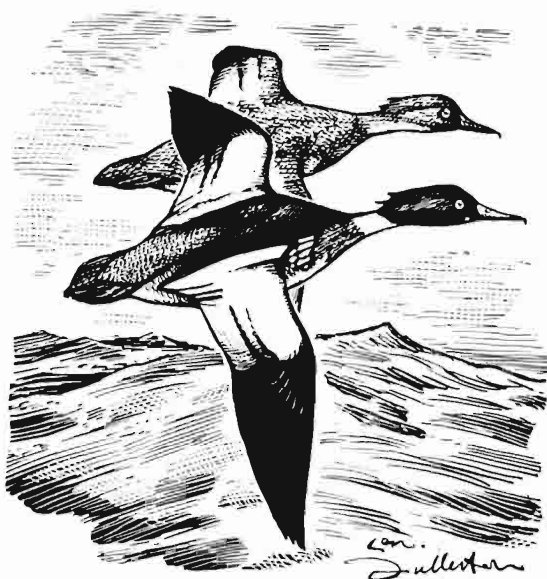


SCOTTISH BIRDS



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The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Vol. 2 No. 8

Winter 1963

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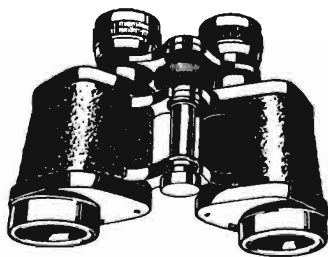
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SCOTTISH BIRDS

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB



Vol. 2 No. 8

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Edited by A. T. MACMILLAN with the assistance of D. G. ANDREW and T. C. SMOUT. Business Editor, T. C. SMOUT. Cover Design (Red-breasted Mergansers) by LEN FULLETON. *Published quarterly.*

Editorial

Dr David A. Bannerman. On 29th October 1963 the twelfth volume of *The Birds of the British Isles* was published; this magnificent work is now complete.

To mark the occasion the publishers, Oliver & Boyd, gave a dinner for Dr Bannerman—an evening which no one who was there will forget, as sumptuous and beautifully done as this great set of books. Many of those who had been linked with the production in one way or another were there, including members of that international band of ornithologists whose contributions have been so successfully incorporated in the chapters on their chosen species. Their names, and those of others who wrote expressing their sorrow at not being able to come, read like an ornithological *Who's Who*.

Any other man would be content: yet on the very day *The Birds of the British Isles* was published the first volume of *Birds of the Atlantic Islands* appeared. Dr Bannerman, Honorary President of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, has our profound admiration, congratulations and best wishes for many future volumes.

Analysis of Osprey's egg. When the Loch Garten Ospreys lost their nest in a gale last summer it was hoped that a second pair at Inchriach might be successful. However, these unfortunate birds broke one of their eggs when the sitting bird was frightened suddenly off the eyrie by the irresponsible behaviour of bird watchers who succeeded in avoiding the R.S.P.B. watchers and approaching by a devious route much too close to the nest. The remaining egg never hatched, although the parent birds incubated it for a fortnight beyond the normal period. As previously reported (*antea* 2: 435), the egg was sent for analysis. It was infertile and contained no embryo: but it did contain residues of chlorinated hydrocarbons—highly toxic man-made substances used in pesticides. It is a grim comment on the incautious use that is made of these persistent poisons that in the present state of knowledge it is not possible to say whether the concentrations found were sufficient to cause infertility or not.

One can only guess how these chlorinated hydrocarbons got into the Osprey and its egg, but presumably the bird derived them from its diet of fish; which got them from eating plants or insects; which were either directly treated or accumulated the poison from the slow drainage off the surrounding countryside. Evidence is mounting that we are gradually poisoning the whole environment. This is reflected in the fact that more and more often it is proving impossible to say for certain which of several possible sources is responsible in cases of damage to animal life.

Conference resolution. The S.O.C. Conference at Dunblane at the end of October was as worthwhile as ever, enlivened by the presence of various famous ornithologists from northern Europe and America as well as the usual contingents of old friends from England and Ireland.

For many people the talking point of the weekend was Stanley Cramp's brilliant and sobering summary of "The threat of toxic chemicals to wildlife." With a fine grasp of his material, and never overstating his case nor allowing emotion to colour his presentation of the facts, he led us stage by stage through the events and growing alarm of recent years. A thought-provoking point was, as indicated above, that whereas in recent years when birds died from the effects of chlorinated hydrocarbons and other agricultural poisons it was usually possible to guess how they had acquired them, yet today it is frequently impossible—so widespread and varied are the possible sources. It is feared that the land is gradually soaking up these persistent and highly dangerous substances everywhere, even in the towns, where suburban amateur gardeners are unwittingly using inadequately labelled preparations containing them. In the United States of America the administration has now accepted the need for stringent control on the use of these chemicals and has adopted the aim of working towards an eventual complete ban on their use when effective substitutes can be found.

It was agreed that on behalf of the meeting Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn and Dr Ian D. Pennie, Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Club, should send the following urgent message to the Secretary of State for Scotland:

"A representative meeting, assembled in Dunblane, of over 200 members of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club strongly presses the Government, as a matter of urgency, to adopt a policy which will ultimately lead to the complete withdrawal of all chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, and to the immediate restriction of their use in agriculture, forestry, horticulture and private gardening."

A.B.M.A.C. Not only natural history interests are thinking about chlorinated hydrocarbons, though naturally the manufacturers of these chemicals tend to look at the facts from a different angle. Recent publicity has done something to draw

attention to the widespread public concern about the problems and dangers. The Association of British Manufacturers of Agricultural Chemicals, representing nearly all the British producers, has recently appointed a full-time information officer to deal with enquiries. This body is concerned, among other things, with the safety and efficiency of the industry's products.

At a recent meeting of representatives of the Nature Conservancy, B.T.O., Council for Nature, Game Research Association, R.S.P.B. and A.B.M.A.C. it was agreed to set up two joint working committees. The first will meet regularly to study problems of wild life and agricultural chemicals and recommend practical measures to solve these; the second will deal with communication and education in the safe use of chemicals. This certainly seems a step in the right direction.

Egg collector fined. Unst is an island which receives more than its share of egg collectors from the south. In June Derrick Glover, a Derby man, was intercepted by police and found to be in possession of nearly 100 eggs, including no fewer than 32 of the Whimbrel; he was fined £30 in Lerwick Sheriff Court and the eggs forfeited. They will be given to the new Shetland museum. Glover was suspected of being a collector of Whimbrels' eggs when he was in Unst, and a report to the police enabled them to stop him in Lerwick.

Current literature. The interest for Scottish readers of the following important papers published in recent months will be apparent from their titles:

Migration in the Outer Hebrides studied by radar. By the late S. L. B. Lee (edited by D. Lack). *Ibis* 105: 493-515.

The status of the Peregrine in Great Britain. By D. A. Ratcliffe. *Bird Study* 10: 56-90.

The status of the Kittiwake in the British Isles. By J. C. Coulson. *Bird Study* 10: 147-179.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE FULMAR AT ST KILDA

W. E. WATERS

Introduction

The oldest and largest colony of the Fulmar in the British Isles is on St Kilda in the Outer Hebrides. The history of this colony has been well documented (see Fisher 1952). During my residence on Hirta between May 1961 and September 1962 I made observations on the Fulmar's annual cycle. The status of the Fulmar at St Kilda as given in the literature is reviewed and recent observations made during the years 1957 to 1960 are recorded. My own observations during the winter of 1961-

62 are given in detail. The Fulmar's autumn absence from St Kilda is now longer than past records indicate and is at variance with the usual behaviour of a large Fulmar colony (Fisher 1952). The change in habits is discussed but no conclusion is reached as to the reason for it.

This paper also gives counts of Fulmars on a small stretch of cliff on Dun which show a striking reduction in numbers in early May 1962. Observations are given on the interesting "inland" colony in Glen Mor.

THE AUTUMN ABSENCE OF THE FULMAR

All published observations of the Fulmar on St Kilda, from the visit of Martin Martin in 1697 to the evacuation of the islanders in 1930, agree that the Fulmar left the cliffs at the end of August and during September and that only odd birds remained into October. The return to the breeding cliffs took place in October or November. Evidence for these dates comes from numerous sources and the principal references are summarised in Table 1. Fulmars were then present about the cliffs for the whole of the winter except perhaps during high winds. For nearly thirty years after the evacuation, St Kilda, remote and uninhabited, was visited by naturalists only occasionally and then only during the summer months. When men again lived on the island in 1957, and over-wintered, a change was noticed in the Fulmar's departure dates. This was recorded by Williamson and Boyd (1960) who found the Fulmar common throughout September and recorded that the birds did not leave until a gale on 1st November 1957. They returned in large numbers on 20th November and then remained on the cliffs except for brief spells in stormy weather.

Dr David Boddington (pers. comm.) made detailed Fulmar observations during the winter of 1958-59. He found that Fulmars remained on the cliffs in large numbers throughout September, October and November and that they were present at the Gap on 5th December. Fulmars were then absent from 6th until 30th December when one solitary bird was seen far out to sea towards Boreray. On 31st December Dr Boddington found Fulmars present over the cliffs and some were landing in the evening. During January and the first two weeks of February 1959, they were noted on only two dates and none was seen on the cliffs. Fulmars were present again on 15th February. 15th April was the last date during the winter of 1958-59 on which no Fulmars were seen on the cliffs.

Dr J. B. Gallacher (pers. comm.) found that considerable numbers of Fulmars remained throughout October 1960 although the numbers decreased on stormy days. Only small numbers were seen during the first week in November and

TABLE 1

The autumn absence of the Fulmar from St Kilda as given by the more important authorities before the evacuation in 1930. Dates, except for Mackenzie and Murray, refer to the year in which the records were published, usually a year after the author visited St Kilda

Year	Authority	Nature of evidence	Arrival and departure dates
1698	Martin	From St Kildans	"comes in November... is the only sea-fowl that stays... all the year round, except the month of September and part of October." These dates are before the calendar correction of 1752; eleven days should be added.
1829-1843	Mackenzie	Own observations	"Almost resident ... Only leave about the middle of August and return early in October*... They are only away about five or six weeks."
1878	Sands	Partly own observations	"The Fulmars (all but a few invalids) leave St Kilda about the end of August, and return about the 10th of November."
1886-1887	Murray	Own observations	"Fulmars leaving the island" on 26th August. "Fulmars now begin to return to the island" on 12th October.
1887	Connell	Mainly second-hand information	"found on the island all the year round, with the exception of the period between the end of August and the middle of November."
1900	Heathcote	Secondhand information	"September and October are the only months when they are not to be seen on the rocks of their native home."
1903	Wiglesworth	Secondhand information.	None seen "from about the end of August" until "they begin to return about the beginning of October... remain all the winter."
1912	Clarke	Own observations to 8th Oct 1910 and 12th Oct 1911	Fulmars were "far less numerous on the 25th (Sept), and all had gone... by the end of the month... They return after a month's absence, and remain all the winter."

*Fisher (1952) thinks this is an error for November. However, Murray and Wiglesworth also record a return in early October.

then none at all until 18th November when the cliffs were "absolutely covered" with Fulmars. They had disappeared next day and none was seen until another large return to the cliffs of the Gap, Conachair, Ruaival and Dun on 2nd December; again all had left by the following day. No more Fulmars were seen prior to Dr Gallacher's departure on 11th December 1960.

My observations during the winter of 1961-62 have been briefly mentioned (Waters 1962) but are given here in more detail. Some Fulmars started leaving the vicinity of the island during August 1961 and more than half had gone by the middle of September. High winds usually reduced numbers on the cliffs but increased the number flying over Village Bay. Not all fluctuations, however, could be related to the weather. Several hundred Fulmars remained on the Village Bay side of Dun throughout September but decreased during early October. They remained longest on the Dun side of Caolas an Duin but had disappeared from here by 18th October in gradually deteriorating weather. On Hirta Fulmar numbers fluctuated considerably during October. On 8th October, with a force 5 south-easterly wind blowing, the cliffs of Conachair and those below the Gap were tenanted by nearly as many Fulmars as at any other time of the year. On most October days, however, less than 10% of their maximum numbers were to be seen, although Fulmars never completely disappeared from the main cliffs before my departure on 20th October.

On my return to Hirta on 1st December 1961 I gathered that Fulmars had been seen only occasionally and in small numbers during November. Despite scanning the horizon with binoculars each day I saw no Fulmars at all during December and none in January until the 31st, when about three thousand were seen from the Gap, out towards Boreray, all moving north-west but none within three-quarters of a mile of Hirta. A few days before this, on 26th January, Fulmars had been reported as "fairly numerous" on a crossing from the Sound of Harris to near St Kilda. It was not possible to relate the complete absence of the Fulmar from the seas immediately around St Kilda for nearly two months to weather conditions throughout this period. The winter of 1961-62 was very stormy but just before Christmas there was a spell of eleven days of fine anticyclonic weather with light winds. In this sunny weather the towering cliffs of the islands looked strangely deserted without a single Fulmar in sight.

During the first two weeks of February no Fulmars were seen except for about 100 on 8th and 10 on 14th, far out over the sea. On 18th February a massive return occurred. There were in the order of twenty thousand Fulmars flying around

the island that day and they were seen ashore for the first time in 1962, a total of about a hundred being noted on the cliffs of Dun, Ruaival, Cambir and Conachair. More were ashore on the following days, but D. W. Wilson reported that on 23rd February the Fulmars left as suddenly as they had come, although the weather conditions were improving. None was seen for at least twelve days (D. W. Wilson, pers. comm.), but when I returned to Hirta on 19th March Fulmars were present in full or nearly full numbers. Their numbers decreased with high winds and snow on 29th March and none was seen on Ruaival or Dun on 31st when the islands were covered with snow down to sea-level. None was seen in Glen Bay or on the Cambir on 1st April. Their return to Ruaival and Dun started on the 4th and gradually built up until 7th April when they were at full strength and thereafter, except for the May exit, they remained ashore in large numbers for the summer. In 1962 Fulmars again started leaving the island in August, and less than a quarter remained when I left on 5th September. More observations are desirable as the past five years have shown some considerable variations but certainly some Fulmars are remaining on the island later in the autumn than formerly, and the return to the cliffs may not now occur until February.

