

# SCOTTISH BIRDS



The Journal of  
The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

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*Vol. I No. 13*

*Autumn 1961*

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FIVE SHILLINGS

## THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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**T**HE 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, Dumfries, 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. Joint membership is available to married couples at an annual subscription of 40/-. "Scottish Birds" is issued free to members, but Joint members will receive only one copy between them.

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."

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).

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### 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. 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.

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### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

All notes dealing with birds in the eastern Lowlands, from Berwick-on-Tweed to Dundee, should be submitted to A. T. Macmillan, 66 Spylaw Bank Road, Edinburgh, 13; all other contributions to M. F. M. Meiklejohn, 16 Athole Gardens, Glasgow, W.2. It would be helpful if notes were typewritten, if possible, and double spaced.

# THE LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The Society studies the area within twenty miles of St Paul's Cathedral. There are sections for Archaeology, Botany, Ecology, Entomology, Geology, Mammals, Ornithology, Ramblers and Young Naturalists.

There is a comprehensive programme of indoor and field meetings and the Society in addition to arranging its own investigations takes part in national enquiries. A lending library and reference collections are available for members.

The annual subscription is £1, 10s and there are reduced subscriptions for juniors, students, family members and those residing outside the area. Entrance fee 5s.

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*THE LONDON NATURALIST*, 13s 6d *post free*.

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Enquiries about membership and publications will be welcomed by the General Secretary, Mrs L. M. P. Small, 13 Woodfield Crescent, Ealing, W.5.

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Once again, the Ospreys at Loch Garten have succeeded in rearing three young, under careful protection organised by the R.S.P.B.

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# SCOTTISH BIRDS



THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Vol. I No. 13

Autumn 1961

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

Published quarterly.

## Editorial

MEMBERS of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club may have wondered at receiving details of the Annual Conference and the Winter Syllabus Card some time ago, but no copy of *Scottish Birds*. We apologise for the delay. It has been due, in part at least, to the illness of the Editor, to whom we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery. We feel sure that contributors will understand if their letters have not been promptly dealt with, or if their notes have been held over for the next number, as this number has been compiled largely by his assistants. By the time you receive your copy it will be time to start on the next one—such is the editorial schedule—and we would be glad to have your notes now.

From the 1960 Review of Ornithological Changes in Scotland, published in this number, it will be seen that the Scottish Bird Records Committee has rejected certain records which appeared in *Scottish Birds*. Likewise, the Rarity Records Committee of *British Birds* has rejected certain of our records which came within its scope. Some of the records were felt to be "not proven" rather than actually wrong, but today so many observations are available that it is clearly possible and desirable to accept only those about which there can be no doubts. We have therefore felt it desirable to withdraw all these unaccepted records, as it is obvious that any careful worker must reject records upon which valid doubts have been cast. We would emphasise that the responsibility for publishing these records in the first place was ours—and not that of the contributors.

Every ornithologist, if he is honest, will admit that at one time or another he has been taken in: nowadays there are so many active bird-watchers, and the very excellence of the modern text-books carries its own danger in making the game seem too easy. One may regret the possible loss of a good record, but it is nothing to the muddle that may be caused by the acceptance of an erroneous one—think of the Piltown skull.

We intend to see that our standards are as high as any, and

we hope that our contributors will not feel hurt if their records are sometimes not published. We can assure them that we will be applying the same objective standards to our own (or at least to each other's) records!

Finally, we should like to stress the importance of making every effort to call in a second opinion on the identification of any rare bird. This makes the task of adjudication very much easier.

### CORRECTIONS OF PREVIOUS RECORDS

In an earlier issue (*antea* 1:235) we published a record of a Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* at Avoch, Ross-shire, on 25th February 1960. The identification was based upon measurements, lack of head markings, pale colouring, slender bill and a feather from the underparts, the markings of which could be matched by the breast-feathers of specimens of *tenuirostris* in the Royal Scottish Museum.

This record has been considered and rejected by the *British Birds* Rarity Records Committee, and on reconsideration we must agree with this decision. The specimen feathers must, on size and shape, be from the flanks and not the breast, and the pattern can be matched by flank-feathers of the Curlew *N. arquata*, but not by those of *tenuirostris*. Moreover, although *tenuirostris* is paler on the upper-parts than the other curlews, the ground colour is not nearly as white or the pattern as sharply contrasted as is suggested by the description of the Avoch bird.

The suggestion has been made that the Avoch bird was a "runt" Curlew. We are not wholly convinced that this is the solution. The odds seem heavily against the production of a bird with both size and plumage abnormalities, although there have been recent cases of multiple abnormalities in animals exposed to radiation. In any event, in view of the valid doubts which have been cast on what otherwise would be a first British record (the records given for the Slender-billed Curlew in the *Handbook* are no longer regarded as acceptable, and the species has now become extremely rare everywhere) we feel ourselves compelled, though with regret, to withdraw it.

For the sake of completeness we also list here certain other records which have been published in these pages but which have not passed higher scrutiny and must also be withdrawn. These are:

White Storks, Fife, 2nd October 1959 (*antea* 1:145).

Ivory Gull, Fife, 4th October 1959 (*antea* 1:151).

Lesser Yellowlegs, Aberdeenshire, 15th September 1959 (*antea* 1:188).

Dusky Thrush, Argyllshire, late 1959 (*antea* 1:238).

## REVIEW OF ORNITHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN SCOTLAND IN 1960

JAMES W. CAMPBELL

### *Introduction*

This, the eighth report of the Scottish Bird Records Committee, deals with the records published during 1960. As in the past, the following Journals have been searched: *Scottish Birds* (S.B.); *British Birds* (B.B.); *Bird Migration* (B.M.); *Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin* (F.I.B.O.B.); *Ibis*; *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*; *Scottish Field*; *Country Life*; *The Field*; and *Bird Notes*. The abbreviations used here are shown in brackets.

There have been no changes in the membership of the Committee since the publication of our last report, in which its constitution was detailed. Previous reports were published in *The Scottish Naturalist* 1955:98; 1956:1; 1957:37; 1957:170; and *Scottish Birds* 1958:30; 1959:117; 1960:253.

As on previous occasions, some records have been held over for further consideration.

### BIRDS NEW TO AREAS AND COUNTIES

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. Two on River Devon, near Dollar, 24th September 1960 (S.B. 1:340); first for Clackmannan.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*. One at Isle of May, 14th May 1960 (B.M. 1:162); first for island. The possibility that this bird was an escape from captivity cannot be excluded.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*. One near Balgavies Loch, Forfar, 12th July 1958 (S.B. 1:183); first for Angus.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*. One, Beaully Firth, 9th October 1958 (S.B. 1:183); first for Moray and East Inverness.

STELLER'S EIDER *Polysticta stelleri*. One on Loch Fleet, Sutherland, 22nd September 1959 (S.B. 1:234); first for Moray and South-East Sutherland.

EUROPEAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons albifrons*. One at Bonnybridge, 1st November 1959 (S.B. 1:211); first record of the eastern race for East Stirling.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*. One shot at Cambus, 20th January 1960 (S.B. 1:272); first for Forth and Clackmannan. One seen at Wigtown, 27th March 1960 (S.B. 1:271); first for Wigtown.

DARK-BREADED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla bernicla*. One at Isle of May, 30th July 1959 (S.B. 1:174); there are two pre-

vious occurrences of Brent Geese for the island, but this is the first example to be determined racially.

**GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*. One at Loch Ballygrant, Islay, 28th April 1959 (S.B. 1:186); first for the Inner Hebrides. One near Skinflats, 21st August 1960 (S.B. 1:329) is the first to be recorded for East Stirling since 1795.

**HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*. One near Loch Garten, 15th May 1960 (S.B. 1:275); first for East Inverness.

**RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus*. One in Gleann Mor, St Kilda, 5th December 1959 (S.B. 1:329); first for island. Presumably as showing no white one of the British races.

**CRANE** *Megalornis grus*. One near Lothbeg Point, Helmsdale, 6th August 1958 (S.B. 1:187); first for South-East Sutherland.

**LITTLE CRAKE** *Porzana parva*. One found dead in Unst, during April 1959, and now preserved at Royal Scottish Museum (S.B. 1:235); first for Shetland.

**GREY PLOVER** *Charadrius squatarola*. Two at Ardmore, 28th September 1959 (S.B. 1:200); first for Dunbarton.

**DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus* sp. One at Gullane Point, 29th September 1960 (S.B. 1:330); first for Forth and East Lothian.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*. Nine at Loch Leven, 5th September 1959 (S.B. 1:200); first for Kinross.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*. One north of Grange-mouth, 5th September 1959 (S.B. 1:200); first for East Stirling.

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*. Two at Loch Leven, 21st September 1959 (S.B. 1:231); first for Kinross.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*. One at Loch Leven, 21st September 1959 (S.B. 1:201); first for Kinross.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*. One near Grange-mouth, 19th September 1960 (S.B. 1:333); first for East Stirling.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris testacea*. Three at Loch Leven, 21st September 1959 (S.B. 1:202); first for Kinross.

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tringites subruficollis*. One at Gullane, 18th September 1960 (S.B. 1:334); first for Forth and East Lothian. One near Dornoch Point, 25th September 1960 (S.B. 1:334); first for Moray and South-East Sutherland.

**GREY PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Two at Fife Ness, 28th October 1959 (S.B. 1:208); first for South Fife. One on Rubbish Dump Pool, Hamilton, 23rd October 1960 (S.B. 1:343); first for Lanark.

