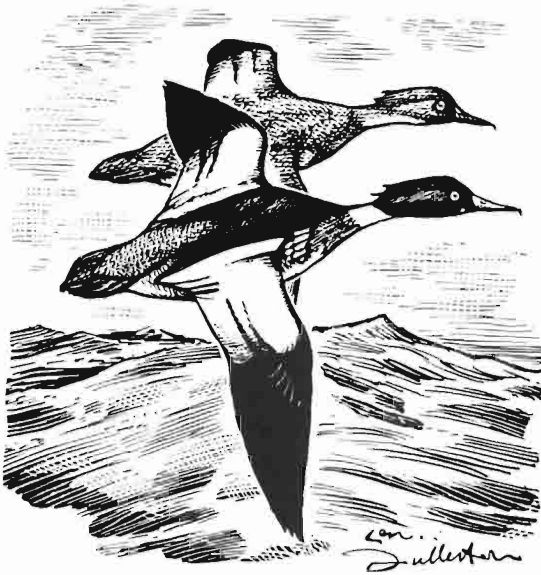


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The Journal of The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Vol. 3 No. 4

Winter 1964

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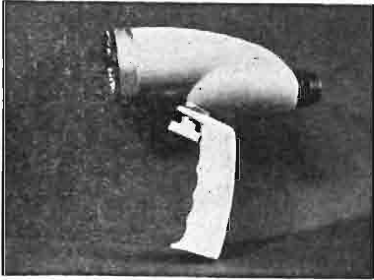
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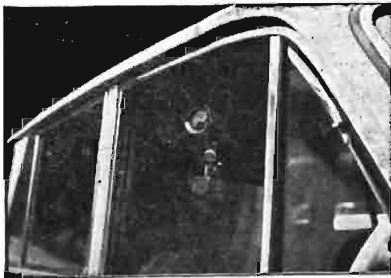
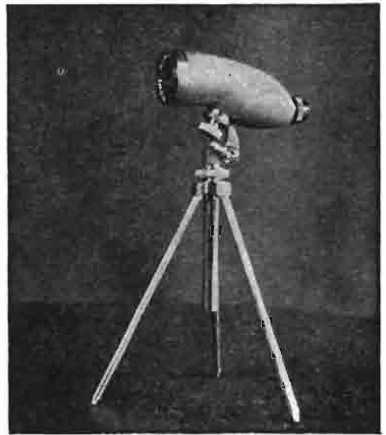
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Scottish Birds

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Vol. 3 No. 4

Winter 1964

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 FULLERTON.

Editorial

Conservation. The theme of the S.O.C. annual conference at Dunblane in October was the very topical one of conservation. Dr W. J. Eggeling gave us a masterly introduction, making a difficult subject lucid with a series of telling examples. Conservation is much more than mere protection; it implies wise management of natural resources. Simply protecting an animal species from all its enemies is likely to be a failure. The species may, for example, multiply greatly at first, but later there will be too little food to go round, so that starvation and death follow. When the balance of nature is disturbed a complex chain reaction is started.

A. E. Smith traced the history of the county naturalists' trusts, now covering virtually every county in England and Wales. Formation of the Scottish Wildlife Trust is a most important step towards coordinating natural history interests in Scotland, for these trusts can do a great amount of practical conservation at a local level.

We saw some fine colour slides by M. D. England of the Black-winged Kite and of a magnificent Portuguese marsh which is imminently threatened by the rapid advance of rice fields. A collection taken to help save this unique area raised nearly £25. A fascinating film by Eric Hosking and others, introduced by I. J. Ferguson-Lees, showed us the deserts of Jordan. To see the dreadful effects of persistent over-grazing and consequent soil erosion was a reminder of the need for the planned management of the countryside. It is not enough to leave things alone and hope for the best.

Nor is it satisfactory just to put up a fence to keep man out. In Britain at least, there is little truly "natural" countryside, totally uninfluenced by man. He has been there so long that he is part of the environment in very many ways and has made it what it is. With proper thought it is quite possible to preserve the variety of the countryside and its flora and fauna which we desire, along with man's agricultural, recreational and other activities. Conservation is, after all, the wise use of natural resources *for the benefit of man.*

The Scottish Wildlife Trust. It is easy to imagine that conservation is something to be left to the expert; that there is nothing the ordinary amateur naturalist can usefully contribute. This is not so. The tremendous interest in birds and flowers and butterflies in this country is the greatest strength of the movement, the envy of conservationists in less nature-minded countries. Government departments tend, perhaps inevitably, to move ponderously. Some priceless natural feature—a unique type of bog, or the last stronghold of a rare species—may be ploughed up and destroyed for ever through local ignorance, almost before anyone is aware of the need to preserve it.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust has been formed to do something about the wide variety of such threats to wild animals and plants. Its success will depend very much on the enthusiasm and vigilance of amateur naturalists all over Scotland. With the present issue of *Scottish Birds* a leaflet is sent to you, describing, far more clearly than we can, exactly what the Trust is all about. One thing we do know, however—it is most worthy of your support. We shall undoubtedly be hearing a lot more of it in the future.

Bernard Tucker Medal. The Bernard Tucker Medal for 1964 has been awarded to Dr Derek A. Ratcliffe for organising the Peregrine Enquiry in 1962 and 1963 and for his exceptional work in the field. We send our congratulations to Dr Ratcliffe on this high honour. Readers will recall a masterly book review which he contributed to our pages (2: 215).

Current literature. Quite a crop of papers with a strong Scottish flavour has appeared recently:

Effects of recent hard winters on the Shelducks of the Ythan. Colin Young, 1964. *Ann. Rep. Wildfowl Trust* 15: 45.

The numbers and behaviour of geese in the Lothians and Berwickshire. William Brotherston, 1964. *ARWT* 15: 57-70. We hope to review this important paper.

Capture of moulting Canada Geese in the Beaully Firth. R. H. Dennis, 1964. *ARWT* 15: 70-74. Ringing recoveries link these birds with Yorkshire.

Barnacle Geese caught in Dumfriesshire in February 1963. Hugh Boyd, 1964. *ARWT* 15: 75-76. Rocket-netting recaptured many birds ringed in Spitsbergen.

Recoveries of ducks ringed in Aberdeenshire by Miss E. A. Garden. Hugh Boyd, 1964. *ARWT* 15: 77-78.

Wildfowl on hydro-electric reservoirs in the Scottish Highlands. Derek Mills & Duncan MacIver, 1964. *ARWT* 15: 79-84. Based on counts at Meig reservoir, Ross-shire.

Arrival times and measurements of small petrels on St

Kilda. Estlin (W.E.) Waters, 1964. *Brit. Birds* 57: 309-315.

Residues of organo-chlorine insecticides in a Golden Eagle. Adam Watson & N. C. Morgan, 1964. *Brit. Birds* 57: 341-344 For at least the previous six months the eagle lived on a deer forest, away from likely sources of these chemicals.

A census of breeding land-birds on Hirta, St Kilda, in summer, 1963. Kenneth Williamson, 1964. *Bird Study* 11: 153-167.

Recoveries of ringed Herring Gulls. M. P. Harris, 1964. *Bird Study* 11: 183-191. With map of recoveries of birds ringed in Ross-shire.

Operation Osprey, 1964. George Waterston, 1964. *Bird Notes* 31: 126-129.

Fair Isle Bird Observatory. *Annual Report for 1963*. 1964. 32 pages.

Scottish Ornithologists*

1. Sir Robert Sibbald 1641-1722

IAN D. PENNIE

(Plates 16-18)

Sir Robert Sibbald has been called the father of Scottish botany, but it would be no over-estimation of his lifelong devotion to science and his practical furtherance of so many scientific fields and institutions in Scotland to regard him as the father of Scottish natural history. To many, Sibbald's name possibly recalls the alpine plant which he first described, or that the alternative name for the largest living mammal is Sibbald's Rorqual, but too few nowadays are aware of this remarkable doctor's contributions to Scottish life and culture as founder of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, founder of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and of the Edinburgh University museum, as Geographer Royal for Scotland and as author of the first comprehensive treatise on the natural history of Scotland and of

*For a long time we have wanted to publish biographies of some of the great Scottish naturalists of the past. Many were fascinating men, with a tremendous breadth of interest and knowledge of all branches of natural history. Any account of their lives shows how much the modern naturalist must lose by too narrow a specialisation in one particular field. We are extremely grateful to Dr Pennie for starting us off with an account of one of the earliest serious writers on Scottish ornithology. Further articles in this series will appear as opportunity allows.—Ed.

many other works relating to the natural history and geography of his native country.

Sibbald was born in Edinburgh in the year 1641 and died in 1722. That such a prominent and at times controversial figure should have survived over fourscore years during one of the most turbulent and violent periods of Scottish history is in itself a remarkable feat of endurance, and although at an early age he "preferred a quiet lyfe, wherein I might not be engaged in factions of Church or State" this profession required the assistance of singularly good fortune on several occasions. His earliest encounter with violence occurred during the residence of his family in Dundee at the time the town was sacked by General Monk's troops. Robert was fired at by the English musketry as he ran out to save his younger sister Geals who had strayed into the street; he rescued his sister and managed to pick up as a souvenir a musket ball which, missing the children, spattered on the street beside them.

Other narrow escapes are related in Sibbald's memoirs: one when crossing the Firth of Forth in a rudderless boat with a drunken crew; another, apparently very soon after this, when a fire broke out in a cellar under the rooms in which he was lodging: in the cellar were five barrels of gunpowder—"it was God his goodness vt I was not blown up." But the nearest approach to a violent and untimely end came as a consequence of his being, through friendship with and admiration for the Earl of Perth, converted to the Roman faith, at a time when anti-Roman feeling in Scotland ran at its highest and religious persecution was rife. Fired by the current misconception that Sibbald had been responsible for the Earl's change of faith, a rabble of several hundred strong, armed with dirks, axes and forehammers, attacked his house and smashed in the doors, bent on assassination. Sibbald escaped in the nick of time and fled to London until feelings cooled, whence he later returned to Scotland and the protestant faith.

Such episodes give some idea of the difficulties and dangers attendant on everyday life in Scotland in the seventeenth century, at a time when plague, typhus, smallpox and starvation still controlled the human population, when transport and travel were arduous and hazardous in the extreme, and even personal religious faith could be a matter of life and death. No small wonder therefore that this quiet and studious man preferred medicine to the church after his graduation in Arts at Edinburgh University in 1659.

Robert Sibbald obtained his medical diploma at Angiers in July 1662 following attendance at the medical schools of Leyden and Paris. He returned to England the same year

travelled by coach to York from where he "took horses and a guide to Newcastle" and thence with the same horses and guide to Edinburgh where he arrived on 30th October. At this time the quiet and secluded life of a physician seemed most attractive to his unassuming and studious nature, and he carried out his intention to practise medicine, and refused money not only "of the of a mean condition, but of many that pressed me take it . . . The designe I proposed to myself was to passe quietly through the world, and content myself with a moderate fortune . . . I frequented only a few of my friends and acquaintance, and read much."

This resolution however was modified a few years later by his renewed acquaintanceship with Andrew Balfour, a former associate in France, who returned in 1667 to St Andrews as a physician and three years later moved to Edinburgh. Balfour had been a pupil of William Harvey the anatomist, and he it was who introduced the dissection of the human body into Scotland. He was also a naturalist of repute and is credited with being the first to disprove the still current belief of the generation of Barnacle Geese from barnacle shells. Balfour evidently influenced Sibbald to broaden his studies to include natural history, and Sibbald thereafter resolved to "know what animalls, vegetables, mineralls, metall, and substances cast up by the sea, were found in this country, yt might be of use in medicine, or other artes usefull to human lyfe, and I began to be curious in searching after ym and collecting ym, which I continued to do ever since."

Balfour and Sibbald were obviously keenly aware of the appalling want of any form of medical training in Scotland, for almost as soon as the former returned to Edinburgh the two collaborated to establish a "medicine garden," the forerunner of the Royal Botanic Garden, under the care of a young gardener, James Sutherland, who subsequently became professor of botany in Edinburgh. The site of this "first faint gleam of scientific teaching" is now forever lost beneath Waverley Railway Station, and indeed came almost to early destruction when the Nor' Loch was drained as a military operation in 1689 and the effluvia allowed to run all over Sutherland's garden, burying his treasures under a sea of mud and rubbish.

Soon after the establishment of the garden Sibbald began to hold his fortnightly meetings with other Edinburgh physicians which culminated in the foundation in 1681 of the Edinburgh College of Physicians. Among the founder members were of course Balfour, and also Dr Archibald Pitcairn, one of the most eminent members of his profession, noted moreover for his convivial habits and vitriolic pen. He later

composed a scathing lampoon on Sibbald's conversion to Roman Catholicism and published a severe criticism of *Scotia Illustrata*, Sibbald's principal work. At these meetings the matters discoursed upon, to quote Sibbald's own words "was letters from these abroad, giving account of what was most remarkable a doing by the learned, some rare cases had happened in our practise, and an account of Bookes, that tended to the improvement of medicine or naturall history, or any other curious learning . . ." One of the early papers read to the new College was a discourse by Sibbald "Concerning the Concha Anatifera," which was later published (1710) in a collection of papers entitled *Miscellanea Quaedam Eruditae Antiquitatis Quae ad Borealem Britanniae majoris Partem pertinent* and summarised in *Scotia Illustrata*. Sibbald seems to have been determined to drive the last nail into the coffin of the *Concha Anatifera*, aroused doubtless by the publication, so late as 1678, by no less a body than the Royal Society, of a paper describing the perfectly formed miniature geese which had been found on the dissection of barnacles.

Sibbald's reputation as a doctor and scientist soon spread, and he was engaged as personal physician to the Earl of Perth, who, as his patron, encouraged him so that "to the inquiry after the naturall products of the Kingdome, I added the inquiry after what concerned an exact geographically description of it," and brought notice of his abilities to the reigning monarch Charles the Second, with the result that in 1682 Sibbald was appointed King's Physician and Geographer Royal for Scotland, with a royal command to publish the natural history and geographical description of the Kingdom of Scotland.

Sir Robert, as he now was, applied himself assiduously to this commission, though complaining bitterly that "This was the cause of great paines and very much expence to me, in buying all these books and manuscripts I could gett for that use, and procuring informations from all parts of the country, even from the most remote isles." He employed John Adair as his cartographer, again at his own expense, but received only one payment of £100 sterling from King James the Seventh, and this in respect of his services as physician. The proposed new atlas of Scotland did not materialise however, and how long Adair remained in Sibbald's employment is not recorded, but it seems that Adair received a government contract to continue with his survey, for in 1691 he had a petition before the Privy Council against "... the envy, malice and oppression of Sir Robert Sibbald, Doctor of Medicine, who, upon pretence of a private paction and contract, extorted through the power he pretended took the petitioner bound not to survey any shire or part thereof without Sir Robert his special advice and consent, and that he should not give

copies of these maps to any other person without Sir Robert his special permission, under a severe penalty." The petition was upheld and an appeal by Sir Robert dismissed.

Meanwhile however Sibbald's greatest work had come to fruition, and in 1684 was published the first comprehensive treatise on Scottish natural history under the title of *Scotia Illustrata sive Prodrromus Historiae naturalis in quo Regionis natura, Incolarum Ingenia & Mores, Morbi iisque medendi Methodus, & Medicina Indigena accurate explicantur*. Twelve hundred copies were printed, of which the author received one hundred in large paper; seventy of these he gave away as presents, and two, richly bound, were sent to King Charles the Second and His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

This was stated to have been the fruits of twenty years labour, and it is evident that the author spared no effort in collecting his material. He was probably the first person to collect his data by the circulation of printed questionnaires, which he distributed throughout the country, and these were followed by the publication of a list of books and manuscripts he was anxious to obtain and had not been able to procure. As with all Sibbald's earlier works, the *Prodrromus* is written in the scientific Latin of the day, the meaning of which is often obscure, and anything approaching a literal translation is well nigh impossible: his division of interests is well shown in that the section on natural history has 113 pages devoted to botany, 12 to mammals and 9 to birds; 11 species of birds figured in the plates. Subsequent descriptive Scottish works were his *History of Linlithgow and Stirling* (1710), *History of Fife and Kinross* (1710), and *Description of the Isles of Orkney and Zetland* (1711). These were published in English and although generally poor in natural history content the two latter contain a few items of ornithological interest.

A paper by W. H. Mullens in volume 6 of *British Birds* contains a free translation into English of much of the ornithological matter from the *Prodrromus*. From this it can be readily seen that very few of Sibbald's records were derived from personal observation; the names and descriptions of some birds are quite unrecognisable, and the sources of his information quoted in very few instances; nevertheless there is some interesting and useful material. The translation in Mullens' paper is readily accessible for those who wish to read it without attempting the original, and the following selected list of species is solely those for which a locality is given:

Eagle. Many in west mainland of Orkney and in Hoy. (Informant Matthew MacKail, chemist in Aberdeen).

Falco gentilis (Peregrine). Ross and Orkney.

Bubo Maximus (Eagle Owl). In the Orkneys.

Upupa (Hoopoe). In the Merse (Berwick) and Orkneys.

Otis (Great Bustard). Said to frequent Merse and I was informed that one had been seen in East Lothian not long since. (The reference to the Merse is possibly derived from Hector Boece's statement of 1526).

Grus, the Crane. Sometimes comes to the Orkneys.

