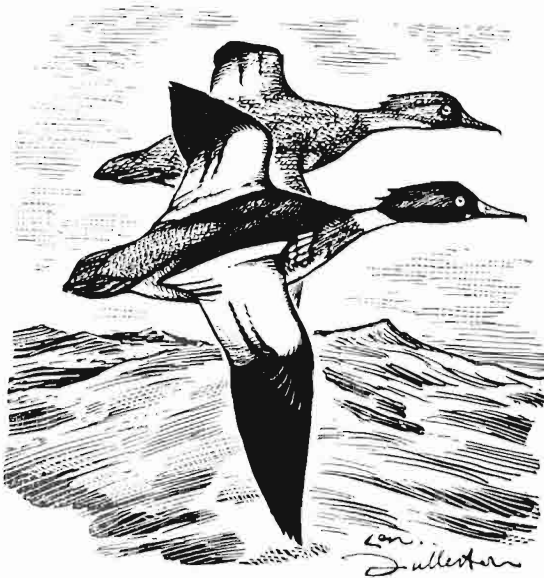


# SCOTTISH BIRDS



The Journal of  
The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

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*Vol. 1 No. 14*

*Winter 1961*

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FIVE SHILLINGS

## THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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THE Scottish Ornithologists' Club was founded in 1936 and membership is open to all interested in Scottish ornithology. Meetings are held during the winter months in Aberdeen, 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, the Editor and Business Editor of "Scottish Birds," the Hon. Treasurer of the House Fabric Fund, 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.

# SCOTTISH BIRDS



THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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Vol. I No. 14

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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 (Red-breasted Merganser) by LEN FULLERTON. *Published quarterly*

## Editorial

**F**EW of us enjoy parting with our money so much that we are prepared to pay more than the normal price for things. On the other hand, a society such as the Scottish Ornithologists' Club needs a substantial income if it is to pay its way and finance the free distribution of its own journal.

Reading this, you may imagine that it is the preamble to an announcement of increased subscriptions or of an appeal for funds, such as one receives almost every day. Instead, we commend to you two simple ways in which you can contribute painlessly to the funds of the Club at no cost to yourself, thereby warding off the probably inevitable day when subscriptions have to be looked at again!

The first is by paying your annual subscription under Deed of Covenant if you are a taxpayer bearing Income Tax at the Standard Rate. All you have to do is to sign a simple form agreeing to continue your subscription for seven years, and to sign a tax deduction slip which the Club Secretary will send you each year when you pay your subscription. The Club can then recover Tax on your subscription, so that the 25/- which you have paid brings in a total of 40/10d. There is no tax wangle about this; it is possible because of the scientific and educational nature of the Club and is specifically provided for by the Income Tax Acts. A Deed of Covenant is of great value to the S.O.C. and we most earnestly appeal to all who pay Income Tax at the Standard Rate to help in this way.

The second way in which you can benefit the Club is by buying certain bird books through the S.O.C. Oliver & Boyd Ltd. publish some of the finest and most attractive bird books, and they have given us an agency for them. This means that you can buy these books through the Club at the normal prices and the S.O.C. receives a substantial discount which it can use to buy other books needed for the Library. Oliver & Boyd have installed a fine display of their books which may be inspected at 21 Regent Terrace, and Mrs M. I. Waterston will be very glad to send an illustrated leaflet with details of

the books available. We might mention specially Bannerman & Lodge's monumental *Birds of the British Isles* (3 gns. per volume), Baxter & Rintoul's standard work on *The Birds of Scotland* (2 volumes for 3 gns.), Venables & Venables account of *Birds and Mammals of Shetland* (30/-), and Eggeling's fascinating book on *The Isle of May* (30/-).

## THE BIRDS OF DUDDINGSTON LOCH: CORRECTIONS

We now consider that certain records in our *Check-List of the Birds of Duddingston Loch* (*antea* 1: 400) are not sufficiently authenticated and recommend that the following species be placed within square-brackets:

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD. Although it is probable that the bird seen on 2nd October 1954 was of this species we feel that there is insufficient evidence to make identification positive.

RED GROUSE. This record refers to an area outwith the boundaries of the Bird Sanctuary; and in any event is of somewhat dubious origin.

QUAIL. Speedy (Baird 1898) does not specifically mention Duddingston Loch in his reference; we feel it is more likely to have occurred "in the neighbourhood."

SPOTTED CRAKE. Speedy (1892) is vague about specific locality.

LITTLE CRAKE. This record had already been rejected by the Scottish Bird Records Committee (*Scot. Nat.* 67: 101), and we apologise for having overlooked this fact.

CHIFFCHAFF. Speedy (Baird 1898) is vague about specific locality.

It should perhaps be noted that J. Kirke Nash (1935) *The Birds of Midlothian* lists neither William Baird (1898) nor Tom Speedy (1892) in the Bibliography of his book.

D. R. ANDERSON.

GEORGE WATERSTON.

### CORRIGENDA

*Antea* 1: 459. The total of Osprey chicks reared should be eight, not seven.

*Antea* 1: 462. The record of Black-necked Grebes at Gullane really is of Black-throated Divers.

## THE SPREAD OF SOME SEA-BIRD COLONIES IN THE FORTH

R. W. J. SMITH

During the three summers of 1959-61 many of the small islands in the Firth of Forth have been visited (mainly through the excursions of the Edinburgh Natural History Society) to examine the possibilities of counting some of the sea-bird colonies. The two major islands of the May and the Bass were generally not included and, as these hold the main colonies of Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* and Razorbill *Alca torda*, the counts show only the spread, rather than any percentage increase, of those species.

It seems obvious that many of the breeding sea-birds in Forth are undergoing a period of expansion, and an extension of these counts (even at five year intervals) to cover the May and the Bass would be of immense interest. The data acquired might even prove as valuable as a series of "check-lists" totaling up the number of unfortunate stragglers which have been drifted to each island.

Some of the details of counts are given below under species. An interesting paper by W. A. Cameron on Inchkeith (*in press*) gives much greater detail of the breeding birds there. I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the many individuals who have helped with the counts.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*. The main breeding colony in the Forth is on Inchkeith where apparently they have only bred since after the last war. On 3rd June 1959 there were a minimum of 105 sites, on 15th June 1960 there were about 145, and on 14th June 1961 about 142 were counted. On this last visit a bird was flushed off two eggs both of which were warm, from a site to which one of them could not have rolled accidentally. Another bird was sitting on the nest of a Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* which contained two gull's eggs and one Fulmar's. Less than a foot from this nest were two more Fulmar's eggs under a ledge and these could only have rolled there—or been ejected—from this nest. The two eggs were 61 mm and 74 mm long and the one in the nest 78 mm. *The Handbook of British Birds* gives an average of 100 eggs as 74 mm with a minimum length of 65.5 mm. It is possible that there is intense competition for nest-sites with a rising population.

On Fidra there were seven sites on 20th June 1959—four below the Lighthouse and three non-breeding on the South Stack. They have bred for many years below the Light but

were first found breeding on the South Stack by G. Waterston in 1961. Craigleith had 23 sites on 27th June 1959 and had increased to 36 (practically all on eggs) by 10th June 1961. The Fulmar does not breed on the Lamb and there are only a few pairs on the Bass (seven sites on 5th July 1959 and possibly fewer in 1961). Inchgarvie is being prospected and, although there is no proof of breeding yet, there were 11 sites in 1961.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. There has been a spectacular increase in the Cormorant colony since Freddie Marr first reported them breeding on the Lamb in 1957. In that year five nests were seen (*Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 7: 78) and "about eight" were reported the following year (F. Marr). Counts since then are 44 nests in 1959, 65 in 1960 and 108 in 1961. This increase averages over 50% per annum and, since Cormorants do not breed until at least their third or fourth year, bears no relation to the number of young reared in the colony.

It is obvious that most of these birds were bred outwith the Forth area. The nearest large colonies appear to be those at Mochrum and the Farne Islands—each holding over 200 pairs—but while recoveries of Mochrum birds in Forth are few (D. Stuart, *British Birds* 41: 198) there is evidence from ringing that big numbers of Cormorants from the Farnes occur in the Firth of Forth (J. C. Coulson, *British Birds* 54: 225-235). Dr Coulson informs me (*pers. comm.*) that there is a small new colony of Cormorants in Co. Durham, and it seems that the Farnes population is either expanding or is suffering enough persecution to make the birds quit the area to some extent.

TABLE 1: NUMBERS OF EGGS/YOUNG OF CORMORANTS ON THE LAMB

Date	Nests with eggs/young	Number of eggs/young	Eggs/young per nest
21/6/1959	44	99	2.25
11/6/1960	56	142	2.54
10/6/1961	96	263	2.74

Table 1 shows the average number of eggs/young per pair of Cormorants for the three years when counts were made. The 1959 visit was some ten days later in the year than the other two and there were no nests without eggs. In 1960 and 1961 there were 9 and 12 empty nests respectively and these have been omitted from the calculations. These birds would eventually lay as was shown by a visit five weeks later on 17th July 1961 when several clutches of eggs and newly

hatched young were seen. There is a small bias in the calculations as those late birds would probably have smaller clutches but this would be balanced by the increase in size of the smaller, incomplete, clutches and would not affect the general conclusion that the birds had an average of roughly 0.50 eggs more in 1961 than in 1959. This increase in the clutch size is undoubtedly related to the age of the birds. If, as one would expect, the colonisation is by young birds, then the percentage of mature birds would rise rapidly in the first few years till the colony had become established.

It has always seemed rather curious that, although Cormorants were numerous in the Forth, there was, until recently, no breeding colony (the old records of breeding have not been fully authenticated). Obviously there is no scarcity of food, and the main barrier has probably been a psychological one—that there was no established colony. Once this obstacle had been overcome by the pressures of an increased population there has been this remarkable upsurge in the numbers breeding in the new colony. The present rate of increase suggests that it will continue for a time yet, and so far there has been very little disturbance of the colony.

There is some evidence that few of the British Cormorant colonies exceed 200-250 pairs and it seems possible that there may be some factor (other than food) which limits the size of the colony. It will be very interesting to continue the annual counts and to find out how the eventual stabilisation of numbers is achieved.

*SHAG* *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Less data is available for this species. It breeds mainly on the May, the Bass and Craighleith and has recently started breeding inland on the latter island. On 10th June 1961 there were three nests under large boulders with adjacent thick Elder *Sambucus nigra*. Counts on the Lamb gave about 35 nests on 21st June 1959, 53 on 11th June 1960 and 87 on 10th June 1961. An increase on this scale has possibly been taking place on the larger islands for a number of years. On Fidra one of the Lighthouse Keepers reported to F. Marr that a pair had bred in 1960 and two pairs in 1961. Although a single bird was flushed off a suitable ledge on 5th May 1961 no nest could be found either then or on a later visit on 17th July. Numbers of Shags (mainly immature) regularly roost on the cliff opposite the pier on Inchkeith (W. A. Cameron) but there has been no record of breeding in Upper Forth.

*KITTIWAKE* *Rissa tridactyla*. A count of the Craighleith colony on 27th June 1959 gave a total of some 415 sites—about 385 on the main cliffs and 29 at the north end. On 11th June 1960 there were about 370 and 35 respectively but this was over two weeks earlier in the year than the previous count. On 10th June 1961 a pair of birds had a nest with one egg at a tech-

nically "new colony" between these two groups and three other birds were present—almost certainly an indication of an increase in numbers. A new colony on the Lamb on 21st June 1959 had 16 nests, increasing to 38 on 11th June 1960 and 53 on 10th June 1961. One of these 1961 nests was on a less suitable ledge round from the "good" cliff and a further large expansion seems unlikely. The sheer cliff on Fidra had its first Kittiwake records on 5th May 1961 when an adult and an immature were seen on separate ledges. On 17th July an untenanted platform was seen with an adult still present on another part of the cliff.

In Upper Forth Kittiwakes have been seen round Inchkeith for several years and a nest was built (but no eggs laid) in 1960 (W. A. Cameron). On 14th June 1961 a clutch of two eggs and an empty nest was found, with a total of nine birds present (including two immatures) on the North Horn cliff, and a much bigger flock offshore. This is the first breeding record for the island. The Kittiwake is increasing in many of its colonies in the Forth and, to keep these details of the spread in proper perspective, it should be realised that something approaching 4000 pairs breed in the Firth.