**GREAT SKUA** *Catharacta skua*. One at Handa, 6th July 1959 (F.I.B.O.B. 4:121); first for West Sutherland.

**LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*. One at Endrick Mouth, 29th May 1960 (S.B. 1:279); first for West Stirling.

**GULL-BILLED TERN** *Gelochelidon nilotica*. One at Aberlady



Bay, 11th September 1960 (S.B. 1:335); this, the second Scottish record, is the first for Forth and East Lothian.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna macrura*. One at Endrick Mouth, 29th May 1960 (S.B. 1:280); first for West Stirling.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*. One at Endrick Mouth, 5th June 1960 (S.B. 1:280); first for West Stirling.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. One at Dunfermline, 23rd August 1959 (S.B. 1:189); first for Forth and South Fife. One near Faskally, Pitlochry, 16th February 1960 (S.B. 1:237); first for Tay and North Perth. One at Fair Isle, 18th April 1960 (B.M. 1:187); first for Shetland and Fair Isle.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*. One near Riccarton Junction, 17th May 1960 (S.B. 1:276); first for Roxburgh.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One at Butt of Lewis, 10th November 1959 (S.B. 1:239); first for Outer Hebrides other than St Kilda.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva*. One at Newburgh, 12th October 1959 (S.B. 1:192); first for Dee and Aberdeen. Two at Fife Ness, 18th September 1960 (S.B. 1:337); first for South Fife.

WAXWING *Bombucilla garrulus*. A party at Milnathort, 12th November 1959 (S.B. 1:248); first for Kinross.

RED-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*. One, thought to be of the race *Phoenicuroides*, trapped at Fair Isle, 12th May 1960 (B.M. 1:162); first for Shetland and Fair Isle.

#### FIRST BREEDING RECORDS FOR AREAS AND COUNTIES

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. A pair with nest and eggs found "West Inverness-shire," 10th June 1960 (S.B. 1:331); first breeding for North-West Highlands and West Inverness.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. Nest with eggs at Houndslow, near Greenlaw, 29th May 1960 (S.B. 1:280); first breeding for Tweed and Berwick.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. Adult feeding four fledged young at Kinloch, Rhum, 30th June 1959 (S.B. 1:340); first breeding for Inner Hebrides.

The following have not been included, but are listed here for general information:

Small race of CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*. One seen at Laggan Point, Islay, 5th April 1958 (S.B. 1:274); this has been accepted by the Rarities Committee of *British Birds* as belonging to "one of the small races of Canada Goose from the North American Arctic," but as its identity has not been established beyond all doubts it cannot be included in the Review as a race new to Scotland.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*. One seen at Bonnybridge, Stirling, 9th November 1959 resembled the Northern race *Aegithalos c. caudatus* (S.B. 1:212). If accepted, this would be the first definite Scottish record; there is, however, the observation by Dr F. Darling (see *Birds of Scotland* 139-140) that white-headed birds occur in West Sutherland and Loch Broom area, and intermediate forms as far south as Sunart, North Argyll, in the breeding season.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. One "black-bellied" near Edzell, Angus, 13th September 1960. See remarks by Professor Wynne-Edwards (S.B. 1:336).

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The following have been added to the British List on the recommendation of the B.O.U. British Records Committee. (See *Ibis* 102:629-630).

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia*. One found dead Scalloway, Shetland, mid-October 1936 (*Scot. Nat.* 1937:46 and 69:38).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis*. One shot Flannans, Outer Hebrides, 18th May 1909 (See *Annals Scot. Nat. Hist.* 1909:246 and *Scot. Nat.* 69:39).

SONG SPARROW *Melospiza melodia*. One trapped Fair Isle, Shetland, 27th April 1959 (*B.B.* 52:419-421 and *S.B.* 1:254).

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After careful consideration of all the evidence the Committee have been unable to accept the following records:

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*. Two near Cameron Reservoir, Fife, 2nd October 1959 (*S.B.* 1:145).

SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW *Numenius tenuirostris*. One found exhausted at Avoch, Easter Ross, 25th February 1960; examined and released (*S.B.* 1:235).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*. One at Cotehill Loch, Collieston, 15th September 1959 (*S.B.* 1:188).

SCANDINAVIAN HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus omissus*. One at Figgate Pond, Edinburgh, 22nd October 1959 (*S.B.* 1:198).

DUSKY THRUSH *Turdus eunomus*. One seen at Port Appin, Argyll, "end of 1959." (*S.B.* 1:238).

We understand that these records have also been rejected by the Rarities Committee of *British Birds*—although the findings have not yet been published—not necessarily because the identifications were wrong, but because "the evidence was insufficient or the conditions of observation too unsatisfactory for unqualified acceptance as fully authenticated records." We also wish to emphasise their view that published rejection of these records is not a slur on the ability of the observer. (See *B.B.* 54:199).



HERON coming down to nest, Wester Ross, June 1939.

(Photograph by J. E. Ruxton)

## VISIT OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS TO THE SCOTTISH CENTRE

The first organised party of American ornithologists to come to this country arrived in Scotland on Friday, 7th July. This very brief visit, from 3 p.m. on Friday to 9 a.m. on Saturday, was part of a "Birds of Europe" tour, and the party consisted of twenty-eight bird-watchers from all parts of the States, led by Mr Orville W. Crowder.

As this was the first occasion of its kind and might mark the beginning of many contacts between ornithologists of our two countries, Dr John Berry of the Nature Conservancy, and the Council of the Club, felt that the party should be our guests at a special reception in the Scottish Centre.

Such a tight schedule was bound to meet unforeseen hitches, and we were not surprised when holiday traffic jams prevented our guests from arriving in Edinburgh from the Lake District until after 4 p.m. This meant some last-minute reorganisation of our plans to take them for a sail round the Bass Rock; instead, after being welcomed at their hotel by Dr Berry, Andrew Macmillan and George Waterston, they were taken on a conducted tour of the city in their private bus and a visit to the Queen's Park where among the duck at Duddingston Loch several were able to add "Lifers" to their lists of birds.

After a hasty dinner at their hotel, the party arrived at Regent Terrace where a reception party of Members of Council and of the Edinburgh Branch Committee were waiting. As we felt that a Scottish welcome would be appropriate, Pat Sandeman, complete with kilt, piped our guests into the house, to their great delight. "You sure think of everything," said Mr Crowder as he led his party in. They were then shown part of the R.S.P.B. film, "Highland Birds," which was some compensation for seeing so few Scottish species; this was given a very enthusiastic reception and quite a few decided there and then to come back for a stay in Speyside another year. After this, the whole party adjourned upstairs for refreshments and general conversation; this rose in crescendo and enthusiasm until they left us at 11 p.m., full of gratitude to the Club for what they said was "the highlight of our tour."

The value of such contacts cannot be readily assessed but they are obviously of great importance. Some of the party were members of local Audubon Societies and we were able to exchange ideas and information on the organisation of our respective Clubs and Societies. Many of them, we are sure, will come back to Scotland for a longer visit, while any members of the Club who visit the States may be sure of a warm welcome and every possible assistance to see American birds.

M. I. W.

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE DUMFRIES BRANCH

In view of the keen interest in ornithology in the South-west of Scotland, members of the S.O.C. felt that a Branch of the Club, centred in Dumfries, would provide opportunities for members to meet for their personal pleasure and to forward the objects of the Club. Accordingly a meeting was convened on 26th June 1961 in the County Hotel, Dumfries, when approximately forty members attended.

The Chair was taken by Mr William Austin, supported by Mr A. Donald Watson and by Mrs George Waterston, Secretary of the Club. Mr Austin introduced Mrs Waterston who then explained the advantages of a separate Branch, and promised lectures by well-known speakers, some of whom had been provisionally booked already.

It was decided unanimously to inaugurate the Branch, and Officers were appointed as follows: Cnairman, Sir Arthur B. Duncan; Vice-Chairman, Mr William Austin; Hon. Secretary, Mr H. M. Russell; Committee, Mr Langley Roberts, Mr R. T. Smith and Mr Donald Watson, and the above Officers *ex officio*. Mr William Austin was elected Branch Representative to the Council. (All Treasurership functions are exercised in Edinburgh).

In the discussion which followed, special attention was drawn to the point that, although the activities of the Branch would be centred in Dumfries, which greatly helped arrangements for speakers, the Branch hoped to be a focal point for the whole of the South-west of Scotland. Colleagues from Wig-townshire would be most welcome at all Branch meetings, and the possibility of a get-together in Newton Stewart or Castle Douglas at least once a year would be examined.

The meeting was then addressed by Mr George Waterston who outlined the special interests of the S.O.C., the R.S.P.B. and the B.T.O. and urged support for the latter two bodies in any way possible. He reminded members of the special work being done on the status of the Heron, the Stonechat and the Peregrine. He also appealed for voluntary wardens in July for the nesting Ospreys.

H. M. R.

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Ornithological Club of Uppsala, Sweden, is conducting a special investigation into the migration of the Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. All Dunlin trapped during the 1961 autumn migration season will be ringed with a numbered ring on one leg and a coloured ring on the other. Observers are asked to look closely at all Dunlin seen during this autumn and winter

and, if any ringed birds are seen, to send a note of their observations to Sven Uhlin, Gnejsvägen 3B, Uppsala, Sweden. The information required is: date, time and place of observation; colour of ring and leg on which placed; numbers of ringed and unringed Dunlin present at the time; and length of stay.