MAY EXIT

The May exit was probably known to the St Kildans, as Connell (1887) recorded that the Fulmar was "to be found on the island all the year round, with the exception of the period between the end of August and the middle of November, and for a few days in spring." This is the only reference to this spring departure that I can trace for St Kilda.

In the spring of 1962 the number of Fulmars sitting on an easily identifiable section of low cliff on Dun (near Glasgeir) was counted up to five times a day between 11th April and 15th May. On any one day numbers usually remained fairly constant though they were often rather lower in the early morning (before 0800 hrs) and in the late evening (after 1900 hrs). Figure 1 shows the number of individual Fulmars counted each day between 0800 and 0900 hrs. It shows a marked reduction in numbers between 15th and 18th April. Venables and Venables (1955) have reported similar fluctuations in all months between November and April in Shetland. This reduction on 16th and 17th April rather surprisingly coincided with fairly calm weather. The lowest numbers on St Kilda occurred, however, between 1st and 10th May, after which the colony continued to recover until 15th May. This May exit was not related to the force or direction of the wind nor to temperature fluctuations.

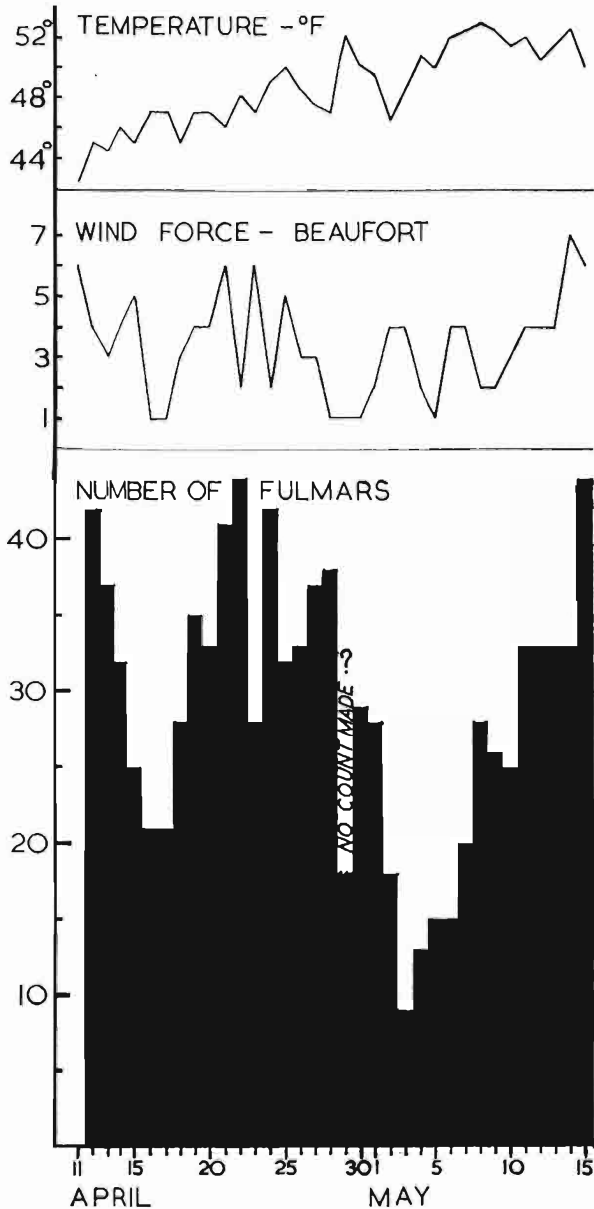


Figure 1. The May exit of the Fulmar, St Kilda, 1962. The number of Fulmars on a stretch of low cliff on Dun each day between 0800 and 0900 hrs GMT from 11th April to 15th May, compared with the wind force (Beaufort Scale) and screen temperature ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) at 0900 hrs GMT in Village Glen.

Similar May exits have been recorded immediately before egg-laying in Shetland by the Venables (1955) and on Eynhallow in Orkney (Dunnet *et al* 1963). The St Kilda exodus was a week earlier than that observed on Eynhallow in 1962 when the lowest counts (which included Fulmars flying immediately off-shore) were obtained from 9th to 16th May. The number of eggs laid in the study area on Dun (which faces north-east) was not determined. My highest count of sitting Fulmars was 52 at 1300 hrs on 21st April. The minimum was eight at 1700 hrs on 3rd May and therefore represents just over 15% of the maximum during the period covered. As the number of Fulmars at the breeding cliffs may not reach its maximum even in late May these St Kilda observations certainly show a more marked reduction in numbers than the May dip given by Fisher (1952, p. 343), and are similar to the data of the Venables (1955) and Dunnet *et al* (1963).

THE GLEN MOR COLONY

At St Kilda the Fulmar is widely distributed around the coastal cliffs but is not found inland as it is on North Rona and some other islands. The only exception to this is a small colony on the Mullach Bi ridge overlooking Glen Mor where a score of pairs were first recorded in 1956. The first evidence of breeding at this "inland" cliff was obtained by Dr D. G. Boddington (pers. comm.) who found at least three young and one egg in a dozen or so occupied sites on 5th July 1959. I found one young Fulmar there on 23rd August 1961. The greatest number seen at this site in 1962 was 42 sitting birds on 28th April and a further ten flying close by. No eggs or young were seen in 1962, although Fulmars were not flushed from occupied sites, and these cliffs were deserted by 12th August.

DISCUSSION

Observations on the status of the Fulmar at St Kilda during the autumns and winters since 1957 are clearly at variance with the remarkably consistent accounts in the older literature. Although some birds leave the vicinity of St Kilda during August many now appear to remain into October and November. Fulmars then appear to be away for much of the winter; at least this was so in 1958-59 and 1961-62, the winters for which the most detailed records are available. Occasional flocks of Fulmars are seen at sea in all winter months, and landings in comparatively small numbers have been recorded in December in most recent years (but not in 1961). Doubtless many landings pass unobserved owing to the many miles of coastline and to all observers being resident in the Village area away from most of the island cliffs, although Fulmars would be readily visible on the sheltered side of Dun. How-

ever, most excursions were made in the better weather conditions, on days when winter landings would be more likely to occur.

The reason for the longer autumn exit (now really a winter absence) is not readily apparent. It is at variance with the general rule that the length of exit is related to colony size, the largest colonies having the shortest period of absence. Davis (1961) has shown that on Fair Isle the autumn exit has been shortened and is now "virtually confined to a diminution of numbers in the second half of September"; that is, the island is not completely deserted for any period. The Fulmars on Fair Isle are increasing and Davis thinks this shortened exit may be related to competition for nest sites. Although the absence is longer at St Kilda there is certainly no evidence for any decrease in the Fulmar population. Fisher (1952) has shown that their numbers were stable up to 1939, since when there has been an increase. This increase was perhaps related to the absence of human predation and it seems likely that the increase has now slowed down or even that the population is steady at the new higher level. Anderson (1957, 1962) by careful counting estimated 19,415 occupied sites on Hirta in 1956 and 19,716 five years later. It may be that the small inland colony in Glen Mor is related to the increase in the St Kilda Fulmar population although there would appear to be no shortage of nesting sites on the sea cliffs. It may also be related to the absence of human predation.

It is interesting that the Guillemot also has apparently returned later at St Kilda in recent years. Martin Martin (1698) says the lavy (Guillemot) "comes with a south-west wind, if fair, the twentieth of February" (this is 3rd March after the calendar correction of 1752). The Rev. Neil Mackenzie, minister at St Kilda between 1829 and 1843, another reliable chronicler, records that the Guillemot "comes in February" (Mackenzie 1911). In 1887 Guillemots were being caught for food on 19th March and were said to have arrived about 8th March (Murray 1887). In contrast all recent records are much later. The earliest is of a party of five flying east below the Gap which I saw from a boat on 23rd March 1962. I saw none on the cliffs until 8th April (1962) when seventy were above the Tunnel in Glen Bay and these were wary. There appear to be no records of earlier landings in recent years.

Having experienced the extreme storminess of a St Kildan winter one was tempted to try to relate the later arrivals of Fulmar and Guillemot to wind strength. However storms do not appear to have been responsible for the long Fulmar absence in 1961-62; nor do general meteorological data suggest the present climate to be windier than that of last century, when most of the Fulmar observations in Table 1 were made.

No Fulmar landings were observed from 1st December 1961 until 18th February 1962. Each day during this period of 79 days I observed at least some sections of cliff where Fulmars breed. Small-scale landings might have occurred but are thought unlikely as on most days no Fulmars were seen even out to sea. This is the longest recorded absence of Fulmars from the St Kilda cliffs in the history of the archipelago. It may well have been even longer as continuous observations were not made in November 1961. Winds of gale force (Beaufort Scale, force 8) occurred on 25 of these 79 days. The longest gale-free period was from 16th December to 6th January (22 days) during which time winds reached force 6 on only three days. However not a single Fulmar was seen, either about the cliffs or out to sea, during these 22 days. If the strong winds, accentuated by the height of the cliffs, are producing the later return to the breeding cliffs they have also driven the Fulmar well away from the islands.

It is only since 1957 that detailed meteorological observations are available for St Kilda. The islands have long been known for their stormy weather but comparisons between present weather conditions and those of last century are difficult. I am grateful to H. H. Lamb of the Meteorological Office for information on wind changes over the past 150 years. Storminess in the British Isles as a whole has decreased since about 1930 and this probably applies to the eastern North Atlantic in latitudes between 50° and 60° N (which includes St Kilda). Lamb says that there is reason to suppose that the years since about 1950 resemble the patterns of the nineteenth century more than they do the earlier part of the present century. "One would suppose that similar conditions to those now prevailing could be found by going back into the nineteenth century."

It is possible that the present long winter absence could be related to the Fulmars' food. The spread of the Fulmar has been related to the whaling and trawling industries and these may have changed their techniques, or geographical areas of operation, enough to produce the winter absence. The general warming of the climate from the seventeenth century to the 1950's has meant that the prevailing sea temperatures at all seasons of the year have risen gradually. This rise, which amounts to between 1° and 2°C since 1800 between St Kilda and about 20° W (H. H. Lamb, pers. comm.), may have affected the distribution of marine organisms and fish and hence the Fulmars' food. This, however, would be likely to alter the behaviour of Fulmars at other colonies, unless their feeding habits, or their distribution when at sea, differ from those of the St Kilda stock.

Neither climatic changes nor population factors seem to be

directly related to the present longer absence of the Fulmar from St Kilda. This interesting change in habits does not appear to have been recorded elsewhere but might be looked for at other colonies.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Dr D. G. Boddington, Dr J. B. Gallacher and D. W. Wilson for giving me their observations on Fulmars during autumn and winter, and additionally to Dr Boddington for his observations on breeding at the Glen Mor colony. My thanks are due to A. Anderson for reading drafts of this paper. I am indebted to H. H. Lamb for his information on changes in climate.

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SCOTS IN DENMARK

T. C. SMOUT

On the afternoon of 21st August 1963 some two dozen members of the S.O.C. arrived at the quay at Esbjerg in western Denmark. It was the first step in a ten-day tour of Danish reserves and notable bird localities organised by the Danish Institute in Edinburgh and Copenhagen: what follows is a brief account of what might be called the first club outing outwith Great Britain. The plan of campaign involved stopping a night in Esbjerg itself, a night at Nymindégab on the doorstep of Tipperne reserve, three nights at Skive in northern Jutland, crossing by night on the ferry to Copenhagen

and spending the rest of the time there. A coach was at our disposal throughout and everything was facilitated by expert advice from Dr Finn Salomonsen on where to go, and incredibly good organisation by the Institute in booking hotels, obtaining permits for our excursions and planning the timing of the itinerary. We were thoroughly spoiled from start to finish.

The holiday got off with a bang on the first afternoon, when we drove down to the old city of Ribe, 30 miles south of Esbjerg, where every television aerial is decorated by Collared Doves, and ten pairs of White Storks still succeed in raising their young with superb indifference to the bustle of modern humanity in the streets a few feet below. Next day a drive north took us to the bird observatory at Blåvandshuk Light, on a spectacular coast of sand dunes and breakers, where the bushes were alive with Pied Flycatchers and warblers despite the west winds; then past Fiil Sø with Marsh Harriers wavering over the reeds, and into Nymindegab where we watched a party of 50 Crossbills bathing in a puddle (it is another invasion year in Denmark as well as in Scotland), while four Crested Larks played in the dust behind them. Tipperne on 23rd August was an object lesson in identification of marsh waders—Wood and Green Sandpipers, Greenshank, Spotted Redshank and Ruff feeding all over the waterlogged fields, with Grey Lag Geese and Marsh Harriers as a backcloth. Another great lighthouse at Norre Lyngvig produced a sensation with a Black Stork flying over—the species now only a vagrant to Denmark and a very great rarity by any standard. We wound up with a Gull-billed Tern on the coast and Crested Tits inland, arriving at Skive to a royal reception from the hotel, Union Jack and all.

It was our intention to use the town simply as a base for Limfjord, the great landlocked firth that bisects Jutland and contains on its shores many of Denmark's most exciting bird haunts. In fact, Skive and its neighbourhood proved worthwhile itself, with Crested Larks, Collared Doves and Nut-hatches in the town, good marshes for Ruffs and the like, and at least one pair of Red-necked Grebes nesting nearby. Our first tour was to Bygholmsvejle, an impressive expanse of water meadow, reed, lake and marsh on Limfjord's northern shore—the size of these Jutland marshes is unbelievable to British eyes. We had no sooner entered the reserve than an Osprey rose from the nearest pool carrying a fish, and the usual Marsh Harriers swerved over the reeds. Half a mile further on we found a solitary Spoonbill and felt ourselves lucky, as Bygholm is Europe's northernmost breeding station of the species and not used every year. Clouds of duck and family parties of Grey Lag were waiting—and doubtless much else—in the background, but we never reached them:

a thunderstorm complete with waterspout tore over the lakes and collapsed on the dyke where we were pretending to shelter, and though hot coffee and Danish pastry at the nearest hotel restored our spirits, serious bird watching was over for the day. On the way home we saw another Gull-billed Tern.

