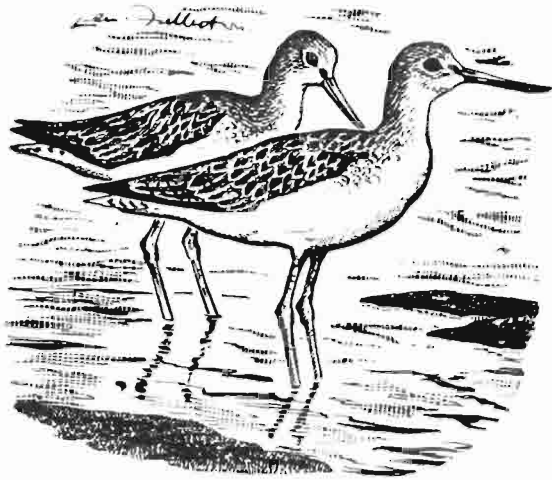


SCOTTISH BIRDS



The Journal of
The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Vol. I. No. 3

Spring 1959

Reprinted 1973

THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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. The Annual subscription is 25/-; or 7/6 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 of which their subscriptions fall due in any year. "Scottish Birds" is issued free to members.

The affairs of the Club are controlled by a Council composed of the Hon. Presidents, 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 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 Hon. 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.

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 the 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.

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. MCKELJOHN, with the assistance of D. G. ANDREW and A. T. MACMILLAN. Business Editor, ARTHUR J. SMITH. Cover design (Greenshank-) by LEN FULLERTON. *Published quarterly.*

Editorial

IF the success of a periodical can be measured by the number of contributions received, then we should be pleased with the progress of *Scottish Birds*, for, in the past quarter, the bulk of material has been so large that we may be forced to print more of it in small print than we would wish. However, without in any way criticising the value of the records received, it is impossible not to reflect that too many of them come from too few places—that is to say that places known to be “good for birds” are visited disproportionately often, like Aberlady Bay, while large areas of Scotland (we might take Wigtownshire as an example) are virtually unexplored ornithologically. That new-fangled petrol-driven machine, the motor-car, which allows the bird-watcher to proceed rapidly from one “good place” to another, is perhaps a hindrance rather than a help to a knowledge of the birds of the country. Much more is seen by the observer on foot, especially if he is careful to walk with the sun at his back, and his observations of an area will always be the most thorough and comprehensive because he moves slowly. He is the tortoise of the fable.

The Late Professor-Emeritus James Ritchie

Scottish Ornithology and the Club has suffered a great loss in the death on 19th October 1958 of our founder member James Ritchie, C.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.E.

Ritchie was essentially a naturalist; but his interests were wide—ranging from archaeology through the whole field of biology. He was also an accomplished artist, producing many lovely water-colour sketches of his beloved Highlands.

For nine years he was Keeper of the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum; for six years Regius Professor of Natural History in the University of Aberdeen; and for the last sixteen years of his active life, Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. The publication of his book "The Influence of Man on Animal Life in Scotland: A Study of Faunal Evolution" in 1920 had a great influence on the growth of the study of animal ecology and of its applications to conservation in which he was always keenly interested. He was Chairman of the Scottish Wildlife Conservation Committee appointed by the Secretary of State which published in 1949 a list of recommended Nature Reserves in Scotland, and was one of the initial members of the Scottish Committee of the Nature Conservancy. He took a leading part in the work of the Royal Scottish Zoological Society, being a member of its first Council in 1909 and later becoming Vice-President. He edited *The Scottish Naturalist* for fourteen years.

It was as a Chairman of meetings that Ritchie's great gifts of knowledge, charm, firmness, tact and humour got full rein, and he presided with distinction over meetings of the Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds for Scotland; the Duddingston Loch Bird Sanctuary Committee; and the Royal Society of Edinburgh of which he was President for the last four years of his life. He was a Trustee of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory and never missed a meeting. He also took a keen interest in the Isle of May Bird Observatory. His collection of books on ornithology has been bequeathed to our Club Library.

As Professor C. M. Yonge has said—"No one in his generation has done more to describe and to interpret the natural history of this country." G.W.

THE EDINBURGH BIRD BULLETIN

In these days of ever-increasing professionalism it is pleasant to recall that the *Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* was born as a thoroughly amateurish undergraduate experiment. In 1950 there was a large band of young ornithologists, mostly recently

returned from the Forces, who were extremely active in and around Edinburgh, and Stewart Kirkaldy, now a general practitioner in Canada, was the moving spirit in dreaming up an intimate local magazine which would encourage members to keep in touch with each other and to record events which, though not remarkable enough to merit publication in the national magazines, would help build up a clearer picture of the bird life in a comparatively small area.

The first number appeared on 30th November 1950, and right from the start it received the most encouraging support from local members of the S.O.C. Since then its history has been one of steady expansion. Stewart Kirkaldy stayed long enough only to see the first year of publication. After his departure the late Commander Tom Yeoman took over the post of advisory editor and continued to act in this capacity for the next four years in spite of being almost completely incapacitated by illness. Under his influence the magazine came to acquire a wider reputation for reliability which considerably exceeded the lighthearted aspirations of its founders. Until 1955 the *Bulletin* had remained a purely private venture, but pressure of work made it impossible to continue this arrangement, and in December of that year it was formally handed over to the S.O.C. and George Waterston very gallantly added the responsibilities of Editor to his many other tasks. After two years he in turn handed over to Andrew Macmillan, who has been responsible for the magazine's eighth and last year of life—and this seems an excellent opportunity of paying a most sincere tribute to the thorough competence with which he has discharged his duties.

It may seem sad that a magazine which is fulfilling such a useful purpose should go out of publication at a time when its quality and success have never been more assured. But many of its functions will be taken over by *Scottish Birds* and it would be difficult to avoid either duplication or competition if the S.O.C. were to run two magazines for general and local consumption. It may also be recorded here that one of the main objects of the *Bulletin* when it was founded was to provide a pilot magazine which would pave the way for and be incorporated in a club publication.

So the *Bulletin* may also claim to be an ancestor of *Scottish Birds*. One may be allowed to hope (with some confidence) that the child may once again prove to be father of the man.

D.G.A.

(Mr D. G. Andrew, the author of this notice, has with characteristic modesty suppressed his own name. He bore a great share of the editing in the first years of the *Bulletin's* life and was largely responsible for its accuracy and for the additions made by it to our knowledge of the ornithology of the south-east of Scotland.—ED.)

MIGRANTS AT ST KILDA IN 1957 AND 1958

W. J. EGGELING

This note covers the periods 16th April to 25th September 1957 and 16th April to 1st September 1958. It has been compiled from the daily census book in which observers (mainly Nature Conservancy staff or representatives) record the birds they see. Only migrants or visitors are dealt with, not breeding birds. Species not previously reported from St Kilda are indicated by asterisks. All the observations were made on Hirta.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procellaria grisea*. One on 1st September 1958.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. One on 14th September 1957.

HERON *Ardea cinerea*. One on 19th-21st May 1957. One on 7th and 8th July. Recurring notices of a bird between 14th July and 7th August, when one was picked up in a very wasted condition. One on 13th September 1957.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. In 1957 one on 19th June, two on 23rd June, and five on 8th December.

TEAL *Anas crecca*. In 1957, one on 13th May and two from 18th to 20th September. In 1958, two on 2nd May, one on 23rd May, and one on 22nd August.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*. In 1957, three on 24th and two on 25th April, one on 22nd May, one on 1st July and one on 24th September. Four on 30th April 1958.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. In 1958 two on 30th April, one on 30th August.

***TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*. A drake from 11th to 22nd and 30th to 21st May 1958.

***SCAUP** *Aythya marila*. An exhausted duck, picked up on 19th May 1957, died next day.

***COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*. In 1957, one from 19th to 25th and 29th to 31st May; one 1st to 4th June; one 15th and 16th September. Two on 27th and one on 28th August 1958.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. In 1957 one from 21st to 25th May, one on 3rd June. In 1958, one from 6th to 16th May, one on 24th and 28th June, one on 2nd July.

GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. One on 8th May 1957.

***BEAN GOOSE** *Anser arvensis*. One on 15th September 1957 was identified at very close quarters by C. Fisher, H. G. Brownlow and K. Williamson. According to the R.A.F. garrison, it was joined in late October by two other "grey geese", all three remaining until mid-December.



Village area, St Kilda, in 1952, showing boulder beach, snipe-frequented fields and scattered clèits. Twites and St Kilda Wrens nest on the erosion scarp behind the beach. In 1957 and 1958, mist nets caught many migrating White Wagtails and Meadow Pipits at its base, a Marsh Sandpiper in front of the Factor's House (where observers are accommodated) and a Nightingale among the boulders in the foreground.

Photograph by J. Morton Boyd

*PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. At least 110 on 25th April 1957.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*. One on 10th June 1957.

*BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. Twenty-six on 24th April 1957. Thirty-four on 2nd May and twenty-four on 8th and 9th May 1958.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. In 1957, one in mid-April, two from 27th to 29th April, one from 1st to 4th May and one (on Soay) from 12th to 26th May.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*. One on 15th May 1957.

*BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. One on 24th August 1958.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Occasional records in both years; did not breed on Hirta, but may have done on Soay or Boreray.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. In 1957, one or two most days from 17th April to 5th May, one on 11th May, one on 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th September. In 1958, one on most days from 21st April to 11th May, one on 16th and 18th, two on 20th and one on 31st May, one on 3rd June, one on 9th August.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. One on 9th, 12th and 28th May 1958.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. One on 20th May 1957.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. In 1957, one on 28th April and 4th, 8th, 9th and 11th May, with a different bird on the 12th. One on 13th and 14th May 1958.

*MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. In 1957, one from 13th to 15th and 21st to 22nd May, one on 13th September.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. In 1957, one on 21st May, 21st June and 8th July. In 1958, three on 22nd April, one on 12th and 27th May, 4th July, 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th August.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. Two on 3rd May 1957, and seven other single occurrences in spring, latest 4th June; one on 24th July. Considerable movement in autumn, beginning 14th August, with maximum of fourteen on 9th September. Much the same pattern in 1958: a few in spring with autumn maximum of twenty-seven on 20th August.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius apricarius*. Well marked spring passage in both years, but very slight autumn movement. In 1957 only on three days in late August and three days in late September. In 1958 no autumn birds up to 1st September, when observations discontinued.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Nine on 17th April 1957 had all left by 20th. Up to four birds on nine days in May; two notices in June, three in July, six in August. Seen daily from 1st September, with maximum of forty on 17th. Some overwintered, for at least three of the small flock present in April 1958 carried rings put on the previous autumn. Most of this

flock remained until mid-June 1958; others seen in late June, on ten days in July and once in early August. After 18th August seen daily.

SNIFE *Capella gallinago*. Spring and autumn passage noticed in both years, but not easily assessed in view of the presence of resident birds of the same race *faeroensis*.

*JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*. One on 21st September 1957.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*. The remains of one seen April 1957.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. In 1957 two April, one July, five August and four September notices, never more than two on any day. In 1958 one April, seven May and ten August occurrences, maximum of ten on 2nd May.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Well marked spring passage in both years, from late April till end of June. Maxima twenty in 1957, seven in 1958. Autumn movement very slight: in 1957 up to three birds on three days in late July, two on 6th August. In 1958 one on 15th July and 24th August.

*WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. One on 25th and 26th May 1958 was caught and ringed.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. One on 11th and 21st May 1957.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Single birds seen on six days between 17th and 25th April 1957; two on 27th; one on 4th May. In 1958 one or two on six days between 20th and 29th April; fourteen on 30th; forty on 1st May and five notices of single birds between 8th and 23rd May; one on 8th July, 11th and 19th August.

*GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. One on 3rd August 1957.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. In 1957 six occurrences of one or two birds between 15th August and 15th September; four on 31st August. In 1958, one to three birds seen every day except one between 20th and 30th August.

*LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. One from 13th to 15th September 1957.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. In 1958 two on 20th and 27th April, two on 17th and 18th August. First records for Hirta, but previously recorded from Boreray.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. Slight passage in spring (mainly May) and autumn (mid-August to September) in both years. Two on 26th July 1957.

SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. In 1957, two from 14th to 16th August; one to three between 26th August and 18th September on nineteen days. In 1958, single birds from 17th to 25th August, on 30th August and 1st September.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. In 1957 single birds from 24th

to 29th July, and from 11th to 13th September. In 1958 one on 24th and 25th August.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. One on 24th July 1958.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. In 1957 two on 21st May and single birds twice in July and once in August. In 1958 two on 6th June, and one to six on eight days between 22nd August and 1st September.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*. In 1958, one from 17th April to 7th May, two from 8th to 18th May, one from 19th May to 3rd June and sporadically thereafter until 27th June. Probably only two individuals involved; only one previous notice.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. In 1957, one to four on one day in April, nine days in May and one day in June, July and September. In 1958 similar sporadic occurrences, on one day in April, fourteen in May, five in June and one day in July and August.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*. One on 23rd June 1958. The possibility of this being a feral pigeon should not be overlooked.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*. In 1957 one on 25th April and one or two on four days in May.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. One from 29th May to 5th June 1957.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. One from 24th to 25th May 1957.

*SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. In 1957 single birds on 22nd May and 25th September. In 1958, one, almost certainly the same individual, on 13th, 18th and 24th May, and one, perhaps the same, on 2nd June.

*LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. One on 10th August 1958.

SWIFT *Apus apus*. In 1957 single birds on four of the last eight days of May, and from one to three birds in the first week of June. Noticeable passage, from one to fifteen birds daily, in the last nine days of August 1958.

*SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*. A very rufous example, probably of the race *brachydactyla*, seen by Kenneth Williamson from 29th May to 5th June 1957.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. One on 18th April 1957 and on 12th and 14th May 1958.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. In 1957, one on 17th April, followed by a steady movement (mostly one to four birds a day, but once ten) from 12th May to 21st June; one on 8th July. A similar movement (most in a day six) between 2nd and 31st May 1958, with single birds on 19th and 23rd June. No autumn Swallows in either year.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. In 1957, up to three birds a day from 23rd May to 18th June; five on 23rd August. A similar trickle, again never more than three birds a day, between

6th and 28th May 1958; one or two birds on five days in June and two days in July (latest 4th July).

*SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. Single birds on 27th and 30th May 1958.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. One on 19th May 1957.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Single birds on 5th and 14th May 1958.

REDWING *Turdus musicus*. In 1957 between one and nine almost daily in April; one to four daily on eleven days from 1st to 20th May. In 1958 a few in April and early May, a single bird remaining until 3rd June. Some *coburni* certainly involved.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. In 1957, a male seven times from 17th to 29th April and a female four times from 29th April to 6th May.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Passage in both years April to June and (slight) late August to September, with typical, Greenland (*leucorrhoea*) and intermediate ("Iceland" i.e. *schioleri*) birds all present at these seasons.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. Single birds on 13th and 27th May, and 20th September 1957. One on 13th May 1958.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. In 1957 single birds on 11th May, and 20th, 23rd and 24th September; different individuals each day.

*NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*. One on 12th May 1958; trapped and examined in the hand. First record for the Hebrides.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. One on 22nd September 1957.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. One on 25th and 26th May 1957. In 1958 single birds (several individuals) on the dates from 12th to 31st May; one on 5th June.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. One on 26th August 1957.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. One on 13th August, and one from 28th August to 2nd September 1957. Both examined in the hand.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. One on 1st June 1958.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. In 1957, one or two on 11th May and two on 20th. In 1958, three on 14th May, two of these remaining until 16th and one until 22nd; single birds on 26th and 28th May, 3rd June and 22nd August.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. In 1957, single birds on 2nd, 3rd, 28th and 30th August; two on 9th and 10th September. In 1958, single birds on 11th, 14th and 26th May, two on 27th and one from 29th to 31st.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. One on 13th May 1958.

*WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Single birds on 4th and 5th, and 13th to 17th August 1957.

*YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One on 20th September 1957.

*SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. One on 25th May 1957. One on 26th, three on 27th, one on 28th May 1958.

*HEDGE SPARROW *Prunella modularis*. One from 10th to 21st May 1958.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. One on 25th May 1957. At least three on 12th May, two on 8th August 1958.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. Passage in considerable numbers in both years in April and May, August and September. Up to fifty in Village Bay at a time.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*. Strong passage in both years. In 1957 spring movement started from 23rd April to 22nd May, with peak of over 100 birds on 26th April. In autumn from 11th August to 25th September, with over 100 birds on 13th August; one on 7th July. In 1958 from 23rd April to 31st May, with single birds on 2nd and 16th June. In autumn from 19th August. Numbers fewer than 1957.

GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava thunbergi*. One on 29th May 1957.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris bensonorum*. A summer resident; none were seen in 1957 after 14th September. In 1958, a noticeable increase on 21st and 22nd May, after low numbers before.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*. A single bird on 30th May 1958 was almost certainly a Greenland Redpoll *rostrata*.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. In 1957 single hens on 27th and 29th April, and from 4th to 11th May, possibly same individual. In 1958 a cock on 18th and 19th April, and a hen on 18th, 20th, and 25th April, and 2nd May. A hen, found to be close-ringed and present from 11th May to 3rd June, could have been that noticed earlier. One hen on 10th and 12th June.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. A male, 21st to 29th May 1958.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*. One from 17th to 20th May 1957.

*RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. A male from 14th to 22nd May 1957.

*REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Single hens on 5th and 12th May 1957.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. In 1957, one on 16th September, two on 17th, about twelve on 18th and 24th, over sixteen on 25th.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. In 1957, one on 5th May, a pair from 8th to 17th, one on 21st, twenty on 17th September, about six on 18th, one on 24th.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. In 1957, two to seven daily

from 10th to 16th May, five on 25th. In 1958, one on 11th May, three on 12th, four from 13th to 25th, 25 on 30th, eight on 1st June, twelve on 2nd and 3rd, eleven on 4th, one on 5th and six on 11th.

*HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. A female from 11th to 20th May 1958.

After only two seasons of sustained observation, it is difficult to draw any worthwhile conclusions concerning the pattern of migration at St Kilda. There are, however, a few indications.

In addition to the specific notices of geese listed above, there were four occurrences in 1957 and 1958 of "grey geese" in spring, 26 on 24th April 1957, over 70 on 25th and one on 30th; 45 on 30th April 1958. It appears likely, therefore, that the islands lie on the line of a spring flyway for these birds (and perhaps also for Whooper Swans) heading from Britain to Iceland and Greenland. Until more information is obtained concerning the latter part of the autumn the position at that season must remain uncertain, but at the moment it seems possible that the return journey southwards is made further to the east.

It is equally clear that northward route via St Kilda is used by many waders and small birds making for the Faeroes, Iceland and Greenland. Thus, in both the years under discussion, where there was a well-marked passage in spring of Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Meadow Pipits, White Wagtails, Greenland and "Iceland" Wheatears, and to a lesser extent of Iceland Redwings, Faeroe Snipe and, probably, Iceland Merlin. The Redwing passage may well be heavier than the records suggest, for the bulk of the movement may have passed earlier, before observations began. Again, data for autumn are scanty but, to judge by 1957 when observation extended to 25th September and the majority of the above species except Redwing should have passed (or at least begun to come through if they were coming at all), the return movement was mostly on a much smaller scale, so that many of the birds would similarly appear to return by a different route. This generalisation does, however, need qualification, for in the case of the Meadow Pipit and White Wagtail there was in both years a considerable autumn passage. The waders present a complex picture and it is perhaps worth noting that, for example, Ringed Plover and Curlew occurred at both seasons in both years but with heavier movement in autumn than spring; that in the case of Knot and Sanderling there were no spring but several autumn notices; and that Whimbrel and Redshank on the other hand had what we might term the "Wheatear Pattern" of a heavier movement in spring than in autumn.

Many questions remain unanswered and there is obviously

great scope for continued watching and ringing. For instance to what breeding station are Tree Sparrows heading when they call in on St Kilda in May and June, and whence do they come?

REPORT ON BIRDS OF THE CLYDE AREA 1957 - 1958

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN

This is the last report of its series to be written. From 1950 to 1956 C. E. Palmar and the present writer published six similar reports in *The Scottish Naturalist* and one in *Scottish Birds*. Hereafter records from the Clyde area will take their place in *Scottish Birds* on a similar footing to those from other areas, but it has been thought advisable to put into print a number of records from 1957 and the early months of 1958 which would otherwise not have seen the light of day. The majority, but not all, have already been included in *The Glasgow Bird Newsletter*, a duplicated sheet produced occasionally for the benefit of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory.

As in previous reports a few records come from that part of the Forth area which is readily accessible from Glasgow.

The contributors of the following notes are G. H. Acklam, Cdr. and Mrs J. F. Bayliss, Miss W. U. Flower, M. Forrester, M. F. M. Meiklejohn, C. E. Palmar, W. K. Richmond, A. H. Shaw, T. C. Smout, D. Stalker, Alistair Tyndal, L. A. Urquhart, T. Weir. Unless otherwise stated, dates apply to 1957.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps griseigena*. One offshore, about 50 yards out, at Portencross, 25th February (D.S.).

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. A freshly dead bird was picked up at Tollcross, within Glasgow city boundary, on 11th March 1958 and is now in the Kelvingrove Museum (C.E.P.).

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*. One was seen at Loch Macanrie, Flanders Moss, on 3rd January 1958 (A.T.). The bird was described as resembling "a Short-eared Owl with long legs": it could not have been an American Bittern as it did not have black wing-tips. Occasional in South Perth. (Forth area).

GADWALL *Anas strepera*. A pair on Loch Macanarie, S. Perth, 23rd November (D.S.).