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*. This species breeds only on Inchmickery and Fidra, and counts of nests on these islands in 1959 were 630 on 24th June and 70 on 20th June respectively. 300 pairs bred on Inchmickery in 1960 (246 nests on 8th June, and 298 on 22nd June) and 350 nests there on 31st May 1961 were a minimum—we guessed that probably 400 pairs would eventually nest. On 17th July 1961 an estimate of 300+ pairs was made on Fidra, and it seems that the present population in the Forth may fluctuate around this 700 pairs—it seems wise to emphasize the instability of Sandwich Tern numbers as this may be very far from the "normal" position.

**SMALL TERNS** *Sterna* spp. The small terns we found difficult to count specifically. On Fidra on 20th June 1959 some 300-350 pairs were probably mainly Common Terns *S. hirundo*, while a separate colony of 50 pairs of Arctic Terns *S. macrura* may not have been the total of this species on the island. Inchmickery is even more difficult, and probably 750-1000 (or more?) pairs of the smaller terns breed every year.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*. We have made little attempt to count this bird although so few breed on the small islands. On Craigleith about 20 birds were seen on 11th June 1960 and "exceptional numbers" (possibly up to 100 or more) on 10th June 1961. Our first record for the Lamb was in 1961 when one was ashore on 10th June and 17th July with three more flying round—but no proof of breeding was obtained.

**PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica*. The main colony in Forth is on Craigleith where 70 were seen in one offshore flock on 27th



June 1959 and a total of about 110 offshore on 10th June 1961. On 3rd June 1961 25-30 were seen on the Bass where there cannot be more than a maximum of 20-25 pairs breeding. We saw them several times in Upper Forth. Three were close inshore at Inchmickery on 22nd June 1960, and about six on 14th June 1961 at Inchkeith where a single bird was on the grass and rocks at the North Horn. When flushed this bird kept trying to come in to land. The habitat seems quite suitable for breeding Puffins and a watch should be kept here, and at islands such as Fidra (where we saw birds offshore in 1961) for an extension of breeding range.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

1. As part of a population study, 111 Eiders have been marked with coloured plastic tags on the wings. These markers can easily be seen on floating birds. In addition, 400 Eiders have been ringed with white or red plastic rings. Anyone seeing, or finding such marked birds, particularly in the Tay area, is requested to contact Mr H. Milne, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, giving details of location and date.

2. In this number of *Scottish Birds* it will be seen that large flocks of Siskins have been reported in October from different areas. The invasion seems to have been widespread and we would welcome additional information.—Ed.

## OPERATION OSPREY 1962

The R.S.P.B. will once again require the assistance of volunteer wardens between 1st April and mid-August to guard the Ospreys at Loch Garten and to act as Guides to the public visiting the Observation Post in the Sanctuary area. Wardens will be accommodated at a Base Camp where food, tents and camp equipment will be provided free. Each person is however expected to bring his own sleeping bag and pillow slip. Provided a sufficient number of Wardens are available, preferably for periods of not less than a week at a time, each one will have every third day free of duties. A succession of female cook-caterers will also be required for the period.

Anyone wishing to assist should send full details and references as soon as possible to Mr George Waterston, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7.

## FAMILY OR JOINT MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Members 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.

## THE COLLARED DOVE IN SCOTLAND

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN

During 1961 the Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* has turned up in a number of new localities in Scotland. This therefore seems a good opportunity to summarise the progress it has made in colonising Scotland in the past five years. If past experience in other countries is any guide one may expect it to become widespread within the next decade.

James Fisher writing about *The Collared Turtle Dove in Europe* (*Brit. Birds* 46: 153) has described the spread of the species in detail—1,200 miles north-west across Europe from the Balkans in twenty years—a colonisation more spectacular than that of any other known land-bird, and more rapid even than that of the Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. The breeding range of the Collared Dove reaches eastward across India and China, and as far as Japan, and several subspecies have been described from parts of this range. Anyone seeking fuller information cannot do better than start by reading Fisher's paper.

The first Collared Dove in England was found in Lincolnshire in July 1952. Although its behaviour was consistent with it being a wild bird it was not possible to be certain that it was not one of a number sold by a local dealer in the previous few years (*Brit. Birds* 46: 51). The first fully acceptable records were from Norfolk where at least two pairs were present in 1955, and one of them bred (*Brit. Birds* 50: 239). Since then the species has been noted in more and more places, especially along the east coast.

In Scotland the story begins in 1957 when Alistair Adam found a pair breeding at a farm at Covesea, Morayshire. The call first attracted his attention, reminding him of the notes of the similar species he had known in Africa (*Scot. Nat.* 69: 188). In 1958 four young were reared here, bringing the population to seven (*antea* 1: 37). Two years later, after the 1960 breeding season, there were seventeen (*antea* 1: 379), and in 1961 up to thirty-five were counted around the small wood and farm where they live (R.H.D(ennis) in *The Scotsman* 14th October 1961). The birds may be seen in large numbers on the television aerial and seem very attached to the farm.

There is strong evidence that in 1957 Collared Doves were present also at Girvan in Ayrshire, and again in 1958, but breeding was not proved until 1959 (*antea* 1: 125). At least eight or ten birds were present at this site in 1961 (Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn *pers. comm.*).

After the 1959 breeding season single birds were recorded in Fife at Methil and Dunfermline. The former arrived in

rather mysterious circumstances, being found under a bush in a private garden, minus its tail (*antea* 1: 189). Like most first records of Collared Doves it is not entirely above suspicion. One should not however assume that a Collared Dove is an escape merely because it seems to be rather tame. It is typical of the species that it often turns up at new localities in hen runs, and it is a bird which associates closely with man. After reading through the present paper and the notes that follow it one might be forgiven for thinking that the bird's favourite perch is the crosspiece of a television aerial!

On 16th February 1960 a Collared Dove entered the loft of a pigeon fancier near Pitlochry, Perthshire. This bird then moulted its entire tail, and had to be kept for nearly six weeks before it could be released. In spite of its peculiar behaviour its identity is not in doubt (*antea* 1: 237). In 1960 Collared Doves were also noted in three remote areas in the north and west of Scotland: at Fair Isle single birds were recorded on 18th April and 18th June, and a third dove on 2nd June was more probably *S. decaocto* than *S. risoria*, the Barbary Dove (*Bird Migration* 1: 166); on Rhum one was seen on 5th and 7th May on the Castle greens at Kinloch, and in Lewis there was one at Stornoway on 2nd June (*antea* 1: 379). Three days later a Collared Dove was heard in Old Aberdeen by Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards, and in the autumn they were noted in Midlothian (see below).

During 1961 the number of reports increased spectacularly. The established breeding colonies in Morayshire and Ayrshire continued to flourish, but Collared Doves were also noted in many other parts of the country, especially during May and June. The first indication of any obvious local spread from the original colony at Covesea, Morayshire, is provided by a record of breeding, and the subsequent build-up of numbers, at a site some twelve miles away near Forres. In Berwickshire there were two unsuccessful attempts at breeding near Coldingham, while in Midlothian young were reared at one site at least. The records printed below include first occurrences for Solway (Dumfriesshire), Tweed (Berwickshire), Midlothian (1960), North Fife, Aberdeenshire (1960), Inverness-shire, and Shetland other than Fair Isle. It will also be seen that there are further new localities to be mentioned in Ayrshire, Berwickshire, Midlothian, Fife, and Morayshire, and that the birds have again been noted in Lewis and Fair Isle.

In addition to these acceptable records we have received reports of birds at Haddington and Hailes Castle, East Lothian, and elsewhere, which on investigation have turned out to be escaped domestic Barbary Doves *S. risoria*. This species is known only in captivity and is readily distinguished by its paler, more creamy plumage, *the absence of black on the pri-*

*maries*, and by its different call-notes. Like a number of other species, however, it has a collar, so that it may be confused with our Collared Dove *S. decaocto* by the unwary and those with the wrong bird book. Not all the identification books are equally clear on the separation of Collared and Barbary Doves, but *The Popular Handbook of Rarer British Birds* (1960) by P. A. D. Hollom is helpful.

It is most striking how often Collared Doves in Scotland have been recorded in the gardens and hen runs of ornithologists or those with an interest in birds. The cynic might say that this is one of the species whose known distribution is closely related to the distribution of bird-watchers. When one considers the small proportion of gardens which fall into the two categories mentioned, the suggestion is that there are a lot of Collared Doves waiting to be discovered. They are birds which can remain quite unobtrusive, keeping within a relatively restricted area. The way to locate them is to listen for the characteristic "coo-COO-coo" call with the emphasis on the second note.

To bring the picture up to date the 1961 records so far as they are not covered above are given below over the names of the observers.

### Dumfriesshire

On 31st May 1961 on the outskirts of Dumfries I saw a Collared Dove. My attention was first attracted by the distinctive three-noted song, and thereafter the bird was seen perched on a nearby television aerial. I am familiar with the species in Norfolk and eastern Austria. This is the first record for the Solway Faunal Area and for Dumfriesshire.

WILLIAM AUSTIN.

### Ayrshire

On 20th June 1961 at Laigh Woodston Farm, west of Maybole, we had brief views of a single Collared Dove. First seen on overhead wires at the farm, it came down to drink at a trough and then flew off south-west. L.A.U. had excellent views and, although A.D.W. was rather further away, we independently identified it as a Collared Dove.

L. A. URQUHART.

A. D. WATSON

### Berwickshire

In May 1961 James Robertson told me that a pair of birds which he suspected were Collared Doves had been about a nursery garden in Coldingham since early in the month. They could be watched chasing and settling in the trees, and Mr Robertson had also been struck by their unusual call note—

quite different from that of the Woodpigeon. I visited the nursery in the evening and had good views of the birds, noting the greyish appearance, dark primaries, white tips and black bases to the underside of the tail feathers, but I did not hear the call in good conditions. Mr Robertson watched the birds carrying material to a nest which they built in a tree overhanging the nursery. It resembled a flimsy Woodpigeon's nest. Two eggs were laid early in June but disappeared a day or two later—possibly taken by Jackdaws. After this the birds were seen less often and may have moved away, as Collared Doves were noted elsewhere more often about this time (see below). This is the first occurrence and first breeding record for Tweed and Berwickshire.

WILLIAM MURRAY.

On 25th May 1961 I learned that Collared Doves were frequenting Silverwells, a mile west of Coldingham. I first saw them on the 27th when three flew past within fifty yards calling. Three days later there were four feeding in a recently sown field of barley near the hen runs. On 4th June four were chasing each other about and landing in two Scots pines. One eventually settled on a flimsy nest about forty feet up in the thick part of the foliage and remained there until I left an hour later. No eggs could be seen. A lot of calling went on all the time—"coo-COO-coo." The birds were small—about the size of Turtle Doves—and had longish tails. They were fawn coloured with dark primaries and a black ring on the back of the neck. After the weather broke on 7th June the nest disappeared and the birds were not seen again at Silverwells except for one on the 12th. Local people told me that they frequented North Falaknowe, half a mile west, from 10th to 15th June, and were last seen there on the 23rd, but I did not see them myself. Personally I think that the four birds at Silverwells were different from the pair in Coldingham, but as they frequently disappeared from both places for days on end and were seen at farms such as Lumsden (2½ miles NW of Coldingham) and Crosshill (between Silverwells and Lumsden) one cannot be sure.

W. M. LOGAN HOME.

During October 1961 I learned that there were Collared Doves at Cockburnspath. I was unable to see them myself but learned that up to twelve had been seen. They arrived at Pathhead Farm in the middle of May, and were most recently noted about 25th October. Small brown doves with black rings on their necks, they fed in the farmyard among the poultry and were very tame, allowing approach to within ten yards.

