

# Scottish Birds



## The Journal of The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

*Vol. 3 No. 8*

*Winter 1965*

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# Scottish Birds

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

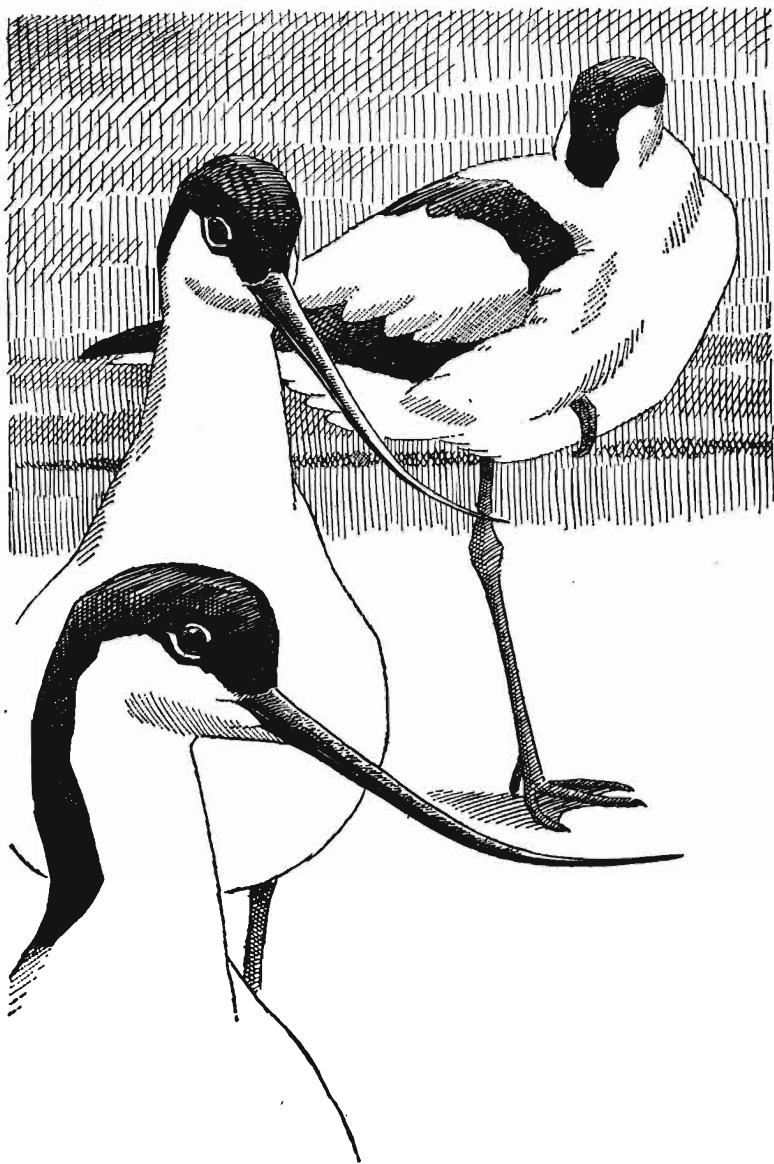
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# Scottish Birds

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB



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Vol. 3 No. 8

Winter 1965

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

## Editorial

**Service and disservice to ornithology.** By arranging for a note in the *Scotsman* about the occurrence of a Cream-coloured Courser at Aberlady in October the Scottish Centre performed a useful service for birdwatchers. It enabled many people to see this very rare bird; it gave a lot of people a lot of pleasure. Obviously this was a calculated risk, but it is good that we have now got to a stage where the occurrence of rare vagrants can be publicised in this way without fear of the bird immediately being shot for someone's private collection.

However, we view with alarm articles that have appeared recently in the daily press and elsewhere. The author has gone out of his way to reveal in meticulous detail the breeding sites of some of the rarest Scottish breeding birds, including the site of the second pair of Ospreys which have attempted to breed in Speyside for the past three years—information which, in the interests of the birds, the press had previously refrained from publishing at the specific request of the R.S.P.B. Sometimes these details seem to have been given mainly for their sensation value or to lend an air of importance to the material, being irrelevant to the general flow of the article. Such unpleasant ornithological one-upmanship reflects no credit on its author.

Birdwatching has become so popular that if rare birds are to breed successfully it may be as necessary to save them from the disturbance of over-enthusiastic tourists and naturalists as from egg collectors and other enemies. Those genuinely concerned about the birds readily recognise that they must accept some restrictions, and also that it is usually unwise to publicise the exact breeding sites of rare birds.

**The Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise, 16th-22nd July 1966.** Readers have already had a leaflet with full details of the S.O.C. cruise, which will take International Conference on

Bird Preservation delegates and International Ornithological Congress members and a large number of other birdwatchers of all ages and skills on a grand tour of the dramatic and fascinating bird islands of Scotland. This is one of the most important ventures yet by the club and is certain to be a spectacular and unforgettable experience—alike for distinguished visitors from abroad and for ordinary Scottish birdwatchers who have never got further than reading about the fantastic scenery and bird cliffs of Foula and St Kilda.

The cruise is an incomparable and extraordinary bargain ; and not likely to be repeated for a long time. For a mere £30 you may have a whole week cruising to places that any birdwatcher must long to visit, and in company with a shipload of like-minded enthusiasts guided by ornithological experts of international fame.

If you get your application in now you should still be able to get a place, but as the advertisements appear the places will disappear. The cabins are mostly taken, but at the time of writing there are still dormitory places to be had. These are by no means as primitive as one might picture, and of course you will share with birdwatchers of your own age, so the company should be congenial. Priority for delegates ended on 30th November so you should get your application off right away. Don't delay. Write today.

**S.O.C. Annual Conference.** Living so much nearer to the Arctic than to the tropics it is no coincidence that Scottish ornithologists tend to go north on their more serious bird study trips. It was a happy and appropriate thought, with Dr Ian D. Pennie as President of the S.O.C., to make Arctic ornithology the theme of the 1965 Conference.

At the last moment our irreplaceable principal speaker, Dr Finn Salomonsen, was taken ill and to our great regret was not able to travel from Denmark. Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards thus stepped up at extremely short notice, and Dr Adam Watson came in to fill the gap with great fluency and competence. In fact Aberdeen University did us proud—as a noticeably partisan chairman lost no opportunity of pointing out in his introductions, closing remarks and after-dinner comments! The quality of the speakers and the number of other Arctic ornithologists who spoke from the floor amply demonstrated the talent which is available in our own ranks on a topic such as this.

**The Edinburgh Natural History Society.** Fifty years after the publication of the last *Transactions* of the forerunners of the E.N.H.S. the society has produced a neatly duplicated *Newsletter 1965*. The diversity of informal articles (including "The Forth Islands Bird Counts" by R. W. J. Smith, pp. 12-14) testi-



fies to the virility of this long-established society. It has 355 members at present.

In a most interesting introduction the president, J. Milne, recounts the history of the society, which sprang from two sources. The Edinburgh Naturalists' Field Club was founded in 1869, and later, as its interests changed, became the Edinburgh Field Naturalists' and Microscopical Society, publishing *Transactions* from 1881 to 1915. The Scottish Natural History Society—a more academic body—was founded in 1881, but published *Transactions* for only four years 1898-1902. A combined meeting of these two old societies was held on 6th October 1921, when it was decided to amalgamate under the present name.

**Toxic Chemicals.** *The Fifth Report of the Joint Committee of the B.T.O. and the R.S.P.B. on Toxic Chemicals*, covering the period August 1963-July 1964, is now out. The increasing contamination of the water systems of this country is clearly shown by the relatively high organochlorine residues found in freshwater fish-eaters such as the Heron. Even seabirds are now contaminated. Hawks and owls again show how serious is the accumulation of these poisons for those at the end of the food chain.

