

# SCOTTISH BIRDS



The Journal of  
The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

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*Vol. 1. No. 1*

*Autumn 1958*

Reprinted 1971

## THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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THE Scottish Ornithologists' Club was founded in 1936 and membership is open to all interested in Scottish ornithology. Meetings are held during the winter months in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St Andrews, at which lectures by prominent ornithologists are given and films exhibited. Excursions are organised in the summer to places of ornithological interest.

The aims and objects of the Club are to (a) encourage and direct the study of Scottish Ornithology in all its branches; (b) co-ordinate the efforts of Scottish Ornithologists and encourage co-operation between field and indoor worker; (c) encourage ornithological research in Scotland in co-operation with other organisations; (d) hold meetings at centres to be arranged at which Lectures are given, films exhibited, and discussions held; and (e) publish or arrange for the publication of statistics and information with regard to Scottish ornithology.

There are no entry fees for Membership. At present the Annual subscription is £1; or 5s in the case of Members under twenty-one years of age or in the case of University undergraduates who satisfy the Council of their status as such at the time at which their subscriptions fall due in any year. Please note however that the Council are recommending that the annual subscriptions be raised from 20s to 25s; and 5s to 7s 6d at the Annual General Meeting of the Club to be held in Perth on 25th October, 1958.

The affairs of the Club are controlled by a Council composed of the Hon. President, the President, the Vice-President, the Hon. Treasurer, one Representative of each Branch Committee appointed annually by the Branch, and ten other Members of the Club elected at an Annual General Meeting. Two of the last named retire annually by rotation and shall not be eligible for re-election for one year.

A Scottish Bird Records' Committee, appointed by the Council, produce an annual Report on "Ornithological Changes in Scotland."

Full details are given in the Syllabus of Lectures Card of the names of the present Office-bearers of the Club.

An official tie with small white Crested Tits embroidered on it can be obtained in dark green or in navy blue by Members only from Messrs R. W. Forsyth Ltd., Princes Street, Edinburgh, or 5 Renfield Street, Glasgow, C.2, at a cost of 13s 9d post free. A small brooch in silver and blue can be obtained for the use of Members of the Club. Price 2s 6d each from the Secretary, or from Hon. Branch Secretaries.

Forms of application for Membership, copy of the Club Constitution, and other literature is obtainable from the Club Secretary, Mr George Waterston, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh 2.

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### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

All notes dealing with birds in the eastern Lowlands, from Berwick-on-Tweed to Dundee, should be submitted to A. T. Macmillan, 66 Spylaw Bank Road, Edinburgh, 13; all other contributions to M. F. M. Meiklejohn, 20 Falkland Street, Glasgow, W.2. It would be helpful if notes were typewritten, if possible, and double spaced.

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Edited by M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN, with the assistance of D. G. ANDREW  
and A. T. MACMILLAN. Business Editor, ARTHUR J. SMITH. Cover design  
(Leach's Petrel) by LEN FULLERTON. *Published quarterly.*

## Foreword

By SIR CHARLES G. CONNELL  
President of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club

EVER since 1871, (apart from an interval during the years of the Second World War), records on Scottish Ornithology have been published in the *Scottish Naturalist*. The scientific standing of that journal ensured that it was always authoritative, and countless references to its pages are found in ornithological literature. Faced with rising costs and other difficulties, the publishers were forced, with reluctance, to terminate publication after the issue of the 1957 volume.

This new publication—*Scottish Birds*—will, I trust, take the place of the now defunct *Scottish Naturalist* in the ornithological world. As the official publication of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club every care will be taken by the Editor, his consultants, and the Council of the Club to ensure that it maintains a high standard of scientific value.

It will not be composed entirely of scientific papers and records. The Council believe it to be necessary to provide something of general interest for those Members of the Club whose outlook is not wholly scientific; and to this end it is hoped to publish articles such as biographies of leading Scottish ornithologists, and accounts of notable bird Reserves or specially interesting areas, illustrated where possible with photographs. The articles and records will be confined entirely to Scotland, and it is hoped that Members will contribute articles and short notes on anything of value and interest for publication.

The publication of a quarterly journal of this type is a



PRESENTATION TO FOUNDER PRESIDENT — Dr EVELYN V. BAXTER  
at "Coming of Age" Dinner, North Berwick, 26th October, 1957. (Left to right) Lady Connell ; Mr Arthur B. Duncan ;  
Dr E. V. Baxter ; Mr R. E. Moreau ; Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards ; and Mr H. G. Hurrell.

considerable undertaking. We are fortunate in having Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn, (Vice-President of the Club), as Editor; and Mr Arthur J. Smith (Member of Council) as Business Editor. Their aim will be to produce—punctually each quarter—a readable and interesting journal.

You will see from the Agenda for the Club's Annual General Meeting to be held in Perth on 25th October, that the Council recommend that *Scottish Birds* should be issued free to all Members of the Club on the understanding that Members will agree to an increase in the Club subscription from 20/- to 25/-. If this increase in subscription is *not* approved, then the journal will have to be issued at a separate annual subscription of 10/-. If Members agree to accept this increase in the Club subscription, information formerly published in the *Syllabus of Lectures* and in the Club *Bulletins* will thereafter be included in an Official section in this journal—thus saving costs.

The Council have decided to issue this first number of the journal free to all Members, so that they can get the opportunity of judging its value in the light of the proposal to increase the Club subscription.

The publication of *Scottish Birds* marks an important development in the history of our Club which last year attained its twenty-first birthday. This was celebrated by a most enjoyable "Coming of Age" Dinner following the Annual General Meeting in North Berwick, and on the opposite page is a photograph taken at this function when Mr Arthur B. Duncan (Founder Chairman) made a presentation of a suitably inscribed clock to Dr Evelyn V. Baxter (Founder President) on behalf of all the Members.

Our Club is a very live organisation and the Council feel that the journal will form a valuable link between the whole membership of the Club, many of whom in outlying areas have been largely debarred from much active participation in the Club's activities.

The journal will strive to carry on the tradition of the *Scottish Naturalist*, to maintain its standard, and to provide something of permanent value for our ever-growing membership.

I urge you to give it your wholehearted support and thus ensure its success.

CHARLES G. CONNELL.

## EDITORIAL

FOR a long time the Scottish Ornithologists' Club has hoped to publish its own journal, and here at last it is, a modest little paper, similar in size and plumage to the Crested Tit *Parus cristatus scoticus*. To begin on a small scale is advisable, though later we may expand and even indulge in more illustrations. It is hoped that it will not later be found necessary to change the title of the journal to *The Grouse*.

