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Voor taxonomie, volgorde en naamgeving van vogels in Dutch Birding worden de volgende overzichten aangehouden: *Dutch Birding-vogelnamen* door A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2015, www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=228) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke, Nederlandse en Engelse namen van West-Palearctische vogels); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (derde editie, door E C Dickinson (redactie) 2003; vierde editie, deel 1, door E C Dickinson & J V Remsen Jr (redactie) 2013) (taxonomie en wetenschappelijke namen van overige vogels van de wereld); en *IOC world bird names 5.1* door F Gill & D Donsker (2015, www.worldbirdnames.org) (Engelse en Nederlandse namen van overige vogels in de wereld; Nederlandse namen door P Vercruijsse en A J van Loon).

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

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For taxonomy, sequence and nomenclature of birds in Dutch Birding the following lists are used: *Dutch Birding bird names* by A B van den Berg (2008, Amsterdam; online update 2015, www.dutchbirding.nl/page.php?page_id=229) (taxonomy and scientific, Dutch and English names of Western Palearctic birds); *The Howard and Moore complete checklist of the birds of the world* (third edition, by E C Dickinson (editor) 2003; fourth edition, volume 1, by E C Dickinson & J V Remsen Jr (editors) 2013) (taxonomy and scientific names of remaining birds of the world); and *IOC world bird names 5.1* by F Gill & D Donsker (2015, www.worldbirdnames.org) (English and Dutch names of remaining birds of the world; Dutch names by P Vercruijsse and A J van Loon).

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Identification and occurrence of hybrids Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker in Poland

Łukasz Ławicki, Tomasz Cofta, Szymon Beuch, Adam Dmoch, Arkadiusz Sikora, Sylwester Aftyka, Paweł Czechowski, Marcin Bocheński, Karol Sieczak & Szymon Mazgaj

Woodpeckers of the genus *Picus* inhabit Asia, Europe and North Africa (Gorman 2014, del Hoyo & Collar 2014). Separation of *Picus* into two genera based on molecular analysis has recently been suggested: *Chrysophlegma*, represented by the four south-eastern Asian species, and *Picus* with 15 species (cf Fuchs et al 2008, del Hoyo & Collar 2014, Winkler et al 2014). In the Western Palearctic (sensu BWP), four species of *Picus* occur: Grey-headed Woodpecker *P canus* (hereafter *canus*), European Green Woodpecker *P viridis* (hereafter *viridis*), Iberian Green Woodpecker *P sharpei* and Levaillant's Woodpecker *P vaillantii*, the first three of which breed in Europe (Perktas et al 2011) and the latter in northern Africa. Recent authors (eg, Perktas et al 2011, del Hoyo & Collar 2014, Gill & Donsker 2015) consider *sharpei* from the Pyrenees, Iberia and at a few sites in southern France (the northernmost extent of its range) a separate species but others (still) treat it as a subspecies of *viridis* (eg, Fuchs et al 2008, Pons et al 2011).

Hybridisation among woodpeckers of the genus *Picus* has so far been found only between *canus* and *viridis* (McCarthy 2006, del Hoyo & Collar 2014, but see also Olioso & Pons 2011). In this paper, we discuss the occurrence and identification of hybrids between these two species based on records from Poland.

Distributions

Canus (plate 337) is a sedentary Eurasian species inhabiting the entire area between the Atlantic coast and the Pacific; 12 subspecies are currently recognised of which nominate *P c canus* occurs in the Western Palearctic (Dickinson & Remsen 2013). In Europe, it breeds in central Fennoscandia, the Baltic countries and the eastern and central parts of the continent; westwards its range extends as far as eastern Belgium and France, and southwards down into Bulgaria and Greece (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, BirdLife International 2004, Gorman 2004). In Poland, *canus* is a scarce species. Its breeding grounds lie mainly in two pockets in the south and in the north-east of the country. Occasionally, it has been found nesting in central Poland. The gap between the main breeding grounds in eastern Poland does not represent separate populations as, in the border areas of Belarus and Ukraine, its range is continuous. Elsewhere in Poland, it occurs occasionally; in the north-western part of the country (eg, Pomerania), it is very rarely observed (figure 1). The number has increased in recent years and at the same time the species is expanding its range in Poland (Tomiałojć & Stawarczyk 2003, Sikora 2006, Sikora et al 2007). The Polish breeding population in 2008-12 was estimated at 3000-5000 pairs

337 Grey-headed Woodpecker / Grijskopspecht *Picus canus*, male, Brynek, Poland, 20 March 2008 *(Henryk Kościelny/henrykkoscielny.pl)*

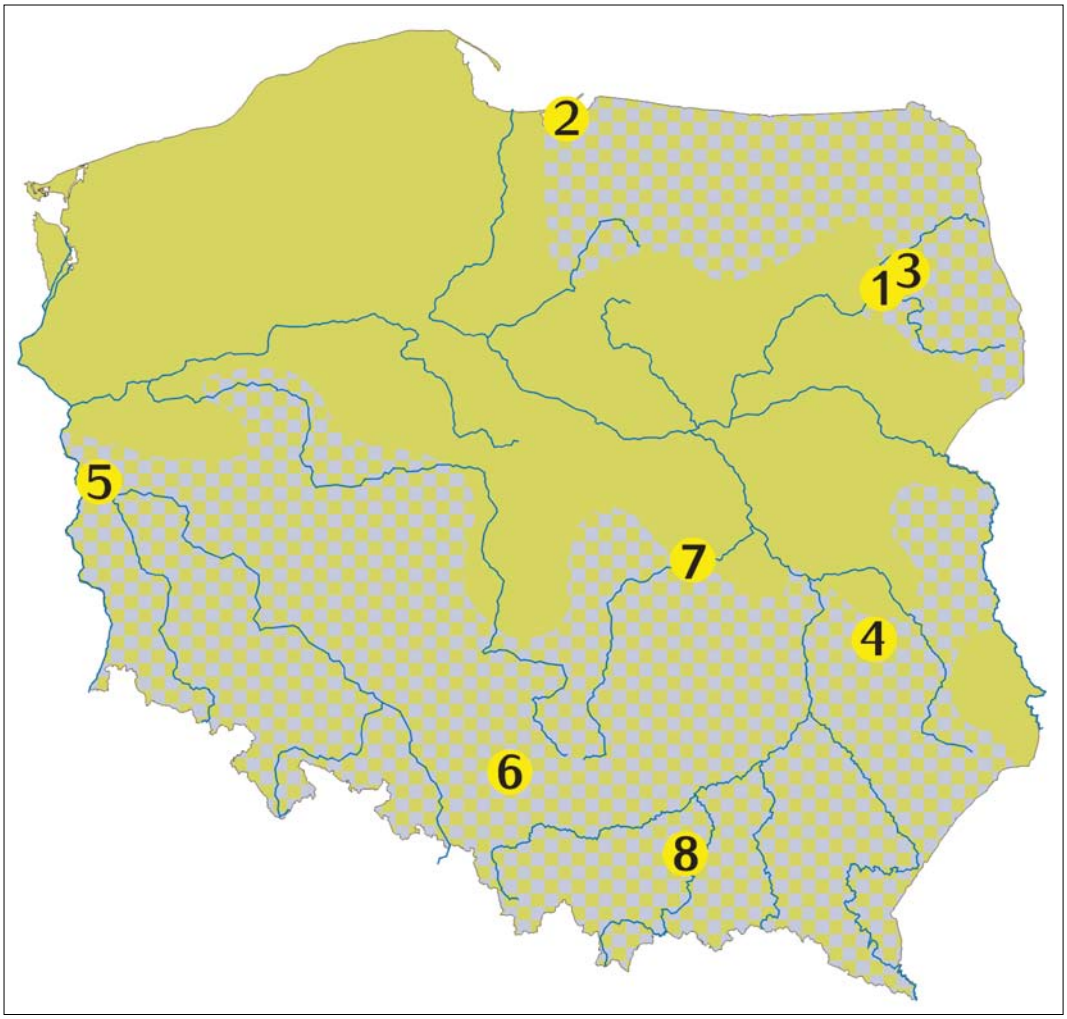

FIGURE 1 Distribution of hybrids Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker *Picus canus x viridis* in Poland compared with breeding ranges of both parent species. Yellow dot: record of hybrid; plain green: range of European Green Woodpecker; chequered grey/green: sympatric range of European Green and Grey-headed Woodpecker. Numbers in yellow dots as in table 1 / Verspreiding van hybriden Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht *Picus canus x viridis* in Polen in vergelijking met broedgebieden van beide oudersoorten. Gele stip: geval van hybride; egaalgroen: verspreiding van Groene Specht; grijs-groen geblokt: sympatrische verspreiding van Groene Specht en Grijskopspecht. Getallen in gele stippen als in tabel 1.

(Chodkiewicz et al 2015). It had a frequency of occurrence of 15.2% in Poland as a whole (471 of 3105 5'N x 10'E survey plots), being least common in the north-western and north-eastern parts of the country (figure 2).

The breeding range of *viridis* (figure 2) is limited mainly to the Western Palearctic. Three subspecies are currently recognised: *P v viridis*, *P v karelini* and *P v innominatus* (for further comments on its taxonomy, see Perktas et al 2011, del Hoyo & Collar 2014); the first two breed in Europe, the latter in Iran (Gorman 2014, del Hoyo & Collar 2014). *Viridis* breeds throughout nearly all of Europe, except Iceland, Ireland, the Mediterranean islands and northern Scandinavia. To the east, the range covers only central-western Russia and the Caucasus. Most of Europe is inhabited by nominate *viridis* but in southern Europe (from Italy to

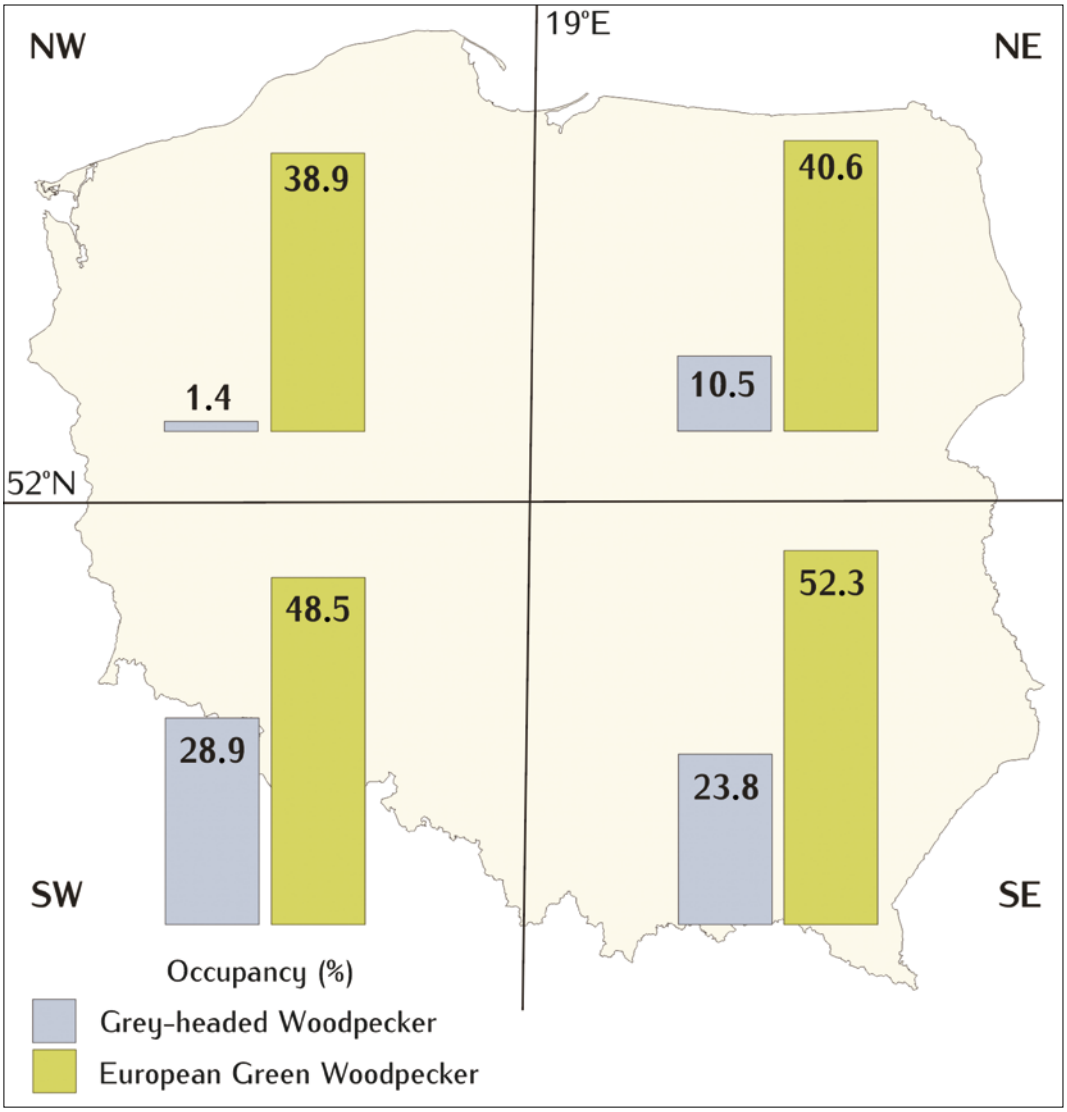

FIGURE 2 Frequency of occurrence (percentage occupancy of survey plots) of Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* and Green Woodpecker *P viridis* in four areas of Poland, separated by latitude 52°N and longitude 19°E. The 3105 5′N x 10′E survey plots (c 10x10 km) in Poland were divided as follows: NW – 837, NE – 817, SW – 536, SE – 915 (based on Sikora et al 2007; data recalculated) / Frequentie van voorkomen (percentage bezette onderzoeksblokken) van Grijskopspecht *Picus canus* en Groene Specht *P viridis* in vier gebieden in Polen tussen breedtegraad 52°N en lengtegraad 19°O. De 3105 5′N x 10′O-onderzoeksblokken (c 10x10 km) in Polen als volgt onderverdeeld: NW – 837, NO – 817, ZW – 536, ZO – 915 (gebaseerd op Sikora et al 2007; data herberekend).

Bulgaria) there is integration with *karelini* (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, Gorman 2004, del Hoyo & Collar 2014). In Poland, *viridis* is a scarce breeding species throughout the country except in the higher mountains (Tomiałojć & Stawarczyk 2003, Sikora et al 2007; figure 1). The current (2008-12) breeding population in Poland is estimated at 16 000-26 000 pairs (Chodkiewicz et al 2015). In contrast with *canus*, *viridis* was far more widespread with a nationwide frequency of occurrence of 45.0% (1397 of 3105 survey plots). At the same time, its distribution was subject to a much small-

TABLE 1 Records of hybrid Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker *Picus canus x viridis* in Poland. Localities numbered as in figure 1 / Gevallen van hybride Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht *Picus canus x viridis* in Polen. Locaties genummerd als in figuur 1.

1 24 April 2002, Biebrza National Park, Podlaskie (Dmoch 2003)
2 20 April 2004, Kamionek Wielki, Warmińsko-Mazurskie (Sikora 2006)
3 16 April 2008, Biebrza National Park, Podlaskie (Komisja Faunistyczna 2015; plate 339-340)
4 22 January 2010, Lublin, Lubelskie (Komisja Faunistyczna 2011; plate 341-345)
5 8 April 2010, Bytomiec, Lubuskie (Czechowski & Bocheński 2012)
6 31 March, 3 May & 26 October 2012, Bytom Miechowice, Śląskie (Beuch 2012; plate 346-351)
7 10 April 2012, Nowe Miasto nad Pilicą, Mazowieckie (Komisja Faunistyczna 2013)
8 22 April & 20 June 2012, Czchów, Małopolskie (Komisja Faunistyczna 2013)

er spatial variability than that of *canus* (Sikora et al 2007; figure 2).

Records of hybrids in Poland

Eight hybrids Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker *P canus x viridis* have been recorded in Poland in 2002-12 (table 1). All records were from areas where the two species occur sympatrically (figure 1). Appendix 1 presents descriptions of these hybrids based on published reports, field notes, drawings, photographs and videos.

Identification of hybrids in Poland

It is difficult to formulate simple rules to identify a hybrid. The range of morphological features in hybrids varies from forms indistinguishable in the field from one of the parent species, through intermediate forms that are easily recognisable, to forms with features that are non-existent in either of the parent species.

Moustache

In all analysed photographs of Polish hybrids, the black moustache is as wide as the base of the lower mandible. It appears to be narrower than in *viridis*, because it is more or less distinctly separated from the dark area around the eye. On the other hand, it is much wider than in *canus*, in which the feather tract running back from the base of the lower mandible is grey; only along its lower edge (extending from the lower edge of the lower mandible) there is a black stripe, very narrow at the front and wider at the rear (below the eye). There may be a few red feathers in the hybrid's moustache. Thus, the most constant and therefore most certain feature characterising a hybrid is the black moustachial stripe being as wide as the lower mandible, and separated from the black feathers surrounding the eye and on the lore. Note that adult female Iberian Green Woodpecker has a similar pattern on the head.

Area below eye

Furthermore, blurred, blackish feathers below the eye indicate a hybrid. This area ends beyond the rear edge of the eye and/or forms an indistinct, dark grey connection with the broad black moustache. The black lore may be separated from the red crown patch by a narrow, grey (pale grey) wedge. In nominate *viridis*, the black around the eye always forms a uniform mask that includes the lore, extends around the rear of the eye and joins the moustache. In some females of this subspecies, the black mask is separated from the red crown patch by a narrow, uneven olive-grey line. In *canus*, the black of the lore extends only to the front of the eye. Above the rear part of the eye there are some whitish feathers; likewise, the rear part of the lower half of the narrow eye ring is whitish. The black lore is highlighted by pale grey to whitish feathers. The narrow black moustache is separated from the eye and lore by a broad grey area (figure 3).

Dark nape patch

A feature specific to hybrids, not present in either of the parent species, is the dark grey or blackish patch situated near the rear end of the red stripe on the nape, although not all hybrids have this feature. This patch may be short or almost as long as the red crown patch, narrow, or in the shape of a broad 'oval', practically separated from the red by an area of grey reaching round from the sides of the head. There may be a few red (also orange or yellow) feathers in this dark grey or blackish patch. The red stripe on a hybrid's crown may be narrower than in *viridis*. Note, however, that some males *canus* have distinct black streaks extending from the red crown patch towards the nape; if these are wide (or the grey edges of the feathers are very worn), they can give the impression of an almost uniform dark patch. The Asian subspecies of *canus* have a distinct black stripe down the nape. In some female *canus* (probably older birds),

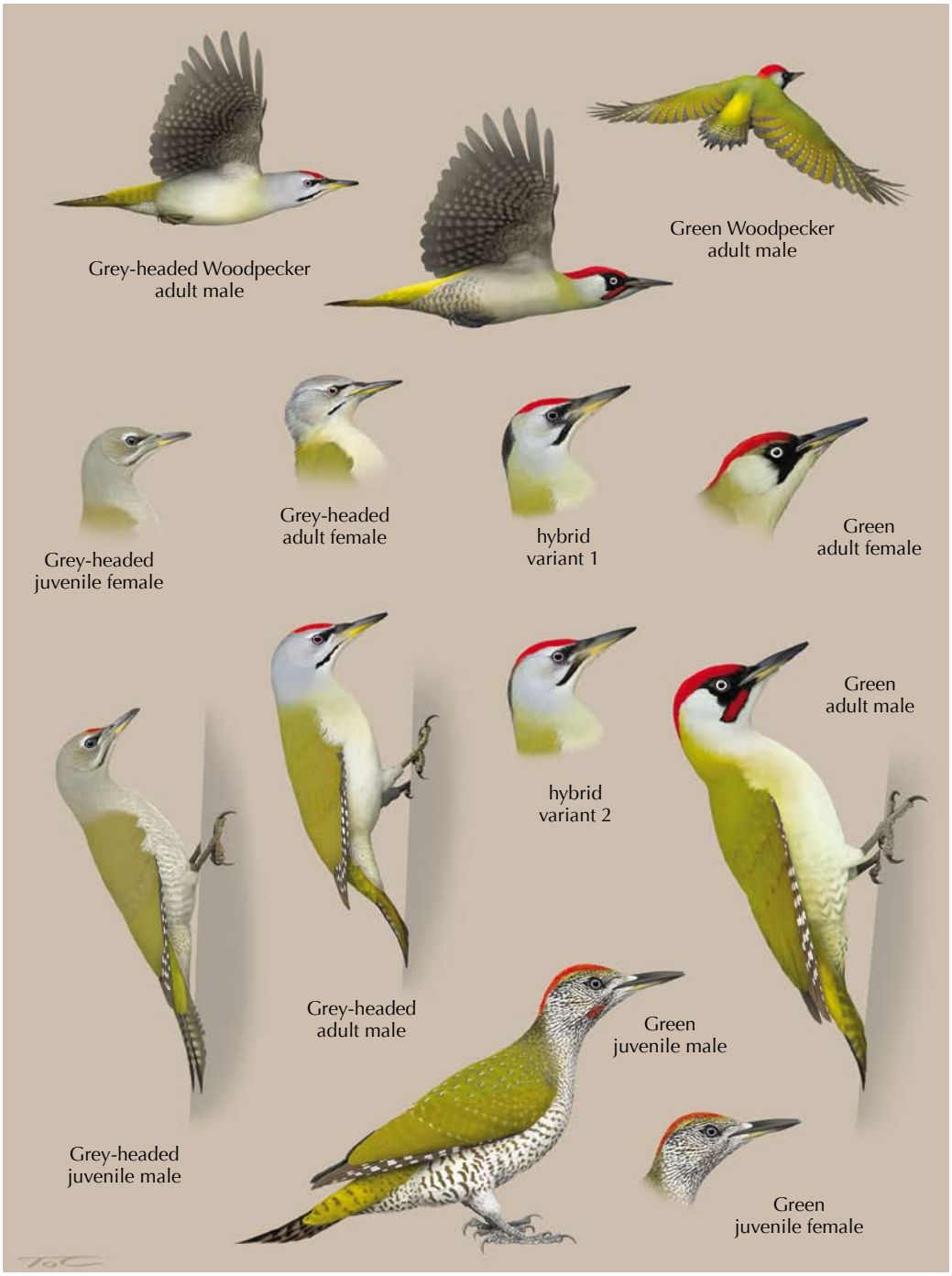

FIGURE 3 European Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*, Grey-headed Woodpecker *P canus* and two hybrids from Poland. See text for details / Groene Specht *Picus viridis*, Grijskopspecht *P canus* en hybriden uit Polen. Zie tekst voor details *(Tomasz Cofta)*

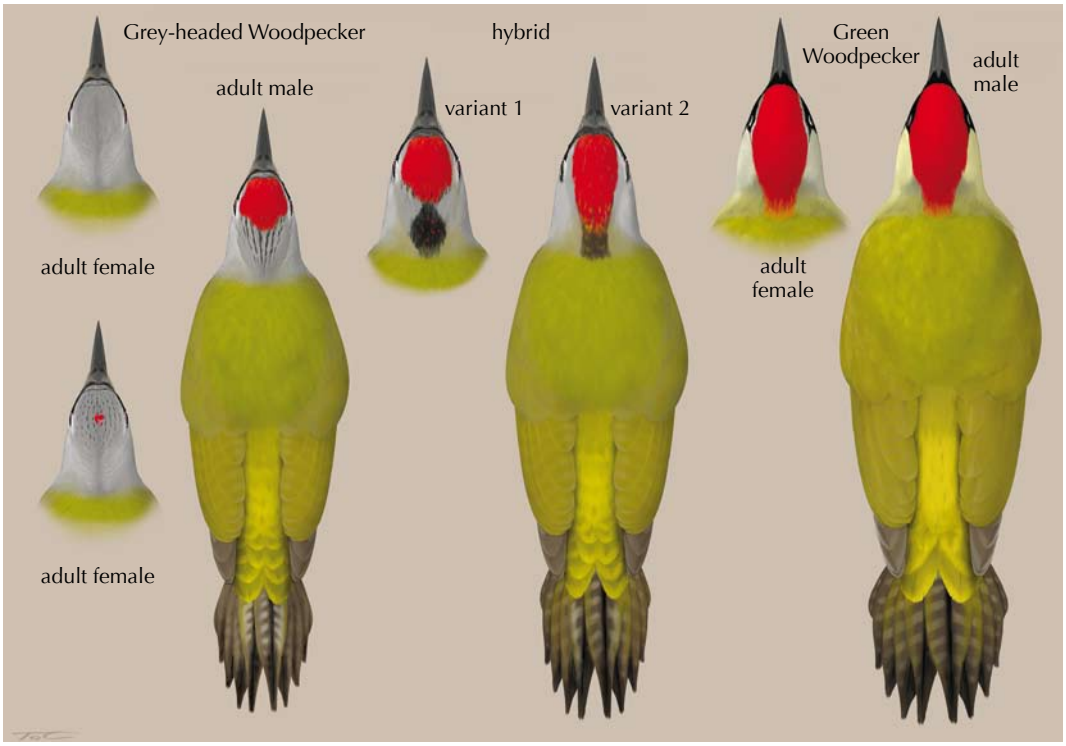

FIGURE 4 European Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*, Grey-headed Woodpecker *P canus* and two hybrids from Poland. See text for details / Groene Specht *Picus viridis*, Grijskopspecht *P canus* en hybriden uit Polen. Zie tekst voor details *(Tomasz Cofta)*

there may be a few red feathers on the grey, finely black-streaked crown (figure 4).