## OBITUARY: THE LATE JOHN BAIN

His many friends among ornithologists—and the Scottish lighthouse personnel who co-operate so wholeheartedly with them—will learn with deep regret of the passing of Mr John Bain, who had been ill for a lengthy period at the home of one of his daughters at Rothesay after returning from a visit to Nyasaland.

Fostered during his service with the Northern Lighthouses at many Scottish stations, his interest in birds became an abiding one. He had been associated with the Royal Scottish Museum in the obtaining of skins and specimens of birds killed at the lighthouses; had a close connection over many years with the Isle of May Observatory, where he carried out much highly-skilled maintenance work and single-handed built the Heligoland Trap which now bears his name; and, while serving on the Bass Rock, made one of the earliest "scientific" counts of the Rock's nesting Gannets. His fund of bird-lore was equalled only by his knowledge of the coasts and islands and his tales of "characters" and incidents in the lighthouse service, in which he had continued beyond retirement age as relief officer after the Second World War.

This doyen of bird-watchers was in his seventy-eighth year.

R. A. C.

## SHORT NOTES

### MANX SHEARWATER INLAND IN PERTHSHIRE

On 23rd July 1961, when sailing on Loch Tay, I was astonished to see a Manx Shearwater *Procellaria puffinus*. The bird was on the water when first noticed and it allowed the dinghy to approach within 30 yards before taking wing. In flight the contrasting black upperparts and white underparts and the typical stiff-winged, tilting flight confirmed the identification. The bird circled near the boat several times before disappearing in the direction of Killin.

V. M. THOM.

## EARLY SOOTY SHEARWATER

A Sooty Shearwater *Procellaria grisea* was seen in the northern waters of the North Minch on 7th May 1961. It was watched by several internationally-known ornithologists on a cruise organised by the National Trust for Scotland and it remained for about half an hour in the vicinity of the ship.

W. J. EGGELING.

(This is a very remarkable date and is two weeks earlier than any other record we can find for British waters.—Ed.).

## WHITE STORK IN DUMFRIESSHIRE

On the afternoon of 17th April 1961 a White Stork *C. ciconia* was seen by Mr Stewart Nairn on his farm at Hazliebrae, Lochmaben. He telephoned Robert Smith, who was able to come over the following morning and confirm the identification. On the evening of the same day I found the bird still present and was able to get the photograph reproduced elsewhere in this number, as the bird was perched on a telegraph pole with the sun just beginning to set. On the morning of the 19th E. L. Roberts was on the scene about 11 a.m., just in time to see the bird get up and fly off to the south. It was not seen again.

WILLIAM AUSTIN.

(This is presumably the same bird as was first seen at Southport, Lancashire, on 4th April and thereafter at half a dozen different places progressively further north until the last English sighting at Maryport on the 16th—the day before its appearance at Lochmaben. This would be the first record for Dumfriesshire and the Solway area, but the bird's tameness and its predilection for settling in areas of considerable human activity suggest that it may have been an escapee from captivity, although the species may at times be quite approachable in the wild. The acceptance of this as a genuine record must therefore depend on enquiries at present being made by the *British Birds* Rarity Records Committee, to whose Secretary we are indebted for the information about the bird's wanderings in England.—Ed.).

## RED-FOOTED FALCON IN INVERNESS-SHIRE

On 15th May 1961 I was motoring along the road that crosses Tulloch Moor, near Boat of Garten, when a small raptor flew out of a tree and landed on a large rock 30 yards from the car. It was late in the evening and the light was poor, but even so the bird struck me as something unusual because of its size and flight. From the rear it showed a grey back and tail barred with black, a light crown and a whitish collar. I moved round to get a front view of the bird but it flew off to the top of a

pine about 500 yards away. I did, however, see the bird well enough in flight to identify it as a Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. I followed it and managed to get close again. This time I thought I could see the red legs, but it flew off again and I decided to leave it and hope that it would roost in the area.

The following morning at 0530 hours G.M.T., Dick Clark, Adrian Sudbury and I were at the moor. It had been a very cold night with several degrees of frost and a raw mist. An hour later we flushed the bird from its roost in a Scots pine. It flew to the top of a dead tree, and before it departed we were able to make out the orange feet and rufous underparts. It flew across the valley to a dead tree, where it was watched by George Dick, Guy Brownlow, George Patrick, Penny Whitehead and Jenny Buxton. At 0945 hours it flew away north-east into the wind and was last seen over Boat of Garten golf-course.

From the following description collected in the field I identified it as a female Red-footed Falcon:

Forehead pale creamy-buff; crown light chestnut-buff shading to a distinct collar of creamy-buff; ear-coverts sandy-brown; nape streak from crown, chestnut-buff; mantle, back, scapulars, coverts and rump slate-grey, faintly (but obviously at close range) barred black-brown; tail slate-grey, barred black with pale buff tip to each feather; flight-feathers dark brown, almost black outer webs, inner webs dark brown, shafts paler.

Cheeks creamy-buff; blackish moustachial streak, rather ill-defined; chin cream-off-white shading to rufous buff on belly, faint streaks of dark chestnut on sides of breast; under tail-coverts whitish-buff; feathered thighs shading from rufous to creamy-buff; axillaries rusty; under flight-feathers pale rufous-buff, heavily barred black-brown.

Bill yellowish-horn, shading to blackish tip and with a small red area at the gape. Eye dark broken with orange orbital ring. Legs and feet orange.

The flight was distinctive—leisurely, with several deep wing-beats followed by a glide—a cross between Hobby and Kestrel. The tail looked rather long and the wings decidedly long in flight. At rest the wings were just longer than the tail.

After being disturbed from its roost, the bird flew to a dead tree where it remained, preening and surveying the moor. At 0740 hours it flew to the ground and caught a green caterpillar, returning to its perch to eat it. During the next hour it made six similar feeding sallies. Twice the prey was again a green caterpillar; on the other occasions it was an unidentified insect. In between these sallies the bird dozed and preened. The method of hunting was to perch on the top of a dead tree and watch the ground directly underneath. There was much head-shaking, vertically and laterally, when the bird sighted an insect. It would then drop to the ground, catch the insect and always return to the perch to eat it. The large caterpillars were held in one talon and usually took four bites to finish off. The bird never moved more than ten yards from the tree when



hunting and was very good at running through long heather. When a Cuckoo landed in the tree, the falcon took off immediately and flew around before returning, when the Cuckoo departed. On two occasions the falcon was mobbed by Black-headed Gulls and took evasive action. Meadow Pipits also mobbed it on several occasions, though not forcefully, and I got the impression that it was a very timid bird.

R. H. DENNIS

(This is the first record for Inverness-shire and the Moray area.—Ed.).

#### LITTLE OWL IN MIDLOTHIAN

On 17th March 1961 a freshly-dead Little Owl *Athene noctua* was picked up in Leith. It was sent to the Royal Scottish Museum for identification where it was found to be a male. It showed no signs of having been kept in captivity. This is the first record of the species in Midlothian.

GEORGE WATERSTON.

#### TENGMALM'S OWLS IN ORKNEY

On 26th December 1959 I was told of a strange owl in a small plantation of deciduous trees, not exceeding 20 feet in height, in a disused quarry at Cruan, Firth. Mr J. Wood and I saw the bird the same day. Noticeably smaller than our familiar Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*, it looked stocky and had a large head. Perched about 12 feet up, it kept its eyes shut and only opened them for a moment when we made a considerable commotion. We got the impression that the bird was pretty exhausted.

The upperparts were of a reddish chocolate-brown colour with white spots—small on the primaries and secondaries but much larger on the back. There was a conspicuous row of large spots on the wing-coverts and very fine spots on the forepart of the crown. The facial discs were complete and whitish with a dark chocolate border. The underparts were whitish or creamy, marked with streaks of pale reddish-chocolate and there was a narrow band of chocolate round the throat. The iris was yellow and the beak pale yellowish. The legs were hidden by the body plumage when the bird was perched, but when we induced it to fly, we could see that they were thickly covered with whitish or creamy feathers right over the toes, flecked with a little pale brown. The claws were blackish. The flight from tree to tree resembled that of the Long-eared Owl *A. otus*. It would drop downwards from its perch, fly quickly to another tree and sweep up to alight on the chosen branch. We concluded that the bird was a Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus*.

This bird stayed in the plantation during 26th December and the following day. It perched in an upright position with its eyes closed most of the time. When dusk began to fall it became more awake and alert and began to move about. It disappeared after 27th December and we thought it had gone for good, but it turned up again on 1st January 1960, after which it was never seen again. A pellet measuring about 45 x 14 mm was found beneath its usual perch, but owing to the presence of Kestrels in the area, it was impossible to be certain that this came from the owl.

On 1st May 1961 I again had the opportunity of observing a Tengmalm's Owl—this time in a garden in Stromness. The weather was dull and misty at the time with a fresh south-east wind. The owl was sitting at about eye-level in a small tree, backed by a high wall, where it was being furiously mobbed by a Blackbird. It appeared little more than half the size of a Short-eared Owl and looked very big-headed, giving the impression of tapering away very sharply to the tail. In plumage it closely resembled the previous bird except that it was rather more heavily marked on the underparts.

E. BALFOUR.

(These are the first acceptable records of the species in Orkney.—Ed.).