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. A female or immature, Hillend Reservoir, Lanarkshire, 20 October (C.S.). A juvenile on the rubbish-dump pool, Hamilton, 22nd December (C.E.P.); thereafter until 16th February seen either there or at Bothwell Bridge (D.S.). On the Lake of Menteith (Forth area) there were four immature birds on 16th November

(D.S.), one on 5th and 11th January (W.U.F., M.F., T.W.). There appears to be no previous record for South Perth.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. On 14th March 1958 a first year female was swimming in the River Kelvin at Kelvin-grove Park, Glasgow (C.E.P.).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. At Hamilton on 29th October an adult was seen (W.K.R.) and an immature on 13th December (M.F.M.M.). Orange legs showed both to be of the race *flavirostris*.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. On 19th May a pair of Water Rails, accompanied by five newly hatched chicks, were watched at close quarters in a swampy wood beside the R. Endrick near Balmaha (M.F.M.M.). There is no previous breeding record for W. Stirling.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. One at the Endrick mouth on 19th May, seen both in Dunbarton and W. Stirling (M.F.M.M.), and two in the Clyde valley above Hamilton on 11th August (D.S.). These are the first records for W. Stirling and Lanarkshire.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. One at the Endrick mouth, Dunbarton bank, on 1st March 1958 (J.F.B., M.F.M.M.).

SANDERLING *Croecthia alba*. Four were seen at Bothwell Bridge on 10th September 1955 (A.H.S.): Dunlins were present for comparison and the observer has submitted a very satisfactory description. There seems to be no previous record for Lanarkshire.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*. A bird of this species was discovered at Hamilton on 27th October (L.A.U.) and seen by other observers on the following two days: see *British Birds* 51: 193.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus fuscus*. On 11th January 1958 there were at Milngavie Reservoir one bird of the British race *graellsii* and three of the Scandinavian race *fuscus* (C.E.P.). The latter were seen in a good light and the black of the back was the same colour as the wing-tips. There were hundreds of Herring Gulls present for comparison. There is no previous record of this race for Dunbartonshire.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. An immature bird at the Heads of Ayr, 26th February (D.S.).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. An immature, probably first winter bird, at Hamilton rubbish dump, 22nd February (M.F.M.M.) and 24th February 1958 (G.H.A.).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. One at Doonfoot, Ayr, on 12th October (Miss Irving): the observer has sent an excellent description of this bird.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*. In view of the scarcity of recent occurrences of this species in the Loch Lomond area, the following records are of interest: one, Drymen, 5th November 1950;

one, Buchanan Castle woods, 11th December 1954; one, Drymen, 6th July 1958—all in West Stirling. One, near Gartocharm, Dunbartonshire, 23rd February 1958 (M.F.M.M.). A pair at Balmaha, W. Stirling, 1st December 1957 (G.H.A.).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. One on Flanders Moss, near Gartmore, S. Perth, 16th March 1958 (M.F.M.M.). See *Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 8: 92.

SHORT NOTES

GLOSSY IBIS IN TIREE

Early in October 1958 at Balemartine, Tiree, the school-children told me that they had seen a "big black curlew" on the way to school and I asked them to draw my attention to it the next time they saw it. On the following morning there was a shout from several voices: "Oh, Miss, there's the black curlew" and there it was, quite near to the bus. Subsequently I saw it at several places in the neighbourhood, the last occasion being at Crossapool on 26th October.

It seemed rather larger than a Curlew and much darker, but it definitely had a similar bill. When it took to flight, however, it immediately lost its resemblance to a Curlew, and became more like a Heron—very like one, in fact, having the same way of stretching its legs out behind, the same flapping movements of the wing and the appearance of having its neck folded in to its body, though actually the neck was short. When I saw the bird standing I thought it was black with touches of bronze glinting in the sunlight. When it was flying, I could see the dark, dark wings, but the back had a sort of shiny grey appearance. The bird can only have been a Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, the second occurrence in Tiree.

MAIRI MCKINNON.

SPREAD OF EIDER IN EAST SUTHERLAND

It is interesting to follow the spread of the Eider *Somateria mollissima* during the past fifty years or so from Orkney down the east coast of Caithness and Sutherland into the Moray Firth. In 1887, when Harvie-Brown published his *Fauna of Sutherland, Caithness and West Cromarty*, the Eider bred on the Pentland Skerries but no further south, though by 1895, the same author stated that it was "commoner in the Moray Firth than formerly" (*A Fauna of the Moray Basin*). In 1931 Miss Baxter and Miss Rintoul (*Birds of Scotland*, 1953) found a sucked egg between John o' Groats and Duncansby Head—less than seven miles from the Pentland Skerries. How-

ever, in the same year, Miss E. O. Armstrong (*British Birds* 36: 114) found a nest at Berriedale and recorded females with young in subsequent years. Later records of females with young are: off Brora 1936 (*Birds of Scotland*); Loth 1942 (Armstrong *op. cit.*); Brora 1947, several broods (Adam Watson, *Scot. Nat.* 60: 53).

My own records are from 1949 when I saw females with young off Brora, but more recently there is evidence of breeding south of this. In 1956 D. Macdonald of Dornoch observed two broods of ducklings at the mouth of Loch Fleet opposite Skelbo Castle, and the following year I saw at about the same place three broods, two of two ducklings and one single, the small numbers being almost certainly due to predation by gulls. Actual nests were not in this area until the summer of 1958, when the Hon. G. L. Charteris found three nests in the heather at the Little Ferry, near the entrance to Loch Fleet. So far no nests or broods have been seen south of this point, but there are recent breeding records for Banffshire (*Scot. Nat.* 66: 39-40).

To these I am now able to add an even earlier record, hitherto unpublished, of breeding near Navidale on the Sutherland coast. The nest was found in either 1915 or 1916 by Dr H. Stewart MacIntosh, present Director of Education for the City of Glasgow: in his letter, which gives a detailed account of the finding of the nest, he adds that his father, who knew the shore well from boyhood, had never heard of a nest being found previously, nor had any of the older inhabitants of the district.

IAN D. PENNIE.

SNOW GEESE IN NORTH ARGYLL AND ABERDEENSHIRE

On 6th November 1958 I was waiting outside Appin School. It was 3 p.m. and the sun low in the sky, lighting up the upper peaks. From the ESE—i.e., from the general direction of Loch Awe-Tyndrum—came an unmistakable goose, flying in the direction of Ardnamurchan. As it passed, to the north of my line of vision, it was brilliantly lit up by the sun, a winter sun giving a very sharp radiance. The clear white, black wing-tips and general shape of the bird, with extended goose-like head and neck, were clearly defined. A Gannet is course cigar-shaped and is very different in other respects, and that I presume is the only bird with which one could confuse a Snow Goose *Anser hyperboreus*, which I suppose this bird to have been. It was in view for about three minutes.

MAIRI CHISHOLM OF CHISHOLM.

On 22nd October 1958 while making a duck count at the Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire, I saw three white geese roosting with about a thousand Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* in the sand-dunes between the loch and the shore. I was able to get within fifty yards and to my great pleasure they were undoubtedly Snow Geese *Anser hyperboreus*, the pink legs and bill, and the black-tipped wings being clearly seen. There was no sign of staining on the head or neck. In size they were similar to the Pink-feet. The birds were still there in late November and in early November I heard from the Wildfowl Trust that they had no knowledge of "lost" Snow Geese at that time.

It may also be of interest to record that 472 Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus* were feeding or roosting on the same loch.

ELIZABETH A. GARDEN.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER ON FAIR ISLE

In the late afternoon of 14th September 1956 F.R.A., R. G. McCaskie and G.W. discovered an unusual bird in a flock of twelve Golden Plover *Charadrius apricarius* on the moor of Vaassetter on Fair Isle. At first sight it appeared to be a Grey Plover *Squatarola squatarola*, but was soon seen to lack the black auxiliaries of that species and to have no white on the rump and upper side of the tail. The possibility of its being one of the races of *Charadrius dominicus* (American *domenicus* or Asiatic *fulvus*) presented itself and this supposition was strengthened by a statement in *The Handbook* (IV, 372) that the American Golden Plover in autumn resembles a young Grey Plover.

