

Occurrence and identification of 'isabelline shrikes' in the Netherlands in 1985-2006 and records in Europe

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In the Netherlands, two taxa of the 'isabelline shrike complex' have been recorded. Between 1977 and 1997, this complex was considered to consist of a single polytypic species, *Lanius isabellinus*. Before 1977, it was usually considered conspecific with Red-backed Shrike *L. collurio* and Brown Shrike *L. cristatus* (cf Voous 1977). In 1998, the Dutch committee on avian systematics (CSNA) decided to treat the three taxa of the isabelline shrike complex as specifically distinct, based on qualitative differences in morphology, analysis of their contact zone and vocalizations (Sangster et al 1998): Turkestan Shrike *L. phoenicuroides* (hereafter *phoenicuroides*), Daurian Shrike *L. isabellinus* (hereafter *isabellinus*) and Chinese Shrike *L. arenarius* (hereafter *arenarius*). Until 2000, Daurian Shrike was known erroneously as *L. specularis* and Chinese Shrike as *L. isabellinus* (Dutch Birding 22: 362, 2000, van den Berg & Bosman 1999, 2001). For information on breeding grounds, migration and wintering areas of the three taxa, see Worfolk (2000). *Phoenicuroides* occurs in two colour morphs, the grey 'karelini' morph and the rufous 'phoenicuroides' morph. In Kazakhstan, where *phoenicuroides* is a widespread breeding bird, the 'karelini' morph dominates in the lowlands north and west of Lake Balkash (where the distribution meets that of Red-backed Shrike *L. collurio*), whereas the 'phoenicuroides' morph dominates in the mountains south and east of Lake Balkash (Wassink & Oreeel 2007, Arend Wassink in litt).

Following this decision and the publication discussing the identification of 'red-backed, isabelline and brown shrikes' (Worfolk 2000), the Dutch rarities committee (CDNA) decided to review all records of 'isabelline shrikes'. This paper describes the 10 records up to and including 2006 in detail and summarizes the decisions of the CDNA, which are mainly based on the identification criteria set out in Worfolk (2000). The general identification as 'isabelline shrike' of these 10 birds is considered straightforward and the discussions therefore focus on the identification to species level. The report of a presumed adult male Turkestan Shrike photographed at Oostvaardersplassen, Flevoland, on 26 July 2007 (cf Dutch Birding 29: 337, plate 486, 2007) is still under consideration and therefore not discussed in this paper. It should be emphasized that, when new insights in the identification of 'isabelline shrikes' may emerge, records could be reviewed again accordingly.

Below, the records in the Netherlands are discussed in chronological order. In addition, an overview is presented of all records elsewhere in central and western Europe,

involving both *isabellinus* and *phoenicuroides*, as well as many birds not (yet) accepted to species level (appendix 1). The status of *arenarius* in the Western Palearctic is unclear, with several birds showing (some) characters of this species having been reported in Iraq (Cramp & Perrins 1993) and Syria (Hofland et al 2005), as well as one or two in Europe, in Italy (see appendix 1). Several rarities committees of the countries involved have not (yet) considered records to species level or treat the three taxa as belonging to one polytypic species. Also, the criteria applied by different committees for ageing, sexing and accepting birds to species level may differ and the list of European records therefore also reflects the different treatments of 'isabelline shrikes' by these committees.

Records in the Netherlands

18-19 October 1985, Schorrenweg, Texel, Noord-Holland

On 18-19 October 1985, Paul Wouters observed and photographed a shrike which he believed was a pale Red-backed Shrike perched on a pile of reeds for an hour at a range of 8-15 m at Schorrenweg, Texel. 10 years later, he examined the photographs and re-identified the bird as 'isabelline shrike' and the sighting was submitted to the CDNA. A full account of this record was published in Wouters (1996).

Description

The description here is based on three published photographs (cf Dutch Birding 18: 131-133, plate 134-136, 1996) and two additional photographs by PW submitted to the CDNA.

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong bill, hooked at tip. Primary projection c 80% of tertial length.

HEAD Upperhead sandy grey-brown; ear-patch blackish-brown behind eye with small blackish brown line between nostril and eye. Lore greyish. Suggestion of short pale grey eye-stripe above ear-patch. Chin and throat whitish; cheek on two photographs with buffish hue, whitish on third photograph.

UPPERPARTS Pale sandy grey-brown; rump and uppertail-coverts rufous brown.

UNDERPARTS Breast and belly whitish with orange hue at lower side of belly. Undertail-coverts whitish. Side of breast and flank with blackish chevrons.

WING Upperwing sandy grey-brown like upperparts. Median coverts with dark centre and buffish tip; greater coverts greyish-brown with black subterminal line and whitish tip; primaries, secondaries and tertials a shade darker sandy grey-brown, with pale tip.



99-100 'Isabelline shrike' / 'izabelklauwier' *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*, first-winter, Schorrenweg, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 18 October 1985 (Paul Wouters) **101** Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, adult, De Cocksdoorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 4 May 1995 (Rob Bouwman) **102** Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, first-winter, Lauwersoog, Friesland, Netherlands, 11 December 1996 (Sander Lagerveld)

TAIL Uppertail rufous-brown, darkest at tip.
BARE PARTS Bill pale pinkish at base, getting darker towards black tip; leg blackish, eye black.
SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was aged as a first-winter on the basis of the dark subterminal markings and whitish edges on the median and greater coverts. The uniform sandy grey-brown upperparts, lack of a clear supercilium and, on some photographs, buffish-orange hue on the cheeks point towards *isabellinus*. However, the blackish subterminal markings on the greater coverts and flanks as well as the slight indication of markings on the forehead are probably better for *phoenicuroides*. The CDNA could not agree on its identification, with one vote in favour of *isabellinus* and seven of *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*. Therefore, it was accepted as *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*.

21 October 1993, De Hooge Berg, Texel, Noord-Holland

On 21 October 1993 at c 16:45, Marcel Capello and Wilfred Mahu discovered an 'isabelline shrike' near De Hooge Berg, on the central part of Texel. It was seen by c 20 other birders until c 17:50 and was photographed in the last hour of daylight. The next day it could not be relocated. A full account of this record was published in Capello et al (1994).

Description

The following description is a translation from the original version by Capello et al (1994); it is mainly based on field notes by Enno Ebels, Koert Scholten and Vincent van der Spek, a field sketch by Bram Rijksen (Dutch Birding 16: 227, figure 1, 1994) and photographs by Carl Derks (cf Dutch Birding 15: 285, plate 210, 1993).

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SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, about size of Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (although no direct comparison possible), with much longer tail, large head, rounded body, large dark eye, and short strong bill with small hook at upper mandible. Overall impression pale grey-brown, like washed-out Red-backed Shrike, colour of head and upperparts reminiscent of female House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Tail-end rounded, especially visible in flight. Wing looking short in flight; primary projection c 100% of longest tertial. Bill short and thick, with high base.

