bochem, C Zuhorn, R Meijer).

2018 # FRIESLAND Oostpunt, 14-17 September, and Derde Kroonspolder, Vlieland, 19 September, 1cy, ringed, photographed (G Bochem et al).

Plumage analysis showed that the trapped bird in 2018



550 Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, first calendar-year (left), with Eurasian Reed Warbler / Kleine Karekiet *A. scirpaceus*, first calendar-year, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, 8 September 2019 (Arnoud B van den Berg/Vrs Van Lennep) **551** Paddyfield Warbler / Veldrietzanger *Acrocephalus agricola*, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, 10 September 2019 (Arnoud B van den Berg/Vrs Van Lennep) **552** White-throated Sparrow / Witkeelgors *Zonotrichia albicollis*, Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland, 28 October 2019 (Thijs Glastra)





553 Dusky Thrush / Bruine Lijster *Turdus eunomus*, first-winter male, Kooisplek, Vlieland, Friesland, 27 October 2019 (Arnold Meijer/Blue Robin)

554 Red-flanked Bluetail / Blauwstaart *Tarsiger cyanurus*, first-winter, Vlieland, Friesland, 27 October 2019 (Edial Dekker)



was the same individual as one seen in the field at the other end of the island the days before. The same ringer trapped the only one for 2019 at the very same site a year and a day later.

Paddyfield Warbler / Veldrietzanger

Acrocephalus agricola 1,42,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Vogelringstation Van Lennep, Kennemerduinen, *Bloemendaal*, 10 September, 1cy, ringed, photographed, sound-recorded (R Luntz, A B van den Berg et al; Dutch Birding 41: 357, plate 489, 2019).

The last blank year was 15 years ago. There are now eight spring and 33 (37 individuals) autumn records and the large majority involves trapped birds.

Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger

Acrocephalus dumetorum 0,52,8

NOORD-HOLLAND Watervlak, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, *Castricum*, 12 June, singing, sound-recorded (S Lagerveld, H Groot et al).

Vogelringstation Van Lennep, Kennemerduinen, *Bloemendaal*, 8 September, 1cy, ringed, photographed, sound-recorded (H Buckx, A B van den Berg et al).

Vogelringstation Castricum, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, *Castricum*, 10 September, two, 1cy, ringed, photographed (T van der Meer et al).

Vogelringstation Van Lennep, Kennemerduinen, *Bloemendaal*, 16 October, 1cy, ringed, photographed (A B van den Berg, D Pull).

Boomgaard Hallerweg, Den Burg, *Texel*, 9 November to 15 December, 1cy, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (N Janinhoff, H Verdaat et al; Dutch Birding 42: 70, plate 112, 2020).

ZUID-HOLLAND Tweede Maasvlakte, *Rotterdam*, 5 October, 1cy, photographed, sound-recorded (J Vlot, A Kolders et al).

Sportpark Groenhoven, *Gouda*, 22-23 October, photographed, sound-recorded (D van Braak, E Florijn et al).

Another good year, in line with the steep increase of records over the past decade. With exactly 60 records over the past 30 years (the first was in 1990), Blyth's Reed Warbler is now on the edge of being no longer considered. This year saw the first record of a bird attempting to winter.

White's Thrush / Goudlijster

Zoothera aurea 11,9,1

FRIESLAND Oldegalileë, *Leeuwarden*, 8 October, 1cy female, found dead, skin in collection of Natuurmuseum Fryslân, Leeuwarden FR, photographed (G Jonker, via J Breidenbach).

Not only the date but even the circumstances can be considered classic: this was already the 15th to be found dead.

Dusky Thrush / Bruine Lijster

Turdus eunomus 2,1,1

FRIESLAND Kooisplek and Kooispleklid, *Vlieland*, 25-28 October, 1cy male, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (M de Vries et al; Dutch Birding 41: 451, plate 634, 2019).

What a difference with the previous record in 2016! That bird stirred quite a debate – within and outside the com-

mittee – since several birders suspected it to have mixed genes. This year's bird however looked like a textbook male Dusky Thrush. The number of records seems to be increasing in Britain (Holt et al 2020), so who knows maybe more birds will appear in the near future.

Black-throated Thrush / Zwartkeellijster

Turdus atrogularis 0,11,1

DRENTHE Binnenvree & Buitenvree, *Coevorden*, 27 January to 18 March, probably 2cy male, photographed (M Brockman, via G Ottens, F van der Wielen et al; Dutch Birding 41: 134, plate 159, 143, plate 171, 2019).

This once very rare species seems to be becoming near-annual.

Red-spotted Bluethroat / Roodsterblauwborst

Luscinia svecica svecica 24,55,3

UTRECHT Waverhoek, *De Ronde Venen*, 17-22 April, adult male, photographed (I Jacobs).

Zuidpolder te Veld, Eempolders, *Eemnes*, 25 May, adult male, photographed (S Wytema et al; Dutch Birding 41: 286, plate 394, 2019).

ZUID-HOLLAND Lentevreugd, *Wassenaar*, 15 May, adult male, photographed (J van Beelen).

1985 FRIESLAND Ferwerd, *Noardeast-Fryslân*, 29 May, adult male, found dead, skin in collection of Natuurmuseum Fryslân, Leeuwarden FR, photographed (via J Breidenbach, A P Kies).