Size
The intermediate size of a hybrid can only be assessed by direct comparison with a bird of one of the pure species. So, in many cases a certain assessment of size will not be possible. Furthermore, the size of a hybrid may not always be intermediate and can be the same as in one of the parent species.

Head and body colour
In most cases, the shade of the colouring of the side of the head (whitish grey to greenish in *viridis*, deeper grey in *canus*) and the body will be very difficult to judge as it depends on the available light. Any differences will be discernible only by direct comparison, unless the observer is very experienced. Therefore, this character is not useful to identify a hybrid.

Barring on outer rectrices
The degree of distinctness of the barring on the outer rectrices is highly variable in both parent species and, therefore, cannot be used to identify hybrids.

Voice
The recorded songs of four hybrids are similar to one another and are intermediate between the typical songs of *canus* and *viridis* (figure 5). The series of notes begins at the same pitch as that of *viridis* and falls (often irregularly, with a rising wave in the first half of the series) to below the frequency typical of *canus*, but remains within the range of variability of *viridis*. A single note from such a series is shorter than in *canus* but has the same length as or is minimally shorter than that of *viridis*. The pauses between the notes are much shorter than in *canus* but longer than in *viridis*. No diagnostic feature of a hybrid could be found in these vocalisations. However, the recordings of hybrids identified by their appearance do sound different: especially, the frequency (tempo) of the calls is intermediate between those of the parent species. Thus, the intermediate tempo is at least indicative and should attract our at-

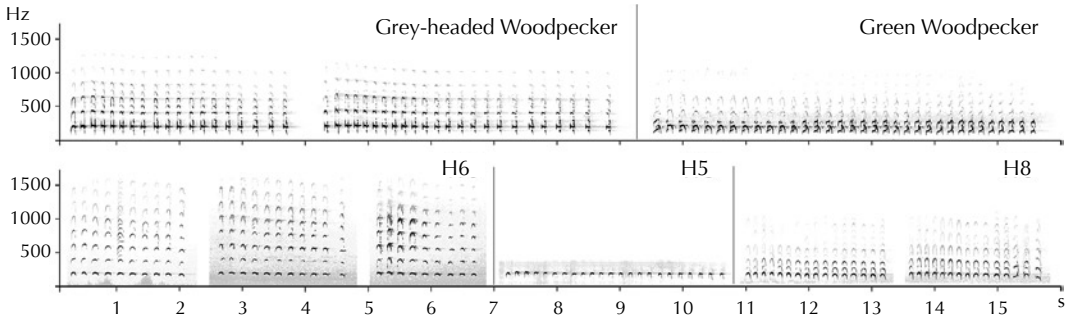

FIGURE 5 Above: song of male Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* (left; two strophes from same bird) and song of male European Green Woodpecker *P viridis* (right). Both recorded in Poland by Zdzisław Pałczyński (Pałczyński 2001). Below: call of three hybrids Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker *P canus x viridis* from Poland (recorded by Szymon Beuch, Marcin Bocheński and Szymon Mazgaj, respectively). Designation of hybrids 5, 6 and 8 as in table 1. / Boven: zang van mannetje Grijskopsecht *Picus canus* (links: twee strofen van zelfde vogel) en zang van mannetje Groene Specht *P viridis* (rechts). Beide opnamen in Polen door Zdzisław Pałczyński (Pałczyński 2001). Onder: roep van drie hybriden Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht *P canus x viridis* in Polen (opnamen van respectievelijk Szymon Beuch, Marcin Bocheński en Szymon Mazgaj). Aanduiding van hybriden 5, 6 en 8 als in tabel 1.

338 European Green Woodpeckers / Groene Spechten *Picus viridis*, females, Warsaw, Poland, 28 March 2013 *(Maciej Szymański/maciej-szymanski.pl)*


339-340 Hybrid Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker / hybride Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht *Picus canus* x *viridis*, Biebrza National Park, Poland, 16 April 2008 *(Adam Dmoch)*

tention as a potential hybrid. Nonetheless, one has to bear in mind that individual variability and specific circumstances can cause similar deviations in birds that are not hybrids. It is worth remembering that a female of both *canus* and *viridis* sings as well as the male, only more quietly, for a shorter time, not so vibrantly and at a lower pitch.

In conclusion, a voice deviating from the typical pattern should draw the observer's attention and persuade him/her to analyse the bird's appearance; it cannot, however, be taken as the only evidence for it being a hybrid. It is worth recording longer sequences of such vocalisations to do more sonagraphic analysis for discovering vocal features characteristic of hybrids.

Other records of hybrids in Europe

In western Europe, hybrids between the two species are very rare; to our knowledge, only seven such cases have been described. The first was on 20 November 1938 at Gårdvik, Dalarna, Sweden. This bird was caught and eventually skinned (Salomonsen 1947). Five observations came from Germany, including four in Niedersachsen, in the north-western part of the country: ***1*** from 3 May to 19 June 1987 near Cloppenburg; ***2*** in April 1989, when a male was found dead as window victim in the zoological gardens at Münster; ***3*** in 1991, when a hybrid female was seen at an unspecified location in southern Niedersachsen (at the time this female was in the company of a male *viridis* but the latter soon disappeared; the female was later sighted at a *canus* tree hole;) and ***4*** from April 1996 to 1998, when one hybrid was observed near Steinhuder Meer (Berger 1990, Südbeck 1991, Südbeck & Brandt 2004; Peter Südbeck in litt). Another hybrid in Germany was photographed on 9 and 28 March in Seebener Holz, Halle, Sachsen-Anhalt (Bird & Südbeck 2004). In April 2003 and again in 2004, a single hybrid was seen at Comblain-au-Pont, Liège, eastern Belgium (Schmitz & Dumoulin 2004). Moreover, a male hybrid was recorded at Bratislava, Slovakia (http://tinyurl.com/pwextsy).

Hybrids *canus x viridis* have also been reported from the European part of Russia. They were sighted many times from 1940 onwards in the Ryazan oblast and Moscow oblast but we do not know how many sightings there have been (Friedmann 1993, 2011, Ivanchev 1993). In 2011-14, a hybrid was present and photographed while digging a tree hole in the Lower Peterhof Park near St Petersburg (http://tinyurl.com/pf4vkbn).

Observations of mixed pairs in Europe

Mixed pairs of *canus* and *viridis* were mostly observed during studies of local *canus* and/or *viridis* populations. Four mixed pairs were found during an 18-year-long study at Hautes-Fagnes, Belgium, the same area where a hybrid was found in 2003-04 (Schmitz & Dumoulin 2004). Studies of both species in Moscow oblast (western Russia) in 1989-98 yielded as many as 38 mixed pairs. In almost all these mixed pairs, the female was *canus* and the male *viridis* (Friedmann 2011). On 8 August 2009, in the vicinity of the village of Kituryki near Białystok, north-eastern Poland, a mixed family of both species was sighted. This consisted of an adult and two young *viridis* and one young *canus*. None of the young birds displayed any hybrid features: their plumages and

341-345 Hybrid Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker / hybride Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht *Picus canus* x *viridis*, Lublin, Poland, 22 January 2010 *(Sylwester Aftyka)*

346-348 Hybrid Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker / hybride Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht *Picus canus x viridis*, Bytom Miechowice, Poland, 31 March 2012 *(Szymon Beuch)*. Same bird as in plate 349-351.
349-351 Hybrid Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker / hybride Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht *Picus canus x viridis*, Bytom Miechowice, Poland, 3 May 2012 *(Szymon Beuch)*. Same bird as in plate 346-348.

calls were typical of their respective species (Pugacewicz 2010). In this case, the origin of the young *canus* is unclear and it may well have come from another family. Another explanation may be that the female *canus* laid an egg or eggs in the nest of *viridis*.

Observations of hybrid x pure pairs in Europe

Observations of pairs between a hybrid and a pure *canus* or *viridis* are very rarely reported but probably this may occur more frequently than these rare reports suggest. It has been observed, eg, in Belgium, Germany and Poland (Schmitz & Dumoulin 2004, Beuch 2012). In most cases, the pair remained together for a short, undetermined time but no eggs were laid. Successful pairing between a hybrid and a pure *canus* and *viridis* was seen in western Russia. Courtship and copulation proceeded normally and some eggs were laid. As none of the eggs were fertilised, the authors inferred that *canus x viridis* hybrids could be infertile (Ivanchev 1993, Friedmann 2011). In contrast, at Steinhuder Meer, a hybrid chased a *canus* pair away and successfully bred and raised chicks (Südbeck & Brandt 2004).

Discussion

Most of the above observations come from areas lying near the edge of the distribution range of one of the species, usually *canus*. This appears to concur with the general principle that hybridisation usually takes place when one of the two species is rare (Randler 2002). With their much more restricted range, *canus* can more easily penetrate areas not inhabited by their conspecifics. Female woodpeckers are more mobile than males because they actively seek out territorial males in spring (Rolstad & Rolstad 1995). These two factors could be responsible for the fact that in mixed pairs the female is usually *canus*. A similar situation was found in mixed pairs of Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus* and Great Spotted Woodpecker *D major*, where the female was usually of the first – less numerous but more mobile – species (Dudzik & Polakowski 2011). Among the 38 mixed pairs of *canus* and *viridis* observed in Russia, in as many as 17 cases one of the partners eventually drove out the other. The longest period during which a mixed pair stayed together was 9-12 days but even these pairs ultimately broke up. This may have been due to the mutual misunderstanding of courtship behaviour in these species, which may explain why copulation attempts have been so rarely seen. In only one of those 38 pairs, eggs were found in the nest but they were infertile (Friedmann 2011). In view of the difficulties with pair formation, it is thought that the observed hybrids are the outcome of 'extramarital' copulations, which are not preceded by a long period of courtship. The resulting hybrids could have been raised by pure-pair parents but such cases are difficult to detect in the field (Südbeck 1991). Another theory about hybrids between these two species relates to birds from pure pairs which have lost their first clutch/brood, eg, as a result of the death of one partner. In such circumstances, the surviving bird may quickly look for another, casual partner. It is thought that in such situations, the 'quick fix' may involve individuals of another species. Such late clutches are often incubated by only one of the adult birds, so that in these cases, too, it is hard to tell whether the clutch was mixed (Friedmann 2011). Sometimes the two species use the same sleeping hole in a tree in their winter territories (Keicher 2007), which can promote the formation of mixed pairs.

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We extend our gratitude to Zenon Rohde for preparing the data on the frequency distribution of both species on the basis of data from the *Atlas of breeding birds in Poland*. Justyna Lewandowska and Mikołaj Wojniłło translated a number of articles, for which we are very grateful. We also thank Henryk Kościelny and Maciej Szymański for making their photographs available to us and Peter Südbeck for the information about hybrids in Germany. Peter Senn kindly improved our English.

Samenvatting

Herkenning en voorkomen van hybriden Grijskopspecht x Groene Specht in Polen Dit artikel bespreekt de herkenning en het voorkomen van hybriden tussen Grijskopspecht *Picus canus* en Groene Specht *P viridis* in Polen. Grijskopspecht is in Polen een schaarse broedvogel, met de belangrijkste broedgebieden in het zuiden en noordoosten. Groene Specht is een vrij schaarse broedvogel in geheel Polen. In 2002-12 werden acht hybriden tussen beide soorten vastgesteld (tabel 1), alle in gebieden waar beide soorten als broedvogel voorkomen (figuur 1). In West-Europa zijn hybriden tussen deze twee soorten zeer zeldzaam, met slechts zeven gevallen: in België (1), Duitsland (5) en Zweden (1); in Midden-Europa is er naast de Poolse gevallen ook een geval in Slowakije en er is een aantal gevallen bekend uit Europees Rusland. Gemengde broedparen zijn vastgesteld in België, Polen en (10-tallen) West-Rusland. Paren tussen een hybride en een zuivere Grijskopspecht en/of Groene Specht worden maar zelden gemeld maar komen mogelijk vaker voor; gevallen zijn bekend van België, Duitsland, Polen en Rusland. De meeste daarvan

komen van gebieden aan de rand van het verspreidingsgebied van een van beide soorten, meestal van Grijskopspecht. Hybriden vertonen kleedkenmerken van beide ouders, waarbij vooral de snorstreep en het gebied onder het oog belangrijke indicaties voor een hybride bieden. Een donkere achterhoofdsvlek komt vaak bij hybriden voor en ontbreekt bij beide oudersoorten. De zang is ook intermediair maar kan vanwege de variatie bij beide oudersoorten hooguit als indicatie van een hybride herkomst dienst doen.

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APPENDIX 1 Descriptions of hybrids Grey-headed x European Green Woodpecker *Picus canus x viridis* in Poland, including comparisons with parent species.

1 24 April 2002, Biebrza National Park, Podlaskie (Dmoch 2003)
SIZE & STUCTURE Slightly smaller than *viridis*. Bill fairly massive.
PLUMAGE Extensive red patch on forehead and crown. Nape not pure red but reddish-green. Narrow black moustache, hardly widening towards rear, suggestive rather of *canus*, as is lack of extensive black patch around eye, reduced to narrow lore stripe. Ear-coverts, neck and breast pale grey. Bright yellowish-green rump conspicuous in flight.
BARE PARTS Iris pale, in colour resembling that of *viridis*. Bill greyish.
VOICE Quiet *kyu-kyu-kyu* notes reminiscent of start of typical voice of *viridis*. After having flown into forest making indistinct 'giggling' sound, less screechy but more whistle-like than in *viridis*.

2 20 April 2004, Kamionek Wielki, Warmińsko-Mazurskie (Sikora 2006)
SIZE & STUCTURE Like *viridis* but more compact in outline.
PLUMAGE Red crown patch, reaching as far as upper nape. Moustache blackish, broader than in *canus*, with small red spot in middle. Eye surrounded by greyish-steel grey feathers (not black as in *viridis*). Side of head near ear-coverts greenish-yellow with grey tinge. Remaining surface coloration greenish. Rectrices brown; outer rectrices lacking pale barring characteristic of *viridis*. Undertail-coverts and rear part of body side darkly clouded.
BARE PARTS Iris brighter than in *canus* but not as bright as in *viridis*.
VOICE Initially, frequently calling, very similar to that of *viridis*. After being lured by playback drumming frequently but more quietly and for shorter duration than male *canus*.

3 16 April 2008, Biebrza National Park, Podlaskie (Adam Dmoch pers obs; plate 339-340)
SIZE & STUCTURE Approximately same size as both parent species. Bill quite massive.
PLUMAGE Red patch on forehead and crown, upper nape greyish-black with few reddish feathers. Black moustache, broader than in *canus*, not joining black patch in front of eye. Ear-coverts grey. Back grey-green. Rump very bright greenish-yellow. Uppertail-coverts yellowish-green. Breast and belly pale grey with delicate greenish tinge. Primaries dark grey, rectrices dark grey with bright, whitish spots/stripes.
BARE PARTS Iris pale. Bill pale grey with dark tip.
VOICE None heard.

4 22 January 2010, Lublin, Lubelskie (Sylwester Aftyka pers obs; plate 341-345)
SIZE & STUCTURE Size and silhouette resembling that of *canus*. Appearing smaller and slimmer than other *viridis* seen.
PLUMAGE Red crown patch not extending to nape or to side of head. Upper and lower nape blackish. Eye sur-

rounded by small black patch, extending to lore but not reaching base of bill. Patch around eye joining quite broad, black moustache. Side of head and ear-coverts grey. Upperparts greenish. Breast, belly and flank greyish, undertail-coverts also grey with delicate, not very distinct clouding.
BARE PARTS Bill greyish, quite delicate. Iris pale as in *viridis*.
VOICE None heard.

5 8 April 2010, Bytomiec, Lubuskie (Czechowski & Bocheński 2012; video available on http://tinyurl.com/o5znvgc)
SIZE & STUCTURE Size and silhouette resembling those of *canus*. Bill quite slender.
PLUMAGE Red crown patch not extending to nape or to side of head. Nape grey-green. Eye surrounded by small black patch, extending lore but not reaching base of bill. Eye patch joining thin black moustache. Side of head and ear-coverts grey. Upperparts greenish. Breast, belly and flank greyish, undertail-coverts also grey with delicate, not very distinct clouding.
BARE PARTS Iris dark. Bill greyish.
VOICE Different from typical calls of *viridis* and *canus* (figure 5).

6 31 March, 3 May & 26 October 2012, Bytom Miechowice, Śląskie (Beuch 2012; plate 346-351; videos from March available on http://tinyurl.com/ounlaf6 and http://tinyurl.com/nlxj89h)
SIZE & STUCTURE Noticeably (by direct comparison) larger than *canus* but not as big as *viridis*. In flight, neck distinctly narrower in appearance than head, much as in *viridis*. Tail long. Bill long.
PLUMAGE Head greyish, without any tinge of green. Nape dirty green. Narrow (much narrower than crown patch in *canus*), bright red crown-stripe extending from forehead to upper nape; small, darker spot at end of crown-stripe on lower nape. Quite thick black stripe running from upper mandible towards eye, ending at narrow black ring around eye; upper side of this stripe immediately adjacent to red on forehead. Black stripe, thicker and longer than in *canus*, from lower mandible towards face, extending well up to eye. Loral stripe and moustache fusing at base of bill. Mantle and wing-coverts dirty green. Breast and belly greyish-yellow. Barring below tail not reaching as far up flank as in *viridis*, limited to undertail-coverts. In flight, rump conspicuously differently coloured than green upperparts but not as bright yellow as in *viridis*. Central rectrices with indistinct barring. Outer rectrices appearing uniform, as in *canus*.
BARE PARTS Iris pale, with slight pinkish tinge (noticed on photographs; in field eye appearing pale but not as bright as in *viridis*). Bill greyish, as in *viridis*.
VOICE Like that of *canus* in tempo but softer in tone. Voice variable, however: sometimes similar to that of *viridis*, at other times resembling that of *canus* (figure 5).

7 10 April 2012, Nowe Miasto nad Pilicą, Mazowieckie (Karol Sieczak pers obs)
SIZE & STUCTURE Size similar to that of both species. Head rounded. Bill intermediate in length between that of *viridis* and *canus*.
PLUMAGE Head grey. Red patch on forehead not reaching crown. Blurred dark patch on crown and upper nape. Black patch around eye extending from base of bill to rear edge of eye. Width of black stripe on cheek intermediate between that of *viridis* and *canus*. Back green, rump yellowish-green. Underparts greenish-grey. Wings and tail green. No barring on outer rectrices.
BARE PARTS Iris dark.
VOICE Series of 5-7 whistles repeated every 15-20 sec. Intermediate between *viridis* and *canus* in timbre, without 'giggling' typical of *viridis* but also without attenuated ending characteristic of *canus*.

8 22 April and 20 June 2012, Czchów, Małopolskie (Szymon Mazgaj pers obs; video from April available on http://tinyurl.com/plyezjv; video from June available on http://tinyurl.com/nuqhj3b)
SIZE & STUCTURE Intermediate between *viridis* and *canus*.
PLUMAGE Red crown patch reaching to nape. Moustache black, very distinct, reaching slightly behind eye. Crown patch grading from red to dark grey. Dark patch around eye extending to bill and crown patch in this area much smaller than in *viridis*. Side of head and throat grey. Upperparts green. Underparts grey. Outer rectrices barred, others very delicately striped.
BARE PARTS Iris pale. Bill greyish.
VOICE Tone similar to that of *canus* but tempo resembling that of *viridis* (figure 5).