The committee criticises the way in which the ban on certain uses of the most dangerous chemicals is being evaded, through some farmers, encouraged by their suppliers, laying in several years' stock. It is recommended that the voluntary bans should now become mandatory and that existing stock-piles of the banned chemicals—including dieldrin sheep dips—should be surrendered.

Presenting the other side of the picture the Association of British Manufacturers of Agricultural Chemicals has just issued a most interesting booklet on *Agricultural Chemicals for Productivity*. This explains graphically the benefits from the use of agricultural chemicals—dangerous and otherwise—by way of improved quality and yield. Safety precautions for wild birds and animals as well as for people are discussed. One may not be entirely convinced that everything in the garden is lovely, but the references to wildlife indicate that the manufacturers are alive to the need to consider it. That this booklet should be produced—an exercise in public relations—is in itself encouraging.

**The Daily Bird Count scheme.** Now that radar has shown that the volume of migration seen at the coast may be a poor guide to the movements taking place (because the birds rise or land well inland) more attention has been turned to ways of recording migration and local movements inland. Birds generally move on a broad front so that observations at any

one point may be quite unspectacular; yet if observations from many people in their own small areas are combined it is possible to get most interesting results and a good impression of the time and extent of any widespread arrivals or departures or weather movements.

That is what the B.T.O. Daily Bird Count scheme is all about. It started as the Inland Observation Points scheme in 1962 and graduated to having its own duplicated *Daily Bird Count Bulletin* in July 1965. More counters are urgently needed in Scotland (the initial aim is to have 500 regular observers in Britain). The scheme is basically very simple and no great knowledge is needed beyond an ability to recognise the common birds in the place you select. This should be a small well-defined area such as a garden, a field, or a small public park which can be covered in 10 to 30 minutes. At least four times a week you go out and note all the birds present, recording the totals on a form which is provided. Enquiries to D.B.C. Group, B.T.O., Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.

**The Seabird Group.** In August 1965 the Seabird Group produced the first number of its duplicated *Sea-Bird Bulletin*. The group aims to coordinate the activities of ornithologists interested in seabirds, particularly in British waters. It will keep members in touch with what is being done and it hopes to develop lines of cooperative research under the wings of one of the existing ornithological societies. In scope it embraces both advanced ecological studies and simple sea-watching and census work.

Any attempt to coordinate ornithological studies and to direct attention to things that need doing is welcome, and the enthusiasm behind this venture should not be wasted. We do hope however that when it comes to formal publication of results (as distinct from brief progress reports) this will be in the existing ornithological literature. An international journal might one day be considered but there are already more than enough British ones to keep up with.

Professional and amateur ornithology in Scotland are well represented on the provisional committee by Dr G. M. Dunnet and R. W. J. Smith, and it also includes well known ex-Scottish ornithologists in the form of P. E. Davis and F. D. Hamilton. The group should be of special interest in Scotland, which is so well provided with seabirds. Full details may be had from the interim secretary and editor, Dr W. R. P. Bourne, Shrodells Hospital, Vicarage Road, Watford, Herts. The one doubt that remains after reading its literature is whether the group has decided to study Sea-Birds or Seabirds.

**Royal visitor to the Scottish Centre.** On Saturday 6th Novem-

ber 1965 the Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection was honoured by a visit from His Imperial Highness Prince Hitachi of Japan. On a brief goodwill visit to Scotland he also fitted in a most successful visit to Duddingston Loch Bird Sanctuary and departed from his planned itinerary to go goose-watching with members of the S.O.C. The Prince is Honorary President of the Japan Bird Protection League and keenly interested in wildlife.

**Waxwings.** Since the middle of October, which is early for them, Waxwings have been reported from all over Scotland. M. J. Everett, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7, is collecting the records and would be glad to have any which have not already been sent to the editor. Place, date, durations of stay, number of birds, food taken, and any interesting comments, make up the ideal record.

**Current literature.** Recent papers of particular interest to Scottish ornithologists include:

The behaviour of the Gannet. J. B. Nelson, 1965. *Brit. Birds* 58: 233-288, 313-336. Very detailed account of some results from Bass Rock studies.

The effect of weather on the Long-tailed Duck in Lewis. N. Elkins, 1965. *Bird Study* 12: 132-134.

Seasonal movements and distribution of Eiders in North-east Scotland. H. Milne, 1965. *Bird Study* 12: 170-180. Dealing mainly with Forvie colony.

Organic chlorine insecticide residues in Goosanders and Red-breasted Mergansers. C. H. Walker and D. H. Mills, 1965. *Ann. Rep. Wildfowl Trust* 16: 56-57. Analysis of Scottish birds.

Nests and eggs of Greylag Geese in Galloway. J. G. Young, 1965. *A.R.W.T.* 16: 54-55. Brief breeding biology of two feral groups.

The Peregrine situation in Great Britain 1963-64. D. A. Ratcliffe, 1965. *Bird Study* 12: 66-82. Contains much Scottish material, and photograph of Clo Mor.

The breeding distribution of the Stonechat in Britain and the causes of its decline. J. D. Magee, 1965. *Bird Study* 12: 83-89. With some 1961 Scottish census figures.

Fish-eating birds—a verdict needed. D. H. Mills, 1965. *Scottish Fisheries Bulletin* 23: 17-20. Review article.

Operation Osprey 1965. M. (J.) Everett, 1965. *Bird Notes* 31: 390-392.

Scottish Ptarmigan. A. Watson, 1965. *Bird Notes* 31: 379-383. Popular account.

## Review of ornithological changes in Scotland in 1964

DOUGAL G. ANDREW

### Introduction

This is the twelfth report of the Scottish Bird Records Committee, and it is concerned with records *published* during 1964 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. 3: 1-216                         |
| SN       | <i>Scottish Naturalist</i> , 1964 (Vol. 71): 39-102           |
| BB       | <i>British Birds</i> , Vol. 57                                |
| BS       | <i>Bird Study</i> , Vol. 11                                   |
| FIBOB    | <i>Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin</i> , Vol. 5: 113-154  |
|          | <i>Bird Notes</i> , Vol. 31: 1-212                            |
|          | <i>Ibis</i> , Vol. 106  |
| Bull BOC | <i>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club</i> , Vol. 84 |
| ARWT     | <i>Fifteenth Annual Report of the Wildfowl Trust, 1962-63</i> |
|          | <i>Report of the Nature Conservancy for 1963-64</i>           |

Reference will also be found to Henry Boase's third manuscript survey of the birds of the Tay area—*Birds of North Fife (BNF)* of which a copy has been presented to the S.O.C. Library (reviewed SB 3: 379). Abbreviations are also used for the following works:

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| BofS  | <i>Birds of Scotland</i> , 1953   |
| GDSBS | <i>Geographical Distribution and Status of Birds in Scotland</i> , 1928 |
| ASNH  | <i>Annals of Scottish Natural History</i> , 1892-1911                   |

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; 3: 167.

### Birds new to Scotland

[PELICAN *Pelecanus* sp. One immature (thought by one of the observers to be probably *P. onocrotalus*) seen, Isle of May,

8th (not 4th as published) August 1960 (*SB* 1: 356); what was presumably the same bird was seen between the Isle of May and Pittenweem on 3rd September 1960 (per J. M. S. Arnott). It must be assumed that this was the bird (described as an immature "Crested Pelican from Africa") which escaped from Bellevue Zoo, Manchester, on 27th June 1960 and which, although the descriptions do not always agree very well, also accounted for the records of a pelican seen in south Yorkshire on 1st July and in County Durham on 30th July. The Durham bird was considered by the observer to be *P. rufescens*. It was reported to have been present "for at least a month" but was not seen after 30th July.]

