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RECORDS OF *BRAMA BRAMA* (BONNATERRE, 1788) ALONG THE COAST OF THE NETHERLANDS IN 1976 (PISCES, PERCIFORMES, BRAMIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Records of 107 specimens of Ray's Bream, *Brama brama* (Bonnaterre, 1788) from along the coast of the Netherlands are given for 1976.

In addition to the note about the occurrence of Ray's Bream, *Brama brama* along the coast of the Netherlands in 1974 and 1975 (Nijssen & De Groot, 1976), we wish to give here the records of this species in 1976, because of the abundance of specimens caught or washed ashore in that year.

The reason that *Brama brama* was often thought to be uncommon along the coast of the Netherlands,

is merely caused by its occurrence during the last months of the year only, during and after stormy weather. In scientific literature on the distribution of this species, Dutch records are absent or rarely mentioned. The fact that 107 specimens were recorded during October, November and December 1976 tends to support the suggestion of Nijssen & De Groot (1.c.:132), who state "We realize that the annual number of recorded specimens is strongly influenced by the number of people helpful enough to report their findings". Many persons reported during the winter of 1976 their findings to the Institute of Taxonomic Zoology, because of the publicity given in local

newspapers, the issuing in autumn 1976 of the note about the occurrence of Ray's Bream in 1974 and 1975, and the activity of the Department of Ichthyology in Amsterdam. During the winter of 1974 39 specimens were recorded from along our coast. In 1975 there were 28 recordings. In 1976 we received information and/or material of 107 specimens from our coastal waters (see table).

The number of specimens washed ashore or caught in the coastal waters of the Netherlands is, of course, dependent on the rate of immigration of *Brama brama* into North-European waters, which varies from year to year. The long period of warm weather during the summer of 1976 might have had a positive influence on the rate of immigration. Hence the large number of specimens trapped in the North Sea during their retreat southward, due to lower water temperatures during the last months of the year. This in contradistinction to 1977, in which temperatures in Europe during the summer were low. This might have prevented a migration far northward in the Atlantic Ocean, so that few specimens have entered the North Sea. Despite stormy periods only a few specimens were reported along the coast of the Netherlands during the last months of 1977.

In 1974 all 39 specimens came from localities in the northern part of the Netherlands; only one specimen was found alive. In 1975 17 out of the 28 specimens came from Zeeland, the most southwestern province of the Netherlands; nine specimens were caught alive. In 1976 16 specimens were reported to be alive out of 107 specimens, which were recorded from along our coast over a period of 68 days, from October 14th till December 20th. 24 specimens came from Zeeland, 5 from Zuid-Holland, 34 from

Noord-Holland, 36 from Texel, 7 from Terschelling and one from the coast of Friesland. Except for 1 specimen (Oosterschelde, 4-XII-1976) all specimens from Zeeland were found in the period of November 6th - 24th 1976. The distribution of the findings along our coast is due to annual fluctuations of local hydrographic conditions and the severity of storms.

We examined the stomach contents of eight specimens, most of which were caught or washed ashore alive. Except for a piece of mussel shell (*Mytilus edulis* L.), we found all stomachs to be empty, which perhaps is a result of lack of appetite due to low water temperatures (the 10° isotherm seems to limit their northernmost occurrence). Still, some specimens do feed during their migration, because two were caught by anglers.

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Records of 107 specimens of *Brama brama* during the winter of 1976

date	number	locality	depth in m	tot. length in cm	collector	authority
14-X	1 (alive)	Noord-Holland : 2 miles off Petten (trawl)		52	TX 29/UK 218	ZMA 115.523
1-XI	1 (alive)	off Texel (trawl)		59	TX 8	NIOZ
6/7-XI	1	Zeeland : Cadzand		-	P. de Lijser	J.C. Wedts-de Swart
7-XI	1	Zeeland : Domburg/Oostkapelle, beach		53.5	K. Jongepier	ZMA 114.312
10-XI	1 (alive)	Noord-Holland : 3 miles off Callantsoog (trawl)	20	55.5	WR 93	NIOZ
13-XI	2	Zeeland : Dishoek near Koudekerke, beach		50-60	C.H. van Schelven	
13-XI	1	Zeeland : Oostkapelle, beach		59	J. Jongepier	P.J. van der Feen
14-XI	1 (alive)	Zeeland : Westenschouwen (angler)		56	W. van Doorn	C.H. van Schelven
14-XI	1	Zeeland : Oostkapelle, beach		56	H. Muizelaar	ZMA 114.324
15-XI	1	Zeeland : Roompot, Torenpoolder		58.5	C. Abrahamse	ZMA 114.325
15-XI	2	Zeeland : Domburg, dike		55-57	G.J. van Welbergen	ZMA 114.315/316
15-XI	1	Zeeland : Westkapelle		51.5	G.J. van Welbergen	ZMA 114.314
15-XI	1	Zeeland : Westerschelde : Sloe		62	C. Abrahamse	ZMA 114.323
15-XI	1	Texel : De Koog		-	RWS	NIOZ
15-XI	1 (alive)	Zeeland : Westenschouwen (angler)		60	german tourist	C.H. van Schelven
15-XI	1 (alive)	Zuid-Holland : Monster, beach		60	J. Kragt	Westlandsche Courant
15-XI	10	Noord-Holland : Bergen aan Zee, beach		>50	C.F. Mol	D.A.G. Buizer
15-XI	1	Zeeland : Domburg/Oostkapelle		-	C.F.H. van Tuyll	P.J. van der Feen
medio XI	4	Zuid-Holland : Katwijk, beach		50-60	-	K.F. Vaas
17-XI	1 (alive)	Noord-Holland : 3 miles off Callantsoog (trawl)	6	55	HD 94	NIOZ
17-XI	6	Texel : De Koog		-	RWS	NIOZ
17-XI	1	Zeeland : Vlissingen, beach		60	R. Gillissen e.a.	Prov. Zeeuwse Courant
17-XI	1 (alive)	Zeeland : Zierikzee (trap)		55	A. Bakker	C.H. van Schelven
18-XI	1	Texel : beach pole 12		-	G. van Noort	NIOZ
20-XI	1 (alive)	Noord-Holland : Castricum, beach		57	Kemp	IJmuider Courant
21-XI	1	Noord-Holland : Schoorl, beach pole 28/710		70	W.L. Tamis	NIOZ
22-XI	1	Friesland : Lauwersoog		55	-	Leeuwarder Courant
22-XI	6	Zeeland : Dishoek (Koudekerke)/Zoutlande		-	P. Eiff	J.C. Wedts-de Swart
22-XI	1 (alive)	off Texel : Rug van Texel	24	57	HD 103	NIOZ