Sunday 25th August brought us to Limfjord's eastern mouth, where a series of shallow lakes has formed behind the sea wall between Harboøre and Thyborøn. Our experience of waders here surpassed everything—25 species in two hours, including Denmark's first record, subject to its acceptance, of Baird's Sandpiper, a single Broad-billed Sandpiper that settled for a moment with the Dunlin, a Temminck's Stint properly towering, hundreds of Little Stints and a good many Kentish Plovers. Most dramatic of all were the Avocets—116 fighting against a bright blue sky, with several scores of Black Terns feeding over the lake to add to the Mediterranean illusion. This is really the place for a month's holiday. Rold Skov next day provided a contrast and our only experience of a major Danish forest: ornithologically it was not exciting, apart from Buzzards and an Icterine Warbler, but the tour of the forest conducted personally by the chief forester in the Danish kingdom directing the bus down the narrow woodland rides was unforgettable. A pine marten ran across in front of the bus, and we saw roe deer, but the wild boar of Rold eluded us. By all accounts we may have been lucky.

The second half of the tour was centred on Copenhagen, but the climax here was undoubtedly the visit on 29th August to the famous Swedish observatory at Falsterbo on the opposite shore of the sound. Admittedly we picked the worst possible weather, with miserable sheets of rain falling from dawn to dusk, and consequently the major object of our excursion to see the great hawk migration was a wash-out. We saw hardly a score of Honey Buzzards, though our hospitable Swedish guide told us that 1100 had passed through the previous day—an interesting fact, but not a consolation. What we lost on the roundabouts, however, we made up on the swings, for as a locality for waders the marsh at Skanör, adjacent to Falsterbo, was second only to Jutland, with two Broad-billed Sandpipers, a Temminck's Stint, Kentish Plover, Avocet, Little Stint, and Black Terns and a Gull-billed Tern among others. There were also very large numbers of Willow Warblers and flycatchers around to provide the Sparrowhawks with an easy meal when they were stopped on passage.

Other excursions from Copenhagen were also rewarding—a Broad-billed Sandpiper, a Wryneck, a score of Red-backed Shrikes on the island of Saltholm, a wood that was ringing with Nuthatches and another Wryneck at Charlottenlund, an Osprey with more Honey Buzzards at Eremitage Castle,

Barred and Icterine Warblers near Holte, and so on. It was not always necessary to travel far; a Barred Warbler spent three days in the garden of the hotel in central Copenhagen, and a couple of Honey Buzzards appeared soaring over the main shopping streets. By the time the writer left the main party at Copenhagen railway station on 1st September we had achieved a list of 132 species since leaving Newcastle, and three more were to be added on the way home. It was a fine tally for less than a fortnight in the north of Europe.

Necessarily this account has had to confine itself to birds, yet in many ways our happiest memories were of the people—the hospitable citizens who invited each of us to their homes in Esbjerg and Skive, Hr Jensen who drove the bus in Jutland and always found coffee when our spirits were failing, the lighthouse keeper who sang *Auld Lang Syne* in Danish, Hr Hvass the forester, the hoteliers at Skive and Copenhagen who put up with our odd ways with such courtesy. Some of us made remarkable duck counts after schnapps on the Swedish ferry, some of us became familiar and notorious figures in Tivoli, at least one of us was narrowly dissuaded from visiting a museum of contemporary art in his gumboots. Denmark took it all in good part: I think they would be glad to see another party from the S.O.C. any year it could be arranged.

A FALL OF MIGRANTS ON A NORTH SEA CROSSING

PAUL G. R. BARBIER

Our party of S.O.C. members and others, depleted of two of its number and its leader, returned from its bird studies in Denmark on M.S. *Parkeston*, sailing for Newcastle from Esbjerg on the evening of 1st September 1963. It had been a day of sunshine interrupted by heavy downpours, but the evening was clear and the sea calm when we sailed about 6 p.m. At sea before dark an Arctic Skua was seen and a Rock Pipit flew round the ship calling and once settled on a mast. Nothing foretold what was in store for us next day, 2nd September.

The weather roughened during the night and we awoke to find it raining, with a slight roll on deck and a force 2 NE wind. Before breakfast at 8 a.m. a Wheatear, a Wood Warbler and a Knot were reported around the ship, and two Black-headed Gulls were seen.

After breakfast we found several passerines flying round the ship or settling on the masts. They included a Spotted Flycatcher, one or two Willow Warblers, a Lesser White-

throat, a female Redstart, and a female Blackbird seen on the Captain's bridge. A Golden Plover flew round and over the ship several times, and was succeeded by a Common Sandpiper. Astern a Sooty Shearwater came close enough for recognition. A mysterious warbler, eventually tracked down to within a yard, proved to be an immature Barred Warbler. Once it entered a coiled rope on the bridge, but eventually it perched for half an hour a yard from a Garden Warbler on the rung of a ladder against the funnel. At sea three Knot, ten Redshanks and a Ruff were seen.

The pace did not slacken in the afternoon. A Wheatear was still following at a varying distance without attempting to settle; at least six Redstarts, including two cock birds, flicked their chestnut tails just over the waves or dropped at the feet of ladies on the lowest deck; a minimum of six Willow Warblers, one resembling the northern form, followed the ship, one flitting through the tea lounge. A female Black Redstart was identified flying round the ship. Two Garden Warblers were seen at the same time, and two Lesser Whitethroats. A Meadow Pipit and two *alba* Wagtails came near, and a Swift flew south. The Barred Warbler and the Spotted Flycatcher had disappeared during the morning, but the others were still to be seen after 3 p.m. The last bird seen departing at the bar of the Tyne estuary was a Lesser Whitethroat, the star of the day for it had entirely commandeered the ship for its insect catching, flitting and settling with complete confidence within inches of the passengers.

At sea, besides huge flocks of Kittiwakes and Fulmars, six Great Skuas, four Arctic Skuas and a Pomarine Skua were seen, mostly in the early afternoon.

I understand that numbers of night migrants were recorded in eastern Scotland about this time. Recently such bird escorts have been recorded on Atlantic crossings (see *Brit. Birds* 56: 157), but comparable observations have also been made on North Sea crossings (see *antea* 1: 138).

A list of the birds seen is appended. The numbers of such species as Redstart and Willow Warbler are minima; birds were continually leaving, flying far out south, and then they or others returning to the ship. Details are also appended from the ship's log of its positions during the voyage and of weather conditions. I am indebted for these to the United Steamship Company Limited, Copenhagen, and wish to thank them for their courtesy.

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN, M.S. "PARKESTON,"
2nd SEPTEMBER 1963

Fulmar—500+
Sooty Shearwater—1
Gannet—5+

Golden Plover—1
Common Sandpiper—1
Redshank—10

Knot—3	Wheatear—1
Ruff—1	Redstart—6+
Great Skua—6	Black Redstart—1
Arctic Skua—4	Barred Warbler—1
Pomarine Skua—1	Garden Warbler—2
Great Black-backed Gull—100+	Lesser Whitethroat—2
Black-headed Gull—2	Willow Warbler—6+
Kittiwake—500+	Wood Warbler—1
Common/Arctic Tern—1	Spotted Flycatcher—1
Guillemot—2	Meadow Pipit—1
Swift—1	“alba” Wagtail—2
Blackbird—1	

SHIP'S LOG, M.S. "PARKESTON," 1st and 2nd
SEPTEMBER 1963

Date and time	Approximate position at end of each watch	Wind direction and strength	Weather, Barometer and Temperature
1st 1600-2000	55°20' N 7°00' E	E 1	clouded 759 mm 15°C
2000-2400	55°15' N 5°20' E	E 1	light haze 759 mm 16°C
2nd 0000-0400	55°10' N 3°30' E	SW 1	rain/haze 759 mm 16°C
0400-0800	55°05' N 1°45' E	NE 2	rain/haze 756 mm 17°C
0800-1200	55°03' N 0°00'	NE 2	clouds/rain 756 mm 17°C
1200-1600	Tynemouth	NW 2	haze 755 mm 16°C

EUROPEAN MEETING ON WILDFOWL CONSERVATION

By invitation of the International Wildfowl Research Bureau and the Nature Conservancy, seventy delegates representing six international organisations and from seventeen countries met at St Andrews, Fife, from 16th to 18th October 1963, to discuss problems of international cooperation in wildfowl conservation in relation to provision for wildfowl management, administration and legal measures (such as regulation of close seasons), and coordinated international protection for endangered species (such as the Brent Goose).

Papers, circulated in advance, were spoken to briefly by delegates and were then followed by discussions; this pro-

cedure worked admirably and saved much valuable time. Subjects discussed were: the wildfowl situations in various European countries; the exploitation of migratory waterfowl populations in North America; wildfowl conservation laws and law enforcement; and wildfowl refuges in Europe and the Mediterranean area.

The Wildfowlers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland (W.A.G.B.I.) was represented by five delegates. In a paper on liaison between conservationists and shooting interests, the Hon. Secretary, Lt. Cdr. J. Anderton, stressed the close relationship which had now developed between his organisation and conservation interests in the suppression of irresponsible and indiscriminate shooting, the enforcement of laws protecting wildfowl, and the encouragement of rearing, ringing, and releasing wildfowl onto unshot Reserves. One's immediate reaction to all that Cdr. Anderton had to say was—what a pity it is that W.A.G.B.I. is not stronger in Scotland, and particularly in East Lothian where local wildfowlers show little interest in conservation measures at Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve.

On excursions before and after the conference, the delegates visited Culterty Field Station and the Ythan estuary; the Grouse and Moorland Ecology Unit at Blackhall, Banchory; Montrose Basin and some of the Angus lochs on which large numbers of geese and duck were seen; Loch Leven where the party were conveyed by boats from the sluices to land on St Serf's Island and the Castle Island; Lindores Loch; Dr John Berry's collection of geese at Tayfield; the Nature Conservancy's island reserves on Loch Lomond; Loch Ken; and the Barnacle Geese at Caerlaverock Nature Reserve.

The party was entertained by Mrs Purvis at Earlsall, Fife; by the Provost and Magistrates of St Andrews; and at a reception at Edinburgh Castle presided over by Lady Tweedsmuir.

GEORGE WATERSTON.

Footnote: The S.O.C. Bird Bookshop had a stand at the conference, and books to the value of £60 were sold to the Yugoslav delegates. Attention is drawn to the recent publication *Wildfowl in Great Britain*—monograph No. 3 of the Nature Conservancy, now obtainable, price 45/-, from the S.O.C. Bird Bookshop).

SHORT NOTES

WHITE-BILLED DIVER IN SOUTH-EAST SUTHERLAND

On 7th April 1963 I picked up a dead White-billed Diver on the shore of Loch Fleet, near Golspie. This is the first time

the species has been recorded on the Sutherland coast although not the first in the Moray Basin (see *Scot. Nat.* 1955: 109; *Scot. Birds* 1: 91). Unfortunately the specimen was too decomposed for skinning or even for sexing. There was a large patch of oil on the breast, so death was possibly due to oil poisoning.

The most striking feature, apart from the shape and colour of the bill, was the great size compared with any of the other divers. The wing measured 381 mm but emaciation had reduced the weight to 6 lb 12 oz (3060 gm). I have been unable to find weights of palaeartic specimens, but the *Handbook of North American Birds* gives a range of 9½ to 14 lb (4400-6400 gm) for adults of both sexes from Canada and Alaska. The wing measurements given are however of the chord, and cannot therefore be compared with those quoted in the major European works.

It seems reasonable to assume that the birds wintering in the North Sea are palaeartic breeders, especially in view of the observations made at Lista in 1952-1954 (*Sterna* 1(8): 31; 1(14): 16; 1(20): 30) which suggest a small but regular autumn passage round the south-west corner of Norway.

Plates 23-25 show the Loch Fleet bird laid out beside skins of the other divers, and demonstrate clearly the difference in the shape of the bill, and also the great bulk of the White-billed Diver compared with the others.

IAN D. PENNIE.

NIGHT HERON IN ORKNEY

On the morning of 1st November 1961 I came across a small black-and-white heron standing in a puddle at the door of the farm byre at Lower Crowrar, Rendall, Mainland, Orkney. Its body was about the size of a Herring Gull, and the short, thick neck was held upwards at an angle. The back of the head and the back were black, wings pale grey above, underparts whitish, bill blackish in colour and sharp-pointed, and the thick legs were yellowish-grey and projected only a little beyond the tail in flight. When flushed, the bird flew off only a short distance and gave me a second view when it alighted near a henhouse. It then flew away and was not seen again. I later saw a film of a Night Heron on television and immediately recognised it as the same bird. There had been a strong southerly gale the previous night which probably accounted for the occurrence of this species so far north.

JAMES HALCRO.

(We are indebted to E. Balfour for this report. It is the first record of the Night Heron in Orkney and the most northerly occurrence in Britain so far. It is, however, impossible to be

certain that this bird was not an escape from the free-flying colony at Edinburgh Zoo.—Ed.).

RING-NECKED DUCK IN INVERNESS-SHIRE A NEW SCOTTISH BIRD

At 1220 hrs on 2nd January 1963 we were looking for birds on Loch Morar in western Inverness-shire. In a small bay on the north side of the loch between North Morar and Bracora we found a small duck swimming in sheltered water close to the bank. It was resting and we were able to examine it from the car at a range of 40 yards. Whenever it raised its head from the sleeping position we were struck by the unusual shape of the head and the distinctive bill markings, diagnostic features of the Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* from North America.