Our main purpose is to give publication to the records of our members. In the past the *Scottish Naturalist* has largely performed this useful function and, when that journal most regrettably ceased to exist at the end of 1957, its Editors, with great generosity, passed over to *Scottish Birds* the ornithological material remaining on their hands. Of this material the first number of *Scottish Birds* is largely composed, and we must thank Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards and Dr Adam Watson not only for presenting us with many of the records which you now see before you, but also for having vetted and edited them.

In selecting the first batch of observations for publication, we have taken them strictly in the order of time in which they were made. It is thus no more than a coincidence that so large a proportion of the first number of *Scottish Birds* comes from the typewriter of its Editor. The criticism may be made that the preponderance of Short Notes may tend to monotony, but, as already stated, their publication is our primary function and the quickest possible issue of back material is of great importance.

We differ from the *Scottish Naturalist* in using capital letters for the English names of birds. This is in accordance with the usual practice of journals dealing with birds alone, and readers will thus also be able to distinguish a Little Ringed Plover from an immature banded Peewit.

This is intended to be a serious journal, but we wish to avoid undue solemnity and to dispense with that dry, stereotyped language which is wrongly called "Scientific," since it so often obscures, rather than reveals, the truth. We wish to give as much opportunity as possible to our contributors to express themselves and their ornithological experiences in their own terms. The purpose of a journal is to be read with interest and pleasure.

A journal like *Scottish Birds* cannot hope to survive unless it is supported by numerous regular voluntary contributions. It has been said that the Scottish bird-watcher is readier to lift the binoculars than to put pen to paper, but there is little

point in bird-watching unless the results are made known, and you are therefore asked to submit your records to us, when they will be treated with as much fairness as we are capable of.

Special thanks are due to Mr Len Fullerton for his gift of a cover design for each quarterly issue.

## REPORT ON BIRDS OF THE CLYDE AREA

1956

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN AND C. E. PALMAR

AS in previous years this report consists of records concerning the occurrence of rare birds in the Clyde area, and unusual or new features of distribution. As before, we have also covered the Aberfoyle and Flanders Moss districts, which are in the Forth area but readily accessible from Glasgow.

This report lays no claim to completeness. While we regret not receiving more notes, we are grateful to those who have helped us with theirs.

Contributors are: John Baird, P. G. R. Barbier, Gordon Bennett, M. Forrester, F. D. Hamilton, Ian Hay, G. Hughes-Onslow, K. Jackson, K. Macgregor, D. McRedie, H. Mayer-Gross, R. Macalpine Ramage, W. K. Richmond, A. H. Shaw, D. Stalker, L. A. Urquhart, the Rev. E. T. Vernon, T. Weir, an anonymous inspector of police, and the compilers.

**BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis*. On 6th June, H. M.-G. found a pair on a loch in the Clyde area. He is familiar with the species, and was able to see the "eared" appearance as well as the upturned bill. On 15th June he saw two young birds with the pair. There is no previous breeding record for the Clyde area.

**BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris*. Mr Wright, gamekeeper at the Ward's Farm, Gartocharn, Dunbartonshire, informs us that a Bittern was heard booming in the big reed-bed there about 20 years ago. Mr Wright is a good observer and the locality is very suitable for this species.

**GADWALL** *Anas strepera*. A pair were on Dunwan Dam, Renfrewshire, on 12th December, 1954. an unusual date in this area (L.A.U.). One at Hamilton on 28th October (H.M.-G.).

**SHOVELER** *Spatula clypeata*. In *Scot. Nat.*, 68: 158, we claimed a 1955 breeding record from near Balmaha as the first for

West Stirling. H.M.-G. informs us that he found a nest with nine eggs in the same area on 12th June, 1954.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*. On 24th November, W.K.R. saw about twenty-five in a locality in West Stirling, where they were also seen by M.F.M.M. on the following day.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. This species is now numerous in winter on Flanders Moss, and in 1956 there were many more records than usual from the Hamilton area.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*. A pair nested on Rowbank Reservoir, Renfrewshire (D.McR.), and we have been told by an anonymous police inspector in a train that they also nested on Loch Thom; this is partly confirmed by E.T.V., who in May saw three adults and three goslings in Routerburn Glen above Inverkip—in the same area. It is likely that these are birds from a collection at Cove, Dunbartonshire, where they are kept in a free-flying state.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*. On 24th November there was a family at the Endrick mouth, West Stirling (W.K.R.).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. As reported for previous winters, a Peregrine haunted a tall tower in Glasgow during the winter months (G.B., H.M.-G.). "It was seen fifteen times between 10th January and 10th March, and eighteen times between 3rd September and 6th December." (H.M.-G.).

NORTHERN GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius apriciarius altifrons*. Barassie, 21st April, seventy-five. "Nearly all these birds were perfectly clean-cut specimens of *C. a. altifrons*." (L.A.U.). Of a pair at Hamilton on 3rd May one was clearly *altifrons* in summer plumage (M.F.M.M.). See, however, *Scot. Nat.* 69: 89, where doubts are cast on the validity of this race.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. One at Troon, 6th January (K.J.). Three at the Endrick mouth, West Stirling, 14th May (D.S.).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. One at Hamilton on 3rd January (T.W.), seen by various observers until the 24th. H.M.-G. informs us that the record of ten Bar-tailed Godwits at the Endrick mouth on 8th May 1954 (*Scot. Nat.* 67: 69) ought to refer to this species. The error was due to a misprint.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. One at Hamilton on 3rd January (F.D.H.), seen by various observers until 21st March (L.A.U.); also on 9th, 15th and 22nd July (M.F.). One was seen in a partly flooded sand-quarry at Mount Vernon, in the eastern suburbs of Glasgow on 18th July (D.S.).

DUSKY REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. One at Hamilton from



10th March (D.S.) until 16th April (M.F.M.M.), also on 10th and 12th September (M.F.).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. One at Hamilton on 20th, 21st and 26th September (M.F.).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*. On 13th October a bird of this species was discovered by W.K.R. on a patch of muddy ground overgrown with *Persicaria* at Hamilton. It remained until the 21st and was seen by a number of observers. A full account of the occurrence has been sent to *British Birds*. There is no previous record for Scotland.

CURLEW-SANDPIPER *Calidris subarquata*. One at Troon on 8th September (M.F.).

SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. Four were seen at Bothwell Bridge on 10th September by A.H.S., from whom we have received a detailed description. Two Dunlins were also present for comparison.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. A male was at Hamilton from 3rd January (F.D.H.) until 3rd May, when it was in full black summer plumage (M.F.M.M.). What may have been the same bird was seen on 21st and 25th July (D.S., L.A.U.), when it was losing its breeding plumage. As many as four Ruffs were seen during the autumn, four being still present on 4th November (L.A.U.). On 23rd September two were seen feeding in a field near Ayr, where thousands of Peewits and Golden Plovers were gathered (L.A.U.).

GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. On 27th May a nest containing three eggs was found on Flanders Moss among the colony of Lesser Black-backs *Larus fuscus* (H.M.-G.). This inland breeding record is of exceptional interest in view of the increase in inland records of this species.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. At Hamilton rubbish-dump an immature bird was seen on 13th January (M.F.M.M.) and another on 14th October (M.F.M.M., W.K.R.), the latter staying until 4th November (L.A.U.).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. On 29th April, at the Doonfoot, Ayr, was seen an immature bird of the white type (L.A.U.). We have received an excellent description of this bird.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*. On 24th June two nests were found on the Clyde above Hamilton (cf. *Scot. Nat.* 68: 160); one was empty, the other contained two eggs. By 5th July they had been flooded out (M.F.).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. On 21st August a bird of this species was seen flying overhead at Hamilton. The ob-

server saw its large size, short tail-streamers and heard the "kirric" call (P.G.R.B.). There is no previous record for Lanarkshire.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. A very early record was of one seen on 11th March at Maidens, Ayrshire. It was seen at very close quarters, and the brownish colour, dark legs and even the wing-shape were visible (M.F.M.M.).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. A male, Loch Ard, 3rd June (D.S.). One, probably a female, in a damp wood near Larkhall, 27th July (P.G.R.B.).

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. One in pine-trees at Milton by Bowling, Dunbartonshire, on 1st July (M.F.M.M.).

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. Several small parties in the Big Wood of Menteith on 24th September (W.K.R.); another party in the same area on 27th October (F.D.H., K.McG.).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. On 28th January W.K.R. observed a cock Lapland Bunting at about 1,500 feet on Lecket Hill in the Campsies (West Stirling, Clyde drainage area). It was "very tame, with some chestnut still on the nape, the usual 'shuffle-walk' and 'ticketty-tyoo' note on rising." The observer knows the species well. There is no previous record from the Clyde area, not even from the coast.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. On 18th February five were seen at Bhalloch Farm, one mile south of Girvan (R.M.R.), and seen in the same place on 20th February (G.H.-O.).

## SHORT NOTES

### CORY'S SHEARWATERS IN THE FIRTH OF FORTH

On 20th September 1957 at the Isle of May the wind was in the south-east and the weather overcast with drizzle; at about 0800 hours GMT great numbers of characteristic "drift migrants" began to arrive—Ortolan *Emberiza hortulana*, Little Bunting *E. pusilla*, Pied Flycatcher *Muscicapa hypoleuca*, Barded Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*, Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Song Thrush *Turdus ericetorum*, Ring Ouzel *T. torquatus*, Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*, Wry-neck *Jynx torquilla*, Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* and Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. The most numerous were, as usual, Pied Flycatchers, Whinchats and Redstarts, others being limited to one or two individuals.

On 21st September similar weather conditions continued

and, although many birds from the previous day had left the island, birds continued to come in, including three other species, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*, Blackcap *S. atricapilla* and Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*.

The weather conditions had also brought large numbers of sea birds into the Firth of Forth and, when we left the island on the return trip to Pittenweem, we saw (among other things) one Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*, four Pomarine Skuas *Stercorarius pomarinus* and numerous Arctic Skuas *S. parasiticus*. Hundreds of Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* were flying eastward in a long line over the sea and with them were three Sooty Shearwaters *P. griseus*. About half-way over a very big shearwater flew across our bows. It was noticeably larger than the Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis* which were near it—which would not be the case with the Great Shearwater *P. gravis*, a species of about the same size as the Fulmar. It was white below and plain brown above, with no white patch above the tail and lacking the capped appearance of *gravis*, in which the head is darker brown than the back. The bill was light in colour and heavier than that of the Great Shearwater. I am very familiar with both *Puffinus gravis* and Cory's Shearwater *Puffinus kuhlii*, one in the South Atlantic and the other in the Mediterranean, and have no hesitation whatsoever in identifying this bird as Cory's Shearwater, the second record for Scotland. It was also seen by Miss W. U. Flower, N. G. Campbell, M. E. French, A. C. Geddes and J. E. King.

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN.

During the forenoon on 3rd November 1957, Miss M. I. Kinnear, Miss M. Peters and I were returning from the Isle of May to Anstruther, Fife. About mid-way in the crossing we noticed a large shearwater about four hundred yards distant, flying away from us. It had the typical gliding, tilting flight and narrow, rigidly extended wings of all shearwaters, and a passing Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* gave an excellent measure of its size. The wings of the shearwater were obviously considerably longer, so that from behind it looked a much bigger bird. The light was good and, through 8x binoculars, the bird's uniform crown, head and upperparts, merging gradually into the pale throat and breast, were clearly noted. We saw no sign at all of any white on the back. After consulting *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* we had no doubt that the bird was a Cory's Shearwater *Puffinus kuhlii*, a conclusion confirmed by my examination of skins in the Royal Scottish Museum. This is the second Cory's Shearwater seen in Forth in the autumn of 1957 (see note above), and the third Scottish record.

During the same crossing we saw two Great Skuas *Ster-*

*corarius skua*, one Little Auk *Alle alle* and an adult Little Gull *Larus minutus* in winter plumage, in addition to the other sea birds normally encountered on this stretch of water.

W. J. EGGELING.

### GREEN-WINGED TEAL IN ABERDEENSHIRE

On 31st March 1957 a visit was made, in dull weather with a slight haar from the sea, to a number of small lochans in the sands of Forvie, about two miles north-east of the Ythan Estuary. On the largest pool were a number of Shelduck, Mallard, Wigeon and Teal. Of the dozen or so of the latter, some were on shore and not clearly visible in the grass and reeds at the water's edge. One of the drakes, however, did not show a horizontal white bar above the wing and this bird was closely observed until eventually it entered the water. It was then noticed that, in addition, it had a conspicuous white line curving downwards and forwards from the shoulder towards the lower breast. No doubt then remained that this bird was a male Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis*. Apart from the two features mentioned above the plumage appeared, in the poor light, to be similar to that of the European race *Anas c. crecca*.

