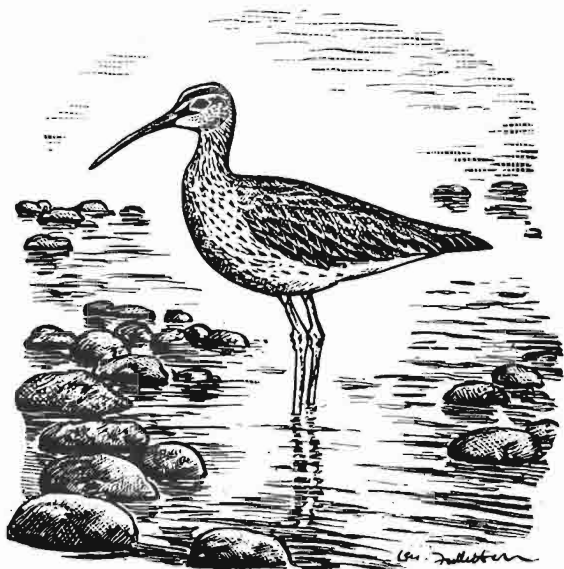


SCOTTISH BIRDS



The Journal of
The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Vol. I No. 8

Summer 1960

FIVE SHILLINGS

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 at 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 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 16s 9d post extra. 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, Mrs George Waterston, Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7. (Tel. Waverley 6042).

CLUB-ROOM AND LIBRARY

The Club-room and Library at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7, will be available to members during office hours, and on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. (except the Wednesdays of Branch Meetings). Members may use the Reference Library and borrow books from the Duplicate Section. Facilities for making tea or coffee are available at a nominal charge and members may bring guests by arrangement. The Aldis 2" x 2" slide projector and screen may be used for the informal showing of slides at a charge of 2s 6d per night to cover the replacement of bulbs.

Informal meetings for Junior members will be held in the Club-room on the first Friday of each month from October to April at 7.30 p.m.

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, 16 Athole Gardens, 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 (Whimbrel) by LEN FULLERTON. *Published quarterly.*

Editorial

AFTER our mammoth spring number, the summer number returns to a smaller size, but we hope it will be possible to bring out larger numbers from time to time, especially when the accumulation of material demands it. At present our main difficulty is acquiring material as regards photographs: we prefer to publish those taken in Scotland and by members of the Club—whether they show birds or places of ornithological interest—and we would therefore be grateful for the gift of any photographs which the photographer himself thinks worthy of publication.

ASSISTED PASSAGE

C. P. RAWCLIFFE

The substance of this article was delivered to the members of the Edinburgh branch of the S.O.C. on 17th February 1960. In it I deal with the birds I have found upon ships arriving at Leith Docks.

11th April 1953. M/v *Bucklaw* from Holland. About twenty miles north of Ymuiden, the wind being southerly and the weather fine and clear, a Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* came on board. Others flew over, but only this one alighted. Time about 2000 hrs GMT on the 10th. Bird flew away at the Imperial Locks.

19th November 1953. A damaged Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* found on M/v *Midsland* from Rotterdam.

??1954. A Snipe *Capella gallinago* came on board the S/s *Gothland* from Copenhagen. It died ashore and the skin was preserved by the Royal Scottish Museum.

12th October 1957. On the S/s *Mansuria* from Gothenburg

I found the following dead birds on the decks in out of the way places: two Skylarks *Alauda arvensis*, one Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, one Goldcrest *R. regulus*, two Meadow Pipits *Anthus pratensis*, one Starling and one Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. Unfortunately the bodies were decomposed. The vessel had left Gothenburg on the 9th. The 10th was overcast and birds, mostly Starlings, came on board during the night.

6th November 1958. When the M/v *Midsland* arrived from Amsterdam, I found a dead Skylark aboard. I was told that many had come on the ship and that those which fell into the sea were soon snapped up by gulls.

5th October 1959. In the alleyways amidships of the M/v *Dryburgh* from Rotterdam I found two live birds, a Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* and a *phylloscopus*. I was able to catch the Chaffinch and from the brightness of the ruddy breast judged it to be of one of the Continental races.

6th October 1959. On this day the M/v *Cantick Head* came from Leningrad. I found dead on board a Skylark and a Long-tailed Tit of the Northern race *Aegithalos c. caudatus*. Many birds came on board; many died and went overboard during the washing-down of the decks. The Long-tailed Tit was a lovely bird to handle even when dead; its head was pure white, but when the feathers were disturbed one could see that the basal half of each feather was black.

8th October 1959. On M/v *Midsland* from Rotterdam there was a dead Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. On M/v *Heriot* from Amsterdam there were three live Starlings crouched under a winch. Captain Masson reported that many Goldcrests had come on board, but they left when the ship was abreast of the Longstone Light.

16th October 1959. When the M/v *Frida Blokzul* came from Maasluis, Holland, and the holds were opened up for discharge of cargo, Starlings flew out. It was thought that they had gone in to roost before the hatches were put on and thus became trapped. One dead Starling was also found.

19th October 1959. This day the M/v *Haskerland* arrived from Harlingen, Holland. Captain Kuiper reported to me that an owl came on board, the first in his long experience, but was later lost in the gale. He remarked that migratory birds crossing the North Sea fly down-wind and that, if the wind direction changes, then the birds too change direction. He had seen this happen.

10th November 1959. M/v *Peka* from Copenhagen. The Captain had a female Continental Twite *Carduelis f. flavirostris* in a budgerigar cage. The bird had come on the ship when it was about 120 miles west of the Skag Lightship (6 p.m. MET). It had fed on seeds and was in good condition. On

behalf of the Captain I released it on the dock, where it fed on grass and dandelion seeds.

Corrigenda

Antea 1:206. Part II of "Current Notes" apply to late 1959 and early 1960, *not*, as stated, to late 1958 and early 1959.

Antea 1:206. For "Port of Menteith, Stirling" read "Port of Menteith, Perthshire."

Antea 1:207. For "Eaglesham, Lanark" read "Eaglesham, Renfrew."

Antea 1:213-4. The Lapland Bunting on Arthur's Seat is not the first record for Midlothian. It has been recorded from Gladhouse (*Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 4:4).

CURRENT NOTES

(These records, all of them believed fully authenticated, apply to late 1959 and early 1960 unless otherwise stated. Initials denote the following observers: J. Ballantyne, P. G. R. Barbier, H. Boase, T. Boyd, W. Brotherston, W. A. J. Cunningham, George Dick, W. J. Eggeling, Sir Robert Erskine-Hill Bt., Miss W. U. Flower, P. Holt, J. E. King, A. T. Macmillan, M. F. M. Meiklejohn, W. Murray, J. Potter, C. P. Rawcliffe, R. W. J. Smith, T. C. Smout, L. A. Urquhart, G. Waterston and M. I. Waterston).

The Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* is not so numerous off the east coast as off the west: T.C.S. notes the following occurrences—single birds off Gullane Point on 16th December and 12th March; one at Broughty Ferry on 13th February and two on the 14th. The Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*, common in East Lothian, is not so often recorded for Midlothian: one was at Eastfield, Edinburgh, on 5th March (J.B.).

A Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* flew past the windows of the Scottish Centre for Ornithology on 8th April (G.W., M.I.W.).

A Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* bearing the characteristics of the "southern race" *sinensis* was seen at Hamilton on 10th April: "neck and head hoary white except for a black crescent from the throat to the forehead" (A. S. Temple). These white-headed birds are not infrequent, especially in S.W. Scotland, and recent studies by R. Stokoe (*British Birds* 51:165-179) show that the two races cannot be separated in the field. Numbers of Shags *P. aristotelis* come into Leith Docks on infrequent occasions (see *Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 4:65) and C.P.R. sends the following totals from there: 22 on 4th February, 34 on the 5th, and 12 on 1st March.

(Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*. In late July 1959 up to seven were noted at dusk flying down the R. Almond to feed on the mud at the mouth (*per* J. E. King) and an adult was seen at the mouth of the Water of Leith at 2230 hours on 17th February 1960 (C.P.R.). Though certainly escapes from Edinburgh Zoo, we are recording these occurrences in case the bird ever establishes itself in the wild.)

Duck—large numbers. The 400 Teal *Anas crecca* reported from Loch Leven (*antea* 1:210) seem to have been nothing much! R.W.J.S. on 21st September saw at least 2,000, and probably closer to 3,000, flying in a swirling mass over St Serf's Island. On 13th December, after a period of strong easterly winds and driving rain, there was a very large concentration of duck between Kincardine and Grangemouth: 1,285 Mallard, 1,280 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 516 Teal, 330 Pintail *A. acuta*, 14 Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*, four Tufted Duck, 13 Goosander *Mergus merganser* and 42 Merganser *M. serrator*. The figures for Shelduck and Pintail are quite exceptional. Shelduck were down to 750 on 17th January and 650 on 13th February (previous maximum recorded 400-500). Pintail down to 200 on 17th January and only eight on 13th February (previous maximum recorded 20-30). Pintail were also in numbers at Loch Leven at the time and were recorded from Peppermill Dam for the first time (G.D., J.P.). There is a hitherto unrecorded concentration of Pintail in early spring on Tullibody Island above the Kincardine Bridge. On 28th February their numbers rose to 190, and two hours later 215 were seen north of Grangemouth (as above) (T. Paterson).