[CATTLE EGRET *Ardeola ibis*. One seen, Mid Dargavel, near Dumfries, 7th July 1964 (*BB* 57: 340; *SB* 3: 246). There were two other records from north-west England in the same month and the *British Birds* Rarities Committee considers that it is likely that all three records (which may well have referred to the same bird) were of captive origin (*BB* 58: 356). We follow the Rarities Committee in placing the Scottish record in square brackets.]

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*. One seen, near Borve, Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, 23rd May 1964 (*BB* 57: 338; *SB* 3: 258). We regard as unacceptable the earlier record of one seen in Angus in July 1932 (*SN* 1932: 171).

EYE-BROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus*. One seen, North Rona, 16th October 1964 (*BB* 57: 524; *SB* 3: 419). This is the second British record, the first being of a bird seen in Northamptonshire only a few days earlier—on 5th October.

[INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea*. Male, Fair Isle, 3rd August 1964 (*BB* 57: 442).

[LAZULI BUNTING *Passerina amoena*. Male seen and subsequently shot, Orkney, 31st May 1964 (*BB* 57: 340).

These are both American species which are commonly kept in captivity in Britain. Neither species (especially the sedentary Lazuli Bunting) is likely to make an unaided crossing of the Atlantic, and in all the circumstances we do not consider that these birds can be accepted as genuine migrants.]

#### Birds new to areas and counties

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*. One, Fair Isle, 15th November 1963 (*FIBOB* 5: 134); first for Fair Isle. We do not feel that an earlier record (*SN* 1936: 63) is adequately substantiated.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. One, Loch Leven, 22nd October 1958 (*BNF*: 172); first for Kinross.

[MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria p. puffinus*. One found dead

in a Pergerine's eyrie, near Cairngorm, 12th June 1964 (BB 57: 466; see also editorial comment at BB 58: 154). We consider that the source of the corpse is too problematical for this to be accepted as the first occurrence for East Inverness.]

**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. One or two occasionally on Tweed and Teviot (SB 3: 47); first for Roxburgh.

**WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia*. What was presumably the same bird was seen near Auldearn on 17th; at Dores, by Loch Ness, on 19th and 20th; and near Fort Augustus on 21st April 1964, remaining in that area until 10th May (BB 57: 338; SB 3: 246); first for Moray Basin, Nairn and East Inverness, although the possibility of the bird having escaped from captivity cannot be ruled out.

**SURF SCOTER** *Melanitta perspicillata*. One, Southernness Point, 1st January 1964 (SB 3: 195); first for Solway and Kirkcudbright.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*. Several noted on Tweed in past two or three years (SB 3: 47); first for Roxburgh.

**SMEW** *Mergus albellus*. Drake, Skinflats, 16th December 1963 (SB 3: 36); first for East Stirling.

**GREY LAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*. Flock of up to 320 regularly fed in a stubble field by Portmore Loch from 24th November 1963 (SB 3: 36); first published record for Peebles, though there have in fact been occasional earlier records at Portmore, going back to a flock of 130 on 17th December 1948 (per D. G. Andrew). One shot, Wester Wooden, about 1960 (SB 3: 47); first for Roxburgh. It now seems that some mistake was made in describing this species as regular in winter at Gartmorn Reservoir (*Wildfowl in Great Britain*: 193), a statement which was accepted in our last Report (SB 3: 170) as the first for Clackmannan. There are, however, a number of unpublished records for the county, the first going back to 26th February 1949 when a flock of 140 was seen on Bowhouse Farm (T. Paterson).

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*. Five of the Greenland race, *A. a. flavirostris*, Endrick Mouth, 3rd November 1963 (S.B. 3: 86); first definite record of this race for Dunbarton and West Stirling. Small flocks seen on several occasions in the area of Gairloch, December/March 1963/64 (SB 3: 86), were also of the Greenland race (per E. N. Hunter); first definite record of this race for West Ross.

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser arvensis brachyrhynchus*. "Large flocks pass over [south Roxburghshire] in autumn" (SB 3: 47); first for Roxburgh.

**SNOW GOOSE** *Anser caerulescens*. It appears that the supply

of captive Snow Geese (especially Lesser Snow Geese *A. c. caerulescens*) is now in excess of demand, and as a result owners are less conscientious about keeping their birds pinioned. It seems clear that most, if not all, of the recent records of Snow Geese in Scotland refer to escapes from captivity and we are therefore ceasing to note such records unless there is some positive reason for thinking that the bird may have been a genuine immigrant.

**BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*. One of the Pale-breasted race *B. b. hrota*, Rhunahaorine, 15th March 1964 (*SB* 3: 86); first definite record of this race for Argyll Faunal Area and North Argyll.

**CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*. One (originally ringed as a juvenile in Yorkshire in June 1959 and subsequently recaptured in the Beaully Firth on 3rd July 1963) found dead, Bay of Nigg, 5th October 1963 (*ARWT* 15: 74); first for North Kincardine. Five, North Third Reservoir, 22nd February 1964 (*SB* 3: 87); first for East Stirling. One shot, Wigtown Bay, mid September 1963 (*BB* 57: 544); first published record for Wigtown, though we are informed that there is an earlier record of one seen at Mochrum Loch on 12th May 1956 (H. Boase per A. D. Watson). One, Lindores Loch, 15th June 1947 (*BNF*: 42); first for North Fife, although semi-domesticated stock had been kept at the same locality up to 1939.

**GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*. One, Mull of Kintyre, 15th September 1963 (*SB* 3: 27); first for South Argyll.

[**GYR FALCON** *Falco rusticolus*. One, Isle of May, 15th October 1963 (*BS* 11: 113). This record has not been accepted.]

**RED-FOOTED FALCON** *Falco vespertinus*. One, Unst, 19th May 1964 (*BB* 57: 338; *SB* 3: 312); first for Shetland outside Fair Isle.

**QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*. One present, Summerston, during June 1964 (*SB* 3: 200); first for Dunbarton.

**LONG-BILLED OR SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* or *griseus*. One, Unst, 23rd May 1964 (*BB* 57: 339; *SB* 3: 254); first for Shetland Faunal Area.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*. Two, Hule Moss, 26th September 1964 (*SB* 3: 201); we agree with the editorial comment on this record and accept it as the first for Berwick.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos*. Two (one trapped), Foula, 31st August 1961 (*Bird Migration* 2: 66); first for Shetland outside Fair Isle. No description of these birds has been published, but we have seen a colour photograph of the bird that was trapped and are satisfied that the identification was correct.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus*. One on the River

- Kelvin at Summerston, 1st October 1962 (SB 3: 91); first for Dunbarton and possibly also for Lanark, as we are unable to find any authority for the description of this species as occasional in Lanark (GDSBS: 324).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor*. One, Peppermill Dam, 19th October 1963 (SB 3: 82); this, the third Scottish record, is the second for South Fife.
- POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One, Greg Ness, 19th October 1963 (SB 3: 38); first for North Kincardine. One near Scourie, 21st October 1963 (SB 3: 38); first for West Sutherland.
- LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*. One found dead, Prestwick, 21st October 1963 (SB 3: 38); first for Ayr.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Regular in winter in some numbers, Loch Leven, with a few immatures remaining all summer (BNF: 179 and R. W. J. Smith, personal communication); first for Kinross.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. A few seen in south Roxburghshire, mostly in late spring, but not really unusual in autumn or spring (SB 3: 48); first for Roxburgh. One of the Scandinavian race *L. f. fuscus*, Newtown Bay, Beaully Firth, 23rd October 1963 (SB 3: 38); first record of this race for East Inverness. One of the Scandinavian race off the Cumraes, 18th April 1964 (SB 3: 144); first record of this race for Bute.
- ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*. One, Nigg Bay, 3rd May 1964 (SB 3: 144); first for North Kincardine.
- LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. One, Annat, Upper Loch Torridon, 21st August 1964 (SB 3: 203); first for West Ross. "Exceptionally good numbers" in autumn 1964 "in the localities in Fife and Kinross where dozens and sometimes even hundreds are regularly recorded" (BB 57: 443); there have in fact been no previous records for Kinross and this statement was based on the single record of three birds at Loch Leven on 23rd August 1964 (SB 3: 323); first for Kinross.
- KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. One found dead, Loch Leven, 19th January 1964 (SB 3: 89); first for Kinross.
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*. (See under "Birds new to Scotland" above); first for Outer Hebrides.
- RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. One of the Northern race *A. t. torda*, North Berwick, 28th March 1963 (BB 57: 592; 58: 95); first definite record of this race for Forth and East Lothian, and only the second Scottish record.
- COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. One, Isle of May, 7th June 1963 (SB 3: 18); first for Isle of May. Two, Portpatrick, May 1963 (SB 3: 39); first for Wigtown. One near Bishopston,