#### GREEN WOODPECKER BREEDING IN LANARKSHIRE

In October 1960 the Forestry Officer in East Kilbride told us that he had seen a bright green bird about the size of a small Woodpigeon in a wood near the town. It was not until February and March 1961 that one of us (A.W.) saw the bird and easily identified it as a Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*. We saw it on three occasions during these months and we again saw the bird in the same wood on 28th May and later found the nest 28-30 feet up a tree. The nest was not accessible, but on many subsequent visits we saw both adult birds at the nest feeding young.

DAVID LAWSON.  
ALEC McCONNELL.  
A. WILSON.

(This is the first breeding record for Lanarkshire and the most northerly breeding record so far for the western half of Scotland. For other recent records of the species in Lanarkshire see *antea* 1:73 and 132, and 1939 *Scot. Nat.* p. 49, which is apparently the first record for the county.—Ed.).

#### REDWING BREEDING IN ROSS-SHIRE

When walking by a Ross-shire river on 6th June 1961, M.H.M. saw a Redwing *Turdus musicus* fly into a birch copse

on the opposite side of the river. Later, she discovered that there were two Redwings present, and on several occasions she saw the birds enter the copse carrying food in their bills. Circumstances prevented her from making a search that day, but on 7th June she and D.M. visited the locality together. On arrival at the spot where M.H.M. had seen the birds the previous day, we were greeted by a medley of harsh alarm-notes and soon two adult Redwings appeared on the topmost branches of a birch tree. From their agitated behaviour we concluded that they had fledged young nearby, but a search of the area proved unrewarding and we withdrew from the vicinity to keep watch a short distance away. Several minutes later a Redwing with food in its bill alighted on a tree-stump and, after a few seconds, flew into a thick cluster of twigs which grew on the trunk of a large birch tree. Going to the spot, we discovered a nest containing three young Redwings which were fully feathered and almost ready to fly. The nest, which looked a rather flimsy structure, was built in the junction between the tree trunk and the mass of twigs at a height of 4½ feet from the ground. Recent records of the Redwing breeding in Ross-shire may be found in *British Birds* 52:315 and 53:358.

D. MACDONALD.

MARGARET H. MITCHELL.

#### STONECHAT BREEDING IN SHETLAND

On 10th May 1961 Mr Christopher Booth, motoring past the Loch of Voe Parish of Deltinø, Shetland, spotted a pair of Stonechats *Saricola torquata* behaving as if nesting. On observation the birds were seen to be feeding young. The nest, when located, contained five fully-grown young, all of which were ringed by Mr Booth. On the following day I saw both adult birds and two nestlings which were being fed in the vicinity of the now-empty nest, which was situated under a thick tuft of heather. This is the first recorded breeding of the species in Shetland.

J. PETERSON.

#### LESSER GREY SHRIKE IN AYRSHIRE

On the evening of 15th June 1961, while driving between Crosshill and Dalrymple, I had a brief glimpse of an unfamiliar bird on the roadside telegraph wires near Blairbowie Farm. I could not find it the following evening, but on the 17th my wife and I had perfect views of it at very close range as it moved in leisurely short flights along the low roadside hedge in front of the car. Viewed at ranges of 25 yards or less we had no difficulty in identifying it as a Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*. The breast was strikingly pink (more so than in the *Handbook* illustration) and the black eye-stripe was so broad that, when viewed from below, the bird appeared to

have a completely black cap. The bird was again seen on the 18th by Arthur Duncan and Donald Watson and, after an interval during which it could not be located, it was found in the same area by Donald Cross and David Reid on 24th June, after which it was seen no more. On every occasion it was seen perched on overhead wires or low hedgerows and it seemed to have no desire to seek the shelter of overgrown hedges or the adjacent woodlands.

G. HUGHES ONSLOW.

(Mr Donald Watson, who also made sketches of the bird, has sent us the following detailed description:

A fine bird with striking black mask over front of crown almost, if not quite, as far back as the eyes, with the black continuing as a broad streak through and behind the eyes; sides of face and throat white or nearly so, becoming pale salmon-pink on the breast and rest of underparts; wings wholly black except for rectangular white patch at the base of the primaries, showing clearly in flight as a short broad bar not extending on to the secondaries. The tail was rather long and black with white edges to the outer feathers, scarcely graduated; relative to the wings the tail seemed longer than in some descriptions. The whole bird was rather slight in build, lacking the formidable look and bold upright stance of the typical Great Grey Shrike, but the strong wind kept the bird sitting low—almost horizontally—head to wind. It fed by short flights and pounces to the ground, chiefly close to the low hawthorn hedge on which it perched. Occasional longer sallies took it to a fence across a grass field. From the head pattern of pure jet-black on the fore-crown it appeared to be a male in very smart plumage.

This would seem to be the first record for Ayrshire and Clyde.—Ed.).

#### RED-BACKED SHRIKE IN ABERDEENSHIRE

In the late afternoon of 19th May 1961 I was driving with a friend down the narrow road that leads from the south end of Loch of Strathbeg when we saw an unmistakable male Red-backed Shrike perched at the side of the road. We were able to watch it at very close quarters and could clearly see the red-brown back and grey head, the heavy black mark through the eye and the typical shrike bill. In flight the black tail with white at the sides was plainly visible.

PAMELA FURNESS.

#### ROSE-COLOURED STARLING IN DUNBARTONSHIRE

On 12th May 1961 a flock of Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* flew up from the lawn at my house in Bearsden. Amongst them was one bird of the same size and general appearance as the others but having a black head or "cowl," black wings and tail and a pink breast. I suspected at once that this must be a Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* and I was able to confirm this by reference to the *Field Guide*.

R. W. PICKFORD.

(This would be the first record for Dunbartonshire, but the date and the locality combine to make it most unlikely that this was a genuine wild bird and we feel that it should be treated as a probable escape from captivity.—Ed.)

### SCOTTISH CROSSBILL IN WESTER ROSS

In *The Birds of Scotland* (Vol. 1:70-71), Baxter & Rintoul are vague about the present status of the Scottish Crossbill *Loxia sp. scotica* in Ross-shire.

On 21st May 1961 Dr T. C. Smout saw a small flock of Crossbills in a pine-wood at Shieldaig, Wester Ross. Next day I had close views of an adult male in the same wood, and I was able to compare it with some Scottish Crossbills which I saw later on the same day in Speyside. Its bill appeared very similar in size and shape to those of the Speyside birds, and struck me as noticeably heavier than those of some continental birds *L. c. curvirostra* which I had watched only a fortnight earlier in Suffolk. Its call—a low-pitched “choop-choop-choop” or “klomp-klomp-klomp”—was quite different from any notes I have heard from continental Crossbills, although both it and the Speyside birds occasionally gave a higher-pitched “yip” call in addition.

I. C. T. NISBET.

(In fairness to the authors of *The Birds of Scotland* it should be pointed out that they state quite specifically that Ross was one of the Counties in which the Scottish Crossbill was then (1950) breeding. We would, however, welcome more notes of this kind on the distribution of Crossbills outside their headquarters in Speyside, and the notes on racial field identification are particularly valuable coming from an observer of Dr Nisbet's experience.—Ed.)

### CURRENT NOTES

(Key to initials of observers: A. G. Ablett, G. H. Acklam, D. R. Anderson, D. G. Andrew, Miss V. E. C. Balfour-Browne, I. V. Balfour-Paul, J. Ballantyne, Miss K. H. Barr, Miss P. G. Baxter, J. A. Begg, W. K. Birrell, T. Boyd, Dr B. Campbell, J. W. Campbell, C. N. L. Cowper, W. A. Craw, Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame, W. A. J. Cunningham, R. H. Dennis, G. Dick, Dr G. M. Dunnet, Dr W. J. Eggeling, Sir R. Erskine-Hill, M. Everett, M. Forrester, E. M. Gall, Miss E. A. Garden, P. Holt, J. Hoy, E. N. Hunter, Miss R. S. Hunter, Rev. G. T. Jamieson, Dr D. Jenkins, J. H. Lawton, Lt-Col. W. M. Logan-Home, A. J. B. Loudon, P. V. W. Lowe, A. Macdonald, K. S. Macgregor, A. T. Macmillan, Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, R. I. Milne, Mrs E. A. Munro, J. Oliver, G. Patrick, J. Potter, W. Pryde, I. B. Roy, Dr M. Rusk, C. Sanderson, W. M. Skene, R. W. J. Smith, T. C. Smout, I. S. Suttie, J. H. Swan, Miss V. M. Thom, L. A. Urquhart, G. Waterston, Mrs M. I. Waterston, Dr A. Watson, A. D. Watson, Dr R. S. Weir, J. W. Wightman, K. Williamson. Unless otherwise stated dates refer to late 1960 or to 1961).

#### *Breeding and Distribution*

The free flying **Night Herons** from Edinburgh Zoo continue

to appear in odd places to the confusion of the public. On 24th August an adult was preening itself in the Royal Botanic Garden where it was sitting by the pond on top of *Salix babylonica ramulis-aureis*. As the observer strolled in the sun he heard many suggestions as to what this strange bird might be—including one very positive theory that it was a Kittiwake (A.T.M.). On 6th June a strange brown bird was wading about a pond in Dunfermline spearing fish before admiring onlookers. It then sat in a tree. This bird was featured in the press and on television, and generally noted as a Bittern. We have seen an excellent photograph of it, proving, as we guessed, that it was an immature Night Heron (G.D.). Less precise reports which we have heard recently of this species indicate that, in Edinburgh, it has been seen by the canal at Sighthill, noted flying over Corstorphine regularly at dusk from the Zoo, and comes regularly at dusk to the mud at the mouth of the R. Almond when the tide is right (Ep.).