Since there were quite a few reports, the actual number might have been higher. With odd 'orange-spotted' Bluethroats (cf Ebels & van Duivendijk 2010) regularly occurring in the country, the committee has chosen a conservative approach in the assessments, also taking other features besides the spot colour into account.

Red-flanked Bluetail / Blauwstaart

Tarsiger cyanurus 1,26,5

FRIESLAND Groene Glop, *Schiermonnikoog*, 3 October, 1cy, ringed, photographed (K Oosterbeek, A Noorman, S Deuzeman; Dutch Birding 41: 446, plate 624, 2019).

Derde Kroonspolder, *Vlieland*, 7 October, 1cy, ringed, photographed (A Wijker, J Visser).

Tweede Kroonspolder, *Vlieland*, 27-28 October, 1cy, photographed, videoed (B de Knecht et al; Dutch Birding 41: 448, plate 628, 2019).

ZUID-HOLLAND Westduinpark, *Den Haag*, 5-7 October, 1cy, photographed (A M P Kuiten, G J Gelling, K Hendriks et al; Dutch Birding 41: 448, plate 627, 2019).

ZEELAND Oranjezon, Vrouwenpolder, *Veere*, 31 October, 1cy, photographed (B Ducheyne).

A record year, with five birds in four weeks' time (2010 and 2013 had four). With 23 out of the now 32 records being from the past decade, this species is obviously on the increase, although it is still not an annual bird (figure 3). In Britain, it has increased to the point that it is no longer assessed by the BBRC since 2017 (White & Kehoe 2019). Belgium on the other hand had 'only' nine up to and including 2018 (Baeten et al 2019). While it is no longer the mind-boggling rarity it once was, to many it

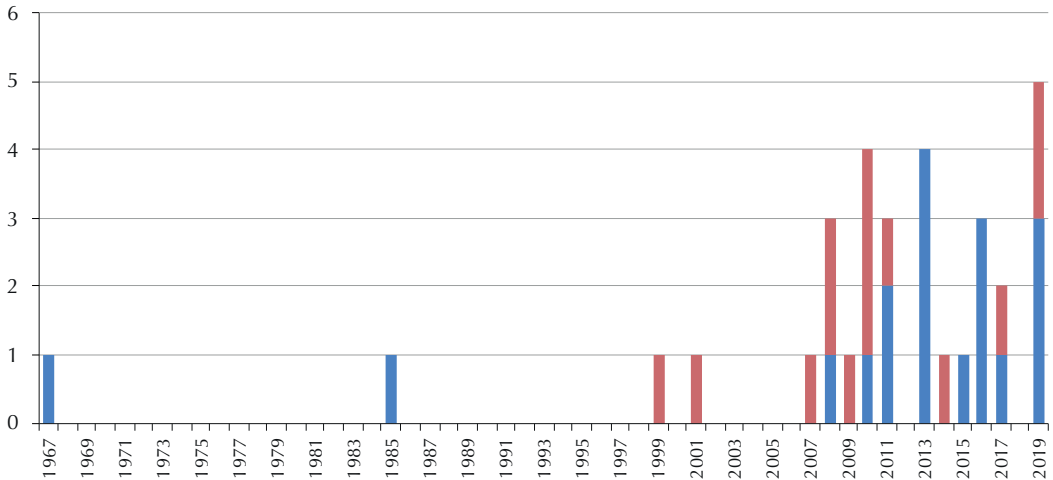


FIGURE 3 Records of Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* in the Netherlands in 1967-2019 (n=32). Ringed birds in red. / Gevallen van Blauwstaart *Tarsiger cyanurus* in Nederland in 1967-2019 (n=32). Ringvangsten in rood.

has not lost its magical aura. The very confiding Vlieland bird on 27-28 October drew quite a crowd of birders visiting the island for the aforementioned Dusky Thrush.

Collared Flycatcher / Withalsvliegenvanger

Ficedula albicollis 24,14,2

UTRECHT Leersum, *Utrechtse Heuvelrug*, 19-28 May, adult male, photographed (P van den Heuvel; Dutch Birding 41: 370, plate 510-511, 2019).

NOORD-HOLLAND Oogthuyne, Julianadorp, *Den Helder*, 20 May, 2cy female, photographed (W Adema, G Wel-

graven; Dutch Birding 41: 285, plate 391, 2019).

The Julianadorp bird is only the second confirmed female.

Siberian Stonechat / Aziatische Roodborsttapuit

Saxicola maurus 9,40,3

FRIESLAND Oosterkwelder, *Schiermonnikoog*, 5-17 October, adult male, photographed (T Fijen, M van Oss, W van der Ham et al).

LIMBURG Rivierpark Maasvallei, Itteren, *Maastricht*, 22-23 October, probably 1cy female, photographed

555 Isabelline Wheatear / Izabeltapuit *Oenanthe isabellina*, first-winter (right), with Northern Wheatear *O oenanthe*, Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, 7 October 2019 (Arnoud B van den Berg)





556 Siberian Stonechat / Aziatische Roodborsttapuit
Saxicola maurus, Itteren, Limburg, 23 October 2019
(Bjorn Alards)

(P Duckers, M Delarue, M Berlijn et al).