Himantopus (Black-winged Stilt). (A full and accurate description of two shot near Dumfries, the first published record for Scotland. Plate XI is drawn from this actual specimen. The spiral object under the bird is a sebaceous horn removed from a woman's head, and part of this is shown on the right also. The small beast is an "acarus" or mite).

Morinellus (Dotterel). Common in the Merse. (This is the earliest reference to migrant Dotterels in Berwickshire).

Alca Hoieri the Auk, the Scout of our country folk (Razorbill). It is found on the Island of Bass.

Lomwia of Hoierius. Found on Fair Island. (Mullens thinks this is possibly the **Red-throated Diver**, but it seems more probably to be the **Guillemot** which is "Lomvi" in Norwegian and "Loom" in Shetlandic).

Columba Groenlandica, the Sea-Turtle Dove, on the Island of Bass where it is called Turtur (**Black Guillemot**).

Anser Bassanus (Gannet). Breeds not only on the Island of Bass but on Ailsa and other islands of the Hebrides. A picture of a young one and of the head and foot of an adult is given in our plates... here among our countrymen the full-grown chickens are held to be delicious and fetch a high price.

Corvus Aquaticus, the Cormorant, frequents the rocks of the Firth of Forth.

Puffinus Anglorum. Common on the shores of our County of Gallo-way. (**Manx Shearwater**).

Colymbus Maximus: the Mergus Maximus of Fair Island... one was killed with a bullet near the Island of Keith. (Inchkeith. This is the actual specimen illustrated in plate XV. **Great Northern Diver**).

Hirundo Marina. The Pictarne of our countrymen, one was shot with a bullet in the Island of Keith by... Sir Andrew Balfour. (**Tern sp.**).

The Ember Goose. Common in the Orkneys. (**Great Northern Diver**).

Dunter Goose. Found in the Orkneys. Its eggs... are found in the Island of Keith. (**Eider**. Still called the Dunter in Shetland and elsewhere on the east coast).

Eider Duck. Seems to be the same as our Colca which Buchanan mentions when treating of the Island of Suilskerria. (Suleskerry).

Albanoca. A web-footed bird, speckled with red and white and ash-coloured spots. It nests on the Island Ailsa. (Probably **Guillemot**, locally known as albanacs or Ailsa cocks).

The *History of Linlithgow and Stirling* contains no ornithological material at all apart from the statement that "The moors abound with all sorts of wild-fowl, such as Moor-fowl, Black-cock, Plovers and Lapwings," while that in the *History of Fife and Kinross*, though more extensive, is concerned entirely with the seabirds of the Firth of Forth and its islands. As in the *Prodromus* many of these records are vague, though in this case more likely to be based on personal observation. He lists the birds of the islands:

Inchcolm. Many pigeon's and crowe's nests in the ruins.

Inchkeith. Vast numbers of young marrots (Razorbills) are caught. *Larus cinereus, niger*, the common sea-mall...the pictarne, the *Colymbus Maximus*...figured in the *Scotia Illustrata*...cormorants, both bigger and lesser.

May Isle. Skarts, dunturs, gulls, scouts, kittiwakes.

The Island of Bass. Soland geese. .sea turtle, scouts, skarts, several sort of sea malls...**some small isles called Craigleith, Lam, Fidra, Ibris**...the soland geese attempts often to nestle in them, but these who dwell in the Bass hinder them and destroy their eggs.

Thereafter follows an account of "the most remarkable" of the birds, including the sea-piot (Oystercatcher), cormorant, shag, greatest diver or loon (Great Northern Diver), cataractes (Great Skua), great black and white gull, Herring Gull, common Sea-mew of the lesser sort (?Black-headed Gull), common Sea-mew (Common Gull), Pictarne, *Turtur maritimus* (Black Guillemot), Solan-geese, Assilag (Storm Petrel) shot on Leith Sands, Culter-neb (Puffin), Marrot (Razorbill), Kittiewake, Skout (he seems uncertain what this is but probably means the common Guillemot), Duntur, I have not yet got a description of it, and finally Goosander.

This not very impressive list for the two counties does not reveal the author as an observer of nature, although there are quite accurate descriptions given of some species. His notes on the Gannet are quite extensive and include a description of the harvesting of the young, which were sold as a delicacy in Edinburgh for two shillings apiece, while the feathers fetched a good price for stuffing mattresses. He names other Gannet colonies on Ailsa, St Kilda and "a desert isle belonging to Orkney" (Sule Stack), and describes the Gannet's method of incubation—"they put the sole of their feet upon it (the egg) and foment it so, till the young be hatcht." Sibbald however was not the first to place this on record and it is highly probable that he merely copied the description from Gesner's *Historiae Animalium*, a copy of which he presented to the College of Physicians along with other books.

The *Description of the Isles of Orknay and Zetland* too is somewhat disappointing. The only relative matter in the section on Orkney is a reference to "Souliskerre and the Clett" (Suleskerry and Sule Stack) "which yield no commodity but Skarts and Solane Geese," and although on page 15 the reader is promised an account of the seabirds of Shetland "in the chapter concerning the natural history of these islands," all that appears later is a sentence referring to Shetland in general—"and the Rocks afford them all sorts of Sea Fowls, and they have many fresh water fowls, such as are narrated in the Description of the Firth of *Forth*, and others of which

there is an account in the *Prodromus*." In the descriptive section of the individual islands there are several generalisations about "Sea Fowles" and "Ravenous Fowls, as Eagles, Ravens and Crows" for which head-money was paid. Again, feathers were one of the principal exports from many islands including St Ninian's Isle, Fair Isle and Foula, "for which alone I knew a Jew sent from Holland for that part of trade." Falcons are said to be in several places, the best being those from Fair Isle and Noss, for which the King's falconer came regularly and received a hen from each house for the service he rendered in harrying the eyries.

So far as the birds are concerned it may be fairly concluded that Sibbald was not so much an observer and recorder of nature as a collector and cataloguer of information obtained from others: nevertheless, when the necessity arose for an accurate description such as that of the Black-winged Stilt, this was made with almost meticulous exactness. He was also an avid reader, familiar with all the current scientific literature, and accumulated an impressive library which was sold by public auction in 1723, previously advertised in a sale catalogue of 140 pages. His work was carried out under conditions and difficulties which in the twentieth century are now quite impossible to comprehend, but by his ideals, foresight and devotion he became the pioneer of much which is now taken for granted as part of everyday Scottish life and culture.

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King's College Library, Aberdeen, has a bound volume of Sibbald's works which includes the last four listed above. A full bibliography is given in Hett's edition of the *Memoirs*, but for some reason the *History of Fife and Kinross* is omitted.

Review of ornithological changes in Scotland in 1963

DOUGAL G. ANDREW

Introduction

This is the eleventh report of the Scottish Bird Records Committee, and it is concerned with records *published* during 1963 together with some records carried forward from earlier years. The periodicals searched, with the abbreviations used in this report, are as follows:

SB	<i>Scottish Birds</i> , Vol. 2: 277-517
SN	<i>Scottish Naturalist</i> , Vol. 71: 1-38
BB	<i>British Birds</i> , Vol. 56
BM	<i>Bird Migration</i> , Vol. 2: 205-340
BS	<i>Bird Study</i> , Vol. 10
FIBOB	<i>Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin</i> , Vol. 5: 1-111
	<i>Bird Notes</i> , Vol. 30: 161-296
	<i>Ibis</i> , Vol. 105
Bull. BOC	<i>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club</i> , Vol. 83
ARWT	<i>Fourteenth Annual Report of the Wildfowl Trust, 1961-62.</i>
RNC	<i>Report of The Nature Conservancy for 1962-63</i>

Frequent reference will also be found to Henry Boase's second manuscript survey of the birds of the Tay area—*Birds of Angus (BA)*, of which a copy has been presented to the S.O.C. Library (reviewed SB 2: 388)—and to *Wildfowl in Great Britain (WGB)*, published by H.M. Stationery Office as No. 3 of the Monographs of the Nature Conservancy. Abbreviations are also used for the following works:

BofS	<i>Birds of Scotland, 1953</i>
GDSBS	<i>Geographical Distribution and Status of Birds in Scotland, 1928</i>

There have been no changes in the composition of the Committee which remains as follows: D. G. Andrew (Chairman), 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, Mrs George Waterston (Secretary).

Previous reports of the Committee have been published as follows: SN 1955: 98; 1956: 1; 1957: 37, 170; and SB 1: 30, 117, 253, 443; 2: 192, 342.

Birds new to Scotland

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*. One, Loch Morar, South Inverness, 2nd January 1963 (SB 2: 476). This is the fifth

British occurrence, the species having been recorded three times in England and once in Ireland.

[EASTERN GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser a. rubrirostris*. One apparently of this form, Fair Isle, 19th March 1963 (FIBOB 5: 91). We feel that this tentative identification must be treated with reserve in view of the following comment on the species: "Some stragglers found outside the regular haunts of the species are probably of Continental origin, being paler and with pinker bills than Icelandic or Scottish birds, but it is unlikely that any regular immigration from Scandinavia or eastern Europe takes place" (WGB: 263; see also ARWT 14: 166). This record is, however, of interest as indicating occasional immigration from the continent in addition to the regular large-scale immigration from Iceland.]

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi*. One, Isle of May, 8th October 1962 (SB 2: 367). This is the fourth British record, the other three all being from England.

PARROT CROSSBILL *Loxia pityopsittacus*. Twenty, Fair Isle, 27th September 1962 (FIBOB 5: 50; BM 2: 260). We regard the Scottish Crossbill as a race of *L. curvirostra* and agree with the authors of *The Birds of Scotland* that the old Scottish records of the Parrot Crossbill should be disregarded. The Fair Isle record is accordingly accepted as the first for Scotland although, as noted in an earlier report (SN 1955: 100), a bird trapped on the Isle of May on 18th September 1953 (BB 47: 274) may very well have belonged to this species.

New breeding records for Scotland

[VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. "Velvet Scoters have bred in Scotland, but there is no evidence of their doing so regularly" (WGB: 295). We are informed that this is an inadvertent over-statement of the evidence suggestive of breeding in Shetland in 1945 recorded by L.S.V. and U.M. Venables in *Birds and Mammals of Shetland*. 1955: 234. The breeding of this species in Scotland has still to be proved conclusively.]

Birds new to areas and counties

WHITE-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii*. One found dead, Loch Fleet, 7th April 1963 (SB 2: 474); first for South East Sutherland.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. One found dead, Loch Leven, 30th March 1963 (SB 2: 373); first for Kinross.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*. One, Barr Loch, 2nd May 1963 (SB 2: 433); first published record for Renfrew, although this is in fact the county in the "Clyde area" where a pair (subsequently proved to be breeding) was first seen on 6th June 1956 (SB 1: 5, 119). One Bay of Clachtoll, near

Stoer Point, 17th August 1962 (SB 2: 444); first for West Sutherland.

MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria p. puffinus*. One off Farr Point, 8th July 1961 (SB 2: 304); first for North Sutherland, although there is evidently a regular autumn movement along the North Coast. Small numbers each day off Tarbat Ness, 15th-20th September 1962 (SB 2: 305); first for Moray Basin and East Ross. In an earlier report (SN 1957: 176) we declined to accept a record of Manx Shearwaters breeding on Glunimore, South Argyll, (SN 1957: 53). Although the evidence of breeding may have been insufficient, the record given under the same reference of an adult shearwater found near the mouth of a burrow on the island in June 1953 and the records of numbers of shearwaters having been seen round the island on several occasions about this time should be accepted as providing the first recorded occurrence of the Manx Shearwater in South Argyll.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Procellaria gravis*. One off Island Roan, 10th August 1962 (SB 2: 304); first for North Coast and North Sutherland.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Procellaria diomedea*. One off Ard an Runair, North Uist, 23rd August 1962 (SB 2: 417); first for Outer Hebrides.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procellaria grisea*. Seen commonly off Island Roan, 5th August to 9th September 1962 (SB 2: 304, 353); first for North Sutherland. Two off Tarbat Ness, 17th September 1962 (SB 2: 305); first for Moray Basin and East Ross.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. One, Loch Lomond, 23rd June 1963 (SB 2: 433); first for Dunbarton. One picked up alive, Stormont Loch, 15th September 1963 (SB 2: 485); first for North Perth.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*. One, Rendall, Mainland, 1st November 1961 (SB 2: 475); first for Orkney—subject to the caveat that it may have been an escape from the free-flying colony at Edinburgh Zoo.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*. One, The Mound, 3rd December 1962 (SB 2: 364); first for South East Sutherland. [One, Balunie Ponds, Broughty Ferry, Angus, autumn 1921 (BA: 54a); in the absence of any substantiating details, this old record cannot be accepted.]

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas crecca carolinensis*. One, Inverness, 5th February 1963 (SB 2: 418); first for Moray Basin and East Inverness.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*. "Small flocks . . . at Loirston, but only in October, and in the seasons between 1954 and 1958." (WGB: 210); first for North Kincardine.

- PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. Regular in small numbers in winter, Cran Loch and Loch Loy (WGB: 218); first for Nairn.
- SCAUP *Aythya marila*. Irregular visitor to Cran Loch and Loch Loy (WGB: 218); first for Nairn.
- TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. Ten, Loch Morar, 27th January 1963 (SB 2: 476); first for South Inverness.
- RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*. (See under "Birds New to Scotland" above); first for Argyll and South Inverness.
- SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*. One, Burray, 21st October 1962 (SB 2: 306); first for Orkney since 1905.
- SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. The 1962 breeding record (see under "First Breeding Records for Areas and Counties" below) also provides the first published occurrence for West Sutherland, but we are informed that birds have been present at Handa for some time, the earliest report being of a pair seen in June 1951 (R. S. R. Fitter per I. D. Pennie).
- GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. Regular in winter at Gartmorn Reservoir (WGB: 193); first for Clackmannan. Irregular visitor in small numbers to Cran Loch and Loch Loy (WGB: 219); first for Nairn. [For comments on a record of the Eastern race *A. a. rubrirostris*, see under "Birds New to Scotland" above.]
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. One of the Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris*, Carsebreck, 28th October 1962 (SB 2: 313); first record of the species for South Perth. "Other records recurring from time to time (i.e. in Wigtown Bay) include a flock of about 20 Greenland White-fronted Geese" (WGB: 175); first definite identification of this race for Wigtown. "White-fronted Geese, from 30 to 100 strong, used also to appear on the moss around the lower end of Loch Shiel" (WGB: 227). We are informed by R. Niall Campbell that, although numbers are now less than they were 20 years ago, 60-70 geese still appear each year, alternating between Kenra Bay and the south side of Loch Shiel, but occasionally appearing on the north side of the loch; first record of the species for South Inverness.
- BEAN GOOSE *Anser a. arvensis*. Fourteen, Gartocharn, 13th January 1963 (SB 2: 376); first definite record for Dunbarton, although small numbers have wintered on the West Stirling/Dunbarton border since at least 1949/50 (see ARWT 14: 88).
- BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*. One of the Dark-breasted race *B. b. bernicla*, Carsebreck, 28th October 1962 (SB 2: 314); first record of the species for South Perth.
- BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. One (a winged bird), Nairn, 11th July 1963 (SB 2: 486); first for Nairn.
- CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*. Two, Libberton, 12th April

- 1963 (SB 2: 434); first for Lanark. The record of this species accepted in our last report (SB 2: 344) as the first for Tweed and Roxburgh is in fact the first for neither. The locality (Mellerstain) is in Berwick, not Roxburgh. There are in fact old records of the species in Berwickshire (*Fauna of the Tweed Area* 1911: 152).
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. Two, Gartmorn Dam, 20th October 1962 (SB 2: 314); first for Clackmannan.
- ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*. Two, Strachur, 9th September 1963 (SB 2: 487); first for South Argyll.
- GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. One, Fair Isle, 16th November 1962 (FIBOB 5: 50); first for Fair Isle. One, Duncryne Hill, 20th November 1962 (SB 2: 420); first for Clyde and Dunbarton. An earlier description of the species as occasional in Ayrshire (GDSBS: 206) appears to be based on some old, unsubstantiated records placed in square brackets by Paton & Pike in *Birds of Ayrshire* 1929: 114. In our opinion there has not been any acceptable record of the Goshawk for Ayrshire.
- HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. One, Fair Isle, 20th September 1961 (FIBOB 4: 209; 5: 35); first for Fair Isle.
- MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*. One, Roxburgh Moor, 22nd June 1963 (SB 2: 435); first for Roxburgh.
- MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*. Female found dead, Newburgh, 26th May 1963 (SB 2: 478); first for Dee and Aberdeen.
- HARRIER *Circus* sp. One, "presumably a Hen Harrier", Loch Leven, 13th April 1963 (SB 2: 435); first record of any harrier for Kinross.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One, Girdle Ness, 24th April 1963 (SB 2: 435); first for North Kincardine.
- RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*. One Mainland, 8th May 1962 (SB 2: 422); first for Orkney.
- CRANE *Megalornis grus*. Two, Fair Isle, 29th May 1962 (FIBOB 5: 12); first for Fair Isle. Two, Newburgh, 27th June 1962 (SB 2: 422); first for Tay and North Fife. Two, Carnwath, 30th September 1962 (SB 2: 425); first for Clyde and Lanark.
- GREY PLOVER *Charadrius squatarola*. One, Island Roan, 6th September 1962 (SB 2: 354); first for North Sutherland.
- BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. The admission of the Icelandic race *L. l. islandica* to the Scottish (and British) list has hitherto rested on the identification of one specimen from North Uist (*Ibis* 100: 300; SB 1: 119). A recent analysis of museum specimens (BB 56: 233) included four from Scotland, all of which proved to be *islandica*: — One, Loch Bee, South Uist, 30th August 1922. One, Tentsmuir, 15th September 1917; first for Tay and North Fife. One, Loch Bris-

