

Pallas's Warbler in Spain in April 1987 On 17 April 1987, at 11:00, in a predominantly coniferous forest near the Parador El Adelantado, Sierra de Cazorla, Coto nacional de Cazorla, J  en, Spain, at an altitude of c 1400 m, we discovered a Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*-sized *Phylloscopus* whilst watching a mixed feeding flock of Long-tailed Tits *Aegithalos caudatus* and tits *Parus* (including Coal Tits *P ater*). The warbler was moving through the bushes and could freely be observed at very close range down to three metres. Thanks to excellent views (using 8.5x44 binoculars), we had no difficulty in identifying it as a Pallas's Warbler *P proregulus*. During an observation period of c 20 minutes, we noted, apart from the very small size already mentioned, a dark upperhead with a distinct pale yellow median crown-stripe and supercilium and an obvious dark eye-stripe, green upperparts with a pale yellow rump, whitish underparts, pale yellow double wing-bar, and a darkish bill and leg. The bird was silent but occasionally a soft sweet was heard.

This constituted the first record of Pallas's Warbler for the Iberian Peninsula, and was accepted as such by the Spanish rarities committee (E de Juana *in litt*). The bird may have wintered in the area. So far, very few wintering Pallas's have been recorded in Europe. In the mild winter of 1974/75, an individual wintered in the Netherlands (Scharringa 1976) while a Pallas's observed in France on 18 March 1976 was supposed to have arrived there during the preceding autumn (Oliosio 1987). On 7 December 1985 the first record of Pallas's Warbler for Morocco was claimed (*Br Birds* 80: 328, 1987).

references

- Oliosio, G 1987. Les pouillots orientaux en France. *Alauda* 55: 122-139.
Scharringa, C J G 1976. Pallas' Boszanger *Phylloscopus proregulus* (Pallas) overwinterde in 1975 bij Wageningen. *Limosa* 49: 220-222.

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Cape Verde Islands Courser The westernmost subspecies of the Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*, the Cape Verde Islands Courser *C c exsul*, can be distinguished from other subspecies by its darker, reddish sand-coloured upperparts and breast. Its wing length is the smallest in the cline from west to



20 Cape Verde Islands Courser *Cursorius cursor exsul*, Santiago, Cape Verde Islands, February 1986 (René Pop)

east, averaging 156 mm. In view of the resident character of the Cape Verde population, it seems reasonable to warrant subspecific rank, although it has been argued that inclusion of the Canary Islands and western Maghreb populations in *C. exsul* could be well advocated. In the Cape Verdes, the courser was first discovered by Boyd Alexander who reported that they were by no means bad eating. However, to quote D A Bannerman, 'he was unaware at the time that he was enjoying an interesting new subspecies for his dinner, for it took another 23 years before it was described as such by Hartert'.

De Naurois (*Cyanopica* 3: 5-15, 1983) estimated the total population size to be 120-150 pairs, but numbers might be somewhat higher. Recent observations show that it is present in fair numbers on all but two (Fogo and Brava) of the nine inhabited islands. It has not been reported lately from the uninhabited islets of Santa Luzia and Razo. It is likely that these are too small to support a permanent population. In view of the periodic presence and absence of the coursers on some islands, erratic interinsular movements seem to occur.

In October 1970, a male and a female were collected on São Nicolau (Garcia de Orta, *Sér Zool* 5: 47-58, 1976), adding a new location to the subspecies' known distribution. In December 1986, three coursers were observed on Santo Antão, another new location, and it was seen again on São Nicolau (Deirdre de Bruijn *in litt*). In February-March 1986, I encountered parties of six to seven Cape Verde Islands Coursers in the stony hills around Praia on the island of São Tiago. In December 1987, groups of five to 11 coursers were seen by me along the road from

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Rabil to Curral Velho on Boa Vista. For the moment, the statement in Cramp & Simmons (BWP3) that the subspecies may face extinction seems rather pessimistic.

Little is known about the breeding seasons of the Cape Verde Islands Courser. A nest has never been found. De Naurois suggested that there are two distinct breeding seasons, one during the rainy season in August-October and another during January-April. He also thought that the same pair may raise two broods during one year, as has been observed in the Sahara. All birds I observed in 1986-87 were adults, suggesting that breeding had not yet commenced. Juveniles have been seen in January-March and display has been reported in September. C J HAZEVOET

dba-nieuws

DBA-vogeldag op 6 februari 1988 te Utrecht Op 6 februari 1988 werd door de Dutch Birding Association een vogeldag gehouden te Utrecht, die door c 200 vogelaars werd bezocht. Zij konden genieten van een zeer tot de verbeelding sprekend relaas van David Cottridge over vogels en vogelaars op de Isles of Scilly in Groot-Brittannië, geïllustreerd met fraaie dia's van zeldzaamheden. Daarna verhelderde Tom van der Have de determinatie van enkele soorten strandlopers *Calidris*, waarbij de aandacht vooral uitging naar de kenmerken van Bonapartes Strandloper *C fuscicollis* en Bairds Strandloper *C bairdii*. Vervolgens konden de aanwezigen hun vogelkennis beproeven aan de hand van een uit 50 door Lasse Laine gemaakte dia's bestaande serie mystery photographs. Hierbij behaalde Gerald Driessens van alle deelnemers het hoogste aantal punten. De determinatie van de getoonde vogels werd toegelicht door Hans Schekkerman. De vogeldag werd besloten met een door Tom Kompier gepresenteerd overzicht van zeldzame en interessante vogels in Nederland en België in 1987.

Lijstjes en getallen In Nederland zijn tot en met 1987 zo'n 414 verschillende vogelsoorten vastgesteld. In elk van de laatste drie jaar zijn er vijf nieuwe bijgekomen. Ongeveer vijf vogelaars hebben in Nederland 340 of meer soorten waargenomen. Vijf hebben er zelfs meer dan 350 en