W. M. LOGAN HOME.

(While the description of these birds is incomplete there

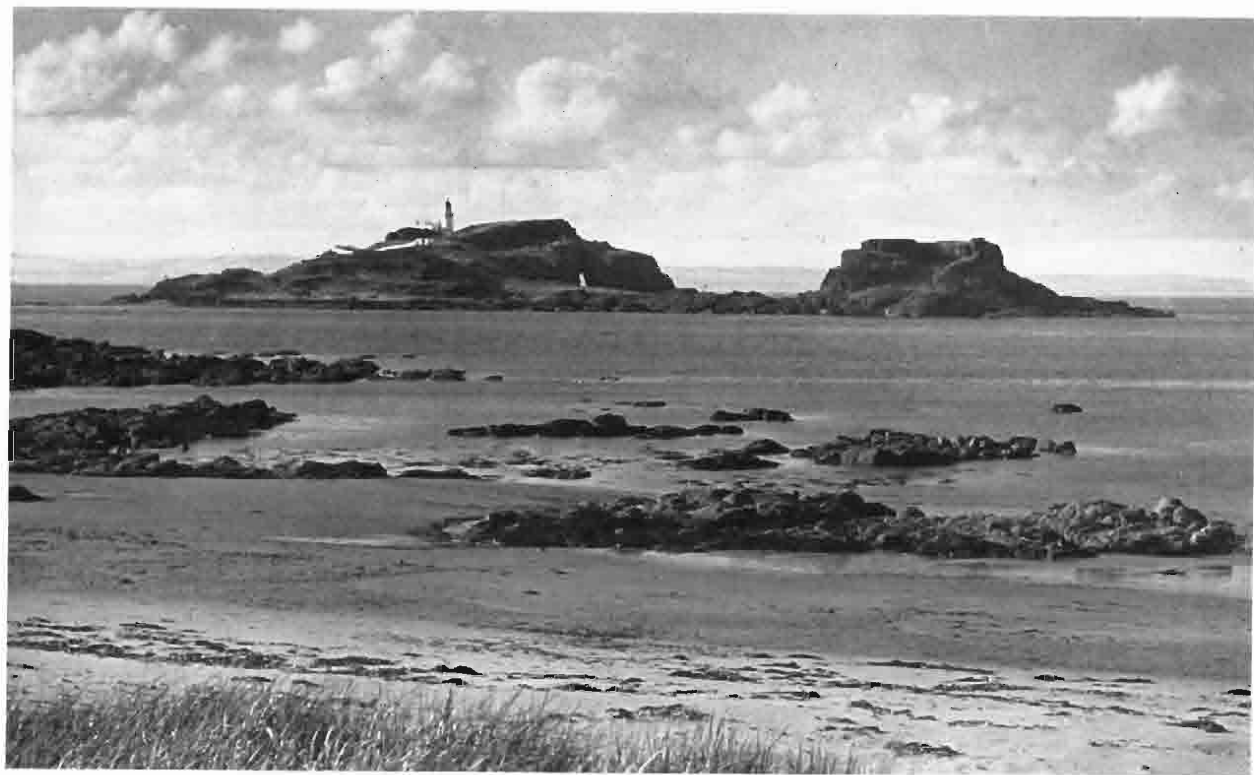
can be no real doubt that they were Collared Doves in view of their numbers, their association with poultry, their tameness, and the fact that they arrived at the same time and in the same area as other Collared Doves described in the two previous notes. Though this is a Berwickshire record it actually refers to the small part of the county which lies within the Faunal Area of Forth and which, like many similar areas, is not allowed for in the divisions of the Faunal Areas given in *The Geographical Distribution*. It is perhaps relevant also to point out that the two previous records would not qualify for inclusion in Tweed on the basis of the map in *The Birds of Scotland*. It seems more sensible, however, to follow the boundary as carefully defined and mapped in *A Vertebrate Fauna of Forth*. This starts at St Abbs Head which seems a better division than the river at Eyemouth.—A.T.M.).

### Midlothian

In October 1961 we were told of Collared Doves which the farmer, Mr R. C. Stewart, had seen at Edmonstone, just inside the south-east boundary of Edinburgh. He had regularly seen a pair during the autumn of 1960 and believed that the birds had been there for some time. In the spring of 1961 a pair was several times seen flying towards Craigmillar Woods, but the breeding place was not found as this was not followed up. In the early summer, however, a young bird still with some down in its plumage was shot in error by a man who was after Woodpigeons. After that, a party of six was seen often, some of the birds being evidently young ones without obvious collars, and up to eight were counted in late summer. On 12th November D.E.B. and A. T. Macmillan saw a pair at Edmonstone and were able to check all the points of plumage including the black primaries. On the 19th we visited the area with various members of the S.O.C. and counted as many as nine birds together in one tree or feeding on the ground. This is the first occurrence and first breeding record for Midlothian.

DAVID E. BRADLEY.  
C. K. MYLNE.

On 11th June 1961 two doves were seen together in a pine tree in the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. At the time it was not possible to see all the identification features, but the call notes and the black base to the underside of the tail indicated that they were Collared Doves. Having previously watched the species in Norfolk and Morayshire I am familiar with the distinctive "coo-COO-coo" song. Subsequently, at the same place on 28th July, I saw a single Collared Dove perched in a conifer near the rock garden. Again the song was distinctive but I was unable to see the dark primaries. Finally, on



FIDRA from the shore near Dirleton. (See page 475).

—Scotsman photograph.

30th August, by the nearby Rocheid Path I once more heard the bird singing. This time I waited, and a Collared Dove which was perched low over the Water of Leith in a big ash tree came down to drink only a few yards away, so that its black primaries were plainly visible. A blind man was passing and I called his attention to the song. He had heard it at that place during the summer, and also on the Inverleith Terrace side of the Royal Botanic Garden—neatly corroborating the earlier records.

C. P. RAWCLIFFE.

On 21st Oct. 1961, as a result of a telephone call from Mrs Archibald Campbell, I called at her house at 40 Dick Place, Edinburgh, and had good views of a pair of Collared Doves in the garden. As I entered, one was flushed from the grass where it had come down for bread crumbs. The two birds sat together about twenty feet up in a tall tree. I was unable to see the black on the primaries, but they had all the other characteristics of the species, which I had previously seen in Morayshire. From the front they were small vinous-coloured doves, and when they flew I also saw the black half-collar and the underside of the tail with its black base and broad white tip. Mrs Campbell confirmed that one bird had noticeable black primaries, though the other's were not so distinct. They had not been calling for some time. These Collared Doves were first noticed in August, and appeared to be attracted to a hen run at 36 Dick Place. At times one or even two extra birds were present. It was thought that these were young birds, as one begged and was fed by an adult bird, but breeding was not proved.

GEORGE WATERSTON.

## Fife

In mid-May 1961 M.H.E.C. heard a bird calling in St Andrews and recognised it as a Collared Dove, a species she had previously heard on a gramophone record. It was in a thick clump of firs, and it was not possible to get a good view of it until the 30th when two local members of the S.O.C. both heard and saw it. Next morning at 4.15 a.m. B.S.T. J.M. had perfect views of it as it perched on a television aerial in the full blaze of the early morning sunshine. Having previously seen a film of the Ayrshire birds and listened to recordings of the characteristic song she immediately recognised the triple "coo-COO-coo" call. Every detail of the plumage could be seen including the pinkish head and breast, the greyer back, black collar, black primaries, white at the end of the underside of the tail, dark bill, red legs, and red eye. The bird was not seen after the first week in June. It is the first to be recorded in North Fife.

M. H. E. CUNINGHAME.  
JESSIE McFARLANE.



For more than a week in May 1961 there was a Collared Dove at Dunbog, 4 miles east of Newburgh. It consorted with the Barbary Doves in a very half-hearted way even though, from its calling, it was a male and there was an excess of unmated female Barbary Doves.

TOM SPENCE.

(While we have not seen a description of this bird the observer is very familiar with the various species of *Streptopelia* in captivity, in the wild, and in the museum.—Ed.).

A pair of Collared Doves arrived in the policies of my house at Leslie in the late spring or early summer of 1961. At the time of writing in mid October they are still here. They are not very wild and seem to enjoy eating the hens' food when it is available in the poultry yard. We were unable to find a nest in the thick evergreens round the house and no young birds have been seen. I have studied the call quite a lot and would write it "coo-COO-coo" rather than "coo-COO-coo." The emphasis is on the middle note, but the call ends very abruptly as if cut short. The primaries are darker than the rest of the plumage. The tail is relatively much longer than a Woodpigeon's, and the underside is dark with a broad white tip. The pinkish flush on the breast, greyish back, and black collar have also been noted.

E. VERDEN ANDERSON.

## Aberdeenshire

On 5th June 1960 in Old Aberdeen I awoke very early to hear a strange dove calling, which I immediately suspected of being a Collared Dove. The song is very distinctive—"coo, coooo, coo"—and its identity was easily confirmed by reference to the *Field Guide*. I could not see or find the bird then or afterwards however, and about a month later decided I might have been mistaken and had better say nothing about it.

On 19th June 1961 the bird reappeared, in company with a female, and I had completely satisfactory views of them both at close quarters. After that they disappeared until 12th August, when the male reappeared and was seen and heard singing repeatedly until the 18th, when it disappeared until the 30th, remaining then until 7th September. It reappeared on the 12th, but has been absent from then until the time of writing, 16th September. It has been heard singing also in another part of Old Aberdeen, but I have not discovered its customary alternative habitat. This is the first record for Dee and Aberdeenshire.

V. C. WYNNE-EDWARDS.

## Inverness-shire

On 2nd July 1961 at the Dell Hotel, Rothiemurchus, Aviemore, I watched for two hours at ranges down to ten yards as an adult Collared Dove fed with chickens or perched on the television aerial and elsewhere. I have previous experience of Collared Doves in Norfolk and Kent. From above I noted brownish-grey wings and back, dark primaries, dark collar at the back of the neck, and white corners showing on the tail; head, breast and belly slightly pink; underside of tail with black base and white distal section—very conspicuous when the bird was landing with tail down and facing the observer; pale underwing; red eye; small dark bill; flesh pink legs and feet. The bird had gone next day. It is the first to be recorded in Inverness-shire.

S. GREENWOOD.

## Morayshire

A pair of Collared Doves came to my garden at Cluny, near Forres, last autumn, making their abode in a cedar tree. They remained through the winter, and nested in 1961, bringing off two lots of young. By the middle of October they had increased to eighteen in number, pointing to the fact that others had arrived. On 24th October no fewer than twenty-seven came to feed on the lawns. I have checked details of Collared Dove plumage against these birds and all tally—small size, pinkish on breast and greyer on the back, dark primaries, broad white tip and dark base under the tail, and black half-collar. The call is as described, even to the absence of the rolling "r" which is mentioned as a feature of the call of the Barbary Dove. The birds are a source of pleasure and interest, and are fed daily on kibbled maize. They are becoming very tame, allowing one to approach close to them without alarm.

DOUGLAS B. COWIE.

## Lewis

On 28th May 1961 at Steinish, near Stornoway, a Collared Dove was seen in company with a Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, and may possibly have been mated to it since they alighted in the field, fed together, and flew off together. This is probably the same bird as that seen by W. A. J. Cunningham in June 1960 (*antea* 1: 379).

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN.

## Shetland

On the evening of 31st May 1961, returning from Foula, we touched in at Hamnavoe, West Burra, and just as we did so a Collared Dove landed on top of the flagpole at the quay. It flew off again almost immediately and disappeared round

a nearby point, but I was able to see the black neck mark clearly and to check the pinkish-brown upperparts with wings grey on the shoulders and dark at the tips. It was not possible to see the undertail. The bird was also seen by Wing Comdr. Eric Goose who is not familiar with the Collared Dove but at once confirmed that it was not a Turtle Dove *S. turtur*. This is the first record for Shetland other than Fair Isle.

L. A. URQUHART.

(Collared Doves were noted at Fair Isle on 12th and 24th May 1961 (*Bird Migration* 2: 53)—A.T.M.).

## SHORT NOTES

### RECORDS FROM SHETLAND, SUMMER 1961

**SMEW** *Mergus albellus*. On 25th May, at Loch of Grista, Tingwall, Mainland, a drake. A very late date, well outwith the "mid-March" spring limit given by Venables and Venables (1955): *Birds and Mammals of Shetland*.

**REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*. On 28th May, at the head of Lax Firth, Tingwall, a Redshank was seen leading four small young, still in down, across a field and in and out of several ditches. The Venables record regular breeding in Mainland until at least 1887. They state that casual nesting still occurs, but give only one instance known to them, in 1934.

**COLLARED DOVE** (see detailed article in this issue).

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*. On 31st May at Ham Voe, Foula, one.

**SONG THRUSH** *T. ericetorum*. On 31st May at Ham Voe, Foula, one.

**REDWING** *Turdus pilaris*. On 2nd and 3rd June a male was singing in Mainland. I thought it possible it had a mate sitting.

**WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*. On 3rd June at Kergord, one. Apart from records of two birds which may have summered, the Venables only give one other June occurrence.

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa grisea*. On 1st June at Pool of Virkie shore, a pair. The Venables give only two other June occurrences, neither on Mainland.

**PIED FLYCATCHER** *M. hypoleuca*. On 3rd June at Kergord, a female. The Venables' latest spring date is 29th May.

**RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio*. On 31st May 1961, at Ham Voe, Foula, a female.

**TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*. On 3rd June at Kergord,

several pairs, probably at least six, at the plantation known as Lindsay Lee. One was carrying nesting material. The Venables call it extinct as a breeding species with no recent records of migrants, also stating that "small breeding colonies were briefly established in various places after 1898." They were unable to find any detailed records of Mainland breeding.