ZUID-HOLLAND Solleveld, *Westland*, 23 October, 1cy, photographed (J de Zeeuw).

The total number of records includes a single Caspian Stonechat *S m hemprichii*. The Wadden Sea islands Texel (12) and Vlieland (seven) have the most records. It is therefore surprising that the one on Schiermonnikoog this year was only the first for the island. The adult male was identified as a certain *maurus*; in other 2019 records the subspecies *hemprichii* could not be excluded with certainty. The Limburg bird was the first autumn inland record of any 'eastern' stonechat.

Stejneger's Stonechat / Stejnegers Roodborsttapuit

Saxicola stejnegeri 0,3,0

2017 FRIESLAND Oostpunt, *Vlieland*, 16-17 October, 1cy female, mtDNA analyses (based on faeces sample) stored in GenBank, photographed (A Dwarshuis, L Buckx et al).

2016 FRIESLAND Derde Kroonspolder, *Vlieland*, 9 October, 1cy male, ringed, mtDNA analyses (based on feather sample) stored in GenBank, photographed (H Bouwmeester et al).

Both birds were identified as putative Stejneger's Stonechats in the field, which was later confirmed by mtDNA analysis (Peter de Knijff in litt). The genetic information was not stored in GenBank until 2019. Once available, the committee assessed and accepted both. The first was in October 2012, also confirmed by mtDNA analysis.

Isabelline Wheatear / Izabeltapuit

Oenanthe isabellina 0,14,1

NOORD-HOLLAND Kennemerduinen, *Bloemendaal*, 7 October, 1cy, photographed (L Buckx et al; Dutch Birding 41: 446, plate 625, 2019).

All records are of coastal birds in autumn and this year's bird was no exception.



557 Cirlgors / Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*, male,
Nederweert, Limburg, 12 July 2019 (Enno B Ebels)

Pied Wheatear / Bonte Tapuit

Oenanthe pleschanka 0,26,2

FRIESLAND Industrieterrein Oost-Vlieland, *Vlieland*, 16 June, male, photographed (D Lautenbag, J Lautenbag-Slot et al; Dutch Birding 41: 285, plate 389, 2019).

Westerstrand, and Waddenzeedijk between Jachthaven and Veerhaven, *Schiermonnikoog*, 28 October, 1cy, photographed (M Henry, J Welbedacht et al; Dutch Birding 41: 446, plate 626, 2019).

With six records, including the first in 1988, Schiermonnikoog seems to have a remarkably strong attraction for this species.

Citrine Wagtail / Citroenkwikstaart

Motacilla citreola 0,58,5

NOORD-HOLLAND De Nederlanden, *Texel*, 22 April, 2cy female, photographed (B Gaxiola).

Natuurontwikkeling Keverdijk, Naardermeer, *Weesp*, 1 May, female, photographed (H de Klein).

Tafelbergheide, *Huizen*, 20 September, sound-recorded (N van de Water).

ZUID-HOLLAND De Banken, 's-Gravenzande, *Westland*, 22 April, female, photographed (W Kolber, H Kolber). Lentevreugd, *Wassenaar*, 20 May, female, photographed (A Portengen; Dutch Birding 41: 285, plate 392, 2019).

This species is on the threshold of being no longer considered. With 60 records over the past 30 years, there are now, on average, exactly two records a year. In Britain, the species is no longer considered since 2015 (Hudson & Rarities Committee 2015).

Blyth's Pipit / Mongoolse Pieper

Anthus godlewskii 0,14,1

GRONINGEN Rottumerplaat, *Het Hogeland*, 13 December, sound-recorded (R Oving, M Bunschoek).

2015 FRIESLAND Lange Duinen, *Ameland*, 9 October, photographed (J J F Jansen et al).

With eight records over the past six years, this once very



558 Myrtle Warbler / Mirtzanger *Setophaga coronata*, first-winter female, Groene Glop, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, 12 October 2019 (Bram Ubels)

rare species is now near-annual. Technology seems to be pivotal for this increase, since virtually all birders keen on rare birds now carry both a camera and sound-recording equipment (or at least use the recorder on their telephone).

White-throated Sparrow / Witkeelgors

Zonotrichia albicollis 3,2,1

ZUID-HOLLAND Stuifdijk, Maasvlakte, Rotterdam, 27-31

October, adult, photographed, sound-recorded (P Schrijvershof et al; Dutch Birding 41: 452, plate 636, 2019).

Despite being the country's second-commonest Nearctic passerine after Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (which has nine records), this was only the first to be seen by many birders. While this is a garden bird in North America, this individual played hide and seek in dense vegetation and it took many a birder several hours to get as much as a glimpse. That the bird was seen in the vicinity of the largest seaport in Europe raised questions about how it got there. This was fuelled by one seen on board of the Canadian ship *MR Arcadia* while it passed Britain on 9 and 10 October (Dunn 2019). Though perhaps likely, there was no evidence to support the Dutch bird being ship-assisted. The Maasvlakte is a headland and it is arguably also the best rarity hotspot on the mainland.