HEAD Pale grey-brown (like upperparts), possibly somewhat darker on crown. Very vague brown-grey scaly markings on greyer forehead and possibly on side of crown. Crown and neck unmarked. Ear-patch darker brown compared with rest of head, darkest behind eye, forming vague 'mask'. Small dark marking under eye becoming vague towards pale lore. Short supercilium off-white, starting just before and ending just behind eye at end of mask.

UPPERPARTS Mantle, scapulars and back pale grey-brown, unmarked, without scales, spots or edges. Rump reddish-brown like tail; exact border between back and rump not observed.

UNDERPARTS Chin, throat, breast, belly and undertail-coverts white to off-white; lower flank strikingly orange or rufous. On flank, some very vague scales visible (half-moon shaped), with convex side towards tail (coloured orange-brown when seen at closer range; Wilfred Mahu in litt). Remainder of underparts unmarked.

WING Mostly brown, darker than upperparts (although not blackish or dark-brown), with paler edges on coverts and remiges, giving more pied expression than upperparts. Tertiaries looking darkest, brown with pale edges. Exact wing-pattern not observed.

TAIL Uppertail warm rufous-brown, most conspicuous in flight, contrasting with colder and paler colours of upperparts. Undertail rufous to rufous-orange, paler than upptail; central tail-feathers darker rufous or orange-red.

BARE PARTS Eye large and dark, contrasting with pale face. Bill flesh coloured to yellowish-pink at base, dark-grey or grey-brown at tip. Leg black.

BEHAVIOUR Typically shrike-like, perched on vantage points, like pile of manure, barbed wire, poles and small dikes. For considerable time perched in small bush. Once seen flying from pole into grass of nearby meadow and returning to same pole (not visible if prey was obtained). Also once seen choking at pile of manure (but not seen with certainty if pellet was produced). Flight direct in straight line and low above ground.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was aged as a first-winter on the basis of the broad pale edges to the wing-coverts. All photographs are out of focus (a shutter time of 2 sec was needed) and do not show any clear features to distinguish between *isabellinus* and *phoenicuroides*. However, the uniform sandy upperparts and underparts – as described by the observers – reminiscent of a female House Sparrow give a slight suggestion towards *isabellinus* but the presence of a pale supercilium is probably better for *phoenicuroides*. Therefore, the CDNA could not agree on its specific identification, with one vote in favour of *isabellinus* and seven of *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*, and it was accepted as *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*.

4 May 1995, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland

On 4 May 1995, an adult 'isabelline shrike' was discovered independently by Herman van Oosten at 10:45

and by Arend Wassink at 13:00 on the northern tip of Texel. It was well observed until c 19:30 by c 40 observers and photographs were taken by Rob Bouwman, Sander Lagerveld and Ferry Ossendorp. The next day it could not be relocated. A full account of this record was published in Wassink (1996).

Description

The following description is translated from Wassink (1996); it is based on field notes by AW, a field sketch by Dirk Moerbeek and photographs by RB and SL (cf Dutch Birding 18: 130, plate 133, 1996).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Although direct comparison with Red-backed Shrike not possible, bird seemingly larger with somewhat thicker head, relatively longer tail and larger bill. General impression of sandy-coloured shrike with orange-brown tail. At distance reminiscent of female Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Primary projection not described and not clearly visible on photographs.

HEAD Sandy, darker brown on upperhead; ear-patch blackish-brown, forming clear mask. Narrow white supercilium present above mask, widest behind eye and connecting with upper mandible before eye. Small whitish line under mask. Lore blackish-brown. Cheek with buff spots.

UPPERPARTS Back and mantle sandy. Scapulars pale grey-brown, from behind visible as pale 'V'. Rump and upptail-coverts orange-brown.

UNDERPARTS Chin, throat, breast and belly white to off-white. Breast with light buffish hue. Flank pale buffish, darker than breast. Undertail-coverts white to off-white.

WING Primaries blackish brown with pale edge. Inner primaries with white at base, on closed wing forming small square. Secondaries blackish-brown, with pale edge, forming pale wing-panel when perched. Tertiaries blackish-brown, edged buffish. Coverts and alula blackish-brown edged buffish-white. Carpal joint white to off-white. Underwing very pale, very conspicuous in flight.

TAIL When perched, distal one-third of upptail dark brown. Central tail-feathers wholly dark brown. Rest of upptail rusty-red, darker than upptail-coverts. Undertail pale grey with orange-brown hue. Tail pattern reminiscent of Common Redstart. Tail rounded.

BARE PARTS Eye dark. Bill dark horn, paler at base of lower mandible. Leg dark grey-brown.

BEHAVIOUR Hunting for insects from poles and barbed wire. Catching insects from ground and in air. Regularly producing pellets. Flight low and direct, sometimes flying for considerable distances.

Identification

The bird was aged as an adult on the basis of the black face-mask and the blackish wing-coverts and tertiaries with buffish edges. The published photographs were taken in head-on light in the last hour of sunlight and seem to be overexposed (cf van den Berg & Bosman 2001). Therefore, this bird resembled *phoenicuroides* more than it actually was. More photographs were obtained, eg, from Sander Lagerveld, taken earlier on the day in better light conditions. On these series, the orange-buff underparts were clearly visible. This, combined with the sandy upperparts, made the CDNA vote unanimously for *isabellinus*.

8-11 December 1996, Lauwersoog, Friesland/Groningen

On 8 December 1996 at c 11:00, foreign birders Thomas Bamberger, Daniel Duff and Peter Herkenrath discovered an 'isabelline shrike' from the café near the ferry terminal of Lauwersoog, Groningen. It flew to the west (passing the border with Friesland) and was rediscovered at the parking lot c 500 m west of Lauwersoog, where it stayed until 11 December. It was very elusive (largely due to persistent fog) and only showed itself once or twice a day. On the last day of its stay, 11 December, at least three photographers were able to take some photographs at c 10:00, during a 15 min showing of the bird.

Description

The description is based on that submitted to the CDNA by TB, DD and PH and several photographs taken by Theo Bakker, Erik Koops and Sander Lagerveld (cf Dutch Birding 19: 43, plate 46, 1997).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong bill, hooked at tip. Primary projection equalling length of tertials. Bill short and thick, with high base. Primary projection c 100% of length of longest tertials.

HEAD Upperhead sandy grey-brown. Ear-patch blackish-brown behind eye, small blackish-brown line between nostril and eye. Lore greyish; above ear-patch suggestion of short pale grey eye-stripe; chin and throat whitish, cheek on two photographs with buffish hue, whitish on third photograph.

UPPERPARTS Pale sandy grey-brown. Rump and uppertail-coverts rufous-brown.

UNDERPARTS Breast and belly whitish with orange hue at lower side of belly. Undertail-coverts whitish. Side of breast and flank with rufous (according to photographs and some observers; Max Berlijn pers comm) or black (original description by first observers) chevrons.