Bruine Klauwier in Azewijnsche Broek in januari-mei 2014

Wim Gerritsen, Erik A W Ernens & Roel Schwartz

Jarenlang intensief veldwerk in het Azewijnsche Broek, Gelderland, werd op 18 januari 2014 rond 14:00 beloond en bekroond met de vondst van de eerste Bruine Klauwier *Lanius cristatus* voor Nederland. Wim Gerritsen en Roel Schwartz ontdekten de vogel tijdens een van hun talloze bezoeken aan het gebied. Rijdend in zijn auto zag RS hem vanuit een ooghoek en dacht 'het zal wel een Roodborsttapuit zijn – maar toch even stoppen'. Toen WG hem in de telescoop zag dacht hij meteen aan een klauwier *Lanius*. Erik Ernens, die in de buurt was, werd gewaarschuwd en zag de vogel kort daarna en stelde vast dat het een Bruine Klauwier was. Met zijn drieën maakten ze een vreugdedans in de wetenschap dat ze naar een nieuwe soort voor Nederland stonden te kijken. Vanaf dat moment kwam een circus op gang van ongekende omvang. Nog diezelfde middag slaagden ruim 100 vogelaars uit het hele land er in om de vogel tot in de avondschemer te bewonderen. In de vroege ochtend van 19 januari hadden ruim 200 vogelaars de reis naar het verre oosten gemaakt en stonden ze in een gedisciplineerde waaier in het weiland. Het duurde lang voordat de vogel ontwaakte uit zijn slaap en voordat de eigenaar van de speciaal voor de twitch ingerichte koek- en zopiekraam zag dat het een goede dag zou worden. Naast vele 100-en mensen (waarschijnlijk c 1000) bezochten op 20 januari cameraploegen van NOS, RTL en SBS en plaatselijke omroepen, radiozenders en de schrijvende pers de plek om de klauwier en het vogelaarscircus te aanschouwen (Ernens et al 2014).

De vogel was plaatstrouw en de weken daarna bleef een constante stroom van vogelaars en fotografen uit heel Europa de plek bezoeken. De klauwier bleek een bron van plezier voor velen, werd 'trending topic', media-icoon en gewild onderwerp voor plaatselijke carnavalsoptochten. Ook de eigenaar van het klauwierenweiland kwam in het nieuws vanwege de vergoeding die hij van de bezoekende vogelaars in ontvangst nam voor zijn gedeeltelijk platgetrapte weiland. De klauwier bleef tot in het voorjaar in het gebied en werd op 8 mei voor het laatst gezien.

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op aantekeningen van de auteurs in het veld, notities van Hans Schekkerman en foto's van vele fotografen (www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl; cf Dutch Birding 36: 54, plaat 64, 70, plaat 97, 136, plaat 165, 2014).

GROOTTE & BOUW Typische klauwier in voorkomen en gedrag. Middelgrote zangvogel met stevige snavel met

352-353 Bruine Klauwier / Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*, eerste-winter, Azewijnsche Broek, Gelderland, 19 januari 2014 *(Alex Bos)*

354 Bruine Klauwier / Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*, eerste-winter, Azewijnsche Broek, Gelderland, 22 februari 2014 *(Kris De Rouck)*

355 Bruine Klauwier / Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*, eerste-winter, Azewijnsche Broek, Gelderland, 4 maart 2014 *(Co van der Wardt)*

haakvormige punt en beide helften sterk gekromd, vrij lange staart en naar verhouding grote kop. Handpenprojectie vrij kort, geschat 60-65%. Staart smal en getrapt met afgeronde staartpunt. Buitenste pennen (in vlucht) zichtbaar korter dan rest (20-25%).

KOP Bovenkop kastanjebruin. Masker opvallend, donkerbruin tot zwartbruin, scherp afgezet achter oog en nog vaag doorlopend op teugel (klein donker vlekje voor oog, rest van teugel tamelijk licht). Vrij korte en smalle, helder witte wenkbrauwstreep (in sommige lichtomstandigheden met grijze zweem). Wenkbrauwstreep van voorkant oog tot bijna einde van masker lopend en niet doorlopend tot boven snavel. Wenkbrauwstreep verbredend achter oog, daardoor iets schuin omhoog gericht lijkend, in combinatie met horizontaal of iets omlaag gericht masker. Keel licht met zelfde witte tint als wenkbrauwstreep. Onderwang en kin crèmewit, lichtste deel onderzijde, van bleek bruinig gekleurde buik/flank gescheiden door warmbruine aanzet van borstband vanaf schouder. Nek iets lichter kastanjebruin dan bovenkop.

BOVENDELEN Mantel kastanjebruin, iets lichter van tint dan bovenkop. Stuit kastanjebruin als bovenkop.

ONDERDELEN Flank en bovenborst vuilwit met prominent bruin schubpatroon. Flank tot anaalstreek met rossige tot gemberkleurige gloed. Onderstaartdekveren en buik vuilwit.

VLEUGEL Tertials met donkerbruin centrum en lichte crèmekleurige randen. Aantal grote vleugeldekveren met donker centrum met lichtbruine randen. Handpennen donkerbruin met smalle donkere buitenrand. Basis van handpennen lichter en contrasterend met handdekveren. Handdekveren donkerbruin met smalle lichte top. Armpennen met lichte randen, 'armbaan' vormend. Alula donkerbruin met lichtbruine zoom.

STAART Bovenstaart kastanjebruin tot roodbruin, als stuit. Meest rossige deel op basale zijden en centrale staartpennen wat donkerder. Buitenvlag van buitenste staartpen licht (lichtbruin tot crèmekleurig).

NAAKTE DELEN Snavel overwegend licht, met lichte (grijze) basis op basale helft tot tweederde en donkere, bijna zwarte snavelpunt. Poot grijs. Oog donker, bijna zwart.

RUI & SLEET Geen ruicontrast zichtbaar in vleugel.

GELUID Niet waargenomen.

GEDRAG Jagend vanaf hoog punt en regelmatig voor prooidier naar grond duikend. Actief foeragerend (regelmatig prooien vangend) en zich verplaatsend via perceelsgrenzen naar struiken of hagen (van paaltje naar paaltje en af en toe omlaag duikend). Prooidieren: insecten (kevers, grotere vliegen, hommels), andere ongewervelde dieren (regenwormen) en zoogdieren (muizen).

Determinatie en leeftijdsbepaling

Op de beste foto's zijn donkere schubjes zichtbaar op de bovenstaartdekveren, schouderveren

en mantel en zijn donkere subterminale randen zichtbaar aan de handpendekveren; deze kenmerken wijzen op een eerste-winter. Bruine Klauwier lijkt veel op (eerste-winter) Grauwe Klauwier *L collurio* maar heeft een in verhouding grotere kop, zwaardere snavel, langere en smallere, getrapte staart en kortere handpenprojectie (90-100% bij Grauwe). De handpenprojectie is ongeveer een derde tot twee derde van de tertiallengte; bij Grauwe is deze gelijk aan de tertiallengte. De combinatie van effen kastanjebruine kopkap, roodbruine getrapte staart en ontbreken van witte vlek op de handpenbasis sluit andere gelijkende soorten uit. Eerste-winter Grauwe toont – naast de structurele verschillen – meer schubtekening op de bovendelen en altijd een meer grijze nek. Ook de kastanjebruine stuit (grijsbruin bij Grauwe) en de donkere centra van de tertials (lichter bij Grauwe) zijn verschilpunten met Grauwe. Verwarring is verder mogelijk met 'izabelklauwieren' (Turkestaanse Klauwier *L phoenicuroides* en Daurische Klauwier *L isabellinus*). Beide soorten hebben een andere staartvorm, met langere buitenste staartpennen (dus minder sterk afgerond/getrapt). Daurische is verder uit te sluiten omdat deze altijd bleker en meer zandkleurig is op de kop en bovendelen en warmer gekleurd op de volledige onderdelen, zonder of met zeer beperkte schubtekening. Turkestaanse is donkerder en kouder getekend dan Daurische en kan daarom eerder worden verward met Bruine of Grauwe. Turkestaanse mist echter de gemberkleurige zweem op de flank, heeft meer grijsbruine bovendelen en een grijsbruine kop en heeft minder duidelijke schubtekening op de onderdelen (eg, Lefranc & Worfolk 1997, Beaman & Madge 1998, Snow & Perrins 1998, Worfolk 2000, del Hoyo et al 2008, Svensson et al 2012, van Duivendijk 2011, Svensson et al 2012, Vinicombe et al 2014).

Ondersoort

Bruine Klauwier omvat maximaal vier ondersoorten: nominaat *L c cristatus* (hierna *cristatus*), *L c confusus* (hierna *confusus*), *L c lucionensis* (hierna *lucionensis*) en *L c superciliosus* (hierna *superciliosus*) (Svensson 1992, Panov 2011, Dickinson & Christidis 2014, Gill & Donsker 2015). Alle taxa zijn nogal variabel in uiterlijk, waarbij hybridisatie niet wordt uitgesloten. De status van *confusus* is dubieus; het betreft mogelijk een intergradatie tussen nominaat *cristatus* en *lucionensis* (Worfolk 2000, Panov 2011, Dickinson & Christidis 2014). Nominaat *cristatus* kenmerkt zich door een bruine bovenzijde, vaak met een warmer gekleurde stuit. De bovenzijde toont vaak enige bandering maar nooit zoveel als bij Grauwe Klauwier. De onderzijde is zeemkleurig met zware bandering. De staart is koudbruin, zonder witte zijden of roodbruine tekening. Bij *lucionensis* is de bovenzijde grijsbruin, vaak met grijzere bovenkop en lichter voorhoofd (kop grijzer dan bovendelen); de stuit is contrasterend roodbruin of kaneelkleurig. De onderzijde en staart zijn als bij *cristatus*. *Superciliosus* heeft warm roodbruine bovendelen met een lichter voorhoofd. De onderzijde en staart zijn als bij *cristatus* (cf Harris & Franklin 2000, Worfolk 2000). De roodbruine kleur van de bovenkop van de vogel van het Azewijnsche Broek (net zo warm gekleurd als of warmer gekleurd dan de bovendelen) duidt op *cristatus*.

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Bruine Klauwieren komen als broedvogel voor in Oost-Azië: van Centraal- & Oost-Siberië en Mongolië tot Oost-China en Japan. *Lucionensis* komt voor in China, Noord-Korea en Zuid-Korea en overwintert in Zuid-China, de Filippijnen en Taiwan. In Japan en in het uiterste zuidoosten van Rusland wordt de soort vertegenwoordigd door *superciliosus* die overwintert in Zuidoost-Azië. Nominaat *cristatus* bestrijkt het overige verspreidingsgebied en brengt de winter door van India tot in Zuidoost-Azië. *Confusus* is beschreven uit het oostelijke deel van Siberië. Het broedbiotoop bestrijkt een (voor klauwieren enigszins ongewoon) grote verscheidenheid aan habitats, variërend van tropische bosgebieden in Zuid-China tot woestijn, steppe, taiga en toendra in Mongolië en Siberië. De broedgebieden worden vanaf juli (tot in september) verlaten en in maart-mei vangen vogels de terugreis aan naar de broedgebieden waar ze in mei-juni aankomen (del Hoyo et al 2008).

Naast dit Nederlandse geval zijn er in Europa 29 gevallen, verdeeld over acht landen (tabel 1). Exemplaren zijn in Europa vooral ontdekt in september (10; waaronder vijf exemplaren in Brittannië die binnen acht dagen tijd werden ontdekt in september 2013; Hudson & the Rarities Committee 2014), oktober (10) en november (zeven), met daarnaast nog een voorjaarsgeval uit mei. Twee najaarsvogels bleven tot voorbij de jaarwisseling. De Nederlandse vogel was de eerste die midden in de winter werd ontdekt (en de Spaanse vogel de tweede).

Dankzegging

Speciale dank gaat uit naar de partners van Wim,

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Bruine Klauwier *Lanius cristatus* in Europa (n=30); gevallen met * wachten op aanvaarding door betrokken dwaalgastencommissie / records of Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* in Europe (n=30); records with * await acceptance by relevant rarities committee (cf Hudson & the Rarities Committee 2014; www.netfugl.dk, www.tarsiger.com; WP reports (Dutch Birding); Marcel Haas in litt)

Brittannië (17)
30 september tot 2 oktober 1985, Sumburgh, Shetland, Schotland, adult (Hume 1993)
21 oktober 2000, Fair Isle, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter vrouwtje (vangst)
24-28 september 2001, Bryher, Scilly, Engeland, eerste-winter
19-24 september 2004, Whalsay, Shetland, Schotland, adult mannetje (vangst)
24-25 september 2008, Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, Engeland, adult
18 en 23-24 november 2008, North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Schotland, eerste-winter
26-27 september 2009, Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall, Engeland, eerste-winter
11 oktober 2009, Geosetter, Mainland, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter
11 oktober 2009 tot 2 januari 2010, Staines Moor, Surrey, Engeland, eerste-winter
20 mei 2010, Sennen Cove, Cornwall, Engeland, vrouwtje
7 november 2010, Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, Engeland, eerste-winter
22 oktober tot 20 november 2011, Tiree, Argyll, Schotland, eerste-winter
20 september 2013, Hook-with-Warsash, Hampshire, Engeland
24-29 september 2013, Westness, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, eerste-winter
27-30 september 2013, Wester Quarff, Mainland, Shetland, Schotland, eerste-winter
28 september 2013, Balcomie, Fife, Schotland, eerste-winter
28-29 september 2013, Kirkton of Slains, Collieston, North-east Scotland, Schotland, eerste-winter

Denemarken (2)
15 oktober 1988, Gedser, Lolland-Falster, Sjælland, eerste-winter (vangst) (Thorup 2000)
4-24 november 2012, Årslev Engsø, Aarhus, Midtjylland, eerste-winter

Duitsland (2)
15-16 oktober 2001, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, adult
* 14-16 oktober 2014, Münster, Nordrhein-Westfalen, tweede-kalenderjaar (Dutch Birding 36: 411, 2014; http://tinyurl.com/pt8fcy7)

Frankrijk (2)
24 oktober 2000, Hoédic, Morbihan, adult
3-5 november 2004, Noirmoutier, Vendée, eerste-winter

Ierland (1)
22 november tot 10 december 1999, Ballyferriter, Kerry, adult vrouwtje (Crosher 1999)

Italië (1)
29 november 2002 tot 6 februari 2003, Mirandola, Modena, eerste-winter

Nederland (1)
18 januari tot 8 mei 2014, Azewijnsche Broek, Gelderland, eerste-winter

Noorwegen (2)
2-3 oktober 2005, Utsira, Rogaland, eerste-winter
* 26 november 2014, Honningsvågen, Stad, Selje, Sogn og Fjordane, eerste-winter (www.artsobservasjoner.no/Image/471624)

Spanje (1)
* 31 december 2014 tot 17 april 2015, Deltebre, Tarragona (Dutch Birding 37: 127, plaat 195, 129, 200, 2015)

Zweden (1)
3 oktober 1984, Nidingen, Halland, eerste-winter (vangst)

Erik en Roel die hun grote hobby altijd steunen en de fotografen Kris De Rouck, Franck Hollander en Leo Kruders voor het ter beschikking stellen van de foto's, agrariër Gerard Hettelaar en Firma Netterden Zand en Grind BV, Zaal de Zon te Veldhunten en de Whatsapp-groep Azewijnsche Broek voor ondersteuning.

Summary

BROWN SHRIKE AT AZEWIJNSCHE BROEK IN JANUARY-MAY 2014 From 18 January to 8 May 2014, a first-year Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* was present at Azewijnsche Broek, Gelderland, the Netherlands. Based on the subtle dark scaly markings on uppertail-coverts, scapulars and mantle, it was a first-year. Based on structural characters, first-year Red-backed Shrike *L collurio* could be excluded by the relatively large head, heavy bill, long and clearly graduated tail and short primary projection. Furthermore, it differed from Red-backed by the chestnut-brown rump and dark tertial centres. Additionally, first-year Red-backed shows more prominent scaly markings on the upperparts and always a more greyish neck. The combination of uniform chestnut-brown cap, long, graduated, red-brown tail and lack of obvious white primary patch (base of primaries) excluded other

similar species such as Red-tailed Shrike *L phoenicuroides* and Daurian Shrike *L isabellinus*. These 'isabelline shrikes' have a longer but less graduated tail; in addition, Daurian is paler and more sandy on upperhead and upperparts and has warmer underparts, and Red-tailed has a more cold grey-brown upperhead and upperparts and less scaly underparts. The red-brown colour of the upperhead, as warm as or warmer than the upperparts, indicated the nominate subspecies *L c cristatus*. Brown Shrike breeds in eastern Asia. This was the first record for the Netherlands. In Europe, there are now 30 records, of which only a few in winter (table 1).

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Roodborstlijster bij Heemskerk in april 2014

Lonnie Bregman & Enno B Ebels

Ondanks het vieren van Koningsdag de voorgaande dag, stond ik (Lonnie Bregman) op 27 april 2014 weer vroeg op de zeereep bij Heemskerk aan Zee, Noord-Holland, om te trektellen. Op flink wat Brandganzen *Branta leucopsis* en een Velduil *Asio flammeus* na was de trek niet zo indrukwekkend. Na twee regenachtige uren besloot ik de duinen in te gaan, waar ik al snel twee Beflijsters *Turdus torquatus* vond. Verder was het rustig wat betreft trekvogels, tot ik om 10:00 in de verte een vogel zag vliegen. Door de kijker zag ik hem landen in de bomen langs de Meeuwenweg. Het was een vogel met een lijsterpostuur, rode onderzijde, bruin getinte rug en zwartachtige kop. Hoewel ik het eigenlijk voor onmogelijk hield, zocht ik de Roodborstlijster *T migratorius* op in mijn ANWB-gids (Svensson et al 2010). De kleurencombinatie klopte precies voor deze soort. Met mijn telescoop in de hand kon ik nog de grijze stuit en zwarte staart zien, daarna raakte ik de vogel kwijt. In lichte paniek haastte ik me naar de plek. Daar aangekomen kon ik in eerste instantie niks vinden, maar na 20 lange minuten zag ik hem plotseling op korte afstand in de top van een struik zitten: een overduidelijke Roodborstlijster! Onmiddellijk meldde ik de waarneming in meerdere whatsapp-groepen samen met een foto die ik door mijn telescoop kon maken, waarna de waarneming om 10:25 werd doorgegeven via Dutch Bird Alerts. In het begin trok de vogel op met twee Beflijsters en een mannetje Merel *T merula*, waarbij hij zich rustig ophield in de toppen van struiken. Hierdoor konden de eerste c 10 twitchers die op de fiets uit de directe omgeving kwamen gemakkelijk 'aanschuiven'. Op een gegeven moment werd de vogel onrustiger en om 11:50 ging hij waarschijnlijk op de grond zitten waardoor hij uit beeld raakte. Pas om 12:40 kwam hij weer tevoorschijn om kort daarna hoog richting het oosten weg te vliegen, waargenomen door c 50 waarnemers. Het leek een lastige klus om hem nog terug te vinden maar toch lukte het August van Rijn een uur later, op c 800 m afstand van de oude plek. Op deze plek bleef de vogel de rest van de dag aanwezig. Ook hier was hij lang niet altijd in beeld maar met enige regelmaat liet hij zich goed zien. In totaal hebben meer dan 400 vogelaars hem kunnen bekijken. De vogel is tot in de schemering gezien maar zoekacties de volgende dag waren tevergeefs (Bregman 2014).

Beschrijving

De beschrijving is gebaseerd op foto's van onder meer Alex Bos, LB, Hans Brinks, Jaap Denee en Vincent Legrand (cf Dutch Birding 3: 205, plaat 259, 219, plaat 286-287, 2014; www.dutchbirding.nl, www.waarneming.nl), videobeelden van Vincent Hart en Steven Wytema (www.youtube.com) en aantekeningen van Hans Schekkerman.

GROOTTE & BOUW Flinke lijster, formaat Merel, fractie kleiner dan Beflijster maar wel iets dikker gebouwd met in vlucht 'meer buik' en meer afgeronde vleugels. Snavel stevig, als bij Merel.
KOP Kop donker; kruin zwartgrijs, lichter wordend naar achterkop, met nog lichter grijs gebied op zijhals. Teugel, oogstreep en gebied rond keel diepzwart. Witte gebroken oogring bestaand uit drie delen (twee boven en een onder oog). Keel zwartgrijs met fijne witte lengtestreping.
BOVENDELEN Mantel en schouder grijsbruin, rug en stuit middelgrijs zonder bruintint.
ONDERDELEN Opvallende helder steenrode borst en buik, scherp begrensd aan zowel bovenzijde (tegen donkere keel) als onderzijde waar contrasterend met helderwitte onderbuik en anaalstreek (met uitzondering van donker gevlekte onderstaartdekveren), en egaal gekleurd, met nauwelijks opvallende lichtere veerranden.
VLEUGEL Handpennen donker grijsbruin, op gesloten vleugel met onduidelijke lichter grijze armpenbaan. Vleugeldekveren eveneens met lichtere grijze rand en met opvallende enigszins hoekige witte topvlek op zowel grote als middelste, twee lichte vleugelstreepjes vormend. Ook tertials met tamelijk opvallende lichtere rand en top. Ondervleugeldekveren oranje.
STAART Zwart met in vlucht opvallende witte 'hoeken' gevormd door witte top aan buitenste staartpennen.
NAAKTE DELEN Snavel geel met donkere punt en culmen. Poot donker grijsachtig, beide poten ongeringd.
GELUID Liet vanuit top struik eenmaal serie Merel-achtige *kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk* roepjes horen.
GEDRAG Regelmatig bovenin vlier- en meidoornstruiken zittend; 's middags tijdens regen in bomen zittend, soms moeilijk zichtbaar. Af en toe vliegend over enkele 10-tallen tot 100en meters. Ook op grond zittend of foeragerend.