- 19th April 1963 (*SB* 3: 89); first for Renfrew. Pair near Bonchester Bridge, 27th March 1963 (*SB* 3: 48); first for Roxburgh.
- SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*. One, Moorfoot Hills, 16th February 1964 (*SB* 3: 196); first for Midlothian.
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*. One found dead, Larbert, 21st February 1963, had been ringed on Isle of May on 13th October 1962 and identified as belonging to the Northern race *D. m. major* (*BB* 57: 559); first definite identification of this race for East Stirling.
- [JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. The suggestion that birds showing whitish collars seen at Stornoway in December 1963 and January 1964 were probably immigrants of the Scandinavian race *C. m. monedula* (*SB* 3: 40, 90) cannot be accepted (see *SB* 3: 208).]
- MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*. One, Yetholm, 2nd September 1964 (*SB* 3: 204); first definite record for Roxburgh, though two birds seen at Ravenswood in the same county on 9th April 1952 and identified at the time as Willow Tits (the observer being under the impression that there were no Marsh Tits in Scotland) were almost certainly Marsh Tits (*Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 2: 56; 5: 79).
- NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*. One identified in North Perth, 8th February 1964, had been present since November 1963 (*SB* 3: 83); first for North Perth since 1895 (*ASNH* 1896: 24) and the first Scottish record since 1945 (*BofS*: 124).
- DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. A brown-bellied bird, probably of the race *C. c. aquaticus*, obtained on Fair Isle on 10th May 1946 (*FIBOB* 5: 134) antedates and replaces the 1963 record accepted in our last report (*SB* 3: 173) as the first record for Shetland or Fair Isle of any race of the Dipper other than *C. c. cinclus*.
- EYE-BROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus*. (See under "Birds new to Scotland" above); first for Outer Hebrides.
- [SIBERIAN STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata maura*. First-winter female seen (and subsequently trapped), Fair Isle, 13th October 1961 (*FIBOB* 4: 209); one seen, Fair Isle, 1st November 1964 (*BB* 57: 524). The Asiatic group of Stonechats is a complex one and, in the present state of knowledge, we do not feel that it is possible to make a positive racial determination without direct comparison with skins. We therefore confine ourselves to accepting these records as referring to one of the Asiatic forms, probably *S. t. maura*. The only previous Scottish record of one of these Stonechats is an example of *S. t. maura* obtained on the Isle of May on 10th October 1913 (*SN* 1913: 273).]
- GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. One trap-

- ped, Fair Isle, 8th June 1964 (*BS* 11: 218); this (the second Scottish record) is the first for Fair Isle.
- [MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. One trapped, Isle of May, 1st September 1963 (*BB* 56: 389); we are informed that the bird was in fact a Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus*.]
- GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. One, Buchanan Castle, 2nd May 1964 (*SB* 3: 148); first published record for West Stirling, although in fact birds are heard singing in this area every year and very probably breed there (per Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn).
- YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. One of the race *M. f. flavissima*, Crail, 7th October 1963 (*SB* 3: 42); first record of this race for South Fife.
- LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*. One, Grogarry House, South Uist, 29th May 1964 (*BB* 57: 338; *SB* 3: 259); first for Outer Hebrides.
- [BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. One of the British race *P. p. nesa*, Isle of May, 1st November 1963 (*SB* 3: 18); we are informed that the description of this bird is not in fact adequate to rule out the very similar *P. p. europoea*, which breeds in western continental Europe, and this record can therefore only be accepted as the first for the Isle of May of any race of the Bullfinch other than *P. p. pyrrhula*.]
- YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*. One, Auskerry, 22nd September 1964 (*BB* 57: 524; *SB* 3: 317, corrected 381); first for Orkney.
- LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. One, Greg Ness, 23rd October 1963 (*SB* 3: 42); first for North Kincardine.

#### First breeding records for areas and counties

- WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Pair bred, St Kilda, 1964, hatching out two young (*SB* 3: 200); first proven breeding for St Kilda, though the species may have bred there in 1905 (*ASNH* 1905: 202).
- COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. At least one nest with eggs, Newburgh, summer 1963 (*SB* 3: 39); first breeding for Dee and Aberdeen.
- TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. Pair feeding young in the nest, Kinaldie Station, 28th May 1964 (*SB* 3: 149, 206); first breeding for Aberdeen.

#### Records carried forward

The following records have still to be carried forward for further consideration:

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

## Notes on the birds of Berneray, Mingulay and Pabbay

A. W. DIAMOND, R. J. DOUTHWAITE and  
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### Introduction

Recent literature on the birds of the Barra group, the southernmost islands of the Outer Hebrides, is restricted to Sergeant and Whidborne (1951). They give a brief description of Mingulay and a checklist of the birds they found there in 1949, including counts of seabirds made from the sea by Fisher.

From 16th June to 2nd July 1964 the three southernmost islands of the group—Berneray, Mingulay and Pabbay—were visited by a party from Cambridge University, primarily to ring seabirds. Censuses were carried out, from which the following paper has been prepared to summarise the status of the breeding species. Brief notes are included on the migrants seen.

### Description

A detailed description of Mingulay and Berneray is given by Clarke & Heslop-Harrison (1938). Berneray differs from Mingulay and Pabbay in lacking a well defined valley and in having no beach or sand dunes. The valley on Mingulay is sheltered on all sides except the east, where there is a broad expanse of beach and sand dunes. Pabbay has a shallow eastern bay sheltered by peninsulas and backed by high sand dunes. The small, well defined valley is dominated by a tall burial mound and the village ruins.

The cliffs on Mingulay reach over 700 ft at Biulacraig, and there is a 600 ft cliff beneath the lighthouse on Berneray. Pabbay has few high cliffs and cliff-nesting seabirds are scarce.

Several hundred sheep are kept on each island, and parts of the ruins are maintained as sheep dips and shearing pens.

Rabbits are plentiful on Berneray and very numerous on Mingulay, but there are none on Pabbay.

### Census methods

Each island was divided into three approximately equal areas, two observers covering each area together. Where possible the areas were bounded by topographical features such as walls or streams; otherwise, the compass bearing between two conspicuous points was used as a boundary.