WING Uppervying sandy grey-brown like upperparts. Median coverts with dark centre and buffish tip; greater coverts greyish-brown with black subterminal line and whitish tip. Primaries, secondaries and tertials shade darker sandy grey-brown, with pale tip.

TAIL Uppertail rufous-brown, darkest at tail tip.

BARE PARTS Eye large and dark, contrasting with pale head. Bill pink at base, dark-grey or grey-brown at tip.

BEHAVIOUR Feeding from reed-polls, wooden poles and hiding in low willow bushes. Seen catching and eating mouse. Flight low over ground.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was aged as a first-winter on the basis of dark subterminal markings and whitish edges on the outer median and greater coverts. All photographs clearly show the absence of a supercilium and the sandy-grey upperparts, hardly contrasting with the underparts. Moreover, an orange-buff hue on the lower cheeks, throat and breast was visible. The tertials did not have any contrasting terminal or subterminal markings. Only at close range, some faint barring was visible on the breast sides. TB, DD and PH described these as being black but others described them as rufous. It most resembled the bird in plate 340 in Worfolk (2000). This combination of characters made the CDNA vote unanimously for *isabellinus*.

1-3 October 2000, Noordhollands Duinreservaat, Castricum, Noord-Holland

On 1 October 2000 at c 09:15, Ingmar van der Brugge discovered an 'isabelline shrike' in thorny bushes at Noordhollands Duinreservaat near Castricum. It stayed until 3 October. Several series of photographs are available from all three days of its stay. During the first day, it was photographed during prolonged hours of rain by one photographer. The two photographs show a bird reminiscent of a first-winter *phoenicuroides*. On 3 October 2000, the light conditions were excellent and this resulted in better series of photographs. These show that the bird lacked a clear supercilium and had uniform sandy-grey upperparts, tertials without contrasting terminal or subterminal markings, and – most importantly – orange-buff underparts. The underparts were well marked, as the bird in plate 337 in Worfolk (2000). An account of this record was published in Meininger et al (2000).

Description

The description is based on photographs by Leo Boon and Harm Niesen (cf Dutch Birding 22: 309, plate 309, 2000).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong bill, hooked at tip. Primary projection c 90-100% of length of longest tertial.

HEAD Upper head with warm greyish brown, lacking any reddish tones. Ear-patch dark warm brown behind eye, rather conspicuous in good light. Eye-ring vague and mainly present at rear of orbital ring; cheek and throat off-white, with some markings on cheek.

UPPERPARTS Warm greyish-brown like head; rump and uppertail-coverts rufous; uppertail-coverts showing some (sub)terminal pale chevrons.

UNDERPARTS Throat, breast and belly pale orange-buff, with darker orange hue on lower side of belly, with reddish to dark brown chevrons. Undertail-coverts whitish.

WING Greater coverts brown with reddish hue on centre; margins pale cream-colored. Pale margins giving suggestion of wing-bar. At least primary coverts with black subterminal markings. Alula blackish, with narrow buffish edges. Primaries, secondaries and tertials shade darker sandy grey-brown, with – especially on secondaries – pale tip. Upper tertial with darker shaft, reddish centre and broad off-white margin, hardly contrasting.

TAIL Uppertail rufous-brown, darkest at tip; central tail-feathers darker than outer.

BARE PARTS Eye black; bill pale pinkish at base, getting darker towards black tip; leg blackish.

BEHAVIOUR Mostly perched on top of bushes. Rather approachable during second and third day of its stay.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was aged as a first-winter on the basis of dark subterminal markings and whitish edges on the primary coverts. The (almost complete) lack of contrast between upperparts and underparts, absence of a supercilium, presence of a buffish wash on cheeks and side of throat, warm brown ear-coverts as well as brown – instead of black – chevron markings on the underparts made the CDNA vote (after three rounds) in favour of *isabellinus*.

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103 Turkestan Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides*, adult male, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 2 October 2000 (René Pop)

104 Turkestan Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides*, adult male, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 2 October 2000 (René van Rossum)





105 Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, first-year, Castricum, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 3 October 2000 (Frank Dröge)

106 Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, Horsmeertjes, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 25 September 2003 (Leo J R Boon/Cursorius)



1 October 2000, Vliehors, Vlieland, Friesland, and 2-6 October 2000, De Cocksdorp, Texel, Noord-Holland

On 1 October 2000, Bart Briefies, Peter Meininger and Peter de Vries discovered an adult male 'isabelline shrike' at the westernmost tip of Vliehors, Vlieland, in the last hour of daylight. It was seen on the beach close to the flood line together with several small passerines, all seemingly grounded by an incoming rain front. Together with 11 other birders they observed the bird for c 10 minutes before it flew off. The next day, the same bird was rediscovered by Harm-Jan Wight near De Cocksdorp on the northern tip of the neighbouring island of Texel (after a sea-crossing of 4-5 km). Here, it was well observed until 6 October. The first days of its presence, it was thought to be *isabellinus*, based on the draft version (without plates!) of Worfolk (2000) because it was believed that any adult male with some or more buff on the underparts should be *isabellinus*. During prolonged observation in good light, and after consulting Tim Worfolk (in litt), it became clear this male should be identified as an adult *phoenicuroides* (cf Worfolk 2000). An account of this record was published in Meininger et al (2000).

Description

The description is based on photographs by Marten van Dijl, René Pop and René van Rossum (Dutch Birding 22: 309, plate 308, 342, plate 326-327, 2000, 23: 339, plate 388) and video recordings by Marc Plomp (Plomp et al 2001).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong hooked bill; primary projection c 75% of tertial length.

HEAD Upper head sandy grey brown. Ear-patch and lore black; clear white supercilium above ear-patch, narrowest before eye, widening behind eye with sudden stop.

UPPERPARTS Grey brown, with some warm brown hue, depending on light conditions; rump and uppertail-coverts rufous orange-brown.

UNDERPARTS Throat, breast and belly white. Lower side of belly orange; undertail-coverts white. No chevrons present.

WING Greater and median coverts with dark brown centre and contrasting reddish-brown tip; tertials dark brown with whitish fringes. Primaries and secondaries darkest brown with some whitish margins on secondaries; base of primaries whitish, forming clear primary patch.

TAIL Rufous-brown, outer margins darker than inner margins and top of tail-feathers with off-white edge.

BARE PARTS Eye large and dark, almost showing no contrast with black ear-patch; bill pale pinkish at base, getting darker towards black tip. Leg blackish.

BEHAVIOUR Typically shrike-like, perched on top of bushes, sitting on wires and catching prey from ground or during aerial pursuit.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was aged as an adult on the basis of the black face-mask and the dark brown wing-coverts and tertials edged reddish-brown and buffish, respectively. The combination of greyish-brown upperparts, clear white supercilium and white underparts made the CDNA vote unanimously in favour of *phoenicuroides*. The bird showed characters best fitting the 'karelini' morph. The pale

base of the bill may seem atypical but, for instance, several photographs of males *phoenicuroides* taken by Nils van Duivendijk in the United Arab Emirates show a pale base of the bill, indicating that this is not uncommon; this may be an age-related character (Arend Wassink in litt).

