

Korte bijdragen

SIGHTINGS OF AN ALL-DARK BLACK GUILLEMOT *CEPPHUS GRYLLE* IN SHETLAND

Waarnemingen van een geheel donkere Zwarte Zee-koet op de Shetland Eilanden

On 11th October 1989, R.J.Tulloch and I were counting seabirds from a boat in Yell Sound (Shetland) when we noticed an unusual Black Guillemot flying south along the west coast of Bigga (off SW tip Yell). The bird lacked the normal white patches on the wings and appeared almost completely blackish in colour, with only a faint and indistinct pale line along the trailing edge of the upper wing coverts. We soon came across the bird again, on the sea some 400 metres further to the south and obtained close views as it dived repeatedly. We confirmed that the plumage was uniform blackish-brown, although the legs were reddish.

On 28th November 1989, G.Scanlan, RJT and I saw what we presumed to be the same bird, again flying south along the west coast of Bigga. The all-dark plumage appeared the same as on the earlier occasion although all other Black Guillemots in the area had by then moulted into full winter plumage. Despite extensive surveys of Black Guillemots in Shetland during the 1980s, these were only the third and fourth recorded sightings of an all-dark individual in the islands (Ewins 1984), suggesting the extreme rarity of this 'motzfeldi' plumage variation (Salomonsen 1941). These variants have been recorded from the Outer Hebrides, Norway, Iceland, Spitsbergen and Greenland. Some of these individuals appear to retain all-dark plumage during winter (Cramp 1985).

Samenvatting Op 11 oktober en 28 november 1989 nam de auteur samen met R.J.Tulloch en G.Scanlan in Yell Sound (Shetland) een geheel donkere Zwarte Zeekoet waar onder gunstige condities. De witte vleugelvelden ontbraken volkomen en er was slechts een vage lichte streep waarneembaar op de bovenzleugeldekveren. De poten waren roodachtig. Het verenkleed was bij de tweede ontmoeting identiek, ofschoon alle andere Zwarte Zeekoeten inmiddels naar een volledig winterkleed geruid waren. In totaal zijn er slechts vier waarnemingen op de Shetlandeilanden

van deze zeldzame mutant motzfeldi, waaruit mag blijken hoe zeldzaam deze vorm is. De variant is ook waargenomen op de Outer Hebrides, in Noorwegen, op IJsland, Spitsbergen en Groenland, maar van de meeste exemplaren is bekend dat ze wel een winterkleed aanleggen.

Cramp S. 1985. Birds of the Western Palearctic IV, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Ewins P. 1984. Scott.Birds 13:26.

Salomonsen F. 1941. The Black-winged Guillemot (*Uria grylle* mut. *motzfeldi* Benicken). Miscellaneous notes on Greenland Ornithology V. Medd. om Gronland 131 nr. 6.

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