In the evening of the same day the bird was watched by the three original observers together with M. Armelin, M. I. Kinnear, M.F.M.M., and C. Walker. The following features were observed: on the ground, perhaps because of its lighter colouring against the dark heather, it seemed slightly larger than the European Golden Plovers, but in flight was seen to be very slightly smaller. R.G.McC. noticed that it stood at the same height as they did, thus arguing a longer length of leg in proportion. The skull was markedly rounded, giving a bull-headed appearance. "Bullhead" is a dialect name for the American Golden Plover. The whole appearance of the bird was very white and grey making it almost indistinguishable from a Grey Plover until it flew, when the auxiliaries were seen to be brownish grey, like the rest of the underwing, and the rump and upper parts of the tail to resemble the rest of the upper parts in colour. Its most striking field character was a very broad white eyestripe and a very white forehead. The crown was dark brown verging on black, with lighter flecks; the nape dark grey brown. The upper parts had a yellowish

grey appearance, less spangled than in *apricarius* and in museum specimens of *domenicus fulvus*. There was a greyish streak through the eye continuing in a circle round the cheeks to the throat. The underparts were white with noticeable traces remaining of the black feathers of summer plumage; they formed a sort of collar on the lower throat, and were thick down the centre of the breast. The bird was only heard to call once, when the whole flock rose in alarm; it uttered a triple "tee tee tee" of a peculiar harsh nasal quality, like the whinny of a horse. Early next morning it rose from the moor of Eas Brecks and flew away southwards by itself, after which it was not seen again. On this occasion it called continually, the call being trisyllabic, with the second syllable hardly accented, and the third lower in pitch. It could be rendered "tialoo" and was higher pitched than the call of the European Golden Plover heard at the same time.

F.R.A. and M.F.M.M. have examined specimens of *Charadrius domenicus domenicus* and *fulvus* in the British Museum (Natural History) and the Royal Scottish Museum and are agreed that the Fair Isle example was of the typical race, the American Golden Plover. One specimen of *domenicus* in the R.S.M. agreed almost perfectly; it is a male obtained at Ajo, Buenos Aires, on 10th September, 1899. The mounted specimen of *domenicus* in the showcase of the R.S.M. also closely resembles the Fair Isle bird. The Fair Isle bird differed from all specimens of *Charadrius dominicus fulvus* examined by us in the following respects: size, not very much smaller than *apricarius*; grey colouration of upper parts and very white eyebrow; generally less brown and less spangled above, lack of yellow on throat, though two specimens of *fulvus* in the B.M. have hardly any.

For the sake of future possible observers it should be observed that there was no possibility of confusing this bird in the field with *Charadrius apricarius*; it was wholly unlike. This is the second Scottish record.

F. R. ALLISON
M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN.
GEORGE WATERSTON.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER

(See plate on page 75)

There seem to be three features by which the American Golden Plover *Charadrius domenicus domenicus* may be distinguished in the field from the Asiatic Golden Plover *fulvus*, and all point to the Fair Isle bird being the former.

1. *Size*. There is hardly any overlap between the two and

the fact that the Fair Isle bird was only slightly smaller, and indeed appeared larger when on the ground, than *C. apricarius*, indicates that it was of the typical race. The question of inter-breeding and intermediates might arise, but Conover's paper on *domenicus* and *fulvus* in Alaska (*Auk* 62: 568-574) suggests that the two are possibly specifically distinct.

2. *Colour*. Writers on the two races comment on the ease of distinguishing them. "The two seem to be very distinct" (Seebohm, *Ibis* 1877: 165). "*C. virginianus* (= *domenicus*) at all seasons (but more especially in winter) has far less of the golden colour on the dorsal plumage and on the breast than *C. longipes* (= *fulvus*) has" Dresser, *Birds of Europe* VII: 477). Rand (*Auk* 64: 283), commenting on a specimen of *fulvus* collected in Greenland on 16th September 1940, says: "This specimen, compared with our series of sixteen *domenicus* in similar plumage is strikingly different." Conover (*op. cit.*) writes: "Adults taken after the first part of July often have enough of the new winter plumage on the underparts to make identification possible by colouring alone. The first new feathers appear on the sides of the face, throat and upper chest. In *fulva* these are quite yellowish and contrast strongly with the black feathers of the breeding plumage, while in typical *domenica* they are pale brownish grey and much less noticeable". Furthermore we have discovered, by examination of the series in the British Museum and the Royal Scottish Museum, that adults in autumn of *domenicus* can immediately be picked out by the unspangled, yellowish grey colouration of the upperparts. We can find no evidence, either in literature or in skins, that such a plumage ever occurs in *fulvus*.

3. *Voice*. J. T. Nichols, so far as we can discover the only observer to make notes on the calls of both races, states (Bent, *Life History of American Shore Birds* II: 183) that the call of *domenicus* is "in migration a far-reaching *que-e-e-a* with a quaver in the middle and falling at the end": this seems to be about the same as the call of the Fair Isle bird, allowing for individual peculiarities of transcription. He adds (*ibid.* 199), writing on *fulvus* in Alaska, "its notes are quite unlike the flight call of the eastern bird in migration."

M.F.M.M.

BLACK-TAILED GODWITS IN SOLWAY

In addition to H. Mayer-Goss's records (*antea* 1: 13) we have received the following from William Austin, Robert Smith and Donald Watson. Unless otherwise stated they refer to the Carsethorn Shore, Kirkcudbrightshire.

1947: several during mid-September.

1952: 7th August, one; 14th, fourteen; 16th, two; 17th three; 19th, two; 23rd, several; 25th, at least ten; 26th, several; 31st, three; 7th September, fifteen; 14th, thirteen; 23rd, seventy; also on 23rd one at mouth of Piltanton Burn, Luce Bay, Wig-townshire.

1954: 29th September, about twelve; 30th, at least twenty; 9th October, several; 2nd November, two.

1958: 11th January, two; 31st August, seven at Southerness (Kirkcudbrightshire); 2nd November, two.

From D. G. Andrew: nine at Carsethorn, 8th October 1954.

From John Murray: one on Loch Ryan, Wigtownshire, just outside Stranraer, on 5th January 1959.

SPOTTED REDSHANKS IN AUTUMN 1958

The following notices of Spotted Redshanks *Tringa erythropus* in Scotland have been received:

Solway. At Caerlaverock Merse, Dumfriesshire, on 15th and 26th September (E. L. Roberts). A. D. Watson also reports two old records from Carsethorn, Kirkcudbrightshire, one on 23rd August 1953 and one on 18th August 1954.

Clyde. One at Hamilton in latter part of 1958 and early January 1959 (several observers).

Tweed. At Hule Moss, Berwickshire, on 16th September we saw a Spotted Redshank, being attracted first by its "che-wit" call. It was white below and grey above, with a small but conspicuous white rump and no wing bar. The bill was longer than a Redshank's and in flight the red legs trailed out behind. This is the first record for Berwickshire, and apparently for Tweed. (W. Murray and S. J. Clarke).

Forth. Between Grangemouth and Kincardine, East Stirling, single birds on 31st August, 4th, 5th and 27th September, and 26th October. (George Dick, J. Hoy, J. Potter). There seem to be no previous published records for East Stirling. At Cult Ness, Fife, single birds on 24th, 26th and 30th August, 11th, 21st, 27th and 28th September, 12th, 19th and 26th October, and 2nd, 16th and 23rd November. Two on 4th, 7th, 10th and 14th September. (P. G. R. Barbier, George Dick, J. Hoy, C. K. Mylne). One seen on the Isle of May on several days in September and early October is the first for the island: fuller details will be given in the Observatory report.