13-27 August 2002, Bleekersvallei, Texel, Noord-Holland

On 13 August 2002, Loek Batenburg and Dirk Sparreboom found an 'isabelline shrike' at Bleekersvallei, Texel. It stayed until 27 August and was observed by many birders. During its stay, it was in active moult and nearly all remiges and rectrices and some body feathers were replaced.

Description

The description is based on the description submitted by Arend Wassink and published photographs (Dutch Birding 24: 316, plate 272-273, 2002, 25: 378, plate 429-430, 2003).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong bill. Bill short and thick, hooked at tip. Tail strongly rounded (because of growing outer tail-feathers). Primary projection not established because of active primary moult.

HEAD Upper head grey brown, with rufous hue on crown. Lore, area under eye and ear-patch black; narrow blackish brown line between nostril and eye. Narrow white supercilium starting on forehead and broadening behind eye, ending squarely. Chin and throat white.

UPPERPARTS Cold greyish brown. Rump and uppertail-coverts rufous brown.

UNDERPARTS Breast and belly whitish, with pale orange hue at lower side of belly. Undertail-coverts whitish.

WING Uppertwing sandy grey-brown like upperparts. Wing-coverts and tertials dark brown with pale rufous margins. Primaries blackish, tipped whitish. Secondaries dark brown, tipped off-white. White base on primaries, only visible in flight.

TAIL Rufous-brown; central tail-feather brownest, least rufous, outer tail-feather most rufous. Shaft blackish and tip of tail-feathers whitish.

BARE PARTS Eye black, no contrast with black lore and ear-patch. Bill pinkish at base, dark-grey to black at tip. Leg dark.

BEHAVIOUR Typically shrike-like, perched on top of bushes, catching insects on ground and during aerial pursuit.

MOULT In active moult, replacing nearly all remiges and outer rectrices and some body feathers during stay.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was aged as an adult on the basis of the black face-mask and the dark brown wing-coverts and rufous-edged tertials. The combination of white to whitish underparts, cold greyish-brown upperparts and white supercilium were clear field marks for *phoenicuroides* of the 'karelini' morph (Lars Svensson in litt). The tertials and wing-coverts were adult type, the black mask and lack of scaling on the underparts show that it was a male. Since this bird looked almost exactly the same as the bird of October 2000 on Vlieland and Texel, it gave much food for speculation whether it could be the same returning bird. However, the CDNA unanimously accepted it as the second record of *phoenicuroides* after just one round.



107-109 Turkestan Shrike / Turkestaanse Klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides*, adult, Bleekersvallei, Texel, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, 14 August 2002 (René Pop)

24-25 September 2003, Horsmeertjes, Texel, Noord-Holland

On 24 September 2003, an 'isabelline shrike' was found near Horsmeertjes, Texel. It stayed until the next day and was visited by several 10s of observers.

Description

No description was submitted to the CDNA; the description below is based on the published photographs (cf Dutch Birding 25: 426, plate 495, 2003, 26: 370, plate 522, 2004) and video recordings (Plomp et al 2004).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong bill. Primary projection difficult to see on photographs but most probably c 100% of length of longest tertial. **HEAD** Upper head sandy brownish-grey. Ear-patch blackish-brown behind eye, lore dark-brown mixed with buffish feathers. Eye-ring buffish; vague small buffish supercilium. Chin, throat and cheek with buffish hue.

UPPERPARTS Pale sandy brownish-grey as head, with some faint scaling. Rump and uppertail-coverts rufous-brown.

UNDERPARTS Whole underparts uniformly buffish; side of breast and flank with some greyish chevrons, hardly visible.

WING Upperwing sandy grey-brown like upperparts; tertials,

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median and greater coverts grey-brown with buffish-brown margins. Primaries blackish.

TAIL Rufous-brown, with white margin at feather-tips.

BARE PARTS Eye dark, contrasting with greyish-brown head. Bill flesh at base, dark-grey on culmen and tip. Leg greyish brown.

BEHAVIOUR Not described. On video-recordings, constantly perched on top of small bush.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The CDNA could not decide upon the age and sex of the bird. The poorly defined face-mask and pale bill were more in favour of a juvenile or first-winter but the lack of subterminal markings on tertials and wing-coverts fitted an adult better. The presence of some scaling on the upperparts and the lack of subterminal markings on tertials and wing-coverts point towards an adult female, because first-year birds at this time of year always seem to show at least some subterminal markings on these feathers (Arend Wassink in litt; based on many birds observed and ringed in Kazakhstan in September). The combination of uniform sandy upperparts hardly contrasting with the buffish underparts and lack of a clear supercilium made the CDNA unanimously vote in favour of *isabellinus*.

27 August 2006, Maasvlakte, Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland

On 27 August 2006 at c 19:00, John Kleijweg, Ferry van der Lans and Peter Planken found an 'isabelline shrike' at Maasvlakte, Rotterdam. C 20 birders managed to see the bird before dark and photographs were taken by a few photographers, including Chris van Rijswijk and Ellen Sandberg. A short account of this record accompanied by one photograph was published in van der Lans (2006).

Description

The following description is based on the description by FvdL and photographs by Chris van Rijswijk (cf Dutch Birding 28: 343, plate 478, 2006, 29: 369, plate 528, 2007).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong hooked bill. Primary projection c 100% of length of longest tertial.

HEAD Upperhead grey brown. Ear-patch blackish-brown behind eye, lore buffish. Faint pale eye-ring. Very vague narrow buffish supercilium. Chin, throat and cheek with buffish hue. No chevrons visible on crown or throat.

UPPERPARTS Pale sandy grey-brown as head. Rump and uppertail-coverts rufous-brown.

UNDERPARTS Whole underparts buffish, darkest on flank, lower belly and undertail-coverts. Side of breast and flank with brownish chevrons.

WING Upperwing sandy grey-brown like upperparts; median and greater coverts dark grey-brown with pale rufous-buff edges. Primaries blackish with thin whitish edge; base of primaries white, forming contrastingly clear white wing-patch.

TAIL Rufous-brown, with white margin at feather-tips.

BARE PARTS Eye dark. Bill flesh, black on culmen and tip. Leg dark.

BEHAVIOUR Mostly perched on top of low bushes. After heavy shower, actively preening and more concealed in bush.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was unanimously accepted as an adult female *isabellinus*. It was aged as an adult on the basis of the dark grey-brown median and greater coverts with pale rufous-buff edges. The identification and sexing were based on the rather pale plumage with little contrast between the sandy-grey upperparts and buff-coloured underparts, partial dark mask not present in front of the eye, large white wing-patch (indicating an adult), lack of conspicuous white supercilium, dark reddish-brown uppertail and brownish chevrons on the underparts (especially on the flank; indicating a female).