- dale, 9th September 1905; first for Orkney. One, Tiree, 2nd September 1914; first for Inner Hebrides. It appears that the Continental race *L. l. limosa* has yet to be definitely identified in Scotland.
- GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. One, Loch Indaal, Islay, 28th August 1963 (SB 2: 488); first for Inner Hebrides.
- WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. One, Montrose Basin, 29th August 1953 (BA: 97); first for Angus. One, Sutherland, 1st July 1961 (SB 2: 309; see also under "First breeding records for areas and counties" below); first for South East Sutherland.
- REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Five drowned in stake nets, Glencaple, 5th November 1962; one had been ringed in Iceland and all had the dark plumage and long wing of the Iceland race *T. t. robusta* (SB 2: 316); first definite identification of this race for Dumfries.
- SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. Two, Lentrane, 12th November 1962 (SB 2: 316); first for East Inverness.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. One, Merryton Farm, 18th October 1962 (SB 2: 316); first for Lanark.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris testacea*. One, Stornoway, 21st August 1963 (SB 2: 489); first for Outer Hebrides.
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. One, Smedheugh, 18th September 1963 (SB 2: 490); first for Selkirk.
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor*. One, Ardmore, 30th August 1962 (SB 2: 366); the second Scottish record and the first for Clyde and Dunbarton.
- GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. Small numbers off Tarbat Ness on most days between 15th-22nd September 1962 (SB 2: 305); first for East Ross.
- POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Small numbers off Tarbat Ness on several days between 15th-19th September 1962 (SB 2: 305); first for East Ross.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. One of the Scandinavian race *L. f. fuscus*, Dalveen Pass, 16th January 1963 (SB 2: 317); first record of this race for Dumfries.
- ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*. The breeding records from Carr Craig in 1932 and Inchgarvie in 1951 (SB 2: 288-289—see under "First Breeding Records" below) also provide the the first recorded occurrences for South Fife and West Lothian.
- TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. One, Tinto Hill, 12th May 1963 (SB 2: 494); first for Lanark. One, Balgavies Loch, 17th July 1937 (BA: 121); first for Angus (an earlier record of one off Arbroath in 1886 quoted at the same reference is not acceptable).
- COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. "Masses" on the Dun-

glass Estate near Cockburnspath, early-1963 (SB 2: 318); first for East Lothian. Two, Dunottar Castle, 23rd June 1963 (SB 2: 438); first for North Kincardine (we follow the Editor of *Scottish Birds* in adopting the map in *The Birds of Scotland* as showing the boundary between the two halves of this county). Three, Nairn, 12th July 1963 (SB 2: 491); first for Nairn, although it is believed that a pair nested in this county as early as 1961. Two, Cambuslang, 15th September 1963, said to have been present for a year or so (SB 2: 491); first for Lanark. One, Fort William, 18th May 1963 (SB 2: 494); first for Argyll and South Inverness.

[ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*. One, Fair Isle, 20th June 1962 (BM 2: 203; FIBOB 5: 12); this record has not been accepted by the BB Rarities Committee.]

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*. One, Laxford Bridge, 24th September 1962 (SB 2: 318); first for West Sutherland.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*. One, Lake of Menteith, 2nd December 1962 (SB 2: 318); first for South Perth. One, Lochgilphead, 15th April 1961 (SB 2: 445); first for South Argyll. One between Laurencekirk and Fettercairn, about mid-November 1961 (SB 2: 445); first for South Kincardine. "Noted" at Munches, near Dalbeattie, in 1954 (SB 2: 445); this antedates and replaces the 1957 record accepted in an earlier report (SB 2: 346) as the first for Kirkcudbright. One, Achnamara, 31st May 1955 (SB 2: 445); this antedates and replaces the 1959 record accepted in an earlier report (SB 1: 257) as the first for Argyll and North Argyll. It has been pointed out (SB 2: 445) that, in accepting the 1961 record as the first for Selkirk (SB 2: 346), we overlooked an earlier published record of breeding in 1951 (BofS, Appendix II: 748). The first recorded occurrence for the county was in fact at Bowhill, near Selkirk, in February 1951 (SB 2: 445).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*. An invasion of the Northern race *D. m. major* took place in October 1962 (SB 2: 319). One of the records at this time was of a bird found dead, Brora, 13th October, which provides the first definite identification of this race for South East Sutherland.

CHOUGH *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*. One, Barra, 10th August 1963 (SB 2: 492); first for Outer Hebrides since 1902.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. One showing the characters of *C. c. gularis* or *aquaticus*, Fair Isle, 30th April 1963 (FIBOB 5: 91); first record for Shetland or Fair Isle of any race of the Dipper other than *C. c. cinclus*.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. One of the Iceland race *T. i. coburni* found dead, Cramond, 13th January 1963 (SB 2: 441); first definite identification of this race for Midlothian.

- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. One, near Forfar, 16th April 1945 (BA: 150); first for Angus.
- GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. One, Kinlochewe, 8th June 1963 (SB 2: 492); first for West Ross.
- [YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One, Carnoustie, Angus, 26th October 1954 (BA: 155); the details given are not sufficient to support this record.]
- RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi*. (See under "Birds New to Scotland" above); first for Forth and Isle of May.
- COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa albicollis*. One, Newhill, Harray, 30th May 1963 (SB 2: 478); the second Scottish record and the first for Orkney.
- TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*. One, Isle of May, 24th October 1962 (SB 2: 283); first for Isle of May.
- YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima*. Pair, Dundee, early May 1908 (BA: 162); first for Angus (an earlier record in Angus in 1872 quoted at the same reference is not acceptable).
- GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. One, mouth of River Endrick, 25th November 1962 (SB 2: 323); first for West Stirling.
- GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*. One found dead, Baltasound, 16th May 1962 (FIBOB 5: 27); first acceptable record for Shetland. The authors of *Birds and Mammals of Shetland* doubt the earlier records referred to in BofS: 51.
- ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*. Two showing the characters of this species, Tomnahurich, 4th January 1963 (SB 2: 427); this record is accepted as the first for the Moray Basin and East Inverness, subject to the observation that there are pale examples of *C. flammea* which may be inseparable from *C. hornemanni* (see BB 54: 238; 55: 582).
- [SCARLET GROSBEAK *Carpodacus erythrinus*. One, Barns Ness, East Lothian, 5th September 1963 (BB 56: 390). One, Fife Ness, South Fife, 2nd September 1963 (BB 56: 431). These records have not been accepted by the Rarities Committee (BB 57: 280).]
- PARROT CROSSBILL *Loxia pityopsittacus*. (See under "Birds new to Scotland" above); first for Shetland and Fair Isle. Four, one trapped, Quendale, 7th October 1962 (FIBOB 5: 65; SB 3: 196); first for Shetland other than Fair Isle. Four (all trapped), West Lewis, 11th October 1962 (BM 2: 260; SB 3: 197); first for Outer Hebrides.
- ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. Two, Butt of Lewis, 16th August 1962 (SB 2: 418); first for Outer Hebrides other than St Kilda.
- LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. Three, Island Roan, 8th September 1962 (SB 2: 356); first for North Sutherland.

First breeding records for areas and counties

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*. The record of breeding in the Clyde area in 1956 (SB 1: 5, 119) in fact referred to Renfrew and provides the first breeding for that county.

MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria p. puffinus*. Large colony, Bearasay, Lewis, August 1962 (SB 2: 412); first published evidence of breeding in Outer Hebrides (other than St Kilda) in the present century. We are not aware of any recent evidence to support Dr Fraser Darling's statement that Manx Shearwaters are found on the Shiantis and on the southernmost islands of the Outer Hebrides (*Natural History of the Highlands and Islands*, 1947: 204).

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. Duck with one small duckling by Loch Ken, June 1953 (WGB: 174; SB 3: 195); first breeding for Kirkeudbright. [Loch Mahaick was once of special interest for its breeding population, which included both Pintail and Pochard; then after the war the water level was lowered to prevent the loss of sheep and the big reed-beds became largely unsuitable" (WGB: 195); we are informed by R. W. J. Smith that the evidence on which this statement was based requires further substantiation before it can be accepted as providing the first breeding record for Pintail in South Perth.]

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. Duck with two small ducklings, Loch Bhasapoll, Tiree, 3rd July 1963 (SB 2: 485); first breeding for Inner Hebrides. Duck with 9 well-grown ducklings, Lintrathen Loch, 28th July 1949 (BA: 71); first breeding for Angus.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. Three pairs bred Handa, 1962 (SB 2: 360); this is the first published record of breeding for West Sutherland, but there is an earlier unpublished record from the same locality of a pair seen with ten young on 20th May 1960 (W. J. Eggeling, G. and M. I. Waterston).

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*. The reference to breeding in Roxburgh in our last report (SB 2: 349) should be deleted. The locality was in Berwick and the birds were evidently some of "the five pairs recently introduced at Mellerstain" (WGB: 191).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. Pair bred in Glen Clova, 1951 (BA: 83); first breeding for Angus.

[MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*. A secondhand report that a pair nested near the Tulchan at the head of Glenisla, Angus, in 1949 (BA: 83) cannot be accepted without further evidence.]

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. The locality of the first Scottish breeding record in 1959 (SB 1: 150) has so far only been given as "Sutherland" (SB 1: 258). The locality,

- where breeding again took place in 1960. 1961 and 1962 (SB 2: 309), in fact lies within the north division of the county and the 1959 record accordingly provides the first breeding record for North Coast and North Sutherland. At another locality in Sutherland a bird whose behaviour was suggestive of breeding was seen on 1st July 1961, and breeding was confirmed the following year by the discovery on 1st August of two new-fledged chicks (SB 2: 309). The locality is in fact in South East Sutherland and the 1962 record provides the first breeding for that division and for Moray Basin.
- GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. One pair bred, St Kilda, 1963 (SB 2: 427); first breeding for St Kilda.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. One pair bred and reared two young, Isle of May, 1962 (SB 2: 284); first breeding for Isle of May and first coastal breeding in Forth for over 100 years. Nest with three eggs, Collieston/Whinnyfold, 12th June 1962 (SB 2: 325); first breeding for Dee and Aberdeen.
- COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. One pair bred, St Kilda, 1963 (RNC 1963: 23; BS 11: 160); first breeding for St Kilda.
- KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. About 550 nests at Castle Craig, 1959; probably an old station but not previously recorded (BS 10: 169); first breeding for East Ross.
- ARCTIC TERN *Sterna macrura*. "Some" breed in the large mixed ternery established on Inchmickery in the early 1950s (SB 2: 292); first breeding for Midlothian.
- ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*. 70 pairs bred, Inchgarvie, 1951, colony deserted in 1953 (SB 2: 288); first breeding for West Lothian. 20 pairs bred, Carr Craig, 1932; colony deserted 1950/51 (SB 2: 289); first breeding for South Fife. We take this opportunity of noting that the record of a pair breeding in 1931 "in a ternery in Forth" (SN 1931: 168; BofS: 620) in fact refers to the Isle of May and provides the first breeding for the island since the 1820s (see W. J. Eggeling, *Isle of May*, 1960: 216).
- SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. 100 pairs bred, Inchgarvie, 1952; colony deserted the following year (SB 2: 290); first breeding for West Lothian. One pair bred, Buddon Ness, 1953/55 (BA: 118); first breeding for Angus.
- COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Nest with two young, Stornoway, 17th October 1962 (SB 2: 309); first breeding for Outer Hebrides. Nest from which at least one chick fledged, Gruinart Post Office, Islay, 1st June 1963 (SB 2: 491); first breeding for Inner Hebrides.
- GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*. Breeding in five localities

in Dumfriesshire in 1954 (*SB* 2: 444); this antedates and replaces the 1960 breeding record accepted in an earlier report (*SB* 2: 195) as the first breeding for Solway and Dumfries.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. "18th March 1954, have returned to nesting colony in the ivy on the cliff face above the Elphin crofts" (*SB* 2: 364); first breeding for West Sutherland.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*. At least three pairs bred, Stornoway Woods, 1963 (*SB* 2: 440); first breeding for Outer Hebrides (see also *SB* 2: 347).

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. Nest found, Kinnaird Park, May 1963 (*SB* 2: 478); first acceptable breeding for Angus.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. At least four pairs bred, St Kilda, 1962 (*SB* 2: 310); first breeding for St Kilda since some time prior to 1931.

Records carried forward

The following records have been held over for further consideration:

PELICAN *Pelecanus* sp. Isle of May, 4th August 1960 (*SB* 1: 356).

BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa*. Fair Isle, 30th September 1954 (*FIBOB* 2: 194); Loch Spynie, Moray, 5th February 1958 (*Bull BOC* 78: 105).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. Foula, Shetland, 31st August 1961 (*BM* 2: 66).

SIBERIAN STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata maura*. Fair Isle, 13th October 1961 (*FIBOB* 4: 209).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. Isle of May, September 1963 (*BB* 56: 389).

Notes on the rookeries in the City of Edinburgh in 1957 and 1964

C. N. L. COWPER

At the instigation of the R.S.P.B. a count of Rooks' nests in Edinburgh was made in the spring of 1964 to determine whether any great change of population had taken place since the last published count in 1956 (Macmillan 1957). Fears had been expressed that the Rook population of Great Britain was decreasing as a result of shooting and trapping, and the R.S.P.B. was anxious to obtain any evidence which might be forthcoming to substantiate these allegations.

Counting took place in April, and all visible nests were taken to be occupied. This was based on the assumption that nests which survive the winter will either be reoccupied the following spring or dismantled to provide material for new nests. Care must be taken with nests in conifers as these are much better protected for surviving the winter gales. However, in 1964 only one nest was in a conifer.

A count was organised by A. T. Macmillan in 1957 but the results were not published. Details, together with those for

Table 1. City of Edinburgh rookeries—number of nests in 1957 and 1964

	1957	1964
Gogar and Hanley (including Gogar)		
Mount outside city	471	298
Kirk Loan, Corstorphine	1	0
Zoo	19	1
Turnhouse Farm	53	38
Lenny Port	13	5
Craigichall Temple, Barnton	129	39
Cammo Tower, Barnton	16	0
Cammo Road, Barnton	22	10
Bonnyfield, Barnton	28	3
Whitehouse Crossroads	104	29
Cramond House	30	0
Queensferry Road at Davidson's Mains	10	0
Lauriston Farm Road	2	1
Northern General Hospital	4	0
Royal Victoria Hospital	5	0
Portobello Main Street (St Marks)	6	1
Milton Road	7	0
Duddingston Crossroads	9	0
Niddrie House	19	2
Craigmillar Explosives Factory	22	20
Croft an Righ, Holyrood	7	0
Hope Park Terrace	3	21
Drum, Gilmerton	768	327
Greenend	6	0
Ellens Glen	47	7
Liberton Church	6	3
St Katherines, Liberton	27	100
Kaimes, Frogston Road East	20	0
Mortonhall South Gate	135	65
Woodburn Nurses Home	38	5
Hermitage of Braid	113	47
Buckstone, Braids	20	7
Fairmilehead (10/12 in 1958)	3	0
Cockit Hat Plantation	102	13
Merchiston Castle School	7	0
Kingsknowe (new rookery in Hailes Avenue)	0	4
Colinton Tram Terminus	20	1
Allermuir, Woodhall Road	8	0
Munro Drive, Colinton	3	0
Convent of Good Shepherd, Colinton	45	14
Woodhall, Juniper Green	370	272
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2718	1333

Table 2. City of Edinburgh rookeries—number of nests 1921-64

Year	Nests
1921	1642
1928	2316
1935	2824
1944	2289
1945	2300
1954	2406
1955	2384
1956	2588
1957	2718
1964	1333

1964, are given in table 1, and, for comparison, totals for various years from 1921 to 1964 are shown in table 2. The figures show that the 1964 total was down 51% from 1957—a considerable decrease. Numbers increased at only three rookeries—Hope Park Terrace, St Katherines, and Kingsknowe (a new rookery in 1964, evidently founded by Rooks from the Colinton Tram Terminus site). Hope Park Terrace is an isolated rookery, but St Katherines may be considered part of a group with those at Kaimes, Frogston Road West, and Mortonhall South Gate; the group shows a 9% drop over the seven years.

Although in some of the large rookeries near the city boundary the drop is less than average, the greatest rookery, at the Drum, Gilmerton, has decreased by 57%. It would appear therefore that the present decrease is not the result of any tendency for the population to shift towards the fringes of the area (see Macmillan 1957). Incidents involving toxic agricultural chemicals have been few in the Lothians compared with areas in England (see Cramp *et al.* 1962), but the insidious long-term effects might well be important to Rooks. Whatever the cause of the decrease in numbers in Edinburgh it would be interesting to hear if other observers in Scotland have noted similar reductions in their areas.*

Thanks for their assistance with the 1964 counts are due to L. W. G. Alexander, Dr W. A. G. Charleston, T. Delaney and J. A. Stewart

References

- CRAMP, S., CONDOR, P. J. & ASH, J. S. 1962. *Deaths of Birds and Mammals from Toxic Chemicals, January-June 1961*. The second report of the Joint Committee of the B.T.O. and the R.S.P.B. on Toxic Chemicals, in collaboration with the Game Research Association. Map, p. 2.
- MACMILLAN, A. T. 1957. Notes on the rookeries of Greater Edinburgh with counts for 1954, 1955 and 1956. *Edinburgh Bird Bull.* 7: 40-43, 51-54.