We watched the bird for about fifteen minutes, and got the impression that it was weak and tired, because it was continually sleeping and keeping to the calm water close to the bank. It was loathe to fly when we approached, but finally it took flight and we were able to see the distinctive wing pattern. It flew about 200 yards and landed in rough water, where we left it. Thirty minutes later the bird had returned to its original location, and we again watched it while it rested, and compiled our field notes before flushing it once more. This time it flew right out into the loch.

We had to leave the loch, but we were certain from the description that the bird was a Ring-necked Duck, though reserving a final decision until we could examine the literature. In the meantime we contacted several ornithologists in the hope that they might be able to see the bird and confirm our sighting, but unfortunately, owing to the remoteness of Loch Morar, none of them was able to get there.

On 27th January we made a special journey to Loch Morar and were rewarded by finding the Ring-necked Duck in company with other diving ducks in a bay a little west of the original location. Conditions were more favourable for viewing the bird and we were able to watch it for over half an hour from 1230 hrs. Also in that area of the loch were five Pochard, ten Tufted Ducks and about 20 Goldeneye. The Ring-necked Duck was diving in shallow water with the Pochard; the Tufted Duck were feeding in deeper water; and the Goldeneye were scattered over the loch. The bird now looked healthy and in good condition, very different from its appearance on the 2nd. Its plumage was clean and bright in the good light and we obtained excellent views with a telescope from 50 to 100 yards range. When flushed it flew off with the Pochard and Tufted Duck and we were able to compare them in flight. The mixed flock landed out on the loch, but when

we looked at them fifteen minutes later only the Tufted Ducks remained feeding and diving in the deep water, the others evidently having returned to the shallower bays to feed.

The following description is taken from our field notes made on 2nd and 27th January:

Head and upperparts dark brownish grey, much the same as a female Tufted Duck but cleaner; flanks paler, with clean demarcation of dark breast and tail, and noticeable peaked shape towards the neck; underparts paler but not so pale as female Tufted; bill most distinct, grey with two bright white rings, one half an inch from tip and other round base, the latter obvious and clear-cut, not at all like the white muzzle effect of some duck Tufted; tip of bill darker, grey; eye pale on 2nd but golden brown on 27th in better light; legs and feet apparently dark in flight; wings dark brownish-black with thick grey trailing edge, more so on secondaries, and very distinctive in flight, especially when in company with Tufted Ducks; head high crowned and triangular, very easily seen at a distance when with Tufted; no crest blowing in the wind; head seemed wider than Tufted's when viewed from in front. When alarmed the bird stretched its neck and held its head high, when the shape of the head was very noticeable. On the 2nd, when disturbed, it submerged part of its body when it swam away; not keen to fly. On the 27th its general appearance was much blacker, with the flank area paler and more distinct and much cleaner than on the 2nd. When we saw the bird on the 2nd we were under the impression that it was a female, but after we had consulted the books two details worried us; these were the lack of a white mark round the eye, and the pale eye; but against these discrepancies the combination of the bill markings, head shape, and wing pattern convinced us of its identity. On the 27th we paid attention to these points and it was then that we concluded that this was a young or retarded drake. The very bright bill and eye, the distinctive flank pattern and head shape, and the general blackish appearance tended to support this suggestion. One would expect the Ring-necked Duck to have a similar moult sequence to our Tufted Duck, and in my experience in winter the rather blackish female-like Tufties have proved to be drakes when trapped and examined. These dark specimens may not attain full male plumage until February or March.

North American wildfowl were in evidence during the winter, and locally I recorded a drake Green-winged Teal at Inverness during February (*antea* 2: 418). The Ring-necked Duck at Loch Morar is the first Scottish and fourth British record. Single drakes have been recorded previously in Gloucestershire from 12th to 14th March 1955 (*Brit. Birds* 48: 377); in Berkshire from 19th to 27th April 1959 (*ibid* 52: 427); and

in Co. Armagh from 20th March to 1st May 1960 and again from 25th September 1960 to 1st January 1961 (*ibid* 54: 72). There is also an old record of one said to have come from the Lincolnshire fens and exposed for sale in Leadenhall Market, London, in January 1801. It is unlikely that any of these birds were escapes as the species is not often kept in captivity.

ROY H. DENNIS, MARINA T. MACDONELL.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER IN ABERDEENSHIRE

On 26th May 1963 R. G. Brown found a dead harrier lying in grass near the estuary of the Ythan at Waterside, Newburgh. The body was subsequently given to me and proved to be a female Montagu's Harrier. Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards confirmed the identification. Collision with overhead wires seemed to be the cause of death. This appears to be the first record for Dee and Aberdeen, and is of interest in view of the tendency for this species to extend northwards since the war, breeding in Scotland in South Perth in 1952 and Kirkcudbright in 1953.

A. ANDERSON.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER IN ORKNEY

On the afternoon of 30th May 1963 George Flett and I examined at quite close range a cock Collared Flycatcher at Newhill, Harray. It was flitting and darting about an elder hedge, a ditch and a fence, catching insects and occasionally perching.

Identical in size to a Pied Flycatcher, it had a fairly broad white ring round the back of the neck, an almost circular white patch on the forehead—about twice as large as on the Pied Flycatcher—and rather more white on the wings than the Pied. Upperparts: head, mantle, back and tail black; rump whitish or dirty white; dark parts of wings rather brownish. Underparts white from the chin. Bill and legs blackish; iris brown. If there was any white on the sides of the tail we failed to make it out on such a restless bird.

This is the first time the species has been recognised in Orkney.

EDWARD BALFOUR.

(The only previous Scottish record of the Collared Flycatcher was on 11th May 1947 when an adult cock was shot on Whalsay in Shetland.—Ed.).

CROSSBILLS BREEDING IN ANGUS

In May 1963 I received from George M. Crighton a nest found in a conifer which had just been felled in Kinnaird Park, near Bridge of Dun. Crossbills had been present in

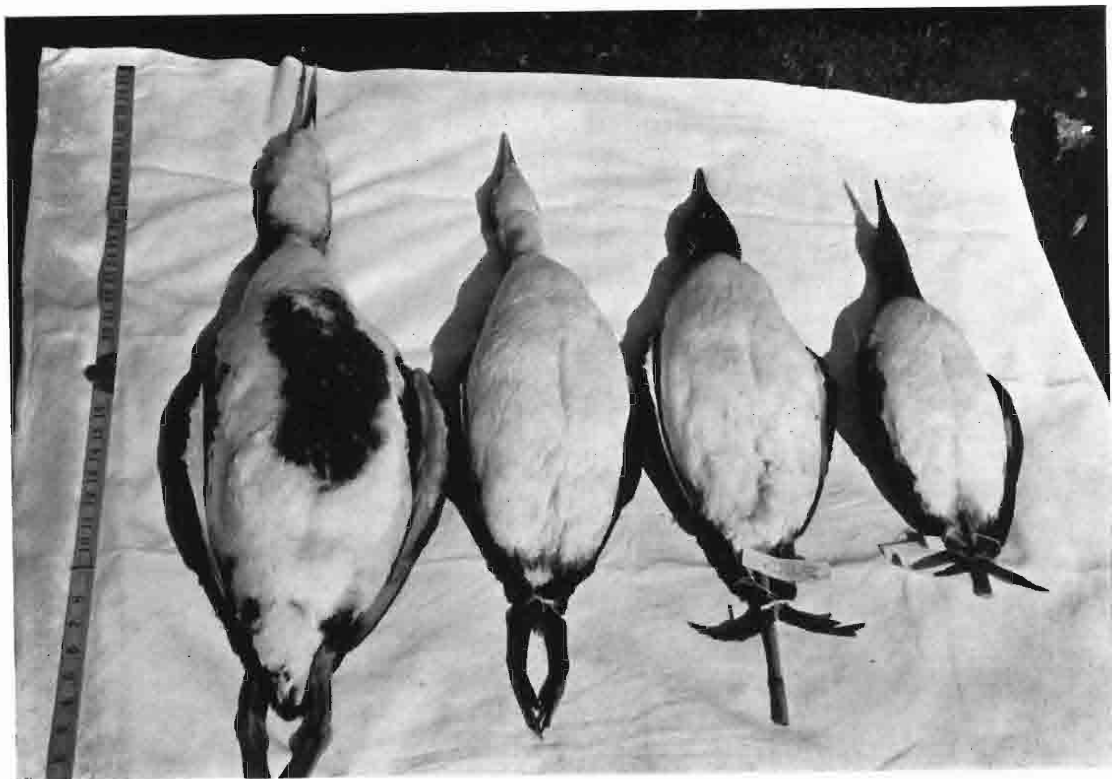


PLATE 25. WHITE-BILLED DIVER (with soiled breast) and skins of female (left to right) Great Northern, Black-throated and Red-throated Divers, illustrating the relative sizes of the birds. (see page 474).

Photograph by Ian D. Pennie.

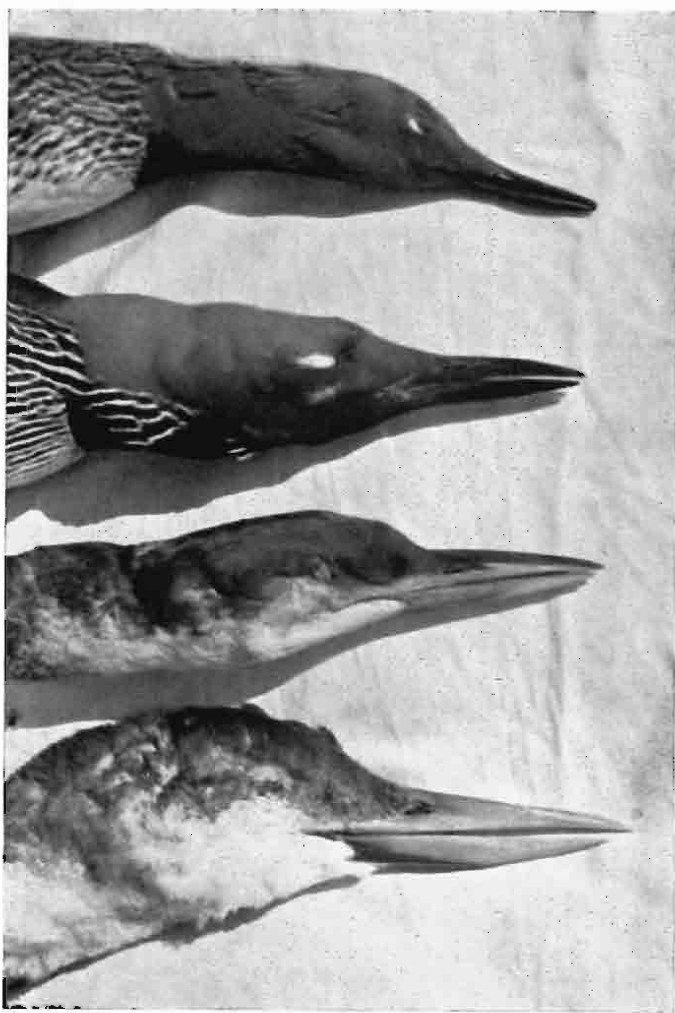


PLATE 24 Heads and bills of same four birds as on Plate 23.
Bottom to top: White-billed, Great Northern, Black-throated and Red-throated Divers (see page 474).

Photograph by Ian D. Pennic.

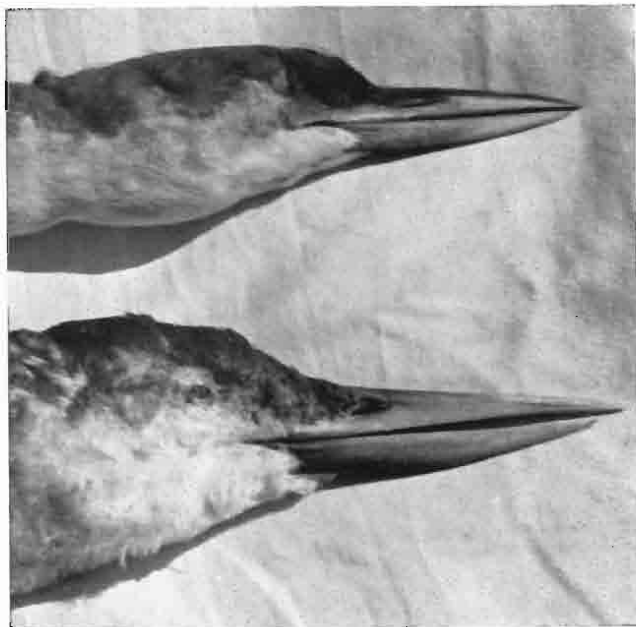


PLATE 25. Heads and bills of White-billed Diver (*lower*) and Great Northern Diver (*skin*). Note the very heavy bill of the White-billed Diver and the sharply tip-tilted lower mandible that gives it its characteristic shape (see page 474).

Photograph by Ian D. Pennie.



PLATE 26. The lass Betty Garden helping in the caravan kitchen at the R.S.P.B. Osprey watchers' base camp.

Photograph by James MacGeoch.

this area since September 1962 and recently a hen Crossbill had been seen repeatedly in the group of trees which had been felled. The nest has been examined by William Marshall and Roy H. Dennis, both of whom are familiar with the species in Speyside, and they have confirmed that it is indeed the nest of a Crossbill.

HENRY BOASE.

(This is the first acceptable breeding record for Angus, and it seems likely that the birds concerned were survivors of the big Crossbill irruption that took place in the summer and autumn of 1962.—ED.).

