

Mindre meddelelser

First Danish record of Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

SEBASTIAN KLEIN

On 22 July 2006, an immature Dalmatian Pelican was seen and photographed at Kongens Mose in southern Jutland, just north of the German border (Jensen & Hagerman 2006). The bird apparently left the site the same day and was not seen again until 4 August when it flew in from the sea at Hanstholm in northern Jutland, 250 km north of Kongens Mose. From here the bird later flew out over the sea in a northern or northwestern direction, but returned and spent the night at the nearby Ræhr gravelpits. On 5 August it moved 40 km south to Ørum Sø, and during the following morning it disappeared towards southeast and was not seen again.

Photos of the bird showed two features – a pale spot on the right side of the bill and a slightly damaged primary in the right wing – which were also seen on an immature Dalmatian Pelican photographed on 25-26 June 2006 at Górki fishponds near Busko-Zdrój in southeastern Poland and again on 2 July 2006 at Przemkow near Zielona Gora in Silesia, western Poland (T. Stawarczyk in litt.). These records thus concern the same individual bird.

According to BirdLife (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sites/index.html?action=SpcHTMLDetails.asp&sid=3811&m=0>) the Dalmatian Pelican breeds from the Balkans eastwards to Kazakhstan and Iran, with a small and now nearly extinct population in Mongolia. The species is considered vulnerable, with a world population of just 4000-5000 pairs. Although the majority breeds in the former Soviet Union (2700-3500 pairs), the largest colony with nearly 1000 pairs is at Lake Mikri Prespa in Greece. The species is a short-distance migrant mainly wintering in Greece, Turkey, Iran and the northern parts of the Indian subcontinent; Mongolian birds winter along the east coast of China. The species is a rare vagrant to Hungary and Italy (Lewington et al. 1991), and there are four records from Poland (T. Stawarczyk in litt.) and one from Netherlands (van der Vliet et al. 2003).

A wild bird

The only other Dalmatian Pelican recorded in Denmark was an adult bird seen at various sites in northern and western Jutland between in may-november 1974 (Bøggild Petersen 1980); on 26 March 1976 it was found dead in Ålborg (Amstrup et al. in press). The bird was considered an escape and is now accepted in category E by the Rarities Committee.

The bird reported in the present note, however, may well have been a wild bird. Hanstholm is situated 1000



Immature Dalmatian Pelican at Ørum Sø, Thy. Note the pale spot on the upper mandible and the notch in the inner vane of the right wing's second primary. These features made it possible to identify the bird as the same individual that was seen six weeks earlier in Poland. Photo: Søren Kristoffersen.

Immatur Krøltoppet Pelikan ved Ørum Sø, Thy. Bemærk den lyse plet midt på overnæbbet og den lille skade på den inderste del af højre vinges næstyderste svingfjer. Disse karakterer gjorde det muligt at identificere fuglen som det samme individ, der seks uger tidligere blev set i Polen.

km NW of the Polish Górki fishponds, suggesting that the bird kept a north-western direction and thus could well have started from, e.g., the breeding grounds at the Black Sea. An immature vagrant Dalmatian Pelican also appears more likely than an adult. Further indications that the occurrence was spontaneous are that the bird was shy, wore no rings, and showed no signs of wear of the kind often seen in captive birds. Furthermore, although Dalmatian Pelicans are not uncommon in zoos, the species is in category *vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals, and is on CITES appendix I. Trading with Dalmatian Pelican is therefore only permitted under exceptional circumstances, and the birds have to be either ringed or microchipped (the standard procedure is to equip such birds with both a microchip and a foot ring, M.F. Bertelsen, Copenhagen Zoo pers. comm.). Escapes should hence be easy to identify. On this background the Danish Rarities Committee accepted the record in category A, i.e., as a true vagrant – the first wild Dalmatian Pelican recorded in Denmark.

Resumé: Krøltoppet Pelikan i Danmark

En imatur Krøltoppet Pelikan fotograferedes 22 juli 2006 i Kongens Mose i Sønderjylland. Senere samme sommer blev fuglen fundet i Nordjylland, hvor den sås på flere lokaliteter fra 4. til 6. august. Dragtdetaljer gjorde det muligt at fastslå, at fuglen var identisk med en Krøltoppet Pelikan set og fotograferet 25-26. juni ved Górkí fiskedamme i det sydøstlige Polen og 2. juli ved Przemkow nær Zielona Góra i det vestlige Polen. Fuglen var sky og bar ingen ringe eller viste andre tegn på at have været i fangenskab. Den er derfor godkendt af Sjældenhedsudvalget som landets første fund af en vild Krøltoppet Pelikan.

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A one-year-old Long-tailed Skua apparently visiting its parents on its birthplace

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On 10 July 2003, a one-year-old immature Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* apparently visited its birthplace from the year before at Zackenberg Research Station, Northeast Greenland (see Meltofte & Høye 2007 for details on study area etc.).

In 2002, two young hatched around 4 and 6 July, respectively, in the territory in question. One of them was ringed on 25 July. On both 30 July and 2 August, a newly fledged juvenile was seen together with its parents within 500 m from the nest. The juvenile was constantly warned by the parents and kept so far away that I was never able to see whether it was ringed.

On 10 July the following year, a one-year-old immature (cf. Olsen 2000) was encountered together with two adults in the same territory. These adults presumably was a mated pair, but no breeding attempt was made this year. At least one bird of the pair gave alarm calls exactly similar to those heard from the pair at the same site the previous year, in the days just after their young fledged. This specific alarm call, a short note given at longer intervals than the analogous call heard from birds with not yet fledged chicks, is only used by Long-tailed Skuas after fledging of their young. Even in this case the immature kept so far away from me that I never succeeded in establishing whether it carried a ring.

The described circumstances convince me that the young bird was identical to the fledged young from the previous year, visiting the parents on its birthplace. To my knowledge, such a case has never been described before.

Resumé: En et år gammel Lille Kjove besøgte tilsyneladende sine forældre på fødestedet

Den 10. juli 2003 blev en et år gammel Lille Kjove set sammen med et par adulte på et territorium, hvor der året før kom mindst én unge på vingerne. De adulte varslede på nøjagtig samme karakteristiske måde, som de havde gjort over for ungen året før, hvilket sandsynliggør, at det var deres unge, der aflagde et besøg hos sine forældre.

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