25-26 September 2006, Den Hoorn, Texel, Noord-Holland

On 25 September 2006, German birder Jörn Lehms discovered an 'isabelline shrike' near Den Hoorn, Texel. It stayed until the next day and could be observed, photographed and videoed by several birders.

Description

The description is based on notes by Max Berlijn and photographs of MB, Martijn Bot and Rein Hofman (cf Dutch Birding 28: 395, plate 565, 2006, 29: 369, plate 529, 2007).

SIZE & STRUCTURE Typically shrike-like, with large head, long tail and strong hooked bill. Primary projection c 100% of length of longest tertial.

HEAD Upperhead sandy-brown with some orange-buff hue on crown and forehead. Ear-patch black behind eye, somewhat smaller in height compared with eye. Lore black, forming narrow black stripe between eye and bill. Faint pale eye-ring above and one quarter below eye. Very vague, narrow, whitish supercilium, only present behind eye. Chin, throat and cheek with buffish-orange hue and unmarked.

UPPERPARTS Pale sandy grey-brown; rump and uppertail-coverts rufous brown.

UNDERPARTS Whole underparts pale buffish orange.

WING Upperwing sandy grey-brown like upperparts; tertials, median and greater coverts dark grey-brown with pale rufous-buff margins; outer primary-coverts brown, paler than other coverts; primaries blackish with small whitish margins; base of primaries white, forming contrasting clear white wing-patch. Alula brown, edged buffish.

TAIL Rufous-brown, darker towards tip.

BARE PARTS Eye black. Bill flesh at base, black on two-third of tip. Leg dark grey.

BEHAVIOUR Mostly perched on top of bush.

SOUND Not heard.

Identification

The bird was aged as an adult on the basis of the black face-mask and the dark grey-brown wing-coverts and tertials edged with pale rufous-buff. There was almost no contrast between the upperparts and underparts, the underparts were uniform buffish orange, and the bird lacked an obvious supercilium. Therefore, the bird was unanimously accepted as the sixth *isabellinus*. It showed contrast between one new replaced tertial and other retained tertials, and also the fresh inner primaries and primary coverts contrasted with the retained outer primaries and outer primary coverts.



110 Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, adult male, Den Hoorn, Texel, Noord-Holland, 26 September 2006 (*Rein Hofman*) **111** Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, adult male, Den Hoorn, Texel, Noord-Holland, 26 September 2006 (*Max Berlijn*) **112** Daurian Shrike / Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus*, adult female, Maasvlakte, Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, 27 August 2006 (*Chris van Rijswijk/birdshooting.nl*)

Separation from Brown Shrike and Red-backed Shrike

When encountering an 'isabelline shrike', one should always consider the possibility of Brown Shrike. In all plumages, Brown Shrike has a thicker, stubbier bill, a shorter primary projection with, typically, only five primary tips visible on the closed wing, and a longer, narrower and more graduated tail. The upperparts are nearly as rufous as the tail. For an extensive description,

see Worfolk (2000), and also Moores (2004) and van Bemmelen et al (2007). Red-backed Shrike can also cause confusion in first-year plumage but normally shows more scaling on the upperparts, a greyer nape, (more) strongly barred underparts and a darker brown (less rufous) uppertail (Worfolk 2000). Note, however, that some poorly marked Red-backed can be confusingly similar to 'isabelline'.

Occurrence and identification of 'isabelline shrikes'

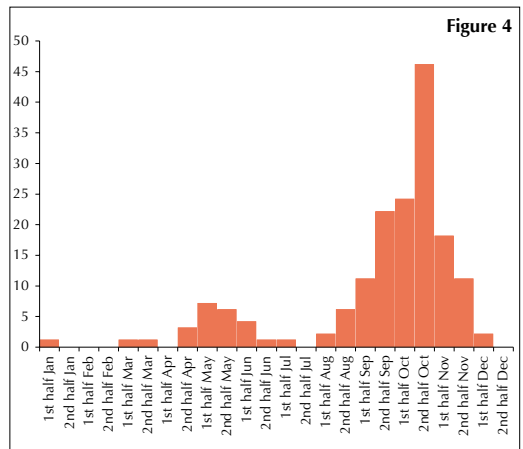
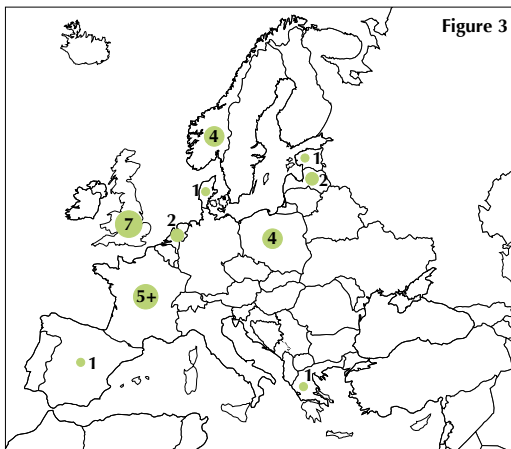
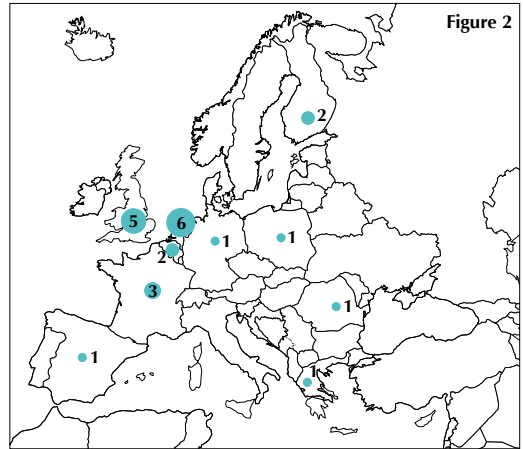
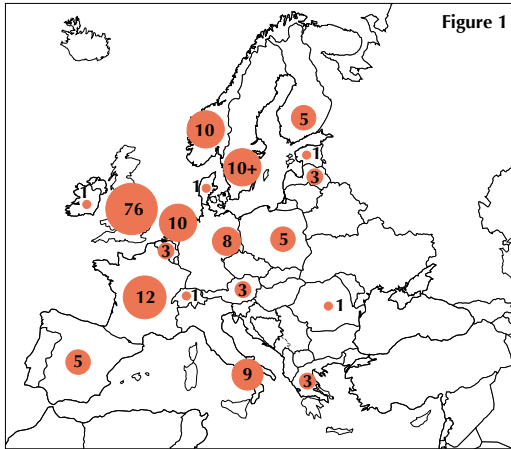


FIGURE 1 Occurrence of 'isabelline shrike' *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides* in Europe / voorkomen van 'izabelklauwier' *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides* in Europa (cf appendix 1)