*A sharp decrease in the number of Rooks nesting in Nottinghamshire by 1962 was noted by Dobbs (*Brit. Birds* 57: 360-364) and it was suggested that toxic seed dressings were probably mainly responsible.—ED.

The Waxwing invasion of October and November 1963

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN

Introduction

A few Waxwings reach our shores each winter. In some favoured places on the east coast—Inverness and Gullane come to mind—they are recorded virtually every year. Until recently, however, widespread invasions reached Scotland only irregularly, with long gaps between them, so that a Waxwing irruption created quite a stir. Now the subject has become almost a bore and some observers do not even report the birds they see.

From 1956-57 to 1959-60 there was an unprecedented series of invasions in four successive winters. These were analysed and discussed by R. K. Cornwallis (*Brit. Birds* 54: 1-30) in relation to fluctuations of population and winter food supply in Fenno-Scandia. Scottish records for the last three of these irruptions were also considered in *The Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* (8: 30-32) and in *Scottish Birds* (1: 102-106, 241-251, 278).

Only small numbers of Waxwings were recorded in the winter of 1960-61, but there was a minor invasion in November 1961 (*antea* 2: 85-89), then small numbers again in 1962-63. By the end of October 1963 yet another invasion had begun—not a major one on the 1946-47 scale, but widespread and substantial nonetheless.

The invasion

October and November 1963 records of first reports or increased numbers of Waxwings are listed chronologically in table 1. Many records are not dated with sufficient precision for this tabulation, and there is of course no certainty that the birds had not been present in many of the places for some time before they were noted there.

The picture is of small arrivals in the extreme north starting on 28th October, with the first sizeable flocks coming about 2nd November. Thereafter, the number of records increased steadily, with new places reporting Waxwings each day. The number of reports from Sunday 3rd to Friday 8th (clearly free from any weekend bias) suggests a continued build-up during this period. It will be noted that in addition to the records listed chronologically there were arrivals at Drumlanrig about the end of October, a flock of 120 at Ballater about 1st November, and others at Dunrossness (1), Sandsting (1), Orkney (various places), Belhaven (15), Kelso (13+) and Beattock (20), all early in November. A definite influx was noted at St Andrews on 12th-14th November but in general the records suggest a steady rather than a sudden arrival of birds in new

places. Waxwings were recorded at new localities throughout the winter but there is nothing in the figures to suggest any substantial arrivals after the first three weeks or so, and all later reports could be easily explained by the birds moving about the country.

Records were received from S.O.C. members and from some of the general public who had helped in past winters, and also in response to appeals in the press. A short note was printed in the *Edinburgh Evening News* on 16th November and a letter in *The Scotsman* on 17th December but I did not write to the *Glasgow Herald* this winter. These appeals do not seem to have induced any obvious peaks of reports in mid November or December.

Table 1. Chronological list of arrivals and increased numbers of Waxwings in Scotland in October and November 1963

October

Mon 28	Mid Yell (1), Fair Isle (2)
Tue 29	Lerwick (2)
Wed 30	Gairloch (4)
Thu 31	Northmavine (1)

November

Fri 1	South Ronaldsay (6), Rothiemurchus (1)
Sat 2	Fetlar (5), Fair Isle (50), Isle of May (24), Rothesay (2)
Sun 3	Lerwick (+10), Carrbridge (small flock), Isle of May (3)
Mon 4	Isle of May (24)
Tue 5	Rogart (1), Banchory (30), Kingoodie (6), Kilconquhar (7), near Elie (2), Firhill (1), Port Seton (2), Stornoway (3)
Wed 6	Achnagoichan (3), Newburgh, Aberdeen (15), St Andrews (5), Uig (6), Troon (30)
Thu 7	Nethy Bridge (100+)
Fri 8	Banchory (+40), Perth (1), Crail (20), Gullane (6)
Sat 9	Aberfeldy (noted), Buchlyvie (1)
Sun 10	Blairgowrie (2)
Mon 11	Achnagoichan (now 25+)
Tue 12	Brechin (1), Methven Moss (3), St Andrews (20), Elie (4), Eyemouth (6), Gartocharn (3)
Wed 13	—
Thu 14	St Andrews (+60), Kirkcaldy (2), Kingsknowe (2), Fairmile- head (1), Haddington (5)
Fri 15	Back (4)
Sat 16	Guthrie (4), Forfar (6), Craiglockhart (6), Ayton (7), Man- derston (2)
Sun 17	Keith (1), Perth (6), Eden estuary (5), Lindores (several), near Blairmore (2)
Mon 18	Inverness (1), Dufftown (6), East Linton (3), Moffat (1)
Tue 19	Pittenweem (1)
Wed 20	Coldstream (1), Ettrickbridge (6)
Thu 21	Islay (5)
Fri 22	—
Sat 23	North of Forfar (4)
Sun 24	Near Elie (9), East Linton (+4)
Mon 25	Fort Augustus (3)
Tue 26	East Linton (+5), Selkirk (1)

Wed 27 Inverness (4), Dunbar (7)
 Thu 28 —
 Fri 29 Stirling (1)
 Sat 30 Pitlochry (2), Drem (1)

Note. For fuller particulars see detailed list of records, which also includes reports not dated with sufficient precision for this table.

Distribution and numbers

The greatest number of reports came as usual from the eastern counties. Moray Basin was the faunal area with the highest total (as in 1959 during the last comparable invasion) but there were a good number of Waxwings in all eastern areas from the Northern Isles to Tweed.

Compared with 1959 there were proportionately far fewer records from Clyde and Solway. Though the lack of an appeal in the *Glasgow Herald* may have created a slight bias, this is clearly an indication that the birds did not just pass straight through this time. It will be seen from table 2 that about 10% of the Waxwings reported were in the western faunal areas, compared with about 30% in 1959-60.

Table 2 has been compiled from the detailed list of records and it shows that an estimated 1755 different Waxwings were covered by some 212 reports received. Many reports are vague about numbers, but the estimates involved will be apparent from the detailed list of records. So far as possible each bird is counted once only; but each independent report of a group of birds by a different observer has been counted as a separate report.

Table 2. Number of reports of Waxwings and number of birds recorded from October 1963 to April 1964 in each faunal area of Scotland

	Reports	Birds
Northern Isles	15	173
North Coast	1	100
Moray Basin	42	433
Dee	12	247
Tay	42	296
Forth	58	275
Tweed	19	59
Hebrides	6	17
Northwest Highlands	3	10
Argyll	1	15
Clyde	7	43
Solway	6	87
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	212	1755
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Large flocks

No exceptionally large flocks were reported, and only two of over 100 birds. It may be of interest to pick out the bigger

flocks, but it is a pity that some of them are so vaguely dated. Table 3 lists all those of 25 birds or more.

Table 3. Flocks of 25 or more Waxwings recorded in Scotland between October 1963 and April 1964

c. 1st November	120	Ballater
2nd November	50+	Fair Isle
5th November	30	Banchory
6th November	30	Troon
7th November	100+	Nethy Bridge
8th November	+40	Banchory
early November	48	Craik
11th November	25	Rothiemurchus (and early December)
13th November	58	Drumlanrig
14th November	80	St Andrews
— November	40	Orkney
— November	40	Reay
— Nov/Dec	30+	Loch an Eilean area
2nd January	30	Dulnain Bridge
7th January	30	Elgin
24th January	40	Dundee
4th March	34	Inverness

Late records

When the reports were coming in this time I did not get the feeling of a rapid passage right through Scotland and away, as I had in 1959-60. That winter less than five per cent of the birds reported were after the end of November. In contrast there were plenty of records for December 1963 and January 1964, especially when one allows for the reduced enthusiasm for reporting them; some 71 Waxwings were seen in February, 63 in March, and 29 in April, the last being a flock of 12 at Loch Pityoulish on 25th April. Probably about 125 different birds were involved in these totals. The later records this winter presumably indicate that the birds found a better food supply than in 1959-60.

Food

Although rowan berries may be the most important winter food in Fenno-Scandia they are seldom mentioned by Scottish observers. Cotoneaster remains the firm favourite, as can be seen from table 4, though one must have a niggling suspicion that its complete dominance might have something to do with the convenient way that it grows in suburban gardens. Some observers name the species of cotoneaster selected and there are seven references to *horizontalis*, two to *simonsii* and one each to *frigida*, *microphylla* and *watereri*. Insects, a favourite summer food, are not usually taken in Scotland, but Waxwings at East Linton towards the end of November were seen hawking quite a lot for insects from the top of some beech trees.

Table 4. Berries eaten by Waxwings in Scotland during winter 1963-64, showing the number of mentions of each

Cotoneaster	55
Berberis	14
Apples (on tree or ground)	14
Hips	9
Haws	7
Elderberries	4
Honeysuckle	4
Rowan	4
Pear	2
Yew	2
Holly	1
Juniper	1
Sorbus avia lutescens	1
	118

Detailed list of records

Records are listed from north to south by faunal area and division, from Shetland to Berwickshire down the east coast and from St Kilda to Wigtownshire down the west. The estimated total number of Waxwings reported in any faunal area or division is shown in brackets. Particulars given for each record are—date when birds first noted, highest count of that group (not always on the first date), place, further details if any, and initials of observer. When the highest count of a group was not made on the same day as the group was first noted this is made clear in the further details given. At the end of the detailed list of records there is a key to the initials of the observers—well over 150 of them—without whom this summary could not have been compiled.

Northern Isles (173)

Shetland (23)

28 Oct	2	Mid Yell (RT)
29 Oct	2	Twageos, Lerwick (JP)
31 Oct	1	Orbister, Northmavine (IP)
2 Nov	5	Brough Lodge, Fetlar (RT)
3 Nov	12	Twageos, Lerwick (IP)
5 Nov	4	Knab Road, Lerwick (JP)
early Nov	1	Dunrossness (per JP)
early Nov	1	Sandsting (per JP)
10 Nov	1	Clichamen Loch, Lerwick (GB)

Fair Isle (60)

28 Oct	2	And 31st Oct and 1st Nov (RHD)
2 Nov	50 ⁺	Thereafter 25 on 4th, 22 on 5th, and up to 6 during next fortnight (RHD)

Orkney (90)

1 Nov	6	South Ronaldsay (EB)
early Nov		Odd birds reported during next 10 days or so from most of north Orkneys, and in Kirkwall parties of 16, 20 and once 40 (EB)

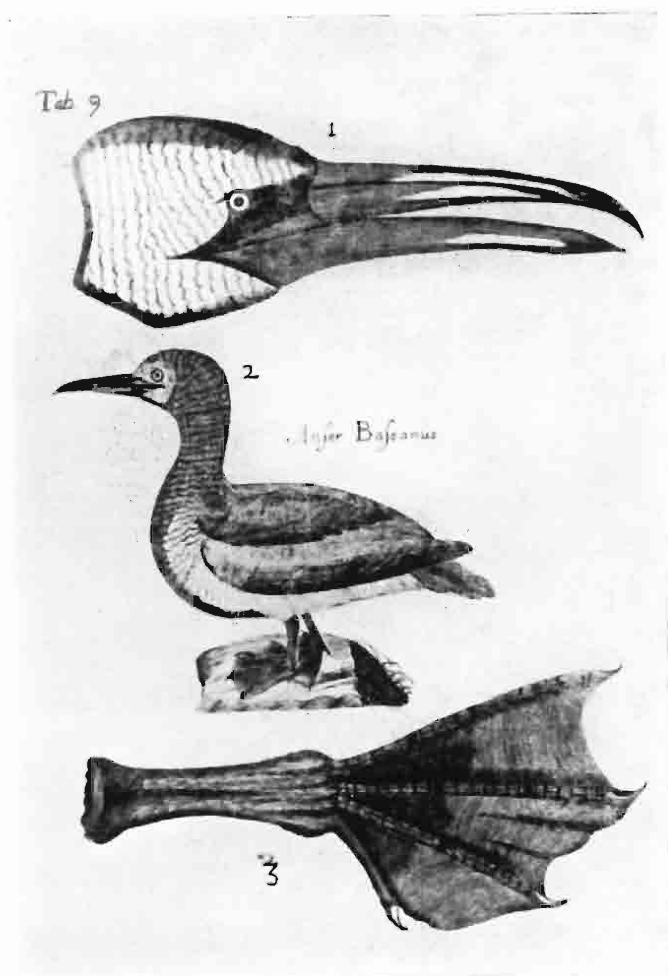


PLATE 16. Robert Sibbald's *Scotia Illustrata*, plate 9, juvenile Gannet, with head and foot of adult. This and the two following plates exemplify the style and curious clutter of the illustrations to this seventeenth century survey of Scottish natural history (see page 159).

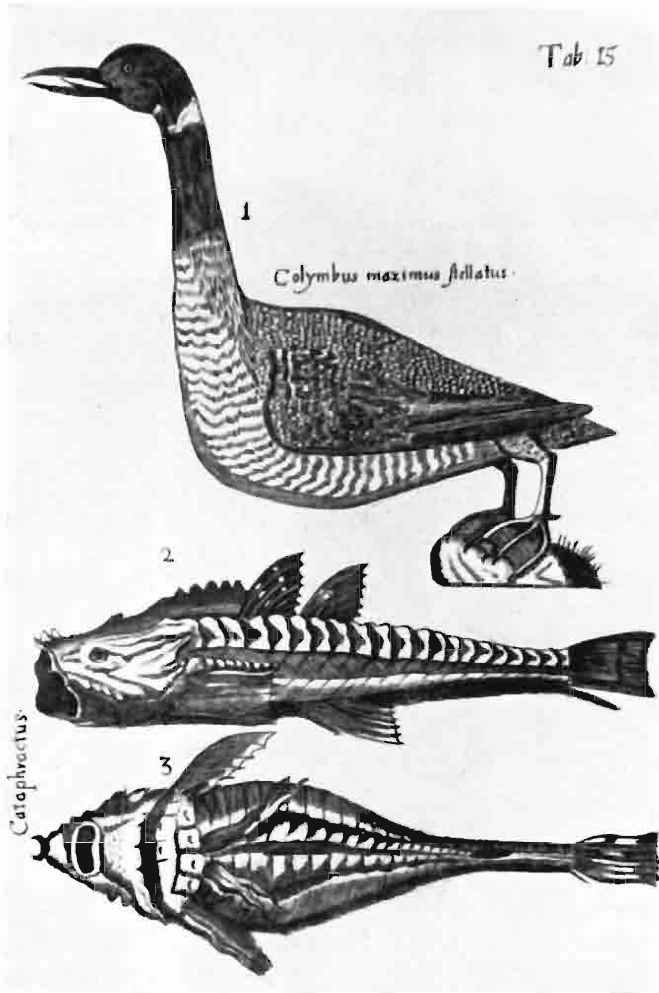


PLATE 17, Sibbald's *Scotia Illustrata*, plate 15, Great Northern Diver and two views of a pogge. In spite of the absurdly un-supported posture of the diver its likeness is not too bad by seventeenth century standards (see page 159).

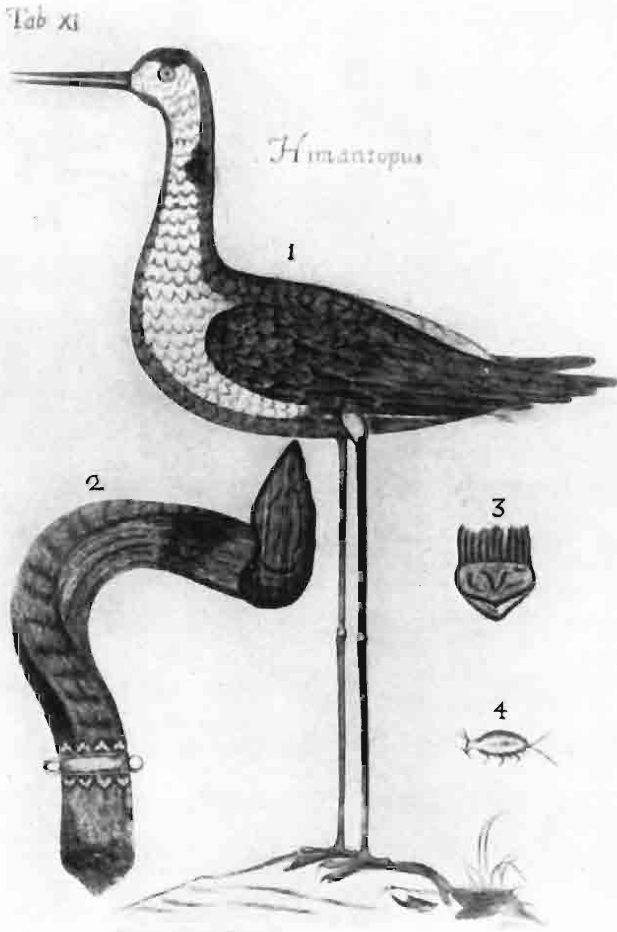


PLATE 18. Sibbald's *Scotia Illustrata*, plate 11, a remarkable association of natural objects. The Black-winged Stilt was added to the Scottish avifauna on the strength of this 1684 plate and supporting text (see *The Birds of Scotland*). The other objects in the picture are described by Sibbald as (2) a horn cut from a woman's head, (3) the lower part of the same, and (4) a mite as seen with a microscope.