Black-headed Bunting / Zwartkopgors

Emberiza melanocephala 2,15,1

FRIESLAND Kobuspad, Briksduinen, Ameland, 9 June,

also seen at Sint Annen, Groningen GR, 10 June, male summer plumage, photographed, sound-recorded (R Waenink, J G Bosma et al; Dutch Birding 41: 287, plate 397, 369, plate 508, 2019)

The two sites are c 60 km and a Wadden Sea crossing apart but the observer at Sint Annen pointed out some striking plumage features that proved both sightings actually belonged to the same individual. With a breeding pair of Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* in the vicinity, the second sighting was suppressed.

Cirl Bunting / Cirlgors

Emberiza cirlus 2,6,2

ZUID-HOLLAND Nesselande-Noord, Rotterdam, 10 June, 2cy female, photographed (R van Dorland).

LIBURG Weerterbos, Nederweert, 20 June to 22 July, male, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (H Janssen, F Meeuwissen et al; Dutch Birding 41: 369, plate 509, 2019).

Quite amazingly, this was the second year in a row with two records. The singing male was found only c 6 km away from a territorial male in 2018, more or less within the same reserve. Song analysis by the committee, however, revealed that it was a different individual. The female was only the second of its gender to be accepted.

Rustic Bunting / Bosgors

Emberiza rustica 14,69,-

1981 FRIESLAND Berkenplas, Schiermonnikoog, 9 May,

male (J Prins, E Veling, E J van IJzendoorn et al). Accepted after re-assessment. Rustic Bunting is no longer considered since 1 January 2009 but the CDNA still welcomes reports from before this date.

Myrtle Warbler / Mirtezanger

Setophaga coronata 0,1,1

FRIESLAND Groene Glop, and Vredenhof and surroundings, *Schiermonnikoog*, 12 to 22 October, 1cy female, ringed, photographed, sound-recorded (J van Ardenne, A J van Loon et al; Dutch Birding 41: 450, plate 631-632, 2019).

23 years after the first, this bird was trapped and ringed and then shown to birders present on the island. It was released at an accessible nearby site and subsequently seen in the field. A large crowd gathered the following day. The vast wet birch forest, combined with a very mobile bird that did not join mixed species flocks and hardly ever called, made up for a stressful event. It was seen briefly several times until noon. In the afternoon and during the following day, it could not be relocated and it was generally believed to have departed, until it was relocated a week and a half later during what was to be a quiet afternoon with his family for the finder. Birders already on the island managed to connect with it before dusk but the crowds that arrived the following days ended up in a wild goose chase once more. So, despite the bird being present for at least 11 days, quite a few birders left the island empty-handed.

Not accepted

This list contains all reports not accepted by the CDNA. Reports marked with @ were not accepted by all committee members in the first or second voting. Most reports were rejected because the identification was not fully established (often due to lack of documentation) or when the bird showed signs of captivity, such as dubious rings, suspicious wear and/or aberrant behaviour.

Canada Goose / Grote Canadese Gans *Branta canadensis* Analysis by the committee showed that nominate subspecies *B c canadensis* is a far less likely vagrant than previously thought (van der Spek & CDNA 2020). Owing to a thriving non-indigenous population of this subspecies in Europe, all individuals of the *canadensis* subspecies are now considered feral. Only marked individuals of this subspecies will from now on be eligible for acceptance. Since there are no records of the two subspecies with more vagrancy potential (*B c interior* and to a lesser extent *B c parvipes*), Canada Goose was removed from the Dutch list.

Ross's x Barnacle Goose / Ross' Gans x Brandgans *Anser rossii* x *Branta leucopsis* 18-23 February, Duinzoom, Haamstede, and Prunje Zuidoost, Kerkwerf, *Schouwen-Duiveland* ZL, photographed (@ description incomplete and photographs show characters more related to Snow Goose *A caerulescens*, status doubtful). **Greenland White-fronted Goose / Groenlandse Kolgans** *Anser albifrons flavirostris* 12 January, Oostwoud-Hazewael, Me-