Determinatie

De combinatie van kenmerken sluit alle andere






356-357 Roodborstlijster / American Robin *Turdus migratorius*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Heemskerk, Noord-Holland, 27 april 2014 *(Lonnie Bregman)* **358-359** Roodborstlijster / American Robin *Turdus migratorius*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Heemskerk, Noord-Holland, 27 april 2014 *(Hans Brinks)* **360-361** Roodborstlijster / American Robin *Turdus migratorius*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Heemskerk, Noord-Holland, 27 april 2014 *(Jaap Denee)*

TABEL 1 Gevallen van Roodborstlijster *Turdus migratorius* in Europa / records of American Robin *Turdus migratorius* in Europe (Todte & Nicolai 2001, Slack 2009; Marcel Haas in litt; www.netfugl.dk, www.tarsiger.com, www.rarebirdspain.net/arbsr1411.htm)

Azoren (2)
17 oktober 2012, Corvo
15 oktober 2013, Corvo

België (2)
begin januari tot 7 februari 1965, Heverlee, Vlaams-Brabant, vrouwtje
30 april 1994, Klein Schietveld, Brasschaat/Kalmthout, Antwerpen, adult

Brittannië (29 gevallen van 30 exemplaren)
25 oktober tot 8 november 1952, Lundy, Devon, Engeland, eerste-winter, vangst
29 oktober tot 7 november 1955, Braunton Burrows, Devon, Engeland
27 mei 1961, Grimsetter Aerodrome, Orkney, Schotland
7 november 1962, Lundy, Devon, Engeland
c 18 december 1963, Gugh en St Agnes, Scilly, Engeland (twee); één vogel gevangen op 20 december op St Agnes en doodgevonden op Gugh op 28 december
15-16 januari 1966, Brand's Bay, Poole Harbour, Dorset, Engeland, en c 18 januari tot 10 maart 1966, Canford Cliffs, Dorset, Engeland
12 februari tot 5 maart 1966, Wick Pond, Windsor Great Park, Surrey, Engeland
12 mei 1966, Woodhall Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire, Dumfries, Schotland
11-16 november 1967, Foula, Shetland, Schotland
14 januari tot 15 februari 1975, St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, Schotland
17-30 oktober 1976, St Agnes, Scilly, Engeland
5 november 1981, Reay, Caithness, Highland, Schotland, adult
15 januari 1982, Saintfield, Ballynahinch, Down, Noord-Ierland, adult, verzwakt gevonden, later overleden
3-16 november 1982, Foula, Shetland, Schotland, mannetje
14-18 november 1982, Lundy, Devon, Engeland
12 oktober 1984, Haslemere, Surrey, Engeland, eerste-winter
24-29 december 1988, Inverbervie, Grampian, Schotland, eerste-winter mannetje
26-28 oktober 1998, St Agnes en Gugh, Scilly, Engeland, mannetje
11-12 november 2003, Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, Wales
14 december 2003 tot 2 februari 2004, Godrevy, Cornwall, Engeland, eerste-winter vrouwtje
1 januari tot 8 maart 2004, Grimsby, Lincolnshire, Engeland, eerste-winter vrouwtje
januari tot 28 maart 2006, Peckham, London, Engeland
4 mei 2006, Glenmore Forest Park, Highland, en 6 mei 2006, Boat of Garten, Highland, Schotland
10-28 oktober 2006, Tresco, Scilly, Engeland, eerste-winter mannetje
5 januari tot 13 februari 2007, Bingley, Yorkshire, Engeland, eerste-winter
10-18 november 2010, Turf, Devon, Engeland
29 oktober 2013, Tresco, Scilly, Engeland
1 november 2013, The Lizard, Cornwall, Engeland
21-23 november 2013, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Schotland

Denemarken (1)
16 november 1994, Gjerrild, Djursland, Århus, Nordjylland

Duitsland (6)
eind november 1851, Meiningen, Thüringen, vangst
14 oktober 1874, Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, adult mannetje, dood gevonden (vuurtorenslachtoffer)
31 oktober 1876, Forst Upjever, Jever, Niedersachsen, adult mannetje, vangst
herfst 1913, Mönchengladbach, Nordrhein-Westfalen, adult vrouwtje, verzameld
23 november 1913, Ueckermünde, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, vrouwtje, geschoten
30 november 2000, Kleinzerbst, Sachsen-Anhalt, eerste-winter vrouwtje, verzwakt gevonden, zelfde dag overleden (balg in Museum Heineanum, Halberstadt, Sachsen-Anhalt)

Ierland (13)
4 mei 1891, Springmount, Shankill, Dublin, verzameld
7 december 1892, Lough Gill, Sligo, verzameld
december 1894, Leitrim, verzameld
10-18 december 1954, Camolin, Wexford
11 en 13 januari 1955, Blennerville, Tralee, Kerry
28 januari 1965, op zee bij Skelligs, Kerry (aan boord van schip)
16 januari 1977, Glengarriff, Cork
13 december 1981, bij Waterville, Kerry, mannetje
8 juni tot eind juli 1983, Edenberry, Offaly

IJsland (6)
14 maart 1958, Þingholtsstræti, Reykjavík, mannetje, verzameld
28 oktober 1969, Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar, verzameld
13 oktober 2001, Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar, eerste-winter mannetje
6 oktober 2003, Klauf, Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar
18-30 oktober 2008, Selfoss, Árnessýsla, eerste-winter
15-18 november 2011, Reykjavík

Noorwegen (1)
21 november 2010, Kvinnherad, Hordaland

Oostenrijk (2+)
december 1820, Aspang, Niederösterreich, vrouwtje, verzameld
herfst 1846, Wechsel, Steiermark/Niederösterreich, vangst (naar vogelmarkt in Wenen gebracht)
Slack (2009) vermeldt dat er nog een derde geval uit de 19e eeuw is.

Spanje (2)
10-15 december 1999, Laukiz, Bizkaia, vrouwtje of eerste-winter
25 november 2014, Granada, Andalucia

Tsjechië (1)
tussen 1857 en 1874, Hluboká nad Vltavou, Ceské Budejovice, Jihočeský, verzameld

Zweden (2)
24 april 1988, Klåverön, Bohuslän
10 april 1994, Tingstad, Ödeshö, Östergötland, mannetje

lijstersoorten uit (cf Cramp 1988, Clement & Hathway 2000, Svensson et al 2010, van Duivendijk 2011). Vrij veel lijstersoorten vertonen een combinatie van geheel of gedeeltelijk roodoranje onderdelen en donkere kop waaronder een aantal Afrikaanse en Oost-Palearctische soorten die in Nederland als escape (kunnen) worden gezien, zoals Kaapse Lijster *T olivaceus* uit Afrika en Zwartborstlijster *T dissimilis* en Tuinlijster *T hortulorum* uit Azië (cf Clement & Hathway 2000). Geen van deze soorten toont echter de combinatie van koptekening (zwart met onderbroken driedelige witte oogring) en staarttekening met witte toppen aan de buitenste pennen van Roodborstlijster.

Op grond van het kleed werd geconcludeerd dat het een eerste-zomer mannetje betrof; een vrouwtje zou lichtere en minder egaal gekleurde roodoranje onderdelen vertonen en minder zwart op de kop, met name op de kruin en rond de keel. De lichte toppen aan de dekveren en niet geheel uitgekleurde donkere kop duidden op een onvolwassen exemplaar. Een adult mannetje heeft egaal grijze randen en toppen aan vleugeldekveren en tertials en een zuiver grijze rug (Clement & Hathway 2000).

Verspreiding en voorkomen

Roodborstlijster is een algemene broedvogel in grote delen van Noord-Amerika en Mexico en is te beschouwen als de Nearctische equivalent van 'onze' Merel, die zowel in bossen als dicht bij mensen in steden, tuinen en parken leeft. Het is een trekvogel die mede onder invloed van het voedselaanbod of weersomstandigheden grootschalige bewegingen kan laten zien (Clement & Hathway 2000). Er zijn bijna 70 gevallen in Europa en het West-Palearctische gebied (WP). De meest westelijke gevallen zijn van de Azoren (2), Brittannië (29 gevallen van in totaal 30 exemplaren, waaronder een aantal overwinterende), Ierland (13) en IJsland (6). Op het Europese vasteland zijn er gevallen in België (2), Denemarken (1), Duitsland (6), Noorwegen (1), Oostenrijk (2+), Spanje (2), Tsjechië (1) en Zweden (2) (tabel 1). Een deel van de gevallen van het Europese vasteland stamt uit de 19e eeuw, mogelijk samenhangend met de toen intensieve lijstervangst (cf Todte & Nicolai 2001). De meeste Europese gevallen stammen uit de periode oktober-maart en betreffen exemplaren die naar alle waarschijnlijkheid in het (late) najaar de oversteek vanuit Noord-Amerika hebben gemaakt en daarna hebben overwinterd in Europa. Er zijn acht gevallen uit april-mei, alle eendagswaarnemingen en daarom hoogstwaarschijnlijk betrekking hebbend op exemplaren die binnen Europa trekbewegingen naar het noorden maakten, zoals de vogel van Heemskerk. Deze trok 's ochtends op met een paar Beflijsters, die overwinteren tot in Noord-Afrika (Clement & Hathway 2000); wellicht heeft hij zich ergens bij hen aangesloten op de weg terug naar het noorden. Er is slechts één zomergeval (juni-juli) in de WP, uit Ierland.

De waarneming bij Heemskerk is aanvaard door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) als eerste geval voor Nederland. Het betrof de 13e Noord-Amerikaanse zangvogelsoort die aan de Nederlandse lijst kon worden toegevoegd (cf www.dutchavifauna.nl).

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Summary

American Robin near Heemskerk in April 2014 On 27 April 2014, a first-summer male American Robin *Turdus migratorius* was discovered in the extensive dune area west of Heemskerk, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands. During the rest of the day, the bird proved mobile and elusive but was eventually seen by more than 400 birders. This was the first record for the Netherlands. There are almost 70 previous records in Europe, of which c 50 in the Azores, Britain, Iceland and Ireland combined and almost 20 in mainland Europe.

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Italian Sparrow: hybridization with House Sparrow in northern Italy and rufous-breasted morph

Edwin Winkel

Italian Sparrow *Passer italiae* (hereafter *italiae*) breeds in northern and central Italy, in small parts of neighbouring Austria, France, Slovenia and Switzerland and on the islands of Corsica (France), Crete (Greece) and Sicily (Italy) (Summers-Smith 1988, Clement et al 1993, del Hoyo et al 2009). It (presumably) hybridizes with Spanish Sparrow *P hispaniolensis* (hereafter *hispaniolensis*) in the south but sources are contradictory. In the north, on the other hand, it definitely hybridizes with House Sparrow *P domesticus* (nominate *P d domesticus*; hereafter *domesticus*); note that around the Mediterranean Sea, House is represented by the paler and more contrasting subspecies *P d balearoibericus* (cf Cramp & Perrins 1994). Both species meet on the southern side of the Alps but apparently in a rather narrow zone of 20-30 km (cf Wallis 1887, Niethammer 1958, Schöll 1959, 1960, Schweiger 1959, von Wettstein 1959ab, Seitz 1964, Lockley 1992, 1996, Steinecke 2003). Occasionally, hybrids are reported further south and in Corsica (eg, Fraticelli 1996, Bonaccorsi & Jordan 2000). In southern Italy, there is a gradual 'merging' with *hispaniolensis*, with birds increasing in their similarity in appearance and ecology to *hispaniolensis* further south, from around Napoli to western Sicily (where birds resemble pure *hispaniolensis*; cf Summers-Smith 1988, del Hoyo et al 2009). Detailed distribution maps of the three species can be found in, eg, Eroukhmanoff et al (2013) and Trier et al (2014).

Not much has been published recently about the northern contact zone of *domesticus* and *italiae*. In this paper, I present examples of *domesticus x italiae* hybrids, as well as some illustrations of pure *italiae* and *domesticus*, and one of a hybrid *domesticus x hispaniolensis* for comparison. Further, I discuss and illustrate *P italiae 'rufipectus'*, the rufous-breasted morph of *italiae*. All birds described and illustrated are males, because of their distinct features. Identification and separation of female *domesticus*, *italiae* and *hispaniolensis* is much more complicated, let alone when taking into account (possible) hybrids, and not further discussed here.

Study area

The province of Trentino in northern Italy, part of the region Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol, proved to be a good place to find and observe hybrids between *domesticus* and *italiae*. In early August 2011, I stayed at camping Lago di Levico (46°00'28"N, 11°17'10"E), c 150 km from the border with Austria. After I spotted the first hybrid, I decided to make the sparrows subject of an easy-going 'project' to add some ornithological value to my holiday. There where 10s of sparrows all over the campsite and I started to put out bread on a regular basis. The sparrows, including some Eurasian Tree Sparrows *P montanus*, were quick to notice the bread. Within seconds, birds would arrive from all directions and, based on photographs, from quite far away; one hybrid male commuted up and down from my place to its suspected nest at least 500 m away. The number of sparrows varied from five to c 50. The latter number was reached only once, on a cold and wet morning after heavy rainfall during the night. The majority of the birds were females and (moulting) juveniles. Only one out of c 10 was an adult male and, in total, I identified 23 *italiae* and six hybrid males. Pure *domesticus* males were rare; the only positive identification was a bird in the nearby village of Levico. In August 2013, I was back at the campsite and I found only one obvious hybrid (plate 376).

The following descriptions are mainly based on my observations in August 2011 and August 2013 and photographs taken during these two periods. Further information on the morphology of *domesticus* and *italiae* can be found in, eg, Summers-Smith (1988), Clement et al (1993), Svensson et al (2009) and van Duivendijk (2011).

Breeding male *italiae*

Male *italiae* in breeding plumage is very distinctive and hard to confuse with *domesticus* (plate 362-366, 377-379, 380-384). Overall, *italiae* looks sharper dressed than *domesticus*, with a more contrasting and brighter coloured plumage. The chestnut head in combination with the snowy

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362 Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 8 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Despite late date still close to full breeding plumage. Typical contrast of red, black and white tones striking and obvious. Bill large and thick, compared with House Sparrow *P domesticus*. **363** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 3 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Typical example of sharp-dressed *italiae*. Note striking white cheek and supercilium, rufous crown, black lore and arrow-shaped bib. **364** Italian Sparrows / Italiaanse Mussen *Passer italiae*, adult male and juveniles, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 5 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Upperparts of *italiae* and House Sparrow *P domesticus* males have similar pattern but *italiae* also shows various amount of beige on mantle, a feature mostly absent in *domesticus*. Note also that cheek and half-collar are both white and that half-collar is often broader than in *domesticus*. **365** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 5 August 2011 (*Edwin Winkel)*. All *italiae* characteristics in one view: chestnut crown, white cheek and supercilium, beige stripes on mantle and very prominent black breast-patch, lore and bill.

white cheeks and the well defined pitch-black breast-patch (often shaped as a big and blunt arrow or anchor) really stand out, as do the broad black lore and black eye-stripe between the white face and the well developed white supercilium. Because of the strong black bill and the black mask, a 'bandit look' is present. The half-collar below the cheek is as white as the cheek. The combination of the breast-patch and throat-stripe (bib or badge) forms a large, compact, smooth and equally black area with only some marginal white fringes close to the underside. Mostly, the patch shows a rather strong demarcation (which increases the contrast) and it usually goes from shoulder to shoulder. From the shoulder, the badge curves gently down half-way the center of the breast and, together with the throat stripe, forms the blunt arrow. Some males have small triangular spots (pointed downwards) or shaft stripes below the patch, creating a shining impression. The 'rays'




366 Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 10 August 2013 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Typical male, just after breeding season (note largely pale bill). Note rufous edges of breast-patch close to shoulder, present on nearly all males. **367** House Sparrow / Huismus *Passer domesticus*, adult male, Ronda, Málaga, Spain, 4 May 2005 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Note differences with Italian Sparrow *P italiae*: grey, well demarcated crown, greyish cheek with narrow whitish semi-collar, rudimentary white supercilium behind eye and rather small and loose breast patch all typical for *domesticus*. Also, note absence of beige on mantle, as well as clearly smaller bill than in most *italiae*. **368** House Sparrow / Huismus *Passer domesticus*, adult male, De Glind, Gelderland, Netherlands, 17 April 2008 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Fresh feather tips still hiding some of breeding plumage but breast-patch is visibly limited and not solid. Grey crown distinctive and rather small bill typical for *domesticus*. **369** House Sparrow / Huismus *Passer domesticus*, adult male, El Rocío, Huelva, Spain, 10 May 2005 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Bird showing much contrast like male Italian Sparrow *P italiae*. Grey crown unmistakable but large bill, well developed supercilium, whitish cheek, relatively large and compact bib and neat appearance reminiscent of *italiae*.

are not necessarily connected to the patch and never form long strings as in *hispaniolensis*. The upperparts of *italiae* show a similar brown-and-black pattern as *domesticus*. *Italiae* male has, however, on average, more beige or off-white tones on the mantle, a feature that is mostly absent in *domesticus*. *Hispaniolensis* demonstrates the same amount of beige, creating more contrasting upperparts than in *domesticus*. The underparts of males *italiae* are greyish as in *domesticus* but tend to be a little whiter, smoother and shinier, especially in breeding conditions.

Breeding male *domesticus*

The broad grey and well demarcated crown extending to the neck in *domesticus* is diagnostic (plate 367-369). Also, the greyish cheek (in combination with the normally narrow and white half-collar) and rudimentary whitish supercilium (mostly only behind the eye) are typical. Another




370 Hybrid House x Italian Sparrow / hybride Huismus x Italiaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 5 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Typical and obvious hybrid. Remnants of grey crown clearly visible but small and not sharply defined. Grey also holds chestnut coloured spots, indicating *italiae* influence. Cheek still slightly darker than the white half-collar underneath, indicating *domesticus* ancestry. **371** Hybrid House x Italian Sparrow / hybride Huismus x Italiaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 15 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Another evident hybrid with rather strong *domesticus* characteristics. Note darkish cheek and absence of any beige on back. Rudimentary grey crown, however, too narrow and irregular for pure *domesticus*. **372** Hybrid House x Italian Sparrow / hybride Huismus x Italiaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 12 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Hybrid with dominating *italiae* features: strong anchor-shaped breast-patch and white cheek. Grey crown very narrow and grey, not beige. See also plate 373. **373** Hybrid House x Italian Sparrow / hybride Huismus x Italiaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 12 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Same bird as in plate 372. Grey of crown better visible.

distinct feature is the breast-patch. In general, it is smaller than in *italiae* and, in *domesticus*, it rarely reaches the shoulder. The shape is again arrow-like but less pronounced than in *italiae*, caused by the white fringes which get broader as they reach the outline. The bill of *domesticus* is, on average, visibly smaller than in *italiae*.

Breeding male *domesticus x italiae*

The hybrids *domesticus x italiae* studied demonstrated characters of both species but the number of features assignable to either parent species was very variable (plate 370-376). Hybrids could approach pure *domesticus*, pure *italiae* or anything in between. The typical hybrid gives away obvious remnants of the grey crown from *domesticus* but always without a clear demarcation. The chestnut-red of the head smoothly takes over the grey and the reddish feathers spread onto the crown. The cheek of the typical hybrid is less greyish and




374 Hybrid House x Italian Sparrow / hybride Huismus x Italiaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 10 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Very dark hybrid with less contrast and relatively small bill which indicates prevailing *domesticus* genes. Strong supercilium and beige tones on back, however, indicate *italiae* background. **375** Hybrid House x Italian Sparrow / hybride Huismus x Italiaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 5 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Predominantly *italiae*-like bird. Strongly contrasting individual with fresh chestnut and pure white. However, different colour on top of head is most likely not due to moult but to *domesticus* ancestry, consisting of grey spots instead of beige tips of fresh feathers. **376** Hybrid House x Italian Sparrow / hybride Huismus x Italiaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 3 August 2013 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Only hybrid around at campsite in August 2013 but hard to overlook with its narrow greyish head-stripe. **377** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 3 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Classic male which has just started to moult on head. Feathers appearing in front with yellowish or beige tips; rest of head still uniform dark.

more whitish than in *domesticus* but the contrast with the white half-collar below is still clearly visible. The breast-patch in typical hybrids appears to be the same as in *domesticus*: messy and incomplete. A very prominent *italiae* feature is a well developed supercilium, being broad in front of the eye. The bill of most hybrids is also like *italiae*, and thus stronger than in *domesticus*. Hybrids which are the result of repeated backcrossing are surely out there but will be more tricky to identify. For instance, the bird in plate 374 fits *domesticus* but the supercilium is too well marked for this species. The grey cap is much too small for *domesticus*, while the demarcation is messy and irregular. An *italiae*-like hybrid or backcross only gives away some scattered tufts of grey on the crown, within the imaginary projection of the crown of *domesticus*.

In many cases, an additional complication is moult. After the breeding season, every sparrow




378 Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 3 August 2013 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Confusing individual at first sight, which could be mistaken for hybrid because of less contrast (due to bad light), small supercilium and richly coloured head. Close looks reveal, however, normal moult pattern. White cheek also strong pro *italiae* feature. **379** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 14 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Another male with rather messy head and strong supercilium but also undergoing normal moult. **380** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, rufous-breasted morph, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 5 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Breeding plumage still present and complete breast-patch reveals solid rufous-chestnut undertone. **381** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, rufous-breasted morph, Aosta, Valle d'Aosta, Italy, 22 July 2011 *(Enno B Ebels)*. Another rufous-breasted morph in breeding plumage but this male also shows rufous on bib. Anchor-shaped patch typical for *italiae*.

starts to renew its complete plumage. On the head of *italiae* males, yellowish or beige 'tassels' are formed. This is most evident on the front and at the sides. The grey cap of *domesticus*, in contrast, never changes to beige. In fresh plumage, the tips have a little brown wash but the cap stays grey overall. The dispersed and scarce spots on top of the head of an *italiae*-type hybrid follow the same routine. So, these feathers stay rather dull, either brown or grey. Plate 375 demonstrates this pattern and also the place – on the centre of the head – is a hint for *domesticus* influence. Note the shape of the supercilium, which is rather rudimentary for a bird close to a pure *italiae*.

Rufous-breasted morph of *italiae*

Most of the *italiae* males that I observed had a black throat-stripe and breast-patch but with a hint of reddish-brown, revealing the true colours only in direct sunlight. This effect was especially visible on the side of the patch, where it meets the shoulder. Three out of 23 males studied demon-




382 Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, rufous-breasted morph, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 5 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Moulting individual but outline and exposure of rufous-chestnut on breast obvious. **383** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, rufous-breasted morph, Levico, Trentino, Italy, 13 August 2011 *(Edwin Winkel)*. Adult moulting to 'winter' plumage. Fresh feather-tips covering rufous-brownish breast-patch. **384** Italian Sparrow / Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae*, adult male, rufous-breasted morph, Viareggio, Toscana, Italy, 8 November 2008 *(Daniele Occhiato)*. In fresh ('winter') plumage but wind revealing ground colour of breast-patch. **385** Hybrid House x Spanish Sparrow / Huismus x Spaanse Mus *Passer domesticus x hispaniolensis*, adult male, El Acebuche, Huelva, Spain, 6 May 2005 *(Edwin Winkel)*. This crossing does not necessarily produce outcome looking like Italian Sparrow *P italiae*. Black strings on belly and flank indicating *hispaniolensis* parenthood and grey on crown indicating *domesticus* influence.

strated more than a rufous touch, even under bad light conditions. They actually had rufous-brown breast-patch feathers, about the same colour as the head. One bird (plate 380) was still in breeding plumage and its complete 'black' patch showed a solid rufous base with only a sparsely black coating. Other birds (plate 382-383) were heavily moulting but their incomplete bibs still displayed the same pattern of coloration.