Counting methods for seabirds were necessarily different from those for land birds. The latter were mapped as pairs, only where there was satisfactory evidence of breeding. Such

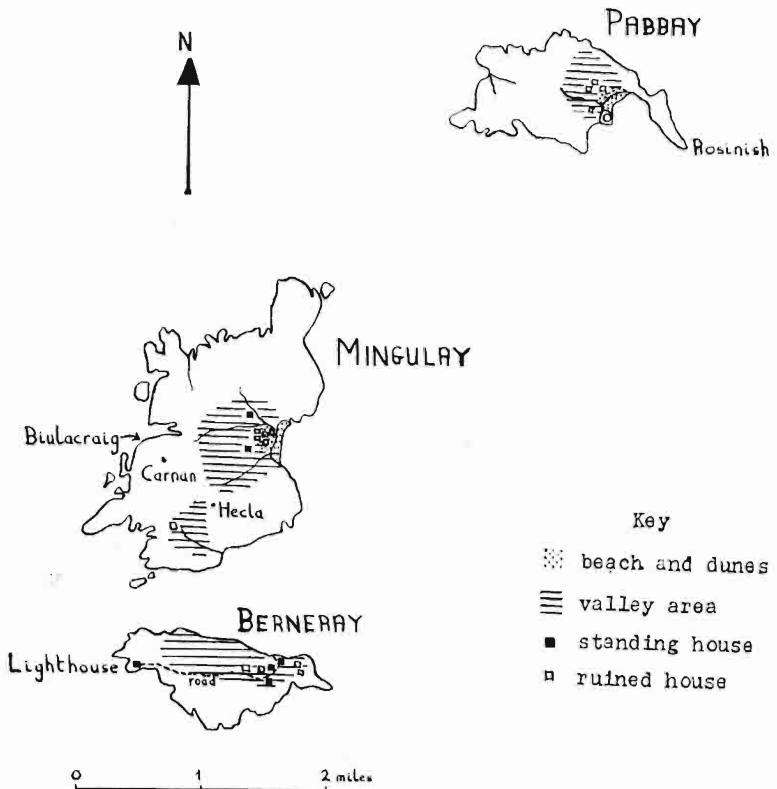


FIG. 1. Berneray, Mingulay and Pabbay, showing habitat zones on the islands.

evidence included singing males, brood parties, strong anxiety behaviour, food carrying, and feeding of young, as well as location of nests. The numbers of breeding pairs are given in table 1; these represent minima as they do not include numbers of additional birds recorded without satisfactory evidence of breeding.

Seabirds present very different counting problems. Fulmars could be fairly easily counted on their nests, as most were incubating, and these counts may be compared with those obtained from the sea by Fisher (Sergeant and Whidborne *op. cit.*). Two important points should be borne in mind when comparing our counts with those of Fisher and of Sergeant and Whidborne. First, the proportion of non-breeders is not known: this may be considerable in Fulmars and possibly significant in Shags. Second, the counts were made at different dates, as follows:

Fisher 23rd May 1949

Sergeant and Whidborne 23rd-30th June 1949  
This study 16th June-2nd July 1964

One of the present authors (WJEI) considers that the numbers of birds nesting in deep gullies, which Fisher would not have been able to count from the sea, are probably similar to the numbers which we could not count from the land. However, Fisher (1952) considered that counting from the sea gives a far better estimate of numbers than counting from the land, and if this is true our counts will be underestimates.

The accuracy of counts of Shags is limited by the accessibility of nesting sites, particularly where these are in deep caves, but the error involved was considered to be small.

Auks were by far the most difficult birds to count, and our counts are underestimates. Puffins cannot readily be counted with any degree of accuracy by standard methods on islands of this size; the proportions of the population in burrows, resting on land, flying around the cliffs, sitting on the sea, and fishing offshore, vary with the time of day and with the weather. We give our counts for future comparison only; as absolute figures they are considerable underestimates. Owing to the height of the cliffs many auks could not be specifically identified. The counts are of birds on nesting ledges and on the water at one time.

### **Breeding species**

**Land birds.** Table 1 shows the habitat distribution of the species found breeding. The extent and position of each habitat on each island is shown, very approximately, in fig. 1. It should be mentioned that the five pairs of Twite shown as breeding on the 'rocky coast' of Pabbay were in fact in a narrow coastal strip just above the rocks.

Sergeant and Whidborne were doubtful whether Eiders would breed on either Mingulay or Berneray, thinking them possibly too exposed. We found ten females, two nests with eggs, and four broods on Berneray; and on Mingulay two broods were seen in the bay, although these were apparently destroyed in a gale.

One pair of Golden Eagles patrolled an area of cliff on Mingulay, and probably the same birds were seen regularly on Pabbay. It is possible that these birds were breeding on Barra.

Buzzards were seen on all the islands, the most being four together over Berneray on 19th June, one of which was later watched flying across to Mingulay.

A pair of Peregrines, not recorded by Sergeant and Whidborne, was seen mobbing four Ravens on Mingulay, and a single bird was seen on Berneray.

Neither Lapwing nor Snipe are mentioned by Sergeant and

**Table 1. Breeding land birds and Arctic Terns on islands of the Barra group, showing number of pairs in each habitat**

Habitat	Meadow Pipit	Rock Pipit	Skylark	Twite	Wheatear	Wren	Starling	Song Thrush	Oystercatcher	Lapwing	Snipe	Ringed Plover	Arctic Tern
<b>Village</b>													
Berneray	1						2	1					
Mingulay	1				5	0 <sup>a</sup>	4	1					
Pabbay					1	1	1				1		
<b>Valley</b>													
Berneray												1	
Mingulay	12		3	2	13		4	1		3		3	
Pabbay	2		1	2		1	2	2				1	
<b>Higher inland areas</b>													
Berneray	3		10		12								9
Mingulay	14	2	3	6	24		2						
Pabbay	10		4 <sup>b</sup>	2	5 <sup>b</sup>		4				2		
<b>Rocky coast</b>													
Berneray		20				9			20				
Mingulay		32				13			22				
Pabbay	1	28		5 <sup>c</sup>	6 <sup>c</sup>	4	1		11				63
<b>Dunes</b>													
Mingulay												2	
Pabbay	1												
<b>Totals</b>													
Berneray	4	20	10	—	12	9	2	1	20	—	1	—	9
Mingulay	27	34	6	8	42	13	10	2	22	3	3	2	—
Pabbay	14	28	5	9	12	6	8	2	11	—	4	—	63
	45	82	21	17	66	28	20	5	53	3	8	2	72

(a) One pair nested in village in 1962 (pers. obs.).

(b) Flocks of 14 Skylarks and 19 Wheatears, mostly young birds, were seen, indicating several more pairs.

(c) These are minima, including several pairs based on "broods" which may in fact have been the product of more than a single pair.

Whidborne, and Ringed Plover is also probably a new breeding species for the islands. Although only two pairs of Ringed Plover gave good evidence of breeding on Mingulay (display in one case and a nest with eggs in the other), up to fourteen were seen together on the beach. Two birds also showed moderate anxiety behaviour on Pabbay.

Rock Doves were presumed to breed; the lack of firm evidence may have been due to the lateness of our visit. They were present on each island, the most seen being flocks of ten on Pabbay and Berneray.

Hooded Crows were proved to breed only on Mingulay, where one fledged young was seen, but several were seen on each island.

Song Thrush had not previously been recorded as breeding, although a nest with young was found on Mingulay in 1962 by AWD and RJD. The lighthouse keepers reported that it was the first time they had been known to breed on Berneray.

**Table 2. Number of pairs of Fulmar, Kittiwake and Shag, and number of individuals of other breeding seabirds on islands of the Barra group**

Species	Berneray Mingulay Pabbay Year				Source
Fulmar	409	3035	625	1964	This study
	1273	3200	—	1949	Fisher in Sergeant & Whidborne
	—	—	10	1947	Fisher (1952)
Kittiwake	678	1185	—	1964	This study
	10000	(a)	—	1949	Fisher (pers. comm.)
Shag	30-40	167	105	1964	This study
	—	400	—	1949	Sergeant & Whidborne
Razorbill	1167	3175	—	1964	This study
Guillemot	1127	4928	—	1964	This study
Black Guillemot	—	—	1	1964	This study
Puffin	330	3379	87	1964	This study
Auk sp.	10875	1650	—	1964	This study

(a) Many present but not counted.

