

THE NETHERLANDS in summer

“At some stages during Sunbird’s first tour to the Netherlands in August we could have been forgiven for thinking it was late autumn, rather than summer! Despite the inclement weather we still amassed an excellent bird list with local specialities being complemented by some scarcer visitors.

The flocks of waders were topped by massive numbers of European Golden Plover and Northern Lapwing with hundreds of Ruff and smaller numbers of Curlew, Wood and Green Sandpipers, Little Stints, a Temminck’s Stint, and a couple of Red-necked Phalaropes.

Scarcity-wise we found our own Eurasian Wryneck, shortly before seeing an unseasonal Great Grey Shrike, 2 Common Cranes and 4 Short-toed Snake Eagles (a species recorded just once in the UK but annual in The Netherlands). After 2 distant encounters our third White-tailed Eagle was more obliging, as was the juvenile Honey Buzzard that flew over our picnic. Other raptors included a couple of perched Northern Goshawks, one of which sat on a small island for over an hour as we were enjoying good views of Eurasian Kingfisher.

We also found our own Red-throated Pipit and Spotted Crake (one of two seen on our way to the airport), twitched both a Black Stork and a juvenile Citrine Wagtail (which shared its flooded bulb field with over ten species of wader), and managed to see Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls perched near each other offering a great comparison.

Of the typical Dutch late summer species we saw countless Eurasian Spoonbills, Western Marsh Harriers and Great Egrets with smaller numbers of White Storks, Eurasian Hobby, Peregrine, Garganey, Ruddy Shelduck, Black-necked Grebe, Caspian and Black Tern, Little Gull, a Long-eared Owl, Tree Pipits and both Stonechat and Whinchat.” – *James Lidster*

Bird List:

Column A = Number of days this species was seen on the last tour.

Column B = Maximum daily count for this species on the last tour

H = heard only

	A	B	
Little Grebe	2	3	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	5	20	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	1	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Great Cormorant	5	2000	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Great Egret	5	15	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Grey Heron	5	40	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black Stork	1	1	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
White Stork	2	5	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Spoonbill	5	70	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Mute Swan	5	200	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Greylag Goose	5	1500	<i>Anser anser</i>
Canada Goose	2	10	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Barnacle Goose	4	500	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	1	63	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Shelduck	3	500	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Gadwall	5	200	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Mallard	5	500	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Garganey	3	5	<i>Anas querquedula</i>

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Eurasian Teal	5	20		<i>Anas crecca</i>
Northern Shoveler	5	200		<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	5	50		<i>Anas penelope</i>
Pochard	2	100		<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Tufted Duck	5	1000		<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Honey Buzzard	1	2		<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Short-toed Snake Eagle	1	4		<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
White-tailed Eagle	2	2		<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	5	15		<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Northern Goshawk	2	3		<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	3	4		<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Common Buzzard	5	30		<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Common Kestrel	4	10		<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	5	2		<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Peregrine	1	2		<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Spotted Crake	1	2		<i>Porzana porzana</i>
Water Rail	1	1	H	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Common Moorhen	4	5		<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	5	200		<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Crane	1	2		<i>Grus grus</i>
Eurasian Oystercatcher	2	30		<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Avocet	2	200		<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Eurasian Golden Plover	3	2000		<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
Little Ringed Plover	2	1		<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Ringed Plover	2	10		<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Lapwing	5	5000		<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Ruff	3	500		<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Dunlin	1	10		<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Little Stint	2	10		<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Temminck's Stint	1	1		<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	2	5		<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	2	100		<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	1		<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Eurasian Curlew	3	1000		<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Common Redshank	2	2		<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	2	2		<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	3	5		<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Greenshank	2	5		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	3	1		<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper	4	6		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Snipe	4	10		<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Turnstone	1	10		<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	1	2		<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Little Gull	1	1		<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>
Black-headed Gull	5	1000		<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Great black-backed Gull	3	6		<i>Larus marinus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	5		<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Herring Gull	5	500		<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	1	2		<i>Larus michahellis</i>

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Caspian Gull	1	1		<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
Caspian Tern	1	1		<i>Sterna caspia</i>
Sandwich Tern	1	50		<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
Common Tern	2	30		<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Black Tern	3	30		<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Wood Pigeon	5	50		<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Stock Dove	5	10		<i>Columba oenas</i>
Collared Dove	3	6		<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Long-eared Owl	1	1		<i>Asio otus</i>
Common Kingfisher	1	1		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Wryneck	1	1		<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	4		<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Skylark	2	1		<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Sand Martin	4	50		<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	5	200		<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
House Martin	5	5		<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Tree Pipit	1	20		<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Meadow Pipit	4	10		<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Red-throated Pipit	1	1		<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
Yellow Wagtail	5	6		<i>Motacilla flava</i>
White Wagtail	5	30		<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Citrine Wagtail	1	1		<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Winter Wren	2	1		<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Robin	2	1		<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Dunnock	1	1	H	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Stonechat	3	8		<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Whinchat	2	3		<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Northern Wheatear	1	2		<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Blackbird	3	2		<i>Turdus merula</i>
Song Thrush	1	1		<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Garden Warbler	1	1		<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Blackcap	2	10		<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Whitethroat	2	1		<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Reed Warbler	2	3		<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Sedge Warbler	1	1		<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Chiffchaff	3	20		<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Goldcrest	1	1	H	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Willow Tit	2	4		<i>Poecile montanus</i>
Great Tit	3	20		<i>Parus major</i>
Blue Tit	3	6		<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Bearded Tit	1	2	H	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	1	2		<i>Sitta europea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	2	2		<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Great Grey Shrike	1	1		<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
Eurasian Jay	3	6		<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Magpie	5	2		<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jackdaw	5	200		<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Rook	2	20		<i>Corvus frugeligus</i>
Carrion Crow	5	50		<i>Corvus corone</i>

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European Starling	5	2000		<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
House Sparrow	5	20		<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Tree Sparrow	1	3		<i>Passer montanus</i>
Chaffinch	1	2		<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Greenfinch	3	30		<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Goldfinch	4	3		<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Linnet	4	3		<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Eurasian Bullfinch	1	1	H	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Reed Bunting	2	4		<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>