The 'rufous patch' of *italiae* is rarely mentioned or described, especially in recent literature. The first one who mentioned the phenomenon was naturalist Bonaparte in 1850 (cf van Grouw 2012). He gave species status (*Passer rufipectus*) to a specimen from Egypt looking like *italiae* with a brown bib but this was later withdrawn when more similarly coloured birds were noticed from different parts of the Mediterranean Basin, described by Watson (1963) as aberrant individuals. Piechocki (1954) and Summers-Smith (1963, 1988) also list birds with brown on the breast but this time *domesticus*. According to the latter au-

thor, they were not a rarity. Arrigoni degli Oddi (1929) mentions the occurrence of rufous-breasted morphs among *domesticus*, *italiae* and *hispaniolensis* in Italy and also the presence of nine rufous-breasted morph *italiae* and one *hispaniolensis* in his collection in the Museo di Zoologia di Roma. Martorelli (1960) was the first to name the rufous-breasted morph a subspecies, *P italiae rufipectus*, but this treatment has not been acknowledged by most authorities and it is now generally considered 'just' a colour morph.

Fulvio Fraticelli observed and studied over 10 000 males *italiae* in the Lazio region between 1964 and 1999 (in intervals) and only found two individuals which he labeled as '*rufipectus*', concluding that this phenotype is present in Italy but not commonly (cf Fraticelli 1999). Even in the modern (digital) days, reports of rufous-breasted morphs are hard to find. On the internet, a fair number of birds, both *italiae* and *hispaniolensis*, show rufous-tinged sides of the breast-patch (as described above) but really convincing '*rufipectus*' are very rare. An extra difficulty arises when the birds are in winter plumage and the rufous is hidden under a layer of fresh feather-tips. The underlying rufous ground colour is well illustrated in plate 384 taken in Tuscany. More obvious are males in breeding plumage like the one photographed in Aosta in north-western Italy in July 2011 (plate 381).

The rufous-breasted examples presented in this paper look similar to the two birds found around Rome, Lazio (Fulvio Fratelli in litt), and likely to all the other rufous-breasted *italiae* mentioned by the other authors. Some of them concluded that this colour morph was rare but others referred to a more regular occurrence. It is possible that the distribution of '*rufipectus*' is not equally spread and that some regions or places hold more individuals than others, for unknown reasons. Many other aspect of '*rufipectus'* are also little known or unknown, such as what causes or influences the aberrant plumage and if the character is hereditary. These questions require more in-depth studies.

Taxonomy

Italiae has been the subject of taxonomic discussions and variable opinions for long: is it a unique species that originated in North Africa, a subspecies of *domesticus* or *hispaniolensis*, respectively, or a stable hybrid population derived from contact between *domesticus* and *hispaniolensis* (cf, eg, Summers-Smith 1963, 1988, Clement et al 1993, Fulgione et al 2000, Allende et al 2001, Töpfer 2006, Brichetti 2008, del Hoyo et al 2009)? Based on DNA analyses, Hermansen et al (2011) proved that *italiae* had DNA from both parent species and considered it as a species on its own, a rare case of hybrid speciation (see also Eroukhmanoff et al 2013, Trier et al 2014). Hermansen et al (2011) also found that the contact zones where *domesticus* and *italiae* meet are characterized by relatively abrupt changes in species-specific male plumage, suggesting that partial reproductive isolation based on plumage may also have developed between the two taxa. For more information on the capricious taxonomic history of *italiae* and hybrid speciation in general, see Poelstra (2015).

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Samenvatting

Italiaanse Mus: hybridisatie met Huismus in Noord-Italië en roodbruine vorm In dit artikel worden de kleedkenmerken van Italiaanse Mus *Passer italiae* en Huismus *P domesticus* behandeld en wordt beschreven hoe hybriden van beide soorten in Noord-Italië eruitzien. De auteur bestudeerde in augustus 2011 en 2013 voornamelijk mannetjes mussen bij Levico, Trentino; deze locatie (c 150 km ten zuiden van de grens met Oostenrijk) ligt in de hybridisatiezone van beide soorten. Hier bevonden zich in 2011 23 mannetjes *italiae*, één *domesticus* en zes hybriden (in 2013 werd slechts één hybride waargenomen). Aan de hand van foto's wordt de variatie in verenkleed bij hybriden getoond en vergeleken met zuivere exemplaren. Belangrijke aanwijzingen voor een hybride zijn bijvoorbeeld sporen van grijs op de bovenkop (zuiver bruin bij *italiae*), een grijze tint op de wang (wit bij *italiae*), een minder prominente witte wenkbrauwstreep (duidelijk aanwezig bij *italiae* en breder voor het oog) en een wat rommelige zwarte borstvlek (scherper afgetekend en meer pijlvormig bij *italiae*). Verder wordt aandacht besteed aan de roodbruine vorm ('*rufipectus*') van *italiae*, een zeldzame kleurvariant met uitgebreide roodbruine tekening in de borstvlek. Van deze vorm werden tijdens het onderzoek drie exemplaren waargenomen en er worden enkele foto's getoond van exemplaren elders in Italië. Mogelijk komt deze vorm in het noorden van Italië frequenter voor dan in andere delen maar er is nog veel onbekend. Ten slotte wordt kort ingegaan op de taxonomische status van *italiae*. Recent onderzoek heeft aangetoond dat dit taxon beschouwd moet worden als een 'zelfstandige soort' die is voortgekomen uit hybridisatie van *domesticus* en Spaanse Mus *P hispaniolensis*; het betreft één van de weinige door onderzoek onderbouwde voorbeelden van hybride soortvorming.

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Long-tailed Duck at Oualidia, Morocco, in June 2014

In June 2014, I joined a Birdfinders group for a trip to Morocco. Targets during the trip were some of the Moroccan specialities, such as Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* and Atlas Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula speculigera*. In the late afternoon of 5 June, we visited the lagoons near Oualidia. While scanning the lagoons with my telescope, I spotted a Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* in the most north-easterly pond (32°46'51.4"N, 8°58'37.3"W), a few 100 m from the Atlantic Ocean. I informed our tour guides Vaughan Ashby and Peter Lansdown, who reacted with surprise. After looking through my telescope, both confirmed the identification. Although it seemed quite unusual to observe a Long-tailed Duck here, we did not know the exact status of the species in Morocco. It concerned a female in summer plumage. Because the bird was far away, I only could take a record shot through my telescope. Moreover, there was no time to get closer as the sunlight was already fading. In the morning of 6 June, we revisited the lagoons and the duck was still present and more approachable. This time, VA managed to take good photographs. The bird seemed to be in good condition. It was easily identified as Long-tailed Duck, based on its brown upperparts, dark breast, whitish underparts, predominantly brown head with paler brown area around the eye and whitish supercilium behind the eye, white patch on neck-side, short grey bill and relatively large and rounded head (Madge & Burn 1988). It was alert and shy and swam away from us each time we tried to get closer. It was still present on 11 June, when Benoît Maire visited the area. His photographs show the bird stretching its wings, which were undamaged (http://observado.org/waarneming/view/85580562).

Back home, I checked several websites for information about the status of Long-tailed Duck in Morocco and the African continent. Via Arnoud van den Berg, I received confirmation from Patrick Bergier (in litt) that this was indeed the first confirmed record for Morocco (cf Bergier & Bergier 2003, Bergier & Thévenot 2010). In Avibase (http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org), I found a single report for Tunisia but the species is not listed in Isenmann et al (2005) and Azafzaf et al (2015). Denis Lepage, editor of Avibase, commented (in litt) that he could not find a source for the Tunisian report and considered it an error/unconfirmed sighting (cf Atkinson & Caddick 2013; http://moroccanbirds.blogspot.com/2014/06/clangula-hyemalis-new-species.html). Other handbooks make no mention of records for Africa (eg, Cramp & Simmons 1977). Thus, the record at Oualidia was not only the first for Morocco but also for the African continent. The record has been accepted by the Moroccan rarities committee (Commission d'Homologation Marocaine; CHM).

Long-tailed Duck is a circumpolar species, breeding on the Arctic coasts of North America (Canada, Alaska (USA) and Greenland), Europe (Iceland and Norway) and Asia (Russia). It winters at sea further south, as far as Britain in Europe, South Carolina in the USA, South Korea on the Asian-Pacific coast and other areas including the Black Sea and Caspian Sea (del Hoyo et al 1992,

386 Long-tailed Duck / IJseend *Clangula hyemalis*, female, Oualidia, Morocco, 11 June 2014 *(Benoît Maire)*

387 Long-tailed Duck / IJseend *Clangula hyemalis*, female, Oualidia, Morocco, 6 June 2014 *(Vaughan Ashby)*

BirdLife International 2015). Birds have been recorded in Europe as far south as the Azores (10+, including recent birds on 11-13 June 2009 and in May-June 2015), Portugal and Spain. Further east, there are two records as far south as Armenia (10 June 2002, found by Han Buckx and Peter de Rouw; Anianan & de Rouw 2003), a few in eastern Turkey and northern Iran, and at least six in Israel (Shirihai 1996, Perlman & Sapir 2002). It is interesting to note that several extralimital records far south are in late spring to early summer (June).

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Eurasian Blackcap variant without cap

On 18 September 2014, Dolf Pull and I were ringing birds at bird ringing station (Vrs) Van Lennep at Kennemerduinen, Bloemendaal, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands. The weather was calm and sunny with temperatures higher than normal for this time of the year and a weak easterly wind. In preceding days, high numbers of Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* had been passing through, with more than 100 trapped a day, accompanied by higher than usual numbers of Barred Warbler *S nisoria* (24 ringed from 21 August onwards). On this day, among a total of 155 birds, we trapped two Barred, four Garden Warblers *S borin* and 79 Eurasian Blackcaps.

Because of the high number of blackcaps, we worked at a fast pace taking them out of the nets and placing them in boxes to be ringed after other species had been cleared. When we started ringing the blackcaps, I noticed an aberrant individual without a cap. It looked so odd that I considered it to be a possible hybrid Garden Warbler x Eurasian Blackcap *S borin x atricapilla*. I ringed it (Arnhem V729356), registering it as a possible hybrid, and placed it in a bag, while working on all other birds first.

After ringing, I took measurements of the supposed hybrid, photographed it, tried to get some calls recorded, and picked up a fallen feather for possible DNA analysis. Wing (73 mm), bill and tail (57 mm) measurements were all within the range of overlap between Garden Warbler and Eurasian Blackcap but the wing formula, with emarginations on p3-5 (primaries numbered from outer to inner) and a short p2, confirmed its identity as a blackcap. Garden has no emargination on p5 and, while p2 almost reaches the wingtip in Garden (p3=p4=0), it is much shorter than p5 in blackcap. The bird was in good condition ('fat 2', weight 22.1 g). It was not vocal although three brief *kik* calls were recorded (deposited in archives of The Sound Approach), but these may not be species diagnostic.

Looking at the bird in direct sunlight revealed a faint delimitation of a cap with some very small and narrow blackish spots, which we regarded as indicative of a male. Without other blackcaps available for direct comparison, the general plumage looked quite similar, eg, in colour tones and dark feather centres on the lower underside. The bird's rather slim bill structure was similar to blackcap rather than Garden Warbler. Moult in greater upperwing-coverts was hard to see but the shape of the outer tail-feather was regarded as consistent with that of a first-year bird (cf Svensson 1992, Demongin 2013).

By checking literature later that day, it appeared

388-389 Eurasian Blackcap / Zwartkop *Sylvia atricapilla*, first-year, Bloemendaal, Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 18 September 2014 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/Vrs Van Lennep)*

390 Eurasian Blackcap / Zwartkop *Sylvia atricapilla*, first-year, Bloemendaal, Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 18 September 2014 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/Vrs Van Lennep)*. Upperside and shape of rectrices. **391** Eurasian Blackcap / Zwartkop *Sylvia atricapilla*, first-year, Bloemendaal, Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 18 September 2014 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/Vrs Van Lennep)*. Wing showing emarginations and relative length of p2. **392** Eurasian Blackcap / Zwartkop *Sylvia atricapilla*, first-year, Bloemendaal, Kennemerduinen, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 18 September 2014 *(Arnoud B van den Berg/Vrs Van Lennep)*. In certain angle of sunlight revealing contours of cap. **393** Eurasian Blackcap / Zwartkop *Sylvia atricapilla*, Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, Netherlands, 28 September 2010 *(Kees van Kleef)*

that McCarthy (2006) does not list any hybrids of Garden Warbler x Eurasian Blackcap. Shirihai et al (2001) mention that juveniles, 'in rare cases', have forehead and crown 'scarcely contrasting with rest of upperparts'. Demongin (2013) also states that, exceptionally, female and juvenile blackcaps occur with a uniform brown-olive head without a brown cap. By now, it was clear that our bird was another example of such an anomaly. André van Loon (in litt) remembered an almost identical blackcap trapped by Kees van Kleef and Leo Oudejans on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, the Netherlands, on 28 September 2010 (plate 393).

It can be concluded that 'Eurasian Blackcap without a cap' is a recurring although rare variant in this species. Since Garden Warbler and Eurasian Blackcap are each other's closest relatives (Helbig in Shirihai et al 2001), one may list this variant as a possible example of atavism, assuming that the common ancestor of these species had no cap either.

Since Shirihai et al (2001) claim that this variant only occurs in juveniles while Demongin (2013) suggests that it has not been noted in males, the bird's age and sex is of interest. The Bloemendaal bird was regarded as a first-year, eg, by shape of rectrices but it was thought to be a male because of some tiny black spickles on the crown. If true, this means that the variant is not sex related.

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Trends in systematics

Hybridization and speciation: the case of Italian Sparrow

We speak of hybridization when individuals from two distinct species or from highly dissimilar populations mate and produce offspring. Hybridization tends to carry a negative connotation and is often considered to be an evolutionary 'mistake'. Hybrids regularly have a lower fitness than parental forms and may be partially or entirely infertile. Hybridization may furthermore lead to a loss of biodiversity when two formerly distinct species merge back into one (such as in Darwin's finches Geospizinae; Kleindorfer et al 2014), or when a rare species is further brought into peril by introgression from another species (Rhymer & Simberloff 1996; see Steeves et al (2010) for the case of Black Stilt *Himantopus novaezelandiae*). For birders, hybridization can also pose serious identification challenges. To make matters worse, for listing purposes inter-species hybrids are not considered to belong to either of the parent species...

Hybridization is, however, not a negative force all across the board. Hybrid vigour (or heterosis) is a well-known term among plant breeders in particular and describes the phenomenon of higher fitness in hybrids compared with their parent forms. More generally, introgression of genetic material from one species into another can be beneficial for individuals of the receiving species (so-called adaptive introgression). And rather than merely opposing speciation, hybridization may actually generate new species when hybrids become reproductively isolated from the parental forms, a phenomenon called 'hybrid speciation' (Mallet 2007, Abbott et al 2013). Hybrid speciation is, again, most commonly known from the plant kingdom, where hybrids often differ in ploidy (number of copies of each chromosome) from the parental forms. A difference in ploidy can induce instant reproductive isolation between the hybrid and its parental forms. Interestingly, hybrid species, both with (polyploid) and without (homoploid) changes in ploidy, may be able to occupy more extreme habitats than either parent species (for example in *Lycaides* butterflies; Gompert et al 2006). This is an obvious way in which a hybrid species can avoid competition

with and/or gene flow from parent species, and may therefore persist as a separate entity.

The fact that ornithologists have occasionally described hybrids as separate species already hints at the potential of hybridization to generate morphologically distinct forms. For example, hybrids between Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* and Blue-winged Warblers *V cyanoptera* were thought to represent not just one but two additional species, 'Brewster's Warbler' and 'Lawrence's Warbler' (cf Shapiro 2005). However, until a few years ago, not a single example of hybrid speciation had been convincingly documented for birds (Helbig et al 2002). In 2011, molecular evidence finally demonstrated the homoploid hybrid origin of Audubon's Warbler *Setophaga (auduboni) auduboni* (from Myrtle Warbler *S coronata* and Black-fronted Warbler *S (a) nigrifrons*; Brelsford et al 2011) as well as of Italian Sparrow *Passer italiae* (from House Sparrow *P domesticus* and Spanish Sparrow *P hispaniolensis*; Hermansen et al 2011). This short paper discusses the case of Italian Sparrow, as a companion piece to Winkel (2015).

Italian Sparrow

Italian Sparrow occurs on the Italian mainland, with populations on several Mediterranean islands (Sicily, Corsica, Crete and Malta) often also considered to represent Italian. Its taxonomic status has long been debated: it has variously been considered either a separate species (currently the most common stance, eg, Sangster et al 2015), a subspecies of House Sparrow or Spanish Sparrow, or belonging to a single species containing all three taxa. These taxonomic disagreements have partially been related to authors' opinions on the evolutionary origin of these sparrows: through hybridization between House and Spanish or as the result of standard bifurcating divergence, from either House or Spanish. Onwards from Meise (1936), who showed the phenotypic intermediacy of Italian, most authors recognized Italian as a (probable) 'stabilized hybrid form'. The finding that experimental hybrids between House and Spanish are very similar in plumage to Italian (Johnston 1969) further supported this view. In the absence of extensive molecular data, the debate nevertheless raged on, and Töpfer (2006) concluded that there was no convincing evidence for the hybrid origin of Italian.

Researchers from the lab of Glenn-Peter Sætre in Oslo, Norway, have in recent years worked on the genetics of Italian Sparrow. They published two papers (Elgvin et al 2011, Hermansen et al 2011) that used a set of microsatellites as well as sequence data to show that Italian is genetically intermediate between House Sparrow and Spanish Sparrow. This is strong evidence for a hybrid origin. In the case of standard, bifurcating speciation, we would expect Italian to be more closely related to either House or Spanish, whereas a simultaneous split of all three taxa should have resulted in a pattern where House and Spanish were no more divergent from each other than from Italian. Moreover, no genetic variation unique to Italian was detected, another smoking gun for a hybrid origin.

The nuclear genome of Italian Sparrow (autosomes and the avian equivalent of the mammalian X, the Z chromosome) appears to be a proportionally even mixture of House Sparrow and Spanish Sparrow material. As in many other species pairs, the Z chromosome is more strongly differentiated between House and Spanish. A follow-up paper (Trier et al 2014) presented additional evidence for the importance of this sex chromosome for reproductive isolation between the three sparrow species, along with mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). Because mtDNA does not recombine but is clonally inherited as a single haploid unit, the mtDNA of an individual Italian cannot represent a mixture between that of the parent species: it is either descended in its entirety from House or from Spanish. It turns out that almost all Italian have House mtDNA, and only very few individuals carry Spanish haplotypes. The finding that Italian mtDNA is furthermore fully identical to that of its parent species indicates that Italian have a very recent origin, presumably in the last 10 000 years, along with the spread of agriculture in Europe (Hermansen et al 2011).

For the case of Italian Sparrow to represent hybrid speciation, it is important to establish not only that Italian has originated by hybridization between House Sparrow and Spanish Sparrow but also that the taxon is, at least to some extent, reproductively isolated from the parent species. When there is no reproductive – and no geographic – isolation, continuous backcrossing of hybrids with parent forms will instead result in a hybrid swarm where there are no clear boundaries between taxa. Italian and House interbreed in a typical example of a hybrid zone, which is fairly narrow and well-defined, with a steep cline in male crown colour indicative of selection on this trait (Bailey et al 2015; see also Winkel 2015). With respect to gene flow between Italian and Spanish, Töpfer (2006) considered the gradual plumage variation in southern Italy, where sparrows become more similar to Spanish southwards, to be a clinal transition zone between the two.

Hermansen et al (2011) sampled sparrows all across Italy and demonstrated that also genetically a gradual (although slight) transition to more Spanish-like individuals exists on the mainland. There is a more drastic jump between the Italian mainland and Sicily, Italy, and as a result, sparrows from Sicily are genetically much more similar to Spanish than to House. Another twist in the story is that, in the 1990s, a population of Spanish established itself in the Po delta in northern Italy, and has so far remained distinct from co-occurring Italian both morphologically and genetically (Elgvin et al 2011, Hermansen et al 2011). In summary, there are clear but variable barriers to gene flow between Italian and its two parent species, supporting a scenario of hybrid speciation, while leaving the question of whether speciation is actually 'complete' open to interpretation. A similar situation occurs in the aforementioned Nearctic warblers, in which Black-fronted Warbler is currently considered to be a subspecies of Audubon's Warbler (cf Gill & Donsker 2015), due to the presence of clinal genetic variation.

Hybrid speciation in birds

Hybrid speciation appears to be rare in birds. One intuitive problem with hybrid speciation is that when parental species are not fully reproductively isolated, it is hard to expect their hybrids to only mate amongst themselves, barring special circumstances. With respect to Italian Sparrow, Hermansen et al (2011) suggested that geographic isolation of the hybrid lineage – in times when House Sparrows were not yet as widespread as they currently are – may have led to its stabilization and reproductive isolation. This idea is supported by patterns observed in areas of presumably independent hybridization between House and Spanish Sparrow: Mediterranean islands such as Crete and Malta also harbour homogeneous Italian(-like) populations, whereas locally on the North African mainland, more variable hybrid swarms are currently found. Similar scenarios may account for the case of Audubon's Warbler, which is geographically but not ecologically separated from its parent forms, and the recently proposed hybrid origin of Hawaiian Duck *Anas wyvilliana* (Lavretsky et al 2015). Other special circumstances include 'tricks' such as polyploidization and selfing (parthenogenesis) that are not known from birds, although hybrid speciation facilitated by transgressive habitat preference may well occur in birds. All in all, further examples of avian hybrid speciation are likely to be discovered; the case of Italian Sparrow shows that hybridization can also be a creative rather than only a destructive force in evolution.