A pair of Garganey *A. querquedula*, the first for Lewis, were seen on a flooded field at Fivepenny Ness on 27th March (W.A.J.C., A. McEachern, M.F.M.M.). A pair were at Hamilton Low Parks on 2nd April and a drake on the 16th (L.A.U., M. Forrester, D. Stalker, A. S. Temple).

Three Gadwall *A. strepera* at Quothquan, Lanark, were the first the observer has seen there (R.E.-H.). The Edinburgh wintering pair continue to be seen, mainly at Dunsappie (latest date 13th April), but also at Figgate Pond (T.C.S., G.W., M.I.W.). On 30th March one was at sea off the Doonfoot, Ayr (L.A.U.).

A female Scaup *Aythya marila* was at the mouth of the R. Endrick on 24th January (W.U.F.). Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* have also been numerous. On 19th November 300+ at the sewer outfall at Stannergate, Dundee, is a record—about 60 per cent were adult drakes. On 17th November there were 200, and 250+ on 22nd December (H.B.). Off the Edinburgh coast in midwinter there are up to 700 at Seafield and others elsewhere in smaller flocks (A.T.M.). On 14th December 800 flew east at Portobello (T.C.S.), possibly the total from this section of the coast. On 23rd March rather more than

1,000 arrived at Musselburgh in the evening (90 per cent from the direction of Portobello) between 1630 and 1830 hours—still a few coming when observer left (J.B.). This eastward movement may well be regular. A Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* was on Loch Ken on 20th March (M.F.M.M., A. D. Watson).

Smew *Mergus albellus* have been seen regularly at L. Arthur, Kirkcudbright, the latest date reported being 5th April, when a "red-head" was still there (D. Lawson). A duck and a drake were on Carlingwark Loch, Castle Douglas, on 21st March (M. D. Walker). Numerous observers have seen a "red-head" at the Endrick mouth and an adult drake in the Hamilton area during the early months of the year. One "red-head" was at Threipmuir on 6th February and 5th March (T.B., R.W.J.S.), three near the sluice on Loch Leven in second week of February and two on river below sluice on 24th February (G.D.).

An albino Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser* was seen near Bridge of Dee on 6th April. Size of accompanying Grey Lags; pale orange bill and flesh-coloured legs. Plumage dirty white, with some brown markings on back (D. Lawson, A. McConnell). 43 Bean Geese *A. fabalis* were at Hule Moss, Berwick, on 7th November (W.M.). A pale buffish-coloured goose, almost certainly a Pink-foot *A. brachyrhynchus*, was seen with Pink-feet at East Fortune on 28th January and elsewhere later (A. Macdonald) and at Tynninghame on 28th February (T.B., R.W.J.S.).

On 6th December a pale-breasted Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* was seen with Pink-feet near Middleton, Midlothian (W.B.). Two Barnacle Geese *B. leucopsis* were seen with Pink-feet at Middleton on 29th October, and from 13th November to 5th December a party of eight were with Pink-feet in the same area (W.B., R. Walker). One was seen with Pink-feet at East Fortune on 28th January (A. Macdonald) and at Tynninghame on 28th February (T.B., R.W.J.S.): the presence of the pale Pink-foot (see above) shows that the same flock was involved in the two cases.

An immature Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* was with Mute Swans on Biggar boating pond from 16th December until 11th January (R.E.-H., Rona S. Hunter). A Mr Murdoch reported an adult at the mouth of the Esk at Musselburgh on 20th April and A.T.M. saw it there on the 21st.

On 16th January a Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* was disturbed on Barra just after it had killed a Barnacle Goose; this is the first eagle the observer has seen on the island (Alick Ross). An Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* was found on 7th April by J. Hoy at Tulliallan Loch, Fife: it was sitting on a dead tree eating a fish. Later it was seen to catch a trout, and the skin and bones of another were found below its perch. It remained until the 10th.



Buzzard.

(Photograph by W. Kenneth Richmond).

An interesting movement of Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* was observed at various places on 27th/28th February:

Tynninghame, 28th. Continuous movement of small parties up the coast northwards offshore and others heading inland up the Tyne—several hundreds in all (R.W.J.S.).

North Berwick, 27th, 3 to 5 p.m., strong S.W. wind, warm, sky clear. Constant movement from Tantallon towards Craigleith and due west. Small parties and usually low over the water—hundreds in all. At least thirty Snow Buntings and other passerines as well (T.C.S.).

Aberlady, 27th. Several parties offshore heading up Forth. Fresh to strong S.W. wind. Perhaps return passage after a cold spell (R.W.J.S.).

Gladhouse, 28th. A few came in from the north (D. G. Andrew).

A nest with one egg at Penicuik on 23rd March (W.J.E.).

A Grey Plover *Charadrius squatarola* was seen at Hule Moss, Berwickshire, on 20th September 1959 (W.M.). A great flock of some 1,500 Golden Plover *C. apricarius* in every grade of plumage was seen at Humbie, East Lothian, on 28th March (A. Macdonald).

Ten Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* were at the Nith estuary, Glencaple, Dumfries, on 17th March and for about a week after (E. L. Roberts). Seven at the mouth of R. Endrick on 24th April and six on 1st May (M. Forrester, D. Stalker). A Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* was on the Clyde at Quothquhan on 21st September (R.E.-H.). A Spotted Redshank *T. erythropus* is reported from Hule Moss on 20th September (W.M.); two from Loch Leven on 21st September (apparently the first record for Kinross) (T.B., R.W.J.S.); and one near Fraserburgh on 3rd March (T. G. H. Woods). A Greenshank *T. nebularia* is reported from Islay on 25th or 26th January 1959 (I. Rainier) and one was seen at St Andrews and another on the Eden estuary on 1st February 1960 (B. Neath). A Little Stint *Calidris minuta* was seen at Aberlady on 27th September (David Hope).

On 22nd October at the mouth of the Galson River, Lewis, A. McEachern saw four Grey Phalaropes *Phalaropus fulicarius* and two Red-necked *P. lobatus*: this was the day before the "fantastic invasion" in the Isles of Scilly (*British Birds* 52:439). A fresh headless male Grey Phalarope on the beach at Gullane on 29th December may have been the one earlier at Gullane Point (*antea* 1:208). One, perhaps two, at Lundin Links on 22nd January (J. W. A. Hill).

On 19th and 22nd December a Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus f. fuscus* was seen at Drumpellier Loch, near Coatbridge, Lanark (W. Stein). The following Glaucous Gulls *L. hyperboreus* (all immature) are reported: one, Loch

Fleet, Sutherland, 31st May 1959 (T. Hedley Bell); one at Monifieth, Angus, on 30th January (B. Neath); two, Loch Indaal, Islay, 14th February (John Cameron, M.F.M.M.); one, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, 12th March (G. Fraser); one, Stornoway, 29th March (W.A.J.C., M.F.M.M.); one, Mallaig, 30th March, and one, Dunbar, 17th April (M.F.M.M.). An Iceland Gull *L. glaucoides* was at Girdleness, Aberdeen, on 20th March (D. I. M. Wallace): one spent most of the winter in Stornoway Harbour and a second bird was there on 27th March (W.A.J.C., M.F.M.M.).

On 30th January at Monifieth, Angus, there was a continuous stream of Little Gulls *L. minutus* moving east towards the mouth of the Tay over at least three hours; well over 100, probably 200, seen. About one in twenty was immature (B. Neath). Two at Dundee on 29th March (C. M. Morrison), and one at Gullane Point on 14th February (P. Gardiner, D. R. Grant, R. P. Snodgrass, etc.).

A Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* was seen at Aberlady on 18th August (David Hope) and an exceptionally late Common or Arctic Tern at Lundin Links on 7th November (R. S. Weir).

Three pairs of Wood Pigeons *Columba palumbus* and four Long-eared Owls *Asio otus* have wintered in a small patch of trees in Unst, Shetland, the former not having wintered there before (S. T. Saxby).

A Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* at Quothquhan on 2nd August is R. E.-H.'s first for the area. One at Colinton Dell on 3rd February is the first for that part of Edinburgh (W. Pryde per I. V. Balfour-Paul).