The bird remained for three weeks, ranging freely between the original lochan, Sand Loch, Collieston and Cotehill Loch. Identification was later confirmed on different dates by Miss E. A. Garden, G. F. Raeburn, A. J. M. Smith, A. Tewnion and V. C. Wynne-Edwards. It was last seen on 20th April by A.J.M.S. and A.T. on the Forvie lochan in company with a pair of *crecca* Teal.

A.J.M.S. watched the bird for a total of six and a half hours in perfect light and has supplied the following additional notes: "Although it did not appear longer *carolinensis* was definitely plumper looking than any of the *crecca* Teal. The finer vermiculations of the grey-creamy white on mantle and scapulars render the *carolinensis* a decidedly more uniform grey than the other. The grey on its sides extended below the water line, whereas the European birds all showed creamy white above the water line."

Both A.J.M.S. and A.T. described the diagnostic white mark as "a crescent angled at about 60 degrees from the lower breast to the front of the wing at the wrist," and agreed that "the white of the short under-tail covers in *crecca* was distinctly creamy buff in *carolinensis*."

The bird was once seen being chased by a drake European Teal, and once displaying to a duck European Teal.

The Director of the Wildfowl Trust stated, in a letter to E.A.G., that no free-flying specimen of *Anas crecca carolinensis* was known to be in any collection in Britain or Europe. There is good reason, therefore, to believe that this bird was a genuine immigrant from North America.

WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

### PINK-FOOTED GEESE IN SHETLAND IN JUNE

In view of the late date, it is of interest to record that on 23rd June 1956 I saw three Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* on a grass area about a hundred yards from the sea at Hamars Ness on Fetlar. I watched the geese for fifteen minutes while they rested and preened. I did not see them feeding and, on being disturbed, they flew away in a south-westerly direction. Though I stayed on the island till 27th June, I did not see them again.

J. M. HARROP.

### BRENT GEESE IN WIGTOWNSHIRE

On 20th and 21st September 1957 I saw three Brent Geese *Branta bernicla* feeding on *Zostera* in Loch Ryan. Over the last five years or so, although I have watched Loch Ryan fairly regularly, I have never seen Brent Geese in Wigtownshire before.

JOHN MURRAY.

### KITE IN ABERDEENSHIRE

On 13th February 1958 at Seaton Park, Old Aberdeen, while standing by the Don, I noticed a bird sailing a few hundred feet up, at a distance of about 500 yards. At first glance it suggested a Buzzard, but through Zeiss 8 x 40 binoculars it was immediately recognisable as a Kite *Milvus milvus*. It remained in sight for two or three minutes and, by the time it disappeared was perhaps 1,000 yards away. The time was 8.50 a.m. and the bird was seen against a bright sky to the north, though the sun was temporarily hidden by clouds. Before leaving the place I made a note of the following details. The colour appeared uniformly dark, relieved only by a pale carpal area on the undersides of the wings. The long tail was very distinctly forked. The wings were pointed and their span roughly the same as that of Herring Gulls visible at the same time; the wing-beat was measured and deep and the flight buoyant. There is no doubt that the bird, in spite of its dark appearance when seen against the

sky, was a "common" and not a Black Kite the deeply forked tail and light carpal wing-patches, conspicuous at a great distance, seem quite conclusive.

V. C. WYNNE-EDWARDS.

### WATER-RAIL IN WESTER ROSS

On 13th November 1956, I received from Mr Robert MacKenzie, schoolmaster at Applecross, the body of a Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* which had taken refuge in his kitchen on the night of the 7th and died there. I can trace no other record from Wester Ross

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN.

### PROBABLE COMMON CRANES IN SHETLAND

About the end of May 1957 a rumour reached Lerwick that two cranes had been seen in the parish of Dunrossness at the south end of Shetland. On 7th June I was told that the birds had been seen again in the same district, but that they were now bustards. It was time to visit the spot, and the following morning with two friends I went down to Huesbrek in Dunrossness where the birds had been reported. I was having a talk with the croft folk at the door of the house and being told that the birds had been seen quite near the day before, when my friends at the car shouted that they could see the two birds. When I reached the car I could see them about 150 yards away on the other side of the road. The first glimpse of these tall stately birds was sufficient to establish that they were cranes; and the fact that they were taller than a Heron—they were looking at us over the top of a wire fence—made it reasonably certain that they were Common Cranes *Grus grus*. I got my binoculars on to them at once, but unfortunately they took wings and my view of them was very fleeting before they were in the air. Looking at them against the light I was unable to see the head markings, nor, as they were in the act of getting on the wing, could the drooping feathers over the tail be seen. While both birds were roughly the colour of a Heron, there was no similarity with a Heron when they were on the wing, with their long extended necks and legs stretched out horizontally. With a slow deliberate flight they flew away in a northerly direction, slowly gaining height, until they disappeared in the distance and were never seen again.

It may be noted that Saxby recorded quite a number of this species in Shetland during the last century, viz.: a small flock in 1807, two between 1831 and 1835, one in 1848, four in 1864 and one in 1869. According to Venables and Venables (1955), he also recorded one in Unst on 16th May, 1906.

## UNUSUAL COLOUR OF LAPWING'S EGGS

On 2nd May 1957 I found, near Connel Ferry bridge, the nest of a Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* with four eggs of an unusual colour. The ground colour was beige with a blue-green tint. There were small black spots at the blunt end and underlying grey-blue blotches. None of these eggs hatched later on.

Miss RUSSELL-FERGUSON.

## BREEDING OF WHIMBREL IN LEWIS

While walking over a Lewis moor on 8th July 1957, I found myself being pestered by a pair of Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* which flew round me, calling incessantly and landing within a few yards of me from time to time. They seemed to be particularly anxious near a certain area, which I searched without success. I then retired behind a nearby eminence to watch, still attended by one of the birds, which gave me ample opportunity to study its conspicuously striped head, smaller-than-curlew size, and the peculiar bubbling call that I heard only the previous morning in the B.B.C. programme of bird song. Soon I picked out the other bird in the area I had searched and, to my delight, a young chick beside it. The chick was slowly exploring the neighbourhood, the parent following closely behind. It gave me great pleasure to find my first evidence of this species breeding in Lewis.

A pair also nested in the same spot in 1958 when I discovered a nest containing four eggs.