date	number	locality	depth in m	tot. length in cm	collector	authority
24-XI	1	Noord-Holland : St. Maartenszee, beach		-	P. Geuzebroek & R. Klant	Alkmaarse Courant
24-XI	1	Zeeland : Domburg, Hoge Hil, beach		58	R. de Pagter & M. van Dis	P.J. van der Veen
26-XI	1	Texel : beach pole 26		-	RWS	NIOZ
27-XI	1	Noord-Holland : Schoorl, beach pole 28		-	H. Snip	Duinstreek (newspaper)
29-XI	1	Texel : beach pole 17		-	RWS	NIOZ
29-XI	1	Texel : beach pole 12		-	RWS	NIOZ
30-XI	1	Noord-Holland : Wijk aan Zee, beach pole 48		-	K. Koolman	D.A.G. Buizer
1-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Wijk aan Zee, beach pole 51.50		-	K. Koolman	D.A.G. Buizer
1-XII	1	Texel : beach pole 6		-	G. van Noort	NIOZ
2-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Egmond aan Zee, beach pole 41		-	K. Koolman	D.A.G. Buizer
2-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Egmond aan Zee, beach pole 43		-	K. Koolman	D.A.G. Buizer
2-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Castricum aan Zee, beach pole 45		-	K. Koolman	D.A.G. Buizer
2-XII	3	Texel : De Koog, beach pole 19		-	RWS	NIOZ
3-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Schoorl aan Zee, beach pole 29		53	D.A.G. Buizer	
3-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Schoorl aan Zee, beach pole 30		58	D.A.G. Buizer	
3-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Bergen aan Zee, beach pole 32		56	D.A.G. Buizer	
3-XII	1	Terschelling : Lies, beach pole 12/13		55	C. Kooyman	G. Doeksen
3-XII	1 (alive)	Noord-Holland : Noorderhaaks	20	57	WR 147	NIOZ
3-XII	1	Texel : De Koog, beach pole 20		-	RWS	NIOZ
3-XII	2	Texel : Cocksdorp, lighthouse		-	RWS	NIOZ
4-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Castricum aan Zee, beach pole 47		56	K. Koolman	ZMA 114.320
4-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Wijk aan Zee, beach pole 48.50		-	K. Koolman	D.A.G. Buizer
4-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Wijk aan Zee, beach pole 49		56	K. Koolman	ZMA 114.321
4-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Wijk aan Zee, beach pole 49.75		56	K. Koolman	ZMA 114.322
4-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Velzen, beach pole 51.50		-	K. Koolman	D.A.G. Buizer
4-XII	1	Zeeland : Oosterschelde, Schelphoek		-	J. Krijzer	C.H. van Schelven
5-XII	1	Texel : Mokbaai		-	M. Groenendaal	NIOZ
6-XII	1 (alive)	Terschelling : green buoy		-	HD 16	NIOZ
7-XII	1	Texel : beach pole 17		57	RWS	NIOZ
8-XII	1 (alive)	Texel : Nieuwe Schild, dike		-	G. Roeper-Eelman	NIOZ

date	number	locality	depth in m	tot. length in cm	collector	authority
9-XII	4	Texel : beach pole 20		-	FWS	NIOZ
9-XII	1 (alive)	Noord-Holland : Noorderhaaks	20	53	WR 23	NIOZ
10-XII	1	Noord-Holland : Den Helder		54.5	P. Blokker	NIOZ
10-XII	1	Noord-Holland : 2 km S. of Huisduinen		56	P. Blokker	NIOZ
11-XII	1 (alive)	off Terschelling	34	56	HD 202	NIOZ
12-XII	2	Terschelling : Hoorn, beach pole 15		+ 45	T. Terpstra	
12-XII	4	Texel : beach pole 7/19		-	G. de Haan	NIOZ
12-XII	1 (alive)	Terschelling : West-Terschelling, beach pole 5		55	J. van Rees	G. Doeksen
13-XII	1	Texel : Cocksdoorp, lighthouse		-	FWS	NIOZ
14-XII	2	Texel : beach pole 17		-	FWS	NIOZ
15-XII	1	Terschelling : Formerum, beach pole 12		57	W. Swart	G. Doeksen
16-XII	1	Texel : beach pole 17		-	FWS	NIOZ
20-XII	1	Texel : beach pole 12		-	FWS	NIOZ

HD = Den Helder,

NIOZ = Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee,

FWS = Rijkswaterstaat,

TX = Texel,

UK = Urk,

WR = Wieringen,

ZMA = Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam.

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