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## **OLIESLACHTOFFERS EN ANDERE AANGESPOELDE ZEEVOGELS LANGS DE NEDERLANDSE KUST IN 2007/08**

**JAARVERSLAG NEDERLANDS STOOKOLIESLACHTOFFERONDERZOEK**

### *BEACHED BIRD SURVEY RESULTS IN THE NETHERLANDS, 2007/08: ANNUAL REPORT DUTCH BEACHED BIRD SURVEY*

Camphuysen C.J. 2008. Olieslachtoffers en andere aangespoelde zeevogels langs de Nederlandse kust in 2007/08. Jaarverslag Nederlands Stookolieslachtofferonderzoek. *Sula* 21(3): 97-122. *The annual report of the Dutch beached bird survey, with volunteer input from the Dutch seabird group, reports strandings of seabirds in summer 2007 (May-Oct) and in winter 2007/08 (Nov-Apr, the 32<sup>nd</sup> season since NSO was founded in 1977. Common Guillemots and Northern Fulmars were numerous in early autumn 2007, but both species had wrecked rather than that they had suffered from (chronic) oil pollution. Over time, numbers of guillemots washing ashore in autumn have increased after about a decade with very few strandings. Most these birds are wing-moulting adults (mostly males) and developing chicks, some of which still in downy plumage. It is unclear what drives them to pass by the rich feeding grounds in the Frisian Front area, where these birds are known to gather and stage after the nesting season in Britain. Rarities in the summer surveys included Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Sabine's Gull and Black Tern. Winter surveys produced remarkably low densities of pelagic seabirds (except following the influxes of Pomarine Skuas and Little Auks in November). Common Guillemot densities were at an all-time low, with 51% contaminated with oil. The oil rate is as expected from the long-term declining trend, but it was rather higher than in the previous season. Rarities in winter were non-seabirds including Barn Owl and Wood Duck.*

## **GEMENGD BROEDPAAR DOUGALLS STERN MET DOUGALLS X VISDIEF-HYBRIDE IN ZEEBRUGGE (BELGIË)**

### *MIXED BREEDING PAIR ROSEATE TERN AND HYBRID ROSEATE X COMMON TERN IN ZEEBRUGGE, BELGIUM*

Courtens W., E.W.M. Stienen, M. Van de Walle & H. Verstraete 2008. Gemengd broedpaar Dougalls Stern met Dougalls X Visdief-hybride in Zeebrugge (België). *Sula* 21(3): 123-131. *In 2008, a mixed pair of a Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* and a hybrid Roseate X Common Tern *S. hirundo* nested at an artificial peninsula in the port of Zeebrugge, Belgium. Although more Roseate Terns (at least 9 individuals) and hybrids (at least 3) have visited the large colony of Common Terns, only one pair nested here before. The female Roseate Tern was ringed in 2004 as a chick at Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, Ireland. At first sight and based on sound, her partner appeared to be a Common Tern, but*

close examination of a photo revealed that it had several Roseate Tern characteristics. The two-egg clutch was completed 13 June 2008 and the first chick hatched 4 July. Both eggs and chicks showed characteristics intermediate between Common and Roseate Tern. The pair probably fledged one chick. Hybridisation between Roseate and Common Tern is described in literature and also successful breeding of their hybrid offspring has been mentioned. This is to our knowledge, however, the first documented report of a mixed pair Roseate Tern and hybrid Roseate X Common Tern in Europe.

## BRAMEN OP DE NEDERLANDSE KUST

### ATLANTIC POMFRETS ON THE DUTCH COAST

Franeker J.A. van 2008. Bramen op de Nederlandse kust. *Sula* 21(3): 132-134. During a beached bird survey along the Waddensea dyke of Texel on 10 December 2008, scavenging gulls indicated the remains of an Atlantic Pomfret or Ray's Bream *Brama brama*. On the island's North Sea beach, at least 17 specimens had been found in the preceding weekend by staff of the marine education center Ecomare. Pomfrets are predatory fish of deep warm water, only occasionally coming to North Sea latitudes in late autumn where they may die if trapped in undep fast cooling water.

Postscript: on 6 January 2009 the author encountered another pomfret, which turned out to be report nr 45 for just the island of Texel. As many as 200 further reports for the Netherlands and other locations in the southern North Sea during winter 2008-2009 illustrate the strength of the invasion. Earlier invasions of similar magnitude on Dutch beaches date back to 1952 and 1976 and all of these are actually peak-years in periods of several years in which Breams occur in the area (information Hans Witte).

## STRANDING VAN NOORDSE STORMVOGELS BEGIN JANUARI 2009

### FULMAR WRECK EARLY JANUARY 2009

Franeker J.A. van 2008. Stranding van Noordse Stormvogels begin januari 2009. *Sula* 21(3): 135-138. After the 4th of January 2009 a sudden influx of Northern Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis* has been observed in the southern and eastern North Sea. Many emaciated specimens were found dead on beaches initially in the north of the Netherlands, subsequently in Germany and most recently in southwestern Norway. Densities go up to the unusual level of about one Fulmar per km of beach. At the time of writing of this first report (18 January) the full extent of the wreck is still uncertain. Among beached birds and during some at sea observations, an exceptionally high percentage of dark coloured high arctic fulmars has been seen observed, reminding of a wreck in 1962. There appears to be little similarity to the more recent wreck in 2004 when many birds showed plumage problems and arrested moult. Further reports, beach surveys and the collection of beached Fulmars are requested to both document the wreck and sample birds for the monitoring study of plastics in their stomachs. An 'events-calendar' and short colour-phase manual and other relevant documentation on the wreck will be posted on [www.zeevogelgroep.nl](http://www.zeevogelgroep.nl). Please send information to [jan.vanfranecker@wur.nl](mailto:jan.vanfranecker@wur.nl).

## ZEEVISSEN MET ZACHT PLASTIC KUNSTAAS

### SEA ANGLING WITH SOFT PLASTIC BAIT

Van Franeker J.A., M. Brugge & A. Gronert 2008. Zeevissen met zacht plastic kunstaas. *Sula* 21(3): 139-142. For ethical and environmental reasons, a growing number of sea anglers replaces live bait with artificial substitutes. However, beach surveys and seabirds signal increasing environmental problems associated with the loss of 'softbait'. Manufacturers are requested to design softbait that is less prone to be lost, and anglers are asked to be well aware of the potential risk of bait loss.