demblik NH, photographed (@ photographs do not exclude Greater White-fronted Goose *A a albifrons*). **King Eider / Koningseider** *Somateria spectabilis* 8 September, Piet Scheveplaat, Waddenzee, *Ameland* FR, male (description incomplete). **Surf Scoter / Brilzee-eend** *Melanitta perspicillata* 2 January, Dishoek, Koudekerke ZL (@ description incomplete). **Bufflehead / Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* 4-15 July, Beugen – Kleine Vilt, and De Vilt, and Haart, *Boxmeer* NB, female, photographed (@ identification accepted but photographs do not document absence of rings on right leg). **Hooded Merganser / Kokardezaagbek** *Lophodytes cucullatus* 3 March, Harderbos Oost, Biddinghuizen, *Dronten* FL, adult female, photographed (@ identification accepted but left wing not proven to be undamaged). **Falcated Duck / Bronskopeend** *Mareca falcata* 26-29 December, Rammelwaard, Voorst GE, adult male, photographed (@ identification accepted but photographs do not document absence of rings on right leg). **Alpine Swift / Alpengierzwaluw** *Tachymarptis melba* 27 September, Den Burg, *Texel* NH (description incomplete). **Pallid Swift / Vale Gierzwaluw** *Apus pallidus* 21 October, Polder den Hoek, Lekkerkerk, *Krimpenerwaard* ZH, photographed (photographs not detailed enough to exclude Common Swift *A apus*); 25 October, Hoefijzermeer, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, *Castricum* NH (@ description incomplete); 25 October, Lekkanaal, Voorhavendijk, *Nieuwegein* UT (@ description incomplete); 5 November, Zuidernollen, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, *Castricum* NH, two, photographed (description incomplete and photographs not detailed enough to exclude Common Swift); 5 November, Wimmenummerduinen, Egmond aan Zee, *Bergen* NH (@ description incomplete); 24 November, Lauwersoog, *Het Hogeland* GR, photographed (photographs not detailed enough to exclude Common Swift). **Great Spotted Cuckoo / Kuifkoekoek** *Clamator glandarius* 18 June, Doldersummerveld, Drents-Friese Wold, *Westerveld* DR, photographed (description incomplete and photographs not detailed enough to exclude other species). **Little Crake / Klein Waterhoen** *Zapornia parva* 23 August, Pleijendal, *Dalfsen* OV, sound-recorded (@ sound and sonagram do not match this species). **Grey-headed Swamphen / Grijskoppurperkoet** *Porphyrio poliocephalus* 16-21 September, Lage Hooiland, Tersoal, *Súdwest-Fryslân* FR, adult, photographed, videoed (Dutch Birding 41: 355, plate 483, 446, plate 622, 2019; @ identification accepted). For a sighting in 1988/89, Ebels et al (1999) stated that the subspecific identity was impossible to determine without taking measurements. After examination of identification literature and scrutinising many photographs, the committee found this to be true for the 2019 sighting as well. The subspecific identity was considered crucial for the status assessment. While the potential of subspecies *caspius* wandering to north-western Europe is perhaps not overwhelmingly convincing, it is at least conceivable. *P p poliocephalus* from the Indian Subcontinent can, however, be fairly safely excluded as a potential vagrant. With the subspecies unknown, combined with a track record of proven and suspected escapes, this sighting was not accepted on status.

Great Bustard / Grote Trap *Otis tarda* 28 December to 1 April 2020, Koolhoekweg, Brielle, and Polder Oostvoorne, Westvoorne ZH, 1cy female, colour-ringed, with data logger, photographed, videoed (@ identification accepted). This colour-ringed (green LT right, Hiddensee BA38676 left) first-winter female with data logger was not accepted. The bird originated from Germany, as all previous sightings of ringed individuals. The bird had hatched in an incubator on 17 May (from an egg collected from the wild) and once full-grown it was released at Havelländische Luch, Brandenburg, 580 km from Brielle. It went missing from 10 November onwards. There were no sightings in Germany (or anywhere else for that matter) after it left Brielle (Henrik Watzke in litt), so apparently it did not return to its natal ground. Since it was born and raised in captivity and thereby a first-generation project bird, it was not accepted. This species is becoming rarer and rarer. The last record dates from 2010, the one before that from 1997. Past records were mainly associated with severe winters and/or heavy snow, and the decrease in records is probably more related to climate factors than it is to population dynamics in Germany.

Pygmy Cormorant / Dwergaalscholver *Microcarbo pygmaeus* 7 April, Slagenbuurt, Gouda ZH, photographed (description incomplete and photographs not detailed enough to exclude Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*); 8 August, Dishoek, Veere ZL, 1cy, photographed (@ description incomplete and photographs show more likely a 1cy Great Cormorant). **Baird's Sandpiper / Bairds Strandloper** *Calidris bairdii* 18 September, IJburg, Amsterdam NH, photographed, videoed (description incomplete and photographs do not show distinctive features of Baird's). **White-rumped Sandpiper / Bonapartes Strandloper** *Calidris fuscicollis* 21 July, Achter de Zwarten, Lauwersmeer, Het Hogeland GR, adult (description incomplete). **Long-billed Dowitcher / Grote Grijze Snip** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 4 August, Telpost de Puinhoop, Katwijk aan Zee, Katwijk ZH (@ description incomplete). **Great Snipe / Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* 10 May, Leemkuil, Den Burg, Texel NH (@ description incomplete). **Laughing Gull / Lachmeeuw** *Larus atricilla* 13 September, Castricum aan Zee, Castricum NH (@ description incomplete). **Baltic Gull / Baltische Mantelmeeuw** *Larus fuscus fuscus* 3 October, Zandmotor, Ter Heijde, Westland ZH (@ ringed in a mixed colony, so *L. f. intermedius* could not be excluded). **Griffon Vulture / Vale Gier** *Gyps fulvus* 8 March, Zeegse, Tynaarlo DR, three (@ description incomplete); 11 June, Herveld – Elshout, Overbetuwe GE, two (description incomplete); 21 June, Telpost Hazewater, Leusden UT, photographed (description incomplete and photograph not detailed enough to exclude other species); 22 September, Emmeloord, Noordoostpolder FL (@ description incomplete). **Cinereous Vulture / Monniksgier** *Aegypius monachus* 9 May, Luyksgestel, Bergeijk, and Valkenswaard NB, and Roermond LB, GPS tracked (@ see main text). **Lesser Spotted Eagle / Schreeuwarend** *Clanga pomarina* 13 May, Brinkweg, Dalfsen OV (@ description incomplete); 31 October, Stuwwal, Hunnerberg, Nijme-