The three Continental Great Tits *Parus m. major* on the Isle of May stayed over winter and, on 3rd April, five more arrived and fought with them—all were caught as they bickered in the trap (W.J.E.). Three also passed the winter in Unst (S. T. Saxby). Cf. *antea* 1:178 and 209.

A Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, a rare visitor to Shetland, was at Baltasound, Unst, during the latter half of March. A Ring Ouzel *T. torquatus* on 18th October at Garvald Farm, Peebles-shire, was evidently from farther north, as the local birds were all gone and the first Fieldfares arrived then (W.B.).

A Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* at Middleton Mains Farm, Midlothian, from 11th November until at least 26th December, is only the third the observer has seen in the area in eight years (W.B.). A pair in Leith Docks, with a Robin, on 4th February (C.P.R.). A pair and another female on coast opposite Fidra, East Lothian, 20th March (C. P. Ross). On 24th January, J.P. saw a male Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* among huts in the W.D. enclosure at Longannet, Fife.

On 17th March a male Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* was seen

in a garden at Bearsden, Dunbartonshire (G. E. R. Young) and another was seen at Falkirk from 3rd March to 1st April: it fed on food put out on a window-sill (Mrs V. Meadows).

At the height of the frost on 15th February a Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* appeared in an Edinburgh garden (A. P. Meiklejohn). One was seen near Libberton, Lanark, on 13th March (M.F.M.M.). On 26th March one, which had apparently been present for a few days, was seen at Borve, Harris, and on the 27th one was singing at Laxdale, north of Stornoway (W.A.J.C., M.F.M.M.). On 3rd and 4th April one was seen and heard at Dornoch, and on the 9th one at Loch Evelix, three miles west of Dornoch: these are only the observer's third and fourth records for S.E. Sutherland (D. Macdonald).

A Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* was seen several times at Tarfside, Angus, between November and February (cf. *antea* 1:212) and what was probably the same bird was found dead in March (D. Jenkins). Another was seen on a number of occasions between 20th January and 17th March near Thornhill, Dumfries-shire and was once heard to sing (J. H. Swan): what may have been the same bird was seen at Durisdeer on 8th February (W.U.F.). Other single birds have been seen at milepost 5 on the road from Stirling to Doune on 31st March (W.J.E.); one near Loch Mhor, between Inverness and Fort Augustus, on 16th April (R. E.-H.); and one between Brodick and Lamlash, Arran, on 16th and 17th April (D. Stalker).

Eight or ten Siskins *Carduelis spinus* were in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, on 12th February and single birds for a few days after (Jane Sandeman). About sixty Twites were at Longannet, Fife, on 7th January and twenty at Culross on the 10th (P.G.R.B.). R.E.-H. saw an immature male Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* at Quothquan, Lanark, on 2nd May 1959 and there were about twelve there, including two adult males, on 30th July 1959.

Between twenty and thirty Bramblings were in a field by Loch Ardingning (W. Stirling) on 25th January and 26 there on 13th February (W.U.F.), and about twenty near Crawfordjohn on 4th April (D. Lawson, A. McConnell). On 21st February one visited the Scottish Centre for Ornithology (G.W., M.I.W.) and there was a great flock of over 1,000 on 20th March at Mount Lothian, Midlothian (R.W.J.S.).

A small flock of Snow Buntings *Plectrophenax nivalis* was in the grounds of Jordanhill College, Glasgow, on 13th February (C. M. Morrison); eight on the north shore at Troon on 22nd February (R. M. Ramage, J. Shanks); and one—a new bird for the locality—in Hamilton Low Parks on 13th March (D. Lawson, A. McConnell).

A flock of 200 Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus* on 24th Jan-

uary at Crichton Castle, Midlothian, is very large for the area (C. K. Mylne).

SHORT NOTES

(The note on the Scarlet Grosbeak is published through the kindness of the Editors of *British Birds*).

BITTERN IN ROXBURGHSHIRE

A Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* was reported at a small pond near Riddell, Roxburghshire, on 27th January 1960. I visited the area on 31st January and received an excellent description of the bird from a farmer who had had a clear view of it standing in open water. He telephoned me next morning that he had seen it again, so I hurried out, taking some fish offal, since natural food would be scarce, there having been a heavy snowfall since its first appearance. Eventually, a lighter "tuft of grass" by the pondside proved to be the Bittern crouching down with neck retracted, only the streaks on the long neck feathers giving it away. The beak was held vertically. When a shepherd approached the neck was suddenly extended, the beak still vertical, and so it remained until a noisy tractor came near, whereupon the Bittern stalked into the cover of willowherb stems in slow motion and hunched attitude, giving me a view of green legs and long feet.

On 4th February it could not be found, but at the place where it was last seen was a heap of jelly on the grass and, poking among this, I discovered a group of unlaidd frog's eggs without covering jelly. It seems probable that a frog had been gutted, perhaps by the Bittern. It is an early date for a frog and too early for spawn this year.

The last local record was in December 1947 when a Bittern was found dead in Yarrow, Selkirkshire.

ARTHUR J. SMITH.

STELLER'S EIDER IN SUTHERLAND

In bright sunshine on the afternoon of 22nd September 1959 we were looking at ducks from the roadside at the south-east corner of Loch Fleet, near Dornoch, Sutherland. The tide was in and there were many common Eiders *Somateria mollissima* swimming quite near us. A.W. noticed that one duck, only about 150 yards from the road, seemed unusually dark and also had a prominent purple speculum edged with bright white bars. Near this bird a very white common Eider was swimming as well as another duck with a purple speculum: (this was a common Eider; ~~see following note.~~—Ed.). All three were away from the main mass of Eiders. When P.G. saw the

first duck swimming away from him, he said that it looked like a Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. D.J.'s first comment was that it looked like a small edition of a cross between a common Eider and a Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

We watched these birds with binoculars for the next quarter of an hour and were able to get within a hundred yards of them by walking down to the water's edge. The first bird was about the size of a Tufted Duck and was less mottled, much darker and much smaller than the common Eider females nearby. It sat very high on the water, with head and tail erect like a Tufted Duck. The speculum on its wing was a dark purple edged with two clear white bands, and it had a slight sheen in the sun unlike the matt surface of the rest of the plumage. The head was more delicate than a common Eider's and the bill more slender. Like most species of duck the bird had a fairly steep forehead, and the head and bill did not give that characteristic flattish impression given by the common Eider. This impression in the common Eider is heightened by the strip of feathers running far forward below the forehead, a strip absent in our bird. These characters were so distinct that we considered the bird to be a Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri*.

PHILIP GLAZIER.

DAVID JENKINS.

JAMES ROBERTSON-JUSTICE.

ADAM WATSON.

LITTLE CRAKE IN SHETLAND

During April 1959 a male Little Crake *Porzana parva* was picked up dead on the shore of a small loch at Uneyasound in the south part of Unst. One side of this loch is only about twenty-five yards from the sea, the other is bordered by hayfields. The prevailing winds during the month had been southerly. The identification of the bird was confirmed by Mr George Waterston and the bird is now in the Royal Scottish Museum.

S. T. SAXBY.

SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW IN SCOTLAND

On 25th February 1960 some boys appeared at my door, carrying a curlew-like bird, and Robert Robertson of Avoch, Easter Ross, explained how he had seen this bird probing about in the snow in his garden as if looking for food. When he approached it, it walked away, making no attempt to fly, and, in the enclosed space of the garden, a capture was easily made. A single glance at the carried bird showed me that here was no ordinary curlew: the Whimbrel size, the absence of Whimbrel headstipe, the bill more slender at the base than the Whimbrel's, combined with the grey colour to make

the identification of the bird as certainly a Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*, and a detailed examination confirmed this.

Most of the feathers of the bird had considerable areas of a light colour, which gave the impression of a bird much lighter in tint than common Curlew *N. arquata* or Whimbrel *N. phaeopus*.

Head feathers were grey, white fringed; mantle brown-grey with white fringes; rump white with some spotted feathers; underparts pure white, spotted on the flanks with very definite and mostly heart-shaped sepia marks. These marks tailed out almost completely on the belly. Primaries were dark brown and the upper tail was barred brown and white.

A few measurements were taken: Length of bird, 385 mm.; wing, 255 mm.; beak, 80 mm. (From *Handbook* data a female).

I could find no injury, but the bird was suffering from hunger and exhaustion, as if it had flown a great distance beyond its strength. The open shore seemed to give it the best chance of rest and food, so I asked Mr John Macintosh next door to ring the bird and release it there. Later, after confirming the identification, he told me that on the shore, the curlew seemed unwilling to move, but soon had disappeared entirely. Had it turned up dead upon the shore I think I should have heard of it. This is the first record for Scotland of this species.

JOHN LEES.