L. A. URQUHART.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. From 6th to 13th June, one on Loch Spiggie.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. On 9th June at Scalloway, one immature.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. On 6th June at Sumburgh Head, one

R. J. SMITH.

JOHN SWAN.

JAMES YOUNG.

#### GREEN-WINGED TEAL IN MIDLOTHIAN

At about 4.40 p.m. on 21st October 1961 we parked our car opposite a small party of Teal *Anas crecca* feeding in the shallows at the north end of Gladhouse Reservoir, Midlothian. Almost the first bird examined proved to be an adult drake Green-winged Teal *A. c. carolinensis* in full plumage. The most obvious field-mark was a distinct vertical off-white line on either side of the breast, dividing that area from the flanks. It was prominent on both sides but perhaps a little wider and better defined on the right. There was no horizontal white line on the scapulars such as is present in the European Teal *A. c. crecca*. The head pattern also differed from that of the European race in that the green eye-patch was not outlined with buff except for a very ill-defined line immediately below the eye and there was no buff line between the front of the eye-patch and the bill. The eye-patch itself appeared broader and blunter than in the European Teal—more like a highwayman's mask—and we see that this difference is suggested in the *Handbook* plates of the two races although it is not mentioned at all in the text. Another apparent difference not mentioned in the *Handbook* is that this bird seemed to have much more conspicuous black and creamy-yellow under tail-coverts than any of its companions. This may simply have been due to the fact that none of the drakes immediately available for comparison were in full adult plumage, but we observe that the same difference was noted in the case of a Green-winged Teal recently seen in Aberdeenshire (*antea* 1: 10).

The bird was watched with field-glasses and telescope at a

range of about 50 yards for several minutes until it and the other Teal were scared by a passing vehicle and flew out of sight down the reservoir. This is the fourth recorded occurrence of this American race in Scotland and the first for the Forth area and Midlothian.

D. G. ANDREW.  
T. C. SMOUT.

### UNUSUAL DUCKS ON ST KILDA

On the evening of 27th July 1961 I saw a drake Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* in Village Bay, St Kilda. It stayed until 1st August. This is the first record of this species for St Kilda.

On 16th July 1961 a drake Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* turned up in Village Bay, remaining until the 22nd. It was once seen on the small tarn on the west side of Gleann Mor. It is the second record for St Kilda.

W. E. WATERS.

### EIDERS BREEDING IN MORAYSHIRE

The spread of the Eider *Somateria mollissima* along the shores of the Moray Firth has been described by Harvie-Brown (*A Vertebrate Fauna of the Moray Basin* Vol. II), A. Watson (*Scot. Nat.* 60: 53, and 63: 178), Baxter and Rintoul (*Birds of Scotland*, 1953) and R. Richter (*Scot. Nat.* 66: 39-40). The facts have been summarised by Dr I. D. Pennie (*antea* 1: 66-67).

A recent occurrence of Eiders breeding in the Moray Firth was at the Bar, Culbin Sands, where several broods were reared this summer. In 1913 Millais recorded seeing an Eider duck with young in this region, but no Eiders have been known to breed there during the past fifteen years, and possibly for a much longer period than this.

On 7th August 1961, Mr W. G. Milne, head forester at Culbin, and the author saw three groups of Eiders on the tidal backwater at the Bar. The first group consisted of twelve females, the second of one female with seven chicks, and the third of one female with five chicks. The last group were feeding on the mud flats, and these birds were easily caught and identified.

Nine of the twelve chicks were subsequently caught and ringed on the 9th and 13th August. The feathering, and condition of the down, suggested that the young were about eight weeks old at the time. The possibility that these broods had come in from some other breeding area is considered unlikely, since the conditions for breeding are better at Culbin

than in any other area within ten miles. No drakes have yet been seen near this part of the coast, but it was assumed that they would then be in eclipse plumage and likely to be at sea.

H. MILNE.

### RED-FOOTED FALCON IN BERWICKSHIRE

On 8th October 1961 a strange bird flew past our observation hut at Hule Moss, but at the time we did not have good enough views to identify it. A week later, on the 15th, we found the body of a female Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* underneath the hut. S.J.C. and M.J.H. who saw the bird on the morning of the 8th are certain that it was the same one. We believe that it flew against the hut and was just able to crawl under it. S.J.C. took two photographs which are reproduced on another page. The bird weighed 97 grams and the wing length was 229 mm. It is now in the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh.

S. J. CLARKE.

M. J. HENDERSON.

D. G. LONG.

(This is the first record of a Red-footed Falcon in Berwickshire. We learn from the Royal Scottish Museum that the bird was very emaciated. It seems possible that it may have died of starvation as there was no sign of bleeding or broken bones when it was skinned. It was an adult female with well developed ovaries—rather surprising so late in the year. The greyness of the back, and the light streaking of the underparts, confirmed that it was an adult. Fortunately it was just possible to preserve the skin, and it has been attractively mounted. Already it has been seen by various members of the S.O.C., and it is to be put on display in the Bird Hall as it is in better condition than the existing specimen.—Ed.).

### KESTREL KILLING TREECREEPER

On 3rd May 1961 I was walking along the side of the railway wall in the bird sanctuary at Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, when a Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* flew out from the trees and pounced on something on the face of the wall about 18 inches from the top. It was pecking vigorously on a small tuft of grass on the stonework, and as I approached hurriedly it flew off. When I examined the wall I found a dead Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*, still warm, with its head off. The wall is old with a fair amount of crumbling stonework and is a favourite feeding place for Treecreepers. The *Handbook* does not mention this species as prey of the Kestrel, nor does it mention the Kestrel taking prey from the face of a wall.

D. R. ANDERSON.

## WHITE WOODCOCK IN EAST SUTHERLAND

In a brood of Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* which hatched out at Suisgill, Kildonan, two of the four chicks were pure white. I was unable to visit the area until 27th May 1961, by which time the young were fully fledged and the brood dispersed. Fortunately, however, Mr Nicolson, the head gamekeeper, found one of the white birds after an extensive search. It was sitting among some dead branches beneath a birch tree and from a distance of about twenty yards it looked very conspicuous. Its entire plumage was pure white, the iris and bill being of normal colouration. I failed to get a glimpse of the bird's legs as it flew away but Mr Nicolson informed me that they too were the normal colour. The *Handbook* (4: 188) mentions "a pure white variety unmarked," and Bannerman (*The Birds of the British Isles* 9:97) refers to pied, buff, fulvous, melanistic and pure white varieties.

D. MACDONALD.

## PECTORAL SANDPIPER IN EAST LOTHIAN

On 10th September 1961 an unusual wader was noted among the Dunlin *Calidris alpina* at Tynninghame estuary feeding at high tide among the short grass and thin mud. It was first picked out by its dull yellow legs—which appeared longer in proportion than those of the Dunlin but shorter than those of a Redshank *Tringa totanus*. It was conspicuously larger than the Dunlin, especially in flight, and at times resembled a small Reeve *Philomachus pugnax*, especially when it stretched its thin neck on landing. The head and mantle were dark brown, the latter being "scaly" like that of a Ruff. I.B.R. thought that the closed primaries were darker than the secondaries and mantle above. The cheeks, eyestripe and throat were pale, the long eye-stripes seeming to touch at the forehead. The throat and breast were lightly but firmly streaked brown ending in an abrupt line on the breast which contrasted strongly with the whitish belly. Dark bill not so long in proportion as Dunlin.

In flight the rather long wings (with no noticeable wingbar) and mantle showed very dark with a dark line extending from the mantle through the tail, the sides of which were pale though not so white as the sides of the rump. The bird was under observation from about 30 yards for only some two minutes during which time it flew off and came in again before disappearing seawards with a mass of Dunlin. No

definite call-notes were heard. We identified the bird as a Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos*.

T. BOYD.  
I. B. ROY.  
W. M. SKENE.  
R. W. J. SMITH.

### SANDWICH TERNS BREEDING IN SHETLAND

In 1955 a pair of Sandwich Terns *Sterna sandvicensis* began to nest on the Inner holm of Skaw on Whalsay and the number increased to six pairs in 1960. This summer, the birds were around but did not nest.

TOM BRUCE.

(This is the first satisfactory breeding record for Shetland.—Ed.).

### WRYNECKS IN INVERNESS-SHIRE

On 3rd June 1961 at 6.30 a.m. I saw and heard at close quarters a Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* singing on a barbed wire fence close to the R.S.P.B. camp at Inchdryne. It sang repeatedly for about an hour and was observed by several watchers as it moved about near the camp. Mr Walter Flesher, who was with me when I first heard the bird, told me that he had heard the same song on at least two previous days but had not realised what bird it was.

J. K. STANFORD.

A Wryneck was heard singing at Carrbridge on 10th June 1961.

R. H. DENNIS.

(It is curious that all the recent summer records of Wrynecks in Scotland should have come from this area—1952 *Scot. Nat.* p. 57 (Strathfarrar) and p. 117 (Urquhart Bay, Loch Ness), and 1953 *Scot. Nat.* p. 57 (Glenmore Lodge).—Ed.).

### RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHERS IN ABERDEENSHIRE

On 22nd September 1961 Charles Ogston asked me to confirm his identification of a Red-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa parva* on Forvie Moor, Aberdeenshire. We found the bird still in the same bush and I was able to confirm it as a female. Mr Ogston said he had also seen a male in the same area on the same day.

ELIZABETH A. GARDEN.



On 4th October 1961 I saw a Red-breasted Flycatcher in our garden at Peterhead. There was a lot of fog hanging about at the time.

DOUGLAS P. WILLIS.

(Mr Willis has submitted a detailed and unmistakable description of the bird.—Ed.).

### PROLONGED NESTLING PERIOD OF CORN BUNTINGS

At about 1900 hours G.M.T. on 26th June 1961 I found the nest of a Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* with three young in a corn crop near Dornoch. By the naked and helpless condition of the nestlings it was almost certain that they had hatched out earlier that day. Subsequent visits to the nest showed that the growth and development of the young appeared to be quite normal. Nevertheless, they were still in the nest at a late hour on 9th July, but by 0800 hours G.M.T. the following morning only one nestling remained. In this instance the young did not leave the nest until the fourteenth day after hatching. Both the *Handbook* (1: 112) and Ryves (*British Birds* 28: 2-26) record the nestling period as nine to eleven days with sometimes twelve days.

D. MACDONALD.

### CURRENT NOTES

(Key to initials of observers: A. Anderson, D. R. Anderson, D. G. Andrew, Mrs G. Andrew, W. Austin, J. Ballantyne, Miss P. G. Baxter, G. Bennett, H. Boase, T. Boyd, D. E. Bradley, W. Brotherton, Miss K. M. Calver, S. J. Clarke, M. Cody, Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame, W. A. J. Cunningham, R. H. Dennis, G. Dick, V. H. Divers, Dr W. J. Eggeling, Sir R. Erskine-Hill, M. Forrester, G. Fraser, E. M. Gall, Miss E. A. Garden, J. Grierson, J. M. Harrop, M. J. Henderson, Lt-Col. W. M. Logan Home, J. Hoy, Miss R. S. Hunter, Dr D. Jenkins, W. M. Lennox, A. G. Long, D. G. Long, A. Macdonald, D. Macdonald, K. S. Macgregor, A. T. Macmillan, Miss M. M. Mathisen, Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, R. I. Milne, Mrs E. A. Munro, J. Murray, C. K. Mylne, B. Neath, J. Oliver, R. M. Palmer, J. Potter, W. K. Richmond, I. B. Roy, W. A. Sinclair, W. M. Skene, R. W. I. Smith, Dr T. C. Smout, T. Spence, D. Stalker, W. Stein, I. F. Stewart, J. H. Swan, C. Tait, Miss V. M. Thom, B. R. Thomson, A. Tod, D. I. M. Wallace, Mrs K. Wallace, R. F. Waterston, A. D. Watson, T. Weir, Dr R. S. Weir, D. P. Willis, D. R. Wise, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards. Dates refer to 1961 unless otherwise stated).

#### *Breeding and Distribution*

A **Manx Shearwater** was blown inland to Dalry, Kirkcudbright, on 16th September by the gale, which reached over 90 m.p.h. in the Solway. It was released next day on the coast

(W.A., A.D.W.). One was seen on the 18th at Elie, Fife (D.G.A.).