gen GE (@ description incomplete). **Greater/Lesser Spotted Eagle / Bastaardarend/Schreeuwarend** *Clanga clanga/pomarina* 7 June, Piaam, Südwest-Fryslân FR, photographed (photographs and description not detailed enough to exclude Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*). **Booted Eagle / Dwergarend** *Aquila pennata* 13 June, Stuwwalcomplex, Driel, Overbetuwe GE (description incomplete). **Eurasian Pygmy Owl / Dwerguil** *Glaucidium passerinum* 21 April, Buurser Beek, Neede, Berkelland GE, sound-recorded (@ sound-recording does not match this species. Uncertain if the sound was made by a bird at all). **Eurasian Scops Owl / Dwergooruil** *Otus scops* 14 July, Baarnse Bos, Baarn UT, sound-recorded (@ sound-recording shows a Midwife Toad *Alytes obstetricans*). **Saker Falcon / Sakervalk** *Falco cherrug* 16 July, Sint Maartenszee, Schagen NH (@ description incomplete). **Tundra Peregrine Falcon / Toendraslechtvalk** *Falco peregrinus calidus* 4-13 March, Verdrongen Land van Saeftinghe, Hulst ZL, photographed (@ following CDNA policy, this taxon is not eligible for acceptance, see Gelling et al 2019). **Crested Lark / Kuifleeuwerik** *Galerida cristata* 25 September, IJmuiden, Velsen NH (@ description incomplete). **Greater Short-toed Lark / Kortteenleeuwerik** *Calandrella brachydactyla* 22 April, De Koog, Texel NH (@ description incomplete). **Western Bonelli's Warbler / Bergfluit** *Phylloscopus bonelli* 23 May, Lunetten, Utrecht UT (description incomplete). **Iberian Chiffchaff / Iberische Tjiftjaf** *Phylloscopus ibericus* 16 April to 24 June, Stadspark, Groningen GR, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (recorded song and call not good for this species, implying a mixed singer, and photographs do not exclude Common Chiffchaff *P. collybita*; see main text); 8 May, Albergen, Tubbergen OV, photographed, sound-recorded (@ recorded song not good for this species, implying a mixed singer, and photographs do not exclude Common Chiffchaff or Willow Warbler *P. trochilus*); 12-16 May, Schoorlse Duinen, Schoorl, Bergen NH, sound-recorded (@ description incomplete and recorded sound not good for this species); 18 May, Prins Bernardweg, Schiermonnikoog FR (@ description incomplete); 11-12 July, Westerveen, Onnen, Groningen GR, sound-recorded (@ recorded song implies aberrant Common Chiffchaff). **Subalpine warbler / baardgrasmus** *Sylvia inornata/subalpina/cantillans* 14 September, Lange Dam, De Slufter, Texel NH, 1cy, photographed (@ photographs show Common Whitethroat *S. communis*). **Blyth's Reed Warbler / Struikrietzanger** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* 9 November, Klinkenbergerplas, Oegstgeest ZH, photographed (@ description incomplete, photograph not detailed enough to exclude other *Acrocephalus* warblers). **Eyebrowed Thrush / Vale lijster** *Turdus obscurus* 20 April, Mastenbroek-Wolfsblok, Kampen OV, photographed (@ description incomplete and photographs show too little detail to exclude other taxa). **Red-spotted Bluethroat / Roodsterblauwborst** *Luscinia svecica svecica* 12-22 April, Barger-Compascuum, Emmen DR, photographed (@ photographs show orange-spotted White-spotted Bluethroat *L. s. cyanecula*); 14 May, Permacultuurtuin De Oerfloed, Goutum, Leeuwarden

FR, male, photographed (photographs not detailed enough to exclude other taxa); 23 May, Fochteloërveen, Ooststellingwerf FR, male, photographed (photographs not detailed enough to exclude orange-spotted White-spotted Bluethroat). **Sykes's Blue-headed Wagtail / Russische Gele Kwikstaart** *Motacilla flava beema* 18 April, Noord-Meene, Gramsbergen, Hardenberg OV, photographed (@ description incomplete and photographs show two birds that fit within variation of *M f flava*). **Blue-headed x Black-headed Wagtail / Gele Kwikstaart x Balkankwikstaart** *Motacilla flava flava x feldegg ('dombrowskii')* 19 April, Oostelijke Slagen, De Krim, Hardenberg OV, male, photographed (@ description incomplete and photographs do not exclude *M f flava* or other subspecies). **Eastern Yellow Wagtail / Oostelijke Gele Kwikstaart** *Motacilla tschutschensis* 14 October, Marnewaard, Lauwersmeer, Het Hogeland GR, sound-recorded (bird not seen; CDNA desires a combination of sound-recordings and plumage characters in order to accept this species).

Indigo Bunting / Indigogors *Passerina cyanea* 9 April, Franse Gat, Veenendaal GE, adult male, photographed (@ identification accepted). The origin of this bird was considered doubtful. It turned up in spring (nearly all accepted birds in the WP are from autumn), in an inland urban environment, while two other Indigo Buntings were seen in inland urban environments shortly before and after this observation (a proven escaped immature male with a ring in Purmerend NH on 31 March and 1 April and an apparently confiding immature male photographed at close range in Amsterdam NH on 18 April). This casted too much doubt over its origin. The only two Dutch records are rather atypical from a WP perspective: a singing male in Den Oever NH, in June 1983 and an adult male in a garden in Amsterdam on 10-23 March 1989. Both records are being re-assessed.