Moray. One at Lossiemouth, Morayshire, on 5th September (Ian Hay) and one at Skibo estuary, Dornoch Firth, S.E. Sutherland, on 10th September. (D. Macdonald).

BLACK-WINGED STILT IN RENFREWSHIRE

On the afternoon of 5th October 1958 on the south side of the R. Clyde about a quarter of a mile west of Erskine Ferry I saw a Blue-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* at a small muddy spit frequented by waders at high water. It was seen through binoculars in a good light. Its very long legs, and the fact that it was wading in much deeper water than Redshanks, were immediately conspicuous. Long fine straight bill also noticeable. Back was grey-black, but not jet black. Breast and underparts white. Legs dull pinkish. The joint of the leg was conspicuous (sketch submitted). No call was heard. In flight the black wings were very noticeable; paler colour and white on the tail, but tail pattern not clearly seen. The legs trailing behind in flight were characteristic. When first seen the bird was alone, but on being put up joined a party of four or five Redshanks and a larger number of Oystercatchers. When standing in the water the Stilt bobbed its head up and down continually. In flight a relaxed "skipping" effect was noticeable; while the Redshank flew with regular direct wing-beats, the Stilt did three or four beats followed by a glide, and so on. There is a record of 1850 for Renfrewshire.

R. P. CAMPBELL.

TURTLE DOVES IN ABERDEENSHIRE

On the evening of 6th June 1958 I watched a single Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* at Fontainebleu Farm near Newburgh. It was last seen going to roost in a tree near the farmhouse. Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards saw a Turtle Dove resting on telephone wires near this farm on 25th September 1955. There are none kept captive in the area.

ALISTAIR J. M. SMITH.

ROLLER IN SHETLAND

On 5th September 1958, in Mid Yell, Mr Robert Tulloch observed a Roller *Coracias garrulus*, which was being mobbed by a Kestrel; it protected itself by turning on its back in the air and extending its claws.

CHARLES J. INKSTER.

(In a cutting from *The Shetland News* of 16th September, sent us by Mr Inkster, an unmistakable description of the bird is given. The cutting also refers to a roller "found dead about this time last year by Miss Harriet Thomason of Camb."—Ed.)

GREEN WOODPECKERS IN LANARKSHIRE

Mr W. K. Richmond reports twice hearing a Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* on 23rd January 1958 near Merryton Farm on the Clyde above Hamilton, and, in the same district, on 25th October 1958, Mr Thomas F. Kerr saw one in Avon Glen near Fairholm Bridge, Larkhall. Good views were had from twenty yards. Mr Kerr, who has watched birds for many years in the area, has never seen this species there before.

BLACK REDSTARTS IN ABERDEENSHIRE

On 1st April 1958 we saw two Black Redstarts, both females, in a turnip field near Cotehill Cottage, by Collieston, Aberdeenshire.

ALISTAIR J. M. SMITH.
R. MAXWELL.

CHIFFCHAFF IN WINTER IN AYRSHIRE

On the afternoon of 12th January 1958 my wife and I observed a Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* on the shore about three miles north of Ardrossan. The day was bright with a gusty onshore wind and the bird was searching for food low in the field layer just about the drift line. It regularly allowed approach to within five yards, thus making identification pretty certain. Presumably its occurrence was associated with the strong south-westerly gale during the previous week which, strangely enough, grounded an Irish boat on the shore a mile or two south of where we saw the bird; probably, like the boat, it came from Ireland.

J. C. SMYTH.

CORRESPONDENCE

I am much indebted to Dr J. W. Campbell (*antea* 1: 27) for pointing out a record of the Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* in Wester Ross, omitted from our *Geographical Distribution and Status of Birds in Scotland*. With regard to the skin from Kyleakin lighthouse, we state in our introduction that "Skye and its islets" are treated separately from the mainland (*op. cit* p. v). We therefore included it under Skye.

E. V. BAXTER.

The note in *Scottish Birds* (1: 30): "the Committee cannot accept the record of a Manx Shearwater seen on Loch Leven, 25th July 1957", made me look up my last year's diary, where

I found, as I thought, that I had noted seeing a Manx Shearwater while fishing at Loch Leven on 26th July 1957. I had not realised that this was sufficiently unusual to be worth reporting, but I had no doubt at the time that it was a Manx Shearwater; I've seen lots of them around Ardnamurchan Point and out towards Eigg, as well as a close-up of one which appeared on Loch Shiel at Acharacle after a gale, either damaged or too exhausted to fly. The day at Loch Leven was very stormy and we eventually had to abandon the boat. The bird was in the comparatively quiet water under the shelter of a strip of trees along the south-west shore and, when we got too close, flew out past the boat into rougher water where we lost sight of it.

Incidentally I saw a pure white Sand Martin at Loch Leven the same day.

GEORGE T. JAMIESON.

I was very surprised to read in *Scottish Birds* (1: 31) that a Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* seen near Ettrickbridge on 20th October 1957 was a first for Selkirk. I rent the Ettrick shootings and most years a small flock of Barnacles spends the autumn in the valley. I never allow them to be shot. The largest party was twenty-one in October-December 1954, and the smallest seven in 1956. I have not seen them in 1957 or 1958, but last year a small flock frequented the neighbouring Yarrow valley. I first saw them in 1948 near Ettrickbridge. I have also seen them several times in Yarrow.

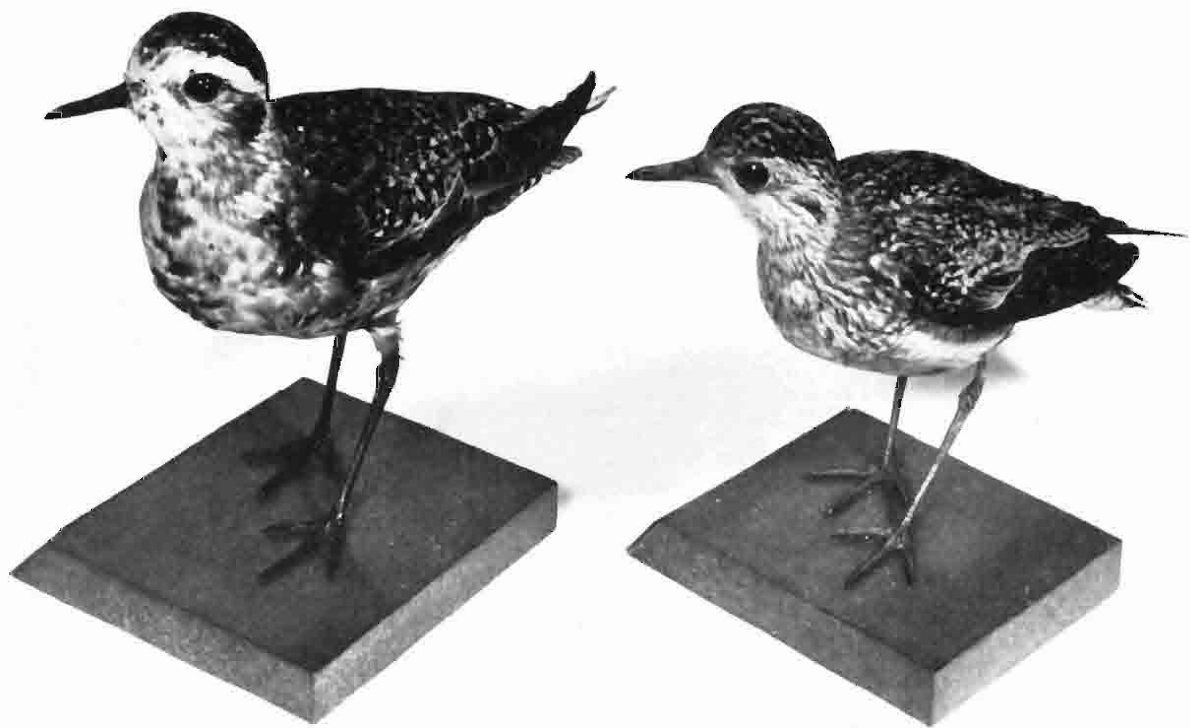
The Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* (*antea* 1: 38) is quite a common nesting species on the moors in upper Morayshire, as it is in Banffshire. I saw two pairs near Carron in Moray and four pairs near Cabrach in Banff in June 1958.