PLATE 19. Female Hen Harrier and chick—another fine Scottish study by Ian M. Thomson (see *antca* 3: 92).

North Coast (100)**Caithness (100)**

— Nov — Seen throughout county during month, with largest flock of 40 at Reay (PM, DMS)

North Sutherland (0)**Moray (433)****Southeast Sutherland (10)**

5 Nov 8 Rhilochan, Rogart (IDP)
28 Jan 1 Dornoch; until 29th (DMcD)
9 Feb 1 Dornoch; until 11th (DMcD)

East Ross (10)

week ending

16 Nov flock Invergordon (Mrs B per UP & MRu)
20 Jan 2 Contin (WAF per MRu)

East Inverness (312)**(a) Inverness area (84)**

18 Nov 1 Inverness (Porterfield Bank) (WM per MRu)
27 Nov 4 Inverness (Southside Place) (JMcG per MRu)
17 Dec 9 Nairnside (5 miles from Inverness); increase by 20th, but none thereafter (ASMG)
31 Dec 1 Inverness (Dochfour Drive) (JLv, MM)
7 Jan 3 Inverness; until 18th, and 1 on 24th (MM)
30 Jan 20 Inverness; and 8th Feb (MM)
4 Mar 34 Inverness; and 30 on 8th and 1 on 12th (AMD)
16 Mar 10 Inverness (MRu)
1 Apr 12 Nairnside (ASMG)

(b) Speyside (225)

1 Nov 1 Rothiemurchus (JF)
3 Nov small flocks Carrbridge (per RJ & GW)
6 Nov 3 Achnagoichan, Rothiemurchus; and 1 on 7th (JF)
7 Nov 100+ Nethy Bridge; still 30 on 8th (HM, GW)
11 Nov 25 Achnagoichan; and small parties on the move; 15 on 15th (JF)
— Nov 23 Boat of Garten; 23 on 9th Jan had been there since Nov (JAB)
— Nov/Dec — Flocks of 30+ at Loch an Eilean and elsewhere in Rothiemurchus area during these months (AMcD)
early Dec 25 Achnagoichan; 5/6 irregularly and once or twice 15/25 (JF)
3 Jan some Loch an Eilean (JF)
5 Jan 5 Aviemore (MEMK)
12 Jan 6 Boat of Garten (RHD)
3 Apr 1 Kingussie (SK)
25 Apr 12 Loch Pityoulish (HGF, IMF)

(c) Elsewhere (3)

25 Nov 3 Fort Augustus (LM)

Nairn (0)**Moray (70)**

mid Nov 30 Elgin; 20 from mid Nov to end Jan, with 30 on 7th Jan (WC, JWU)
19 Dec 1 Forres (MGM)

- 2 Jan 30 Dulnain Bridge (border with East Inverness); until 5th (Miss A per MRu)
 16 Feb 9 Lhanbryde, near Elgin (per DMKS)

Banff (31)

- 17 Nov 1 Keith (RH)
 18 Nov 6 Loch Park, Dufftown (RH)
 2 Dec 1 Keith (RH)
 3 Dec 7 Buckie; until 7th (AG, Miss H, RPR, AJSo)
 5 Dec 4 Portessie (DL per AJSo)
 31 Dec 12 Buckie; 2/4 from 31st Dec to 12th Jan, with 12 on 9th and 8 on 10th (RPR, AJSo)

Dee (247)**Aberdeen (142)**

- c. 1 Nov 120 Ballater; for about a week (JWT)
 6 Nov 15 Newburgh; 4 on 6th and 15 on 7th (GMD)
 mid Nov 3 Inverurie (SG)
 23 Nov 1 Newburgh; and 25th (per GMD)
 early Dec 3 Inverurie (SG)

North Kincardine (105)

- 5 Nov 70 Moss Side, Banchory; 15 on morning of 5th, but 30 in afternoon; 70 on 8th (NP)
 18 Nov 5 Moss Side; flew over (NP)
 end Nov 5 Banchory; for four weeks (JCo)
 13 Dec 8 Banchory (RP)
 14 Dec 12 Banchory; until 15th (NP)
 18 Dec 14 Denside, Drumoak; flew over (DJe)
 31 Dec 4 Banchory; until at least 4th Jan (DCMP per RIM)

Tay (296)**South Kincardine (0)****Angus (65)**

- 12 Nov 1 Brechin (GMC)
 16 Nov 4 Guthrie; and 17th (CAS)
 16 Nov 6 Reswallie, near Forfar; for five days (JHM)
 23 Nov 4 Seven miles north of Forfar; and 24th (per RIM)
 early Dec 7 Dundee (Perth Road); 4 at first, with up to 7 during next three weeks (GLB)
 1 Jan 2 Forfar Loch (ACB)
 12 Jan 8 Dundee (Blackness) (GMC, JDu)
 24 Jan 40 Dundee (Ancrum Road); smaller numbers earlier (TCS)

North Perth (136)**(a) Perth area (36)**

- 8 Nov 1 Perth (VMT)
 12 Nov 3 Methven Moss (HBy, MAO)
 17 Nov 6 Perth (JF)
 6 Dec 1 Perth (CMu)
 8 Dec 6 Perth (per AMcF)
 9 Dec 3 Perth (JMCL)
 22 Dec 9 Barnhill, Perth (DWO)
 16 Jan 8 Perth (VMT)
 3 Feb 8 Bridge of Earn (PSNS)
 22 Feb 10 Perth; 6 on 22nd, 10 on 23rd and 1 on 24th (PSNS)
 11 Mar 1 Perth (PSNS)

(b) Other areas (100)

5 Nov	6	Kingoodie; up to 4 until 23rd (HBs)
9 Nov	—	Aberfeldy; first noted (DDG)
10 Nov	2	Clunie Loch, Blairgowrie (VMT)
30 Nov	2	Pitlochry (Perthshire Advertiser 10.12.63)
Nov	2	Blair Atholl (ACR)
5 Dec	24	Pitlochry (Perthshire Advertiser 10.12.63)
c. 8 Dec	12	Rosemount, Blairgowrie; for over a week (MGo)
15 Dec	8	Butterstone, Dunkeld; 2 on 15th, 4 on 17th and 8 on 20th (SEH)
16 Dec	8	Crieff (CRB)
18 Dec	12	Aberfeldy; odd ones about since 9th Nov; 1 on 22nd Dec, 2 on 30th, 4 on 3rd Jan (DDG), and some mid Jan (per VMT)
16 Jan	8	Invergowrie/Kingoodie; and 1 on 17th, 1 on 4th Feb, 4 on 9th and 6 on 14th (HBs)
26 Jan	6	Comrie (GTJ)
27 Jan	12	Crieff (MEG)

North Fife (95)

6 Nov	5	St Andrews; for at least 12 days (MHEC)
12 Nov	80	St Andrews (University Botanic Garden); 20 on 12th, with arrival of 60 more on 14th, and some still about two months later (RJM). Many reports of small numbers in the town from Nov to Feb, the last being 9 on 22nd and 23rd Feb and 5 on 25th (PGB, CVC, MHEC, ML)
17 Nov	5	Eden estuary (CT)
17 Nov	sev.	Lindores (JF per VMT)

Forth (275)**Isle of May (52)**

2 Nov	24	(per NJG)
3 Nov	3	(per NJG)
4 Nov	24	And 3 on 5th and 1 on 6th (JBa & per NJG)
early Jan	1	(per NJG)

South Fife (83)

5 Nov	7	Near Kilconquhar (DWO)
5 Nov	2	Ardross, Elie (per RIM)
8 Nov	20	Crail (GC)
early Nov	48	Crail (per DWO)
12 Nov	4	Elie village (DWO)
14 Nov	2	Kirkcaldy; until 26th (EMH)
19 Nov	1	Pittenweem (TFW per RIM)
24 Nov	9	Elie estate (DWO)
1 Dec	1	Lundin Links (ICP)
early Dec	4	Colinsburgh (per RIM)
early Dec	2	Kilconquhar (per RIM)
18 Dec	1	Pittenweem; and 30th (TFW per RIM)
31 Jan	1	Lundin Links (RSW)
22 Mar	1	Colinsburgh (RIM)

Kinross (0)**Clackmannan (0)****South Perth (0)****East Stirling (11)**

9 Nov	1	Buchlyvie (RCD)
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29 Nov	1	Stirling (CKL)
2 Dec	1	Buchlyvie (PC, GTJ)
8 Dec	3	Grangemouth docks (IT)
-- Jan	5	Bridge of Allan (per GTJ)

West Lothian (0)**Midlothian (39)**(a) **Edinburgh (33)** (Postal districts given in brackets)

5 Nov	1	Firhill (11) (MRe)
14 Nov	2	Near Kingsknowe (13) (JGE)
14 Nov	1	Fairmilehead (10) (AS)
16 Nov	6	Craiglockhart (11); and 17th (CMMD)
8 Dec	3	Blackhall (4) (MMW)
13 Dec	1	Craiglockhart (11) (HWG)
26 Dec	3	Corstorphine (12) (CAM)
7 Jan	4	Swanston (10) (IMF)
8 Feb	1	Corstorphine (12) (TADK)
10 Feb	6	Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith (4); until 25th, and up to 3 until 6th March, and 1 on 9th and 11th (AE, JHS)
8 Mar	5	Morningside (10) (JWB, CGC); with 4 not far away on 15th and 1 on 16th (JDH)

(b) **Elsewhere (6)**

21 Dec	2	Roslin (ADKR)
early Mar	4	Bonnyrigg (Edinburgh Evening News 14.3.64)

East Lothian (90)

5 Nov	2	Port Seton (GAR)
8 Nov	6	Gullane (JBI)
early Nov	15	Belhaven (KMJ)
14 Nov	5	Gilmerton House, near Haddington (CG)
mid Nov	1	Alderston, near Haddington (per AM)
18 Nov	12	East Linton; 3 on 18th, 7 on 24th and 12 on 26th (CW)
27 Nov	7	Dunbar (GP)
30 Nov	1	Drem (DWO)
late Nov	2	Haddington (JCr)
late Nov	2	Pencaitland (Haddingtonshire Courier 6.12.63)
late Nov	2	Oldhamstocks (Haddingtonshire Courier 13.12.63)
5 Dec	10	Dirleton (JLD per GW); and 2 on 12th (HBI)
6 Dec	2	Aberlady; 1 on 6th (TMB per GW), and 2 on 8th (AMS)
9 Dec	1	Gullane (WLB); and 11th (CPR)
14 Jan	11	Longniddry; 3 on 14th and 11 on 15th and 16th (per GW)
18 Mar	flock	Haddington (JDy)
5 Apr	3	Haddington; 1 on 5th and 3 on 6th and 7th (AM)

Tweed (59)**Berwick (25)**

12 Nov	6	Eyemouth (MDG); and 14th (MP)
16 Nov	7	Press Castle, near Ayton; and 17th (PJ)
16 Nov	2	Manderston, Duns; and 24th (SJC)
20 Nov	1	Coldstream (MGI)
26 Nov	2	Ayton (EH)
late Nov	5	Chirnside (HJG); 3 on 5th Dec and 1 on 9th (RD)
5 Dec	1	Duns (PD & GS per GW)
2 Apr	1	Duns; until 4th (WML-H)

Peebles (2)

- 25 Dec 1 Walkerburn (JBa)
26 Dec 1 Between Walkerburn and Innerleithen (JBa)

Selkirk (12)

- 20 Nov 6 Ettrickbridge (AJSm)
26 Nov 1 Selkirk (AJSm)
7 Dec 5 Selkirk; reports for several weeks earlier, and also aiter until at least 15th (DKM, AJSm)

Roxburgh (20)

- early Nov 13 Kelso; groups of 3 to 13 about town for at least 6 weeks (JLg)
mid Nov 3 Yetholm; for four weeks (per RSB)
13 Dec 1 Melrose (EM in Scotsman 16.12.63)

Hebrides (17)**St Kilda (0)****Outer Hebrides (12)**

- 5 Nov 3 Stornoway; for two weeks (WAJC, NE, IM)
6 Nov party West of Uig, Lewis (per WAJC)
later 1 Shawbost, Lewis (WAJC)
15 Nov 4 Back, Lewis; and 16th (JBG, JCRG)

Inner Hebrides (5)

- 21 Nov 5 Port Askaig, Islay; until 23rd (HK, DMcG)

North West Highlands (10)**West Sutherland (2)**

- 2 Dec 2 Foindle, Loch Laxford (HD)

West Ross (8)

- 30 Oct 4 Gairloch (ENH)
a wk. later 4 Seven miles inland from Gairloch (ENH)

Skye (0)**West Inverness (0)****Argyll (15)****South Inverness (0)****North Argyll (15)**

- last week
of Nov 15 Oban; for two days (CMc)

Clyde (43)**South Argyll (2)**

- 17 Nov 2 Blairmore/Ardentinnny road (CMC)

Bute (2)

- 2 Nov 2 Rothesay (AMC)

Arran (0)**Dunbarton (8)**

- 12 Nov 3 Gartocharn (TW)
18 Jan 4 Gartocharn (WE, DJN, WR)
23 Feb 1 Bearsden (WE, DJN, WR)

West Stirling (0)**Renfrew (0)****Lanark (0)****Ayr (31)**

- 6 Nov 30 Troon (DJo per GAR)
15 Dec 1 Skelmorlie; until 17th (AL)

Solway (87)

Dumfries (87)

end Oct	58	Drumlanrig Castle; first arrivals about end of Oct, and gradual increase to 58 on 13th Nov (WA)
early Nov	20	Near Beattock (per ED)
18 Nov	1	Huntley Lodge, Moffat (ED)
28 Dec	3	Ae (JHS)
early Jan	5	Dumfries; for two weeks (WA, JKRm)

Kirkcudbright (0)

Wigtown (0)

Key to initials of observers

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Additional records

The following records were received after the paper had been set in type, and are therefore not included in any of the tables or discussion:

- 6 Apr 1 Inverness; and 8th (L. Payne)
29 Apr flock Inverness (Miss Johnstone)

Short Notes

Parasitic association of Gadwall and Coot

On 22nd March 1964 at Glenbuck Reservoir on the Ayrshire/Lanarkshire border I watched for some time a pair of Gadwall in close attendance on a Coot, and feeding on scraps of the weed which the Coot was diving for and bringing to the surface. Many Wigeon were engaged in the same parasitic behaviour, one pair and in some cases two pairs to each Coot. Associations of this kind by Wigeon are well known, but do not seem to have been recorded on the part of Gadwall.

L. A. URQUHART.

Pintail breeding in Kirkcudbrightshire

As there is no previous evidence of Pintail breeding in Kirkcudbrightshire it is worth recording that in June 1953 I saw a duck Pintail with a small duckling on a marshy pool beside Loch Ken and on 10th and 11th July 1955, in the same place, I came upon a duck with four larger young, not yet able to fly. It is highly probable that breeding has taken place or been attempted in subsequent years but I have no proof of this.

DONALD WATSON.

Surf Scoter in Solway

On 1st January 1964 at Southernness Point, Kirkcudbrightshire, I saw a drake Surf Scoter 200 to 300 yards offshore with some 30 Common Scoters. I watched it in good light for about 15 minutes with binoculars and telescope. During this time it was not seen to dive or fly, but it was frequently lost from view in the troughs of a choppy sea. Other species present for comparison included Eider, Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser and Cormorant. The following description is based on notes made at the time:

General form like Common Scoter, but slightly bigger, with rather longer neck and larger head in comparison with body; tail depressed into water, and head and neck held more erect than Common Scoter's (the bird in fact seemed very alert); entire plumage black except for two white patches on head—one on forehead just above bill, circular when viewed from front, with almost square end just above eye when seen from side, and other on nape (visible from side from about eye-level down), rounded at top on back of head and tapering to point on back of neck; bill not clearly seen, but pale and apparently similar in shape to an Eider's, though not as long or pointed.

C. BOWER.

(This is the first record for Solway, and evidently for the mainland of the west of Scotland.—ED.)

Wood Sandpiper breeding in North Sutherland

As a friend and I were walking round a lochan in North Sutherland on 18th June 1964 two waders suddenly rose up from the boggy ground by the waterside and circled overhead "chipping" continuously. I had no difficulty in identifying them as Wood Sandpipers and it was evident from their behaviour that they had young in the vicinity. After an unsuccessful search, during which the birds disappeared, we retired some distance away. After a short interval I returned to the lochside and again flushed the two sandpipers at the same place. Marking the exact spot where one of them got up I found two tiny down-clad chicks running across a marshy strip. There may have been more chicks with the other parent bird, as the adults got up several yards apart. This is the third locality in Sutherland in which the Wood Sandpiper has been found breeding (see *antea* 1: 150; 2: 309); the localities are in the North and the South East divisions of the county.

D. MACDONALD.

Snowy Owl in Midlothian

On 16th February 1964 in the Moorfoot Hills, as we were about to cross the B7007 Middleton to Garvald road at about 1300 ft on the shoulder of Broad Law, we saw a very large white owl sitting on the drystone dyke watching us with big yellow eyes. Its big round head and underparts were pure white, and when it took flight we saw that its legs and feet also were white and heavily feathered. As it glided over the moor on large rounded wings we noted that the upperparts also were white, flecked with black. We watched it for 15 minutes, until it glided round the hill towards Carcant, and were in no doubt that it was a Snowy Owl.