In 1960, for the first time, a pair of **Gadwall** spent most of the spring and early summer at Gladhouse, and breeding was suspected. In 1961 a drake and two ducks appeared in the spring, and breeding was later proved when one of the ducks was seen on 2nd July with two small ducklings. The only breeding previously recorded in Midlothian was at Threipmuir in 1933 and 1934 (D.G.A.).

A pair of **Pintail** was at Tynninghame, East Lothian, on 9th and 16th April. They are unusual there (T.B.).

Inland records of **Scaup** come from the Loch o' the Lowes, New Cumnock, Ayr, where there was a drake with a flock of Tufted Ducks from 3rd to 7th April (J.A.B.); from Duddingston, Edinburgh, where a drake was noted on 19th April (B.C.), and a pair on 13th July (D.R.A.); and from Biggar boating pond where another drake was seen on 26th April (R.S.H.). Some 1,400 **Common Scoter** milling about at Gullane Point on 19th April were even more than the exceptional count of 1,000 already noted ten days earlier (*antea* 1:433) (B.C.). Fourteen **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Longannet, Fife, on 11th July may have been summering birds, such as occur further down the Forth, rather than early arrivals from fresh water (J.H.).

A pair of **Mute Swans** sitting on six eggs at Kilfinan, Argyll, on the shore of L. Fyne, with a nest in rough grass just above high water mark, are the first to breed there (D.R.A.). A single **Whooper Swan** was seen on two different lochs in N.E. Caithness on 22nd and 23rd May (per D.G.A.) and one spent the summer, until at least 16th July, on L. Insh, near Kincaird, Inverness (R.H.D.).

A **Buzzard** was seen on 5th March at Polnoon, an unusual place for one, near Eaglesham, Lanark. It flew off south-east at a great height (L.A.U.).

Two **Rough-legged Buzzards** were seen for at least two weeks

during November near Tarfside, Glen Esk, Angus. A buzzard seen in September may have been of this species, and a bird seen twice in October probably was (D.J., A.W.).

On several days between 5th and 22nd April an **Osprey** was seen fishing at Upper Rhynd Loch near Braco, Perth. It would sit on the roadside telegraph poles (G.T.J.). On 8th June another Osprey was seen soaring in wide circles high over the summit of Rueval in Benbecula until it drifted out of sight in the direction of the Monach Islands (G.W., M.I.W.). A third one was watched catching a fish on 13th August from Pitfour Loch, near Mintlaw, Aberdeen (E.A.G.). The Ospreys at L. Garten, Inverness, were successful for the third successive year, and reared three chicks, bringing their total to seven (M.I.W.).

Very few notes are sent in about **Quail**, but one suspects that a thorough investigation of the cornfields in East Lothian and Berwickshire might reveal a rather different picture. Near Gifford, East Lothian, they evidently breed, having been heard in 1960 and again during June 1961. In this locality they are said to have occurred for a number of years, so that they are free from the doubts about some East Lothian records which follow the rearing of Quail from eggs at Archerfield, Dirleton, in 1959 (A.M.).

**Ringed Plover** bred at Gladhouse for the third year running (D.G.A.).

A **Herring Gull** was seen at Seafield, Leith, on 10th April, with bright yellow legs. Its size and pale silver mantle were the same as ordinary Herring Gulls with it and its race remains indeterminate (A.G.A.). There were two pairs on St Serf's Island in L. Leven on 28th May, when a nest with three eggs was found—the first breeding record for Kinross (T.B., R.W.J.S.). A clutch of two eggs at Tynninghame at 4th June is the first to be found there (I.B.R., W.M.S., R.W.J.S.). *The Birds of Scotland* notes that **Black-headed Gulls** have not been recorded breeding in West Sutherland. Up to 1939, in fact, the annual additions to the *Geographical Distribution and Status of Birds in Scotland*, which then ceased, did not even record the species in West Sutherland. The only published record which we have been able to trace of the species having been seen in the area is one at Handa on 11th July 1959 (*Fair Isle Bird Bulletin* 4: 121). It is therefore probably worth noting mainland records of two Black-headed Gulls at Oldshore More, and single birds at Kinloch Bervie and Rhiconich, on 27th June (J.B.). On 11th June there was a spectacular invasion of **Kittiwakes** in the upper Forth at Longannet, Fife, when 87—nearly all in adult plumage—were flying about calling noisily and displaying in the air (J.H.).

**Black Guillemots** still nest at Portpatrick, Wigtown, in the harbour wall, and three were back there on 12th April (W.A.C.). A pair were on the sea off Benane Head, Girvan,

Ayr, on 14th May, but at Portencross, Ayr, two seen on 15th January could not be found on later visits (G.H.A.).

On 29th May a **Turtle Dove** was briefly glimpsed as it flew from typical shrub habitat at Dalhousie, Midlothian. R.W.J.S. tells us that the keeper had heard birds in past years which he thought must be Turtle Doves (A.T.M.). One at Garleton, near Haddington, on 5th August, may have derived from the colony established recently in the Longniddry area (W.K.B.).

In East Lothian, the **Barn Owls** which nested last year (*antea* 1:339) again reared young at Gullane, and two pairs of **Long-eared Owls** nested at Aberlady, though only one reared any chicks (W.K.B.).

On 27th April a **Green Woodpecker** was right out on the saltings at Aberlady (A.G.A.). At Blanefield, West Stirling, where one was heard in 1959 (*antea* 1:132), the striking call was again noted, between 2nd and 28th April. As it came from private ground it was not possible to look for a nest (K.H.B.). In the south-west suburbs of Edinburgh one was seen in the grounds of Merchiston Castle School on 1st and 12th July. A mile north-east of Carnwath, Lanark, there was one on 9th July (I.V.B-P.).

A **Magpie** in the grounds of George Heriot's School on 20th March was in a very central and built-up part of Edinburgh (T.C.S.). A **Jay** was seen in Glen Dye, Kincardine, on 15th June. In Angus Jays may be seen infrequently in Glen Esk, and the observer has one record for Glen Clova. They are always in or near conifers (D.J.).

The **Treecreeper** is not known to breed in the Outer Hebrides, so that it is of interest to record one seen on 16th June in a Force 8 gale and lashing rain in the woods at Stornoway Castle. Unfortunately there was no time to look for a nest (G.W., M.I.W.).

A number of reports of **Stonechats** have been received in connection with the enquiry into their numbers, and there are indications that in some areas, such as Forth, numbers are very slowly increasing. A pair bred in Shetland for the first time, as recorded on another page. One pair bred successfully in Speyside (R.H.D.), and another was seen feeding fledged young above L. Chon, Perth (G.H.A.). Along the coast of Fife, where the revival seems to have started earlier than elsewhere, numbers have been ringed (W.J.E.), and in East Lothian young were fledged between Aberlady and Gullane (W.K.B., A.M.). A pair with fledged young at Pease Bay, Berwickshire, were the first to nest there since 1938, we learn from C.S. (A.M.). In Midlothian a female was seen at Rosebery on 5th March (D.G.A.), and at Threipmuir a male was seen on 9th March (A.G.A.), and a pair on 15th and 16th April (T.B., P.H.). In Edinburgh there was a pair on the Braid Hills on 5th May, where they had earlier been seen on 29th March (*antea* 1:431) (V.E.C.B-B.).



A pair of **Grasshopper Warblers** spent the summer from 28th April 1959 in deep heather a mile south of Forres and evidently bred, although this was not proved (I.S.S.). In West Lothian there were two singing on 31st May in a plantation at Starlaw Farm, near Bathgate (W.K.B.). In Midlothian one was heard a mile north-west of Gladhouse on 10th May in the same place as in 1960 (*antea* 1:281) (A.T.M.), and on 16th July one was singing at Gladhouse itself (R.W.J.S.). In East Lothian one was singing at Aberlady on 30th April (E.M.G., R.W.J.S.), and another sang near Gifford during May and June (A.M.).

On May 14th a **Sedge Warbler** was singing in the very heart of Edinburgh on the Castle Rock (T.C.S.). **Blackcaps** almost certainly bred at Longannet, Fife, and were present at two localities at Valleyfield. At one of these a brood—the observer's first record there—hatched on 14th July, which indicates a very late laying date (J.H.). Throughout the breeding season one sang at L. an Eilean, Inverness, without attracting a mate (R.H.D.), and at Glassel, Aberdeen, a pair was noted on 29th May (D.G.A.). A **Garden Warbler** was seen at Feshie Bridge, Inverness, on 23rd May (R.H.D.). A pair bred successfully at Valleyfield, Fife, in which county it is a scarce bird (J.H.). A **Whitethroat** was heard singing in suitable breeding habitat below the church at L. Innis, Kinloch Bervie, on 26th June. Breeding has not been proved so far north, the only published record for West Sutherland coming from much further south (J.B.).

In Ross there is not much evidence of the **Chiffchaff** in the Gairloch district, but one was heard at the Maree Hotel in a snowstorm on 1st April, and again on 15th June (E.N.H.), while further south one was in full song on 16th April on the north side of L. Duich between Dornie and Eilean Donan Castle (J.B.). On Speyside singing birds were located at Nethybridge and Aviemore in late April (R.H.D.). In West Fife a single bird only was present at High Valleyfield throughout the season (J.H.). In Midlothian there was one singing at Penicuik on 12th May (R.W.J.S.).