PHILIP CHRISTISON.

With reference to the report (*antea* 1: 32) of the breeding of the Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* and Herring Gull *L. argentatus* at Caerlaverock Merse, the first record for Dumfriesshire, it may be of interest to report that in 1958 three pairs of Greater Black-backs, ten pairs of Herring Gulls and fifty pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus* successfully bred in the same locality.

E. L. ROBERTS.

Regarding the note (*antea* 1: 14) by A. Tewnton in which he states that there is no published record of the Great Skua *Catharacta skua* breeding in Orkney elsewhere than in Hoy and that he had proved breeding on Papa Westray in 1953, may I report that the late George Arthur knew of some two or three pairs of Great Skuas nesting annually on Papa Westray



Mounted specimens in the Royal Scottish Museum of the American Golden Plover *Charadrius dominicus dominicus* (left) and the Asiatic Golden Plover *C. d. fulvus* in typical autumn plumage. The difference in size, extent of eyebrow and shape of head is well shown.

(By courtesy of The Royal Scottish Museum)

for a number of years before his death in 1952, but kept the fact secret. During the past years I have been checking up on the Great Skua throughout Orkney and have found that it has increased in Hoy, and has nested on at least three islands besides Hoy and Papa Westray. In 1955 one pair nested on Rousay and in 1957 and 1958 one, and probably two, pairs nested there. One pair nested on Eynhallow in 1956 and one on Westray in 1958. It is interesting to note that Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* have preceded Great Skua at each of the places named above, by several years, in some cases ten or more.

E. BALFOUR.

CORRIGENDA

Antea 1: 30. Under "Semipalmated Sandpiper" for "1957" read "1956".

Antea 1: 34. The date on which the Dowitcher was seen in Berwickshire should read "20th September", not "29th September". Col. W. M. Logan Home saw the bird again on 20th November.

Antea 1: 42. The skin of the Subalpine Warbler is not in the Royal Scottish Museum, as stated.

CURRENT NOTES

The most striking ornithological event of the winter has been an invasion of Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus*. A. T. Macmillan has summarised the movements up to 26th January. The earliest record is of two birds at Colinsburgh (Fife) on 19th November; this, however, is so much earlier than the big movements in December that it cannot be considered part of them.

Odd birds were seen from about the second or third weeks of December in or near Kirkwall (Orkney), Wick (Caithness), Golspie (Sutherland), Rannoch Station (Perthshire), Crail (Fife), Dunfermline (Fife), Cockburnspath (Berwickshire) and Mount Vernon (Glasgow).

By faunal areas the number of records to date is approximately: Solway, present but no details; Clyde, 5; Tweed, 2; Forth, 26; Tay, 27; Dee, 8; Moray, 21; Argyll, 6; Caithness, 4; Skye, 1; Inner Hebrides, 2; Outer Hebrides, 1; Orkney, 2. Duplication of records has probably taken place in Forth and Tay. The largest flocks are recorded in:—

Golspie (Sutherland)	25	21/26 Dec.
Spinningdale (Sutherland)	20	6 Jan.
Granton on Spey (Moray)	40	20 Jan.
Corpach by Fort William (Inverness)	20	26/28 Dec.

Aviemore (Inverness) two or three flocks of up to	50	28 Dec./ 20 Jan.
Ballater (Aberdeen)	50	1/12 Jan.
Rannoch Station (Perth)	30	18 Dec.
Aberfeldy (Perth)	27	27 Dec.
Bridge of Cally (Perth)	16	28/29 Dec.
Dundee (Angus)	14	3 Jan.
Elie (Fife)	15	31 Jan.
Kirkcaldy (Fife)	20	7 Jan.
Dalkeith (Midlothian)	20	21 Dec.

Between mid-July and the end of the year a number of parties of Crossbills *Loxia curvirostra* have been reported in S.E. Scotland, the largest number being forty seen in early December by W. Murray at Kyles Hill, Berwickshire.

Four Tree Sparrows were seen by George L. A. Patrick between Busby and Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire, on 20th July, and four in the same area on 4th January. A Buzzard was repeatedly seen at Kilmacolm in early November (G.M.T. Conacher).

Among scarcer winter visitors may be mentioned a Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* seen more than once in mid November at Auldhouse, Lanarkshire, apparently the first record for the county (L. A. Urquhart); a Quail *Coturnix coturnix* in the south part of Arran on 24th November, seen by two sportsmen who are familiar with the bird in the Near East (J. A. Anderson); a Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* at Bennane Head, Ayrshire, on 18th January (M. F. M. Meiklejohn); an Iceland Gull *L. glaucoides* in Ayr harbour on 14th December (F. McIntosh and others); a Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* near Hawick on 5th December (W. S. Medicott); and a Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis f. flammea* seen at Gartmore, Perthshire, on 11th January among a party of Lesser Redpolls, from which distinguished by paler colouration and slightly larger size (F. McIntosh, M. F. M. Meiklejohn).

Late Swallows *Hirundo rustica*: five at Dunbar, 16th November (J. Dann) and one at Anstruther on 2nd November (W. J. Eggeling). The following wintering Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla* have been reported: A female killed against a window, near Cupar, Fife, about 2nd December (J. K. Stanford); a female at a bird table at Bonnybridge, Stirling, on 20th and 21st December (Mrs K. H. Paterson); a female at Avoch in early January (John Lees); and a male at Dornoch on 10th January which, despite severe frost and heavy gales, survived at least up to the 26th (D. Macdonald).

Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* were observed feeding on haws at Bothwell Bridge on 31st December and at Auldhouse, Lanarkshire, on 9th November (cf. *British Birds* 50: 75 and 347). They took the berries both from the air and while perching (M. F. M. Meiklejohn, L. A. Urquhart).

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

SUMMER EXCURSIONS

IMPORTANT:—Members intending to come on Excursions must, where necessary, inform the respective organisers immediately so that arrangements can be made for numbers. Numbers on some Excursions are limited, and the applicants will be accepted in strict order of application. Members of the Club are entitled to attend ANY Branch Excursion. Guests may be invited where numbers are not limited.

ABERDEEN

Applications for all Excursions to be made to Miss E. A. Garden, Eider Cottage, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, (Tel.: Newburgh 95), one week in advance. Transport will be by private cars, and members having spare seats should inform Miss Garden.

Sunday 12th April

YTHAN ESTUARY AND LOCHS—Leader, Miss E. A. Garden. Meet Ythan Hotel 10.30 a.m. Bring picnic lunch and tea.

