

Response on: Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) in the Czech Republic: the historical occurrence of this species in Bohemia and its return on the checklist

Justin J.F.J. Jansen

Response on: Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) in the Czech Republic: the historical occurrence of this species in Bohemia and its return on the checklist. – Acta Mus. Siles. Sci. Natur., 66: 269-270, 2017.

Abstract: The Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) is for the last time reliably recorded at 23 February 1995 at Merja Zerga, Morocco. This paper re-evaluates the recent addition by Hudeček (2016) of the species to the Czech Republic list.

Key words: Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*), occurrence, Jiří Janda, Bohemia, Czech Republic, historical ornithology

Introduction

The recent addition of Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* to the Czech Republic (Hudeček 2016), had prompted me to respond. Hudeček summarises first in his article the history of Slender-billed Curlew in general, followed by the occurrence in the Czech Republic and in central Europe to conclude with the occurrence in Bohemia. In the latter part, he added Slender-billed Curlew back to the Czech Republic list after rejection of the species from the list by Vavřík (2015). Hudeček (2016) makes reference herein to records from Jiří Janda.

The Slender-billed Curlew in the Czech Republic

Clear from recent reviews by Kirwan *et al.* (2015) and Wassink (2016) is that very few records remain acceptable after review. Therefore, any Slender-billed Curlew sighting with a decent description or photo is greatly welcomed. As identification of Slender-billed Curlew is not straightforward and difficulties are involved, the main characters need to be accessed (Corso *et al.* 2014).

The addition to the Czech Republic list does in my opinion not meet the current standards for record documenting. It is inadequately documented, with no written description, a mounted specimen, unknown year of collecting and even the collecting locality is unknown. So therefore, by no means Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* or Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* can be excluded as potential pitfall (Corso *et al.* 2014).

Conclusion

In line with Vavřík (2015) there are no decent documented records for the Czech Republic.

References

- Corso A., Jansen J. & Kókaý S. (2014): A review of the identification criteria and variability of the Slender-billed Curlew. – Brit. Birds 107: 339-370.
Hudeček J.J. (2016): Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*) in the Czech Republic: the historical occurrence of this species in Bohemia and its return on the checklist. – Acta Mus. Siles., Sci. Natur. 65: 71-73.

Kirwan G.M., Porter R. & Scott D. (2015): Chronicle of an extinction foretold? A review of Slender-billed Curlew records in the Middle East. – *Brit. Birds* 108 (11): 669–682.
Vavřík M., ed. (2015): Checklist of birds of the Czech Republic. Downloaded from: fkcs0.cz/cz-list.htm
Wassink A. (2016): Status of Slender-billed Curlew in Central Asia. – *Dutch Birding* 38: 235-237.

Author's address: Justin J.F.J. Jansen, c/o Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, P.O. Box 9517,
2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands.
E-mail: justin.jansen@naturalis.nl