Yet another central Edinburgh bird was a **Spotted Flycatcher**, also on the Castle Rock, on 15th, 16th and 17th May (T.C.S.). A pair of **Pied Flycatchers** bred in Rothiemurchus, Inverness (R.H.D.), and a cock was noted early in June on the south side of L. Earn near St Fillans (R.S.W.).

Two pairs of **Grey Wagtails** fledged young in the Outer Hebrides where they first bred as recently as 1957 (*antea* 1:120). They had their nests not very far apart on the Bayhead Burn in the woods at Stornoway Castle (W.A.J.C., M.F.M.M., G.W., M.I.W.). A pair of **Yellow Wagtails**—both *flavissima*—hatched six young in a nest in East Stirling. This is the first breeding record for Stirling. Unfortunately the nest was deserted after the ground about it had been criss-crossed by the tracks of a

tractor which may well have kept the adult birds away for a fatal length of time (G.D., J.P.).

On 3rd June a **Hawfinch** was briefly seen carrying food on the south side of L. Earn at St Fillans, but it could not be found again (R.S.W.). Six **Crossbills** were seen at Edgelaw, Midlothian, on 30th April, in larches. Though the last definite record was on 5th April 1959 (*antea* 1:133) the observer has thought he heard them on several occasions since then. The flock included at least three red males so it was not a 1961 family party (D.G.A.).

*Winter 1960-61*

A **Great Northern Diver** was noted inland at Gladhouse, Midlothian, on 13th November (D.G.A.). The relative abundance of this species on spring passage on the west coast is illustrated by typical counts of eleven on a crossing of the Sound of Rhum on 15th May (B.C., W.J.E., K.W.) and seven in the Sound of Mull on the 26th (J.H.L.). An inland record of a **Red-throated Diver** comes from L. Ken, Kirkcudbright, where one on 1st January had probably been there for some time (A.D.W.). An interesting series of counts at Gullane, East Lothian, was made on calm days, from the Car Park and westwards to the Point, where Red-throated Divers may be seen in numbers. Totals were: 18th February (9), 5th March (11), 16th (23), 30th (25), and 7th April (35). An addition to the observer's family regrettably put a stop to observations at this point (T.C.S.).

There was a **Red-necked Grebe** just west of Gullane Point on 2nd April (J.O.), and two **Black-necked Grebes** just east of the Point on 5th March (T.C.S.). A pair of the latter on Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, on 8th April, were displaying mildly, rising slightly in the water with breasts and bills touching. They were not seen again (R.S.W.).

A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen on Carlingwark Loch, Kirkcudbright, for three weeks from 5th February (A.D.W.). "Red-head" **Smews** were noted at Barr Loch, Renfrew, on 3rd and 8th April (G.H.A., L.A.U.), and at the Endrick mouth, Dunbarton, on the 16th (M.E. per G.H.A.).

In Strathtay more **Grey Lag Geese** were noted passing south than in any autumn since the observer went there fifteen years ago. Many skeins, totalling some 400 birds, were noted going south or south-east from 28th to 31st October, and a similar pattern was reported from Pitlochry. During the winter there were more Grey Lag in the Strathtay and Tummel area than usual (J.W.C.). They were also much more abundant than usual in the Carnwath area, Lanark, where the highest count was just over 100 on 4th March (R.E.H.). By contrast there were never more than 100 counted at Gladhouse where in recent years between 500 and 800 have appeared every autumn (D.G.A.). In Kirkcudbrightshire the numbers of

**Bean Geese** were the lowest in recent years. A single one was seen with Grey Lags on 20th November, and 20 to 25 appeared on 19th February, increasing to 56 on the 21st, and a maximum of 68 early in March (A.D.W.). Eight were seen in a field in front of Quothquan Lodge, near Carnwath, Lanark, on 16th April, but were evidently on passage as they were not seen again (R.E.-H.). In the same area **Pink-footed Geese** arrived on 26th September and left about a week or ten days earlier than usual on 20th April. The largest count was of at least 2,500 on 2nd April (R.E.-H.).

The **Blue Goose** at Libberton (see *antea* 1:272, 386) was first seen this winter on 16th October, and after that more or less regularly until 9th April. There can be little doubt that it was the same bird that frequented the area during the previous winter. The only difference in plumage that could be detected was that in flight the area of white on the back and rump seemed more extensive this winter (R.E.-H.).

The only report of **Brent Geese** in the Forth this winter is of five Dark-breasted birds at Tynninghame on 29th January (T.B., W.M.S.). Single **Barnacle Geese** were seen at Cromdale, Moray, from 23rd to 27th April (R.H.D.), with Grey Lag at Kirriemuir, Angus, on 3rd April (D.G.A.), and with Pinkfeet near Carnwath on 16th October, 18th December, 29th January, 31st March, and 2nd April (R.E.-H., L.A.U.), and there were three over Edgelaw Reservoir, Midlothian, on 22nd April (R.W.J.S.).

At Gladhouse, Midlothian, a female **Hen Harrier** was seen on 18th December and 15th January (D.G.A.).

On 17th April the wintering flock of **Black-tailed Godwits** on the Eden Estuary, Fife, numbered nearly 50 birds in their gorgeous breeding plumage (A.T.M.). Winter records of single **Spotted Redshanks** come from the Low Parks, Hamilton, Lanark, on 28th January, and from the Clyde below Erskine Ferry, Renfrew, on 25th March (G.H.A.).

The immature **Glaucous Gull** previously noted in Ayr Harbour on 5th March (*antea* 1:434) was seen again on 26th March and 14th May, and what was evidently the same bird was at the mouth of the R. Doon on 26th March and 3th July (G.H.A.). A second-winter bird flew along the shore at Carsethorn, Kirkeudbright, on 26th February (L.A.U., A.D.W.).

A very late **Little Auk** was seen on the pier at St Andrew, Fife, on 22nd April (J.W.W.).

A very large flock of probably more than 1,000 **Fieldfares** was resting at Amulree, Perth, on 22nd October (J.W.C.).

In Inverness a single **Waxwing** was seen by various people between 18th March and 8th April (M.R.).

The spate of records of **Great Grey Shrikes** continues (see *antea* 1:387, 435). *Moray*: the bird at Nethybridge remained

until the beginning of April. One stayed two weeks in the Osprey reserve at L. Garten from 24th March, and another was seen during March in Rothiemurchus (R.H.D.). *Argyll*: one was feeding on a Robin on 26th March 8½ miles along the road from Fort William to Spean Bridge (P.V.W.L. per W.J.E.). *Tay*: one was seen at Ardrennich, Strathtay, on 13th and 16th November (J.W.C., M.E.C.), and one near Tarfside, Angus, on three occasions during November, and many times throughout March (G.M.D., D.J., A.W.). *Tweed*: one was watched on top of a large shrub beside the R. Tweed at Neidpath Castle, Peebles, on 6th April (A.G.A.). *Solway*: a further note from near New Galloway, Kirkcudbright, is of one at L. Stroan on 25th March (L.A.U.). At Thornhill, Dumfries, one was seen from 28th March to 14th April (J.H.S.). In Wigtown single birds were seen near Barhapple Loch, 4 miles north-east of Glenluce, on 2nd April (A.D.W.), and a few miles away, on the hill road from Glenluce to Glassock, on the 12th (G.T.J.).

#### *Spring Migration 1961*

A drake **Garganey** was at Hamilton, Lanark, on 27th May (M.F.).

A **Grey Plover** was seen inland at L. Leven, Kinross, on 29th April, in summer plumage (R.W.J.S.). A **Black-tailed Godwit** has already been noted at the mouth of the R. Endrick on 20th April (*antea* 1:436). Two days later there were three on the Stirling bank, as well as a **Bar-tailed Godwit** seen also in Dunbarton (G.H.A., A.J.B.L.). An early **Common Sandpiper** had reached Strathtay on 12th April (J.W.C.). At Aberlady, East Lothian, there was a **Little Stint** with the Dunlin on 14th May (J.B.). There were two **Ruff** there on 16th March (A.G.A.), and a single one in breeding plumage at Longannet, Fife, on 27th May (J.H.).

The **Pomarine Skua** is rare on spring passage and most of the records are from the Western Isles. On 7th May one was seen in the northern waters of the North Minch, and on the 9th there was another off the east side of Rhum near L. Scresort (W.J.E.).

Twelve **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at Scafield, Leith, on 24th February, are distinctly early for the east coast (A.G.A.). Single **Little Gulls** are reported in the West, just south of Soay, off the south-east corner of Skye, on 9th May (per W.J.E.), and at Barr Loch, Renfrew, on 7th May—a 1st summer bird, the first summer bird for the county (L.A.U.). In Fife there were five at the mouth of the Eden Estuary on 17th April (T.B.), eleven 1st summer birds at the Morton Lochs on 15th May, and two on the shore at Tayport on 22nd May (R.I.M.).

At least two **Sandwich Terns** were heard calling as they flew over Loanhead, Midlothian, at 2230 hours on 10th May. It was

a dark night and they came in from the north and went over towards the south-east. The observer is very familiar with the call of this species which is seldom seen away from the sea (R.W.J.S.).