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Varia

Black-browed Albatrosses on Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands

The albatrosses Diomedeidae are divided into four genera, the 'great albatrosses' *Diomedea*, mollymawks *Thalassarche*, 'sooty albatrosses' *Phoebetria* and Pacific albatrosses *Phoebastria*, with a total of 21 species (Onley & Scofield 2007, Gill & Donsker 2015). Most species are currently classified as 'Threatened', which places this family at the top rank of bird families facing conservation challenges. The low reproduction rate (one egg per breeding season for the smaller species and one egg every two years for the 'great albatrosses') makes albatross populations highly vulnerable. The situation for Black-browed Albatross *T melanophris*, the most common albatross species, however, looks more promising. This species has been downlisted from 'Endangered' to 'Near Threatened' in 2013 because it is no longer considered to be undergoing rapid population declines, and the data even suggest future reclassification as 'Least Concern'. Nevertheless, there remains a considerable degree of uncertainty over local population trends for a significant part of the global population. The world population was estimated at 700 000 breeding pairs in 2010 (BirdLife International 2014), mainly breeding on the Falkland Islands (cf Pop & Ebels 2001, Falklands Conservation 2006, Plantema 2012).

Steeple Jason

The world's largest Black-browed Albatross colony is on remote Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands. During a trip to these islands in December 2014, I had the opportunity to spend a week on Steeple Jason to learn more about their breeding behaviour and to photograph them in their spectacular breeding environment (cf www.pbase.com/otto1/steeple_jason). I was very lucky to get a permit for a week, together with American friends. With a chartered small fishing boat we made the six-hour trip from nearest Carcass Island to Steeple Jason, via Grand Jason to pick up Mickey Reeves (Falkland Conservation, who is involved with Striated Caracara *Phalcoboenus australis* research) and sufficient food. We stayed in the research station, which was constructed in 2003. This station is used several weeks per year, especially during the austral summer.

Steeple Jason is a small island, lying west of larger Grand Jason, and forms part of the remote and uninhabited Jason Islands north-west of West Falkland. It measures 8 km in length and covers 8 km^2; the island has a rocky ('steeple') ridge rising to 290 m above sea level that is divided into two sections by a narrow neck. The island is spectacular both for its rugged scenery and its enormous breeding colony of Black-browed Albatrosses, the largest albatross colony of the southern oceans and only outnumbered by the Laysan Albatross *P immutabilis* and Black-footed Albatross *P nigripes* colony on Midway Atoll in the northern Pacific Ocean (cf Plantema 2011). Steeple Jason, part of the Jason Islands Group Important Bird Area, was formerly owned by New York philanthropist Michael Steinhardt, who later donated it to the Wildlife Conservation Society based at Bronx Zoo, New York, USA. Tussock Grass *Poa flabellata* is the predominant vegetation. Large

394 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands, 16 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

395 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands, 15 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

396 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands, 13 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

397 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Saunders Island, Falkland Islands, 23 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

398 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands, 13 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

399 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Saunders Island, Falkland Islands, 21 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

400 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands, 16 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

401 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands, 15 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

beds of kelp surround the island. None of the Jason Islands has ever been inhabited; however, domestic sheep have destroyed parts of the tussock vegetation. The sheep have been removed and the overgrazed vegetation is now recovering. The islands are rat free but a population of introduced House Mice *Mus musculus* is still present.

In addition to the albatrosses, the island is also well known for the large breeding population of the endemic Striated Caracara, an opportunistic feeder, often scavenging for carrion but also known to attack weak or injured birds. They are very curious and tame. In the 2014/15 breeding season, 97 breeding pairs were counted (Mickey Reeves pers comm). Mixed with the albatrosses, 120 000 pairs of Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* breed annually on Steeple Jason, c 10% of the world population (Mickey Reeves pers comm). In addition, 1500-2000 pairs of Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* breed annually on the Jason Islands. Other birdlife includes Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus* and Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua*, Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri* and Blackish Cinclodes (also known as Tussacbird) *Cinclodes antarcticus*.

After the stay on Steeple Jason, I stayed for one more week on nearby Saunders Island, which lies much closer to West Falkland. Here, Black-browed Albatrosses also breed but in much lower numbers.

Black-browed Albatross populations

Black-browed Albatross breeds mainly on the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, and in smaller numbers in southern Chile and on the French, Australian and New Zealand subantarctic islands. The annual breeding population in the Falkland Islands was estimated at 475 500-535 000 pairs in 2010. In Chile, 55 000 pairs bred on Diego Ramirez in 2003, 58 000 pairs on Ildefonso in 2012 and 15 500 pairs on Diego de Almagro in 2002. There are an estimated c 5800 pairs in other populations, resulting in a total of c 700 000 pairs and more than 2 000 000 individuals (http://eol.org/pages/1178556/details). The Falkland Islands hold 11 colonies, with the largest on Steeple Jason (Strange 2008). Eggs are laid from late September to mid-November and incubation takes 68-71 days, after which the chick is tended alternately by both adults until it fledges c 120 days later. After c 10 years, the young birds find a mate in the rookery and breed annually for 10s of years; 50-year old albatrosses are no exception. The rookeries are often placed in exposed sites, like cliffs, so that the birds can easily fly in and out. Steeple Jason has a different topography with the colony on flat ground, so the albatrosses need 10-25 m long runways at the edge of the colonies. During my stay, I witnessed many collisions of running birds with resting or crossing birds. The nest, which is re-used every year, is a solid pillar up to 50 cm high, made of mud and guano, with some tussock grass, seaweed and even penguin feathers. The Steeple Jason colony is mixed with Rockhopper Penguins and, on the tussock grass edge, Striated Caracaras and Brown Skuas *Stercorarius antarcticus* are nesting.

Recently, a project started which focuses on the sensitive interactions between seabirds and fishing vessels, using data from GPS tracking and dietary analyses (both conventional and isotope based). GPS loggers showing Black-browed Albatross movements were placed since December 2008. This information is combined with data from the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to investigate exactly how long each albatross spends near fishing vessels and under which circumstances. Most of the Steeple Jason birds feed during the breeding season on the Patagonian Shelf off the Argentinean coast, 100-350 km west of Steeple Jason (Catry et al 2011).

Declining or increasing population?

It has been widely reported that albatross populations are declining worldwide (cf BirdLife International 2014). The Falkland Islands populations of Black-browed Albatross have been included in this general view, with local conservation organizations reporting rapid declines of 25% over the last 20 years. Declines have been attributed to longline fishing in the southern oceans (cf Arnold et al 2006, Sullivan et al 2006). Indeed, Black-browed is one of the most frequent accidental victims of long-lining and trawl fisheries with an estimate of at least 5000 birds per year. Recently, mortality levels have been much reduced, especially in Falkland Islands and South Georgia waters, thanks to the implementation of several mitigation measures on fishing vessels (Sullivan et al 2006). Recent sources (using different surveying techniques) reported substantial growth of the population in the Falkland Islands (eg, Strange 2008, Strange & Strange 2011, Strange & Cooper 2013; Mickey Reeves pers comm). The first serious counting survey on the islands was done in 1964 by Ian Strange, using aerial photographic surveying at Beauchêne Island's albatross colony. The only long-term data set for albatross populations in the Falkland Islands is for New

402 Black-browed Albatrosses / Wenkbrauwalbatrossen *Thalassarche melanophris*, Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands, 14 December 2014 *(Otto Plantema)*

Island (representing c 5% of the albatross population of the islands), where IS has carried out surveys since 1977. I met IS in 1979 on New Island; he is a keen birder and eager conversationalist, and landowner at that time. Figures clearly show that, between 1977 and 2007, the Black-browed population had increased by c 100% at a main breeding site on New Island known as Settlement Rookery. The same basic methodology of aerial photography surveys has continued up to 2010 for many sites in the Falkland Islands. These surveys thus show a very substantial increase of 43% for the eight most important breeding sites between 1986 and 2007, in contrast with reports of a decline in other studies. Steeple Jason's colony was estimated at 183 135 pairs in 2010 (based on photographic survey; Strange & Cooper 2013) and numbers seem to have increased further. This last assumption was based on the Tussock Grass fringe, slowly being encroached by the expanding colony (Mickey Reeves pers comm). Ironically, Falkland Islands' commercial fishery may be the reason for the species' increase because of the large amount of fishery waste (c 8000 tons in 1990/91 season) which the birds are known to feed on.

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WP reports

This review lists rare and interesting birds reported in the Western Palearctic mainly from **June to late July 2015**. The reports are largely unchecked and their publication here does not imply future acceptance by a rarities committee. Observers are requested to submit their records to each country's rarities committee. Corrections are welcome and will be published.

DUCKS Until at least 6 June, a **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* was present on Faial, Azores. If accepted, a female **Asian White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri* at Nesseby, Finnmark, on 7 July will be the second (Asian) for Norway and the first female for the WP; an adult male was photographed at Fauske, Nordland, Norway, on 15 July. In Iceland, the adult male **American White-winged Scoter** *M d deglandi* remained at Keflavík through June. If accepted, male **Black Scoters** *M americana* migrating at Ristisaari, Pyhtää, on 1 May and at Lågskär, Åland, on 14 May will be the fifth and sixth for Finland (previous ones were in 1926, 1998, 2006 and 2011). A male at Klepp, Rogaland, on 7 June was the second for Norway (first was in 2013). In Germany, a male **Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica* was photographed on Sylt, Schleswig-Holstein, on 15 July. A pair of **Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus* was seen on Tory Island, Donegal, on 19-23 May. In Scotland, the second calendar-year male **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* at Donmouth, Aberdeenshire, from 4 January stayed until 21 May. The first **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope* for Cuba and second for Latin America was a male at El Jado, Cayo Coco, on 14 March 2014 (Cotinga 37: 47, 2015); the previous one was in Venezuela in March 2002.

GREBES TO BUSTARDS A **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* on São Miguel, Azores, was again seen on 29 May. In Western Sahara, Morocco, two single **Namaqua Doves** *Oena capensis* were photographed at Safia, Oued Dahab, on 19 and 22 May. A **Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* at Kristinedal, Dalarna, on 7 June was the sixth for Sweden. If accepted, a **White-rumped Swift** *A caffer* at Capo Murro di Porco, Siracusa, Sicily, on 21 July will be the first for Italy. Thanks to ultra-light geolocators, it has been shown that **Asian Common Swifts** *A apus pekinensis* breeding in Beijing, China, winter in southern Africa; they cover a one-way distance of more than 13 000 km via Mongolia, Iran, Arabia, and tropical Africa to Namibia and Western Cape, South Africa, where they stay three months. A **Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus* at Wamm farms on 4 July was the fourth for the United Arab Emirates. A young **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *C glandarius* photographed at Arbatskaya Strelka, Crimea, on

403 Golden Nightjar / Goudgele Nachtzwaluw *Caprimulgus eximius*, male, near Aousserd, Western Sahara, Morocco, 3 May 2015 *(Jurek Dyczkowski)* cf Dutch Birding 37: 191, 2015

16 May was the third for Ukraine. In Austria, one was present at Seewinkel, Burgenland, on 10-15 July and, on 16 July, a juvenile was found at Ouddorp, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands. A singing presumed **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus optatus* at Sotkamo, Finland, from 14 June to 3 July was trapped on 22 June. From 28 May into July, up to 10 male **Baillon's Crakes** *Porzana pusilla* at Rokiskis constituted the first record for Lithuania. In Hungary, a record 13 were singing at several sites in late May. Two **African Swamphens** *Porphyrio madagascariensis* were seen at Eshet reservoir, central Arava, Israel, on 13 June. Censusing results of **Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* in Iran (Barati et al, Bird Conserv Int 2015: 1-8), show that the species has disappeared from a large part of its former range and surviving groups are now concentrated in the plains of Boukan, West Azarbayjan, where numbers rapidly decline. The present population was estimated at 43-48 individuals in 2011, compared with up to 300 in the early 1990s.

LOONS TO PELICANS A second calendar-year **Pacific Loon** *Gavia pacifica* at Farsund, Vest-Agder, on 12-14 July was the first for Norway; it follows upon the adult summer in Skåne, Sweden, on 9 May (Dutch Birding 37: 191, 2015). Last year's **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris* visited again Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on several days between 19 April and 7 July, and also again Hirtshals, Nordjylland, Denmark, eg, on 7 May (cf Dutch Birding 36: 232-241, 2014). Then, surprisingly, it was seen for 10 minutes at a freshwater pool near RSPB Minsmere's South Hide, Suffolk, England, on 12 July. Less than a week later, it was back in Schleswig-Holstein, flying about Königshafen, Sylt, on 18 July. A subadult **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** *T chlororhynchos* photographed on a whale watching trip from Reykjavík, Iceland, on 1 July was the fifth for the WP. In a study on **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis* on Selvagem Grande, Madeira, six were trapped and genetically analysed in 2007-13, of which five were females. Patterns of genetic variation suggested that dispersal occurred likely by more than a single female and, although a duetting pair was recorded, no proof of breeding was found (Monica C Silva et al, J Ornithol 2015). On Bermuda, the last of a record 53 young **Bermuda Petrels** *Pterodroma cahow* fledged out to sea on 8 July; the number of breeding pairs has now risen to 112 making this the most successful year ever for this Bermudian species which was thought to be extinct from 1620 to 1951 (cf Dutch Birding 24: 307, 2002, 25: 336, 2003); for information on the species' occurrence in the WP, see Dutch Birding 29: 45, 2007, 36: 267, 2014. On 21 July, a **Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii* was picked up moribund at Kressbachsee, Eilwangen, Kreis Aalen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, where it was seen in flight during bad weather on the previous two days. Catsadorakis et al (Endangered Species Res 27: 119-130, 2015) reported that the breeding population of **Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* in Black Sea and Mediterranean countries was estimated at 4702-5175 pairs (in five colonies) in 2011-12, and has remained more or less stable during the last decade; the largest colony (4100-4480 pairs) was in the Danube delta in Romania. The number of **Dalmatian Pelican** *P crispus* in this region increased from 1730-2105 pairs in 2000-10 to 2154-2437 pairs (in 19-20 colonies) in 2011-12; the largest colony (1150-1530 pairs in 2008-12) was at lake Mikri Prespa in Greece. The **Great White Pelican** wintering at a small pond in Callantsoog, Noord-Holland, the Netherlands, being fed fish daily, finally flew off on 6 June and after hanging around along the coast until 11 June it left in southerly direction; surprisingly, on 20 June, it was photographed at Fanel, Bern, Switzerland. The long-staying individual in the Gulf of Cagliari, Sardinia, from the 2008 influx was still present this spring (cf Dutch Birding 34: 289-293, 2012). In northern Israel, a **Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens* at Harod valley on 9 July was rediscovered on 20 July. A first-summer **Dalmatian** near Aukseliai, Kelmė, on 21 and 30 May was the first for Lithuania and probably the same individual as the one at Nemunas delta on 3 July.

HERONS TO CORMORANTS This year, over 150 singing **Eurasian Bitterns** *Botaurus stellaris* have been recorded in England and Wales, the highest total in more than 150 years (the species was absent as a breeding bird between the 1870s and 1911 and down to 11 in 1997). At Wadi Lahami, Red Sea province, Egypt, one or two **Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis* were singing on 27-28 June (cf Dutch Birding 35: 336-337, 2013). In France, dark **Western Reef Herons** *Egretta gularis gularis* were seen at Étang de Capestan, Hérault, on 29 May and in Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, on 2 June. The number of **Eurasian Spoonbills** *Platalea leucorodia* breeding in Denmark increased from up to three pairs in 1999 to 103 pairs in 2012 (Dansk Ornitol Foren Tidsskr 108: 1-144, 2014). In Asia, wild **Northern Bald Ibis** *Geronticus eremita* has become extinct as the last bird in Syria, a female called 'Zenobia' that returned to the Palmyra breeding site in 2013 and 2014, did not return this year (http://goo.gl/sBLCgt). This spring, **Glossy Ibises** *Plegadis falcinellus* bred for the first time in the Netherlands at Groene Hart, Zuid-Holland. On 22 May, an adult **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula* was seen off El Hierro, Canary Islands. In the Azores, one was photographed 16 nautical miles south-east of Faial on 18 June. In Spain, an immature **Brown Booby** *S leucogaster* was watched off Cabo Roche, Cádiz, on 5 July. In the Azores, an adult **Masked Booby** *S dactylatra* flew past Lajes de Pico, Pico, on 4 July. In 2013, the number of breeding **Pygmy Cormorants** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in Italy increased to 2125 nests in 18 colonies while, in January 2013, 12 500 roosting birds were counted (Cormorant Res Group Bull 8: 10, 2015, cf Dutch Birding 34: 273-288, 2012).

WADERS If accepted, a **Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis* at Ma'agan Michael on 8 July will be the first for Israel. A **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* photographed at Stankiškės, Šilutė, on 20 May was the first for Lithuania. An adult **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius* at Zgierz, Łódzkie, on 3 June was the second this spring in Poland. A **White-tailed Lapwing** *V leucurus* at Hedemora, Dalarna, on 6-7 June was the 11th for

404 Lappet-faced Vulture / Oorgier *Torgos tracheliotos*, second calendar-year, Haibar Carmel, Haifa, Israel, 14 June 2015 *(Ezra Hadad)*

405 Bateleur / Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*, second calendar-year, Gal'on, Judean Plains, Israel, 10 June 2015 *(David Monticelli)*

406 Eleonora's Falcon / Eleonora's Valk *Falco eleonorae*, second calendar-year, Jarziz Farm, Salalah, Oman, 12 June 2015 *(Tommy Pedersen)* **407** Monteiro's Storm Petrel / Monteiro's Stormvogeltje *Oceanodroma monteiroi*, Bank of Fortune, Graciosa, Azores, 2 June 2015 *(Peter Alfrey)* **408** Elegant Tern / Sierlijke Stern *Sterna elegans*, adult, with Sandwich Terns / Grote Sterns *S sandvicensis* and Mediterranean Gull / Zwartkopmeeuw *Larus melanocephalus*, Île de Noirmoutier, Vendée, France, 25 May 2015 *(David Monticelli)*

409 Bulwer's Petrel / Bulwers Stormvogel *Bulweria bulwerii*, picked up on 21 July 2015 at Kressbachsee, Eilwangen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, 22 July 2015 *(Andreas Hachenberg)*

410 Harlequin Duck / Harlekijneend *Histrionicus histrionicus*, first-summer male, River Don, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, 20 May 2015 *(Richard Stonier)*

411 Mongolian/Lesser Sand Plover / Mongoolse/Tibetaanse Plevier *Charadrius mongolus/atrifrons*, adult, Farsund, Vest-Agder, Norway, 27 June 2015 *(Jonas Langbråten)*

412 Senegal Thick-knee / Senegalese Griel *Burhinus senegalensis*, Ma'agan Michael, Israel, 8 July 2015 *(Rami Mizrachi)*

413 Dalmatian Pelican / Kroeskoppelikaan *Pelecanus crispus*, second calendar-year, Nemunas delta, Lithuania, 3 July 2015 *(Vilius Paškevičius)*

414 Pink-backed Pelican / Kleine Pelikaan *Pelecanus rufescens*, second calendar-year, Harod valley, Israel, 22 July 2015 *(Rony Livne)*

Sweden. An unseasonal individual stayed at Ein Hamifratz, Israel, from 8 June onwards. In the Azores, up to two **Semipalmated Plovers** *Charadrius semipalmatus* stayed on Terceira from May to at least 17 June. An adult **Mongolian/Lesser Sand Plover** *C mongolus/atrifrons* at Farsund, Vest-Agder, on 26-27 June was the second for Norway (first was on 15-17 July 2002). A **Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius hudsonicus* remained at Pagham Harbour and Church Norton, East Sussex, England, from 9 June through July. In the Azores, the long-staying individual at Cabo da Praia, Terceira, was still present on at least 16 June. An adult **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* at Ballyconneely, Galway, on 22 July was the first for Ireland. The **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata* at Tancat de Milia, Sollana, Albufera de Valencia, Spain, from 11 May stayed until 31 May. In February, 21 **Spoon-billed Sandpipers** *C pygmaea*, including two tagged birds, were discovered at a previously unknown wader site at Sandwip, Chittagong, south-eastern Bangladesh (Wader Study 122: 78, 2015). The summer's first **Baird's Sandpiper** *C bairdii* for mainland Europe was an adult at Den Helder, Noord-Holland, from 14 July. On 16 July, an adult **Least Sandpiper** *C minutilla* was found on St Agnes, Scilly, England. The **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca* that returned to Hampshire, England, on 11 April remained through July. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** *T flavipes* at Riviera Martinique beach, Ghajn Tuffieha, on 22 May was the first for Malta. Genetic analysis of a hybrid male **Common x Great Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago x media* observed and trapped at Gåvålia, Norway, in 2009 revealed that its mother was a Great. Its biometry and morphology was intermediate between both species while its behaviour was similar to that of a Great, displaying and vocalising at a Great lek for more than a week; this was the first documented hybrid snipe (J Ornithol 156: 819-827, 2015). In France, an influx of at least 26 **Great Snipes** this spring was the species' largest in 50 years. A **Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni* stayed in Camargue on 20-22 May. Others were seen, eg, on Gotland, Sweden, on 27 May and in Northumberland, England, and Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in early June.

