among others (Martins 1989, Peter 1994, Kirwan et al 1999). Only time will tell if Spotted Sandgrouse can be added to that list.

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Breeding of Cream-coloured Courser in Cape Verde Islands

In the Cape Verde Islands, Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* is a widespread resident in the eastern islands of Sal, Boavista and Maio. Elsewhere in the archipelago, it occurs locally in desert areas on Santiago, São Vicente and São Nicolau, and there are also a few records from Santo Antão, Santa Luzia and Raso (Hazevoet 1995, 1998). Depending on local conditions, erratic inter-island movements probably occur. Despite being widespread and certainly not uncommon, breeding data are scarce. Display has been observed in September, downy young have been observed in November and March-May and birds in juvenile plumage in January-May, July and September (de Naurois 1983, Hazevoet 1995). The only egg found so far is an abandoned one in early February (Bannerman & Bannerman 1968).

On 25 February 1997, Manfred Koch discovered an occupied nest containing two eggs at Morrinho do Filho, a stony plain in the northern part of Sal. The nest was situated between the tracks of a dust road and consisted of a small scratch with some pebbles around it. The eggs were extremely well camouflaged and hardly discernible, even from a few metres distance, despite the fact that the nest was next to some conspicuous 'marker stones'. The breeding bird was inadvertently flushed but returned to the nest although not after having cautiously walked in wide circles around the nest for a considerable period of time. Next day, MK revisited the site and, again, an adult was incubating. Only a single adult was seen on either day but it is uncertain whether this concerned the same individual. During almost five hours of observation on 26 February, the incubating bird did not leave the nest. There were no signs of rainfall having occurred during the weeks before the observation as demonstrated by the complete absence of vegetation in the area. This is the first record of an active nest in the Cape Verde Islands.

During a subsequent visit to the islands, MK observed recently hatched young on Sal, on 26-28 October 1998, and on Boavista, on 1 November 1998. Rains had apparently fallen not long before as there was sparse but green vegetation at the sites. Usually, such vegetation desiccates within a few weeks when no more rain follows.

In view of these and earlier breeding data, it appears that Cream-coloured Courser comes into breeding condition in response to rains but that breeding can also occur independently of external stimuli. The main rainy season in the islands is in August-October, with at times a second, less intensive, period in spring. Rains are often localized and unpredictable, particularly in the largely flat and desert-like eastern islands. The breeding season of Cream-coloured Courser in the Cape Verde Islands may either be prolonged (September-May) or double, with birds laying a second clutch in spring when local circumstances are favourable.

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17 Nesting site (nest in centre of track) of Cream-coloured Courser / Renvogel *Cursorius cursor*, Sal, Cape Verde Islands, 25 February 1997 *(Manfred Koch)*

18 Nest of Cream-coloured Courser / Renvogel *Cursorius cursor*, Sal, Cape Verde Islands, 25 February 1997 *(Manfred Koch)*

19 Cream-coloured Courser / Renvogel *Cursorius cursor* at nest, Sal, Cape Verde Islands, 26 February 1997 *(Manfred Koch)*

20 Cream-coloured Courser / Renvogel *Cursorius cursor*, downy young, Boavista, Cape Verde Islands, 1 November 1998 *(Manfred Koch)*

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Aalscholver met kenmerken van Grote Aalscholver te Heel in februari 2000

Op vrijdag 4 februari 2000 waren Arnoud van den Berg, André van Loon en Anthony McGeehan tevergeefs op zoek naar twee Witoogeenden *Aythya nyroca* die zich op voorafgaande dagen op het noordelijke grintgat ten westen van de Maas bij Heel, Limburg, bevonden. Tijdens het zoeken toonde AMcG grote belangstelling voor de aanwezige 'Continentale' Aalscholvers *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*; rondom zijn woonplaats in Noord-Ierland had hij veel tijd gestoken in pogingen dit taxon tussen Grote Aalscholvers *P c carbo* te ontdekken. Daarom keken ook AvdB en AvL met wat meer dan gewone aandacht naar de aanwezige aalscholvers. Op een gegeven moment viel AvL een op een boei zittend exemplaar op dat aan de linkerpoot een grote oranje kleurring en aan de rechterpoot een kleine aluminiumring droeg. Aangezien AvdB zich op dat moment slechts kon herinneren dat de 10 laatste Nederlandse gevallen van Grote Aalscholver betrekking hadden op ringterugmeldingen, vroeg hij AMcG wat de veldkenmerken van dit taxon waren. Deze werden door AMcG in het zand uitgetekend en hadden vooral betrekking op vorm en grootte van de naakte huid rond de mondhoek en op de keel en snavelvorm. Toen de drie waarnemers de telescoop op de vogel hadden gericht, bleek deze alle door AMcG genoemde kenmerken te vertonen. Er werd direct alarm geslagen waarna eerst Max Berlijn en later Hans ter Haar arriveerden. Inmiddels was de vogel kort gaan zwemmen waarbij hij een vis verschalkte om daarna op een

FIGUUR 1 Grote Aalscholver / Atlantic Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*, mannetje, Heel, Limburg, 4 februari 2000 *(Anthony McGeehan)*