

briefen

Therefore, statistically the sample of 20+ skins seems too small to confirm these differences between Ring-billed and Common Gull to be consistent and diagnostic features.

Pierre Yésou, Réserve de Champclou, 85 340 l'Île d'Olonne, France

Atypical Common Gulls In mid-May 1979, in northern Brittany, France, I observed a medium-sized gull with a dark face. At long range, I thought it was a first-summer Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*. However, a closer look revealed that it was a first-summer Common Gull *L. canus* by its bill structure and coloration, head shape and wing pattern. Apparently, the dark face was the result of pigmentation and not of dirt, egg oil. Like the observation by Mauer (1984), this example shows that atypical Common Gulls might be mistaken for other gull species.

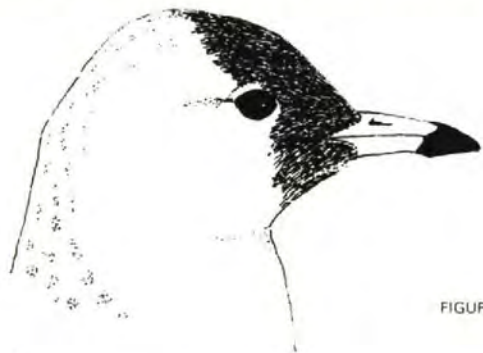


FIGURE 1 Common Gull *Larus canus*, France, May 1979 (*Pierre Yésou*).

reference

MAUER, K A 1984. Atypische Stormmeeuw op Schiermonnikoog in augustus 1983. *Dutch Birding* 6: 57.

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Observations on Razo Lark On 7 March 1985, c 15 birders on board the SV Sirius visited the island of Razo, Cape Verde Islands, with the main aim to observe the Razo Lark *Alauda razae*. The Razo Lark is one of the rarest species within the western Palearctic. It only occurs on the small uninhabited island of Razo and even there it is limited to the central plateau of this windswept and waterless island. Within this limited range, it was found to be relatively abundant. The number of birds present was estimated to be at least 50. Nørrevang & den Hartog (1984) who visited



61-62 Razo Lark *Alauda razae*, male & female, Cape Verde Islands, March 1985 (*A P van Harreveld*).



Razo in June 1982, observed no more than c 20 birds. In 1985, many birds were in song, delivered from a stationary position at c 10 m height, during a vertical song flight. Also a nest containing eggs was found.

reference

NØRREVANG, A & DEN HARTOG, J C 1984. Bird observations in the Cape Verde Islands (4-22 June 1982). *Cour Forsch Inst Senckenberg* 68: 107-134.

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