For the third successive year **Swifts** were noted in April. The first records were on the 29th when single birds were seen in Edinburgh over the Water of Leith (W.A.C.) and over Morningside (D.G.A.). On the following day three were seen on Little Cumbrae, Bute (G.W., M.I.W.), and eight were over Portmore Loch, Peebles (D.G.A.). On 1st May they had reached St Andrews (M.H.E.C.), two were back at their breeding holes in Haddington (A.M.), and one was seen near Winchburgh, West Lothian (E.A.M.). Single **House Martins** at Ruchlaw Mains, East Lothian, on 18th April, and at Tynninghame on the 19th, are a day or two earlier than any noted in the area during the previous seven years (I.B.R., W.M.S.). **Sand Martins** had reached Speyside by 3rd April (R.H.D.). There was an early cock **Whinchat** at Aberlady on 16th April, and also an early **Sedge Warbler** (W.K.B., K.S.M.). An early cock **Blackcap** was singing in Baro Wood, East Lothian, also on 16th April (K.S.M.). On the same day one was heard, for the first time in four years, singing in a wood near Kenmore, Perth (V.M.T.). At Valleyfield, Fife, the first birds arrived on 21st April (J.H.). Two **Whitethroats** at Gullane on 12th April were very early arrivals (W.K.B.), and a fairly early **Chiffchaff** was singing in Colinton Dell, Edinburgh, on 19th and 21st March (I.V.B-P., W.P.).

A very pale **Redpoll** at Tolsta, Lewis, on 26th May, with much white on the wings, and feeding among stones by the roadside, was evidently a **Mealy Redpoll** (M.F.M.M.).

#### *Autumn Migration 1961*

By no means all notes are yet in on this subject, but delay in publication of this number allows us to include what has been received.

Four **Shelduck** were seen high over the Low Parks, Hamilton, Lanark, on 13th July. They circled and then flew steadily away south-east. The observer suggests that this perhaps marks the start of the autumn moult migration (G.H.A.).

The first **Whimbrel** of the autumn was heard over St Andrews on 15th July (M.H.E.C.), and there were two at Gladhouse on the 16th, and one in the Firth of Forth at Fidra on the 17th (R.W.J.S.). A **Green Sandpiper** was seen at the Low Parks, Hamilton, on 13th July (G.H.A.), and four **Wood Sandpipers** at Aberlady on 13th August (W.K.B., C.N.L.C., K.S.M.). Sixteen **Common Sandpipers** at the Low Parks, Hamilton, on 13th July, rose high into the air at 2200 hours and flew off, calling continuously, towards the south-east, as though setting off on



WHITE STORK, Lochmaben, 18th April 1961 (see Short Notes).

(Photograph by William Austin)

migration (G.H.A.). A **Greenshank** was seen at Longannet, Fife, on the early date of 2nd July (J.H.), and one was recorded at Rosebery Reservoir, Midlothian, on 27th August (D.G.A.). At least one **Little Stint** at Cambus, Clackmannan, on 28th August seems to be the first published record for the county (D.G.A.). Another was at Aberlady on 13th August, when a **Ruff** was also present (W.K.B., C.N.L.C., K.S.M.).

On 9th July an **Arctic Skua** was harrying the terns at Aberlady Bay, but the warden reported that five or six—the first of the autumn—had been there the previous day. By the 30th there were at least twelve, and possibly sixteen—high numbers for the area (W.K.B., C.N.L.C., K.S.M.).

A **Little Gull** was watched taking food from the surface of the water and sand at the mouth of the R. Doon, Ayr, on 8th July. It was in 1st summer plumage. As the Glaucous Gull mentioned earlier was at the same place, the observers became intrigued with the possibility of seeing eight species of gull from the same spot. This they succeeded in doing, but only after having to search for ten minutes for the bird which belied its name—the Common Gull (G.H.A., G.P.).

A **Black Tern**, just beginning to lose its summer plumage, was seen near Earlsferry, Fife, on 12th August (P.G.B.).

### *Behaviour and Habits*

When danger threatens, the chicks of nidifugous birds crouch motionless on the ground, encouraged by the screams of the parent birds swooping over them if they should move. This behaviour has survival value as the chicks are not so easily spotted by predators, and one can readily observe it with such birds as Lapwings or **Black-headed Gulls**. On 25th June there were some 1,500 to 2,000 pairs of the latter at a colony in Perthshire but, possibly because of human interference, very few young birds. Most of the chicks were well developed, and the largest were just beginning to fly. At least two of them, however, could fly quite strongly, but the adults seemed to resent this. They immediately flew down at them, screaming, and knocked them out of the sky, so that they tumbled to the ground and crouched like unfledged chicks. The adults were evidently unable to accept the fact that, now that they could fly, these immature brown chicks would be safer off the ground. It was possible to pick them up, ring them, and watch them fly away when they were tossed into the air again (A.T.M.).

On 13th July a **Willow Warbler** at Duns, Berwick, was watched eating the berries of *Daphne mezereum*. The *Handbook* mentions elder berries and currants in autumn, but not *Daphne* berries (W.H.L.H.).

# The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

## FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DUNBLANE HOTEL HYDRO

Perthshire

27th to 29th OCTOBER 1961

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday, 27th October :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 to 7.30 p.m. and<br>8.30 to 9.30 p.m. | Conference Office in the Hotel Hydro opens for Members and Guests to register (8s 6d each). Collect Name Cards and Annual Dinner tickets (16s 6d each).   |
| 6.15 p.m.                               | Meeting of Council.   |
| 6.30 p.m. to midnight                   | Lounges reserved for informal discussions and refreshments. Ballroom reserved for showing slides and films. (Members <b>must</b> inform Mr C. E. Palmer, 5 University Avenue, Glasgow W.2 in advance if they wish to exhibit 2' x 2" slides or 16 mm. films). |
| 9.30 p.m.                               | Excursion Leaders will describe the places to be visited on Saturday and Sunday afternoons; in the Ballroom.  |

#### Saturday, 28th October :

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 8.45 to 9.15 a.m. | Conference Office opens for registrations.   |
| 9.20 a.m.         | Official Opening of the Conference in the Ballroom of the Hotel Hydro.<br>ADDRESS OF WELCOME by Archibald McLellan, Esq., Provost of Dunblane. |
| 9.30 a.m.         | LECTURE AND FILM on "Bird movements observed on Micro-wave Radar," by Dr W. R. P. Bourne (Edward Grey Institute, Oxford).                      |
| 10.45 a.m.        | INTERVAL for coffee and biscuits.  |
| 11.15 a.m.        | DISCUSSION on Dr Bourne's paper, introduced and led by Dr W. J. Eggeling.  |
| 12.30 p.m.        | CONFERENCE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH outside the Hotel Hydro.   |
| 1 to 2 p.m.       | INTERVAL for informal lunches (Hotels must be informed).   |



- 2 to 5.45 p.m. EXCURSIONS by private cars leaving the Hotel Hydro Car Park. Details of the Excursions will be posted on the Conference Notice Board.
- 6.15 p.m. 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB in the Ballroom of the Hotel Hydro.
- BUSINESS:—
- (1) Apologies for absence.
  - (2) Approval of Minutes of 24th Annual General Meeting held in North Berwick on 29th October, 1960.
  - (3) Report of Council for Session 24.
  - (4) Approval of Accounts for Session 24.
  - (5) Appointment of Auditor.
  - (6) Consideration of the following proposed amendment to the Constitution:—  
That the words "the Editor and Business Editor of "Scottish Birds," the Hon. Treasurer of the House Fabric Fund," be added to read immediately after the words "the Hon. Treasurer," occurring in the second line of Paragraph 4(b) (Council).
  - (7) Election of Hon. President. (The Council recommend the election of Sir Charles G. Connell as an Hon. President in recognition of his outstanding services to the Club and in establishing the Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection).
  - (8) Election of two new Members of Council. (The Council recommend the election of Mr Alastair Macdonald and Mr A. T. Macmillan to replace Mr D. G. Andrew and Mr A. J. Smith who retire by rotation).
  - (9) Any other competent business.
- 7.30 for 8 p.m. ANNUAL DINNER in the Diningroom of the Hotel Hydro (Dress Informal).

**Sunday, 29th October :**

- 9.30 a.m. EXHIBITION OF FILM, "European Terns," by Mr F. Gordon Hollands, in the Ballroom of the Hotel Hydro.
- 10.45 a.m. INTERVAL for coffee and biscuits.
- 11.15 a.m. LECTURE on "Recent Ringing Discoveries" by Mr Robert Spencer, Ringing Officer of the B.T.O. Bird Ringing Committee.
- 11.45 a.m. EXHIBITION OF FILM, "The Life History of the Alder Woodwasp and its Insect Enemies." (The Council for Nature prize-winning film).
- 1 to 2 p.m. INTERVAL for informal lunches.
- 2 p.m. EXCURSIONS by private cars leaving the Hotel Hydro Car Park.

### INFORMATION

(1) **Conference Post Card.** In order to simplify arrangements, it is **essential** that Members intending to be present should complete the enclosed printed post card and send it to the Club Secretary **not later than 23rd October**. Members may invite Guests.

(2) **Excursions.** Members are asked to provide private cars where possible for the Excursions; petrol expenses should be shared. Maps of the area should be brought (Ordnance Survey I" maps: old Edition Nos. 62, 63, 66, 67; new Edition Nos. 53, 54, 55, 60, 61). Members who wish to go out on their own are particularly asked not to go in advance of led Excursions to avoid disturbing the birds.

(3) **Registration.** Everyone attending the Conference must register (8s 6d each) at the Conference Office on arrival (opening times—see Programme). Members wishing to attend the Annual General Meeting **only** do not require to pay the registration fee, which covers incidental expenses—hire of films, projection equipment, mid-morning coffee, etc.