An immature **Night Heron** visited Duddingston on 9th and 10th October—no doubt from the Edinburgh Zoo (D.R.A.). Another immature bird turned up in Kirkcaldy on 30th October for a few days, and roosted at the bus stop in Townsend Place where one could almost touch it with a walking stick (R.F.W.). Further details of the nightly excursions of this species have now been received from an observer living in Old Kirk Road, just 100 yards west of a side entrance to the Zoo (see *antea* 1: 457). He has lived there for three years and noted the birds each year, but more often this year, when he was more regularly at home in the garden in the evening. Each evening, probably every evening, as it gets dark, the birds fly west along Old Kirk Road and then swing north-west round Corstorphine Hill towards Cramond. Only adults have been seen and it is nearly always two birds, evidently a pair, that come. They can be heard giving a noise like the croak of a frog. In May they would fly apart and then towards each other again in a form of display, flapping about like enormous bats. During 1961 they were first seen passing the house in early or mid-May, and continued to do so until at least 25th August (G.B.).

A pair of **Garganey** frequented the Dunbarton bank of the R. Endrick mouth during May, being seen by various people (M.F.M.M.).

A drake **Scaup** in perfect plumage was in Plockton harbour, Ross, on 23rd May (M.F.M.M.), and another, in Lewis, seemed very attached to a small loch near East Loch Roag on the 28th (J.M.H.). A drake at the Morton Lochs, Fife, on 15th July (W.J.E., A.M.), two birds at Longannet, Fife, on 31st July (J.H.), and two drakes at Montrose Basin from 14th August, when at least one was flightless (H.B.), may have summered in Scotland. Inland records come from Cameron Reservoir, Fife, where there was a drake on 14th September (D.G.A.), and Portmore, Peebles, where there was a duck on the 30th (A.T.). Scaup have been more numerous at Duddingston than for a number of years. There were fourteen on 25th October, twelve on the 29th, and eight on the 31st (D.R.A.). A duck **Goldeneye** summered at Montrose Basin, and an immature **Long-tailed Duck** was noted at Forfar Loch on 13th June (H.B.). At Loch Leven, Kinross, the species is almost regular, and one was seen on 28th October (D.G.A., T.C.S., D.I.M.W.). Off the docks at Leith **Shelduck** are seldom seen, but there was one at Seafield, on the mud, on 20th September (J.B.).

There were four **Canada Geese** at Marlee Loch near Blairgowrie, Perth, on 11th September. Two were noted there previously on 23rd April 1960 (*antea* 1: 280) (H.B.).

A **Whooper Swan** was on L. Hosta, North Uist, on 4th June, with six Mute Swans (J.M.H.).

Two **Buzzards** remained throughout the summer in the Longformacus area of Berwick (per W.M.L.H.).

Rumours of **Quail** in North Fife have reached us in the past but we have been unable to get anywhere with them. This year on 1st September at Dunbog, Newburgh, seven Quail—evidently a family party as two were larger than the rest—were flushed by the combine harvester. They probably bred there. Two years ago a pair was seen near the spot for over a week (T.S.). At Kildary, East Ross, Quail were heard continuously in a barley field, especially in the early morning and late evening, from 27th June to 21st August, when the field was cut (per D.M.). On Barra in the Eoligarry area as many as seven **Corncrakes** could be heard calling at one time in the middle of the day on 6th June (J.M.H.).

An immature **Iceland Gull** was at the sewage outlet near Fort William on 29th May. This may be the first published record for South Inverness, although the authors of *The Birds of Scotland* say that on the west coast the species has occurred in every sea-board county up to Ross. It is not clear, however, whether they have considered South Inverness separately from West Inverness (M.F.M.M.). The comments in the last number about the rarity of the **Black-headed Gull** in West Sutherland (*antea* 1: 459) have resulted in us receiving details of a small colony which has apparently existed for some years. It is on a small island on Loch a'Mhi on the Stoer peninsula near Lochinver. About 25 pairs of Black-headed Gulls and 12 pairs of Common Gulls were breeding there on 25th June when 53 nestlings of the former were ringed and 28 of the latter. This seems to be the first breeding record for the area (D.E.B., M.C.).

A **Turtle Dove** was recorded in Craiglockhart Dell, Edinburgh, on 20th June. In the same area a **Kingfisher** was seen on the Water of Leith above Slateford on 15th August. The species is seldom seen in Edinburgh now (J.H.S.). A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** at Loch Leven on 28th October appears to be the first recorded in Kinross (D.G.A., T.C.S., D.I.M.W.).

Two **Maggies** at Gleneagles Golf Course on 4th October are of interest since *The Birds of Scotland* describes them as rare in Perth (H.B.).

A **Crested Tit** was in a plantation of conifers near Dornoch on 22nd June. The species was first recorded in Sutherland in the same area as recently as October 1956 (*Scottish Naturalist* 69: 57) (D.M.).

A cock **Redwing** sang in Unst during June but there was no second bird (E.A.M.). A pair of **Stonechats** nested successfully at North Queensferry, Fife (G.D.).

Further to the record of a **Garden Warbler** breeding at Valleyfield (*antea* 1: 461), J.H. comments that the scarcity of the species in Fife applies to most of the county but not to West Fife. The best place for them is in Valleyfield, where at least ten singing males can be found each year. They are also reasonably common at the east end of Gartmorn Dam and towards Dollar and Tillicoultry, though these areas are over the county boundary in Clackmannan. We can trace no previous record for that county.

On 14th May a Garden Warbler was found singing in Dinnet Oak Wood, Aberdeen, 200 yards from the south bank of the R. Dee, and on 4th June it was singing persistently in the same area. The species has not been recorded in recent years as a spring visitor to the area. On 28th May two were heard and seen about half a mile apart near the Dee at Blackhall, near Banchory, and a third heard singing on the opposite bank of the river at Invercarnie (V.C.W-E.). We cannot trace any previous record of Garden Warblers in North Kincardine.

On 6th and 30th May a **Chiffchaff** was heard singing in various places in Old Aberdeen. The species has not been noted in the area in recent springs. On 28th May one was heard at Blackhall, near Banchory, in trees with an undergrowth of rhododendrons—the same sort of site as the Garden Warbler at Dinnet. It was still there when D.J. stopped to listen to it a few days later (V.C.W-E.). Like the Garden Warblers in the same area this seems to be the first published record of the species in North Kincardine.

In South-east Sutherland the **Spotted Flycatcher** was an exceptionally scarce breeding bird this year (D.M.).

*The Birds of Scotland* is very vague about the present distribution of the **Tree Sparrow** in Angus. About ten were counted in conifers near Carnoustie on 11th August (R.M.P.), and two at Red Castle, Lunan Bay, on the 22nd (H.B.).

### *Spring Migration 1961*

From a few days before 10th May there were five **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** at Broad Bay, Stornoway. They were unusually approachable, taking wing only when the observers were within 50 yards, and returning to feed 100 yards away. They stayed for a few days and were joined by a sixth bird (W.A.J.C., V.H.D.).

An exceptionally early **Dotterel** was seen on the breeding grounds in the central Highlands on 12th March. The observer, who knows the species well, was able to approach within ten yards (W.A.S.).

At Kingoodie, Perth, there were 11 **Black-tailed Godwits** on 20th April, and 18 on 2nd May (H.B.). A **Wood Sandpiper** at

the mouth of the R. Endrick on 21st May is the first recorded in West Stirling (M.F.M.M.).

On 7th April 300 **Common Gulls** were noted moving north-east in the space of 30 minutes at Invergowrie, Perth. At Kingoodie, in the same area, there were two immature **Little Gulls** on 4th May (H.B.).

A late **Fieldfare** flew past the Osprey Observation Post at L. Garten, Inverness, on 7th June and was seen by various people (per R.H.D.).

At Stornoway aerodrome a female **Yellow Wagtail** was seen on 28th May. The observer was inclined to think it was *thunbergi* not only because of the geographical position but also on account of its loud penetrating call (M.F.M.M.).

#### *Autumn Migration 1961, and Winter Visitors*

The suggestion has been made that the sections on migration might start with a chronological summary of what has been happening, as an introduction to the details given for individual species. While this is an ideal to aim for, it is usually impossible because we receive relatively little information about the common birds, and because we are writing too soon after the event. We can, however, hope that the facts which we do assemble may be of value to students of migration who can consider them in relation to the weather maps or the movements which they detect on their radar screens. Any summary which we might publish would be a poor thing by comparison with what is possible for more specialist publications such as *Bird Migration*, with access to the detailed daily records of a network of Bird Observatories. Just because so much of the information does come from the Observatories, however, there is considerable value in observations from more ordinary parts of the country; not enough of such observations have been published recently, so that there is little with which to compare Observatory records.

Notes received from various parts of the country indicate widespread movements on 12th October. This was a Thursday, so that it is free from the bias associated with week-end observations, and we comment on it to show the possibilities for collating a series of ordinary observations when enough information about the movement of common birds is sent in. The pattern of migration involved both **Pink-footed Geese** with, presumably, a north-west origin from Iceland, and a movement of typical Scandinavian species. Details of the considerable movement of **Pinkfeet**, especially in the Lothians, on 12th, 13th and 14th October are given under that species. The **Blue Goose**, significantly, returned to Libberton on the 13th.

On the 12th at Longannet, Fife, there was a continuous

westward movement of various species until 1 p.m. BST. The sky was never clear of birds on the move, and birds noted included 9 Golden Plovers, Skylarks, 2 Swallows, 38 Mistle Thrushes, Song Thrushes, Redwings, a Goldcrest, Meadow Pipits, Chaffinches and Starlings (J.H.). In East Lothian there were Kestrels, Redwings, Blackbirds, and Chaffinches moving in the area between North Berwick and Dunbar (A.M.). At Kingoodie, Perth, small parties of birds were passing westwards in the morning—Greenfinches, possibly Linnets, Chaffinches, and some Reed Buntings (H.B.). The first Redwings were heard over Edinburgh and Glasgow that day, and at Castle Douglas on the 13th. Siskins arrived in force about this time, and were recorded at Longannet on the 12th, in various places near L. Ken, Kirkcudbright, on the 14th and 15th, and in the Moorfoots and at Tynninghame on the 15th. Others were located later but may well have come in at this time. Details of these records are given under the species. Finally, a flock of Redpolls was noted at Longannet on the 12th. Compared with the number of records we can normally assemble for any one day this is quite an impressive catalogue.

A **Sooty Shearwater** was seen off Fair Isle on 1st August (I.F.S.).

In Angus, 150 **Wigeon** at Lintrathen on 8th September, and 1,000 at Montrose Basin on the 21st, are early for such numbers (H.B.). Exceptional numbers of **Shovelers** were counted on L. Leven at the end of October; at least 300, and probably 500, on the 21st (H.B.), and a flock of 250 on the 28th (D.G.A., T.C.S., D.I.M.W.).

As in past autumns (*antea* 1: 340) large numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen at Musselburgh, and at least 200 were counted on 19th September (J.B.). The small party recorded at Longannet on 11th July (*antea* 1: 458) built up to 320 birds by 29th September, and the observer suggests that this is a moulting area (J.H.). At Barnbogle, West Lothian, there were 300 on 14th October, and 350 on the 22nd (T.C.S.).

There were two **Grey Lag Geese** at Machrie, Arran, on 11th August (possibly crippled birds) (W.M.L.), two at Hule Moss, Berwick, on 10th September (S.J.C., M.J.H., D.G.L.), but the first flock reported was of fifteen birds at Longannet on the 20th (J.H.). Until the night of 11th October, there was only a limited advance-guard population of under 1,000 **Pink-footed Geese** in the Fala/Gladhouse area. From early on the 12th, a Thursday, throughout that day and Friday the 13th, and into the morning of the 14th, there was a great flight of these birds through the Moorfoot area to the south, and at the same time a great arrival in the area. A fairly accurate count of these birds gave a total of 10,000, some 2,000 more than ever before, in the Fala/Gladhouse area. The other local

roosts held a further 3,000 (W.B.). A skein of 50 passed south-south-east over the Morningside district of Edinburgh at 9 a.m. B.S.F. on the 13th, and a further six skeins went over during the morning (D.G.A., G.A.). On 12th October there were 1,700 on the mud banks off Birkhill, Dundee, and more birds were coming in all day from the north to the Tay Estuary, over 1,000 being seen arriving (H.B.). It is clear that this arrival of Pinkfeet was on a very large scale.

The **Blue Goose** returned to Libberton on 13th October. It looks very much whiter in the air this year and can be picked out with the naked eye at a range of at least a mile (see *antea* 1: 463) (R.E.H.). Though it is probably unconnected with previous records from Libberton it is perhaps worth mentioning an adult Snow Goose which was seen in Yorkshire from 12th July for some weeks (*British Birds* 54: 335). It is possible that the Libberton birds could summer in Britain, but the evidence suggests that it is more likely that they travel north with the Pinkfeet.