CURRENT NOTES

(**Key to initials of observers** : A. F. Airey, D. C. Anderson, D. R. Anderson, D. G. Andrew, R. St J. Andrew, J. Ballantyne, Miss P. G. Baxter, T. H. Bell, G. Bennett, H. Boase, T. Boyd, W. Brotherston, A. G. S. Bryson, R. G. Caldwell, W. N. Carruthers, Dr M. E. Castle, T. Cockburn, Sir C. G. Connell, W. A. Craw, H. G. Cree, G. M. Crighton, W. A. J. Cunningham, P. E. Davis, G. Dick, R. C. Dickson, H. F. M. Dott, J. Dunbar, Miss C. F. Dunsire, N. Elkins, H. A. Ford, M. Forrester, Miss E. M. Gall, A. G. Gordon, Miss F. Greig, J. A. D. Hope, Dr D. Jenkins, D. B. Kirke, Miss H. Knight, L. W. Lloyd, A. Macdonald, D. Macdonald (DM), Miss J. McFarlane (JMcF), K. S. Macgregor, A. T. Macmillan, Miss D. MacRobert (DMacR), J. Maxwell (JM), W. S. Medlicott, Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, T. D. H. Merrie, C. M. Morrison, R. Murray, C. Ogston, D. W. Oliver, N. Picozzi, J. Potter, A. F. Pratt, R. M. Ramage, G. A. Richards, E. L. Roberts, Lt.-Cdr. C. P. Ross, H. M. Russell, G. L. Sandeman, A. J. Smith, R. T. Smith, R. W. J. Smith, Mrs A.-M. Smout, Dr T. C. Smout, T. Spence, D. Stalker, W. Stein, I. F. Stewart, J. H. Swan, Dr A. Tait, C. Tait, Miss V. M. Thom, L. A. Urquhart, D. I. M. Wallace, Col. R. Wallace, G. Waterston, Mrs M. I. Waterston, Dr A. Watson, A. D. Watson, Dr R. S. Weir, T. Weir, J. Wightman, D. P. Willis, W. Wyper, J. Young, J. G. Young, B. Zonfrillo.

Unless otherwise stated all dates refer to 1963.)

Distribution

This section does not include observations made before 1st June. Notes on individual species follow the introductory paragraphs on a noteworthy arrival of migrants. Current Notes for the next number should reach the editor by the end of the year.

Easterly winds from 29th August to 2nd September brought a spectacular fall of night migrants to the east coast; this movement was at its peak from 31st August to 2nd September, during which time nearly 200 birds were ringed on the Isle of May, including 2 **Wrynecks**, 10 **Whinchats**, 18 **Redstarts**, 8 **Barred Warblers**, 75 **Garden Warblers**, 32 **Willow Warblers** and 18 **Pied Flycatchers**; other birds included **Reed/Marsh Warblers**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Red-backed Shrike**, spec-

ies noted elsewhere in Forth at this time (IFS per AM).

At Barns Ness, East Lothian, in a small area of cover on 31st August there were **Wheatears**, **Whinchats**, **Redstarts**, **Garden and Willow Warblers**, **Whitethroat**, **Pied Flycatchers**, and a **Wryneck** which stayed for at least nine days; a **Lesser White-throat**, **Spotted Flycatchers**, and two immature **Red-backed Shrikes** which lingered for a week, were first seen on 3rd September; and a **Black Redstart** which stayed for four days was found on the 5th (AM, ATM, AJS, RWJS, CT).

Details are given on another page of a Noah's Ark crossing of the North Sea on 2nd September, when the ship was accompanied by a fine variety of passerines. At Elie, Fife, that day there was a host of migrants which included **Wheatears**, **Redstarts** and **Garden Warbler** (DWO).

Mainland records of **Wrynecks** were a feature of this movement. As well as birds already noted at Barns Ness and on the Isle of May one was found in an Aberdeen garden at this time (per DJ); one was seen by the Eden estuary on 5th September, the first in the Tentsmuir area as defined by Grierson (*antea* 2: 113) (DWO); another was at Fife Ness the same day (PGB); and one was seen in Gullane, East Lothian, on the 4th and 7th (CPR).

In addition to the **Red-backed Shrikes** at Barns Ness and on the Isle of May one was seen at Fife Ness on 6th September (PGB).

Twelve **Great Crested Grebes** at Port Allen, Perthshire, on 13th July were a good number to be on the sea at that date (HB). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were at Gullane Point, East Lothian, on 27th July (CT, RWJS), and one was there on 24th August (AGG, TDHM). In the Sound of Gigha there were already seven **Slavonian Grebes** on 15th September (AGG, TDHM).

Large numbers of **Manx Shearwaters** were in the Sound of Mull off Lismore on 31st July, and especially on 15th August when thousands were seen over the calm waters; nothing like this was seen in the same area in August 1962 (WAC); very many were seen also on 25th August in the Firth of Lorne, especially off Lismore, and thinning out up the Sound of Mull as far as Scallastle Bay; numbers were noted off the north shore of Iona and between Mull and Treshnish until the end of the month (THB). On 16th August a **Sooty Shearwater** was seen in the Forth 1½ miles NE of Inchkeith; parties of **Manx Shearwaters** were fairly numerous in mid Forth as far up as Burntisland (JW).

Three pairs of **Fulmars** were on a cliff about 75 yds from the sea at Ben Feall, Coll, on 7th July, but no eggs were seen; there is no previous record for the island (see *Brit. Birds* 51: 46) (CT). At Buchan Ness, Aberdeenshire, **Fulmars** were pass-

ing north during a three hour watch on the afternoon of 13th August at the rate of 300 per hour; three days later the rate was only 120 per hour, and some were also moving south so that this was possibly a local feeding movement (DPW). Inland records include single birds flying south at Fairmilehead, Edinburgh, on 14th and 24th August (HAF), a dead bird at the mouth of the Endrick, Dunbartonshire, on the 25th (TDHM), and one picked up alive at Stormont Loch, near Blairgowrie, Perthshire, on 15th September and released at Arbroath (VMT).

At least 30 **Gannets**—5 adults, 25 juveniles—were diving and resting at Seafield, Leith, especially at the outfall of the sewage pipes, on 8th September (ATM), and numbers were noted further up the Forth as well, with 60—2 adults and the rest juveniles—in Grangemouth Bay on the 14th, following several days of strong winds (GD, JP). In Edinburgh an exhausted juvenile was caught at Duddingston Loch on the 19th (DRA).

On 11th July at Grishipoll Point, Coll, some 70 adult and juvenile **Shags** were counted, some of the young birds still being fed by the adults, and nine nests still holding eggs or young. There is no previous breeding record for Coll (*Brit. Birds* 51: 46), but this site would not readily be seen without a scramble (CT).

The drake **Garganey** previously noted at the Endrick mouth (*antea* 2: 434) was seen on various dates from 21st April to 2nd June, but no duck was seen (DS). Single **Gadwall** were noted often this summer on Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, with a maximum count of five on 6th August (DWO); four were at Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, on the 18th (ELR).

Single drake **Scaup** were inland on Lintrathen Reservoir, Angus, on 24th June (HB); Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, on 19th July (DWO); and Gladhouse Reservoir, Midlothian, on 8th September (DGA). The usual late records of **Goldeneye** include two at Lintrathen on 24th June (HB), and four at Kilconquhar on 11th June, with two immature birds still there on 17th July (DWO). At Gladhouse an immature bird was seen on 2nd and 23rd June, and two (apparently an adult pair) remained from 7th July to 11th August (DGA, RWJS). A drake **Velvet Scoter**, a scarce species in the west, was in the Sound of Gigha on 15th September (AGG, TDHM).

A duck **Goosander** had two small ducklings on Loch Bhasapoll, Tiree, on 3rd July; the species has apparently not been recorded on Tiree this century (*Brit. Birds* 51: 49) (CT). At Tynninghame, East Lothian, there were seven on the estuary on 25th August and nine on the 31st (CT), while further up the Forth two were at Cramond on 29th August (RM). In mid summer a raft of 25 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was on the sea

near Glenluce, Wigtownshire, on 6th July (AFA); at Gullane Point, East Lothian, in autumn there were as many as 170 on 17th September (HAF).

Summer records of **Grey Lag Geese** of doubtful significance are of the bird previously noted on the Eden estuary, Fife, from 18th May (*antea* 2: 434) remaining there throughout the summer (JMCF, DWO), three at Port Allen, Perthshire, on 15th August and two there on the 27th, on which date three were on Marlee Loch, Perthshire (HB). On 17th August there was one at Loch of Auchlossan, Aberdeenshire (DGA). During the night of 25th/26th September Grey Lag were heard over Loch Stack, Sutherland, and in the morning a party of twenty were sheltering there in a gale (GW, MIW). On the 26th a party of 25 Grey Lag flew south over Banchory, Kincardineshire, and geese were heard over Aberdeen in the evening (FG). At least 40 were over Kinnordy, Angus, on the 30th (HB).

A **Pink-footed Goose** came to roost at Hule Moss, Berwickshire, in the early morning on 25th August (per WB). A spectacular arrival of this species was recorded at the end of September. At 1800 hrs on the 26th several large skeins were flying steadily south over the Cairngorms near Boat of Garten into the teeth of a SW gale, and this was still going on early next morning (GW, MIW). On the 27th Pinkfeet were noted in many places: on the Tay estuary there were about 1600, a few having been heard the night before (HB); at Perth hundreds passed over on the 27th and 28th (VMT); they were heard over St Andrews at 0630 hrs on the 27th, and at Lundin Links, Fife, three hours later, with 45 more next morning (RSW); at Loch Leven, Kinross-shire, numbers were resting about St Serf's Island at midday on the 27th (GW, MIW); over Edinburgh the first geese were flying south at 0915 hrs (JB), and 44 were seen moving west over George Square (TCS); in the Fala/Gladhouse area of Midlothian large numbers arrived on the 27th and 28th with virtually none of the previous build-up of an advance guard of 300/600 which has been noted in recent years (WB); the first 40 reached Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, also on the 27th (ELR). By 3rd October there were at least 3000 on the Tay (HB). This massive influx on 26th/28th September was evidently related to the onset of severe snowstorms in Iceland on the 24th.

A winged **Barnacle Goose** was seen at Nairn on 11th July (MFMM), and a very tame one on the saltings at Bridgend was recorded throughout a visit to Islay from 24th to 30th August (MF). The first 17 of the autumn reached Caerlaverock on 1st October (ELR). Records of **Canada Geese** include two which flew into Portnahaven School playground, Islay, on 4th June, perhaps from Colonsay (HK); one flushed from Craighleith in the Forth on 7th August (GW); five rather tame

birds at Gadloch, Lanarkshire, on 6th September (HGC); and two rather shy birds at the west end of Loch Tummel, Perthshire, on the 10th (HB). It can be seen that occurrences of this species leave a lot to be desired.

There are the usual reports of **Whooper Swans** in summer, which include single birds at different lochs on South Uist on 4th and 9th July (TDHM); one on Loch nan Eala, Arisaig, Inverness-shire, throughout the summer (AFP); an adult in Montrose Basin on 26th June; and an immature at Forfar Loch from 11th June until at least 8th August (HB). The first birds of the autumn were 14 flying south at Stornoway, Lewis, on 28th September (NE), and six at Gadloch, Lanarkshire, the same day (BZ); seven adults were at Loch Ken on the 30th (AFA); three adults were at Tayport, Fife, on 1st October (HB), and also one at Caerlaverock, where numbers increased to five on the 3rd and seven—all adults—on the 6th (ELR); there were five by Loch Leven, Kinross-shire on the 4th (RSW).

Two rather early **Rough-legged Buzzards** were seen together three miles south of Strachur, Argyll, over open moorland on 9th September (DCA), and one flew over Gartocharn, Dunbartonshire, on the morning of the 15th (TW). A **Marsh Harrier**, possibly the same bird seen on 5th May (*antea* 2: 435), flew across the airfield by the Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire, on 10th August (DPW). Reports of "ring-tail" harriers, all probably **Hen Harriers** from the descriptions, refer to single birds at Barr Loch, Renfrewshire, on 24th August (RGC); Fala Moor, Midlothian, on 25th August; and the Dewar Burn in the same area on 22nd September (WB). An **Osprey**, the first recorded for Tentsmuir, was seen soaring over Earlsall and the Eden estuary on 28th July; it stayed in the area until at least 11th August (CFD, DWO).

At Dornoch on 29th June a **Quail** was heard calling in a field of barley near where one was previously noted on 11th June 1959 (*antea* 1: 130) (DM). In view of the paucity of breeding records of the **Water Rail** it is worth recording a juvenile which was disturbed from reeds at Barr Meadows, Renfrewshire, on 29th July, and watched swimming across some open water (RCD).

A **Grey Plover** was present at Stornoway, where it is a scarce bird, from 25th September until at least the end of the month (WAJC, NE); at Skinflats, Stirlingshire, at least 70 were counted on 21st September (AGG, TDHM). On 24th August there were as many as 2000 **Golden Plover** on the Eden estuary (CT).

Black-tailed Godwits are reported from:

L. Indaal, Islay—1 on 29th Aug (MF).

Eden Estuary, Fife—21/22 on 21st July (JMcl, CT), 31 on 28th July (DWO), 15 on 18th Sept (DJ, TS).

Elic, Fife—3 on 3rd Aug and 2nd Sept (DWO).
 Aberlady, East Lothian—1 on 8th Sept (JADH).
 Doonfoot, Ayr—1 on 24th Aug (GAR).
 Caerlaverock, Dumfries—9th Aug (1), 13th (20), 18th/21st (50+), 28th (15) (ELR).

A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was inland at Gadloch, Lanarkshire, on 18th August (WW, BZ).

Green Sandpipers are reported from:

L. Indaal, Islay—1 on 28th Aug (MF).
 L. of Strathbeg, Aberdeen—3 on 6th and 10th Aug (DPW).
 Ythan Estuary, Aberdeen—1 on 6th Aug (CO).
 R. Don, Kinaldie, Aberdeen—2 on 9th Aug (CO).
 Montrose Basin, Angus—1 on 4th, 13th and 18th Aug and 1st Sept (GMC, JD).
 Port Allen, Perth—1 on 15th Aug (HB).
 Kinconquhar Loch, Fife—1 on 18th Sept (DWO).
 Aberlady—1 on 11th (GB) and 20th Aug (DIMW).
 Tynninghame, East Lothian—1 on 25th Aug (TB, EMG, RWJS, CT) and 3rd Sept (HEMD).
 Rosebery, Midlothian—1 on 15th Sept (RStJA).
 Caerlaverock—1 on 13th and 28th Aug and 1st Sept (ELR).

