

SEAWATCHING, JUNE - AUGUST 1988 (CvZ)

About 150 hours of seawatching were carried out at the mainland coast of Noord-Holland. A few additional hours were received from the Wadden Isles and over 30 hours from the Frisian mainland coast (within the Wadden Sea).

Fulmars turned up exclusively in stormy circumstances at the beginning of June and in July. Manx Shearwaters were recorded in small numbers in July. Gannets were seen frequently in June and August, including 170 individuals on 16 July.

Common Scoters showed the usual low numbers this summer. In early June peak numbers of migrating Brent Geese were observed as usual. Moulting-migrating Shelducks can be expected along the coast of Noord-Holland in June and July. This summer, however, moulting-migration was observed on two days only, including 1150 Shelducks heading north on 19 June and another 700 on 16 July.

Wader migration was most striking at the end of July and in early August. Most species were observed in small numbers only, with the Whimbrel being most numerous.

Arctic Skuas were regularly seen only in the second half of August. Black-headed Gulls were observed in large numbers, migrating south on several days in August and fair numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen also this month. The other gulls did not show any regular migration. Terns were always present, with Common and Sandwich Terns being most numerous. Some northward migration of Sandwich Terns was recorded in June and hundreds a day were counted heading south in August. Black Terns were seen migrating at the end of July and in early August from a site on the Frisian mainland coast.

Important information was obtained from: Nick van der Ham, A.A.Kraus, Jan den Ouden, Maarten Platteeuw, Leo Stegeman, Dook Vlugt, Chris Winter, Bert Winters.