(4) **Annual Dinner.** Tickets for the Annual Dinner (price 16/6 inclusive of tips) should be purchased when registering on arrival. Members and Guests staying in Dunblane Hotel Hydro will be charged for the Annual Dinner in their inclusive Hotel bill, but **must** obtain a ticket from the Conference Office. All tickets will be collected at the Dinner. **NO PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN ADVANCE TO THE OFFICE IN EDINBURGH.**

(5) **Hotel Bookings.** All Hotel bookings 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.

(6) **Swimming Pool.** The indoor swimming pool in the Dunblane Hotel Hydro will be available to residents during the weekend at no extra charge.

(7) **Travel.** Members travelling from the south by night train arriving early on Saturday morning are asked to inform the Secretary, giving details of their trains, as it may be possible to arrange for trains to be specially stopped at Dunblane if a sufficient number require this facility and adequate warning is given.

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### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION IN DUNBLANE

DUNBLANE HOTEL HYDRO (Tel. 3161). Special Conference charge: Dinner and bed on Friday 27th; breakfast, lunch, Annual Dinner and bed on Saturday 28th; breakfast and lunch on Sunday 29th—£4, 5s 0d. (A 10% gratuity charge will be added to all bills).

STIRLING ARMS HOTEL (Tel. 2156). Bed and breakfast from 22s 6d.

\*THE NEUK PRIVATE HOTEL, Doune Road (Tel. 2150). Bed and breakfast from 17s 6d.

\*SCHEHALLION HOTEL, Doune Road (Tel. 3141). Bed and breakfast from 17s 6d.

BLAIRALAN, Dargie Terrace (Tel. 3196). Bed and breakfast from 16s 6d.

\*CARDLEIGHTON HOTEL (Tel. 2773). Bed and breakfast from 15s.

\*These Hotels are some distance from the Conference Hotel.

‡Sited near the Hotel Hydro gates.

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION IN BRIDGE OF ALLAN

ALLAN WATER HOTEL (Tel. B. of Allan 2293). Bed and breakfast from 27s 6d.

ROYAL HOTEL (Tel. B. of Allan 2284). Bed and breakfast from 27s.

Members with cars who have difficulty in obtaining single rooms in Dunblane should find that the above two Hotels in Bridge of Allan have ample single accommodation. The distance from Dunblane is approx. 3 miles.

The above terms for all Hotels other than the Conference Hotel are quoted as a guide **only**, and prices should be confirmed.

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS, DEEDS OF COVENANT AND BANKERS' ORDERS

Subscriptions for the new Session are now due, and should be sent with the enclosed form to the Club Secretary. It is regretted that owing to costs of sending out copies of the Journal, the Winter number cannot be sent until subscriptions have been received.

Members are reminded that the Club is now able to reclaim Income Tax on subscriptions paid under Deed of Covenant, which greatly benefits Club Funds by almost doubling subscriptions paid in this way. The Council therefore invites Members who pay Income Tax at the full rate to undertake a seven-year Deed of Covenant for their subscriptions by using the form enclosed. Completed forms should be returned to the Secretary, who will forward a Certificate of Deduction of Tax for signature each year.

A Banker's Order form is also enclosed for the use of Members who find this a more convenient way of paying their subscriptions; this should be returned to the Secretary and not to the Bank.

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### BRANCH LECTURES

Members are asked to note that during the coming winter each Branch will hold their meetings on a different day of the week from previous years, with the exception of the Dundee Branch whose Members will continue to meet on Thursdays but have changed their meeting place.

Aberdeen Members should note that, owing to the Annual Conference weekend, the October meeting will be held on the following Monday.

Edinburgh Members should note that the March and April meetings will be held at a later hour to enable country Members to attend.

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### CLUB LIBRARY

A list of all books in the Lending Library of the Club is now available on loan.

## S.O.C. PUBLICATIONS

"The Birds of Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve," by F. D. Hamilton and K. S. Macgregor. Copies still available at 5s each (postage 4d extra).

"The Birds of Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh," "Scottish Birds" Special Supplement. Copies available at 5s each (postage 2d extra).

Both these publications may be obtained from the Club Office.

## BIRD BOOKS ON SALE IN THE SCOTTISH CENTRE

Copies of the following books are now on sale at retail prices at the Scottish Centre and can be obtained post free on application to the Secretary.

**The Birds of the British Isles.** D. A. Bannerman (1953-1960) Vols. 1 to 9, price 63s per volume, sold separately.

**Birds of West and Equatorial Africa.** D. A. Bannerman (1953), in 2 volumes, price 6 gns.

**Birds of Cyprus.** D. A. and W. M. Bannerman (1958), price 63s.

**The Birds of Scotland.** E. V. Baxter and L. J. Rintoul (1953), in 2 volumes, price 63s.

**Birds of the Sudan.** F. O. Cave and J. D. Macdonald (1955), price 45s.

**The Isle of May.** W. J. Eggeling (1960), price 30s.

**Birds of Ireland.** P. G. Kennedy, R. F. Ruttledge, C. F. Scroope and G. R. Humphreys (1954), price 42s.

**Pirates and Predators.** R. Meinertzhagen (1959), price 70s.

**Birds of Arabia.** R. Meinertzhagen (1954), price 84s.

**The Birds of Lancashire.** Clifford Oakes (1953), price 21s.

**Birds of Burma.** B. E. Smythies (2nd Ed. 1953), price 84s.

**Birds of Borneo.** B. E. Smythies (1960), price 84s.

**A Bird Watcher in Kenya.** Vernon van Someren (1958), price 30s.

**Birds and Mammals of Shetland.** L. S. V. and U. M. Venables (1959), price 30s.

The arrangement to sell these books through the Scottish Centre has been made by the kindness of the publisher and all trade profits will be credited to the Club Library Fund, which will enable us to purchase more books for the Club Library. The Council therefore invites Members who wish to purchase any of the above books to obtain them through the Club.

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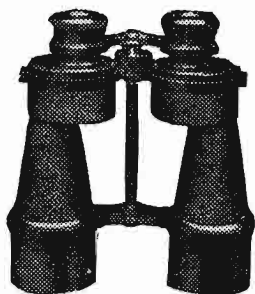
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**M**EMBERS are reminded that the new Family, or Joint Membership subscription is available to married couples at 40s per annum. It carries all the benefits of full Membership with the exception that they receive only one copy of the Journal, and other Club publications, between them.

The Joint subscription does not however include children, as it is felt that they would prefer, and should be encouraged to receive their own copies of the Club literature.



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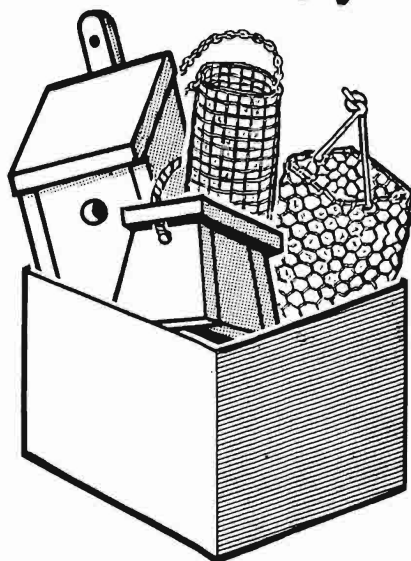
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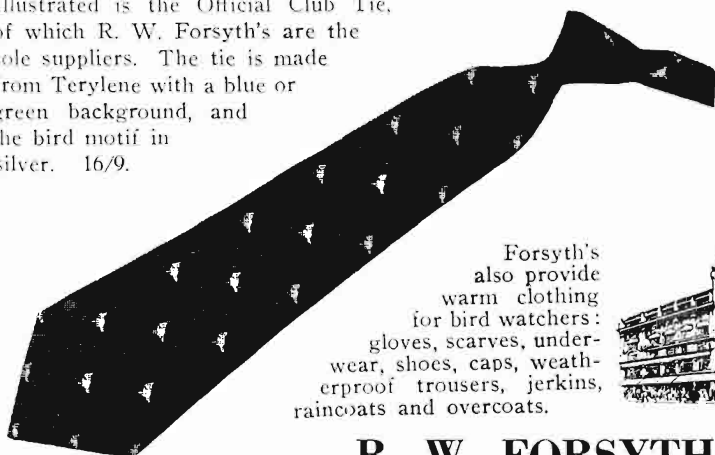
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## The Scottish Ornithologists' Club Tie

Illustrated is the Official Club Tie, of which R. W. Forsyth's are the sole suppliers. The tie is made from Terylene with a blue or green background, and the bird motif in silver. 16/9.



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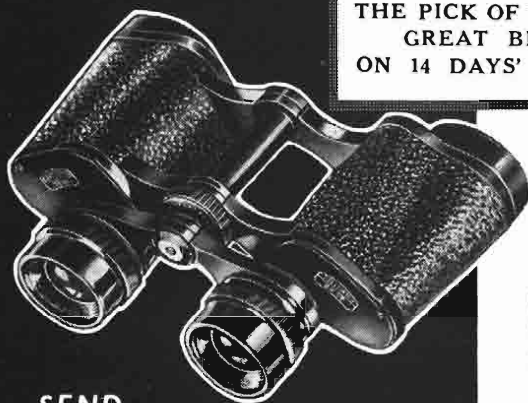
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