Now that **Wood Sandpipers** have been found breeding in Scotland a few summer records are to be expected from places where they do not breed. On 7th June, but not next day, there were two at Bridgend, Islay (JM, RTS, JY, JGY); and at Loch Hallan, South Uist, one was seen on 11th July (TDHM). Autumn migrants are reported from:

Endrick mouth, L. Lomond—1 on 25th Aug (TDHM).
 Aberlady—1 on 20th Aug (DIMW).
 Tynninghame—1 on 18th Aug (EMG, RWJS).
 Barns Ness, East Lothian—1 on 7th and 8th Sept (KSM, ATM).

Spotted Redshanks are reported from:

Ythan Estuary—3 on 14th Aug (DGA).
 Montrose Basin—8th Aug (2), 11th (2), 13th (2), 15th (3), 18th (1), 22nd (2), 28th (1), 1st Sept (3) (GMC, JD).
 Eden Estuary—2 on 15th Sept (DWO).
 Cult Ness, Fife—1 on 13th Aug, 19th Sept (GD, JP), and 21st Sept (AGG, TDHM).
 Caerlaverock—13th Aug (3), 18th (6+), 21st (4), 28th (10), 1st/2nd Sept (12+), 9th (1), 2nd Oct (15+) (ELR).

At Caerlaverock the first **Greenshank** of the autumn migration was seen on 8th July; from eight on 13th August numbers increased steadily to 50+ on the 18th and 60+ on 27th/28th; there were 20+ on 3rd September and numbers steadily dropped after that (ELR). Inland records are of two in summer as far south as Sior Loch, south of Taynuilt, Argyll, on 13th July (JB); one at Morton Lochs, Fife, on 7th August (DWO); one at Gadloch, Lanarkshire, on 18th August (WW, BZ); one at Glenburn Reservoir, Paisley, on 31st July (RGC); two at Hamilton on 15th August (RMR); one at Roughrigg Reservoir, near Airdrie, on 17th August (WS); one at Fala Flow, Midlothian, on 1st August (WB); three at Gladhouse, Midlothian,

on 11th August (RWJS) and one on the 19th (DGA); and single birds at Rosebery Reservoir, Midlothian, on 25th August and 15th September (DGA). This species cannot be considered very uncommon inland on autumn migration.

Little Stints are reported from:

Ythan Estuary—1 on 8th Sept (AW).

Montrose Basin—22nd Aug (2), 23rd (3), 26th (1), 28th (3), 1st Sept (2) (GMC, JD).

Eden Estuary—1 on 24th Aug, 1st Sept (CT), and 7th Sept (PGB).

Cult Ness—2 on 10th and 17th Sept (GD, JP).

Aberlady—6th Sept (5) (RM), 8th (3) (JADH), and 14th (1) (HEMD).

Tynninghame—18th Aug (1), 25th (5) and 31st (4) (TB, EMG, RWJS, CT).

Skinflats, Stirling—1 on 24th Aug (GD, JP).

Troon, Ayr—1 every day 4th/9th Sept (MF, RMR, GAR).

A **Curlew Sandpiper** in summer plumage was seen at L. Ria-ghain, Tiree, on the very unusual date of 29th June; the species has not been recorded on the island since last century (*Brit. Birds* 51: 55) (CT). Curlew Sandpipers have been unusually numerous this autumn and are reported from many places, almost all of them since 21st August:

Stornoway—1 on 21st Aug and 2 on the 22nd (NE).

L. Indaal, Islay—1 on 28th Aug and 2 on the 29th (MF).

Dornoch Burn, S.E. Sutherland—1 on 1st/2nd Sept where one was previously noted in 1948 ("Scot. Nat." 1949: 125), overlooked in "The Birds of Scotland" although the first county record (DM).

Newburgh, Aberdeen—4 in flooded field on 6th Sept (DJ).

Ythan Estuary—1 near last on 8th Sept (AW).

Montrose Basin—22nd Aug (5), 23rd (11), 26th (4), 1st Sept (5), and 7th (no less than 47) (GMC, JD).

Eden Estuary—1 on 15th Sept (DWO), 6 on the 18th (DJ, TS).

Fife Ness—2 on 3rd Sept and 3 on the 6th (PGB, RSW).

Cult Ness—1 on 10th Sept, 4 on 17th and 8 on 19th (GD, JP).

Musselburgh, Midlothian—4 on 11th Sept (JB).

Aberlady—1 on 8th Sept (JADH).

Tynninghame—4 on 25th Aug and 6 on 31st (TB, EMG, RWJS, CT).

Skinflats—24th Aug (4), 7th Sept (1), 14th (2), 15th (34 at high tide by Kincardine Bridge), and 21st (4) (GD, JP).

Bogside, Irvine, Ayr—7 on 10th Sept (GAR).

Troon—31st Aug (4), 2nd Sept (3), 3rd (4) (GAR), 4th (8) (MF), 5th (4), 6th (10), 9th, 10th and 14th (2) (GAR), and 16th (13) (RGC).

Doonfoot, Ayr—1 early bird on 2nd Aug (RMR).

Carsethorn, Kirkcudbright—5 on 15th and 19th Sept (JGY).

Caerlaverock—3 on 9th Sept, 1 on 10th Sept and 1st Oct (ELR).

An interesting record of a **Ruff** is one of a female from 9th to 13th July at a small pool in a field at Seafield, Roslin, Midlothian (TC per RWJS). Some observers do not report all the Ruffs which they see, but the usual numerous reports which we have received are noted below, the first birds being recorded on 4th August:

L. of Strathbeg, Aberdeen—1 on 4th and 9th Sept (DPW).

Between Cruden Bay and Collieston, Aberdeen—17 and 8 on two stretches of floodwater on 8th Sept (AW).

Newburgh, Aberdeen—21 in flooded field on 6th Sept (DJ), 17 on 8th,

but none on 10th when pool dried up (AW).
 L. of Auchlossan, Aberdeen—2 on 17th Aug (DGA).
 Montrose Basin—4th Aug (1), 6th (7), 8th (2), 11th (6), 15th, 18th,
 22nd and 31st (1), and 1st Sept (5) (GMC, JD).
 Easthaven, Angus—1 on 12th Sept (HB).
 Eden Estuary—7th Aug (13) (DWO), 18th (8), 24th (9) (CT), and 5th
 Sept (6) (DWO).
 Elie—7 on 2nd Sept (DWO).
 Cult Ness—8th Aug (11), 13th (8), 19th (10), 10th Sept (3), 17th (2)
 (GD, JP), and 21st (1) (AGG, TDHM).
 Aberlady—1 on 11th Aug (GB), 2 on 20th (DIMW).
 Tynningham—highest count 15 on 18th Aug (TB, EMG, RWJS), 8 on
 3rd Sept (HEMD).
 Fala Moor, Midlothian—1 on 25th Aug (WB).
 Skinflats—17th Aug (3), 24th (8), 7th and 15th Sept (1), 21st (2), and
 28th (4) (GD, JP).
 Smedheugh, Selkirk—immature male on rainwater pools from 18th to
 24th Sept, believed to be a new record for the county (AJS).
 Caerlaverock—6th Aug (1), 18th (4), and up to 12+ till 29th Sept; 3 to
 5 from 1st to 5th Oct (ELR).

A **Red-necked Phalarope** in winter plumage at Caerlaverock on 31st August seems to be the first recorded in Dumfriesshire (ELR, HMR, RTS, ADW).

A **Great Skua** was seen in summer off Tiree on 1st July (TDHM).

South of Boddam, Aberdeenshire, **Herring Gulls** have this summer spread over the top of the cliffs onto the fields, and at one colony there were about a dozen nests in a large area of chickweed and one on a low grass-topped drystone dyke (DPW). Three pairs of **Common Gulls** nested successfully at Lochside, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, where they first bred in 1962 (*antea* 2: 349) (JGY). An immature **Glaucous Gull** which came to the fish gutting on a boat off Boddam on 31st July was bolder than the Herring Gulls and approached within 4 feet of the observer (DPW). Another immature was seen at Barassie, Ayrshire, on 14th September (RMR, GAR, DS). An immature **Iceland Gull** at Stornoway airport from 14th July was still about at the beginning of October, and an albino Herring Gull was also in the area (WAJC).

At the Buddon Burn, Monifieth, Angus, two **Little Gulls** were seen on 19th August and one on the 29th (HB); eight flew west at Elie Ness, Fife, during a 30 minute watch on 15th September (DWO); and one was at Cult Ness on 26th July (GD, JP). When compared with numbers at Kilconquhar Loch the sparseness of these records serves to emphasise how extraordinarily local this species is in its occurrences. Early in July numbers at Kilconquhar Loch averaged five, but there were nine on the 7th and 13 on the 15th, all adult except for one 1st summer bird; thereafter numbers built up steadily for a month, with counts on 21st/22nd July (38), 23rd (54), 24th (81), 25th (123), 26th (142), 27th (147), 1st August (318), 6th (309), 9th (412), 11th (342), 15th (443), 18th (512), 20th (346), and

22nd (512); after this there were fewer, and numbers became very variable; 1st summer birds included in these totals were counted or estimated, and increased from three on 21st July to 20 on the 25th, 40 by 1st August, about 60% of the total on 18th August, and even more on the 22nd; juveniles were first seen on 6th August, and comprised some 10% of the total on the 18th (DWO).

There were two **Black Terns** with the Little Gulls at Kilconquhar Loch on 26th August (PGB); one at Forvie on the Ythan estuary, Aberdeenshire, on 9th September (NP); and one in the Outer Hebrides, where it is a rare bird, at Stornoway on 24th September (NE). Migrant **Common** or **Arctic Terns** were reported at Hilda Marshes, Glasgow, on 4th July when 25 flew SE calling loudly (WW); and ten setting off south up the River Esk at Musselburgh, Midlothian, on 18th August (DIMW). In Renfrewshire there were two and sometimes four **Common Terns** at Barr Loch between 19th May and 15th August, but no evidence of breeding; two were at Black Loch on 28th July (RCD). Seven terns feeding over one of the ponds at Hamilton on 15th August were thought to be **Arctic Terns**, the first for Lanarkshire, but it was not possible completely to rule out the chance that they were **Common Terns** (RMR). **Little Terns** were noted in Kilnaughton Bay, Port Ellen, Islay, on 11th June (4), 13th (17), 14th (5), 18th (8) and 21st (2), but no breeding site was found (HK).

Turtle Doves in the north of Scotland during September occurred near Dornoch, Sutherland, on the 8th (DM); 12 miles from Stornoway on the 20th, an immature bird with an injured wing (WAJC); and at Spiggie, Shetland, on the 23rd (ATM). A pair of **Collared Doves** in a larch tree and a third bird cooing on a nearby television aerial on 12th July in Nairn are the first certainly recorded in the county (MFMM), although a pair of doves which had a nest of young blown down in September 1961 in this area and were heard again the following summer were almost certainly **Collared Doves** (RW). Two on 15th September in Cambuslang are the first recorded in Lanarkshire, though these are said to have been about Wellshot Drive for a year or so (HB). On Islay (see *antea* 2: 439) two definite **Collared Doves** were seen at Gruinart Post Office on 1st June with a nest, from which at least one chick fledged; local information is that by August there were up to eight with the hens (HK, AT); an adult and two juveniles were seen at the same place on 7th/10th June (JM, RTS, JGY, JY). At Stornoway six in the middle of the town were being fed daily from the middle of June (WAJC).

27th August was a late date for an adult **Cuckoo** at Glenforsa, Mull (THB); a Cuckoo was seen also at Banchory, Kincairdineshire, on 15th September (DJ). Another Dumfriesshire locality for **Green Woodpeckers** is Dormont, Lockerbie, where

odd birds have been seen since 1952 and a nest was found this year (WNC). On the northern fringe of the range one was heard loud and clear on 10th and 11th June at Dunkeld, North Perthshire (AGSB); and one, perhaps two, were seen near Aberfoyle on 17th August in Loch Ard Forest, South Perthshire/West Stirlingshire border (AFP).

A pair of **Swallows** on Coll had a nest under a bridge at Clabhach on 9th July; this is the first proof of breeding on the island (see *Brit. Birds* 51: 105) (CT). A distinct westward coasting movement of Swallows was noted on 22nd August between 0630 and 0845 hrs from Aberlady to Cockenzie, East Lothian, at the rate of about 100 per hour (DIMW).

Another East Lothian **Magpie** was in Gifford Woods on 21st September (A-MS). A **Chough** on a Barra hillside on 10th August feeding with two Hooded Crows was probably a migrant as a local crofter who had noticed it for the previous few days had never seen one before, though the local cliffs appear suitable for breeding (WAC).

A large autumn flock of well over 200 **Mistle Thrushes** was scattered over half a square mile near Hawick in the late afternoon of 11th August; normally parties of 10/15 are seen there at this season; the birds seemed to be drifting southwards; none bred locally this year after being driven out by the cold winter (WSM). A single **Redwing**, evidently an injured bird as it would not readily take flight, was regularly seen in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, from April; possibly two were present throughout the summer because a strong-flying bird was seen on 27th August, and both of them together on 17th September and subsequently (JHS). Concentrations of **Ring Ouzels** in the Moorfoots, Midlothian, were recorded in September with 40 and 30 in Moss Cleuch and Wolf Cleuch respectively on the 15th, and 8 and 24 on the 29th (WB). Twenty **Whinchats** in a field at Robroyston, Glasgow, on 16th July is an unusual number for the area (BZ); large counts were made also near Bothkennar, Stirlingshire, in August and September, with a maximum of 29 on 17th August (GD, JP).

A **Garden Warbler** at Kinlochewe on 8th June is the first record for West Ross (CGC). At Stornoway one was heard on various dates (WAJC), and was singing strongly from thick cover on 5th/8th June, when adequate views were eventually obtained; it is a rare bird in the Outer Hebrides (NE). A **Chiffchaff** in West Ross was noted at Inverpolly on 8th June (CGC).

