

Enkele gegevens over de Indische griel, *Esacus magnirostris scommophorus* (Vieill.), op Java

door

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(met Plaat 2)

In aansluiting op een door mij geschreven artikel over de griel, dat gepubliceerd werd in „de Tropische Natuur” (26, 1937, p. 40—45) kan ik nu nog mededeelen in de jaren 1937—1942 binnen het wildreservaat Oedjoeng-Koelon viermaal een legsel en éénmaal een klein jong van dezen merkwaardigen vogel te hebben gevonden.

Twee van deze legsels werden gevonden langs de Zuidkust van dit gebied en twee langs de Noordzijde, evenals ook het jong. Alle legsels bestonden uit slechts één enkel ei, terwijl ook het jong alleen was, zoodat dit vermoedelijk bij deze soort normaal geacht kan worden. De vondsten werden alle gedaan in de maanden Augustus-October en zonder uitzondering langs de hooge zijde van het strand waar de eieren in een kuiltje in het zand waren gedeponneerd zonder eenig of met slechts weinig nest-materiaal (zie Plaat 2, fig. 1).

Het jong werd gevonden op 18 September 1940 en was ongeveer 5 dagen oud. Het drukte zich op het zand nabij wat stukjes koraal en aanspoelsel en was, zooals bijgaande foto (Plaat 2, fig. 2) doet zien, slechts met heel veel moeite van de omgeving te onderscheiden. Het was grijsachtig met zwarte vlekjes en streepjes, het oog was tusschen licht- en donkergrijs, de pooten licht groen en de snavel ongeveer zwart. Voor zoover mij bekend is, was dit de eerste maal, dat een klein jong van deze soort op Java werd gevonden.

Evenals wanneer de vogels eieren hebben waren de oude grielen, of meestal slechts één van hen, ook thans op verre afstand van het nest zichtbaar en verrieden door hun zenuwachtig rennen en kop-geknik, dat er iets aan de hand was. Ook werden enkele malen twee oude vogels waargenomen te zamen met een derde, veel kleiner exemplaar, dat vermoedelijk eveneens een jonge vogel was en eens — langs de Zuidkust — werd een bijna vliegvlug jong gezien, dat, nadat het zich „gedrukt” had, niet meer door mij kon worden opgespoord.

A Dutch specimen of *Anser arvensis serrirostris* Swinhoe

by

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(with one text-figure)

Through the kindness of Mr. Roelvelde (Utrecht) I had the opportunity to examine one skin and 27 prepared heads of *Anser arvensis* Brehm („Rietgans”), caught during the severe winter 1946—47 near the southern coast of the IJsselmeer.

The skin is that of a juvenile bird of the year (Dec. 19th 1946 Barneveld, prov. of Guelderland) with narrow mantlefeathers and typically marbled grey under-surface. Its measurements are as follows (fig. 1):

Wing 438 mm.
 Culmen 63.8; nail of upper mandible 17 mm.
 Greatest depth of lower mandible with shut bill 11.6 mm. (left hand side); 9 mm (right hand side): in the skin the right ramus of the lower mandible is somewhat forced in an unnatural position, thus making the measurements of the height on both sides somewhat inaccurate; its real measurement may be between 10 and 11 mm.

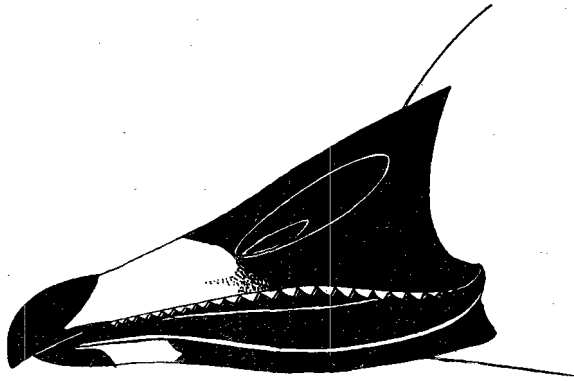


Fig. 1. *Anser a. serrirostris* Swinh. Barneveld, Prov. of Guelderland, 19 Dec. 1946. About natural size.

Height of bill at base 34.6 mm.

Number of teeth in upper mandible 22.