(The Rev. Mr Lees submitted a typical feather from the underparts of this bird. Although the heart-shaped mark was not precisely identical with that illustrated in *The Handbook* (vol. 4, 179), it was very similar, and examination of skins of *tenuirostris* and other curlews in the Royal Scottish Museum show that there can be no doubt about the correctness of his identification. We can see exactly what Mr Lees means by its looking "grey, not brown." The centres of the mantle feathers in *tenuirostris* are a less intense brown than in the two common species, *arquata* and *phaeopus* (Curlew and Whimbrel), but more striking are the broader, paler grey fringes.—Ed.)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER IN DUNBARTONSHIRE

On 18th October 1959, on the Dunbartonshire bank of the river Endrick at the point where it enters Loch Lomond, I flushed a small wader from the edge of a small pond fringed with persicaria. It flew off a short distance with a *tritt-tritt* call. Approaching its new resting place I saw it was slightly larger than a Dunlin, with long greeny yellow legs, a very obvious bib and a long neck with smallish head.

The head was brown with dark streaks and pale eyestripe;

bill dark, slightly down-curved and pale at base; back brown with ashy-edged feathers, like a scaly Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*; also on the back was a very distinct V marking; breast greeny yellow, with brown streaks and speckles ending in an apron very white below; tail black in the centre, white at the sides.

On several occasions I found myself being watched by the bird, which stretched its neck, peered at me and ducked down out of sight again. It showed a distinct preference for the grassy persicaria-edged pond.

I have no doubt that the bird was a Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*.

M. FORRESTER.

(This is the locality where the only other record of the species for the Clyde area was made, in 1882; see McWilliam, *Birds of the Firth of Clyde*, p. 117—Ed.).

COLLARED DOVE IN PERTHSHIRE

On 16th February a Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* entered the loft of a local pigeon fancier near Faskally, Pitlochry. The bird was brought to me and fully recovered, its identity in the meantime being confirmed by Dr James Campbell. It was released on 27th March in perfect health, when it flew strongly and high to a fir wood about a quarter of a mile away and was then lost to view. The delay in setting it free was due to it having moulted all its tail feathers *en bloc*, perhaps as a result of its hardships before it reached me. New quills, however, appeared almost immediately and were in use for several days before its release.

J. A. STUART.

(Mr Stuart has enclosed several of the moulted tail feathers which leave no doubt as to the bird's identity. This record is of considerable interest in showing how often the Collared Dove arrives in a new locality in an exhausted condition (cf. *antea* 1:190) and also shows how much this species is dependent on human support; but although the Collared Dove is likely now to turn up unexpectedly anywhere in Scotland, observers should be reminded of the existence of the very similar Barbary Dove *S. risoria*, a species only known in captivity, which has a black neck ring like the Collared, but differs from it in its more sandy colouration, in its pale primaries, and in the lack of a black base to the underside of the tail feathers. Its call also differs, that of the Collared Dove being a Wood Pigeon-like *coo-COO-coo*. The possibility of the Barbary Dove appearing in strange localities in the same way as the Collared Dove is illustrated by the fact that one arrived tailless and exhausted at Port Ellen, Islay, at the end of October 1959, —Ed.).

SNOWY OWL IN KINCARDINESHIRE

On 3rd March I travelled from Aberdeen to Dundee by way of Cairn O' Mount. Over the summit (1488 feet a.s.l.), with the ice hacked back to the roadsides, I stopped and scanned the rising ground to the west. Some four or five hundred yards away there was a large pale bird beating along the broken ground. With 8x40 binoculars I saw that it was not only pale but white—not detergent white, but rather like the other girl in the advertisement. As it flapped and glided slowly towards me I saw the obvious head of an owl. Once it rested on a boulder, then on its fairly low-flying way. It was big—Buzard size—and, as it neared, it seemed whiter. The upper wing was flecked irregularly with pale, milk chocolate marks—particularly in mid section. The head, tail and back were white: I could see the feet. Once the bird flipped over to pass behind some rocks and I saw the underwing and belly—white and unmarked. I know the Short-eared Owl; this was lighter and bigger. In all I watched it for five minutes, broken by the excursions it made behind the folds in the terrain, and it finally climbed high over the hill to the west. I take it that the bird was a Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*.

A. S. TEMPLE.

CHOUGH IN ARGYLL

On a day between 30th May and 13th June 1959 my wife and I saw a bird which we are convinced was a Chough *Coracia pyrrhocorax* on a cliff face about a quarter of a mile north of Gannavan Sands, near Oban. Its unusual boisterous note first attracted me and, as it was disturbing the foliage of the creeper covering the cliff, I was able to focus my glasses on the spot before the bird showed itself. In size it resembled a Jackdaw, certainly no smaller, and its plumage was shiny bluish black. Its head was slightly elongated with a very bold eye and the most striking feature was its long, slightly down-curved bill, which was bright orange red. I was unable to see the bird's legs because of its position.

JOHN WHYTE.

(On 20th January 1960 a Chough was seen at Blairgowrie (Mrs Jean Hodge *per* Henry Boase) but, since it alighted in a garden, we cannot help thinking that it must have been an escape from captivity.—Ed.).

DUSKY THRUSH IN ARGYLL

Just before the end of 1959 a strange bird arrived in our garden at Port Appin, Argyll. Although ravenously hungry, it was most wild and shy. It was in a very battered and storm-tossed condition. At first glance I thought it was a Redwing *Turdus musicus*, then the larger build, black breast, feathers

with white edges and outstanding white eye-stripe sent me running for the bird-books. I just did not know what to look for, but eventually found that the description of the Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* tallied exactly with the bird I had seen. Neither my husband nor I are "out for rare birds" and so decided to say nothing about it, as we felt that people might think we were imagining things, but, when we heard on the wireless of one having been seen by experts, I decided to write to the B.B.C. about it.

In size the Dusky Thrush was smaller than a Mistle Thrush *T. viscivorus*, but a more robustly built bird than the Song Thrush *T. ericetorum*; it resembled the Redwing rather than either of them. It had a white (not cream or buff) eyestripe. Under the body could be described as white, but the breast and sides were definitely streaked with black. There was noticeable rufous colouration on the rump and the quills appeared to be bordered with rufous. When it took flight the rufous shade under the wings was easily seen.

CATHERINE McLENNAN.

(We agree with Mrs McLennan's identification of this bird as a Dusky Thrush; there can be no possibility of confusion with a Redwing—a species which she knows well. Another bird of the same species was found in Co. Durham in the same month (*British Birds* 53:96). The only other Scottish record of the Dusky Thrush is placed in square brackets in *The Birds of Scotland*.—Ed.).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER IN LEWIS

W. A. J. Cunningham writes: "On 10th November 1959, Mr A. McEachern, Principal Keeper at the Butt of Lewis lighthouse, telephoned to say that there was a Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* in his garden. His description tallied with *The Field Guide* in characteristics and behaviour and he is not unfamiliar with the bird, having handled one in Wales. He had been within six feet of it and at once noticed its small size, flycatcher-like flight and two wing-bars."

(We have since had the opportunity of discussing this occurrence with Mr McEachern personally and are convinced that it is correct.—Ed.).

ALBINO MEADOW PIPIT IN BENBECULA

On 26th May 1957, near Loch Torcusay, Benbecula, my wife and I discovered an albino pipit which was completely pale *café-au-lait* in colour. We both had excellent views (x12 binoculars) of this bird in flight, and from a few yards when it perched on a fence. No obvious markings could be seen in its plumage, so that it appeared of a uniform shade. Its legs

were pale pinkish and the eye dark; both its voice and its size were those of the Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. The albino was mildly mobbed at times by two or three normally plumaged Meadow Pipits collecting food for nestlings, but it was not in any way deterred, and, in fact, on occasions appeared to be attempting to court one of them.

Since albino pipits are infrequent this observation seems to be worthy of record and it is of interest that a somewhat similar individual was recorded on 1st August 1958 on the Isle of May by Donald Watson (*antea* 1:43).

JAMES W. CAMPBELL.

SCARLET GROSBEAKS ON FOULA

On 2nd September 1959 a Scarlet Grosbeak *Carpodacus erythrinus* appeared in a small croft garden at the south end of Foula, which also contained Crossbills, two Barred Warblers and an "impossible" *Acrocephalus*—probably a Marsh Warbler. It was watched at close range for a long time. First seen from front view, very close, a drab brown bird, not unlike a heavily built Twite with uniform thin streaking on the sides of the grey-brown breast, and a large steely sparrow-like beak. In side view it was a featureless bird, except for the two well delineated but very narrow bars on the closed wing, and the rather large and beady eye. In flight over short distances it was very sparrow-like, but with a forked tail, and flight rather undulating.

This bird was seen regularly in the same place up to the evening of 5th September, but on that day an identical bird appeared a mile further north in a cabbage-patch—first seen in the morning and still there the next day, when the other bird had gone.