A **Spotted Flycatcher** at Acha, on Coll, on 6th July, was the second record for the island (see *Brit. Birds* 51: 109) (CT). In central Edinburgh there were two in Queen Street gardens on 19th August (DIMW). A cock **Pied Flycatcher** at Buchanan

Castle, Drymen, on 30th July seems to be the first record of the species in West Stirlingshire (MFMM).

A pair of *flavissima* **Yellow Wagtails** had four nestlings at Hilda Marshes, Glasgow, on 6th July; a cock bird of the *flava* type was also seen that day after several weeks absence; this must be the last year this site can be used by these birds (see *antea* 2: 212, 443) (WW, BZ). Other reports of "Yellow" Wagtails are of two adults and two juveniles near Ayr on 1st August (MEC, RMR); 15 at Hamilton Low Parks on 15th August (RMR); single birds on various dates in August and September at Skinflats, Stirlingshire, and six—two adults and four juveniles—on 4th August (GD, JP); and four at Caerlaverock on 27th August (ELR).

A **Hawfinch** was seen at Blackshade, Dundee, on 7th July (CMM). In Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden, where Hawfinches have been recorded quite often since 1947, four flew over calling on 12th July, one on the 19th, and two on the 23rd (JHS). A pair of **Siskins** at Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire, in early June may have nested, but this was not proved; the species is not a regular breeding bird in the county (DMacR). A cock **Twite** was at the Doonfoot, Ayr, on 2nd August (RMR).

All records of **Crossbills** in Scotland during winter 1962/63 have been passed to K. Williamson for his paper on the invasion, being published in *Bird Migration*. Another invasion is now with us, and the following reports have come in:

Fair Isle—only odd birds until 13th July when there were 34; larger arrivals in August (PED).

Stornoway—1 on 30th Sept (NE).

Colonsay—party of 15/20 on 15th Aug (GLS).

Glenforsa Woods, Mull—party of 15 from 25th to 29th Aug (THB).

Wolf Cleuch, Dewar Burn, Midlothian—female on 15th Sept (WB).

A **Snow Bunting** was at Bridgend, Islay, on the unusual date of 7th June (JM, RTS, JGY, JY).

Observers in Lanarkshire mention flocks of 18 **Tree Sparrows** near Gadloch, an area where small numbers breed, on 29th Sept (WW, BZ); and between 100 and 200 scattered in clumps of trees and bushes at Hamilton on 8th August (TDHM).

Earlier observations—before 1st June 1963

An **Osprey** was seen catching a fish at Dinnet, Aberdeenshire, on 23rd May (NP).

On the Dunbartonshire bank of the mouth of the Endrick 60 **Black-tailed Godwits** were seen on 27th April to add to other records of numbers in spring (*antea* 2: 436); though regular there in spring and autumn ten is the usual maximum; they were gone next day (DS).

In the summer number it was suggested that 400 **Knot** at Girvan on 3rd February were unusually many for Clyde (*antea* 2: 379). This is evidently not so. One observer has

seen 400/500 on the Barassie and Newton on Ayr shores often in the past four years, and following a reliable report of some 2000/2500 at Barassie at the end of March 1963 he counted 1000 ± 50 on 3rd April (GAR); another observer reports that up to 1000 Knot has not been an unusual count on the Barassie shore in recent winters, and sensational numbers on 27th January, about the time of the observation giving rise to these comments, were estimated at between 7000 and 8000 (LAU).

On 7th April a **Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at Auldgirth, Dumfriesshire, with a British bird; this is apparently only the second published record of this race in the county (see *antea* 2: 317) (JGY). April movements of **Common Gulls** over Invergowrie included 130 passing NE at 1800 hrs on the 8th, and smaller numbers until the 25th (HB).

In addition to the **Turtle Doves** away from their breeding localities in early June (*antea* 2: 438), one remained from 12th to 15th May in a strip of deciduous wood at the edge of a fir plantation on the south slope of Tinto Hill, Lanarkshire (DBK). A **Collared Dove** seen at Fort William on 18th May is the first record of the species for South Inverness-shire and Argyll Faunal Area (CGC).

A **Jay** in Blackhall forest on 22nd April was a rare bird for North Kincardineshire (see *antea* 2: 194) (NP).

There was a **Chiffchaff** at Invermoriston, Inverness-shire, on 11th May (CGC).

A **Great Grey Shrike**, first seen early in November 1962, spent the whole winter about a mile west of Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, and was noted regularly until the end of March, even in the severe weather (AW); another was seen near Forest Lodge, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire, on 9th April (HAF).

General observations on behaviour and plumage

Two observers have further comments on the apparently legless gulls (*antea* 2: 384). Many were noticed on a crossing to South Uist on 1st July accompanying the boat, but on close inspection it was seen that instead of putting their legs back under the tail, they were in fact tucking them forward into their breast feathers (TDHM). The other observer was caught by this "leg-pull" in 1950 and started a correspondence about it in *The Field*. The phenomenon had however been photographed and commented upon by John Barlee (*Birds on the Wing*, 1947), who demonstrated that the legs were not hidden in the tail coverts but held forward and tucked away beneath the belly feathers (LAU). Further comments have been published recently on this subject by L. P. Alder (*Brit. Birds* 56: 219).

A **Black Guillemot** timed diving off Handa, Sutherland, early

in September remained submerged for from 32 to 55 seconds, the average of 16 dives being about 40 seconds (HAF).

Wood pigeons have recently been reported nesting in the marram grass at Forvie, Aberdeenshire (*Brit. Birds* 56: 340); in the same area a second nest was found on the ground on 2nd June, but it was later deserted (NP).

At Dunbog, North Fife, five pairs of **Starlings** were feeding second broods early in July, after successfully rearing their first broods; in previous years only one possible instance of a second brood has been suspected there (TS).

On 29th July and early in August at Kinnaird Castle, Brechin, Angus, a normally plumaged pair of **Bullfinches** was seen feeding two white fledglings; one was pure white, but the other had a few light grey feathers on the upper back; the colour of the eyes was not seen (GMC, JD).

Correction

The **Corncrake** calling on 15th June (*antea* 2: 436) was at Collin, Dumfriesshire, not Collin, Kirkcudbrightshire.

OBITUARIES

ELIZABETH A. GARDEN

(Plate 26)

Miss Elizabeth Ann Garden, Betty to her many friends, died at her home in Newburgh on 2nd September 1963. She had been seriously ill for several months and her courage, selflessness and cheerfulness during those distressing weeks will be remembered with admiration by all those (and there were many) who visited her. Ornithological circles in Scotland and further afield will find it very difficult to fill the unexpectedly large gap now in their ranks: unexpected because Betty Garden was involved in far more organisations and projects than her self-effacing manner suggested.

Although the family belonged to Aberdeen, she was born in Brighton on 29th May 1918 and returned with her parents to Aberdeen when only a few months old; eventually the family moved to Foucausie near Grandhome on the lower Don. She was educated at St Margaret's School, Aberdeen, and St Leonard's in St Andrews. After school she spent some months in eastern Canada, before returning to Foucausie. During the war she spent some years with the Forestry Commission in charge of a large number of girls, mainly in upper Donside, and in 1946 she was seconded to the Control Com-

mission and worked for two years in Germany in connection with their reforestation plans. During this time she saw much of western Europe. In 1948 she returned home and spent two more years with the Forestry Commission before returning to Foucaisie to help nurse her father in his long fatal illness. Early in 1957 she moved to Newburgh so that she could carry out more intensive observations on the birds of the Ythan estuary. She lived in lodgings until 1959, and then moved into her own house in which so many ornithologists were to gather and enjoy her generous hospitality.

Betty Garden was interested in the outdoors even as a little girl. Her father was an enthusiastic climber, angler and bird watcher, and she owed her great love of the first and the last to his influence. She was an active climber and member of the Cairngorm Club for many years but ceased this activity after witnessing a distressing accident in the snow-clad summits of the Cairngorms. Her interest in birds flourished, and indeed for the last ten years or so her life was devoted to their study. Her activities went far beyond simple bird watching. In 1958 she analysed and published a survey of heronries in Scotland, and her work, along with Dr C. Rayski, on parasites and disease of Eiders was published in *Nature* and in the Wildfowl Trust *Annual Report*. However, it is perhaps not by her work in the field of original research that she will be best remembered, but for her activities in co-ordinating and analysing the data from cooperative enquiries, such as the Heron Census, the Mute Swan Enquiry and the National Wildfowl Counts for which she was the Scottish Recorder. Her association with the Wildfowl Trust was one of the most productive from her point of view. Recently she had begun trapping diving ducks on the Ythan estuary, and in the last months of 1962 was obtaining useful catches of Scaup, Goldeneye and Tufted Ducks—species notoriously difficult to catch. One of the Tufted Ducks caught in the Ythan had been ringed in Finland, and was subsequently recaptured on Finnish breeding grounds in spring 1963. This remarkable double recovery gave her a great deal of pleasure.

Betty was a keen member of the S.O.C. of which she was the Branch Secretary in Aberdeen; she was an enthusiast at the R.S.P.B. Osprey camps where her culinary efforts were always popular; she was the local representative of the B.T.O. and a member of the Wildfowl Trust. Her interest in birds took her beyond the confines of this country to Faroe, Iceland, the Everglades in Florida and to Sweden, but it brought her also to the Ythan estuary. There she built Eider Cottage, with a wonderful view of the estuary and the Foveran Burn. From its picture window she identified over 100 species of birds, and the fine view comforted her during her illness. It was

Betty's wish to ensure that all her projects should be carried on, and several people are now continuing where she left off. Past and future results will be due very largely to her unstinted efforts.

G. M. DUNNET.

IAN R. DOWNHILL

The sad news that Ian Downhill had gone missing while bird watching on Island Roan in Sutherland will have shocked his many friends north of the border.

A Yorkshireman, Ian first joined the S.O.C. when he came to Edinburgh to study at the Royal Dick Veterinary College in 1960 after a season as assistant warden at Skokholm Bird Observatory. But it came as no surprise when, after a successful first year at university, he decided to change to the science faculty and study zoology. Both at university and in the S.O.C., meetings of which he attended regularly, he came to be widely respected for his quiet enthusiasm and extensive knowledge.

His interest in birds stemmed from a love of the wilds, and when he first visited Sutherland in 1959 he had found an ideal niche for himself. He returned there for much of each summer vacation in subsequent years and, being an indefatigable field-worker, he quickly built up a considerable knowledge of the birds of that county. Perhaps his greatest find, and that in which he took most pleasure, was the first pair of Wood Sandpipers to breed in Scotland—indeed he was also responsible for their discovery at a second location. In the last two years his interest had centred on Island Roan, off the Kyle of Tongue, and his important finds there have received justified publicity in this journal.

Our sympathies must go to his parents with the knowledge that we share the burden of a great loss.

P. J. B. SLATER.

CORRECTIONS

A check-list of the birds of Tentsmuir, Fife:

- p. 125 l. 22—for "about 1919" read "about 1910."
- p. 125 l. 25—for "by 1910" read "by 1919."
- p. 127 l. 39—for "nesting terns" read "nestling terns."

OFFICIAL SECTION

THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 1963

		As at 31/8/63	As at 31/8/62
Accumulated Surplus :			
As at 31st August 1962	...	£1020 5 2	£1003
Add: Library Fund Balance written back	...	14 2 5	31
"Scottish Birds" Account written back	...	30 17 10	—
Provisions written back	...	120 0 0	—
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year		£1185 5 5	1034
		351 10 4	151
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		£1536 15 9	£1185
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
Made up of :			
Cash—In hands of Secretary	...	£10 0 0	£10
In Royal Bank of Scotland	...	158 0 3	102
In do. No. 2 A/c.	...	100 0 0	—
In Edinburgh Savings Bank	...	415 7 3	128
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		683 7 6	240
Book Shop Stock at cost	...	154 3 10	—
Debt due to Club	...	4 0 0	9
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		841 11 4	249
5% Defence Bonds	...	500 0 0	500
Loan to Renfrew County Council at 6½% repayable 1965	...	500 0 0	500
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		1841 11 4	1249
Less :			
Subscriptions paid in advance	£72 17 6		64
Donation from the late Miss E. A. Garden— not yet expended	...	60 0 0	—
Debts due by Club	...	171 18 1	—
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		304 15 7	—
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		£1536 15 9	£1185
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
Endowments—the free annual income of which is available for the advancement of ornithology:			
Miss L. J. Rintoul	...	£1000 0 0	£1000
Miss E. V. Baxter	...	1000 0 0	1000
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		£2000 0 0	£2000
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
Invested in :			
£1151 3½% War Stock at cost	...	£1000 0 0	£1000
976 Units The Equities Investment Fund for Charities at cost	...	1000 0 0	1000
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	
		£2000 0 0	£2000
		<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	

Revenue Account for the year ended 31st August 1963

	Year to 31/8/63	Year to 31/8/62
INCOME—		
Subscriptions received for year	£1359 7 9	£1185
Income Tax recovered on Covenanted Subscriptions	133 7 11	112
Dividends and Interest received	141 16 7	131
Surplus on Book Shop (Sales £534)	154 18 10	56
Sales of "Scottish Birds" to non-members	71 19 3	84
Sundry Sales	75 14 6	36
Special Income:		
Donations	20 17 0	—
Surplus on Usher Hall Lecture	55 16 3	—
	<u>£2013 18 1</u>	<u>£1604</u>
EXPENDITURE—		
Branch Expenses including Lectures	£189 4 9	£135
Secretarial Services	530 1 11	457
Office Expenses	223 12 2	204
Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection:		
Club's Share of Running Expenses (including £50 contribution to House Fabric Fund)	205 17 5	135
Cost of Books Purchased for Library	122 11 5	111
Cost of Publishing "Scottish Birds" (less advertising revenue £173, 3/7)	340 6 5	354
Net Cost of Annual Conference	31 11 0	9
Subscriptions paid	5 2 0	5
Sundry Purchases	14 0 8	43
	<u>£1662 7 9</u>	<u>£1453</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet	351 10 4	151
	<u>£2013 18 1</u>	<u>£1604</u>