Three **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** were at Aberlady on 21st October (K.S.M.), and one **Dark-breasted** on Loch Ryan on the 28th (J.M.). An early **Barnacle Goose** was seen on Islay on 17th September (E.M.G., R.W.J.S., C.T.), and there were two at Gladhouse on 21st October (D.G.A., T.C.S.).

The first **Whooper Swans** of the winter were five on 20th September. They flew into Pease Bay, Berwick, and turned west along the coast (W.M.L.H.). One at Duddingston on 28th October is only the third report there since the second world war (D.R.A.). Counts at L. Leven gave totals of at least 220 on 21st October (H.B.), and approximately 300 on the 27th (G.D.).

There are a number of autumn reports of **Buzzards** in the eastern part of Berwick. At Hule Moss single birds were seen on 9th September and 15th October, and two on 1st and 22nd October (S.J.C., M.J.H., D.G.L.). On 24th September at the Langton Burn, near Duns, a Buzzard came sailing down the glen and settled in the tree where the observer was standing, before sailing away to the south-east (A.G.L.). One was reported in the woods at Ayton Castle during September, and on 23rd October one flew south-east over Edrom, mobbed by a dozen Carrion Crows and Jackdaws (W.M.L.H.).

On 28th October a **Rough-legged Buzzard** was seen between Callander and L. Ruskie. The buzzard shape, white base to the tail, and pale underwings were all seen though the view was a rather distant one (J.G.). What was presumably the same bird was seen at the Lake of Menteith next day (M.F.). One 28th October a male **Hen Harrier** was seen near Glenluce, the first the observer has seen in Wigtown (J.M.).

On 12th August an **Osprey** was watched at the Loch of Pit-

four, Aberdeen, by Mr R. Malvenan. It circled the loch, calling, and then dropped into the water to catch a trout, with which it flew off. The following afternoon various people watched it catch another trout at the second attempt in heavy rain. It flew to a dead pine and ate part of the fish before flying off with the rest of it. The operculum of a 1½ lb. brown trout was found below the tree. The loch is well stocked with brown trout (A.A., E.A.G., V.M.T.).

A juvenile **Peregrine** was seen at Fife Ness on 13th August. The species is not usually seen there and it was presumably a migrant (R.S.W.). Single **Merlins** were noted at Barns Ness, East Lothian, on 8th October (K.S.M.), and at Gladhouse on the 14th (D.G.A.). On 12th October there was an influx of **Kestrels** to East Lothian. In the morning five were noted between North Berwick and Dunbar, and in the afternoon single birds were present in two places in the Lammermuirs where they are not usually seen (A.M.).

When the Editor (in the south) opened a small parcel he discovered a very smelly **Water Rail**. It had been found at Steinish, near Stornoway, on 20th September—very dead, having been stood on, probably by a cow (W.A.J.C.).

Numbers of **Coot** are most unpredictable and we therefore offer no comment on counts of over 500 at Forfar Loch on 16th October, over 750 in three groups at L. Leven, Kinross, on the 21st (H.B.), and 1,200 there on the 28th (D.G.A., T.C.S., D.I.M.W.).

Substantial counts of **Grey Plovers** come from Longannet where there were about 40 on 29th September and fully 110 on 7th October and later (J.H.), and from the other side of the Forth at Skinflats, Stirling, where there were only eight seen on 7th October, but 95 on the 14th, 143 on the 23rd, and about 200 on the 29th (G.D., J.P.). The counts in these two places almost certainly refer to the same birds, which move with the tides. Inland, two were at Gladhouse on the 29th (D.G.A., D.I.M.W., K.W.). At Hule Moss, Berwick, there were about 600 **Curlews** on 22nd August (S.J.C., M.J.H., D.G.L.).

**Black-tailed Godwits** are reported from the following places:

Ythan Estuary, Aberdeen—1 from 30th August until at least 22nd September (E.A.G.).

Invergowrie Bay—2 on 29th August and frequently thereafter (H.B.).

Eden Estuary, Fife—3 on 4th September, and 20 on the 8th (R.I.M.), and at least 20 on the 21st (B.N.).

Cult Ness, Fife—2 on 28th July and 3 on 1st September (G.D., J.P.).

Longannet, Fife—1 from 10th September until 8th October, (I.H. W.K.R.), with 2 on 23rd September and 11 on 22nd October (G.D., J.P.).

Skinflats, Stirling—2 on 6th August, 13 on the 20th, 1 on the 27th, 1 on 3rd September, and 9 on 23rd October (G.D., J.P.).

Seafield, Leith—1 on 17th September (A.T.M.).

Aberlady, East Lothian—2 on 8th October (K.S.M., A.T.M., C.K.M.).

Tynninghame, East Lothian—1 on 27th August (T.B., W.M.S., R.W.J.S.).



During the past twelve years not more than 25 **Bar-tailed Godwits** have been seen together on the south side of L. Fleet, Sutherland, but this autumn from mid-September until the end of October numbers gradually built up to between 75 and 100 (J.O.).

The following **Green Sandpipers** are reported:

- Near Dornoch, Sutherland—1 on 18th July (D.M.).
- Longannet—1 on 29th September (J.H.).
- Kincardine Bridge—1 on 21st and 27th August (G.D., J.P.).
- Tynninghame—1 or more from 13th August to 8th October, with peaks of 3 on 17th August and 17th September (T.B., I.B.R., W.M.S., R.W.J.S.).
- Hule Moss—1 on 11th and 22nd August (S.J.C., M.J.H., D.G.L.).
- Hamilton—1 on 29th August (D.R.W.).
- Quothquhan, Thankerton, Lanark—1 on 18th September (R.E.H.).

The only report of **Wood Sandpipers** comes from Aberlady, where the species is not rare in autumn, and is of four birds on 13th August (K.S.M.).

A fair number of **Spotted Redshanks** occurred:

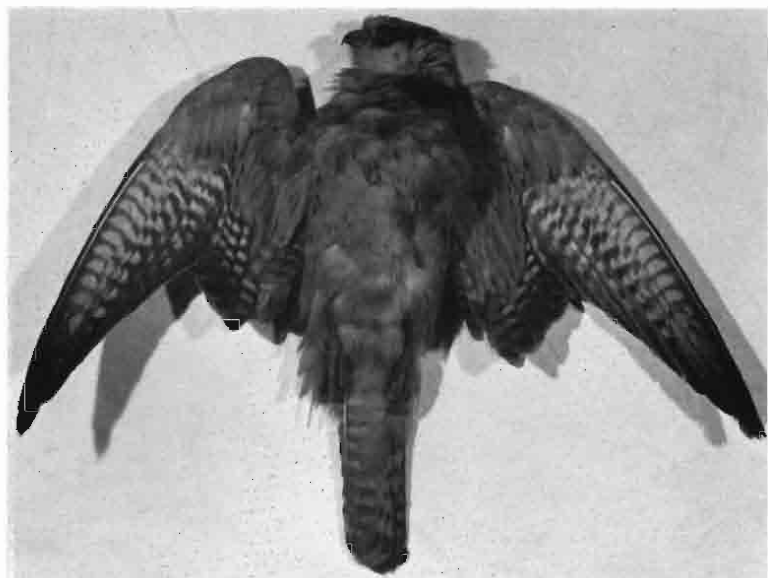
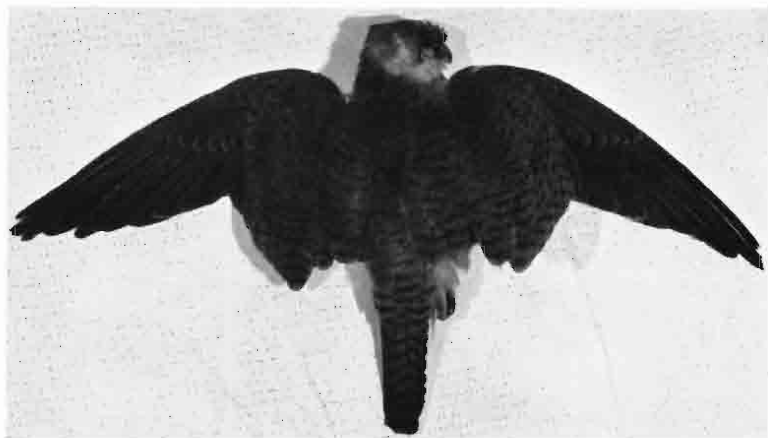
- Dornoch—1 on mudflats on 13th October (D.M.).
- Ugie Estuary, Peterhead—1 on 29th September (D.P.W.).
- Ythan Estuary—1 on 30th August, and 11th and 14th September (E.A.G.).
- Skinflats—1 on 10th and 24th September, 7th and 14th October, and 2 on 23rd October (G.D., J.P.).
- Gladhouse, Midlothian—1 on 1st October (R.W.J.S.).
- Tynninghame—1 from 13th August to 10th September (T.B., I.B.R., W.M.S., R.W.J.S., T.C.S.).
- Airdrie—1 on 10th September at Roughrigg Reservoir (W.S.).

Inland records of **Greenshank** this autumn come from:

- Lintrathen, Angus—2 on 19th August and 1 on 8th September (H.B.).
- L. Leven, Kinross—1 on 14th September and 28th October (D.G.A.).
- Peppermill Dam, Tulliallan, Fife—2 on 1st August, and 1 on 11th September (G.D., J.P.).
- Cambus, Clackmannan—1 on 28th October (D.G.A.).
- Central Edinburgh—1 flew over at 9.45 a.m. BST on 30th August (T.C.S.).
- Gladhouse—1 on 24th September (D.G.A.).
- Hamilton—1 on 29th September (D.R.W.).
- Hule Moss—noted on August 7th (1), 19th (2), September 2nd (2), 9th (3), 13th (1), 16th (2), 17th (2), 19th (1), and on October 8th (1), (S.J.C., M.J.H., D.G.L.).

Scotland seems to have missed the early arrival of large numbers of **Little Stints** and **Curlew Sandpipers** mentioned in *British Birds* (54: 333), but the following **Little Stints** are reported:

- Carnoustie, Angus—1 injured bird on 12th August (R.M.P.), and 1 at the Buddon Burn on 22nd September (B.N.).
- Elie, Fife—1 on 13th September (D.G.A.).
- Cult Ness—1 on 6th October (G.D., J.P.).
- Longannet—1 on 28th October (G.D., J.P.).
- Skinflats—noted on July 29th (1), August 6th (1), 20th (1), September 2nd (3), 9th (2), 10th (2), 17th (2), and 24th (4) (G.D., J.P.).
- Gladhouse—1 on 14th October (D.G.A.).
- Aberlady—2 on 24th September (R.W.J.S.).



RED-FOOTED FALCON, adult female, Berwickshire, October 1961.  
Note the dark barring on slate-grey upper-parts, and only a few small streaks on breast and flanks.

(See page 492).

—Photographs by S. J. Clarke.

Tynninghame—4 on 3rd September and 1 on the 10th (T.B., I.B.R., W.M.S., R.W.J.S.).

Dunbar—3 on 8th October (M.F.M.M.).

Reports of **Curlew Sandpipers** come from:

Ythan Estuary—1 on 3rd September (E.A.G.).

Longannet—2 on 8th October (G.D., J.P.).

Skinflats—4 on 24th September and 7th October (G.D., J.P.).

Aberlady—3 on 3rd August (D.E.B.).

Tynninghame—1 on 24th September (I.B.R., W.M.S., R.W.J.S.).

Dunbar—1 on 8th October (M.F.M.M.).

A **Ruff** and two **Reeves** were on the mud at Dornoch on 19th August (D.M.). One was on the Ugie Estuary, Peterhead, from 21st September until 4th October. Though they are regular at Newburgh, Aberdeen, this was the first that the observer had seen near Peterhead (D.P.W.). Seven Ruffs and two Reeves were in a field near Crail, Fife, on 5th September (P.G.B.). At Cult Ness there was one on 16th and 19th August, and at Skinflats there were four on 6th August, 1 on the 13th, 3 on the 26th, 2 on 9th September, and 1 on the 17th (G.D., J.P.). Two at Aberlady on 3rd and 24th September are hardly noteworthy (J.B., R.W.J.S.), but they are scarcer at Tynninghame, where one was seen on 13th August and 3rd September (T.B., I.B.R., W.M.S., R.W.J.S.). Single birds were at Gladhouse on 2nd September, 1st, 14th, and 21st October (D.G.A., R.W.J.S.).