JOHN BOYS.

Obituary

THE LATE SAMUEL BRUCE

With the passing of Sammy Bruce at the age of eighty-one, Shetland has lost a great character and many bird-watching visitors to the islands have lost a staunch friend.

Bruce was a native of Whalsay and a boat-builder by trade. Among the boats which he and the late Peter Tulloch built was the *Soldian*, formerly owned by Mr G. Theo Kay, a yacht which took many keen bird-watchers on island trips. In Lerwick everyone knew Sammy, with his old-fashioned "Shetland-type" moustache and his keen blue eyes. During the migration periods he was often to be seen peering over garden walls into shrubberies with his small telescope, seeing whether there

were any "streeenge birrds" about. He had a life-long interest in ornithology and was a first-class taxidermist.

His contributions to Shetland ornithology are considerable. His outstanding achievements were the addition to the Scottish List of the Greenish Warbler (1945) and the Collared Flycatcher (1947), while his Red-flanked Bluetail (1947) was the first for Britain. Bruce was an Honorary Member of the S.O.C. and a Life Member of the B.O.U. In June 1947 he attended the joint B.O.U./S.O.C. Conference in Edinburgh.

G. W.

The Invasion of Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus* in Scotland in October and November 1959

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN

INTRODUCTION. When the editors of "British Birds" refer to Waxwings almost disdainfully as a "now perennial subject" one almost feels that some excuse is needed for publishing a mere summary of records. This is the fourth successive winter in which there has been a sizeable invasion but, in spite of this unprecedented series of Waxwing-years, it should not be assumed that we can look for further annual irruptions. Furthermore, no two invasions seem to follow quite the same pattern, and this one was certainly strikingly different from those of the previous three winters. It therefore seems worth putting down some comments on the invasion while it is still fresh in mind, and also by way of thanking the very large number of observers who have sent in records and who are so numerous that there is unfortunately too little space to mention them by name.

THE INVASION. There were two early reports of Waxwings seen in the northern isles before the general invasion of Scotland; a single bird in Kirkwall from the end of August (*antea* 1:204) and a number observed in Unst during September and October. These records have not been included in the various tables and analyses of the invasion.

There were few other records until the last two days of October. The earliest report comes from Pitlochry—a place much favoured by the Waxwings this winter—where an observer who had Waxwings in the garden for six weeks up to 15th April 1959 heard them again on 22nd October and saw 5 two days later. The first few arrived at Thurso and Banchory about this time, and two were seen at Glassel on the 27th.

The invasion really got under way on Friday 30th October when a single Waxwing was seen at Dornoch, and there were 30 at Killin. On the last day of the month 10 were at Gullane—in the usual garden—six at Comrie, and odd birds at Fair Isle, Easter Ogil, and on the Isle of Canna. The only other record for October was of one in Newtyle at the end of the month.

From 1st to 25th November there were first reports from various places each day; thereafter there are very few records of new arrivals. A large proportion of the records came in answer to letters in the "Glasgow Herald" and "Scotsman" on 20th and 24th November respectively. Very few letters were received after the first flood of replies in spite of individual appeals for information sent to all correspondents. This was in complete contrast to last year when notes came trickling in for months and many observers wrote several times. That the Waxwings did not linger any-

where for long is clear both from the abrupt end to this correspondence and from the notes sent in. This was the most striking feature of the invasion when compared with those of recent winters. There seems little doubt that the reason for it was a general shortage of berries in Scotland. Thus there would be nothing to induce the birds to pause in their irruption-type migration (see Svardson: "British Birds," 1957:314-343). One is led to speculate whether they continue towards the south-west until they are lost in the Atlantic. In that case one might expect reports from Ireland and perhaps from ships at sea. Even in a normal year it is very difficult to get any direct observation of the departure of the birds—they just seem to fade away. Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn has suggested to me that this fourth invasion in three years may be the last meantime; he suggests that very few of the birds which reached Scotland are likely to survive the winter and return to their breeding haunts this time.

The following table lists the places where new arrivals or increases were noted each day during November; the number of birds is given in brackets. Much data cannot, of course, be tidily fitted into this table, and there is naturally no guarantee that the birds had arrived on the dates when they were first seen and reported, but the table does give the impression of a steady movement into and through the country. There is no obvious peak day for new arrivals, and it will be noted that the dates for which the most records have been listed were usually at the week-end.

ARRIVAL OF WAXWINGS IN NOVEMBER 1959—For earlier records see above. This table includes only accurately dated observations, though there is no guarantee that the birds actually arrived on these dates. A plus sign indicates an increased count at a place where Waxwings were already present.

- 1st—Poolewe (2) Stonehaven (15) Invergowrie (12) Kinnoull (7) Aberlady (18) Buchlyvie (4) Houston (5) Bridge of Weir (1) Isle of Cumbrae (6) Sannox, Arran (4 & 6) Girvan (5 & 2).
 2nd—Forres (1) Pitlochry (+20) St Andrews (1) N. Berwick (18) Haddington (6) Loganlea (7) Greenock (6).
 3rd—Kirkwall (6) Isle of May (3) Levenhall (14).
 4th—Dornoch (+7) Ardgay (25) Aberdeen (1) Dundee (—) Kingoodie (—).
 5th—Unst (1) Findhorn (20) Edinburgh (7 & 5) Glasgow (2) Maidens (1) Haugh of Urr (1).
 6th—Golspie (7) Ullapool (1) Forres (+30) Crianlarich (12) Oban (1) Galashiels (1).
 7th—Voe (—) Golspie (+18) Cromarty (12) Nairn (25) Old Meldrum (1) Montrose (7) Pitlochry (+) Elie (1) Barnacarry (2) Chapelton (2) Corrie, Arran (1) Moniaive (14).
 8th—Inverness (20) Ellon (2) Laurencekirk (2) Cupar (3) Dysart (1) Kirkealdy (30) Coldingham (2).
 9th—Balintore (2) Pitlochry (+) Lochore (3) Stirling (4) Bearsden (2) Uplawmoor (1) Dumfries (15).
 10th—Munlochy (2) Poyntzfield (6) Connel (2) St Andrews (+7) Crail (5) Dunbar (6) Castle Douglas (14).
 11th—Avoch (3) Stornoway (1) Borve (1) Ullapool (+10) Ardrishaig (7) Kilmacolm (—) Gourrock (1).
 12th—Lerwick (1) Plockton (1) Rhum (4) Torphins (4) Strathtay (1) Coshieville (1) Rathillet (12) Milngavie (1).
 13th—Wick (1) Huntly (1) Rosyth (11).
 14th—Nigg (1) Aberfeldy (6) Largo (1) E. Linton (6) nr. Tarbert (5).
 15th—Plockton (+6) Aviemore (1) Kingussie (2) Killiecrankie (3) Broughty Ferry (12) Polmont (1).
 16th—Helmsdale (2) Evanton (50) Gairloch (1) Aviemore (+3) Milton

- of Balgonie (5) Duns (2) Lochmaben (6) Dalry, Kirkeudbrightshire (4).
 17th—Arbroath (12) Kilmelford (15) Isle of May (2) Milnathort (25) Mauchline (30).
 18th—Callander (8) Selkirk (2) Caerlaverock (1).
 19th—Rogart (12) Aviemore (+13) Benmore, Dunoon (1).
 20th—Appin (4) Newton Mearns (1) Kilmarnock (2) Ayr (9).
 21st—Lybster (1) Skye (6) Coupar Angus (2) Dalmally (1) Crarae (?15) Grangemouth (1) Ayton (1) Reston (2) Earlston (40) Greenlaw (6) Dumfries (++) Caerlaverock (15).
 22nd—Inverinan (1) Rattray (2) St Andrews (+20) Inverkeithing (2) S. Queensferry (15) Heiton (2) Gattonside (2) Galashiels (+10) Biggar (6) Kilmarnock (+6) Langholm (7).
 23rd—Scourie (2) St Boswells (2).
 24th—Invergordon (3) Dyce (1) Peterculter (2) Lochgilphead (3) Eyemouth (1) Hawick (1).
 25th—Barcaldine (6) Dirlerton (3).
 26th & 27th—
 28th—Pitcaple (+7).
 29th—Burntisland (—).
 30th—

As in many past years, it is most noticeable that some of the earliest records are from the west of the country—on 1st November for example. On the other hand there was a definite pause before more than odd birds reached the Solway area. The biggest, though not the first, influx in the south-west appears to have been on 21st November when Waxwings were seen in over a dozen sites about Dumfries. On the same day they were also noted elsewhere in the Solway area, numbers increased in Ayr, and they were seen in a number of places in Berwickshire.