2018

Spur-winged Lapwing / Sporenkievit *Vanellus spinosus* 16 July to 8 August, Slootweg, Wieringermeer, Hollands Kroon NH, adult, photographed, videoed (Dutch Birding 40: 256, plate 332, 247, plate 463 & 465, 2018; identification accepted). This species is common in captivity and out of the now 12 known sightings in the Netherlands, 11 were either proven (by rings, or because they concerned confiscated birds from the illegal trade that were released into the wild), or extremely likely (eg, by plumage irregularities or extremely confiding behaviour) to have originated from captivity, including a ringed bird present in Zeeland at the same time as this one. Additionally, the committee found a potential European vagrancy pattern not yet convincing. Therefore the committee decided to err on the side of caution and not accept this bird as wild. This species is however increasing in the breeding areas (though declines have been reported in some parts) and expanding its range (Wiersma & Kirwan 2020a). A clearer pattern of sightings across Europe might emerge in the future and this could result in a future reconsideration of its status.

Hume's Whitethroat / Humes Braamsluiper *Sylvia althaea* 15 December 2017 to 26 March, Zwartewaal,

Brielle ZH, photographed (@ following CDNA policy, not eligible for acceptance; see Gelling et al 2019).

2017

Thick-billed Murre / Kortbekzeekoet *Uria lomvia* 6 and 14 December, Noordzee, Bergen NH, photographed (@ photographs show Common Murre *U aalge* in summer plumage). **Hume's Whitethroat / Humes Braamsluiper** *Sylvia althaea* 15 December to 26 March 2018, Zwartewaal, Brielle ZH, photographed (@ following CDNA policy, not eligible for acceptance; see Gelling et al 2019). **Red-spotted Bluethroat / Roodsterblauwborst** *Luscinia svecica svecica* 2-5 April, Ilmeerkust, Vijfhoek, Goiose Meren NH, male, photographed (photographs show probable orange-spotted White-spotted Bluethroat).

2016

Red-spotted Bluethroat / Roodsterblauwborst *Luscinia svecica svecica* 12 June, Stuifdijk, Boschplaat, Terschelling FR, adult male (@ description incomplete).

2015

Griffon Vulture / Vale Gier *Gyps fulvus* 4 and 7 August, several locations, Ameland FR (@ already accepted for 5-6 August but not proven for a date extension for 4 and 7 August).

2013

Asian Red-rumped Swallow / Amoerroodstuitzwaluw *Cecropis daurica daurica/japonica* 26 May, Kennemermeer, IJmuiden, Velsen NH, photographed (based on photographs, *C d rufula* cannot be excluded).

2008

Great Snipe / Poelsnip *Gallinago media* 23 August, Braakman Noord, Terneuzen ZL (@ description incomplete).

2007

Semipalmated Sandpiper / Grijze Strandloper *Calidris pusilla* 19 November, Scherpenissepolder, Tholen ZL, photographed, sound-recorded, videoed (@ remains not accepted after re-assessment, photographs and video show Little Stint *C minuta*).

2006

White-headed Duck / Witkopeend *Oxyura leucocephala* 18 May, Lepelaarplassen, Almere FL, two (pair), photographed (@ identification accepted but status and location doubtful).

2005

Japanese Waxwing / Japanse Pestvogel *Bombicilla japonica* 3 March to 1 April, Riemsdijk, and De Buurt, and Arboretum De Leijen, Wageningen GE, adult male, photographed, sound-recorded (identification accepted). This male present in a group of Bohemian Waxwings *B garrulus* in Wageningen from 3 March to 1 April 2005 was considered an escaped cage bird at the time (van der Vliet et al 2007). This was mainly based on the aber-

rant pale colouration of the waxy tips on the wing and tip of the tail feathers. Jansen (2019) showed that pale tail tips do occasionally occur in wild birds, and therefore cannot be regarded as a sign of captive origin. Based on these findings, the record was re-assessed. The colour of the waxy tips on the wing was not treated by Jansen (2019), and none of the birds with pale tail tips in his paper involved adult males. The committee considers the vagrancy potential of this species to be fairly low, also during an invasion of Bohemian (as was the case in 2005). For Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings *B cedrorum*, long distance migration has been proven, both from north to south and from east to west (and reverse). Japanese is a short- to medium-distance migrant at best, primarily in a north-south direction. In Cedar, it has been proven that aberrant tail colouration is diet related and not genetically determined. Diet related discolourations occur regularly in captive birds. It is worth noting that an adult female found dead in Amsterdam NH in September 2004 – generally regarded as an escape also because there was no invasion of Bohemian at that time – also had a pale tail band (van der Vliet et al 2005). Finally, this bird was an adult male, which is only the case for a very small minority of vagrant passerines. Adding up all these points, the committee decided that the interpretation that the pale colouration was caused by inadequate food supply in captivity is more likely than a wild vagrant with an aberrant tail colour.