W. A. J. CUNNINGHAM.

## BLACK-TAILED GODWITS IN SOLWAY

No Solway records of the Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* were given in a paper on recent occurrences of this bird in *British Birds* xlix: 258ff. My records are as follows:

Carsethorn, Kirkcudbrightshire: 22nd September 1952, a flock of twelve; 1st November 1952, about five; 27th December 1952, two.

Glencaple, Dumfriesshire: 22nd August 1954, a flock of nineteen; 5th September 1954, about eight.

My visits to suitable shores have been mainly after mid-September, so a regular early autumn passage might have been missed.

H. MAYER-GROSS.

## GREEN SANDPIPERS IN SOLWAY

The Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* is described as irregular on passage in the Solway. I have recorded it in four successive springs and three successive autumns at one place by the R. Nith, one mile below Kingholm Quay. During the times of year covered by the dates given I have only once, in late July 1954, looked for birds in this locality with no success. Only one November visit, however, was paid.

Spring records: 18th April 1953; 31st March 1954; 28th March 1955; 14th April 1956.

Autumn records: 7th September 1953, three; 7th July 1954; 7th August 1954, five; 23rd August 1954, five; 29th August 1954; 10th September 1954; 3rd, 7th and 10th October 1954; 6th November 1954; 6th and 20th July 1955.

Except where mentioned, either one or two birds were seen each time. That on 10th October 1954 was seen by a number of other observers.

At Kirkconnell Merse on the Nith Estuary, I have recorded one or two birds on 23rd August 1952, 28th August 1953, and 9th October 1953.

It therefore seems that on the lower reaches of the River Nith the Green Sandpiper is regular on passage, especially in autumn. The first of the localities mentioned is on the Dumfries-Kirkcudbrightshire border, the second in Kirkcudbrightshire.

H. MAYER-GROSS.

GREAT SKUA BREEDING ON PAPA WESTRAY,  
ORKNEY

Neither in *The Handbook* (1948), *The Popular Handbook* (1952), *The Birds of Scotland* (1953) nor *The Birds and Mammals of Shetland* (1955) is any mention made of the Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* breeding in the Orkney Islands elsewhere than on Hoy. It is therefore of some interest that on 18th July 1953, in company with a Mr Thomson of Pierowall, Westray, I visited the adjacent island of Papa Westray in North Orkney, and after some search located a Great Skua chick almost five weeks old. It was still unable to fly and was hiding in rank grass on the moor about a mile from the north end of the island. The adult birds were present and constantly attacked, while another pair which continuously circled in the vicinity were accompanied by two very recently fledged young ones. Mr Thomson had suspected for some years that the Great Skua was nesting on Papa Westray for



he had become accustomed to seeing the birds regularly on the coast of Westray (where they do not nest) during the breeding season. Until my visit, however, he had been unable to confirm his suspicion.

A. TEWNION.

### GREAT SKUA IN NORTH PERTH

As inland occurrences of the Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* are very infrequent anywhere, it is worth recording that I saw one crossing the moorland on Garth, some three and a half miles NNW of Kenmore, Perthshire, on 15th August 1957. At the time there was a northerly gale, which had been blowing for about 12 hours. Excellent views were had of this bird as it eventually passed in an easterly direction within 35 yards of me. I know the Great Skua well on its breeding grounds. There appears to be no previous record for North Perth.

JAMES W. CAMPBELL.

### KITTIWAKES IN NORTH PERTH

On 10th February 1957 I found a dead adult Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* on a tangle of flotsam by the River Tay about half a mile west of Grandtully Bridge, Strathtay. The bird on dissection was found to be extremely emaciated, with no subcutaneous fat, and it had evidently been dead for at least a week. The upper alimentary tract was empty. The plumage was perfect, without a trace of injury. Later that day I retrieved the remains of a gull entangled in riverside scrub about a quarter of a mile east of the first corpse; this had been badly mauled, probably by rats, but enough remained intact to show that it was also a Kittiwake. About the same time I had seen another gull floating down, unfortunately on the other side of the Tay; this was very likely another Kittiwake, but it was too far off for certainty, and could possibly have been a Common Gull *Larus canus*.

On 23rd March, I found another dead adult Kittiwake within fifty yards of where I had seen the second bird. This had also been mauled and had been dead for several weeks. Mr William Davidson, Director of the Museum and Art Gallery, Perth, informs me that he received a Kittiwake from Pitlochry in November 1956. It seems likely that there had been a wreck of these birds this stormy winter, 1956-7. It is interesting that the examples seen by me were in the area produced several specimens of Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* during their wreck in October-November 1953.

Harvie-Brown (*Fauna of the Tay Basin and Strathmore*

(1906) p. 340, remarks that this species is of quite exceptional occurrence at any inland locality, but gives no records for this area of any away from the coast. The only previous occurrence from North Perth that I can trace is recorded in the register of birds in the Perth Museum collection; this was an adult male in winter plumage, obtained by J. Macdonald, gamekeeper, at the head of Loch Rannoch on 23rd February 1882. The bird is no longer in the collection and Mr Davidson tells me that it was probably discarded many years ago with other old specimens, being replaced by another Kittiwake in better plumage from outside the area. It seems a pity that specimens like this, which are of considerable historical value to students of local faunal areas, should be discarded and replaced by new specimens, in order to maintain the "display" standard of collections.

JAMES W. CAMPBELL.

#### LATE BLACK TERN IN ANGUS

On 26th October 1957 I watched an immature Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* feeding at high tide along the western shore of Montrose Basin, Angus. This seems worthy of record in view of the late date and the scarcity of the species in northern Scotland.

JEFFERY G. HARRISON.

#### BLACK TERN IN SOUTH UIST

At about 1100 hours on 6th June 1957, I saw a Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* on Loch Hallam flying with Arctic Terns *Sterna macrura*. An adult bird in full summer plumage, it was heard to call and watched feeding. It remained for about two hours, after which it flew off due north. The bird was also seen by R. E. Emmett and H. P. Medhurst.

JOHN IZZARD.

#### BLACK TERN IN SOUTH PERTH

When fishing on the Lower Rhynd Loch, near Carsebreck, on 11th June 1958, we had the company of a Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* for most of the evening. It appeared about 2000 hours and was still there when we left at 2330 hours. During most of that time it was circling round scooping flies off the surface of the water, often quite near the boat, giving us an excellent view.

GEORGE T. JAMIESON.