L. M. YOUNG, J. YOUNG.

(This bird was later seen 2 miles south sitting on a hillside near Garvald early on 1st March 1964. W. Brotherston has sent us full details, and comments that with the large number of white hares about at that time of year the Snowy Owl could easily be overlooked when sitting on the ground. There is no previous record for Midlothian, nor in fact for anywhere on the east side of Scotland south of the Forth.—Ed.)

Parrot Crossbills in Shetland and Outer Hebrides

I have been asked to add to the brief details already published (*Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin* 5: 65; *Bird Migration* 2: 260) of the Parrot Crossbills recorded in Shetland during the irruption of these birds in the autumn of 1962.

Four were seen by C. J. Booth at Quendale on 7th October, and one of these was trapped. It proved to be an adult male with the following measurements (mm)—wing 105, tail 57, bill length 20, bill depth 16, tarsus 17—a large bird even by Parrot standards (see *Bird Migration* 2: 262). A single bird was also seen by the same observer at the same place on 13th October.

A further identification was provided by Tom Henderson, who sent me a bird found dead at Spiggie on 12th October. This bird, again an adult male, is now in the Royal Scottish Museum. Its measurements were—wing 103.5, tail 60, bill length 20, bill depth 15.5, tarsus 17, weight 53.1 gm.

PETER DAVIS.

On 11th October 1962 four Crossbills (3 male, 1 female) were seen in a small conifer plantation in west Lewis. Two of these (both males) were trapped that day, and the remaining two (which were apparently paired) were trapped on the 13th. The wing measurements (maximum) were 108, 105 and 106 for the males, and 104 for the female; the bill depth of the male and female trapped on the 13th were 14 and 15 respectively. These measurements confirm the identification of the birds as Parrot Crossbills.

C. M. REYNOLDS.

Current Notes

Compiled by P. J. B. SLATER

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Wells, P. S. Wells, G. T. White, I. B. Willoughby, Dr W. H. D. Wince, W. Wyper, B. Zonfrillo.

Unless otherwise stated, all dates refer to 1964).

Distribution

Observations made before 21st May are excluded from this section except where they are relevant to more recent reports. Records of the arrival of geese and thrushes have been held over until the next number so that a more complete picture can be given.

Late breeding of the **Great Crested Grebe** is recorded at Threipmuir, Midlothian, where a pair was still carrying young on 13th September (CT). There was a **Red-necked Grebe** in summer plumage at Lindores Loch, Fife, on 26th July (TS, JTW), and a **Black-necked Grebe** was seen there on 4th August (VMT). Single birds of this latter species were also noted at Morton Lochs, Fife, on 12th September (CT), and at Gladhouse, Midlothian, on 27th September (EMS, RWJS). The occurrence of 28 **Little Grebes** at Yetholm Loch, Roxburghshire, at the end of August was exceptional in the observer's experience, but this is the time of year when substantial concentrations have been noted elsewhere in Scotland (see *e.g.* *Edin. Bird Bull.* 3: 11; *Scot. Nat.* 1953: 115; 1954: 66) (RSB).

Several reports of movements of **Manx Shearwaters** probably reflect more accurately the distribution of sea-watchers than of this species. A count of about 400 inshore near Stornoway, Lewis, on 26th July is, however, noteworthy (NE). Single **Sooty Shearwaters** are reported from Loch Snizort, Skye, on 1st September (HEMD), and Elie Ness, Fife, on 17th August (DWO). A "blue" **Fulmar** was seen on the breeding ledges at Crail, Fife, in June (HAF). **Gannets** are occasionally observed quite far up the Forth (see 2: 485), but there were at least 90 fishing off the mouth of the River Esk, Midlothian, on 23rd August (JB). A count of 70 **Shags** between Cramond and Barnbogle, West Lothian, on 14th September was most exceptional for the area (TCS).

A **Garganey** is reported from Machrie, Islay, where one was shot on 10th September (CI per HK). Summer records of **Scaup** were more numerous than usual, with single males reported at the mouth of the North Esk, Angus, on 7th June (GMC); Loch an Torr, Mull, from 28th to 30th July (SMD, EDW, PSW); Loch Ruthven, Inverness-shire, on 28th July (MMcL, HM); and in Shetland at Snarravoe on 24th and 31st May and Baltasound on 10th June (RJT). A female which appeared in Village Bay, Hirta, on 9th July after two days of gales seems to be only the second recorded occurrence of this species for St Kilda (RGG).

A drake **Velvet Scoter** was observed at Machrihanish, Argyll, on 12th August (BZ). In the autumn, flocks of moulting drake

Eiders are often seen around the coast of Scotland, the size of the flocks suggesting that some birds travel quite a long way to join them. Such a congregation has been noted for the first time off the coast of Ayrshire between Troon and Prestwick where numbers built up during June and July to a maximum of 515 on 22nd July. There were still 500 present on 12th September (GAR). Another flock was of 100 in Upper Loch Torridon, Wester Ross, between 15th and 27th August. All the flightless males from Gairloch to Loch Carron seemed to be gathered in this one place (TCS). A particularly large party of **Red-breasted Mergansers** is reported from Broad Bay, Lewis, where there were 216 on 30th September (NE). Single birds were seen inland at the Loch of Lintrathen, Angus, on 4th July (HB), and at Roseberry Reservoir, Midlothian, on 27th September (EMS, RWJS).

For some years now, a flock of **Canada Geese** has gathered in the Beauy Firth, Inverness-shire, to moult; in fact there is evidence that this occurred at least as early as 1950 (ATM). Ringing recoveries show that birds come from as far as Yorkshire (*Wildfowl Trust 15th Ann. Rep.*: 71). The largest number seen this year was 187 on 17th July, when two **Barnacle Geese** were also present (GJN, RGN). Reports of **Whooper Swans** in summer refer to one at Stornoway, Lewis, on 28th July (NE); one in Montrose Basin, Angus, on 5th July (GMC); and three in the Beauy Firth near Lentrán, Inverness-shire, on 31st July (WC).

Buzzards are infrequent in Fife but there are two reports of this species in the county during September: one at Morton Lochs on 6th (VMT) and two near Arncroach on 15th (DWO). In Midlothian, there was one in Edinburgh at Fairmilehead on 28th and 30th August (HAF) and one in Roslin Glen on 15th September (ADKR). **Hen Harriers** disperse widely outside the breeding season and there are records of single "brown" birds at Dunvegan, Skye, on 9th September (GL), and Paisley Moss, Renfrewshire, on 29th August (HG, GTW). With two pairs of **Ospreys** now breeding on Speyside, it is not surprising that records of this species are becoming more numerous. The fact that these are so widely dispersed gives rise to the hope that more pairs may soon be discovered. One was seen flying over Ard an Runair, North Uist, on 28th May: it appeared over the sea to the west and continued eastwards without pausing (RPC, ED). In June, single birds were noted at Sandwater Loch, Shetland, from 6th to 9th (RJT); and at Loch Tummel, Perthshire, where one was seen carrying a fish on 28th (RAFC). In Fife one was seen at Tentsmuir between 26th July and 4th August (THE); and one flew past Fife Ness on 8th August (DWO). There are also two records for Skye, of one sitting on a telegraph pole in Glen Varragill on 12th July (IBW), and the other flying over Loch Mealt on 27th (FMS).

Finally, one was present at Loch Lomond Nature Reserve, Dunbartonshire, on 20th and 21st August (TW). Another unusual species was a **Hobby** seen in Lerwick, Shetland, on 15th June, both at rest on a rooftop and in flight (JPn).

This has been a very good year for **Quail** and a number of records have been received:

Unst, Shetland—one on 13th and 22nd June (MSc).

Mid-Yell, Shetland—one on 20th June (RJT).

Virkie, Shetland—one on 17th June (WH).

Grutness, Shetland—one on 14th June (DC).

Dornoch, Sutherland—one heard on 5th, 12th, 19th and 29th July (see 3: 143) (DM).

Summerston, Glasgow—one present during June (WMMF, DJN, WKR).

Gifford, East Lothian—one heard at this regular haunt on 29th July (per AM).

Applegarthtown, Lockerbie, Dumfries—one calling during summer (KB, RTS).

Campingholm, Gretna, Dumfries—at least two calling on 21st July (KB, RTS).

Reston, Berwick—one heard on 18th July (DGL).

An interesting spring record of a **Spotted Crake** is of one flushed from the edge of Loch Bee, South Uist, on 27th May. The bird was watched at close quarters in short grass and finally caught in a mistnet and ringed (GT).

At Dornoch Point in Sutherland a record number of about 45 **Grey Plover** was recorded on 23rd September (DM). Reports of **Whimbrel** on autumn migration are too numerous to set out in full—the earliest was one at Threipmuir, Midlothian, on 19th July (TB), and the largest count was of about 40 at Aberlady, East Lothian, on 12th September (MJE). Single birds were heard flying over the Royal Botanic Garden, central Edinburgh, on 21st and 24th July (JHS). A pair of **Whimbrel** bred on Hirta this year and two young hatched out of a clutch of four (MMcM, DT). This appears to be the first fully substantiated breeding record for St Kilda although breeding was suspected in 1905.

There are more records of **Black-tailed Godwits** than usual this year:

Findhorn Bay, Moray—1 on 26th Aug (WC).

Tarty Burn, Ythan, Aberdeen—4 on 5th Aug, 1 on 7th (CO).

Montrose Basin, Angus—3 on 23rd Aug (GMC).

Port Allen, Angus—28 on 25th July (HB).

Eden Estuary, Fife—maxima of 60 on 11th Aug and 17th Sept (TCb, DWO, GAR).

Elie Ness, Fife—2 on 24th Aug (DWO).

Seafield, Midlothian—2 on 5th Sept (CT).

Aberlady, East Lothian—3 on 1st Aug (TB), 1 on 21st (HAF), 5 on 22nd (GAR).

Paisley Moss, Renfrew—8 on 22nd Aug (HG).

Gadloch, Lanark—1 from 11th to 14th Aug (FC, WW).

Barassie, Ayr—8 on 2nd Sept, 1 on 6th and 18th (GAR).

Doonfoot, Ayr—2 on 4th Aug (GAR).

New Cunnock, Ayr—2 on 13th Aug (JAB).

Green Sandpipers have also been seen in good numbers:

Findhorn Bay, Moray—1 on 4th Sept (WC).

Ladebraes, St Andrews, Fife—1 on 7th Aug (JM).

Peppermill, Fife—1 on 22nd Aug, 5th, 19th and 26th Sept (GD, JPr, IT).

Gladhouse, Midlothian—1 on 26th July, 11th and 14th Aug, and 6th Sept (HAF, ADKR, EMS, RWJS).

Roseberry, Midlothian—1 on 16th Aug (EMS, RWJS).

Glencorse, Midlothian—1 on 10th Aug (ADKR).

Hule Moss, Berwick—1 on 14th and 27th Aug (SJC, MJH, DGL).

Gavinton, Berwick—1 on 12th and 13th Aug (DGL).

Summerston, Glasgow—1 on 20th, 21st and 27th Aug (WMME).

Paisley Moss, Renfrew—1 flying over on 27th Aug (RM, GTW).

Wood Sandpipers were reported during late spring or early summer from Loch Hallan, South Uist, where one was seen on 27th May (GT); Gladhouse, Midlothian, where there was one on 31st May; and Roseberry, Midlothian, where singles, probably the same bird, were present on 31st May and 14th June (EMS, RWJS). One at Summerston, Glasgow, from 30th August to 4th September is the only autumn record of this species (WMME).

Reports of **Spotted Redshanks** come from:

Kingoodie, Perth—1 on 8th Sept (HB).

Eden Estuary—1 on 17th and 24th Sept (DWO).

Peppermill, Fife—1 on 22nd and 29th Aug, and 5th Sept (GD, JPr, IT)

Esk mouth, Midlothian—1 on 21st Aug (JB).

Tynninghame, East Lothian—1 on 7th Aug (HAF).

Duns, Berwick—1 on 16th Aug (SJC, DGL).

Gadloch, Lanark—1 on 11th and 12th Aug, 2 on 14th, 1 on 18th (FC, WW, BZ).

The first **Greenshank** of the autumn migration was seen at the Eden Estuary, Fife, on 6th July (DWO), and there were two at Peppermill, Fife, on 11th July (GD, JPr, IT). The majority of records received indicate that the main movement took place in the last fortnight of August.

Two **Knot** were seen inland at Gladhouse, Midlothian, during August; a red bird on 16th and a grey bird on 23rd and 26th (EMS, RWJS).

There are comparatively few records of **Little Stints** this autumn:

Montrose Basin—1 on 14th and 17th Sept (GMC).

Eden Estuary—1 on 19th and 24th Sept (DWO).

Tynninghame—2 on 20th Sept (CT) and 1 on 4th Oct (TB, IBR, EMS, RWJS).

Hule Moss, Berwick—2 on 26th and 27th Sept (SJC, DGL). This appears to be the first published record for Berwickshire. The *Geographical Distribution* gives a status of occasional on passage in the county, but extensive searching has revealed no basis for this, and it seems likely that it was entered through misinterpretation of records from Berwick-upon-Tweed. The status could of course be based on unpublished evidence but this seems unlikely as no such records are picked up in *The Birds of Scotland* (ATM).

Curlew Sandpipers are reported from:

- Findhorn Bay, Moray—10th and 13th Aug (1), 4th Sept (2) (WC).
- Montrose Basin—6th Sept (2), 14th (3), 17th (3), 19th (2) (GMC).
- Guardbridge, Fife—1 on 6th Sept (VMT).
- Aberlady—1 on 12th Sept (MJE).
- Tyninghame—1 on 13th Sept (EMS, RWJS).
- Doonfoot, Ayr—1 on 25th Sept (GAR).
- Barassie, Ayr—1 on 30th Sept (GAR).
- Maidens, Ayr—2 on 29th Sept (GAR).

A **Sanderling** was seen well inland at Hule Moss, Berwickshire, on 14th August (DGL).

The first **Ruff** of the autumn was seen on 3rd August and thereafter there were many reports of this species in widely scattered localities:

- Loch Stiapavat, Ness, Lewis—4 on 10th Aug (NE).
- Barvas, Lewis—1 on 28th Aug (NE).
- Findhorn Bay—6 on 10th Aug and 8 on 13th (WC).
- Lintrathen, Angus—3 on 5th Aug (HB).
- Kinnordy, Angus—1 on 5th Aug (HB).
- Montrose Basin—1 on 26th Aug (GMC).
- Eden estuary—11th Aug (2), 17th and 19th Sept (1), 24th (4), (DWO).
- Peppermill—3-12 present from mid Aug to 26th Sept (RSB, GD, WMM, JPr, IT).
- Devon mouth, Clackmannan—1 on 13th Sept (RSB).
- Threipmuir, Midlothian—1 on 16th Aug (TB).
- Gladhouse—6th Aug (3), 9th (3), 13th (3), 16th (7), 23rd (7), 6th Sept (6), 27th (2) (DGA, JB, HAF, EMS, RWJS).
- Aberlady—1 on 12th Sept (MJE).
- Tyninghame—2 on 23rd Sept (HEMD).
- Gadloch—1 on 3rd Aug, 6 on 18th, 4 on 20th and 27th (FC, BZ).
- North Troon, Ayr—2 on 14th Aug (GAR).
- New Cumnock, Ayr—6 feeding on mud of dried-up pond on 13th Aug, 8 on 18th and 4 on 27th (JAB).

One pair of **Great Skuas** bred on St Kilda again this year (MMcM) (see 2: 427), and four adult birds were present on the island on 11th July (RGG). A bird of this species passed over Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, on 3rd August and flew steadily westwards without pausing (DWO). Another inland record is of one seen at Gladhouse, Midlothian, on 23rd August, for at least an hour and a half, during which time it was seen chasing Mallard and diving on a compact group of Coot. It actually lifted a Coot out of the water briefly but then dropped it—it was not seen to make a kill and was obviously not efficient at this type of hunting (EMS, RWJS). Another noteworthy occurrence of this species is of one which appeared at Grangemouth Bay on 13th September; there are few records for East Stirlingshire (GD, JPr, IT). As usual **Arctic Skuas** have been seen in fair numbers off the east coast, with a maximum count of at least 14 at Aberlady on 23rd August (HG, RM, GTW). On the west coast, where they are less common, single birds have been reported from Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, on 12th August (GAR), and between Islay and Gigha on 24th July

(WMME, WKR). Good views were had of a **Pomarine Skua** on the beach at Lossiemouth, Morayshire, on 22nd July. The bird was seen at close quarters both in flight and when it settled on the beach to peck at some garbage (TCA).

Glaucous Gulls apparently follow fishing boats into Ayr harbour in search of offal and there were two there on 25th September; one was also seen at Barassie, Ayrshire, on 27th August (GAR). A **Little Gull**, the first for Wester Ross, was seen in flight at Annat, Upper Loch Torridon, on 21st August (TCS). Other records are of a juvenile between Barassie and Irvine, Ayrshire, on 19th September (GAR); one at Arbroath on 4th August (JD per GMC); and one at Peppermill, Fife, on 5th September (GD, JPr, IT). As last year (see 2: 490), the numbers of this species at Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, built up to an extremely high level during July and August. The first was a single bird seen on 1st July but by 4th August numbers had climbed to a maximum count of over 430. Thereafter there was a decline, and no birds were present between 12th and 19th August, but 64 were seen on 20th and irregular fluctuations followed. Unlike last year practically all the birds seen were adults: the first juveniles were noted on 4th August. Considering this concentration, it is surprising how few were observed elsewhere in East Fife: one on Elie Golf Course on 12th July; six at Largo Bay on 4th August; one at Elie Harbour from 7th to 17th August; and one at Fife Ness on 7th September. Passage was, however, noted at Elie Ness between 15th July and 21st September with a maximum rate of 15 per hour on 5th August (DWO). Breeding of the **Kittiwake** is recorded for the first time on the island of Fidra in the Firth of Forth, a nest being found on 6th June (RWJS).