SKUAS TO TERNS An exceptional skua *Stercorarius* passage in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland, involved a May total of 4640 **Long-tailed Jaegers** *S longicaudus* and 3004 **Pomarine Skuas** *S pomarinus* for the headland of Aird an Rùnair, North Uist, alone. A second-year **Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea* at Knopper, Jylland, on 10 July was the ninth for Denmark. A census of **Slender-billed Gulls** *Chroicocephalus genei* in Sardinia resulted in 2200 breeding pairs, all in the Gulf of Cagliari and Oristano. The **Grey-headed Gull** *C cirrocephalus* first staying in June-July 2013 and back at Biceglie, Puglia, Italy, from 28 November 2014 was still present in July 2015 (cf Dutch Birding 37: 126, 2015). Satellite and geolocator telemetry used on three **Ross's Gulls** *Rhodostethia rosea* breeding in the Canadian Arctic revealed that they wintered in a restricted area of the northern Labrador Sea; up to now, this species' winter range was a mystery (Ibis 157: 642-647, 2015). A **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*

415 Hudsonian Whimbrel / Amerikaanse Regenwulp *Numenius hudsonicus* (left), with Eurasian Whimbrel / Regenwulp *N phaeopus*, Pagham Harbour, Sussex, England, 12 June 2015 *(John Richardson)*

at Hå, Rogaland, on 24 May was the fourth for Norway, and a few were seen in Britain and Spain. A second-year **Franklin's Gull** *L pipixcan* at Farsund, Vest-Agder, on 10 July was the ninth for Norway. Apart from Britain, others were found at Siracusa, Sicily, on 25 May; at Iffendic, Côtes d'Armor, France, on 13 May; and at Lemsterland, Friesland, the Netherlands, on 23 and 27 May (also second-year). Adult **Audouin's Gulls** *L audouinii* were photographed at Kochelsee, Bad Tölz, Bayern, Germany, on 23-24 May and at Flachsee, Aargau, Switzerland, on 21-30 June. In the Azores, a pair of **Sooty Terns** *Onychoprion fuscatus* was again present on Ilheu da Praia in late May and early June. A **Bridled Tern** *O anaethetus* stayed at Atlit on the Carmel coast of Israel on 25-29 May. In Denmark, the number of breeding **Caspian Terns** *Hydroprogne caspia* increased from none in 1998-2007 to up to eight pairs in 2011-12 while, on the other hand, **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* decreased from 7-8 pairs in 1998-99 to none or one pair in 2006-12 (Dansk Ornitol Foren Tidsskr 108: 1-144, 2014). In France, two pairs of **White-winged Terns** *Chlidonias leucopterus* bred in Loire-Atlantique this spring. On Rockabill, Ireland, the number of **Roseate Terns** *Sterna dougallii* increased to a record 1390 pairs, even more than last year's 1250 pairs, with 90% of them in nesting boxes. The largest mixed tern colony in Ireland, at Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, recorded 215 pairs of Roseate, a significant increase on last year's record of 174 pairs. Similarly, on Coquet Island, Northumberland, England, there was a big increase to 100 pairs this year (in 1999, only 24 pairs were counted), as a result of implementing the same nesting boxes as used at the Irish colonies. An adult at Vistula mouth, Gdańsk Bay, on 27 June was the fourth for Poland (previous ones were in 1987, 2004 and 2013). A **Lesser Crested Tern** *S bengalensis* was seen in Camargue on 17 May.

RAPTORS After five **Black-winged Kites** *Elanus caeruleus* in north-western Europe between 27 March and 5 May (cf Dutch Birding 37: 193, 2015), one at Drogeham, Friesland, on 25 May was the 10th for the Netherlands and one at Eskilstorp, Jönköping, on 5 June was the seventh for Sweden. The 11th **Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* for Israel was a second-year in the southern Judean plains from 31 May to at least 13 July. In northern France, two **Cinereous Vultures** *Aegypius monachus* first seen in Dombrot-sur-Vair, Vosges, on 21-24 May flew over Namur, Belgium, on 28 May and one was photographed at On, Luxembourg, Belgium, on 1 June. From June to at least 11 July, up to two occurred at several sites in Austria. The third for Estonia in the past 50 years was found at Ridala vald, Haeska, on 11 July. A second calendar-year **Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos negevensis* turned up at Haibar Carmel, Haifa, on 14 June (first since 2001); 10 days later, it was taken into care and kept for a programme to re-introduce this species in Israel after it bred for the last time 14 years ago. After the seventh **Bearded Vulture** *Gypaetus barbatus* for the Netherlands between 5 and 12 May (unmarked and not wearing a ring), which was also seen in northern Niedersachsen (Dutch Birding 37: 200, 2015), an eighth individual was picked up and taken into care at Midwoud, Noord-Holland, on 14 June. The latter bird was colour-ringed and satellite-tagged and could be identified as 'Schils', a bird raised in captivity and released in a Swiss re-introduction programme at Vättis, St Gallen, in May 2014. It quickly recovered and, in late June, it was brought back by Dutch birders to its Swiss release site (www.dutchbirding.nl/news.php?id=1022). Reportedly, an **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* was seen in Antwerpen and West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, on 17-18 June and past Dunkerque, Nord, France, on 11 July. As in previous years, many soaring **Griffon Vultures** *Gyps fulvus* turned up in Belgium and the Netherlands this spring; arguably the largest flocks were up to 31 above Friesland on 5 June; 47 above Geel, Antwerpen, on 26 June; and 35 over the Veluwe region, Gelderland, on 28-29 June. North of Tétouan, Morocco, single **Rüppell's Vultures** *G rueppelli* were photographed at Jbel Moussa on 5, 14 and 23 May; four individuals flew past Fnideq on 4 June. In 2014, seven were seen on 10-11 May and three on 24 May north of Tétouan. On 8 May, a second calendar-year **Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* was photographed at Marsa Alam, Egypt. Second calendar-year **Steppe Eagle** *A nipalensis* above Gibraltar and Cádiz on 30 May was the second or third for Spain and, if accepted, a young bird at Vila Franca de Xira, Ribatejo, on 8-12 July would be the first for Portugal. A subadult photographed at Juknaiciai, Silute, on 23 June was the third for Lithuania. An immature **Spanish Imperial Eagle** *A adalberti* was photographed at Sidi Yahya, Zaers, Morocco, on 4 March. A Hungarian satellite-tagged **Eastern Imperial Eagle** *A heliaca* named 'Janossy' visited the Zemgale and Kurzeme regions on 26-28 June constituting the third record for Latvia and, like two previous satellite-tagged individuals, it was not observed in the field. In a paper on genetic analyses of **Golden Eagle** *A chrysaetos* (Biol J Linn Soc, 2015; doi 10.1111/bij.12583), Nebel et al uncovered a phylogeographic split between northern Europe, continental Asia, Japan and North America on one hand and central Europe and the Mediterranean region (including **Homeyer's Golden Eagle** *A c homeyeri*) on the other hand. This pattern is unlike that in most other large raptors in which usually a western and an eastern Eurasian lineage have been recovered. For the first time, re-introduced **White-tailed Eagles** *Haliaeetus albicilla* raised one young in the Hula valley after years without success; the last breeding in Israel was 59 years ago, when the Hula lake got drained. The number of wild (ie, not re-introduced) pairs in Denmark increased from 1-3 pairs in 1995-97 to 48 pairs in 2012 and that of wild (not re-introduced) **Red Kites** *Milvus milvus* from 21 in 1998 to up to 134 in 2012 (Dansk Ornitol Foren Tidsskr 108: 1-144, 2014). A Red Kite near Kiev on 17 May was the first in Ukraine for at least 50 years. In the Azores, singles turned up on Corvo and Terceira on 16 June and Santa Maria on 23 and 24 June. A **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* photographed at Korva, Valgamaaa, on 27 June was the first for Estonia.

OWLS TO FALCONS After a fledgling **Pallid Scops Owl** *Otus brucei* was picked up injured in a date plantation






416 Pacific Loon / Pacifische Parelduiker *Gavia pacifica*, first-summer, Farsund, Vest-Agder, Norway, 12 July 2015 *(Tor Olsen)* **417** Namaqua Dove / Maskerduif *Oena capensis*, female, Safia, Oued Dahab, Morocco, 22 May 2015 *(Abdeljebbar Qninba)* **418** Cedar Waxwing / Cederpestvogel *Bombycilla cedrorum*, Tiree, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, 10 June 2015 *(Keith Gillon)* **419** Swainson's Thrush / Dwerglijster *Catharus ustulatus*, Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, Wales, 4 June 2015 *(David Aitken)* **420** Black-headed Bunting / Zwartkopgors *Emberiza melanocephala*, female, Krynica Morska, Pomerania, Poland, 4 June 2015 *(Andrzej Kośmicki)* **421** Marmora's Warbler / Sardijnse Grasmus *Sylvia sarda*, male, Grenen, Nordjylland, Denmark, 4 June 2015 *(Rune S Neergard)*

near Mitzpe Shalem by the Dead Sea, Israel, on 2 June, a survey revealed that several 10s of pairs were present in date plantations along the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley, constituting the first known breeding since 1904. In May-June, a few 100s of **European Bee-eaters** *Merops apiaster* were seen in the Netherlands and, reportedly, c 20 pairs bred at five sites. An adult photographed at Cas en Bas, Saint Lucia, in early February 2014 was the first for the New World; for more information on vagrancy of Old World species in the Caribbean region, see Dutch Birding 24: 202-209, 2002. A **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *M persicus* at Maresma de les Filipines, Llobregat, Barcelona, on 6 June was the second for Llobregat, Barcelona; the first (also the first for Spain) was in June 1989. Individuals at Rahkio, Pöytyä, on 19 June and (possibly the same) at Pori on 11 July were the fourth and fifth for Finland (previous records were in 1991, 1996 and 1998). This spring's unprecedented influx of **Red-footed Falcons** *Falco vespertinus* also involved southern France, where 2000 occurred in May. In the Azores, the species was found on at least five islands, with three on Santa Maria on 30 May. If accepted, an **Amur Falcon** *F amurensis* photographed on someone's porch in Tórshavn on 24 June will be the first for the Faeroes. In southern France, 22 **Eleonora's Falcons** *F eleonorae* turned up in May and 45 in June. If accepted, one present at Salalah on 12-13 June will be the first for Oman.

SHRIKES TO BULBULS A female **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* on the eastern Caspian coast at Aqtau, Mangghystau province, on 3 May was a long-awaited first for Kazakhstan. If accepted, an adult **Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus* at Halmstad, Halland, on 25-26 June will be the first for Sweden. After a **Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* was photographed at Fnideq along the Mediterranean coast of Morocco on 26 March, another stayed at Cabo Espichel, Sesimbra, Setúbal, Portugal, from late June onwards. A **White-winged Lark** *Alauda leucoptera* at Båtsfjord, Finnmark, on 17 June was the fourth for Norway (the third was in Hordaland on 20 May; cf Dutch Birding 37: 200, 2015). Like in the Netherlands, the number of **Crested Larks** *Galerida cristata* in Denmark decreased from 15-19 pairs in 1998 to 1-2 pairs in 2012 (Dansk Ornitol Foren Tidsskr 108: 1-144, 2014). In early June, for the third consecutive year, a pair of **Common Bulbuls** *Pycnonotus barbatus* produced young at Tarifa, Cádiz, which is still the only breeding site in Spain and Europe.

WARBLERS TO WAXWINGS Up to two **Greenish Warblers** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* possibly breeding in the Château-d'Œx region, Vaud, from 20 June onwards constituted the species' fourth record for Switzerland. In the Netherlands, eight were singing in late-May and June but only the one on Schiermonnikoog, Friesland, stayed for a long time (from 17 June to at least 16 July). A singing **Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda* at Grenen, Skagen, on 4 June was the second for Denmark; remarkably, the first on 12 June 2005 was at the same spot and found by the same birder. In Germany, a male **Spectacled Warbler** *S conspicillata* was singing at Feldberg, Freiburg, Baden-Württemberg, from 7 to at least 17 June. An **Eastern Orphean Warbler** *S crassirostris* was singing at Dingli Cliffs, Malta, on 31 May. The **Moltoni's Warbler** *S subalpina* found on Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland, on 15 May was trapped (and calling) on 17 May and stayed until 25 May. In France, **River Warblers** *Locustella fluviatilis* were singing at Saint-Priest, Rhône, on 6-7 May and at Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais, on 15 May. A **Booted Warbler** *Iduna caligata* trapped at Krynica Morska, Pomerania, on 7 June was the third for Poland (previous ones were in 2013 and 2014). The first **Sykes's Warbler** *I rama* for Turkey at Yüksekova, Hakkari, was only reported on 18 May. An **Olive-tree Warbler** *Hippolais olivetorum* singing near Cagliari on 24 April was the first for Sardinia. The first **Moustached Warbler** *Acrocephalus melanopogon* for Belgium was trapped at Pepingen, Vlaams-Brabant, on 7 June; the bird had been ringed as a first calendar-year in Aude, France, on 24 October 2014. **Cedar Waxwings** *Bombycilla cedrorum* were found on Tiree, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, on 10 June; at Kilrush, Clare, Ireland, on 13 June; and on St Mary's, Scilly, on (2 and) 19 June. The fourth this spring concerned remains of a dead bird found at St Davids, Pembrokeshire, Wales, on 27 June.

THRUSHES A **Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* trapped on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, on 2 June and remaining until 10 June was the first in spring for Britain. Another one was seen on Fetlar, Shetland, on 16 June. A **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *C minimus* at Rerwick, Mainland, Shetland, Scotland, on 11-19 May was also the first in spring for Britain. In Ireland, one was photographed at Termoncarragh, Mayo, on 25 May. A **Veery** *C fuscescens* trapped on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, on 30 and 31 May was the 11th for Britain (there have been previous spring records); it was last seen on 9 June. An **Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus* was photographed at Symbister, Whalsay, Shetland, on 20 June. This spring, there were up to two successful breeding records of **Black Scrub Robins** *Cercotrichas podobe* north of Eilat, Israel, producing one and two fledglings. A singing **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* at Hortobagy on 11-13 May and 20 June was (only) the second for Hungary (first was in 2002). A female **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear** *O melanoleuca* stayed at Saint-Pierre-d'Oléron, Charente-Maritime, France, on 8-10 June. Males were present at Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands, on 10 June and at New Forest, Hampshire, England, on 13 June. In France, the second calendar-year **White-crowned Wheatear** *O leucopyga* singing at Palavas-les-Flots, Hérault, from 1 May was last seen on 6 May and the one at Winduga, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland, from 12 May was last seen on 18 May.

SPARROWS TO BUNTINGS A male **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* at Bácsborsód, Baja, on 1-10 May was the second for Hungary; the bird turned up at the site of the first record in 2014, which concerned a successful breeding pair. The first breeding record of **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* for Denmark concerned a female paired with a male Blue-headed Wagtail *M flava* and feeding nestlings at Keldsnor, Langeland, on 28 June. A male **Pied**

422-423 Presumed Oriental Cuckoo / vermoedelijke Boskoekoek *Cuculus optatus*, male, Sotkamo, Finland, 22 June 2015 *(Pepe Lehikoinen)*

424 Sykes's Warbler / Sykes' Spotvogel *Iduna rama*, Karlı, Yüksekova, Hakkari, Turkey, 18 May 2015 *(Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu)*

425 Cretzschmar's Bunting / Bruinkeelortolaan *Emberiza caesia*, male, Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales, 14 June 2015 *(Ben Porter)*

426 Dark-eyed Junco / Grijze Junco *Junco hyemalis*, Toab, Mainland, Shetland, 11 May 2015
(Hugh Harrop)

427 Pied Crow / Schildraaf *Corvus albus*, adult, Sesimbra, Setúbal, Portugal, 30 June 2015
(Luís Gordinho)

Wagtail *M yarrellii* photographed at Rânca, Southern Carpathians, on 11 June was the first for Romania. In France, a male **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus* was found at Saint-Julien-de-Tournel, Lozère, on 30 May. After birds in Groningen, the Netherlands, until 10 April and at Toab, Mainland, Shetland, on 11 May, yet another **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* was found on Dursey Island, Cork, Ireland, on 9 June. Two **Ortolan Buntings** *Emberiza hortulana* at Azenha, Santa Maria, on 28 May were the first for the Azores. A **Cretzschmar's Bunting** *E caesia* on Bardsey Island, Gwynned, Wales, on 10-20 June was the sixth for Britain. At Villar-Saint-Pancrace, Hautes-Alpes, France, three singing males and a female **Black-headed Bunting** *E melanocephala* were present from 2 June but there are no reports of breeding this year. Others included, for instance, one at Muro, Haute-Corse, France, on 14 May; an adult female at Krynica Morska, Pomerania, on 4 June (second for Poland; first was on 3 June 1932); one on Île aux Moutons, Finistère, France, on 5 June; and a male flying across the German border near Leuth, Gelderland, on 10 June.

RARITIES COMMITTEES The first official report of the Romanian Rarities Committee (RRC) for the 2010-14 period has been published; it contains information on 16 species and subspecies new for Romania http://rombird.ro/uploaded/tiny/files/rrc_report_2010-2014,_part_i.pdf.

BIG DAYS On 24 May 2015, a new big day record for the Netherlands was established with 190 species in 24 hours by Dušan Brinkhuizen, Lazar Brinkhuizen, André-Willem Faber, Alwin van Lubeck and Pieter van Veelen. Most of their species, 180, were seen in the three northern provinces of Drenthe, Friesland and Groningen ('Top of Holland'). The previous big day record was 187 species on 10 May 2003 by Roy de Haas, Leo Heemskerk, Jan van der Laan and Willy Leurs.

For a number of reports Birdwatch, British Birds, Go-South Bulletin, Sovon-Nieuws, www.birdguides.com, www.netfugl.dk, www.rarebirdalert.co.uk and www.tarsiger.com were consulted. We wish to thank Mohammed Amezian, Garry Bakker, Patrick Bergier, Richard Bonser, Agris Celmins, Rolf Christensen, Andrea Corso, Pierre-André Crochet, Kris De Rouck, Philippe J Dubois (France), Jurek Dyczkowski, Enno Ebels, Rachid El Khamlichi, Dick Forsman, Raymond Galea, Mark Golley, Luis Gordinho, Martin Gottschling, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Marcello Grussu, Ricard Gutiérrez, Trinus Haitjema, Bence Kókay, Jonas Langbråten, Hans Larsson, Vincent Legrand, Pepe Lehikoinen, André van Loon, Ralph Martens, Gerby Michielsen, Dominic Mitchell, Geir Mobakken (Norway), Killian Mullarney, Tor Olsen, Gert Ottens, Yoav Perlman, Magnus Robb, Luciano Ruggieri, Michael Sammut, Jiri Sirek, Roy Slaterus, Alexandre Vintchevski, Rinse van der Vliet, Roland van der Vliet, Peter de Vries, Arend Wassink, Remco Wester and Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu for their help in compiling this review.

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Recente meldingen

Dit overzicht van recente meldingen van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland beslaat voornamelijk de periode **mei-juni 2015**. De vermelde gevallen zijn merendeels niet geverifieerd en het overzicht is niet volledig. Alle vogelaars die de moeite namen om hun waarnemingen aan ons door te geven worden hartelijk bedankt. Waarnemers van soorten in Nederland die worden beoordeeld door de Commissie Dwaalgasten Nederlandse Avifauna (CDNA) wordt verzocht hun waarnemingen zo spoedig mogelijk in te dienen via www.dutchavifauna.nl.

EENDEN TOT GIERZWALUWEN Voornamelijk in mei werden nog c 25 **Witbuikrotganzen** *Branta hrota*, c 15 **Zwarte Rotganzen** *B nigricans*, c 10 **Roodhalsganzen** *B ruficollis* en enkele (veelal dubieuze) **Dwergganzen** *Anser erythropus* waargenomen. Het volwassen mannetje **Buffelkopeend** *Bucephala albeola* van de Gaatkensplas bij Barendrecht, Zuid-Holland, bleef tot 10 mei en het tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje van Den Oever, Noord-Holland, tot 12 juni. Waarnemingen van **Witoogeenden** *Aythya nyroca* kwamen van een vijftal locaties, waaronder tot 14 juni op het Dwingelderveld, Drenthe, en van 4 tot 10 mei bij Aerdt, Gelderland (twee). Een mannetje **Amerikaanse Smient** *Anas americana* zwom nog tot 4 mei bij Kampen, Overijssel, en een mannetje **Amerikaanse Wintertaling** *A carolinensis* werd op 3 mei weer waargenomen in de Brabantse Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant. Er werden 45 **Kwartels** *Coturnix coturnix* geringd, waarvan 17 in Meijendel, Zuid-Holland, en 14 bij Castricum, Noord-Holland. Op Ameland, Friesland, vond een broedgeval van **Roodhalsfuut** *Podiceps grisegena* plaats. Het voorjaarstotaal (april-juni) van langstrekkende **Zomertortels** *Streptopelia turtur* over trektelposten kwam uit op een schamele 63. Het hoogste dagtotaal kwam op naam van telpost De Hamert, Limburg, waar op 10 mei zes exemplaren passeerden. Het landelijke dagrecord (689 op 15 mei 1982) zal voorlopig wel in handen blijven van Breskens, Zeeland... Een **Alpengierzwaluw** *Apus melba* werd op 7 juni gemeld over Wageningen, Gelderland.

RALLEN TOT IBISSEN Een **Klein Waterhoen** *Porzana parva* liet zich van 6 tot 17 juni horen bij Wetering in de

428 Zwarte Ibis / Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, Bedum, Groningen, 14 mei 2015 *(Martin Visser)*

429 Kleinste Waterhoenders / Baillon's Crakes *Porzana pusilla*, mannetje (achter) en vrouwtje, Onnerpolder, Groningen, 19 juni 2015 *(Martijn Bot)*

430 Amerikaanse Oeverloper / Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*, eerste-zomer, Medemblik, Noord-Holland, 28 april 2015 *(Rob Halff)*

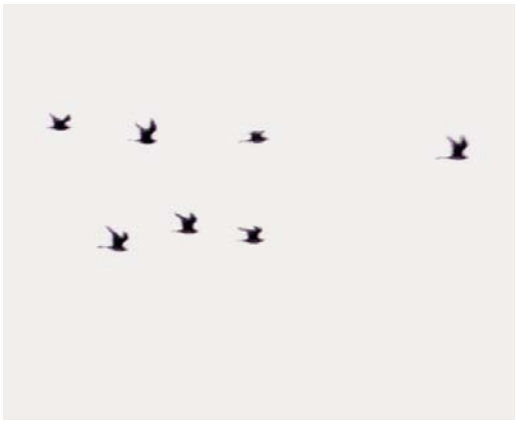
431 Blonde Ruiter / Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*, met Kemphaan / Ruff *C pugnax*, Waddinxveen, Zuid-Holland, 3 mei 2015 *(Sander Haak)*




432 Franklins Meeuw / Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*, eerste-zomer, Grote Brekken, Lemmer, Friesland, 23 mei 2015 *(Sietse Bernardus)* **433** Amerikaanse Goudplevier / American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Breebaartpolder, Groningen, 16 mei 2015 *(Dušan M Brinkhuizen)* **434** Poelsnip / Great Snipe *Gallinago media*, Velp, Gelderland, 24 mei 2015 *(Dirk Vogt)* **435** Poelsnip / Great Snipe *Gallinago media*, Velp, Gelderland, 23 mei 2015 *(Alex Bos)*

Weerribben, Overijssel. Meldingen van **Kleinste Waterhoenders** *P pusilla* kwamen alleen uit het noordoosten: van 17 mei tot 19 juni in De Onlanden, Drenthe (ten minste vier); van 22 tot 27 mei in de Weerribben (drie); en vanaf 13 juni een paar dat tot broeden kwam in de Onnerpolder, Groningen. De twee **IJsduikers** *Gavia immer* in (grotendeels) zomerkleed bleven tot 16 mei op het Volkerak, Zuid-Holland. De ongeringde **Roze Pelikaan** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* bleef tot ten minste 6 juni in Callantsoog, Noord-Holland, en werd nadien nog opgemerkt op 8 juni bij Westzaan, Noord-Holland; van 8 tot 11 juni bij Castricum; op 11 juni langs Berkel en Rodenrijs, Zuid-Holland; en later in de maand juni in Zwitserland. Het aantal waarnemingen van **Koereigers** *Bubulcus ibis* bleef steken op zeven. In het Lauwersmeergebied, Friesland, werd voor het eerst een broedgeval van **Kleine Zilverreiger** *Egretta garzetta* vastgesteld. In totaal werden c 20 **Zwarte Ibissen** *Plegadis falcinellus* waargenomen, waaronder maximaal vijf bij Nieuwkoop, Zuid-Holland, en maximaal zeven in De Groene Jonker bij Zevenhoven, Zuid-Holland; naar verluidt bouwde één paar een nest.