Sergeant and Whidborne's figures for Shag on Mingulay, and ours for Shag on Berneray, are estimates; other figures are counts.

**Seabirds.** Both Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels bred on Berneray and Mingulay during the last century (Harvie-Brown 1888) but have not been recorded breeding in recent years. The only Storm Petrels seen were two on the steamer crossing from Oban to Barra on 15th June, but five shearwaters were seen from Berneray on 18th June and seven around Sandray (between Pabbay and Barra) on 2nd July. There is still a possibility that they may breed on Sandray.

The recent spread of the Fulmar in the Barra group is described by Fisher (1952). If it is true that counts from the sea give better results than from the land, and our figures are thus underestimates, a continuation of this spread over the last 15 years is indicated. This is supported by a dramatic increase on Pabbay, where Fisher (counting from the air) recorded ten nests in 1947, and we found over 600 pairs. In this case the counting methods should give similar results, although it should be noted that Fisher's count was made on 30th July and ours on 30th June. Our low count on Berneray, however, may be due in part to inaccessibility of nest sites.

Counts of Shags are low, but the error is small. A raft of 350 apparently non-breeding birds was seen on the sea off Pabbay, and 200 were counted off Berneray. Five recoveries

of ringed chicks between August and November show a north or north-easterly dispersal.

Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls were breeding on all the islands, except Lesser Black-backed on Pabbay, but they were not counted. Recoveries of four ringed Herring Gull chicks between August and November show a south-easterly movement to the mainland of Scotland.

Common Gull is another previously unrecorded breeding species. About ten pairs were nesting with Arctic Terns on Berneray; although only five young were ringed several dead chicks and a nest with eggs were found.

The breeding of Arctic Terns is of great interest. They are not mentioned in the literature, although in late July 1962 AWD and RJD saw several fishing in Mingulay Bay. The small colony on Berneray was on a grassy hillside with Common Gulls. Both the colonies on Pabbay, one of 25 pairs and the other of 35 pairs, were on flat tables of rock very near the sea; several nests in the larger colony must have been in danger of being washed out by high tides. The nests were usually in patches of vegetation growing in crevices, although it is worth noting that the larger colony was on rock, bordering sand dunes with marram grass in which only a very few pairs were nesting. There were a further three nests in similar sites on the peninsula of Rosinish.

Kittiwakes were absent only from Pabbay, where there are few if any suitable nest sites. Sergeant and Whidborne quote Fisher's 1949 count of Kittiwakes on Berneray as 50-100,000. This is an error, the figure in fact being about 10,000 for Berneray alone, the combined population of Berneray and Mingulay being well in excess of 10,000 pairs (Fisher pers. comm.). Fisher also states that most of the colonies are in wave-cut erosion caves beneath the highest cliffs and thus not visible from the land; this must account at least in part for the discrepancy between our count and his. However, Coulson (pers. comm.) considers our count to be more consistent with other Kittiwake numbers in the area; so until these colonies can again be counted from the sea their status must remain in some doubt.

The numbers of Razorbill, Guillemot and Puffin are given for reference, as explained above; it should be emphasised that these have no value as absolute figures.

Sergeant and Whidborne quote Southern as finding 12.57% of a total of 3508 Guillemots to be of the bridled form in 1950, and Freeman as counting 12.05% out of 4004 in 1939. Sergeant and Whidborne themselves counted 9.8% out of 367 in 1949; and our count on Berneray was of 11.9%  $\pm$  1% out of 545. Apart from the low 1949 figure, which may be due to the small



sample and to chance, these figures suggest that the proportion of bridled Guillemots has remained constant at around 12%, but clearly larger samples need to be counted.

Two Razorbills ringed as chicks on Berneray have been recovered in their first winter; one in the Golfe du Morbihan (France) in January, and the other off Pontevedra (Spain) in February. These are of interest because previous recoveries of Scottish auks have been from Norway and Denmark rather than from Biscay.

Sergeant and Whidborne's suggestion that Black Guillemots might breed on Pabbay was confirmed by finding nine individuals there, including two birds taking fish into a hole presumably containing a nest. One bird was seen close inshore off the north coast of Berneray, but none was seen from Mingulay.

During a sea-watch from the east end of Berneray just after dawn on 18th June, auks (mainly Puffins) were passing south at about 110 per minute for 85 minutes. The origin of these birds must remain conjectural but the steady movement of such large numbers seems worth recording.

#### Migrants

**Heron.** One, Berneray, 17th-18th June.

**Golden Plover.** One, Mingulay, 22nd-23rd June.

**Curlew.** Recorded on all islands, maximum five on Pabbay, 30th June.

**Woodpigeon.** Single birds on Berneray, 17th-18th June, and Pabbay, 30th June.

**Turtle Dove.** One, Mingulay, 25th June.

**Swallow.** Two on Berneray, 17th June, and four, 18th June; three on Mingulay, 20th June, and one, 22nd June.

**House Martin.** Three to six, Berneray, 16th-18th June. Behaviour suggested possible nesting in cliff-top beneath lighthouse, but none seen after 18th June.

**Tree Sparrow.** About 30 on Berneray, 16th-17th June, then two to three until 20th June. The lighthouse keepers reported that the flock had arrived with strong easterly winds about ten days previously. In view of the recent colonisation of St Kilda (Williamson 1964) it is worth noting that a juvenile was seen on Barra on 3rd July.

#### Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Neil Sinclair of Castlebay, Barra, for transport, permission to camp, and every kind of assistance. We would also like to express our gratitude to the lighthouse keepers on Berneray for their kindness and generosity. The other members of the expedition—A. S. Cheke, D. P. L. Williams, A. C. Hamilton and J. H. Bines—made very valuable contributions in various fields and it is on their observations as well as the authors' that this paper is based.

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## Further notes from Island Roan, Sutherland

The late IAN R. DOWNHILL

Ian Downhill's previous paper on the birds of Island Roan was published in *Scottish Birds* 2: 351-357. He returned to the island on 26th August 1963 for a prolonged study of autumn migration, but disappeared on or about 20th September. His log books with entries to 17th September were recovered, and from these the following notes on species have been extracted by his friend Ian Pennie, who first met him on 26th July 1959 in the middle of the bog in which the former had just discovered his breeding Wood Sandpipers.

**Diver sp.** Three on 16th, four on 17th Sept.

**Storm Petrel.** Fifty adults were mist-netted in 1962 and 42 in 1963, all in the same gully, with no retraps, suggesting that the colony is a large one.

**Manx Shearwater.** The main passage was probably over when observation started, but small numbers were seen regularly, the highest counts being 17 on 14th and 11 on 16th Sept.