High numbers of **Arctic Skuas** have already been reported from Aberlady (*antea* 1: 467). On 27th August between 40 and 50 were working the upper Forth estuary from Kincardine to Grangemouth. At high tide eight of them rested with the waders at Skinflats and continually molested the Dunlin (G.D., J.P.). On the Ythan Estuary they were more numerous than ever before, and eleven were seen from the observer's house one day in August (E.A.G.). An observer reported large numbers present in the Tay from 16th to 21st September (B.N.).

There are few records of **Little Gulls** in Angus during September in spite of their abundance at other times. A visit to the area to find out whether this reflected the habits of the birds or of the bird-watchers produced a number of records in just over a week of watching. At the Buddon Burn near Carnoustie there were five adults on the 16th and 19th September, and an immature on the 22nd. At Carnoustie there were seven adults and one immature on the 17th, and about 30 on the 22nd. Bad weather made it impossible to count these accurately, but at least 20 were adult. Quite a few of the adults were moulting into the full adult (i.e. 2nd winter) plumage (B.N.). An immature was seen on the Ythan Estuary on 14th September (E.A.G.), and one at Girdleness, Aberdeen, on 10th September (W.A.C.). At Elie, Fife, there was one adult and one immature on 14th September, one im-

mature on the 17th, and six adults and an immature on the 18th (D.G.A.). At Longannet a juvenile was watched for a few minutes on 1st October (K.M.C., J.H., M.M.M.). It will be seen that many observers refer to "immatures" without indicating whether these are juvenile birds of the year or 1st summer birds, which arrive earlier as a rule. A glance at the *Handbook* will show the striking difference, and the distinction is well worth making because the early arrival of juveniles might well indicate that the species was breeding in Scotland.

At Aberlady, not a single **Black Tern** has been seen this autumn. One was seen in the distance at L. Leven, Kinross, on 16th September (H.B.), and three days later there were three rather mottled birds round a boat on the loch (J.G.). On the 16th also there was one over the sea at Fairlie, Ayrshire (G.F.).

Various records of movements of **Swallows**, **House Martins** and **Sand Martins** have been received but are difficult to fit into any pattern. A large gathering of 300 or 400 Sand Martins feeding over L. Fitty, Dunfermline, in calm weather on 21st August was too big to be local birds (G.D.). On 7th September hundreds of Swallows and Sand Martins were flying about over Haddington for an hour from 7.15 a.m. BST. On the 10th some hundreds passed south over Haddington in the afternoon after stormy weather (A.M.), and well over 100 Swallows were seen at Gullane Point where such numbers are exceptional (K.S.M., A.T.M.). On the same day there was a great influx of Swallows and martins which blackened the roofs at St Andrews. On the 17th there were many on Rhum at 7 a.m. (M.H.E.C.), and on the 19th many were seen just south of Haddington in the morning but had gone later (A.M.). For a few days to the 24th unusual numbers of Swallows and House Martins were seen in Stornoway—probably as a result of the strong winds (W.A.J.C.). 50 Swallows at Culross on 8th October were the first for a week (J.H.), and a late flock of 20 was seen near Invergowrie on 25th October. Six more were at Broughty Ferry on the 31st and final stragglers at Kingoodie on 1st November (H.B.), and Portencross, Ayrshire, on the 4th (G.F.).

Some evidence for an autumn movement of **Long-tailed Tits**, mainly in October, is given in the *Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* (8: 14), and the same sort of rather slight evidence is provided this year by a dozen non-local birds at Trinity, Edinburgh, on 28th September (B.R.T.), eleven which appeared at Longannet on 6th October (they left again a few days later after seven were caught and ringed) (J.H.), and seven at Aberlady on 7th and 8th October (K.S.M.). Possibly this is simply a post breeding dispersal. There were great numbers in Wigtownshire at the end of October (J.W.).

On 12th October, the day of the extensive movements described earlier, a passage of **Mistle Thrushes** was recorded at Longannet. The observer had never seen such a thing before, and counted 38 birds that day in nine parties. Subsequently more were seen on the 13th (2), 15th (3), 16th (11), and 18th (21) (J.H.). Two **Song Thrushes** watched at close range at Gladhouse on 29th October were identified as the Continental race *T.e. philomelos*. No local birds remained at Gladhouse, and the fact that the birds were with a loose flock of Redwings and Fieldfares helped to confirm the identification as much as the grey back and pure white underparts (D.I.M.W.). **Redwings** were heard over Kincardine on 20th September, and seen at Bordie, Fife, on the 22nd (G.D., J.P.). At Longannet they were first heard on 9th October, and 55, 143, and 80 were seen on the next three days, and over 250 on the 18th when 400 were seen passing west over High Valleyfield in ten minutes (J.H.). A big passage of Fieldfares and Redwings was noted in the Spey valley on 28th October (T.W.). The first Redwings were heard over Edinburgh on 12th October (T.C.S.), and the same night they were heard flying in over Glasgow. The following night they were heard over Castle Douglas (M.F.M.M.). An invasion of **Blackbirds** was noted in East Lothian on 3rd October, with birds at all the farms near the shore, later moving inland in the afternoon (A.M.).

Records of **Stonechats** suggest a small influx during October. On 22nd September there was a pair on the shore at Broughty Ferry (B.N.), and next day a cock was moving west at Biggar, where the observer has seen none before (R.S.H.). On 14th October a pair was in a field near Thankerton, Lanark (R.E.H.), an adult male was at Gladhouse (D.G.A.), and another male at the head of White Cleuch, near Wull Muir, Midlothian. Next day an adult male, an immature male, and a female were seen at Garvald Farm, not far away, and a pair was still there a week later. On the 28th at Third Reservoir, south-east of Stirling, there was an immature male, and the next day an adult male (W.B.).

8th October, a Sunday, was a good day for migrants in East Lothian. At least two **Wheatears** were seen at Aberlady, and five at Barns Ness. Migrant **Robins** were at Aberlady (1), Barns Ness (5) (K.S.M.), and Dunbar, where there were several on the beach, the yellowish colour of the breast denoting the typical race (M.F.M.M.). A **Blackcap** was at Loch Garry, Inverness, on 7th October (J.M.). **Goldcrests** were also moving at this time, being reported at Aberlady on the 7th, and no fewer than eight were at Barns Ness on the 8th (K.S.M.).

A **Yellow Wagtail** *M.f. flavissima* was seen on the banks of the R. Clyde at Quothquhan, Thankerton, on 27th August (R.E.H.).

By An Teallach, Dundonnell, Ross, a **Great Grey Shrike** was

seen killing a Wren on 29th October. It was promptly chivvied by a host of Chaffinches, but flew off carrying the Wren easily in its bill like a bit of fluff (T.W.).

On 29th October a flock of no fewer than 60 **Bullfinches** was feeding on the heather at Gladhouse (D.G.A., D.I.M.W., K.W.).

Exceptional numbers of **Siskins** are reported. At Gladhouse there were two on 22nd July and one on the 29th. These were probably not immigrants from abroad. At Edgelaw, Midlothian, there were ten on 2nd September (D.G.A., R.W.J.S.), and at Longannet there were six on the 20th (J.H.). On 1st October a party of eight, with two Redpolls, was seen near Heriot, Midlothian (W.B.). A big movement probably took place starting on 12th October. That day, a Thursday, parties of 30 and 20 passed west or south-west over Longannet (J.H.), and by the 14th and 15th parties of 100, 50, 50 and 20 could be found in the L. Ken district of Kirkcudbright. The tameness of these birds, and the absence of Redpolls with them, suggested a Continental origin (M.F.M.M.). About 12 flew south past Garvald Farm in the Moorfoots on the 15th (W.B.), 15 flew north-west up the coast at Tynninghame on the same day (R.W.J.S.), and about this time three were seen at Aberlady (D.S.). On the 28th there was a flock of over 100 Siskins in the Spey valley (T.W.). Unusual numbers were also noted in Orkney and Aberdeenshire but we have not received details yet. Four at L. Leven on the 28th are the first to be recorded in Kinross (D.G.A., T.C.S., D.I.M.W.).

A flock of about 100 **Redpolls** was seen at Binning Wood, Tynninghame, on 10th September (T.C.S.). 21 flew over Longannet on 12th October (J.H.). Redpolls were heard at L. Leven on the 28th (D.G.A., T.C.S., D.I.M.W.). We can trace no other published record for Kinross, but D.G.A. saw six in the same place on 6th February 1954.

An early **Snow Bunting** was at Tynninghame on 24th September (I.B.R., W.M.S., R.W.J.S.), and a cock at Longannet on 6th October was early for that locality (J.H.).

#### *General notes on Behaviour, Habits, etc.*

Three immature **Gannets** feeding over the river channel at Grangemouth during September were not diving in the usual way but scooping up food of some kind from the surface (G.D., J.P.).

An **Oystercatcher** at Longannet in September was all white except for black on the primaries and at the end of the tail. It was in a small flock and is similar to one seen in the Crombie and Torryburn area in January 1957 (*Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 7: 45) and September 1958 (G.D., J.P.). Another white Oystercatcher at South Queensferry on 25th Septem-

ber had a few small patches of black on head and upperparts (W.S.).

A **Greenshank** at Cramond on 1st October was unnerving in various ways, but especially because it had *yellow legs*. It was seen well enough to convince the observer that it was no rare American vagrant, and perhaps serves as a warning to the unwary (T.C.S.).

A **Swallow** feeding with 20 others on 9th September over flood water at Skinflats had a white head (G.D., J.P.).

A **Robin** which built in a roll of wire netting hanging in a garden toolshed at Dornoch took 16 days to complete the nest. It started on 1st April and the first egg was not laid until the 17th. Throughout this period the bird was seen carrying material to the nest (D.M.).

An addled egg remained in the nest of a pair of **Pied Wag-tails** at Dornoch after the three young fledged on 9th June. On 4th July the bird was incubating a clutch of five eggs in the same nest, and again three young fledged. The addled egg of the first clutch was woven into the foundation of the nest when it was relined for the second clutch. (D.M.).

#### THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

### REPORT OF COUNCIL, Session 24, 1960/61

The Council have the honour to submit the following Report for the past year:—

*Membership.* At the end of the Session the Club attained for the first time a total membership of over 1,000, representing a considerable increase over last year's figures. During the Session, 182 new Members were enrolled, while 74 did not renew their subscriptions. 30 married couples took advantage of the new Joint Membership subscription. Comparative figures are shown in the following tables:

	31/8/57	31/8/58	31/8/59	31/8/60	31/8/61
Ordinary	723	738	747	781	852
Junior	132	148	140	141	177
Honorary	11	11	7	5	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	866	897	894	927	1035
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

*Council Meetings.* Five Meetings of Council were held during the Session.

*General Meetings.* A full programme of lectures was carried out during the winter in five Branches. The Council wishes to

thank all the lecturers who gave so freely of their services, and also the Branch Officials for arrangements and hospitality.

*Dumfries Branch.* A new Branch of the Club, under the Chairmanship of Sir Arthur Duncan, was formed in Dumfries at a special Meeting held in the County Hotel on 26th June at the request of local Members. A number of new Members have been enrolled already as a result, and the Council expresses its good wishes for the future success of the Branch.

*Excursions.* In addition to the summer excursions arranged by the Branches, the Club also organised weekend excursions to Dumfries in February and to Aviemore in May. These were well attended and a record number of over 80 Members and friends were present at Dumfries.

*Conference.* The Annual Conference and Annual Dinner were held in North Berwick in October when over 200 Members and Guests attended.

*"Scottish Birds."* Four numbers of the Club Journal, and a Special Supplement on "The Birds of Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh" were published during the Session.

*Scottish Bird Records Committee.* The Committee met twice during the Session under the Chairmanship of Dr J. W. Campbell; the Review for 1960 is published in "Scottish Birds" (1: 443-446).

*Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection.* In its second year the Scottish Centre has been widely used both by Members and by visitors from all parts of Britain and Overseas, and much information has been given on bird-watching facilities in Scotland. A special meeting arranged for Junior Members and members of the J.B.R.C. in the Christmas holidays was well attended, and an excursion to Linlithgow Loch was also arranged for them in April. On 7th July Members of Council and of the Edinburgh Branch Committee entertained a group of thirty American ornithologists visiting Scotland under the leadership of Mr Orville Crowder on the first organised American bird-watching tour of Europe.

*Club Library.* A number of books and Journals have been presented to the Library during the year and the Council records its thanks to all the donors. Purchases of both new and scarce reference books were also made. During the summer an arrangement was concluded whereby certain bird books could be purchased through the Scottish Centre, the publisher generously presenting a handsome display case for the purpose and allowing the Club Library Fund the benefit of the trade discount. Sales of these books to the end of the Session have been satisfactory, one purchaser from overseas spending over £50 in order to stock his library with reference books.