**House Fabric Fund—Summary of Accounts for year ended
31st August 1963**

	Year to 31/8/63	Year to 31/8/62
RECEIPTS—		
Balance as at 31st August 1962	£86 6 8	£72
Year's Rent from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	100 0 0	100
Year's Rent from Mr and Mrs George Waterston	100 0 0	100
Annual Contribution from S.O.C. Revenue Account	50 0 0	50
Donation in memory of James and Catherine Harvey —for new lending library	200 0 0	—
Miscellaneous interests	3 15 3	3
	<u>£540 1 11</u>	<u>£325</u>

EXPENDITURE—

Repairs and maintenance (including cost of painting staircase—£78)	£103	1	5	£93
Property Burdens	140	1	0	135
Insurance	10	4	11	10
	<hr/>			
	253	7	4	238
On Deposit with Dunedin Building Society	£272	10	4	
At credit of account with Fraser, Stodart & Ballingall, W.S.	14	4	3	
	<hr/>			
	286	14	7	86
	<hr/>			
	£540	1	11	£424
	<hr/>			
	<hr/>			

EDINBURGH, 15th October, 1963.—I have audited the foregoing revenue accounts for the year to 31st August 1963 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 Accountant.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

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

Membership. The membership of the Club has again showed a satisfactory increase during the session, reaching a total of 1261. 279 new members were enrolled, while 121 resigned or failed to renew their subscriptions. Joint membership subscriptions rose from 60 to 75. Comparative figures are shown in the following tables:

	31/8/59	31/8/60	31/8/61	31/8/62	31/8/63
Ordinary	747	781	852	918	1062
Junior	140	141	177	181	195
Honorary	7	5	6	4	4
	<hr/>				
	894	927	1035	1103	1261
	<hr/>				

Deeds of Covenant. Deeds of Covenant signed by members for their subscriptions increased from 130 to 175 during the Session. The Council wishes to thank members who signed new Covenants and thereby enabled the general funds of the Club to benefit by a total of £134, and to commend this method of subscribing to all those who pay income tax at the full rate.

Council Meetings. The Council met five times during the Session.

General Meetings. A full programme of lectures was carried out during the winter in seven Branches. The Council wishes to thank the lecturers who gave so freely of their services, the Branch Secretaries for their arrangements, and all who gave hospitality.

New Groups. Two new Groups of the Club were formed during the summer in Thurso and Inverness. Owing to the small number of members in these areas the Council decided to affiliate them to the Club as Groups under the aims expressed in item (2) (b) of the Constitution, and it was hoped that when the numbers had increased sufficiently full Branch status with representation on the Council could be given. Already a number of new members have been enrolled in both areas as a result, and the Council extends its good wishes for the success of both Groups.

Ayr Branch. The new Branch in Ayr completed its first session very successfully with a considerable increase in local membership.

Excursions. In addition to local excursions arranged by the Branches during the summer, the Club also organised weekend excursions to Dumfries in February and to Aviemore in May, both of which were well attended.

Annual Conference. The Annual Conference and Annual Dinner were held in Dunblane in October with an attendance of over 200 members and guests. The official guests of the Club were Dr K. H. Voous, Amsterdam, and Dr Robert Carrick, Canberra, who both gave papers, and Heinz Sielmann, Munich, who showed his films on the Galapagos Islands.

Public Lecture. A public lecture was arranged in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, on the day after the Annual Conference to enable a wider audience to hear Heinz Sielmann and to see his film. This lecture was well attended and the profit of £56 was applied to the general funds of the Club.

Northern Conference. A special weekend Conference for members living in the north of Scotland was held in Inverness from 30th November to 2nd December with an attendance of about 40 members and guests. Papers were given by Dr G. M. Dunnet and Harry Milne, Culterty Research Station; Dr D. H. Mills, Salmon Research Laboratory, Contin; David Wilson, Secretary of the B.T.O.; Roy Dennis; Dr I. D. Pennie; and Dr W. J. Eggeling, Nature Conservancy; and much useful discussion was held.

"Scottish Birds." Four numbers of the journal were published during the session and the Council wishes to congratulate the Editor, A. T. Macmillan, on the very high standard maintained in each number. In addition to Libraries in Britain, the journal is now sent by subscription or exchange to Libraries and Societies in Australia and New Zealand, U.S.A. and Canada, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland.

In the autumn the Council accepted with great regret the resignation of Arthur Smith as Business Editor of "Scottish Birds" owing to increased pressure of work in his own business, and wish to record their gratitude to him for the immense amount of work he has done, both in the initial launching of the journal and in the subsequent production. Dr T. C. Smout has been appointed in his place.

Scottish Bird Records Committee. The Committee met once during the session under the chairmanship of D. G. Andrew; the Review for 1962 was published in "Scottish Birds" (2: 342-350).

Club Library. A number of books and journals has been presented to the Library during the year, and the Council records its sincere thanks to all the donors. It was agreed by the Council that a maximum sum of £120 should be allocated to the Library Fund for the purchase of books during the session. Among important purchases made was a complete set of the Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, and Alpheraky's "Geese of Europe and Asia." A gift of £60 from the late Miss Betty Garden was received for the purchase of a glass-fronted bookcase for the more valuable books in the Library. As a result of a donation of £200 in memory of James and Catherine Harvey, the Council was able to recondition and furnish a room in the Scottish Centre for use as a Lending Library. This room is now complete and provides ample space for the books as well as helping to relieve pressure of space in the Reference Library.

Bookshop. The Club has received official sanction from the Publishers Association to operate a Bird Bookshop in the Scottish Centre. The

Club can now purchase all books at full trade discount and sell them to members at the usual retail price. As it was expected that there would be a considerable increase in revenue from this source, the Council agreed that these profits should in future be applied to the general funds of the Club and not to the Library Fund as formerly. During the summer, stocks of new books were built up in preparation for wider advertising in the new session, and a considerable number of books were sold bringing in a profit of approximately £154 for the year. A stock of over 100 titles is held at present in the bookshop—the largest range of bird books in any shop in Scotland—and the Council commends this new venture to members of the Club for their support. It hopes that this will not only be a useful service to members but will also increase the revenue and enable more developments to be made. All books are supplied post free.

Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection. Ornithologists from all parts of the world have again visited the Centre to obtain information on bird watching facilities. On 25th July a group of American ornithologists led by Mr Orville Crowder was entertained to a reception and film by members of Council and of the Edinburgh Branch Committee. The offices and Club room were open to the public during National Nature Week from 17th to 24th June. The main Club room and Library has been redecorated during the summer.

Certain changes occurred in the officers of the Club during the year. The Council received with regret the resignation of Robert Hillcoat as Hon. Treasurer of the Club, and records its gratitude to him for his services. Maxwell Hamilton, C.A. was appointed in his place. In February Mrs R. Smillie was appointed as a part-time secretarial assistant to Mrs Waterston. The Council also records its sincere thanks to Mrs John Hyatt who gave a great deal of her time and energy in a voluntary capacity over many months to re-cataloguing the Reference Library.

For the Council, M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN, President.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Hotel Dunblane, Perthshire, on Saturday 26th October 1963, at 6.15 p.m. Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn, President of the Club, presided over an attendance of about seventy-five members.

Apologies. Apologies for absence were received from Dr David Boddington, D. M. Stark and Dr Adam Watson.

Minutes. The Minutes of the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting, held in Dunblane on 27th October 1962, were approved and signed.

Report of Council. The Chairman presented the Report of Council for the past year. He stressed the steady increase in Club membership over the past five years, and the importance to the Club of income obtained both through Deeds of Covenant signed by members for their subscriptions, and from the new Club Bookshop, and urged members to give these their support. The Report was adopted.

Miss E. A. Garden and Ian R. Downhill. The Chairman announced with great regret the deaths of Miss E. A. Garden, Secretary of the Aberdeen Branch and member of Council for many years, and Ian R. Downhill, Zoology student at Edinburgh University, who was lost on Island Roan, Sutherland, in September.

Accounts. The Accounts for the past Session, presented by the Hon. Treasurer, were approved.

Election of Auditor. Arthur Walker C.A. was re-elected Auditor for the ensuing session.

Election of new Office-Bearers. In the absence of any other nominations, the Council's recommendation for the election of new Office-Bearers was approved, as follows: President, Dr I. D. Pennie to replace Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn who had completed his term of office; Vice-President, Dr W. J. Eggeling, to replace Dr I. D. Pennie; Council, J. H. B. Munro and Dr D. H. Mills to replace A. G. S. Bryson and Lt. Col. J. P. Grant who were due to retire by rotation; G. L. A. Patrick to replace G. H. Acklam who had gone abroad; C. K. Mylne to replace Dr Eggeling, and A. J. Smith to replace A. T. Macmillan, who as Editor of the Journal was now an ex officio member of Council. The appointment of M. K. Hamilton as Hon. Treasurer was also confirmed. The Chairman thanked the retiring members for their services to the Club.

Amendment to Constitution. The following amendment to the Constitution of the Club was approved, under 4 (h) Financial Year: "The financial year of the Club shall end on 30th June."

National Heron Census. The Chairman announced that the Council would make an appointment shortly of a Scottish organiser for the B.T.O. National Census of Heronries in 1964.

Votes of Thanks. The Chairman moved a warm vote of thanks to all the members who were assisting at the Conference in the Registration Office, the projectionists, excursion leaders and exhibitors. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman on the motion of Dr I. D. Pennie, President-elect of the Club.

COUNCIL AND OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE CLUB FOR SESSION 27

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

President : Dr I. D. Pennie.

Vice-President : Dr W. J. Eggeling.

Hon. Treasurer : Maxwell K. Hamilton, C.A.

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

Secretary and Treasurer : Mrs George Waterston.

Editor of "Scottish Birds" : A. T. Macmillan.

Assistant Editors of "Scottish Birds" : D. G. Andrew; Dr T. C. Smout.

Business Editor of Scottish Birds" : Dr T. C. Smout.

Council : Dr J. W. Campbell; Dr G. M. Dunnet; Alastair Macdonald; Dr D. H. Mills; J. H. B. Munro; C. K. Mylne; G. L. A. Patrick; A. J. Smith; George Waterston; A. D. Watson.

Branch Representatives to Council : William Austin (Dumfries); Mrs L. S. Barrus (Aberdeen); Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame (St Andrews); C. E. Palmar (Glasgow); Mrs A. E. S. Scorgie (Ayr); J. Hunter Sutherland (Dundee); Miss Olive Thompson (Edinburgh).

BRANCH AND GROUP OFFICE-BEARERS

Aberdeen : Chairman, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards; Vice-Chairman, A. Anderson; Secretary, Mrs L. S. Barrus; Committee, Dr G. M. Dunnet, D. W. Garvie, Miss F. J. Greig.

Ayr : Chairman, R. M. Ramage; Vice-Chairman, G. A. Richards; Secretary, Dr M. E. Castle; Committee, S. L. Hunter, Mrs M. E. McGregor, Rev. J. S. Phillip, Mrs A. E. S. Scorgie.

Caithness : Chairman, J. M. Gunn; Secretary, D. M. Stark.

- Inverness** : Chairman, Dr Maeve Rusk; Vice-Chairman, Dr D. H. Mills; Secretary, James MacGeoch; Committee, not known.
- Dumfries** : Chairman, Sir Arthur Duncan; Vice-Chairman, William Austin; Secretary, H. M. Russell; Committee, not known.
- Dundee** : Chairman, J. Hunter Sutherland; Vice-Chairman, J. E. Forrest; Secretary, Jack Scobie; Committee, F. D. Graham, Andrew Shepherd, Miss Jenny Stirling, R. Summers.
- Edinburgh** : Chairman, A. T. Macmillan; Vice-Chairman, M. K. Hamilton; Secretary, Miss Olive Thompson; Committee, C. N. L. Cowper, C. K. Mylne, Mrs E. F. Paterson, P. J. B. Slater.
- Glasgow** : Chairman, C. E. Palmar; Vice-Chairman, J. M. S. Arnott; Secretary, G. L. A. Patrick; Committee, Mrs W. U. Flower, Miss M. Mathisen, T. D. H. Merrie, A. L. Ogilvy.
- St Andrews** : Chairman, Miss J. McFarlane; Vice-Chairman, Miss D. M. Wilson; Secretary, Miss M. M. Spires; Committee, Miss J. V. Black, Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame, Julian Holdroyd.

SCOTTISH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Chairman : D. G. Andrew.

Committee : A. G. S. Bryson, Dr J. W. Campbell, 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.

WEEKEND EXCURSION TO DUMFRIES

An excursion has been arranged with the County Hotel, Dumfries, for the weekend 21st to 23rd February 1964, to see the geese on the Solway.

Accommodation: inclusive terms £4. 9. 6d (including 10% service charge) as follows—dinner and bed, Friday 21st; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and bed on Saturday 22nd; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 23rd.

Members may bring guests, and should book direct with the Manager, County Hotel, Dumfries (Tel. 146), notifying him that they are attending the Club excursion. Arrangements for transport by private cars should be made with Branch Secretaries. It is advisable to bring warm clothing, gum boots if possible, and thermos flasks.

AYR BRANCH WINTER EXCURSIONS

The Ayr Branch has arranged a series of local excursions during the coming winter months. Members who are interested and wish to participate should meet promptly at 2 p.m. in Wellington Square, Ayr, on the first Saturday in each month, December to March inclusive. The excursion leader will be present in Wellington Square opposite the County Hotel.



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Set at the foot of the Monadhliath range, with the forests and marshes of the Spey, the Cairngorm Nature Reserve, and the wild country of upper Badenoch within easy reach.

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For birds, the district is at its best in May, June and October (autumn migration can be impressive).

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**Pitmain Beag,
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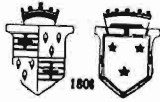
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