LARGE FLOCKS. No exceptionally big flocks were reported except for one, mentioned in the "Inverness Courier" on 24th November 1959, which arrived at Fort Augustus one day the previous week and fell to devouring the elder and cotoneaster berries. There were over 200 birds in this flock. In previous years there has also been evidence of movement south-west down the Great Glen. The dates on which large flocks were seen are fairly complete so that it is perhaps worth listing all those of more than about 20 birds. The following table indicates the approximate numbers in the flocks and the dates on which they were first seen in such numbers. The popularity of flocks of 25 to 30 birds is rather striking.

- 30th Oct.—Killin (28)
 2nd Nov.—Pitlochry (25)
 4th Nov.—Ardgay (25)
 6th Nov.—Forres (30)
 7th Nov.—Golspie (25) Nairn (25)
 8th Nov.—Kirkcaldy (30)
 9th Nov.—Pitlochry (now up to 60)
 c. 11th Nov.—Earlsferry (35)
 14th Nov.—Kilmacolm (25)
 16th Nov.—Evanton (50)
 17th Nov.—Milnathort (25) Mauchline (30)
 c. 18th Nov.—Fort Augustus (200)
 21st Nov.—Earlston (30) Ayr (40)
 22nd Nov.—St Andrews (30)

There is one further record—of 50 at Cardoness near Gatehouse of Fleet on 12th or 13th January. The presence of these birds when there were few Waxwings anywhere in the country, may have been connected with a remarkable hard-weather movement about this time which is mentioned in "British Birds" (1960:141).

LATE RECORDS. A mere 20 reports (96 birds) refer to Waxwings seen after the end of November. In December there were 12 reports (32 birds); in January, 6 reports (59 birds including the flock of 50 at Cardoness); in February, 3 reports (10 birds). Because some birds were present at the end of one month and the start of the next these figures do not agree with the totals given above. The January records come from Aberdeen (1 on 8th) Invergowrie (1 on 9th, 11th & 20th) Dundee (4 on 20th) Edinburgh (2 on 15th) Eskbank (1 on 6th) and Cardoness (50 on 12th or 13th). In February Waxwings were seen in Invergowrie (5 on 6th) Dundee (4 on 14th) and Burnside, Rutherglen (a single bird—the last reported—on 20th & 21st).

DISTRIBUTION. These meagre totals for the later months of the winter should be compared with a grand total of over 400 reports which were received recording more than 2,100 birds. A summary of these records is given at the end of this paper, and it will be seen that they come from all over the country. High totals come, as one would expect, mainly from the east coast, but the large numbers reported from the Clyde and Solway Faunal Areas are noteworthy. Relatively many more birds were reported from the west than last winter, and the dates of these records confirm that the Waxwings did not linger for long on their way across Scotland. This invasion seems to have been on a larger scale than the previous three, and the relative shortness of it heightened the impression one got of this at the time.

When Baxter & Rintoul compiled "The Geographical Distribution of Birds in Scotland" (1928) they sub-divided the Faunal Areas of Scotland into 50 smaller areas. They had records of Waxwings for 43 of these areas, and by 1939 they had added a further 3 in their annual lists of additions. Only Kinross and the islands of St Kilda, Bute, and Arran were Waxwingless. In their report on "The Migration of Waxwings into Scotland, 1946" (Edinburgh, 1947) the same authors give records for the Island of Bute. This winter there are several records from the Isle of Arran which seem to be the first; and the reports from Kinross would appear to be the first for that county so that only St Kilda still awaits the arrival of its first Waxwing.

This winter, Waxwings were recorded in no fewer than 44 of the 50 areas; the only areas in which none was seen being St Kilda, North Sutherland, West Inverness (a rather small area), South Inverness, Banff (but if one includes with Banff the small part of Aberdeenshire in the Moray Basin there are two records), and West Stirling.

On 19th November 1959 a dead Waxwing was picked up in Kirkcaldy bearing a Stockholm ring YM 3496. This bird had been ringed when full-grown, near Kalix in the Norrbotten district of northern Sweden (65.51 N, 23.08 E). Miss E. P. Leach reports that this is the first British recovery of a foreign-ringed Waxwing.

FOOD. In spite of the general scarcity of berries in Scotland this winter, Waxwings were not recorded taking other food to any great extent. Their favourite berry, as in the past two winters, was cotoneaster (116 reports). There are quite a few records for rose hips (40) and berberis (31) but the only other fruits of any significance were apples (11) and haws (10). A few observers named the species of cotoneaster visited and the total includes five records each of *horizontalis* and *simonsii* and single records of *frigida* and *prostrata*. The berberis records include two each of *thunbergii* and *wilsonii*.

The exceptionally sunny summer of 1959 may account for Waxwings being able to find pears (4) still on the trees in Forres, Huntly, Edinburgh and Stevenston. Other berries and fruits mentioned were elder (3), privet (3), honeysuckle (2), rowan (2), bramble (2), viburnum (2)—including the yellow berries of *v. opalis sterile fructa luteo*), escallonia (2), holly (1), juniper (1) and crab apple (1).

In Shetland, where berries are hard to find at the best of times, Waxwings were seen taking the fruit of St John's-wort at Voe, and feeding on scraps in Lerwick with a group of Starlings. In Aberdeen one took brown bread put out on the lawn, and even fed it to another—possibly an immature bird. In St Andrews sultanas were taken. Young willow buds were tried at Kilmelford but the bird did not appear to like them. In their breeding haunts Waxwings freely take insects but this is an unusual item in their winter diet in this country. Birds seen at Nigg in elder bushes and at Montrose on a damson tree were thought to be searching for and taking insects, but it is difficult to be quite certain as both elder and damson might be visited in search of the fruits.

SUMMARY OF RECORDS. In this list a "report" means each separate group or movement reported by each observer. Thus, where the same birds have been reported independently by more than one observer, they count as more than one "report." So far as possible, each bird has been counted only once in the total column. Where observers have not given exact counts of the birds, estimates have been made and the total for that place has been shown in brackets.

| ORKNEY & SHETLAND | No. of Total No. | | Earliest |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| | reports | of birds | record |
| Shetland | | | |
| *Unst | 1 | 1 | 5 Nov. |
| Voe | 1 | (5) | 7 Nov. |
| Lerwick | 1 | 1 | 12 Nov. |
| Fair Isle | 1 | 2 | 31 Oct. |
| Orkney | | | |
| †Kirkwall | 1 | 6 | 3 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 5 | 15 | 31 Oct. |

*A number were seen in Unst during September and October.

†One was seen in Kirkwall for about a week at the end of August and beginning of September (*antea* 1:204). Both these early records have been left out of all the totals as they do not seem to belong to the main invasion.

OUTER HEBRIDES

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Borve, South Harris | 1 | 1 | 11 Nov. |
| Stornoway, Lewis | 1 | 1 | 11 Nov. |
| Leurbost, Lewis | 1 | 1 | c. 20 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 3 | 3 | 11 Nov. |

NORTH COAST & CAITHNESS

Caithness

| | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|------------|
| Thurso | 4 | 5 | c. 25 Oct. |
| Wick | 1 | 1 | 13 Nov. |
| Lybster | 1 | 1 | 21 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 6 | 7 | c. 25 Oct. |

MORAY BASIN

Sutherland

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----|------------|
| Dornoch | 3 | 12 | 30 Oct. |
| Golspie | 3 | 25 | 6 Nov. |
| Brora | 1 | (5) | early Nov. |

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|------|------------|
| Helmsdale | 1 | 2 | 16 Nov. |
| Rogart | 1 | 12 | 19 Nov. |
| Ross | | | |
| Ardgay | 1 | 25 | 4 Nov. |
| Cromarty | 1 | 12 | 7 Nov. |
| Balintore | 1 | 2 | 9 Nov. |
| Munlochy | 1 | 2 | 10 Nov. |
| Poyntzfield | 1 | 5 | 10 Nov. |
| Avoch | 1 | 3 | 11 Nov. |
| Nigg | 1 | 2 | 14 Nov. |
| Evanton | 1 | 50 | 16 Nov. |
| Invergordon | 1 | 3 | 24 Nov. |
| Inverness | | | |
| Inverness | 8 | 25 | 8 Nov. |
| Aviemore | 3 | 22 | 15 Nov. |
| Kingussie | 1 | 2 | 15 Nov. |
| Fort Augustus | 1 | 200 | c. 18 Nov. |
| Nairn | | | |
| Nairn | 3 | 25 | 7 Nov. |
| Moray | | | |
| Forres | 5 | 35 | 2 Nov. |
| Findhorn | 4 | 20 | 5 Nov. |
| Lossiemouth | 1 | 2 | early Nov. |
| Elgin | 3 | 12 | c. 10 Nov. |
| Aberdeen | | | |
| Huntly | 2 | 2 | 13 Nov. |
| | 49 | 505 | 30 Oct. |
| DEE | | | |
| Aberdeen | | | |
| Aberdeen | 11 | 30 | 4 Nov. |
| Oyne | 1 | 1 | 7 Nov. |
| Ellon | 1 | 2 | 8 Nov. |
| Kintore | 1 | (5) | early Nov. |
| Old Meldrum | 1 | 1 | early Nov. |
| Piteaple | 2 | 8 | early Nov. |
| Torphins | 1 | 4 | 12 Nov. |
| Culter | 1 | 1 | c. 15 Nov. |
| Dyce | 1 | 4 | c. 18 Nov. |
| Peterculter | 1 | 2 | 24 Nov. |
| Kincardine | | | |
| Banchory | 3 | (30) | c. 25 Oct. |
| Glassel | 1 | 2 | 27 Oct. |
| Stonehaven | 3 | 22 | 1 Nov. |
| | 28 | 112 | c. 25 Oct. |
| TAY | | | |
| Kincardine | | | |
| Laurencekirk | 1 | 2 | 8 Nov. |
| Angus | | | |
| Newtyle | 3 | 5 | in Oct. |
| Easter Ogil | 2 | 9 | 31 Oct. |
| Invergowrie | 3 | 20 | 7 Nov. |
| Dundee | 5 | 18 | 4 Nov. |
| Montrose | 3 | (20) | 7 Nov. |
| Forfar | 1 | (5) | early Nov. |