Sunday 17th May

LOCH DAVAN AND KINORD—(By kind permission of Sir Malcolm Barclay-Harvey). Leader, Mr C. Murray. Bus leaves Bon-Accord Street, 10 a.m. Return 6.05 p.m. Bring picnic lunch and tea. Meet Dinet Station 11.40 a.m.

Sunday 6th September

YTHAN ESTUARY AND LOCHS—Leader, Miss E. A. Garden. Arrangements as for 12th April.

DUNDEE

All applications and enquiries to Mrs Jack Grierson, 62 Sherbrook St., Dundee. (Tel.: Dundee 87752).

Saturday 11th April

BARNHILL TO EASTHAVEN—Meet at Barnhill Shelter, 2 p.m. Bring picnic tea.

Saturday 16th May

BENVIE—Meet at Invergowrie Circle, 2.30 p.m. Bring picnic tea.

Sunday 28th June

ISLE OF MAY—Applications to Mrs Grierson as soon as possible. Number limited to twelve.

Sunday 13th September

TAYPORT TO TENTSMUIR POINT—Meet at Taybridge Station for 9.35 a.m. train. Bring picnic lunch and tea.

EDINBURGH

Times of buses and trains should be checked with Summer Time-tables. Costs may also be subject to alteration. Private hire buses will only be provided at the charges shown on condition that a minimum number of 30 attend. Anyone unable to attend, and having booked a seat, may be required to pay the fare unless good notice is given.

Saturday 2nd May

ABERLADY BAY NATURE RESERVE—(Spring migrants). A conducted tour. Meet Timber Bridge, 2.30 p.m. Bring picnic tea. (S.M.T. bus leaves Edinburgh Bus Station at approx. 1.40 p.m.). Leaders, Mr K. S. Macgregor and Mr Charles Cowper.

Saturday 23rd May

PENICUIK HOUSE GROUNDS—(By kind permission of Sir John D. Clerk, Bt.). Meet outside Penicuik Post Office, 2.30 p.m. Bring picnic tea. (S.M.T. bus leaves Edinburgh Bus Station at 1.30 p.m.). Leader, Mr R. W. J. Smith.

Sunday 31st May

THE HIRSEL, COLDSTREAM—(By kind permission of the Earl of Home). Limited number. Applications by 23rd May to Mr Andrew T. Macmillan, 66 Spylaw Bank Road, Edinburgh 13. Leader at the Hirsell, Major the Hon. Henry Douglas Home. Private bus will leave Waverley Bridge at 11 a.m. returning at approx. 7 p.m. Picnic lunch and tea to be taken. Cost: bus approx. 8/- per person.

Saturday 6th June

ISLE OF MAY—Limited number (12). Applications by 30th May to Mrs George Waterston, 11 Brandon Street, Edinburgh. Train to Anstruther leaves Waverley Station, 9.10 a.m. Boat leaves harbour 11.40 a.m. prompt. Time on island approx. 12.45 to 4.30 p.m. Return train leaves Anstruther 6 p.m. arriving Edinburgh 8.56 p.m. Bring picnic lunch and tea. Cost: Day return rail tickets, 8/11; Boat approx. 9/-.

Sunday 5th July

FARNE ISLANDS—Limited number. Applications by 27th June to Sister E. A. Robertson, Wards 39/40, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Leader from Seahouses, Dr E. A. R. Ennion. Private bus leaves Waverley Bridge, 9 a.m. arriving Seahouses 12.30 p.m. Boats leave harbour on arrival. Bring picnic lunch. Cost: Bus 11/-; Boat 11/-; High tea at Monkshouse 6/-.

Saturday 18th July

BASS ROCK—(By kind permission of Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bt.) Applications by 11th July to Mr George Waterston, 5 Charlotte Sq., Edinburgh 2. (Tel.: 34872). Boats leave North Berwick Harbour, 2.30 p.m. and return at 7 p.m. Bring picnic tea. Cost: boat 7/6.

Saturday 22nd August

ABERLADY BAY NATURE RESERVE—(Autumn migrants). Leaders, Mr K. S. Macgregor and Mr Charles Cowper. Arrangements as for 2nd May.

GLASGOW

Times of buses and trains should be checked with Summer Time-tables. For all Excursions except the first, application must be made as stated so that adequate reservations may be made.

Saturday 25th April

BIRD SANCTUARY, HAMILTON—(By kind permission of the Town Council of the Burgh of Hamilton. (Meet at Hamilton Cross at 2.30 p.m. Leader, Mr D. Stalker.

Sunday 31st May

THE HIRSEL, COLDSTREAM—(By kind permission of the Earl of Home). Train to Edinburgh leaves Queen St., 9.40 a.m. arrives 10.54

a.m. S.M.T. bus leaves Waverley Bridge, 11 a.m. Joint excursion with Edinburgh Branch. Applications by 23rd May to Mr Andrew T. Macmillan, 66 Spylaw Bank Road, Edinburgh 13. Bring picnic lunch and tea. Cost: bus approx. 8/-.

Saturday 6th June

AILSA CRAIG—Maximum number, two parties of 14. Boat leaves Girvan Harbour with first party at 11 a.m. Time on Ailsa, 3 to 4 hours. Fare 10/-. Bring picnic lunch and tea. Applications to Miss Mabel G. Scott, 68 Evan Drive, Giffnock, not later than 30th May.

Sunday 14th June

LUSS ISLANDS, LOCH LOMOND—(By kind permission of Sir Ivor Colquhoun). Service bus via Balloch to Luss; alight at Bandry Bay, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Luss. Ferry boat leaves 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. returning 5.30 p.m. Fare approx. 3/-. Bring picnic tea. Applications to Mr George Kerr, 166 Old Castle Road, Cathcart, by 6th June.

Saturday 20th June

LITTLE CUMBRAE—(By kind permission of Mr Ian Parker). Boat leaves Fairlie 11.30 a.m. Fare 3/6. Bring picnic lunch and tea. Applications to Miss Mabel G. Scott, 68 Evan Drive, Giffnock, by 13th June.

ST ANDREWS

Applications for all Excursions should be made to Miss M. M. Spires, 2 Howard Place, St Andrews (Tel.: 852), not later than ten days before each excursion. Transport will then be arranged.

Saturday 30th May

KILCONQUHAR LOCH—(By kind permission of Nairn Estates). Leave St Andrews Bus Station 2 p.m. Bring picnic tea.

Sunday 14th June

LOCH LEVEN—(By kind permission of Kinross Estates). Leave St Andrews Bus Station, 10 a.m. Boats leave from the Sluices, Scotlandwell for St Serfs Island at 11 a.m. Bring picnic lunch and tea.

Sunday 28th June

ISLE OF MAY—Limited number (12). Boat leaves harbour 11.15 a.m. Bring picnic lunch and tea.

Saturday 11th July

TENTSMUIR—(By kind permission of Mrs Purvis). Afternoon Excursion. Leave St Andrews Bus Station 2 p.m. Bring picnic tea.

WEEK-END EXCURSION TO AVIEMORE

Arrangements have again been made with Mrs M. J. Grant, The Dell, Rothiemurchus, Aviemore, (Tel.: 216) for a week-end excursion to Speyside.

Accommodation for up to twenty members has been reserved for the weekend 8th to 10th May at inclusive terms of 45s per person as follows: Bed on Friday night 8th; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner, and bed on Saturday 9th; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 10th.

Members wishing to come on this Club Excursion should book direct with Mrs Grant, mentioning that they are Members of the Club. Members may bring guests. Reservations will be accepted in strict order of application. Arrangement for transport by private cars should be arranged through Branch Secretaries.