FIGURE 2 Occurrence of Daurian Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* in Europe / voorkomen van Daurische Klauwier *Lanius isabellinus* in Europa (cf appendix 1)

FIGURE 3 Occurrence of Turkestan Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides* in Europe / voorkomen van Turkestaanse Klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides* in Europa (cf appendix 1)

FIGURE 4 Half-monthly distribution of occurrence of 'isabelline shrike' *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides* in Europe / halfmaandelijkse verspreiding van voorkomen van 'izabelklauwier' *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides* in Europa (cf appendix 1)

Conclusions

Although the identification of 'isabelline shrikes' is by no means easy, only two out of the 10 records in the Netherlands remain unidentified to species level. The first of these two in 1985 was well documented but lacked diagnostic field marks to clinch the identification as *phoenicuroides* or *isabellinus*. The second in 1993 was seen just before dark and the documentation was insufficient to identify the bird with certainty to species. All other records were well documented with good

photographs and/or video recordings and were either adult (or adult-like) birds or typical juveniles.

With only one record in spring (May), all other records of 'isabelline shrikes' were between August and December, with October being the best month with four, followed by August and September, both with two, and December with one. *Isabellinus* is the most common (or better least rare) with six records (May 1995, December 1996, October 2000, September 2003, August 2006 and September 2006). *Phoenicuroides* has two records

(October 2000, August 2002), both concerning adult males, very probably of the greyish 'karelini' morph. Texel obviously has a strong attraction for 'isabelline shrikes' (and is well watched!), with seven out of 10 birds. Also worth mentioning is the high percentage (50%) of adults.

Records in central and western Europe

All currently known records (157+) in central and western Europe outside the Netherlands up to and including 2006 are listed in appendix 1. Of these, 17 have been accepted as *isabellinus* and 26 as *phoenicuroides*; if the records from the Netherlands are included, these figures are 23 and 28, respectively. Almost all others are listed as *isabellinus/phoenicuroides* or have only tentatively been assigned to species. In Italy, one adult showed (some) characters of *arenarius* and another was tentatively identified as *arenarius/isabellinus*. The geographical distribution of all records (including those from the Netherlands) is shown in figure 1-3. The list of records demonstrates that 'isabelline shrikes' occur as vagrants in almost every country of central and western Europe, reflecting the strong vagrancy potential of this species group. Most records are from Britain (76, almost 50%) which is likely the result of a combination of long coastlines and high birding activity. Birds have been recorded in all months except February, with a strong peak in the second half of October and a small peak in spring (late April to early June; see figure 4). Similar to the situation in the Netherlands, a high proportion of the other European records concern adults (c 44, almost 30% of birds aged), also in autumn birds, which is remarkable because most eastern vagrants in autumn in Europe concern first-year birds.

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Samenvatting

VOORKOMEN EN HERKENNING VAN 'IZABELKLAUWIJEREN' IN NEDERLAND IN 1985-2006 EN GEVALLEN IN EUROPA In dit artikel wordt ingegaan op het voorkomen en de herkenning van 'izabelkluwieren' in Nederland. Elk geval wordt uitgebreid beschreven en de beslissing van de CDNA wordt toegelicht. De determinaties zijn voornamelijk gebaseerd op Worfolk (2000). Vanaf het eerste geval in

1985 tot en met 2006 zijn 10 'izabelkluwieren' aanvaard. Twee betroffen Turkse klauwier *Lanius phoenicuroides*, zes Daurische Klauwier *L. isabellinus* en twee zijn aanvaard als 'izabelkluwier' *L. isabellinus/phoenicuroides*. Opvallend is het hoge aantal van vijf adulte vogels (vier werden als eerstejaars aanvaard en van één kon de leeftijd niet met zekerheid worden bepaald). Bij andere soorten dwaalgasten in het najaar is in de regel het percentage adulte veel kleiner of zelfs nihil.

In het artikel wordt voorts een overzicht gegeven van alle bekende gevallen (157+) elders in Centraal- en West-Europa tot en met 2006 (appendix 1). Daaruit blijkt dat daar in tegenstelling tot Nederland *phoenicuroides* net iets vaker is vastgesteld dan *isabellinus* (respectievelijk 26 en 17 gevallen; alle andere (114+) zijn (nog) niet – of niet met voldoende zekerheid – tot op soortniveau aanvaard). Als de Nederlandse gevallen worden meegerekend is de verhouding 28 *phoenicuroides* tegen 23 *isabellinus*. Chinese Klauwier *L. arenarius* is niet met zekerheid in Europa vastgesteld; er zijn wel één of twee gevallen van vogels met (enkele) kenmerken van deze soort in Italië (één 'mogelijke *arenarius*' en één '*arenarius/isabellinus*') maar deze zijn (nog) niet als zodanig aanvaard. Bij het overzicht van Europese gevallen buiten Nederland valt eveneens het relatief hoge aantal adulte vogels op (c 44, bijna 30%). Bijna de helft van de gevallen (76) stamt uit Brittannië. Uit de maandelijkse verdeling (figuur 4) blijkt dat de beide taxa gecombineerd in alle maanden van het jaar werden waargenomen, met uitzondering van februari. De meeste werden genoteerd in het najaar met een duidelijke piek in de tweede helft van oktober. Daarnaast is er sprake van een kleine piek in het voorjaar, van eind april tot begin juni.

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APPENDIX 1 Records of 'isabelline shrike' *Lanius arenarius/isabellinus/phoenicuroides* in central and western Europe / gevallen van 'izabelklauwier' *Lanius arenarius/isabellinus/phoenicuroides* in Centraal- en West-Europa

Austria (3) (Leander Khil in litt)

- 7-8 October 1994, H6chster Ried, Vorarlberg, *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
- 11 May 1997, Zurndorfer Eichenwald, Burgenland, female, *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
- 24 April 2002, Perg, Ober6sterreich, *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*

Britain (76) (Evans 1994, Fraser et al 2007, Fraser & Rarities Committee 2007)