#### LITTLE TERN BREEDING IN WIGTOWNSHIRE

At the end of June 1957 I found the nest of a Little Tern

*Sterna minuta* in a small colony of Arctic Tern *S. macrura* on the shore of Loch Ryan, Wigtownshire. On 2nd July there was one young bird and two unhatched eggs in the nest. I can find no previous record of breeding in the county.

The birds were also present at the same locality in 1958.

JOHN MURRAY.

#### NUMEROUS LONG-EARED OWLS IN ABERDEENSHIRE

While I was attending a covert shoot on 20th November 1957 numbers of Long-eared Owls *Asio otus* were seen at Murby Plantation, Ballogie, near Aboyne. The figures for individual drives were seven, eighteen and four birds. One Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* was also seen. The owls were driven out of coniferous plantations mainly composed of Scotch Pine *Pinus sylvestris*. Another shoot on 4th December 1957 at Pit-slugerty Croft, Ballogie, yielded further counts of one, two, five and three Long-eared Owls, and of six Tawny Owls. Long-eared Owls were easily recognised by the presence of a black spot on the underside of the wing as they flew overhead. One Long-eared Owl was accidentally shot by one of the guns. The nature of the shoot was such that it is possible that the same bird may have been counted more than once during the course of the three or four drives held at the two shoots, but the maximum counts (e.g., eighteen and five) are true maxima.

R. W. ALLAN.

#### FEEDING HABITS OF RAVEN IN SHETLAND

One has always been led to believe that Raven *Corvus corax* fed solely upon any offal it could pick up, but during the course of my observations over the past three years, I have noticed their feeding habits changing.

At Baltasound, Unst, in 1955, when the oats were newly sown, I observed a few Ravens eating what I took to be grubs which had been turned up by the harrows; but in the fall of that year, when the oats had been cut and stooked, not only were the birds on the ground, but were actually sitting on top of the stooks, eating oats. In the season of 1956 the same procedure took place, but the birds were far more numerous; I observed between fifty and sixty of them on a three acre field. One that was shot was found to be full of oats.

With the advent of milder winters there has not been any severe snow to kill off many of the hill sheep and so the Raven has to some extent been deprived of much of its nat-

ural food: bearing this in mind one wonders if the Raven, not being able to find carrion, may not yet have to resort to the more palatable breakfast of porridge!

S. T. SAXBY.

### JAY IN AYRSHIRE

A few days before 21st November 1957 a Jay *Garrulus glandarius* was both seen and heard by my keeper at Rowallan, and I myself was puzzled a few days later when I heard what I would have sworn was a Jay, but, never having seen them here as far back as memory goes, I could not imagine what it was. Since then it has been seen several times by my keeper, always in some woodland strips round the Home Farm, and during a covert shoot I saw and was able to identify it without any doubt as it flew about 150 yards and perched on the top of a tree. It was also seen by the beaters and one of the walking guns.

I have given orders that the Jay is not to be shot; not that I really want Jays about the place, but it will be exceedingly interesting to see if it acquires a mate and how long it remains. The bird's call and flight left no possible chance of mistaking its identity.

ROWALLAN.

(Lord Rowallan has since written, 9th July 1958: "I am afraid the Jay has left us."—Ed.)

### TWO UNUSUAL NESTS OF THE BLUE TIT

Two unusual nests of the Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* seem to deserve record. The first was found by M.F.M.M. on 19th May 1957, near Gartocharn, Dunbartonshire. It was a domed nest in a fissure of the trunk of a lime-tree and had undoubtedly been originally built by a Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. It was constructed mainly of old leaves, especially those of bracken, and was a typical Wren's nest in site, shape and material. Within, however, a Blue Tit was sitting close: the bird's white forehead and blue crown were visible, and the characteristic hiss was uttered when a finger was placed on the lip of the hole. The second nest was found by I.C.C. near Caldervan, Dunbartonshire, on 26th May 1957, when it contained small chicks. It was built in the open and resembled the nest of a Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, being domed and made of moss and lichen. The nest was in a small hawthorn bush, beside which was growing a clump of the palmate bamboo. A fallen tree had forced the tops of a few bamboo stems against the stem of the hawthorn, and the tits had made a large platform of moss on the crowded leaves. The nest and dome were on one side of this platform, against the hawthorn stem.

IAIN C. CHRISTIE,  
M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN.

## BARRED WARBLER IN FIFE

At Fife Ness on 22nd September 1957, George Dick and I saw an extremely skulking bird frequenting the gorse. In size it compared, say, with a Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* and was larger than the House Sparrows and Garden Warblers that were about. On being flushed, six or seven times, it was seen to have the typical warbler flight, though rather heavy, and the habit of always diving for cover, so that we were never lucky enough to put glasses on it. Its most striking feature was the general colour, a very noticeable light or ash grey. G.D. noted whitish at the sides of the tail. We are of the opinion that this bird was a Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*.

Strong easterly winds had been blowing for three days before, and Barred Warblers were seen on the Isle of May during the same period. Other migrants seen at Fife Ness the same day were Goldcrests, Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts, Garden Warblers, Blackcaps and a single Lesser Whitethroat.

JOHN HOY.

PIED FLYCATCHER BREEDING IN  
CLACKMANNANSHIRE

In company with Mr A. Crawford, I observed a pair of Pied Flycatchers *Muscicapa hypoleuca* feeding young at a nest in Dollar Glen, Clackmannanshire on 16th June 1957. The nest, which contained four young between seven and ten days old, was in a hole in a rowan tree. During earlier visits the male was in full song on 19th May, and was again seen on the 25th. This appears to be the first breeding record of the Pied Flycatcher in Clackmannan. It should also be noted here that a male Pied Flycatcher was seen in Dollar Glen in the summers of 1951 and 1956 (*Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 1: 70, 7: 16).

Pied Flycatchers bred in the same nesting hole at Dollar Glen in 1958, the young hatching and probably fledging. A second male was present and singing continuously throughout the season. In 1958 both males were first summer birds, sooty brown instead of black, with dingy white breasts, whereas the 1957 male was fully adult.

JOHN HOY.

## GREY WAGTAIL BREEDING IN LEWIS

On 28th and 29th June 1957, I watched a family of Grey Wagtails *Motacilla cinerea* on and near the banks of the Bay-

head River in Stornoway. The two young birds were fully fledged and were attended by both parents. I had previously seen a pair on the River Creed near Stornoway on 25th and 31st March 1957, but not thereafter.