**Sooty Shearwater.** Two on 4th, four on 14th, one on 16th Sept.

**Fulmar.** Recorded daily.

**Gannet.** Recorded daily.

**Heron.** One most days, maximum three.

**Teal.** One on 30th Aug, 6 on 13th Sept.

**Scaup.** One on 16th Sept.

**Common Scoter.** Two on 9th Sept.

**Eider.** Regular in small numbers, maximum 13.

**Grey Lag Goose.** Parties of up to 9 seen on various dates were probably local breeders.

**Barnacle Goose.** One on 27th Aug.

**Buzzard.** One on 9th Sept.

**Sparrowhawk.** Singles on six days and two on 3rd Sept.

**Hen Harrier.** A "ring-tail" on 28th Aug.

**Peregrine.** Singles on four occasions only.

**Kestrel.** A first-winter male on 26th Aug.

**Oystercatcher.** Regular in small numbers; maxima 20 on 5th and 32 on 15th Sept.

**Lapwing.** Ones and twos on five occasions.

**Ringed Plover.** Maximum four on 31st Aug.

**Golden Plover.** Recorded most days, maximum six.

**Turnstone.** Maximum 14 on 15th Sept.

**Snipe.** Seen daily, with a few immigrants the last few days of Aug.

**Curlew.** Daily in fluctuating numbers up to about 16.

**Whimbrel.** Small numbers, maximum five on 3rd Sept.

- Bar-tailed Godwit.** Thirty on 7th, 11 on 12th Sept.  
**Redshank.** Singles several days, with 26 on 28th Aug.  
**Knot.** Small parties of up to four.  
**Dunlin.** Singles on 26th and 28th Aug.  
**Great Skua.** Small numbers most days, maxima 7 on 29th and 30th Aug.  
**Arctic Skua.** Maximum 10 on 4th Sept.  
**Great Black-backed Gull.** Recorded regularly.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull.** One on 26th Aug.  
**Herring Gull.** Recorded regularly.  
**Common Gull.** Singles several days with three on 12th and 16th Sept.  
**Black-headed Gull.** Juvenile on 14th Sept.  
**Tern sp.** Westward passage of 21 on 14th, 61 on 15th Sept.  
**Razorbill.** Maxima three on 13th and 14th Sept.  
**Guillemot.** One on 14th Sept.  
**Black Guillemot.** Small numbers daily with maximum about 15 on 16th Sept.  
**Puffin.** Small westward passage with maximum 34 on 15th Sept.  
**Rock Dove.** Maximum nine. Three nests each with two eggs on 8th Sept and a fourth on 11th Sept.  
**Skylark.** Recorded regularly.  
**House Martin.** One on 4th Sept.  
**Raven.** Two or three regularly, seven on 7th Sept.  
**Hooded Crow.** Varying numbers, maximum 14 on 8th Sept.  
**Wren.** Total population thought to be 10 birds.  
**Song Thrush.** Singles on 3rd and 8th Sept.  
**Blackbird.** Bred in 1963: empty nest found and 2 juveniles seen.  
**Wheatear.** Small regular passage, maximum about 40. A few through-out were Greenland race, maxima six on 27th Aug and 19 on 15th Sept (confirmed by trapping and measuring).  
**Whinchat.** Two on 2nd Sept and singles on 5th, 6th, 7th.  
**Robin.** Singles on 26th Aug and 3rd Sept.  
**Garden Warbler.** Singles on 26th Aug and 3rd Sept, two on 4th Sept.  
**Willow Warbler.** One on 2nd Sept.  
**Chiffchaff.** Two on 2nd and 4th and one on 3rd and 6th Sept are the first recorded for North Sutherland.  
**Wood Warbler.** One on 4th and 5th Sept.  
**Goldcrest.** Singles on 31st Aug and 10th Sept.  
**Pied Flycatcher.** One on 4th Sept is the second recorded for North Sutherland.  
**Meadow Pipit.** Large local population, with influxes on 28th Aug and 8th Sept.  
**Rock Pipit.** Recorded regularly.  
**White Wagtail.** Ones and twos most days, three on 30th Aug and 7th Sept.  
**Starling.** Small numbers regularly (none after 10th Sept); influx of about 60 on 29th Aug.  
**Twite.** Of the maximum of 34 roosting on the island, about half came from the mainland nightly to join the island population.  
**Crossbill.** Seven on 30th Aug.  
**Reed Bunting.** One on 7th Sept.  
**Lapland Bunting.** At least two on 8th Sept and one on 13th.

## Short Notes

### Great Shearwater in Shetland in April

Although I have watched birds for the 25 years I have been a fisherman, I saw, for the first time, at noon on 13th April 1965, a bird which I identified as a Great Shearwater.

We were gutting fish between Scalloway and Foula at the time and throwing the offal overboard, but only once did the shearwater pick something from the surface. It never landed, and seemed to prefer flying among the Fulmars rather than among the Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls which were fighting for the offal. It circled the boat, sometimes as close as 30 yards, for about five minutes, during which time I noted the following particulars:

Size very close to Fulmar's, but wings, which it beat less regularly than the Fulmar, slightly longer and narrower; upper side of wings and back brown, slightly paler than a Manx Shearwater—a bird we see regularly at the fishing; underparts and face white, cleaner-looking than Manx; dark brown edging showing for about an inch in from fore-edge of underside of wing. What attracted attention most was the well defined, dark brown cap, separated from the back markings by a white collar which appeared rather wider and better defined than in the illustration in the *Field Guide*. There was also a white line across the upper side of the base of the tail.

I am quite familiar with the Sooty Shearwater as well as the Manx, and have seen as many as seven Sooties round our boat at one time in later summer and once handled one which got accidentally caught in a net. The appearance of the Great Shearwater was quite distinctive and leaves no doubt in my mind as to its identity. I have discussed this record with Dennis Coutts of Lerwick and he confirms my conclusions.

ROBERT DUTHIE.

(Although April is exceptionally early for this species to be seen in British waters there are previous records.—ED.)

### White Stork in East Lothian

On 16th March 1965 I saw a White Stork in a marshy field near Innerwick. The large size ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft high), long straight red bill, long red legs (unringed), off-white head, neck, back and belly, and black primaries and secondaries, were unmistakable. When first seen from the back the appearance was of a black-winged bird with a black rump, but when it flew a short distance the tail and rump were seen to be white. When it briefly turned its back to the wind the long feathers at the front of the neck blew up and looked 6"-8" long.

It did not seem to be feeding, only once picking something

small from the grass and swallowing it. It had a slow, stately walk but did not move about much, mostly remaining hunched up, facing the wind, and only occasionally fully raising its neck to eye something in the grass. I did not flush it as it might have gone right away in the high wind which was blowing.

The bird was seen again next morning in the same place by A. T. and E. H. L. Macmillan, and later that day by M. J. Everett. It proved wild and difficult to approach. It walked about pecking at the grass, apparently without catching anything, then stood and preened, particularly the underside of its wings, frequently opening and closing its bill as if yawning; and it scratched its head with one foot. Sometimes it sat down, and once it stood in proper manner on one leg. When it took to the air it gave a magnificent display, soaring in the strong wind. The black flight feathers and trailing edge of the wing were clearly seen to be highly glossed.

The wind had been south to south-east up to the day before the bird was first seen. Its plumage was in good condition and it did not seem to be an escape. This is the first record for East Lothian and the first for Forth since 1416.

ALASTAIR MACDONALD.

### Flamingos in south Scotland

As already briefly mentioned (3: 261), a Flamingo was first discovered at the Whim Pond, Leadburn, Peeblesshire, on the afternoon of 19th November 1964. It apparently spent the night there but had gone the following morning. On the afternoon of the 20th it appeared at Harperrig Reservoir, Midlothian, and remained there until about 9.30 the following morning, when it flew out to the north-west (Hugh Hamilton). It was reported near Carstairs, Lanarkshire, on the morning of the 22nd but had gone by the mid-afternoon. By the 24th it had moved back into the Leadburn area, where it was seen on Kingside Farm. In spite of the fact that three counties are involved, these localities all lie within a radius of 10 miles.

A full description of the bird has been supplied by M. J. Everett, who was one of those who saw it on the day of its first appearance. The generally white colour (only slightly suffused with a faint pink wash), rich rosy-pink wing coverts, pink legs, flesh-pink base to the bill and large size clearly identify the bird as being a Greater Flamingo of the race *Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*, which breeds in south Europe, south Asia and Africa. The late date and the bird's unnatural liking for bleak upland country combine to make it unlikely that it was a wild immigrant. It has been confirmed that no bird escaped from Edinburgh Zoo about this time, but there

had been reports of Flamingos seen on the east and south coasts of England (*Brit. Birds* 57: 444) and it seems most likely that all these records referred to one or more escapes from captivity.