Cock Ring Onzel and Young.

(Photograph by William Brotherston).

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Monifieth | 2 | 8 | c. 10 Nov. |
| Broughty Ferry | 1 | 12 | 15 Nov. |
| Arbroath | 1 | 12 | 17 Nov. |
| Kirriemuir | 1 | 1 | mid Nov. |
| Tealing | 1 | (5) | early Dec. |
| Perth | | | |
| Pitlochry | 8 | 75 | heard 22 Oct. seen 24 Oct. |
| Killin | 1 | 30 | 30 Oct. |
| Comrie | 1 | 6 | 31 Oct. |
| Rosemount | 1 | 11 | c. end Oct. |
| Kinnoull | 1 | 8 | 1 Nov. |
| Kingoodie | 1 | (5) | 5 Nov. |
| Crianlarich | 3 | 12 | 6 Nov. |
| Bridge of Tilt | 2 | 12 | early Nov. |
| Coshieville | 1 | 1 | 12 Nov. |
| Strathtay | 1 | 1 | 12 Nov. |
| Aberfeldy | 1 | 6 | 14 Nov. |
| Killicrankie | 2 | 15 | 15 Nov. |
| Coupar Angus | 1 | 2 | 21 Nov. |
| Rattrav | 1 | 2 | 22 Nov. |
| Fife | | | |
| Newburgh | 3 | 13 | c. 2 Nov. |
| *St Andrews | 17 | (45) | 2 Nov. |
| Cupar | 1 | 3 | 8 Nov. |
| Gateside | 1 | 7 | early Nov. |
| Rathillet | 1 | 14 | 12 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 73 | 385 | 22 or 24 Oct. |

*Only a single bird in St Andrews before 10th Nov. in spite of the large number of reports.

FORTH

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|------|--------------|
| Isle of May | 2 | 3 | 2 Nov. |
| Fife | | | |
| Colinsburgh | 2 | 6 | 1st wk. Nov. |
| Elie | 2 | 8 | 7 Nov. |
| Dysart | 1 | 1 | 8 Nov. |
| Kirkcaldy | 9 | 35 | 8 Nov. |
| Lochore | 1 | 3 | 9 Nov. |
| Craik | 4 | 12 | 10 Nov. |
| Earlsferry | 1 | 35 | c. 11 Nov. |
| Rosyth | 1 | 11 | 13 Nov. |
| Milton of Balgonie | 1 | 5 | 16 Nov. |
| Inverkeithing | 1 | 2 | 22 Nov. |
| Burntisland | 1 | (5) | 29 Nov. |
| Anstruther | 1 | (5) | — Nov. |
| Lundin Links | 1 | (5) | — Nov. |
| Kinross | | | |
| Milnathort | 4 | 30 | 12 Nov. |
| Clackmannan | | | |
| Alloa | 1 | 4 | c. 24 Nov. |
| Perth | | | |
| Callander | 2 | (15) | early Nov. |
| Stirling | | | |
| Buchlyvie | 3 | 8 | 1 Nov. |
| Stirling | 1 | 4 | 9 Nov. |
| Cambuskenneth | 1 | 2 | c. 12 Nov. |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Polmont | 1 | 1 | 15 Nov. |
| Grangemouth | 2 | 3 | 21 Nov. |
| West Lothian | | | |
| South Queensferry | 1 | 15 | 22 Nov. |
| Midlothian | | | |
| Loganlea | 1 | 7 | 2 Nov. |
| Levenhall | 2 | 14 | 3 Nov. |
| Edinburgh | 12 | 28 | 5 Nov. |
| Kirknewton | 1 | (5) | -- Nov. |
| Eskbank | 1 | 1 | 6 Jan. |
| East Lothian | | | |
| North Berwick | 2 | 22 | c. 30 Oct. |
| Gullane | 1 | 10 | 31 Oct. |
| Aberlady | 8 | 20 | 1 Nov. |
| Haddington | 3 | 16 | 2 Nov. |
| Dunbar | 3 | 15 | 10 Nov. |
| East Linton | 1 | 7 | 14 Nov. |
| Dirleton | 2 | 4 | 25 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| TWEED | 81 | 367 | c. 30 Oct. |
| Berwick | | | |
| Coldingham | 3 | 3 | 8 Nov. |
| Paxton | 1 | (5) | c. 11 Nov. |
| Duns | 10 | 15 | 16 Nov. |
| Ayton | 1 | 1 | 21 Nov. |
| Reston | 1 | 2 | 21 Nov. |
| Earlston | 8 | 40 | 21 Nov. |
| Greenlaw | 1 | 6 | 21 Nov. |
| Eyemouth | 1 | 1 | 24 Nov. |
| Whitechester | 1 | 1 | 13 Dec. |
| Peebles | | | |
| Broughton | 1 | (5) | -- Nov. |
| Selkirk | | | |
| Galashiels | 4 | 17 | 6 Nov. |
| Selkirk | 1 | 3 | 18 Nov. |
| Roxburgh | | | |
| Denholm | 2 | (7) | c. 21 Nov. |
| Gattonside | 1 | 2 | 22 Nov. |
| Heiton | 1 | 2 | 22 Nov. |
| St Boswells | 1 | 2 | 23 Nov. |
| Hawick | 1 | 1 | 24 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 39 | 113 | 6 Nov. |
| NORTH-WEST HIGHLANDS | | | |
| Sutherland | | | |
| Scourie | 1 | 2 | 23 Nov. |
| Ross | | | |
| Poolewe | 2 | 4 | 1 Nov. |
| Ullapool | 2 | 15 | 6 Nov. |
| Plockton | 3 | 8 | 12 Nov. |
| Gairloch | 1 | 1 | 16 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 9 | 30 | 1 Nov. |
| SKYE & INNER HEBRIDES | | | |
| Isle of Canna | 2 | 2 | 31 Oct. |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Isle of Rhum | 1 | 4 | 12 Nov. |
| Sorrybreck, Skye | 2 | 6 | 21 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 5 | 12 | 31 Oct. |
| ARGYLL | | | |
| Argyll | | | |
| Ledaig | 1 | 8 | 2 or 3 Nov. |
| Oban | 1 | 1 | 6 Nov. |
| Airds Bay, L. Etive | 1 | 5 | ?early Nov. |
| Connel | 1 | 2 | 10 Nov. |
| Tarbert | 1 | 5 | 14 Nov. |
| Kilmelford | 1 | 15 | 17 Nov. |
| Appin | 1 | 4 | 20 Nov. |
| Dalmally | 1 | 1 | 21 Nov. |
| Inverinan | 1 | 1 | 22 Nov. |
| Barcaldine | 1 | 6 | 25 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| CLYDE | 10 | 48 | 2 or 3 Nov. |
| Bute | | | |
| Isle of Arran | 4 | 14 | 1 Nov. |
| Millport, Cumbrae | 1 | 6 | 1 Nov. |
| Argyll | | | |
| Barnacarry | 1 | 2 | 7 Nov. |
| Ardrihaig | 2 | 7 | 11 Nov. |
| St Catherine's | 1 | 2 | c. 11 Nov. |
| Tighnabruaich | 1 | 2 | c. 14 Nov. |
| Benmore, Dunoon | 1 | 1 | 19 Nov. |
| Crarae | 1 | (10) | 21 Nov. |
| Lochgilphead | 1 | 3 | 24 Nov. |
| Dunbarton | | | |
| Helensburgh | 3 | 2 | 8 Nov. |
| Bearsden | 1 | 6 | 9 Nov. |
| Milngavie | 1 | 1 | 12 Nov. |
| Lanark | | | |
| Glasgow | 8 | 35 | 5 Nov. |
| Chapelton | 1 | 2 | 7 Nov. |
| Biggar | 4 | 16 | 22 Nov. |
| Burnside, Rutherglen | 1 | 1 | 20 Feb. |
| Renfrew | | | |
| Houston | 1 | 5 | 1 Nov. |
| Bridge of Weir | 5 | 13 | c. 1 Nov. |
| Greenock | 1 | 6 | 2 Nov. |
| Uplawmoor | 1 | 1 | 9 Nov. |
| Gourock | 2 | 2 | 11 Nov. |
| Kilmacolm | 4 | 26 | 11 Nov. |
| Kilbarchan | 2 | 11 | c. 12 Nov. |
| Howwood | 1 | (5) | mid Nov. |
| Lochwinnoch | 1 | (5) | mid Nov. |
| Newton Mearns | 1 | 1 | 20 Nov. |
| Giffnock | 1 | (5) | c. 23 Nov. |
| Ayr | | | |
| Girvan | 5 | 31 | 1 Nov. |
| Maidens | 1 | 1 | 5 Nov. |
| Prestwick | 2 | 5 | c. 5 Nov. |
| Stevenston | 1 | 3 | 9 Nov. |
| Largs | 1 | 1 | 14 Nov. |
| Mauchline | 1 | 30 | 17 Nov. |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Kilmarnock | 2 | 9 | 20 Nov. |
| Ayr | 5 | 62 | 20 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| SOLWAY | 70 | 332 | 1 Nov. |
| Wigtown | | | |
| Stranraer | 1 | 6 | c. 11 Nov. |
| Kirkcudbright | | | |
| Haugh of Urr | 1 | 1 | 5 Nov. |
| Kendoon | 1 | (5) | early Nov. |
| Castle Douglas | 3 | 15 | 10 Nov. |
| Kirkcudbright | 2 | 5 | c. 15 Nov. |
| Dalry | 2 | 4 | 16 Nov. |
| Gatehouse of Fleet | 1 | 1 | early Dec. |
| Cardoness | 1 | 50 | 12 or 13 Jan. |
| Dumfries | | | |
| Moniaive | 1 | 14 | 7 Nov. |
| Tynron | 1 | (5) | c. 7 Nov. |
| Dumfries | 14 | (70) | 9 Nov. |
| Lochmaben | 2 | 6 | 16 Nov. |
| Caerlaverock | 2 | 16 | 18 Nov. |
| Thornhill | 1 | (5) | mid Nov. |
| Lockerbie | 1 | (5) | mid Nov. |
| Annan | 1 | (5) | mid Nov. |
| Langholm | 1 | 7 | 22 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 36 | 220 | 5 Nov. |
| To summarise these details: | | | |
| Orkney & Shetland | 5 | 15 | 31 Oct. |
| Outer Hebrides | 3 | 3 | 11 Nov. |
| North Coast & Caithness | 6 | 7 | c. 25 Oct. |
| Moray Basin | 49 | 505 | 30 Oct. |
| Dec | 28 | 112 | c. 25 Oct. |
| Tay | 73 | 385 | Heard 22 Oct. Seen 24 Oct. |
| Forth | 81 | 367 | c. 30 Oct. |
| Tweed | 39 | 113 | 6 Nov. |
| North-west Highlands | 9 | 30 | 1 Nov. |
| Skve & Inner Hebrides | 5 | 12 | 31 Oct. |
| Argyll | 10 | 48 | 2 or 3 Nov. |
| Clyde | 70 | 332 | 1 Nov. |
| Solway | 36 | 220 | 5 Nov. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 414 | 2149 | Heard 22 Oct. Seen 24 Oct. |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |

THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

OFFICIAL SECTION

CLUB LIBRARY

The Club is much indebted to the following members and friends who have generously donated books and Journals to the Club Library: T. C. Cairns, James Fisher, Dr Ronald Fairbairn, P. W. G. Gunn, Peter Holt, John King, Ronald Logan, R. A. MacBride, Derek H. Mills, Dr Ian

Pennie, Ian M. Thomson and A. Dick Wood, Mr and Mrs J. H. B. Monro, the Misses C. C. Campbell, Rona Hunter and E. A. Munro, and the Nature Conservancy. In addition, nearly 200 books were received from the estate of the late T. Leslie Smith of Dundee. These books have greatly increased the scope of the reference and lending sections of the Library, and members are reminded that it is possible to borrow duplicate volumes. Anyone wishing to borrow a book on a specific subject should consult the Secretary.

During the winter, Discussion groups for both Members and Junior Members were held monthly and were well attended.

J.B.R.C. CONFERENCE

The Junior Bird Recorders' Club (the Junior Branch of the R.S.P.B.) held a very successful weekend Conference in the Club Library from 8th to 10th April 1960, when approximately twenty members met for lectures, films and discussion.

CLUB TIE AND BADGE

Members should note that the cost of the Club tie, a crested tit motif in silver on a blue or green background, has now been increased to 16/9 post extra. The ties are available at R. W. Forsyth Ltd., Edinburgh.

The Club badge, a crested tit in silver on blue enamel brooch, is available from the Secretary, price 2/6.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The thirteenth Annual Conference and twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held in the Marine Hotel, North Berwick, from 28th to 30th October 1960. The Conference programme will be published in the next issue of "Scottish Birds," and this intimation is given in order that members may make reservations at hotels in North Berwick in good time. **Bookings for the Marine Hotel should be made through the Secretary, Mrs George Waterston, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7.** Bookings for ALL OTHER HOTELS must be made direct with the hotel in which you wish to stay. Owing to the shortage of single rooms, 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.

Hotel Accommodation in North Berwick

MARINE HOTEL (Tel. 2406). Special Conference charge: Dinner and bed on Friday 28th; breakfast, lunch, Annual Dinner and bed on Saturday 29th; breakfast and lunch on Sunday 30th—£4, 15s 0d.

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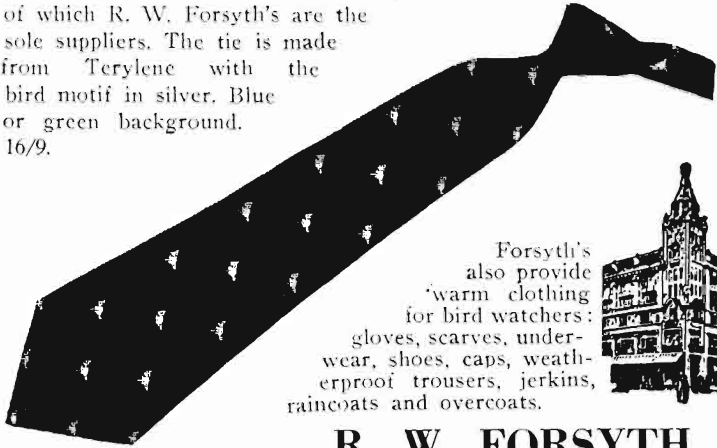
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The above terms are quoted as a guide ONLY, and prices should be confirmed.

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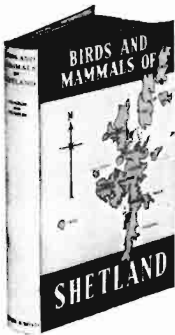


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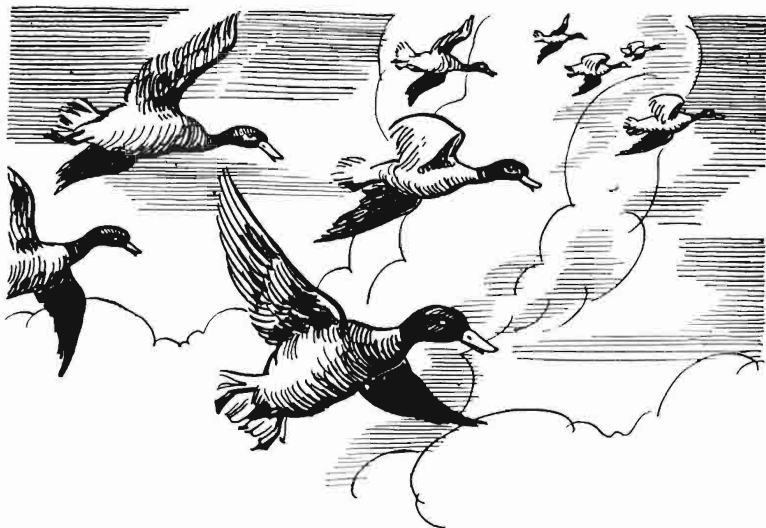
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