2004

Rüppell's Vulture / Rüppells Gier *Gyps rueppelli* 21-22 April, Nieuwdorperweg, Bodegraven-Reeuwijk ZH, adult, photographed (Dutch Birding 26: 308, plate 447-448, 2004; @ identification accepted). This bird was generally considered an escape at the time, and therefore never submitted (cf Ebels 2004). 15 years on, in the light of the increasing number of crossings from Africa to (mainly) Spain and Italy, it finally was. In Spain the species has increased to such an extent that it is no longer reviewed by the Spanish rarities committee since 2016 (Gil-Velasco et al 2017). The submission of the Dutch sighting, however, also included an email correspondence with the presumed former owner of the bird, which confirmed that at the time one of his birds had escaped after an unknown party damaged its cage. As a consequence, the unsurprising outcome was that the committee regarded this bird not to be a wild vagrant. Assuming their wandering behaviour shows similarities to Griffon Vulture *G fulvus*, the committee expects a potential true vagrant to be probably showing up later in the season, preferably in a flock of dispersing Griffons and, as in Griffon, an immature would be expected rather than an adult.

Squacco Heron / Ralreiger *Ardeola ralloides* 24-27 May, Kort- en Lang Ambacht, Slidrechtse Biesbosch, Dordrecht ZH (description incomplete).

1996

Steppe Eagle / Stepparend *Aquila nipalensis* 24 June, Landgoed Olterterp, Lauswolt, Opsterland FR, 2cy (@ description incomplete).

1988

Wilson's Phalarope / Grote Franjepoot *Phalaropus tricolor* 2 June, Roodkeelplasje, Lauwersmeer, Het Hogeland GR (@ description incomplete).

1983

Rustic Bunting / Bosgors *Emberiza rustica* 3 September (was 23 September), Eemshaven-Oost, Het Hogeland GR (@ not accepted after re-assessment; description incomplete and observation date extremely early for the species).

1980-82

Red-winged Blackbird / Epauletspreeuw *Agelaius phoeniceus* 9 June 1980 to 31 March 1982, Oostvoornse Meer, Westvoorne ZH, adult male, photographed (identification accepted). A series of sightings of a male Red-winged Blackbird was submitted and then rejected nearly four decades later (Haas et al 2017). It was re-assessed two years later when a picture of the bird showed up. Ebels (1996) reported this bird to be an escape in his overview but in the light of a recent record – a first for Britain – in Scotland (North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, April-May 2017), it was decided to formally review this observation. The bird was found on 9 June 1980, lingered into summer, and was subsequently seen on several days during the spring of 1981 and in March 1982. This was in a time when American passerines were still very common in the bird trade, which raised questions over its origin. One photograph is available that confirms the identification. Since it was taken during its second spring, the state of its plumage in the year of arrival could not be assessed. The subspecies could not be determined (a western subspecies is not expected as a vagrant). Sightings in several years perhaps do not diagnostically exclude a wild origin but it would be unique for any American passerine in Europe. The committee decided that too many question marks surrounded the origin of the bird, for what would be a first for the WP.

1977

Yellow-headed Blackbird / Geelkoptroepiaal *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* 17 September, Inlaag Anna-Friso Polder, Kamperland, Noord-Beveland ZL (Augustijn & Lebreton 1977; @ already not accepted in 1977 but not listed before in annual reports or Dutch Avifauna).

1963

Yellow-breasted Bunting / Wilgengors *Emberiza aureola* 11 September, Lichtschip Noord Hinder, Continental Shelf, 1cy female, found dead, skin in collection of in Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden ZH, photographed. A record of a lighthouse victim on board of lightship Noord Hinder has been removed after re-assessment. The identification is still accepted, but Oreeel (2020) showed that the geographical position of the ship was not, as always assumed, within the borders of the Dutch part of the Continental Shelf but on the Belgian side. The Belgian rarities committee is aware of these findings.

1958

Lanceolated Warbler / Kleine Sprinkhaanzanger *Locustella lanceolata* c 15 September, Lichtschip Noord Hinder, Continental Shelf, 1cy female, found dead, skin in collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden ZH, photographed. A record of a lighthouse victim on board of lightship Noord Hinder has been removed after re-assessment. The identification is still accepted but Oreel (2020) showed that the geographical position of the lightship was not, as always assumed, within the borders of the Dutch part of the Continental Shelf but on the Belgian side. The Belgian rarities committee is aware of these findings.

1921

Slender-billed Curlew / Dunbekwulp *Numenius tenuirostris* date unknown, municipality unknown, province unknown, adult male, shot, sold and bought on 1 December at Leadenhall Market, London, England, now in collection of Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle, Washington, USA, photographed (identification accepted). This specimen was neatly discovered by a Dutch museum scientist and birder, who found out that it had been bought by Henry Munt, a respectable collector, on 1 December 1921 at Leadenhall Market, London, England, from a shipment that reportedly originated from the Netherlands (Jansen & Oreel 2020). Despite the significance of the submission – this is after all almost certainly an extinct species now – it was not accepted. Leadenhall Market has a history of fraud as far as the origin of specimens is concerned, which has led to questions over records of rare birds (Collinson 2012, Harrop et al 2012, McGhie 2012). Large quantities of birds were imported in frozen state from, eg, Russia, and unpacked and sold as fresh. The origin of shot birds was frequently vague, or deliberately mislabeled by the vendors, probably out of disinterest or to cover up illegal trade (McGhie 2012). To minimise the chances of fraudulent historical reports getting unjustly accepted, the committee is strict in its demand that the details of the month when and province where a specimen was collected need to be known.

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