A single **Black Tern** was with the Little Gulls at Kilconquhar Loch from 20th to 31st August (PGB, MJE, DWO, GLAP). A **Common Tern** was seen again at Barr Meadows, Renfrewshire, on 6th July 1964 (see 2: 491), and there were six at Rowbank Reservoir, Ayrshire, from 17th May to 12th July, but it was not possible to prove breeding (RCD). Migrant **Common Terns** were noted inland at New Cumnock, Ayrshire, where ten were present for a short time on 16th August (JAB). A **Little Tern**, the first the observer had seen there, was seen at the mouth of the Esk, Midlothian, on 21st August (JB). At Montrose Basin, Angus, about 10,000 terns roosted on 1st August: on 2nd 3000 were counted in half an hour as they flew in to the Basin, and from their calls it was concluded that a high percentage were **Sandwich Terns** (GMC, JD). The discovery of two **Black Guillemot** nests at Scar Rocks, Wigtownshire, on 27th June extends the known breeding range of this species eastwards into the Solway Firth (EMS, RWJS).

Two **Turtle Doves** were seen at Aberlady on 22nd August (CT), and there was one calling in Dornoch, Sutherland, on

6th September (DM). Records of **Collared Doves** continue to pour in but they are to be dealt with in detail elsewhere.

Records of **Nightjars** come from Lerwick, Shetland, where one was seen on 26th May (DC); Loch Scresort woods, Rhum, where a male was present on 10th June (VPWL per WJE); and Saltoun Wood, East Lothian, where there were two males churring on 19th June and one on 24th (TD, KSM, JAS). The first recorded in Edinburgh for forty years was seen and heard on 5th Sept. beside Braid Hills Road (AL, MMcD). There have been several reports of **Hoopoes** recently, the first being in Grosvenor Crescent gardens and elsewhere in Edinburgh, for a few days from 18th August (MJE, MIW, GW). Another was in Easter Ross, where it was seen at Fortrose on 27th August (MSm) and later in the Balblair area until 5th September (per PSL). One which was first seen near Portree, Skye, on 4th September, was found dead on 14th (MJCM).

A **Green Woodpecker** was seen near Stirling on 2nd July and there was one at North Third Reservoir, Stirlingshire, on 6th September (PC, GTJ). One was rescued from a stoat at St Margaret's Loch, Edinburgh, on 27th July, but only lived for two days (MJE). A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen flying SW across the Meadows in Edinburgh on 12th September, as though on migration (TCS). A **Wryneck** was found dead near Perth in the first week of September (VMT).

There was a remarkable arrival of **Golden Orioles** in Orkney and Shetland during the early part of the summer. In Orkney there was a female on North Ronaldsay on 21st May, two females at Rendall on 31st May and a male on 5th June. Another male was reported from Birsay at about the same time, as well as two yellow birds in the Kirkwall area (per EB). In Shetland there was only one entirely satisfactory record—a male at Seafield, Lerwick, on 24th and 25th June—but records of "probables" which fit into the general picture refer to females at Busta on 24th June and at Mid-Yell on 4th and 6th June, and an immature male at Kergord on 16th (per RJT).

A **Marsh Tit** was both seen and heard at Yetholm, Roxburghshire, on 2nd September, and this is the first record for the county (RSB). A late **Fieldfare** was at Loanhead, Midlothian, on 6th June (RWJS), and a **Redwing** was present near Stornoway, Lewis, between 19th July and 1st September (NE). Two **Stonechats**, a male and an immature, were seen beside Glen-corse Reservoir, Midlothian, on 27th September (HEMD, ADKR). A **Redstart** at Morton Lochs, Fife, on 6th May was described as the first recorded there (3:147), but it is now known that a male and a female were present on 26th August 1962. A single male was present this year on 12th September (CT). One seen in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, on 18th September was presumably a migrant. (JHS).

Between 13th June and 3rd July, a **Grasshopper Warbler** was present in a hayfield at Rothes, Morayshire; there are few records for this part of the country (AP). **Whitethroats** are unusual in West Sutherland, but one was seen at Kinlochbervie on 28th June (JB), and a pair were feeding young at Scourie on 10th August (WAC). There was a **Barred Warbler** in Mid Yell, Shetland, on 7th September (RJT).

Pied Flycatchers often provide a good indication of movements from the continent; they are reported from:

Shetland—singles in many localities from 27th Aug to end of Sept (per RJT).

Finstown, Orkney—1 on 28th Aug, 2 on 8th and 9th Sept (PJBS).

Dornoch, Sutherland—1 on 13th Sept (DM).

Kinnaber, Angus—3 in coniferous wood on 20th Aug (GMC).

Morton Lochs, Fife—1 on 30th Aug, the first for the reserve (CT).

An unusual occurrence was a migrant **Tree Pipit** flying across the Meadows, in the centre of Edinburgh, on 6th September (TCS). **Yellow Wagtails** are reported from Aviemore, Invernessshire, where a male was seen on 5th August (RCF, RL) and from Montrose Basin, Angus, where there was an adult female *flavissima* on 26th August (GMC).

Late May and June produced four records of **Red-backed Shrikes**: a male was seen catching insects near Falkland, Fife, on 4th June (JRST); and in Shetland males were seen at Sellafrith on 11th June, and Saxavord from 24th to 29th May (MSc), while there was a female at Baltasound on 10th June (RJT).

The distribution of the **Hawfinch** in Scotland is not well known because of its secretive habits and it is therefore worth recording that an adult female was seen at Manderston, Berwickshire, on 9th August (SJC, DGL). Two **Goldfinches** were at Morton Lochs—where they are very scarce—on 19th July (CT). In Midlothian a male **Siskin** was often heard singing at Harlaw during June and July (HAF). There are several autumn reports of odd birds:

Mid Yell, Shetland—1 on 23rd Sept (RJT).

Tulliallan, Fife—1 on 12th Sept (GD, JPr, IT).

Hillend, Edinburgh—male singing on 17th Sept (HAF).

Flotterstone, Midlothian—5 on road to Glencorse on 27th Sept (HEMD, ADKR).

Redpolls seem to have been particularly numerous this summer with the numbers seen inviting special comment from observers in Dunbartonshire (TW) and in the Lothians and Berwickshire (HAF). More concrete evidence comes from an autumn count of about 250 at Aberlady on 12th September (HAF). There were five in Stornoway, Lewis, on 22nd August and four on 29th (NE). A party of four or five **Crossbills**, which included at least one adult and two grey birds and was therefore probably a family group, was feeding in

the pines at Tynninghame, East Lothian, on 6th June (EMS, RWJS).

An adult male **Red-headed Bunting**, doubtless an escaped bird, like almost all others in Britain, was seen on Hirta, St Kilda, on 26th May (WHDW). Another was caught at Vatersay, Barra, at the end of May and, being in an exhausted condition, was kept thereafter in a cage. It recovered well and survived until 22nd August, when it died (CM). A pair of late **Snow Buntings** was seen on Kilchoman dunes, Islay, on 22nd June (AMS).

In our last issue, a pair of **Tree Sparrows** was reported feeding well-fledged young at Kinaldie Station in Aberdeenshire (3: 149). It now transpires that in fact the young were only well-feathered, still in the nest, and therefore unlikely to have wandered the 8 miles from the county boundary! This is thus the first breeding record for Aberdeenshire (CO). **Tree Sparrows** also probably nested in Shetland again this year (see 2: 350) as eight or ten birds were present at Kergord during June. There are few records of this species for the Tentsmuir area (2: 444), but one was seen feeding on the mud at the Eden Estuary on 25th August (TCb).

Earlier observations—before 21st May 1964

A **Great Crested Grebe** was seen in Lerwick harbour on 30th April (JPN), and there was a drake **Garganey** at Haroldswick on 9th May (MSc). Both species are very scarce in Shetland.

General observations—behaviour

At Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, **House Martins** built 16 nests under the eaves of some new flats which had been occupied for only a year (WWD). It is interesting to see these birds taking over a new site so soon after its appearance, especially in view of their normal conservatism in building their nests in the same places year after year.

Reviews

Identification for Ringers. 3. The Genus Sylvia. BTO Field Guide No. 9. By Kenneth Williamson. Tring, British Trust for Ornithology, 1964. Pp. 71; figures and 5 photographs. Paper cover 7/-, boards 10/6.

To quote from its introduction, "this study of the genus *Sylvia* completes the examination of the palearctic warblers, undertaken with a view to summarizing for the bird-ringer and observatory worker such points as will assist him in the identification of the species, race, sex and age of trapped birds. Previous volumes have dealt with the genera *Celtia*, *Locus-tella*, *Acrocephalus* and *Hippolais* (No. 1, revised edition published in

May 1963), and the genus *Phylloscopus* (No. 2, published in May 1962).” No. 1 was reviewed in *Scot. Birds* 1: 370-371, No. 2 in *Scot. Birds* 2: 268-269.

This final volume deals with seventeen species, only nine of which have been recorded from Britain and only six from Scotland. Even should no more ever occur here—which in itself is improbable—there is still much to be learned about those that do. For example, a critical examination of all Lesser Whitethroats handled, made with this guide beside one, should enable a greatly improved assessment to be made of the migration-status in Scotland of the so-called ‘Siberian’ race *blythi*. Similarly, and taking care that all the features referred to in the guide are covered, the fullest possible descriptions should be made of any Sub-alpine Warbler encountered. So far it has generally been impossible to say with certainty to which of the possible races any British-caught specimens should be assigned.

Short-cuts are always useful, when available, but although the guide contains a key to the genus *Sylvia* this should not be used alone. Introductions tend to be read once and thereafter forgotten, for which reason I would like to have seen a footnote on p. 66 repeating the warning on p. 7, where the author doubts whether a wholly satisfactory key to the genus will ever be devised. Although it would be relatively easy to produce a workable key for adult males, the similarity between females and immatures of several species and the overlap of measurements and wing-formulae characteristics are such that it is virtually impossible to construct a key which will isolate each species irrespective of sex and age. The key provided, therefore, “should be treated only as a guide indicating the likely identity of the bird under examination, and a final decision should not be made without an appeal to the appropriate section of the text.”

It is precisely because of this sort of honest approach, and because this work does not attempt to gloss over and hide, but rather to set out and examine, the difficulties involved, that Ken Williamson’s tripartite study is so valuable. Peter Davis described part 2 of the treatise as “a pocket masterpiece of concision and clarity”; with part 1 completely revised and enlarged, and with part 3 so amply of the quality of its predecessor, that assessment can fairly stand to apply to the whole. But I would add two words: it is a masterpiece of concision, clarity **and utility**. The bird observatories particularly, but also all students of the Sylviidae are greatly in the author’s debt.

W. J. EGGELING.

Fresh Water Birds and Sea Birds. Sets of colour slides.

The reviewer of these slides in our Autumn 1964 issue wondered what restriction on their use was implied by the reservation of copyright by the photographers. The publisher, Diana Wyllie Limited, advises us that there is no restriction whatever on their use to illustrate lectures. It would be courteous however if lecturers were to acknowledge the photographers by name. The copyright credit on the slide mounts is to protect the photographers against unauthorised reproduction of the pictures in print.

EDITORS.

Also received :

Peter Scott. *Red Lion Lives* No. 15. By George Baker. London, Cassell, 1964. Pp. 121; 4 photographs. 8/6.

Correspondence

SIR,

Identification of Scandinavian Jackdaws

There have been two recent mentions of Jackdaws in Lewis showing white or whitish collars, and it has been suggested that these birds were probably of the Scandinavian race *Corvus m. monedula* (3: 40, 90). This surmise appears to have been based entirely on the whiteness of the collar—a feature which has been shown to be so variable in both British and Scandinavian populations that it cannot be safely relied on as a diagnostic field character. This question was fully discussed by Reginald Wagstaffe and Kenneth Williamson in their paper, "Some remarks on the British and Scandinavian Jackdaws" (*British Birds* 40: 143), and they concluded that the only reliable distinguishing mark between the two races was the darker upper and underparts of the British race. "The Scandinavian series present a very light appearance, more especially on the underparts, which could be described as brownish-grey as against brownish-black with a dark blue sheen in the British birds."

In fact the Lewis birds were described as having a very dark glossy blue mantle, which positively suggests that they were merely abnormally white-collared birds of the British race *C. m. spermologus*.

In this connection it is worth drawing attention to the comments of L. S. V. and U. M. Venables (*Birds and Mammals of Shetland* 1955: 102) on the small breeding colony of Jackdaws which was established in Shetland about 1943. In 1945 and 1946 the majority of birds showed whitish collars suggestive of *C. m. monedula*, but by 1952 none of the birds were showing this character, and in addition the underparts were considered to be too dark to be typical of the Scandinavian form.

D. G. ANDREW.

Request for Information

Birds of Perthshire. The recently formed Ornithological Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural History hopes to produce a report on the birds of Perthshire and would be grateful for any records—especially from the western half of the county. These should be sent to Miss V. M. Thom, 19 Brae-side Gardens, Perth.

Official Section

THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1964

	As at 30/6/64	As at 31/8/63
Accumulated surplus :		
As at 31st August 1963	£1536 15 9	£1020
Add : Provisions etc written back	0 0 0	165
	£1536 15 9	£1185
Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	288 17 3	352
	£1825 13 0	£1537
Made up of :		
Cash—In hands of Secretary	£5 18 8	£10
In Royal Bank of Scotland	80 15 0	158
In Royal Bank of Scotland No. 2 A/c.	12 10 2	100
In Edinburgh Savings Bank	580 12 3	416
	£679 16 1	£684
Book Shop Stock at cost	265 13 3	154
Debts due to Club	198 16 9	4
	£1144 6 1	£842
5% Defence Bonds	500 0 0	500
Loan to Renfrew County Council at 6½% repayable 1965	500 0 0	500
	£2144 6 1	£1842
Less :		
Subscriptions paid in advance	£56 2 6	73
Donations from the late Miss E. A. Garden— amount not yet expended	28 8 1	60
Debts due by Club	234 2 6	172
	318 13 1	305
	£1825 13 0	£1537
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
	£2000 0 0	£2000
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
	£2000 0 0	£2000

Revenue Account for the ten months ended 30th June 1964

	10 months to 30/6/64	Year to 31/8/63
INCOME:		
Subscriptions received for year	£1521 6 0	£1359
Income Tax recoverable on Covenanted Subscriptions	153 6 11	133
Dividends and Interest received	155 18 9	142
Surplus on Book Shop (Sales £1198)	338 15 5	155
Sales of "Scottish Birds" to non-members	74 13 10	72
Sundry Sales	72 8 10	76
Contribution from Scottish Wildlife Trust towards facilities granted by Club	17 0 0	0
Special Income:		
Donations	17 17 0	21
Surplus on Usher Hall Lecture	0 0 0	56
	<u>£2351 6 9</u>	<u>£2014</u>
EXPENDITURE—		
Branch Expenses including lectures	£236 7 9	£189
Travel Expenses of Council Members and of Delegates to Conferences	57 1 10	0
Secretarial Services	625 1 1	530
Office Expenses	282 3 1	244
Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection: Club's share of Running Expenses including £100 (£50 1962/63) contribution to House Fabric Fund	355 2 8	206
Cost of Books purchased for Library	113 15 6	122
Cost of Publishing "Scottish Birds" (less advertising revenue £220)	351 12 9	340
Net Cost (surplus) of Annual Conference	(23 7 0)	32
Subscriptions Paid	14 1 0	5
Sundry Purchases	50 10 10	14
	<u>£2062 9 6</u>	<u>£1662</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet	288 17 3	352
	<u>£2351 6 9</u>	<u>£2014</u>

**House Fabric Fund—Summary of Accounts for period from
1st September 1963 to 30th June 1964**

	Period to 30/6/64	Year to 31/8/63
RECEIPTS—		
Balance as at 31st August 1963	£286 14 7	£86
Year's rent from Royal Society for 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	100 0 0	50
Special contribution from do. for modernisation and redecoration of basement bathroom	60 0 0	0
Donation in memory of James and Catherine Harvey— for new lending library	0 0 0	200
Miscellaneous interests	3 10 0	4
	<u>£650 4 7</u>	<u>£540</u>

EXPENDITURE—

Repairs and maintenance (including redecoration of Club room—£67, and modernisation and redecoration of basement bathroom—£59)	...	£177	4	4	£103
Expenditure out of Harvey Donation on new lending library	161	6	7	0
Property burdens	149	17	3	140
Insurance	10	9	11	10
		<u>£498</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>£253</u>
On deposit with Dunedin Building Society	£55	0	1		
At credit of account with Fraser, Stodart & Ballingall, W.S.	96	6	5	287
		<u>£650</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>£540</u>

Note: The Balance of £151, 6s 6d includes £38, 13s 5d unexpended from the Harvey Donation.