- 26 September 1950, Isle Of May, Fife, Scotland, adult male, probably *phoenicuroides* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 10 September 1959, Portland Bill, Dorset, England, adult female (Fraser et al 2007)
- 12-13 May 1960, Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland, adult male *phoenicuroides* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 1 March to 20 April 1975, Sidlesham, Sussex, England, male
- 12-13 October 1975, Holkham, Norfolk, England, male *isabellinus* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 14-24 October 1978, Winspit, Dorset, England, first-year (Fraser et al 2007)
- 26-28 October 1978, Gugh and St Agnes, Scilly, England, first-year (Fraser et al 2007)
- 28-30 October 1978, Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, England, male (Fraser et al 2007)
- 24 October 1979, Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland; now considered unsafe to be aged conclusively (Fraser et al 2007)
- 3 October 1980, St Mary's, Scilly, England, first-year (Fraser et al 2007)
- 9-12 October 1981, Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland, adult male (Fraser et al 2007)
- 7-8 November 1982, Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire, England, adult male (under review as '*karelini*', Fraser et al 2007)
- 4-14 November 1984, Berry Head, Devon, England, first-year
- 15-23 September 1985, Portland, Dorset, England, adult female *isabellinus* (Fraser et al 2007, Fraser & Rarities Committee 2007)
- 25 October 1985, Holyhead, Anglesey, Wales; now considered unsafe to be aged conclusively (Fraser et al 2007)
- 23 October 1987, Eswick, Shetland, Scotland, first-year
- 1-5 November 1987, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England, first-year
- 8-14 November 1987, Wembury, Devon, England, first-year
- 12-22 October 1988, Durlston Country Park, Dorset, England, first-year
- 14-22 October 1988, Spurn, East Yorkshire, England, first-year
- 15-16 October 1988, Sandwich Bay, Kent, England
- 17-23 October 1988, Catfirth, Shetland, Scotland, first-year
- 23-28 October 1988, Bradwell-on-sea, Essex, England; now considered unsafe to be aged conclusively (Fraser et al 2007)
- 26 October 1988, Horsey, Norfolk, England; now considered

- unsafe to be aged conclusively (Fraser et al 2007)
- 4-14 November 1988, Stodmarsh, Kent, England, first-year
- 13 September 1989, Dunglass, Borders, Scotland, adult female *isabellinus* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 22-24 September 1989, Minehead, Somerset, England, first-year
- 27-31 October 1989, Zennor, Cornwall, England
- 14-15 October 1990, Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, England, first-year
- 12 October 1991, St Mary's, Scilly, England, first-year (Fraser et al 2007)
- 26 October 1991, Easington, East Yorkshire, England, first-year
- 28 October 1991, North Foreland, Kent, England; now considered unsafe to be aged conclusively (Fraser et al 2007)
- 28 October to 2 November 1991, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, adult male *isabellinus* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 24 October 1993 to 4 November 1993, Worth, Kent, England
- 4-9 November 1993, Fife Ness, Fife, Scotland, first-year
- 21 March 1994, Richmond Park, Greater London, England, male
- 23-24 August 1994, Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland, adult female *phoenicuroides* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 2 May 1995, Snettisham, Norfolk, England, adult male *phoenicuroides* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 10-17 September 1995, Deerness, Orkney, Scotland, male
- 27 October 1995, St David's, Pembrokeshire, Wales; now considered unsafe to be aged conclusively (Fraser et al 2007)
- 12-13 October 1996, Horsey Gap, Norfolk, England, first-year
- 25-26 October 1996, Bardsey, Caernarvonshire, England, first-year
- 5-11 November 1996, Stock's Reservoir, Lancashire, and North Merseyside, England first-year
- 23 September 1997, Spurn, East Yorkshire, England, first-year
- 19-23 October 1997, Berry Head, Devon, England, first-year
- 23 November 1997, Boyton Marshes, Suffolk, England, first-year
- 30 November 1997, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland, first-year
- 2 July to 8 August 1998, Cemlyn Bay, Anglesey, Wales, female *phoenicuroides* (Fraser et al 2007)
- 18-20 October 1999, Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, England, first-year
- 21 October to 7 November 1999, Marsden, Durham, England, first-year
- 24-31 October 1999, Burnmouth, Borders, Scotland, first-year
- 8-9 September 2000, Nene Washes, Cambridgeshire, England, female
- 8-10 November 2000, Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, first-year
- 9 November 2000, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, England, first-year

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- 28 August 2001, Lundy, Devon, England
29 September to 5 October 2001, Dungeness, Kent, England, first-year male
28 October 2001, Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire, England, first-year
26 June 2002, Porthgwarra, Cornwall, England, second-year male *phoenicurooides* (Fraser et al 2007)
14-17 September 2002, Fetlar, Shetland, Scotland, male *isabellinus* (Fraser et al 2007)
18-22 October 2002, St Mary's, Scilly, England, first-year
3 June 2003, Porlock Marsh, Somerset, England, male *phoenicurooides* (Fraser et al 2007)
30 September 2003, Out Skerries, Shetland, Scotland, first-year male
13 October 2003, Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, England, first-year (Fraser et al 2007)
18 October 2003, Scolt Head, Norfolk, England, first-year
23-24 October 2003, St Martin's, Scilly, England, first-year
23 November 2003, Llanbedrog, Caernarvonshire, Scotland
17 October 2004, Vidlin, Shetland, Scotland, first-year
22-28 October 2005, Maryton, Angus & Dundee, Scotland
14 May 2006, Whitburn, Durham, England, adult male *phoenicurooides*
20 September to 10 October 2006, Eday, Carpaquoy, Orkney, Scotland, first-year
22 September to 1 October 2006, Lewis and Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, first-year ('most likely *phoenicurooides*')
4 October 2006, Belsay, Northumberland, England, first-year
15 October 2006, Dungeness, Kent, England, first-year
20 October 2006, St Mary's, Scilly, England, first-year
22 October 2006, Great Orme, Caernarfonshire, Wales, first-year
27-29 October 2006 Cresswell, Northumberland, England, first-year

Belgium (3) (Marnix Vandegehuchte in litt)

- 23 September 1989, Heist, Knokke-Heist, West-Vlaanderen, first-year *isabellinus*
14 November 1999, Voorhaven Zeebrugge, Zeebrugge-Brugge, West-Vlaanderen, first-year *isabellinus*
22-23 September 2000, Doornpanne, Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*

Denmark (1) (Sebastian Klein in litt)

- 9 June 1994, Totten, Anholt, Midtjylland, adult female *phoenicurooides*

Estonia (1) (Antero Lindholm in litt)

- 15 October 2001, Kabli, Häädemeeeste, Pärnumaa, first-year *phoenicurooides*

Finland (5) (Antero Lindholm in litt)

- 11-14 May 1980, Kokkola Mallot, male *isabellinus*
21-23 October 1980, Kirkkonummi Rönnskär, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*, ringed
17 October 1987, Korsnäs Södra Björkö, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*, ringed
11 June 1989, Hamina Kirkkojärvi, female *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*
24-26 May 2005, Oulunsalo Kempeleenlahti, also Kempele Vihiluoto and Sarkkiranta, male *isabellinus*

France (12) (Frémont et al 2007, Jean-Yves Frémont in litt)

- 27 September 1982, Île d'Ouessant, Finistère, adult female *phoenicurooides*
16-19 August 1986, Île d'Ouessant, Finistère, (probably) adult female *phoenicurooides*
14 September 1987, Île d'Ouessant, Finistère, first-year *phoenicurooides*