*Deeds of Covenant.* During the Session the Club obtained



permission from H.M. Inspector of Taxes to reclaim income tax on subscriptions paid under Deed of Covenant. The Council wishes to thank the 74 Members who signed Covenants and thereby enabled the General Funds of the Club to benefit by over £60.

For the Council,

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN,

*President.*

## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Dunblane Hydro Hotel, Perthshire, on Saturday, 28th October, 1961, at 6.15 p.m. Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn, President of the Club, presided over an attendance of about a hundred Members.

*Col. Guy Brownlow.* The Chairman paid tribute to the late Col. Guy Brownlow, who had done so much for bird protection and for ornithology in general.

*Col. R. Meinertzhagen.* The Chairman also asked Members to join with him in sending the good wishes of the Club to Col. Richard Meinertzhagen, who was seriously ill.

*Apologies.* Apologies for absence were received from Dr David Boddington, Dr James W. Campbell, Sir Arthur Duncan and Lt. Col. W. M. Logan Home, all of whom were prevented from being present.

*Minutes.* The Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting, held in North Berwick on 27th October 1960, were read and approved.

*Report of Council.* In presenting the Report of Council for the past Session (see preceding page) the Chairman announced that the Council had approved a proposal by the Scottish Bird Records Committee that a "Check List of the Birds of Scotland" should be published by the Club. The present Annual Review of Ornithological Changes in Scotland was only a partial fulfilment of the task of the Committee and it was hoped that the proposed Check List would be a basis for showing trends of increase and decrease in the distribution of birds in Scotland. The help of local advisors would be enlisted by means of a draft which would be circulated to them. The Club was indebted to Mr D. G. Andrew (who spoke briefly on the form of the Check List) and to Mr A. T. Macmillan, who would prepare the draft between them.

The Chairman also urged Members to purchase their bird books through the new Club Book Agency and thus benefit the Club Library Fund.

*Accounts.* The Accounts, which had been previously circulated, were considered and approved. Mr J. Eunson asked if he might stress the advantages to the Club of Members signing Deeds of Covenant for their subscriptions, and urged Members present to do so.

*Election of Auditor.* Mr Arthur Walker, C.A., was re-elected Auditor for the ensuing Session.

*Amendment to Constitution.* The following amendment to the Constitution was approved: "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)."

*Election of Hon. President.* In moving the election of Sir Charles G. Connell as an Hon. President of the Club, the Chairman spoke of the debt owed to Sir Charles both as a Founder-Member and past-President of the Club, and for his work in establishing the new Scottish Centre. His election was unanimously approved.

*Election of New Members of Council.* The Council's recommendation that Mr Alastair Macdonald and Mr A. T. Macmillan be elected to Council to replace Mr D. G. Andrew and Mr Arthur J. Smith, who retired by rotation, was approved.

*Mr R. S. R. Fitter.* At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr R. S. R. Fitter, Director of the Intelligence Unit of the Council for Nature, spoke of the proposed National Nature Week to be held in the third week in May, 1963, which was intended to stimulate interest in natural history by means of exhibitions, nature trails and other organised activities. The Chairman said that the Council of the Club had already agreed to assist in any proposals for a Scottish contribution to the Nature Week.

*Vote of Thanks.* The Meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman on the motion of Dr Ian D. Pennie, Vice-President of the Club.

#### THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

##### Revenue Account for the year ended 31st August 1961

	Year to 31/8/61	Year to 31/8/60
INCOME:—		
Subscriptions received for year ... ..	£1111 14 6	£1015
Income Tax recovered on covenanted subscriptions	62 2 11	0
Income from Endowments ... ..	77 5 11	66
Savings Bank and Defence Bond interest ... ..	36 18 5	16
Sales of Club badges and field lists less purchases ...	7 11 2	6
Sales of Birds of Aberlady Bay Report ... ..	51 10 0	0
(see below for net expenditure borne in year to 31/8/60)	£1347 2 11	£1103

## EXPENDITURE:—

Hire of lecture halls and equipment	£74 0 2	£97
Lecturers' expenses	67 15 1	77
Secretarial services	394 4 4	338
Postages, printing and stationery	138 0 8	93
Subscriptions to Council for Nature, B.T.O., R.S.P.B., and I.C.P.B.	5 2 0	5
Net cost of Conference	36 5 10	17
Contribution to Library Fund	10 0 0	10
Sundry administration expenses	36 13 7	23
Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection—		
Opening ceremony expenses less donations	0 0 0	3
Furniture and equipment including duplicator, filing cabinet, library shelving and electric fire and power points	89 3 9	73
Annual contribution to House Fabric Fund	50 0 0	50
Heating and lighting, insurance, cleaning and telephone attributable to Club	95 19 4	44
Production and distribution of Scottish Birds, Vol. I, Nos. 9-12 and Supplement—		
Costs	£453 13 0	
Less—Sales to non-members and surcharge on reprints £58, 16s 4d, receipts from advertisements £144, 12s 0d, and grant from Ministry of Works towards Supplement £55	258 8 4	
	195 4 8	197
Publication of Birds of Aberlady Bay Report (Costs less grant £30 and sales £10, 10s 0d)	0 0 0	46
	£1192 9 5	1073
<b>Surplus for year carried to Balance Sheet</b>	154 13 6	30
	<u>£1347 2 11</u>	<u>1103</u>

## Library Fund Account for the year ended 31st August 1961

	Year to 31/8/61	Year to 31/8/60
Balance brought forward from previous year	£34 6 4	0
Add—Donations received	2 15 0	16
Sale of duplicate copies	3 17 0	13
Contribution from Revenue Account	10 0 0	10
Commission on Book Agency	20 1 2	0
	£70 19 6	39
Less—Purchases	39 17 11	5
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<u>£31 1 7</u>	<u>34</u>

**Balance Sheet as at 31st August, 1961**

	Year to 31/8/61	Year to 31/8/60
<b>Accumulated surplus</b> at 31st August, 1960 ... ..	£848 6 4	818
Add—Surplus for year per Revenue Account ... ..	154 13 6	30
<b>Library Fund—Balance</b> per Account ... ..	31 1 7	34
<b>Endowments</b> —the free annual income of which is available for the advancement of ornithology		
Miss L. J. Rintoul ... ..	1000 0 0	1000
Dr E. V. Baxter ... ..	1000 0 0	1000
	<u>£3034 1 5</u>	<u>2882</u>
<b>Cash</b>		
In Edinburgh Savings Bank ... ..	£479 13 4	859
In Royal Bank of Scotland Current Account ... ..	55 7 11	23
<b>5% Defence Bonds</b> ... ..	500 0 0	0
<b>Debts due</b> to the Club in respect of advertisements in Scottish Birds and commission on Book Agency	24 5 2	0
	<u>£1059 6 5</u>	<u>882</u>
<b>Less</b> —Subscriptions for 1961/62 paid in advance	25 5 0	0
	<u>£1034 1 5</u>	<u>882</u>
<b>Endowment Investments</b>		
£1151 3½% War Stock at cost ... ..	1000 0 0	1000
976 units The Equities Investment Fund for Charities at cost ... ..	1000 0 0	1000
	<u>£3034 1 5</u>	<u>2882</u>

EDINBURGH, 10th October, 1961.—I have audited the foregoing revenue account for the year to 31st August 1961 and the Balance Sheet as at that date. I have accepted as correct the subscriptions shown as received in the Books and certify that in my opinion the foregoing accounts are correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

(Signed) ARTHUR WALKER,  
Chartered Accountants.

**House Fabric Fund — Summary of Accounts for year ended 31st Aug. 1961**

	Year to 31/8/61	Period to 31/8/60
<b>RECEIPTS—</b>		
Balance of grant from anonymous donor ... ..	£0 0 0	£950 0 0
Balance as at 31st August 1960 ... ..	172 11 8	0 0 0
Rent from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at £100 per annum for year to 11th November 1961 ... ..	100 0 0	111 4 8
Rent from Mr and Mrs Waterston at £100 per annum for year to 11th November 1961	100 0 0	125 0 0
Annual contribution from S.O.C. Revenue Account	50 0 0	50 0 0
Miscellaneous interests ... ..	4 2 11	5 13 6
	<u>£426 14 7</u>	<u>£1241 18 2</u>

## EXPENDITURE—

Repairs and maintenance (including electrical rewiring, £222, 18/-)	£252 7 0	£944 12 11
Property burdens ... ..	100 5 3	108 1 7
Insurance ... ..	2 2 9	13 14 6
Miscellaneous payments ... ..	0 0 0	2 17 6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£354 15 0	£1069 6 6
		<hr/>
On deposit with Edinburgh Mutual & Dunedin Building Society	£14 2 11	
At credit of Account with Messrs Fraser, Stodart & Ballingall, W.S. ... ..	57 16 8	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£71 19 7	£172 11 8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5th October 1961.—I have examined the foregoing Accounts of the House Fabric Fund of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club for the year to 31st August 1961, and certify that in my opinion they are correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

(Signed) ANDREW T. MACMILLAN, C.A.

## Council and Office-Bearers of the Club for Session 25

**Hon. Presidents :** Dr D. A. Bannerman, O.B.E.; Sir Charles G. Connell; Rev. J. M. McWilliam.

**President :** Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn.

**Vice-President :** Dr I. D. Pennie.

**Hon. Treasurer :** Robert Hillcoat, C.A.

**Hon. Treasurer of House Fabric Fund :** D. G. Andrew.

**Secretary and Treasurer :** Mrs George Waterston.

**Editor of "Scottish Birds" :** Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn.

**Assistant Editors of "Scottish Birds" :** D. G. Andrew, A. T. Macmillan.

**Business Editor of "Scottish Birds" :** A. J. Smith.

**Council :** A. G. S. Bryson, Dr J. W. Campbell, Dr W. J. Eggeling, Lt. Col. J. P. Grant, Alastair Macdonald, K. S. Macgregor, A. T. Macmillan, George Waterston, A. D. Watson, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

**Branch Representatives to Council :** William Austin (Dumfries); Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame (St Andrews); Miss E. A. Garden (Aberdeen); Mrs E. Leitch (Dundee); C. E. Palmar (Glasgow); Miss Olive Thompson (Edinburgh).

### BRANCH OFFICE-BEARERS

**Aberdeen :** Chairman, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards; Vice-Chairman, Alex. Anderson; Secretary, Miss E. A. Garden; Committee, Dr George Dunnet, C. Murray.

**Dumfries :** Chairman, Sir Arthur Duncan; Vice-Chairman, William Austin; Secretary, H. M. Russell; Committee, E. L. Roberts, R. T. Smith, A. D. Watson.

- Dundee** : Chairman, F. D. Graham; Vice-Chairman, J. Hunter Sutherland; Secretary, Jack Scobie; Committee, J. E. Forrest, A. H. Shepherd.
- Edinburgh** : Chairman, D. G. Andrew; Vice-Chairman, A. T. Macmillan; Secretary, Miss Olive Thompson; Committee, D. R. Anderson, Alastair Macdonald, M. J. H. Robson, R. W. J. Smith.
- Glasgow** : Chairman, C. E. Palmar; Vice-Chairman, G. H. Acklam; Secretary, G. L. A. Patrick; Committee, J. M. S. Arnott, Miss W. U. Flower.
- St Andrews** : Chairman, Miss J. McFarlane; Vice-Chairman, Miss Doris Wilson; Secretary, Miss Margaret Spies; Committee, Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame, Miss M. Haig, Julian Holdroyd.

### SCOTTISH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

**Chairman** : Dr J. W. Campbell.

**Committee** : D. G. Andrew, A. G. S. Bryson, Sir Arthur Duncan, Dr W. J. Eggeling, A. T. Macmillan, Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn, Dr I. D. Pennie, Kenneth Williamson, George Waterston, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

### DUNDEE BRANCH SECRETARY

Mr Jack Scobie, Secretary of the Dundee Branch, has removed to 11 Nevill Street, Dundee. Dundee members are asked to note his new address.

### WEEK-END EXCURSION TO DUMFRIES

Arrangements have again been made this year with the County Hotel, Dumfries, for a week-end Excursion to the Solway to see the geese.

Accommodation has been arranged for the week-end 16th to 18th February 1962, at inclusive terms of £4 per person as follows: Bed on Friday night 16th; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and bed on Saturday 17th; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 18th.

Members wishing to come on this Excursion should book direct with the Manager, the County Hotel, Dumfries (Tel. 146) mentioning that they are Members of the Club; they may also bring guests. Arrangements for transport by private cars to Dumfries should be made with Branch Secretaries. It is advisable to bring warm clothing and thermos flasks, and if possible, gum boots.

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