

## SEAWATCHING, JUNE-AUGUST 1989

Although seawatching was not spectacular, some 150 hours were spent on coastal sites; mainly at the Hondsbosche Zeewering (Hbz) and in Egmond aan Zee (Egm). 36 hours were received from sites in Zuid-Holland (mainly Scheveningen and Bloemendaal).

Shearwaters were observed in small numbers but far more frequently than in other summers. Manx Shearwaters predominated and the maximum count was 72 individuals on 28 June (Hbz). Remarkable records were 3 Balearic and 2 Cory's Shearwaters in August. Fulmars were more numerous than usual, but numbers never exceeded some tens/day. Hundreds of Gannets were seen on some days in July and August, mainly during strong westerly winds.

The only duck seen in numbers in summer is the Shelduck. Moulting migrating Shelducks were observed on a few days in late June and early July, with peak numbers on 10 and 11 July (ca. 1,000 heading north, Egm). In August, especially in easterly winds, some wader migration was recorded. In most cases numbers were low but species diversity was striking. Interesting species passing by in numbers were Whimbrel and Ringed Plover.

Arctic Skuas were not very numerous this summer until the second half of August. On 27 August there was a maximum count of 65 individuals at Hbz and another 31 one day later. Great and Pomarine Skuas were seen occasionally in very small numbers. In late July and early August, large numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen in early morning counts along the Noord-Holland coast. Large numbers of this species can usually be seen in the Wadden Sea in summer. In both Noord- and Zuid-Holland Mediterranean Gulls were very regular visitors; probably reflecting the good breeding season for this species in the Netherlands. Terns were the most remarkable migrants this summer: 'comic' terns (mainly Common Tern) were seen in quite outstanding numbers in August, especially in Noord-Holland. Thousands on one day was no exception and on 17 August alone, over 6,300 terns were seen heading south (Hbz). Sandwich Terns were also seen in good numbers, with migration starting mid-July. Peak numbers were 1,389 terns on 31 July (Hbz). Little and Black Terns were not particularly numerous.

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