GRIELEN TOT STRANDLOPERS Er waren opmerkelijk veel **Grielen** *Burhinus oedicnemus*: van 6 tot 8 mei bij Steenwijkerwold, Overijssel; op 8 mei over het Westduinpark bij Den Haag, Zuid-Holland; op 16 mei op Terschelling, Friesland; op 23 mei op de Maashorst bij Uden, Noord-Brabant; op 6 en 7 juni bij Lemmer, Friesland; en op 12 juni bij Grijpskerke, Zeeland. Op meer dan 100 plaatsen werden **Steltkluten** *Himantopus himantopus* gezien. Het ging om zeker 250 vogels en, net als vorig jaar, werd op diverse plaatsen gebroed. Een naar zomerkleed ruiende adulte **Amerikaanse Goudplevier** *Pluvialis dominica* verbleef van 15 tot 28 mei in de Breebaartpolder bij Termunten, Groningen. In mei werden c 120 **Morinelplevieren** *Charadrius morinellus* doorgegeven. De grootste groepen liepen traditie-



436 Middelste Jagers / Pomarine Skuas *Stercorarius pomarinus*, Vlissingen, Zeeland, 8 mei 2015 *(Thomas Luiten)* **437** Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit / Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*, adult mannetje, Coepelduynen, Noordwijk, 10 juni 2015 *(René van Rossum)* **438** Scharrelaar / European Roller *Coracias garrulus*, Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland, 14 juni 2015 *(Marten Miske)* **439** Kleine Klapekster / Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*, Oosterend, Terschelling, Friesland, 13 mei 2015 *(Albert de Jong)*

getrouw op Texel, Noord-Holland (maximaal 14 op 15 en 16 mei), en bij Anjum, Friesland (maximaal 29 op 5 mei). Langs telpost Noordkaap, Groningen, werden op 3 mei 12 exemplaren geteld. **Breedbekstrandlopers** *Calidris falcinellus* werden vaak opgemerkt; de teller kwam uit op zeker 34, waaronder een groep van vijf op 21 mei bij Aerdt. Een adulte **Blonde Ruiter** *C subruficollis* verbleef op 2 en 3 mei bij Waddinxveen, Zuid-Holland. **Gestreepte Strandlopers** *C melanotos* bleven schaars, met waarnemingen op 10 mei in de Ezumakeeg, Friesland; van 23 tot 25 mei bij Lemmer; en op 7 juni bij Oostburg, Zeeland. Tussen 7 mei en 15 juni werden c 16 **Grauwe Franjepoten** *Phalaropus lobatus* doorgegeven. Van 17 tot 19 mei zwom een naar zomerkleed ruiende **Rosse Franjepoot** *P fulicarius* bij Hardenberg, Overijssel. **Terekruiters** *Xenus cinereus* deden het goed, met waarnemingen op 20 mei en 7 en 8 juni op exact dezelfde plaats in de Brabantse Biesbosch; op 22 mei bij Den Oever; van 26 mei tot 1 juni bij Almere, Flevoland; en op 15, 23 en 27 juni in de Ezumakeeg. De **Amerikaanse Oeverloper** *Actitis macularius* van de Vooroever bij Medemblik, Noord-Holland, werd voor het laatst op 2 mei gemeld en de **Kleine Geelpootruiter** *Tringa flavipes* van Everdingen, Utrecht, op 14 mei. Er werden ten minste 10 **Poelruiters** *T stagnatilis* waargenomen. Net als in de voorgaande periode viel een (af en toe) baltsende **Poelsnip** *Gallinago media* te bewonderen, ditmaal op 23 en 24 mei langs de IJssel bij Velp, Gelderland.

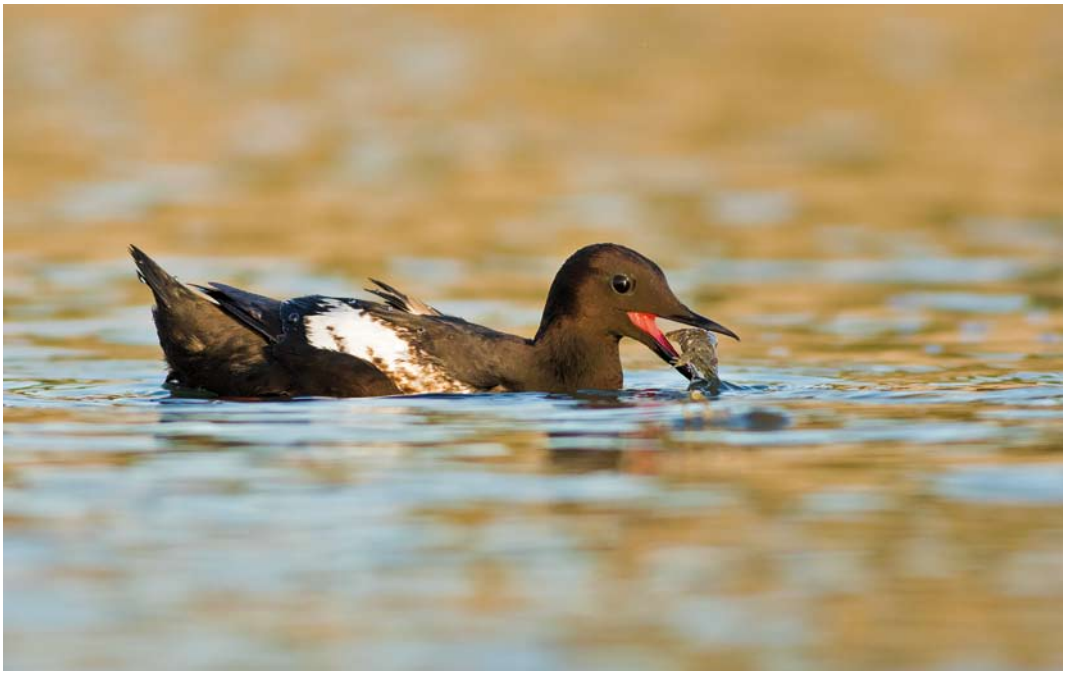
ALKEN TOT STERNS De adulte **Zwarte Zeekoet** *Cepphus grylle* van de Brouwersdam, Zuid-Holland, bleef tot 21 mei. Een eerste-zomer op 27 juni bij Kamperland, Zeeland, vertoonde kenmerken van de Arctische ondersoort *C g mandtii* (indien aanvaard betreft dit het eerste geval). Op 8 mei trok een groep van zeven **Middelste Jagers** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (waaronder zes adulte

440 Vale Gier / Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*, tweede kalenderjaar, Wommels, Friesland, 5 juni 2015 *(Eric Koops)*
441 Vale Gieren / Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus*, Wommels, Friesland, 5 juni 2015 *(Johan op den Dries)*
442 Lammergier / Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*, derde kalenderjaar, Dokkumer Nieuwezijlen, Friesland, 8 mei 2015 *(Ipe Weeber)*

met 'lepels') langs Vlissingen, Zeeland. Een tweede-kalenderjaar **Franklins Meeuw** *Larus pipixcan* verbleef op 23 mei enige tijd bij Lemmer (achtste geval en eerste sinds 2007). Op 27 mei werd hij gemeld bij het nabijgelegen Delfstrahuizen, Friesland. Tweede-kalenderjaar **Kleine Burgemeesters** *L glaucoides* bleven tot 5 mei bij Katwijk, Zuid-Holland, en tot 20 mei in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland. In totaal werden c 125 **Witwangsterns** *Chlidonias hybrida* gemeld. De grootste aantallen verbleven net als vorig jaar in de Kropswolderbuitenpolder, Groningen; naar het zich laat aanzien verliepen broedpogingen dit jaar echter zonder succes. Op 9 mei vlogen er 13 bij Vlaardingen, Zuid-Holland. **Witvleugelsterns** *C leucopterus* waren eveneens goed vertegenwoordigd, met c 75 vogels, waaronder ten minste 22 bij het Zuidlaardermeer, Groningen; naar verluidt werden daar zes jongen vastgesteld.

VISARENDEN TOT SPERWERS Een paar **Visarenden** *Pandion haliaetus* hield zich voor lange tijd op in de Biesbosch, Noord-Brabant/Zuid-Holland, waar afgelopen zomer werd gebouwd aan twee nesten, maar van broeden leek geen sprake. Een **Grijze Wouw** *Elanus caeruleus* werd op 4 mei gemeld langs Elst, Utrecht, en op 25 mei werd een exemplaar gefotografeerd bij Drogeham, Groningen. Trektellers noteerden in totaal 128 **Wespendieven** *Pernis apivorus*, 30 **Rode Wouwen** *Milvus milvus* en 49 **Zwarte Wouwen** *M migrans* (van beide wouwen werden bovendien broedgevallen vastgesteld). Een ongeringde derde-kalenderjaar **Lammergier** *Gypaetus barbatus* rustte op 5 mei tot 11:00 op de Sallandse Heuvelrug (net lang genoeg voor c 40 vogelaars uit de wijdere omgeving). Op 8 mei werd dezelfde vogel gefotografeerd bij Dokkumer Nieuwe Zijlen, Friesland, en een dag later bij Zoutkamp, Groningen. Indien aanvaard betreft dit het eerste geval (bij eerdere gevallen ging het om projectvogels uit de Alpen en/of werd de ongeringdheid niet met beeldmateriaal aangetoond). Een uit de Zwitserse Alpen afkomstig geringd tweede-kalenderjaar exemplaar, genaamd Schils, werd op 14 juni verzwakt opgeraapt bij Midwoud, Noord-Holland. Na te zijn hersteld in een vogelopvangcentrum, werd hij teruggebracht naar Zwitserland en daar op 20 juni losgelaten. Er werden vier **Slangenarenden** *Circaetus gallicus* waargenomen: op 6 juni in het Bargerveen, Drenthe; op 9 juni bij Ameide, Zuid-Holland; van 13 tot 17 juni op het Dwingelderveld; en vanaf 20 juni in het Fochteloërveen, Drenthe/Friesland. Op 4 juni werden aan het einde van de dag twee groepen **Vale Gieren** *Gyps fulvus* ontdekt: 11 boven Koedijk, Noord-Holland, en c 31 boven Vliegbasis Leeuwarden, Friesland (en overnachtend bij Wommels, Friesland). De volgende dag bereikte de eerstgenoemde groep via omzwervingen de Wieringermeer, Noord-Holland, en de laatstgenoemde groep – of het grootste deel daarvan – kon tot boven Rolde, Drenthe, worden gevolgd. Tot 10 juni volgden diverse meldingen, die mogelijk (deels) op dezelfde vogels betrekking hadden. Op 28 juni zwierf een groep van c 35 over de Veluwe, Gelderland, om uiteindelijk neer te strijken bij Uddel, Gelderland. De volgen-

443 Vermoedelijke Arctische Zwarte Zeekoet / presumed Mandt's Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle mandtii*, eerste-zomer, Kamperland, Zeeland, 27 juni 2015 *(Pim A Wolf)*



444 Roodsterblauwborst / Red-spotted Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica svecica*, mannetje, Blijham, Groningen, 24 juni 2015 *(Co van der Wardt)* **445** Bijeneter / European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, 10 juni 2015 *(René Pop)* **446** Citroenkwikstaart / Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, eerste-zomer mannetje, Noordervroon, Westkapelle, Zeeland, 7 mei 2015 *(Corstiaan Beeke)*

447 Roze Spreeuw / Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*, Barneveld, Gelderland, 9 juni 2015 *(Co van der Wardt)* **448** Roodstuitzwaluw / Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*, Den Hoorn, Texel, Noord-Holland, 17 mei 2015 *(Diederik Kok)* **449** Vermoedelijke Witbandkruisbek / presumed Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*, vrouwtje, met Kruisbek / Red Crossbill *L curvirostra*, Uden, Noord-Brabant, 17 juni 2015 *(Alexander Buil)*

450 Kleine Vliegenvanger / Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, adult mannetje, Schoonloo, Drenthe, 10 juni 2015 *(Co van der Wardt)*

451 Roodmus / Scarlet Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina*, adult mannetje, Katwijk aan den Rijn, Zuid-Holland, 30 mei 2015 *(Martin van der Schalk)*

452 Kleine Vliegenvanger / Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, adult mannetje, Schoonloo, Drenthe, 24 mei 2015 *(Jan den Hertog)*

453 Kortteenleeuwerik / Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, De Wieden, Overijssel, 4 mei 2015 *(Ronald Messemaker)*

de ochtend vertrokken ze weer in zuidelijke richting. Een **Schreeuwarend** *Aquila pomarina* werd op 24 mei gefotografeerd boven De Hamert bij Wellerlooi, Limburg. Op 10 mei was er een melding van een **Bastaardarend** *A clanga* over telpost Noordkaap. Een donkere vorm **Dwergarend** *A pennata* werd op 31 mei gefotografeerd in Nationaal Park De Maasduinen bij Bergen, Limburg. Tot half mei werd een handvol meldingen gedaan van **Steppekiekendieven** *C macrourus*, waaronder een tweede-kalenderjaar die fraai werd gefotografeerd op 3 mei in de Breebaartpolder.

HOPPEN TOT ZWALUWEN Een 10-tal **Hoppen** *Upupa epops* werd waargenomen, waaronder enkele zingende. **Bijeneters** *Merops apiaster* verschenen in hoge aantallen. Meldingen kwamen uit c 160 kilometerhokken en in totaal ging het om enkele 100-en vogels. De grootste groep (32) verbleef op 2 en 3 juni bij Den Helder, Noord-Holland. Ook vond een recordaantal broedpogingen plaats; naar verluidt vestigden zich c 20 paren op c vijf locaties. Een **Scharrelaar** *Coracias garrulus* op 14 juni in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Noord-Holland, vormde een welkome (en kleurrijke) verrassing. **Roodpootvalken** *Falco vespertinus* werden gemeld van c 20 plekken verspreid over het land. Een tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje van ten minste 17 tot 24 juni in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen trok het meeste bekijks. Een adult vrouwtje **Kleine Klapekster** *Lanius minor* bevond zich op 13 mei bij Oosterend op Terschelling en op 11 juni zou een exemplaar zijn gefotografeerd bij Zoetermeer, Zuid-Holland. **Roodkopklauwieren** *L senator* konden weer rekenen op het nodige publiek: op 13 mei bij Rhenen, Utrecht, op 23 mei bij Duiven, Gelderland, en op 28 en 29 juni bij Breukeleveen, Noord-Holland. Een **Kuifleeuwerik** *Galerida cristata* vloog op 11 mei langs Breskens. **Kortteenleeuweriken** *Calandrella brachydactyla* werden waargenomen op 4 mei bij Wanneperveen, Overijssel; op 15 mei bij Wormer, Noord-Holland; op 24 mei bij Westkapelle, Zeeland; en op 10 juni in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen, Zuid-Holland. **Roodstuitzwaluwen** *Cecropis daurica* waren op 10 en 17 mei enige tijd ter plaatse op Texel. Andere werden gemeld op 11 mei langs Noordwijk, Zuid-Holland, en Wassenaar, Zuid-Holland, en op 19 mei bij Woldendorp, Groningen.

BOSZANGERS TOT GRASZANGERS Het was een goed voorjaar voor **Grauwe Fitis** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*. Zingende vogels werden waargenomen op 29 mei en 5 juni (twee) op Texel; op 4 juni bij Lelystad, Flevoland; op 5 juni bij Callantsoog, Noord-Holland; op 6 juni op Vlieland, Friesland; op 16 juni bij Hoek van Holland, Zuid-Holland; van 17 juni tot 16 juli op Schiermonnikoog, Friesland (op dezelfde plaats als vorig jaar); en op 22 en 23 juni in Zwolle, Overijssel (eerste geval voor deze provincie). Laatstgenoemde liet afwisselend twee zangtypen horen, namelijk een 'normaal' en een sterk op Winterkoning *Troglodytes troglodytes* gelijkend type. Een **Bergfluiter** *P bonelli* zong op 4 en 5 juni bij Doorwerth, Gelderland. De zingende **Iberische Tjiftjaf** *P ibericus* vanaf 21 april aan de rand van Leeuwarden werd voor het laatst gemeld op 25 juni. Een andere zong van 21 mei tot 26 juni bij Den Helder. Een tweede-kalenderjaar mannetje **Balkanbaardgrasmus** *Sylvia cantillans* bevond zich op 5 juni op de Maasvlakte, Zuid-Holland. Zeldzaam voor de tijd van het jaar was de vangst van een **Sperwergrasmus** *S nisoria* op 4 juni bij Castricum. De enige met een geluidsopname gedocumenteerde **Krekelzanger** *Locustella fluviatilis* zong op 15 mei langs de IJssel bij Brummen, Gelderland. Buiten Limburg werden slechts enkele **Orpheusspotvogels** *Hippolais polyglotta* gemeld, waaronder een druk bezochte van ten minste 6 tot 14 juni bij Ellecom, Gelderland. Op 13 juni was er een ringvangst bij Kamperhoek, Flevoland. **Veldrietzangers** *Acrocephalus agricola* werden geringd op 4 juni bij Zurich, Friesland, en op 7 juni in de Eemshaven. Een **Graszanger** *Cisticola juncidis* werd op 14 juni gemeld in de Hilversumse Bovenmeent, Noord-Holland, en vanaf eind juni zong er weer eens één op een vertrouwde plek in het Verdronken Land van Saeftinghe, Zeeland.

SPREEUWEN TOT VLIEGENVANGERS (Sub)adulte **Roze Spreeuwen** *Pastor roseus* werden waargenomen op 5 juni bij Den Haag, op 6 en 7 juni op Texel en van 17 tot 25 juni bij Barneveld, Gelderland. Laatstgenoemde oogde gedurende zijn verblijf steeds minder fit en werd op de laatste dag dood gevonden. Een **Waterspreeuw** *Cinclus cinclus* werd op 9 mei gemeld bij Ommen, Overijssel. **Noordse Nachtegalen** *Luscinia luscinia* zongen op 22 mei in Meijendel en van 14 tot 25 juni in de duinen bij Hoek van Holland. Net als in 1999 bezette een mannetje **Roodsterblauwborst** *L svecica svecica* een territorium in Oost-Groningen, ditmaal van ten minste 13 juni tot 10 juli bij Blijham. Van 14 mei tot ver in juni trok een zingend, adult mannetje **Kleine Vliegenvanger** *Ficedula parva* veel bezoekers bij Schoonloo, Drenthe. Daarnaast waren er nog enkele meldingen, waaronder van een eerste-zomer op 22 mei bij Noordwijkerhout, Zuid-Holland, die opvallend genoeg exact dezelfde plek had uitgekozen als een eerste-zomer exact een jaar eerder. Een adult mannetje **Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit** *Oenanthe melanoleuca* werd op 10 juni door veel vogelaars bekeken in de Coepelduynen bij Noordwijk.

KWIKSTAARTEN TOT GORZEN Hoge aantallen van 67 **Engelse Kwikstaarten** *Motacilla flavissima* en 1080 **Noordse Kwikstaarten** *M thunbergi* werden geteld op respectievelijk 4 mei langs Westkapelle en 5 mei langs telpost Noordkaap. Een nagekomen bericht betrof een mannetje **Balkankwikstaart** *M feldegg* dat op 6 juni zou zijn gefotografeerd bij Bunschoten, Utrecht (eerste geval indien aanvaard). Mannetjes **Citroenkwikstaart** *M citreola* werden opgemerkt op 7 mei in het Noordervroon bij Westkapelle; op 10 mei op de noordpunt van Texel; op 21 juni op de Dijkgatsweide bij Den Oever; en op 25 juni bij Oss, Noord-Brabant. Trektellers meldden nog vier **Duinpiepers** *Anthus campestris* en 10 **Roodkeelpiepers** *A cervinus*, waarmee de voorjaarstotalen (april-juni) voor de trektelposten uitkwamen op respectievelijk negen en 11. Van beide soorten werd slechts een handvol andere waarnemingen doorgegeven. Van c 60 loca-

ties werden **Roodmussen** *Erythrina erythrina* gemeld. Verreweg de meeste exemplaren doken vanaf half mei op langs de kust, zo ook een populair volwassen mannetje op dezelfde locatie als vorig jaar in Katwijk. Er waren ringvangsten op 30 mei bij Kamperhoek, op 5 juni bij Castricum (twee dagen later teruggevangen) en op 12 juni in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen. Een foto van een adult vrouwtje **Witbandkruisbek** *Loxia leucoptera* of een sterk daarop gelijkende kruisbek *Loxia* op 17 juni bij Uden, Noord-Brabant, leverde de nodige hoofdbrekens op. Verspreid over het land werden c 15 **Ortolanen** *Emberiza hortulana* gemeld, waaronder een laatkomer op 21 juni bij 's-Hertogenbosch, Noord-Brabant. Een mannetje **Zwartkopgors** *E melanocephala* werd op 10 juni kortstondig gezien aan beide zijden van de landsgrens bij Leuth, Gelderland. Op enkele plekken werden zingende **Grauwe Gorzen** *E calandra* aangetroffen (en stil gehouden). Een doortrekker op 14 mei in de Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen is het vermelden waard.

Voor zijn hulp bij het samenstellen van deze rubriek bedanken wij Justin Jansen. Ook is dankbaar gebruikgemaakt van de websites dutchbirdalerts.nl, waarneming.nl, trektellen.nl, sovon.nl en lauwersmeer.com.

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Corrigenda

In het vorige nummer van Dutch Birding werden bij plaat 327 (Dutch Birding 37: 208, 2015) de verkeerde datum en fotograaf vermeld. De datum moet zijn 17 maart 2015 en de fotograaf Edwin Winkel. REDACTIE

In the previous issue of Dutch Birding the wrong date and photographer were mentioned in the caption of plate 327 (Dutch Birding 37: 208, 2015). The date should be 17 March 2015 and the photographer Edwin Winkel. EDITORS