EDINBURGH, 9th October, 1964.—I have audited the foregoing revenue accounts for the period to 30th June 1964 and the Balance Sheet as at that date. I have accepted as correct the subscriptions shown as received in the books and the value placed on the Bookshop stock. Subject to this I 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. Once again the Club membership has increased steadily to reach a total of 1395 by the end of the Session. 280 new members were enrolled, while 146 resigned or failed to renew their subscriptions. Joint membership rose from 75 to 98, and the comparative figures are shown in the following tables:

	31/8/60	31/8/61	31/8/62	31/8/63	30/6/64
Ordinary	781	852	918	1062	1194
Junior	141	177	181	195	198
Honorary	5	6	4	4	3
	<u>927</u>	<u>1035</u>	<u>1103</u>	<u>1261</u>	<u>1395</u>

Deeds of Covenant signed by members for their subscriptions, however, showed only a small increase, from 175 to 179, bringing a total of £153 to the General Funds of Club. The Council thanks all those who signed new Covenants and urges members who pay income tax at the full rate to consider helping the Club in this way.

Deaths. It is with great regret that the Council records the deaths of two of our older members, Charles Inkster of Shetland, an Honorary Member of the Club since 1937, and Dr Tom Longstaff, both in their 90th year, and also of Ian M. Thomson, one of our finest bird photographers, whose work has appeared in *Scottish Birds*.

Honours. The past Session has brought some noteworthy honours to

members of the Club and the Council extends its warm congratulations to George Waterston for his award of the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List; to Dr D. A. Bannerman who received an Honorary Doctorate from Glasgow University; and to C. K. Mylne on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society.

Business of Council. The Council met five times during the Session. When it was learned that the 1966 International Ornithological Congress would be held in Britain, the Council invited the British Executive Committee to hold the 14th Congress in Edinburgh. After due consideration the Committee decided to hold it in Oxford but invited the Club to be hosts to the Congress Excursion and to the Opening Dinner in Edinburgh. The Council accepted this invitation and formed a special Committee, which has met several times during the Session to make preliminary arrangements to charter the *Devonia* for a week's cruise to Scottish Islands in July 1966, and to reserve the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh for the opening Dinner. Dr Pennie and George Waterston were also appointed as members of the British Executive Congress Committee.

During the Session the Club was represented at two International Conferences; Mr and Mrs George Waterston were delegates to the meetings of the 8th Conference of the European Continental Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, held in Ireland from 1st to 6th June; and Lt.-Col. W. M. Logan Home represented the Club at the 2nd Pan-African Ornithological Conference in Pietermaritzburg from 21st to 28th September.

A Resolution sent from the Annual Conference, 1963, to the Secretary of State for Scotland concerning the use of pesticides and their effect on wild life, and subsequent correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Council of the Club has been fully reported in *Scottish Birds*.

Club Branches. A full programme of more than 40 lectures was carried out in the seven Branches and two Groups of the Club during the winter and the Council thank the many visiting lecturers who gave their services so freely, and also those who contributed to members' nights. The Council also thanks the Branch office-bearers and particularly the Secretaries for their work in stimulating interest in their various areas, and for planning an interesting programme of field excursions during the summer. The new Group in Inverness increased considerably in numbers due to the enthusiasm and energy of its office-bearers, and the new Thurso Group is to be congratulated in carrying out a very useful programme of field work during the Session.

Club Excursions. The Club excursions, to Dumfries in February and to Aviemore in May, were well attended as usual. The Council wishes to thank the members of the Dumfries Branch for their work in making the Dumfries excursion such a success each year.

Annual Conference. The Sixteenth Annual Conference was held in Dunblane in October and was attended by over 240 members and guests. Papers were read by Dr Kai Curry-Lindhal on Birds of Prey, and by Stanley Cramp on Toxic Chemicals and Wildlife. Dr Roger Tory Peterson, Gordon Hollands and C. E. Palmar showed films.

"Scottish Birds." Four numbers of the Journal were published during the year and the Council congratulates the Editor, Andrew T. Macmillan, and his assistants on the high standard maintained in this publication, which is increasingly in demand by libraries and societies in Britain and overseas. Thanks are also due to Dr T. C. Smout, the Business Editor, for his excellent work in promoting a good advertisement revenue.

Scottish Bird Records Committee. The Committee met once during

the Session under the Chairmanship of D. G. Andrew, and the Review for 1963 will be published in *Scottish Birds*.

Club Library. The Council is indebted to the many donors of books and journals to the Reference Library, and in particular to Dr Bannerman who has given a great number of valuable books and papers, and to Sir Arthur Duncan for a complete set of the *Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*. Important purchases were made from the special allocation of funds to the Library, including a fine set of *Booth's Rough Notes and Nicoll's Birds of Egypt*. Structural alterations to cupboards in the Reference Library to form two glass-fronted bookcases for valuable books were carried out by means of a donation from the late Miss Betty Garden.

Bookshop. During the ten months to 30th June the Club bookshop sold books to the value of nearly £1200. Every opportunity was taken of displaying books at meetings and conferences, and the Club was invited to arrange bookstalls at the European Meeting for Wildfowl Conservation in St Andrews, the Annual Conference of the British Trust for Ornithology in Beadnall, and the National Trust for Scotland's Islands Cruises. The Council thanks those bodies most warmly for these privileges, and also the Club members who have given their support to the bookshop. Requests for books have been received from overseas and large orders were posted to Yugoslavia, Norway, Germany and the U.S.A.

Enquiries. Members of the Club have carried out valuable work in assisting with enquiries of the British Trust for Ornithology during the year. C. P. Rawcliffe was appointed Scottish Organiser for the National Heron Census 1964.

Scottish Centre. A large number of visitors from Britain and overseas were again entertained and advised at the Centre, and in June a group of American ornithologists, led by Orville Crowder, was given a reception and film by members of the Edinburgh Branch Committee.

The Council also agreed to provide facilities for an office for the new Scottish Wildlife Trust, and in March a room was put at the disposal of William Watt, the Secretary.

For the Council, I. D. PENNIE, President.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB

The twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Hotel Dunblane, Perthshire, on Saturday, 24th October 1964, at 6 p.m. Dr I. D. Pennie, President of the Club, presided over an attendance of about one hundred members.

Apologies. Apologies for absence were received from Dr and Mrs D. A. Bannerman, Dr David Boddington, Dr D. H. Mills, Jack Scobie and Professor and Mrs V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Minutes. The Minutes of the twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting held in Dunblane on 26th October 1963, were approved and signed.

Report of Council. Presenting the Report of Council for the past Session, the Chairman said that the Club membership continued to show a most satisfactory increase, and the office-bearers of the Branches were to be congratulated on their work in stimulating local interest. Owing largely to the efforts and enthusiasm of James MacGeoch, Secretary of the new Inverness Group, the Council was pleased to announce that this Group had been given full Branch status. He also said that the new Thurso Group, although small in numbers, was an outstanding

example to the Branches in the amount of field work which they carried out during the Session.

The Chairman stressed the value which members obtained for the very moderate annual subscription, with lectures, the Journal, Conferences, the Scottish Centre and the Reference and Lending Libraries, and he urged all members paying Income Tax at the full rate to increase the funds of the Club by signing Deeds of Covenant for their subscriptions. The Report was adopted.

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 Hon. President. The election of George Waterston as an Honorary President of the Club was unanimously approved.

Election of new Council Members. In the absence of any other nominations, H. A. Maxwell, Inverness, and R. T. Smith, Lockerbie, were elected to Council in place of George Waterston and A. D. Watson who were due to retire by rotation.

Proposed Reserve in Portugal. Following the lecture given by Derrick England on a unique marshland area in Portugal which is seriously threatened by agricultural development, Stanley Cramp moved that the Club should send a resolution to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature urging that the area be secured as a reserve. Donations collected for this project amounted to £25, which will be forwarded along with the resolution.

New President of the U.S.S.R. The meeting approved a proposal by I. Alasdair Anderson that a telegram should be sent to the new President of the U.S.S.R., Mr Brezhnev, expressing our pleasure on learning of his great interest in ornithology.

Club Bookshop. Alex. Tewnton drew members' attention to the fact that the Club Bookshop was able to obtain discount on books on all natural history subjects in addition to ornithology, and he suggested that members might take advantage of this in order to increase the revenue from book sales.

Votes of Thanks. The Chairman moved a warm vote of thanks to all those who were assisting at the Conference in the Registration Office, the stewards, projectionists, excursion leaders and exhibitors. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman on the motion of Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn, late President of the Club.

**Text of the Resolution sent from the Annual Conference
to the I.U.C.N.**

"That this Annual Conference of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club considers that the marsh known as BUNHAL, near GOLEGA, in Portugal, is of international importance as a Wetlands area (including the second largest heronry in Western Europe, with five species nesting) and is now under serious threat from agricultural development. It urges the I.U.C.N. to act with the utmost speed to assist the appropriate authorities in Portugal to secure the area as a reserve, and forwards the sum of £25 collected here today at Dunblane to help in this." (see p. 216).

**Text of the telegram sent from the Annual Conference to the
new President of the U.S.S.R.**

To: LEONID ILYICH BREZHNEV, The Kremlin, Moscow, U.S.S.R.

"The members of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club Annual Conference express pleasure at your great interest in ornithology and send you their greetings. Should you visit the British Isles we would welcome the opportunity of showing you Scottish bird life."

**COUNCIL AND OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE CLUB
FOR SESSION 28**

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

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, W.S.

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;
H. A. Maxwell; Dr D. H. Mills; J. H. B. Munro; C. K. Mylne; G. L. A.
Patrick; A. J. Smith; R. T. Smith.

Branch Representatives to Council : J. M. S. Arnott (Glasgow); Wil-
liam Austin (Dumfries); Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame (St Andrews);
D. W. Garvie (Aberdeen); Mrs A. E. S. Scorgie (Ayr); J. Hunter
Sutherland (Dundee); Miss Olive Thompson (Edinburgh); H. A. Max-
well and Dr D. H. Mills (already serving—Inverness).

BRANCH AND GROUP OFFICE-BEARERS

Aberdeen : Chairman, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards; Vice-Chair-
man, J. Edelsten; Secretary, Miss Florence Greig; Committee, Alex-
ander Anderson, D. W. Garvie, J. L. Riddell.

Ayr : Chairman, R. M. Ramage; Vice-Chairman, G. A. Richards; Sec-
retary, Dr M. E. Castle; Committee, Mrs A. E. S. Scorgie, Mrs M. Y.
MacGregor, Rev. J. S. Phillips, S. L. Hunter.

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

Dumfries : Chairman, William Austin; Vice-Chairman, A. D. Watson;
Secretary, H. M. Russell; Committee, J. K. R. Melrose, E. L. Roberts,
R. T. Smith, John Young.

Dundee : Chairman, J. Hunter Sutherland; Vice-Chairman, J. E. For-
rest; Secretary, Jack Scobie; Committee, F. D. Graham, Andrew
Shepherd, Miss Jenny Stirling, R. Summers.

Edinburgh : Chairman, A. T. Macmillan; Vice-Chairman, M. K. Hamil-
ton; Secretary, Miss Olive Thompson; Committee, Miss N. J. Gordon,
C. K. Mylne, C. P. Rawcliffe, P. J. B. Slater.

Glasgow : Chairman, J. M. S. Arnott; Vice-Chairman, A. L. Ogilvy;
Secretary, G. L. A. Patrick; Committee, R. S. Baillie, R. G. Caldow,
Mrs J. B. Hutchison, T. D. H. Merrie.

Inverness : Chairman, Dr D. H. Mills; Vice-Chairman, H. A. Maxwell;
Secretary, James MacGeoch; Committee, W. A. Fernie, L. W. Payne,
Mrs U. M. Pennell, Dr Maeve Rusk.

St Andrews : Chairman, Miss J. MacFarlane; Vice-Chairman, Miss D.
M. Wilson; Secretary, Miss M. M. Spires; Committee, Miss J. V.
Black, Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame, Miss G. L. C. Falconer.

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 12th to 14th February 1965, to see the geese on the Solway.

Accommodation: inclusive terms, (a) £4.8.6d. (including 10% service charge) as follows—bed on Friday 12th; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and bed on Saturday 13th; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 14th; (b) £5.0.0d if Friday dinner is required. This will be served from 7 to 8.30 p.m. and members should inform the Hotel in advance if they are arriving in time for dinner.

On Saturday evening after the day's excursion, an informal reception will be held in the Hotel to meet the members of the Dumfries Branch.

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 to Dumfries by private cars should be made with Branch Secretaries. It is advisable to bring warm clothing, gum boots if possible, and thermos flasks.

DUNDEE BRANCH WINTER EXCURSIONS

The Dundee Branch has arranged a series of local excursions during the coming winter months. Members who wish to participate should meet promptly at 10 a.m. at City Square, Dundee, after previously informing the Secretary, Jack Scobie, 11 Nevill Street, Dundee (Tel. Dundee 86209), in order that sufficient transport may be arranged.

Sunday 6th December 1964—Montrose Basin and Scurdyness.

Sunday 10th January 1965—Forfar and Rescobie Lochs.

Sunday 21st February 1965—River Eden or Loch Leven, depending on Tay Ferries.

Sunday 21st March 1965—Stormont and Clunie Lochs.

"SCOTTISH BIRDS," VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

The first number of the journal has been out of print for a considerable time. We regularly get requests for copies from members who want to have the first volume bound, and we are therefore examining the possibility of reprinting this number. The cost would depend on the quantity required. Readers are invited to write at once to the Secretary if they would like to have a copy, and to say whether would be prepared to pay (a) 7/6d, or (b) 12/6d for it. Once we have this information a more detailed investigation can be made. If sufficient requests are received the price will be reduced accordingly.

PROPOSED RESERVE IN PORTUGAL (see p. 214)

A letter of acknowledgment and thanks has been received from the Secretary-General of the I.U.C.N. who writes, "A copy of your letter has been forwarded to Dr L. Hoffmann, the coordinator of the I.U.C.N./I.W.R.B. Project MAR (for the conservation and management of temperate wetlands), for his comments. A list of European and North African wetlands of international importance produced under the MAR project is due to be published shortly, and the S.O.C. will be pleased to know that the Buhnal marsh has been placed in Category A which covers all sites which are considered to be of major importance for the conservation of wetland bird populations."

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THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club was founded in 1936 and membership is open to all interested in Scottish ornithology. Meetings are held during the winter months in various centres and excursions are organised during the summer.

The aims and objects of the Club are to (a) encourage and direct the study of Scottish ornithology in all its branches; (b) co-ordinate the efforts of Scottish Ornithologists and encourage co-operation between field and indoor workers; (c) encourage ornithological research in Scotland in co-operation with other organisations; (d) hold meetings at centres to be arranged at which lectures are given, films exhibited, and discussions held; and (e) publish or arrange for the publication of statistics and information with regard to Scottish ornithology.

There are no entry fees for membership. The Annual subscription is 25/-; or 7/6 for members under twenty-one years of age and for University undergraduates. Joint membership is available to married couples at an annual subscription of 40/-. "Scottish Birds" is issued free to members but Joint members will receive only one copy between them.

The Club-room, Reference and Lending Libraries at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7, are available to members during office hours, and on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. during the winter months. The Club Bookshop is open during office hours for the sale of new books.

The official tie in navy or dark green (17/9, post extra) and Club badge (2/6) may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs George Waterston, Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7 (Tel. WAVERLEY 6042), who will also forward Membership Application forms, the Club Constitution and other literature on request.

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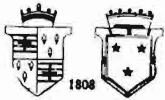
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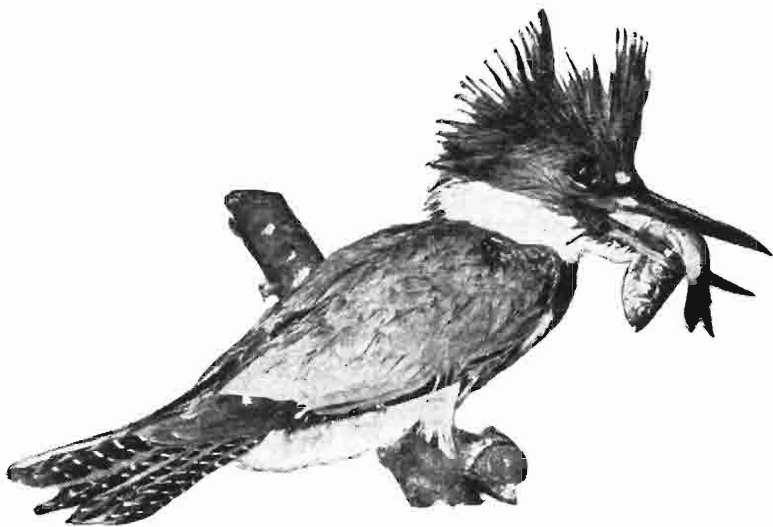
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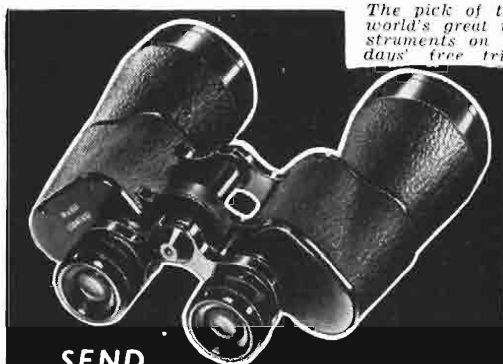
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