W. A. J. CUNNINGHAM.

#### YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING AT THE ISLE OF MAY

On 18th September 1957 on the Isle of May the weather was overcast and rather misty, the wind being SSE, Force 2, declining to nil in the afternoon. Pied Flycatchers *Muscicapa hypoleuca*, which are nearly always evidence of drift migration across the North Sea, were present.

At about 1400 hours GMT, just north of the Pilgrims' Haven, I saw a bird new to me in the company of Rock Pipits *Anthus spinoletta petrosus*. In a first brief view—after which it temporarily vanished—it appeared to be a small finch or bunting with striking yellow-buff underparts and a pale appearance on the upperparts on account of yellowish edgings to certain feathers, a similar colour scheme, one might say, to that of the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. The bird was later re-discovered perched on the stay of a mast near the Top Lighthouse, where it was watched in a bad light, but better views were later had at close range as it perched on a rock. It was finally chased away by Rock Pipits and not seen again.

It was very small for a bunting, about the size of a Linnet. While perched it constantly uttered a loud "tick", which could easily have been mistaken for that of the Robin *Erithacus rubecula*: the sound was much more like the call-note of the Robin than is that of the Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, which was heard two days later. The head looked very stripy. The crown was pale, bordered with black. Very marked yellowish-buff eye stripe. Dark line through eye. Ear-covers buff with dark line below. Underparts uniform bright yellow buff; no streaking observed. Closed wing had bright buff on edges of covert feathers, giving a markedly pale appearance. There was some white on the outer tail feathers. The bill was pale. I have no doubt that the bird was a Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*, a species which cannot easily be confused with any other. I am familiar with twelve other species of Palaearctic buntings.

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN.

#### LITTLE BUNTING—AND OTHER BIRDS—ON RHUM

On the 8th October 1957 Mr Peter Wormell and I noticed a small bird feeding in short grass beside the shepherd's house

at Harris on the Isle of Rhum. It was a bunting which neither of us had met before, but from its head pattern and small size we thought it must be a Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. Having noted its salient features one of us motored back to Kinloch and returned with *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*, and the relevant volume of *The Handbook*. The bunting was very tame and we were able to examine it by telescope (x25) at such close range that it filled the whole field of the glass. Checking against the descriptions and plates in the reference books we were able to confirm with complete certainty our provisional identification and to place it as a first winter bird. The dark-sided buff chestnut crown, foxy side of the head, black malar markings and breast streaks, and pale legs were clearly obvious. The bird fed incessantly, returning again and again to favourite patches of short grass on the roadway which contained fruiting plantains. It moved mouse-like over the ground and with great ease we manoeuvred it into a roughly constructed funnel of fish-netting, from which with equal facility it escaped, the mesh being just too large to contain it. This is apparently the first record of a Little Bunting from the Inner Hebrides.

It may be noted here that since 1956 seventeen species or subspecies of birds have been seen on Rhum which are not recorded in Dr W. R. P. Bourne's recent list (*Scot. Nat.* 69: 21-31), in addition to the resident Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta petrosus*, omitted from his list in error. These additional birds are: Teal *Anus crecca*, Greenland Whitefronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, Velvet Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, Dunlin *C. alpina*, Sanderling *Crocethia alba*, Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*, Rook *C. frugilegus*, Jackdaw *C. monedula*, Tree-Creeper *Certhia familiaris*, Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, Redwing *T. musicus*, and White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*. Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* have been seen two or three times, Swallows *Hirundo rustica* fairly often, a Swift *Apus apus* at least once, and flocks of Lesser Redpolls *Carduelis flammea* on several occasions. A single Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*, present both in 1956 and 1957, was almost certainly the only one of its kind on the island.

Dr Bourne states that he found no endemic mammals, reptiles or amphibia; but Pygmy Shrews *Sorex minutus*, Fieldmice *Apodemus*, lizards and newts do in fact occur. Rhum is now a National Nature Reserve with a resident warden: from regular observations many new records, not only of birds but also of other fauna, may confidently be expected.

W. J. EGGELING.

## THE LATE JAMES BARTHOLOMEW OF GLENORCHARD

A notable figure in Scottish ornithology for over half a century passed away when James Bartholomew, M.B.O.U., died in the autumn of last year. "J.B." as he was more familiarly known among his contemporaries was in his 85th year, and during the course of his long life he made many valuable contributions to ornithological journals, the fruit of careful and competent field-observations in the area of Glenorchard, his beautiful home near Balmore. He was one of the first in Scotland to take up the bird-ringing scheme when it was first introduced by the late H. F. Witherby, and many of the more interesting of early recoveries were from his hand.

He made his first contributions to the Annual Reports as early as 1902, and from that time his name appears frequently in the "Annals of Scottish Natural History" and "The Scottish Naturalist," as well as "The Glasgow Naturalist." He was a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and a founder-member of the Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds, and became the first President of the Society from its formation in 1927 until he relinquished the position for reason of health in 1945, when he was made an Honorary President.

He was a founder-member also of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club when it was initiated in 1936, and a member of its first Council till its activities ceased in 1940. On the revival of the Club after the war he became Vice-Chairman of the Glasgow Branch until the year before his death. In 1950 he was elected a Member of the British Ornithologists Union.

For one with such knowledge and experience he was one of the most unassuming of men, never seeking to parade his knowledge or vaunt his opinions. To spend an afternoon with him at Glenorchard at any time of year was to be caught up and re-infected with something of this man's absorbing passion of his lifetime; and his obvious delight at some discovery of the new or unusual, such as the wintering of blackcaps in his own grounds, could not fail to convey something of its thrill to the listener. He has bequeathed a sum of money to the S.O.C. and also his comprehensive library on ornithology, which is now housed with the Club library in Edinburgh.

He slipped away on the great migration as peacefully and quietly as he had lived. Perhaps more valuable to some of us than his legacy is the memory he has left of a gracious and friendly man, loving all life whether of human or avian form, incapable of hurt to anyone, generous and self-effacing, and without a trace of meanness or smallness in his soul.

E.T.V.

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### NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**IMPORTANT**—Annual Subscriptions for the current session should NOT be paid until a decision is reached at the Annual General Meeting in Perth on 25th October regarding the recommendation by Council to increase subscriptions from 20s to 25s, and from 5s to 7s 6d. (See Agenda for Annual General Meeting on p. 24). All Members will be notified of the decision, and also of the name and address of the new Hon. Treasurer, in the Winter number of "Scottish Birds."