The lower mandible is decidedly curved and there is only a rather narrow yellow band across the black bill. The quotient q (half the length of the culmen and height of bill at base; cf. Limosa 18, 1946, p. 92) is 1.12, expressing a considerable height of the bill. From these it is quite clear that the specimen represents a tundra goose, of which measurements are given by Démentieff (1936), Tougarinov (1941) and Johansen (1945). Démentieff: (*serrirostris*) 39 breeding birds (σ φ): wing 422—524; culmen 58.5—71.5; height of lower mandible 8—12.5 mm. Tougarinov: (*serrirostris*) wing 428—520; culmen 58—71.5; height of lower mandible 8.7—13.3; height of bill 32.7—40 mm. Johansen: (*rossicus*) wing 405—455; culmen 51—66; height of lower mandible 6.9—9.5; height of bill 30—33 mm; (*serrirostris*) wing up to 470; culmen up to 68; height of lower mandible 8—10.5; height of bill 34—35 mm.

While assuming that specimens of the western breeding populations of the tundra bean-geese (*rossicus*) have generally smaller measurements than those east of the Taimyr Peninsula (*serrirostris*), showing a clinal variation, the above mentioned specimen represents a rather eastern migrant for which the name *serrirostris* must be used, especially on account of the high lower mandible.

Anser arvensis serrirostris Swinhoe 1871 (China, wintering near Amoy) is new to the avifauna of the Netherlands. Its breeding range is situated in central North Siberia east of the Chatanga River and extending as far eastward as to where clinal variation makes necessary the separation of an even more heavily billed form *mentalis* (cf. Limosa 18, 1945, p. 74—75).

A specimen which I think must be referred to *rossicus*, caught in the Netherlands (Jan. 18th 1888, Bunschoten) is mentioned by me in Limosa 17, 1944, p. 48. With one doubtful exception, this specimen was up to now the only Dutch bean-geese known to me, which exactly agrees with the drawing given by Johansen of a breeding specimen of *rossicus*. Similar specimens with almost identical bills are present in the series of prepared heads in the possession of Mr. Roelleveld. Like the above mentioned one, all are caught near Bunschoten (!), province of Utrecht. These specimens show the following measurements (hl = height of lower mandible; h = height of bill at base; q = quotient of half the length of the culmen and height of bill at base):

1. culmen 56.4; hl = 9.1; h = 31.6 mm; q = 1.12.
2. culmen 52.2; hl = 9.8; h = 30.0 mm; q = 1.15.
3. culmen 56.7; hl = 8.9; h = 32.8 mm; q = 1.15.
4. culmen 51.6; hl = 8.2; h = 29.5 mm; q = 1.14.

N.B. In forest bean-geese the quotient q is smaller than, or like 1; the lowest figure found in the remaining series of mainly forest geese being as low as 0.89, with a mean value of 0.99.

Besides, there is one rather heavy and long tundra goose-like bill, which following the measurements given by Johansen is either *rossicus* or *serrirostris*. Johansen mentions an intermediate *rossicus-serrirostris* breeding zone between the Taimyr Peninsula and the mouth of the Chatanga River.

5. culmen 61.4; hl = 10.9; h = 34.4 mm; q = 1.12.

It is of interest to know that according to Mr. L. Blokhuis (Spakenburg) the distinctness of the race *rossicus* is very well known by the goose-hunters along the southern IJsselmeer-coast, who, moreover, distinguish the birds not only structurally, but also by their rather high pitched call.

When summarizing the above remarks, it has been shown that during the severe winter 1946—47 a rather large number of tundra geese have been caught in the Netherlands, among which one specimen has been referred to the race *serrirostris* with no more certainty than appears to be possible for a migrant.

Literature cited:

- Démentieff, G., 1936: Essai de revision des formes de l'Oie des moissons *Anser fabalis* Latham. Alauda (Paris) 8, p. 169—193.
- Tougarinov, A. J., 1941: Faune de l'URSS. Aves. I, no. 4, Anseriformes. Acad. Sc. URSS. Moscou—Leningrad.
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Notes on the races of *Uria aalge* (Pont.) occurring along the Dutch North Sea coast

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Examination of a series of 66 specimens of *Uria aalge* (Pont.), for the greater majority washed ashore the Dutch North Sea coast after heavy gales or as oil victims, representing both migrating and wintering birds, reveals the following points.

1. Based upon the commonly known diagnostic characters, extreme specimens of the races *albionis* (southern form: 32 specimens = 48%) and *aalge* (northern form: 19 specimens = 29%) could be easily distinguished.

a. *Albionis* Witherby 1923: Yorkshire, England.

32 Dutch birds: wing 188—203, average 197.5 mm.

16 birds measured by Salomonsen (p. 31): wing 190—202, average 197.9 mm. Witherby (Handbook Brit. Birds 1941, p. 158): wing 191—204 mm.

b. *Aalge* (Pontoppidan 1763: Iceland).

The race *spiloptera* (Salomonsen 1932: Faroes) is usually considered to be synonymous with *aalge*. It is said to resemble greatly this race: "owing to the great individual variation in *U. a. aalge* this form is difficult to distinguish from