- 1-3 November 1991, Ajaccio, Corse-du-Sud, first-year *phoenicurooides*
1-8 November 1996, Île d'Ouessant, Finistère, first-year *isabellinus*
29 November 1997, Fréjorgues, Pérols, Hérault, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*
27 November to 15 December 1998, Domaine de Certes, Audenge, Gironde, first-year *isabellinus*
17 October 1999, Île d'Ouessant, Finistère, first-year *phoenicurooides*
23-27 October 1999, Vitrey-sur-Mance, Haute-Saône, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*
17 November 2002, Marais du Hode, Le Havre, Baie de Seine, Seine-Maritime, first-year, (probably) *phoenicurooides*
26 October to 2 November 2004, Île d'Ouessant, Finistère, first-year *isabellinus*
14 September 2005, Mas du Petit Badon, Salin-de-Giraud, Camargue, Bouches-du-Rhône, first-year *phoenicurooides*

Germany (8)

- 25 or 26 October 1854, Helgoland, first-year male *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*, collected (Vauk & Parey 1972)
21-22 September 1980, Helgoland, male *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*, trapped (Peter Barthel in litt)
2-5 October 1993, Helgoland, first-year *isabellinus* (Limicola 7: 320, 1993)
12-17 November 1993, Tauerwiesenteich, Förstgen, Sachsen, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*, trapped (Limicola 7: 320, 1993)
1 November 1994, Altmühlsee, Kreis Weissenburg-Gunzenhausen, Bayern, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides* (Limicola 8: 330, 1994)
21 September 1995, Greifswalder Oie, Kreis Ostvorpommern, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides* (Peter Barthel in litt)
22 November 1996, Filderstadt-Sielmingen, Kreis Esslingen, Baden-Württemberg, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides* (Peter Barthel in litt)
16-21 November 2000, Totes Moor, Neustadt, Kreis Hannover, Niedersachsen, adult, *isabellinus/phoenicurooides* (Limicola 14: 262, 2000, 20: 317, 2006)

Greece (3) (Nikos Probonas in litt)

- 28 September 1995, Evros Delta, adult male *isabellinus*
29 April 2000, Irakleio, Crete, adult male *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*
15 May 2006, Antikythera, Eptanisa, adult female *phoenicurooides*

Ireland (1+) (Paul Milne in litt)

- [17-20 October 2006, Old Head of Kinsale, Cork, still in circulation (photographs indicate *isabellinus*)]
20 November to 9 December 2006, North Slob, Wexford, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*

Italy (9) (Andrea Corso in litt)

- 4 August 1985, Monte Mannu, Montresta, Nuoro, Sardinia, adult male, probably *phoenicurooides*
22 September 1988, Bosco di Palo, Iadispoli, Roma, Lazio, first-year, probably *phoenicurooides*
10 October 1992, Vendicari, Siracusa, Sicila, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*
30 October 1992, Panagia, Costa Targia, Sicilia, first-year, probably *isabellinus*
2 October 1996 to late April 1997, Saline di Siracusa, Sicilia, first-year, probably *isabellinus*
27 April 1998, Sentina, Marche Region, *isabellinus/phoenicurooides*

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- 19 October 1998, Capo Murro di Porco, Siracusa, Sicilia, juvenile, probably *arenarius/isabellinus*
4-9 January 2000 (presumably present since autumn 1999), Ognina, Siracusa, Sicilia, adult female, showing characters of *arenarius*
26 November 2004, Marina di Torre del Lago, Viareggio, Lucca, first-year, probably *isabellinus*

Latvia (3) (Maris Jaunzemis in litt)

- 5 November 1990, Pape, first-year *phoenicuroides*, trapped
25 September 2000, Pape, adult male *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
24-25 May 2004, Lake Engure, adult male *phoenicuroides*

Norway (10) (Vergard Bunes in litt)

- 30 September to 1 October 1974, Utsira, Rogaland, immature male *phoenicuroides*
13 October 1974, Hareid, Møre & Romsdal, immature male *phoenicuroides*
5 June 1984, Larvik, Vestfold, adult male *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
25 May 1988, Larvik, Vestfold, adult male *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
7 October 1991, Utsira, Rogaland, age and sex unknown, *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
3-4 November 1993, Fjell, Hordland, first-year *phoenicuroides*
29 May 1995, Kragerø, Telemark, immature male *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
28 May 1997, Larvik, Vestfold, 29 May, Kragerø, Telemark, immature male *phoenicuroides*
20-21 September 2003, Hemsedal, Buskerud, adult male *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
15 November 2003, Øygarden, Hordaland, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*

Poland (5) (Tadeusz Stawarczyk in litt)

- 8 September 1981, Vistula River mouth, first-year *phoenicuroides*
18 September 1984, Chalupy, Hel Peninsula, adult male *phoenicuroides*
21 September 1997, Jastarnia, Hel Peninsula, adult male *isabellinus*
23 May 1999, Sielec, Robczyce, female *phoenicuroides*
12-14 September 2004, Charbice Dolne, Pabianice, first-year *phoenicuroides*

Romania (1) (Andras Vasas in litt)

- 26 September 2004, Sachalin Island, Black Sea, first-year *isabellinus*

Spain (5) (CR SEO in litt)

- 9 September 1994, Salinas de Salobrar de Campos, Isla de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, adult male *phoenicuroides*
12-16 September 1997, Cabo de Estaca de Bares, Mañón, A Coruña, *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
10-12 November 1999, Roquetas de Mar, Almería, *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
6 December 2001, Parque Natural de El Hondo, Alicante, Crevillente, *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*
30 October to 1 November 2006, Rouxique, Sanxenxo, Pontevedra, juvenile, presumed to be *isabellinus*

Sweden (10+)

- All records are currently under review to determine the lowest taxon level (Anders Blomdahl pers comm)
26 November 1967, Ljunghusen, Skåne
[3 October 1984, Nidingen, Halland, first-year, ringed (now under review as Brown Shrike)]
18-19 October 1988, Landsort, Sörmland, first-year, ringed
23 October 1988, Utlängan, Blekinge, first-year
20-21 October 1990, Ottenby, Öland, first-year
28 August 1993, Ottenby, Öland, adult male
8-17 October 1994, Sotemosse, Skåne, first-year
20 October to 3 November 1994, Ottenby, Öland, first-year
19-21 October 1997, Stora Fjäderägg, Västerbotten, adult male
5-6 October 1998, Hummelbosholm, Gotland, first-year
17-22 October 2001, Nya hamnen, Vändburg, Gotland, adult male, ringed
[26 May 2004, Beddinge Strandhed, Skåne, adult (or second calendar-year) female *phoenicuroides* (still under review)]

Switzerland (1) (Peter Knaus in litt)

- 6-8 October 2006, Avusy and Laconnex, Genève, first-year *isabellinus/phoenicuroides*

There are currently no records from the Czech Republic (<http://fkco.sweb.cz/akcepte.htm>), Hungary (Tamás Zalai in litt), Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg (Tom Conzemius in litt), Portugal (João Jara in litt) and Slovakia (Alfred Trnka in litt).