## The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

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### *ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE PERTH*

24th/26th OCTOBER, 1958

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#### *P R O G R A M M E*

##### **FRIDAY, 24th OCTOBER :—**

- 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Reception Office in the Museum and Art Gallery, George Street, opens for Members and Guests to register for the Conference (5s each). Collect Name Cards and Annual Dinner tickets (12s 6d each).
- 6.15 p.m. Meeting of Council.
- 8 p.m. Public Lecture — "HIGHLAND BIRDS" — in aid of the funds of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. A full-length colour film of the bird-life of the Central Highlands with commentary by Mr George Waterson. In the Large Town Hall. Admission (payable at entrance) 3s 6d & 2s 6d. Schoolchildren half-price.
- 8 p.m. to midnight Ballroom in the Royal George Hotel reserved for informal discussions and refreshments.

##### **SATURDAY, 25th OCTOBER :—**

- 8.45 a.m. Reception Office opens for Registrations.
- 9.20 a.m. Official Opening of the Conference in the Lecture Hall, Museum and Art Gallery, George Street.  
ADDRESS OF WELCOME by John Buchan Esq., D.L., J.P. (Lord Provost of Perth).
- 9.30 a.m. LECTURE on "Field taxonomy at Bird Observatories" illustrated with slides and specimens, by Mr Kenneth Williamson (Migration Research Officer of the British Trust for Ornithology).
- 10.45 a.m. INTERVAL for coffee and biscuits.
- 11.15 a.m. COLOUR FILMS of "North Rona and Sulisgeir" with personal commentary by the photographer, Mr James MacGeoch (Nature Conservancy Warden).
- 12.30 p.m. CONFERENCE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH outside the Museum.
- 1 to 2 p.m. INTERVAL for informal lunches. (Hotels must be informed).

- 2 to 5.45 p.m.      EXCURSIONS to :—  
 (a) Morton Lochs and Tentsmuir.  
 (b) Lindores Loch and Eden Estuary.  
 (c) Dunkeld Lochs.  
 (d) Angus Lochs.  
 (e) Loch Leven.  
 Transport by private cars leaving Museum and Art Gallery.
- 6.15 p.m.      22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB in the Lecture Hall, Museum and Art Gallery, George Street.  
 BUSINESS :—  
 (1) Apologies for absence.  
 (2) Approval of Minutes of 21st Annual General Meeting held in North Berwick on 26th October, 1957.  
 (3) Report of Council for Session XXI.  
 (4) Approval of Accounts for Session XXI.  
 (5) Appointment of Auditor.  
 (6) Approval of the following alterations to the Constitution recommended by the Council :—  
 (a) That under MEMBERSHIP 3 (h) "Any Member whose subscription is three years in arrears shall cease to belong to the Club", the words "is three years in arrears" be deleted, and the following substituted :— "due on 1st October is not paid by the following 31st March."  
 (b) That under MEMBERSHIP 3 (e) "The Annual Subscription shall be £1 ; or 5s in the case of Members who are under 21 years of age or in the case of University Undergraduates who satisfy the Council of their status as such at the time at which their subscriptions fall due in any year", the words "£1 ; or 5s." be altered to "25s ; or 7s 6d." (This motion to be approved on the understanding that the Club will publish a quarterly magazine "Scottish Birds," to be issued free to all Members.)  
 (7) Approval of the appointment of a new Honorary Treasurer. (Mr A. G. S. Bryson, C.A., who at the end of this Session will have served the Club in this capacity for twelve years, has intimated that he does not wish his name to go forward for re-election.)  
 (8) Election of two new Members of Council. (The Council recommend the election of Mr A. G. S. Bryson and Lt. Col. J. P. Grant, Younger of Rothiemurchus, to replace Mr W. Austin and Miss Winifred Flower who retire by rotation.)  
 (9) Any other business.
- 7.30 p.m.      RECEPTION and refreshments in York House, York Place.
- 8 p.m.      ANNUAL DINNER in York House, York Place. Dress informal. (Price 12s 6d each, inclusive of tip. Drinks extra.)

**SUNDAY, 26th OCTOBER :—**

- 9.30 a.m. COLOUR FILMS AND SLIDES of "The Osprey and other Scandinavian birds" with personal commentary by the photographer, Mr M. D. England.
- 10.45 a.m. INTERVAL for coffee and biscuits.
- 11.15 a.m. EXHIBITION OF BIRD PAINTINGS by Donald Watson in the Lecture Hall, Museum and Art Gallery.
- 11.15 a.m. MILLAIS COLLECTION OF BIRD SKINS: The Museum will be open for inspection.
- 2 p.m. EXCURSIONS (as for Saturday) by private cars leaving the Museum and Art Gallery.

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**INFORMATION**

In order to simplify arrangements, it is essential that Members intending to be present should complete the enclosed printed postcard and send it to the Club Secretary NOT LATER THAN 21st OCTOBER.

Members may invite guests, and are particularly asked to provide private cars where possible, for Excursions. Petrol expenses should be shared.

Everyone attending the Conference must register (5s each) on arrival, at the Reception Office. (Open Friday 24th, 6 to 7.30 p.m.; and Saturday 25th, 8.45 to 9.30 a.m.) Members wishing to attend the Annual General Meeting ONLY do not require to pay the registration fee which covers incidental expenses—hire of rooms, projection equipment, mid-morning coffee, etc.

Payment for tickets for the Annual Dinner (price 12s 6d inclusive of tips) should be made when registering on arrival. NO PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN ADVANCE.

All Hotel bookings should be made direct with the Hotel at which you wish to stay. Owing to the general shortage of single rooms, younger members are urged to make arrangements to share a room with a friend. Private arrangements must be made with your Hotel for lunches each day. The Secretary is NOT responsible for Hotel bookings.

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATION IN PERTH**

ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL (Conference H.Q.) (Telephone 890)	B. & B. from 21s.
Atholl Private Hotel (Tel. 951)	B. & B. from 14s 6d.
Queen's Hotel (Tel. 1295)	B. & B. from 18s.
Salutation Hotel (Tel. 836)	B. & B. from 24s 6d.
Station Hotel (Tel. 741)	B. & B. from 23s.
Waverley Hotel (Tel. 165)	B. & B. from 17s 6d.

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**CLUB LIBRARY**

The Club Library is now housed in the Secretary's Office at 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2. The collection has recently been augmented by several gifts, and Council appeals to Members to donate books and periodicals which they may wish to dispose of. We have no volumes of the "Ibis" prior to 1944. The Library is open during office hours for reference. Books or magazines, of which we have duplicate copies, can be obtained on loan.