It was reported at the time that this bird was subsequently found dead, but there seems to be no definite confirmation of this. It does, however, seem probable that three later reports of Flamingos must refer to a different bird. One was seen on the beach at Dunbar, East Lothian, on 28th June 1965 (Mrs E. Trzebniak), and what was presumably the same bird was seen a few days later at Bo'ness, West Lothian, on 4th July (J. F. Bissett), and at Longniddry, East Lothian, on the 18th (W. Birrell per M. J. Everett). It must be assumed that this too was an escape from captivity.

DOUGAL G. ANDREW.

### Green-winged Teal in Renfrewshire

On 10th April 1965 when examining Teal feeding in muddy shallows at Barr Loch I discovered amongst them a drake Green-winged Teal. It had no horizontal white stripe on the scapulars and showed a white vertical mark on the side of the breast in front on the wing. The back and sides appeared uniform grey except at close range, when the fine vermiculation could be discerned. The green eye-patch, so far as I could see, was not outlined with cream, nor was there a cream line between it and the bill. Compared with drake European Teal this bird looked a little bulkier.

On the 11th R. G. Caldow had good views in excellent light. With drake European Teal and American Green-winged Teal directly facing him he noted the "rosy-buff and distinctly warmer" tone of the breast of the American bird. He also saw a faint trace of white bordering the green below the eye, and he thought the body a shade more puffed out than the Teal drake's.

J. M. S. Arnott and H. L. Arnott saw the bird on 15th April and commented that the grey of the upper and lower parts had a slightly different, duller, quality from that of a Teal; this together with the lack of a horizontal white line on the scapulars gave the body quite a different appearance.

It may be worth emphasising that the vertical white mark on the Green-winged Teal curves backwards (*i.e.* the ends point backward) when the bird is on the water, not forward as appears from illustrations in the *Handbook* and P. Scott's *A Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World*. The mark is prominent and clearly visible through binoculars at 400 yds.

On 10th April the drake Green-winged Teal was feeding with a duck Teal, flushed with it, and gave every appearance

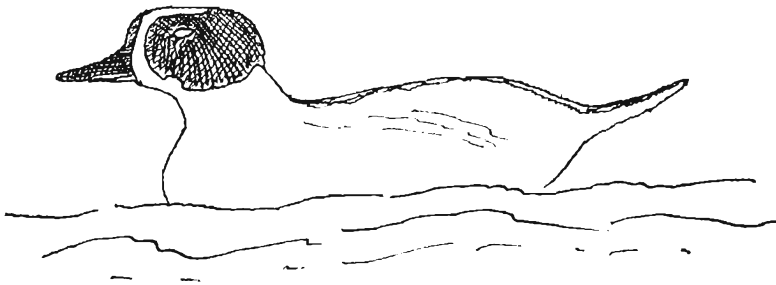
of being paired. Next day, however, R. G. Caldow flushed it alone, and thereafter while he had it in sight it remained in company with a pair of Teal.

It was last seen on the 19th. In addition to the observers mentioned it was seen by W. M. M. Eddie, I. Gibson, A. Gordon, D. J. Norden, G. T. White and others. This is the sixth record of this American race in Scotland and the first for the Clyde area and Renfrewshire.

L. A. URQUHART.

### Abnormally plumaged Goldeneye

I am submitting a sketch of an unusually plumaged duck which I saw off Stannergate, Dundee, on 13th March 1965 consorting with about 120 Goldeneye. I watched it for some 15 minutes, and in that time saw that the black on the forehead did taper to a point as shown in the sketch, and that the white line around the cheek patches merged in an irregular area on the crown. I got one glimpse of the open wing when the bird reared and flapped once, and the pattern seemed similar to that of the Goldeneye, though I had the impression that the white patch on the secondaries was dull as though streaked. The black on the back and tail seemed less extensive than in the Goldeneye, and the flatness of the head was in marked contrast to the triangular shape of the Gol-



Display.



Duck at Stannergate, Dundee, on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1965.

Area # Black.

deneye's head. The display posture, as shown in the inset to the sketch, is also different from that used by the Goldeneye (see *Scot. Nat.* 1950: 15-16).

HENRY BOASE.

(It occurred to us that in head shape and facial pattern this bird showed some basic resemblances to both Barrow's Goldeneye and Harlequin Duck. We therefore showed Mr Boase's note and sketch to Dr Jeffrey Harrison, who has made a special study of aberrant plumages in ducks, and he has commented as follows: "Obviously, as you say, it was some variety, possibly of a Goldeneye, in which case the fact that it developed a facial crescent with an extension into an eye-stripe similar to the Harlequin Duck is most interesting. Facial crescents can arise in various hybrids such as Wigeon x Shoveler in which there is no suggestion of a crescent in either species and it is conceivable that crescents could be so basic as to appear in almost any duck species. The picture of the display is again rather suggestive of a Barrow's Goldeneye, but if it had been a Barrow's Goldeneye then the rest of the body plumage would surely have been different."—ED.)

#### Buzzard breeding in Clackmannanshire

As there is only one published record of the Buzzard in Clackmannanshire (2: 314) the following observations seem worth recording.

On 10th April 1964 while descending the southern slopes of King's Seat Hill, near Dollar, I saw two Carrion Crows mobbing a Buzzard at about 1000 ft. Eventually they desisted and it began to soar, but later hovered on an upcurrent of air on a shoulder of the hill just as an eagle does. Another Buzzard appeared and the two soared together for a minute, but then separated and one hovered briefly above the hillside before alighting while the other disappeared from view into the valley below. Eight days later I saw a pair of Buzzards in the same place, both this time being mobbed by Carrion Crows. At length the Buzzards flew together across the Devon valley to a conifer plantation at Sheardale, where they commenced soaring.

At the time I suspected that the birds were perhaps breeding at Sheardale, but on 14th May 1965, while searching for Green Woodpeckers along the base of King's Seat Hill, I was attracted by the behaviour of an obviously excited Buzzard flying above a long, narrow strip of planted conifer trees. I approached the plantation and just before I entered it a second Buzzard flew out from near the top edge of the strip and circled around, calling loudly and persistently and flying



down several times to watch my movements while I investigated the trees in the vicinity. In a short time I found the nest, sited about 50 ft up near the top of a Scots pine.

On the ground beneath lay the legs of a recently killed rabbit with scraps of flesh, skin and fur adhering to them, and also the greater part of a rabbit's skin complete with fur. Scattered around were numerous other rabbit bones, mostly leg bones but also a few ribs, scapulae and one skull, all of them very old and brittle and several green with algae. Some of the debris was several years old.

When I returned to the edge of the plantation the more excited Buzzard, presumably the female, immediately flew down and alighted on the nest. There can be no doubt that the birds were breeding, and from the evidence it seems highly probable that they had also bred in previous years. The status of the Buzzard in the smallest county is, therefore, that of a breeding resident.

ALEX. TEWNION.

#### Attempted reintroduction of White-tailed Eagle to Scotland

A passing comment on the attempted reintroduction of the White-tailed Eagle to Scotland (3: 330) suggests that it would be worth recording the facts about this.

In July 1959 an adult and two young of that year were ransomed from Norway, where the species is much persecuted, and were loosed in Glen Etive by kind permission of the proprietors. They were kept in the vicinity of a wood for a fortnight tethered on a long cord near a pool and within reach of the carcase of a dead hind. They were then released.

Unfortunately the adult was semi-tame and appeared by the roadside, where people photographed it. Not surprisingly it was captured about a month later by an Appin farmer, whose hens it was attacking. After travelling to the London Zoo as a Golden Eagle it was eventually returned properly identified to live in the Edinburgh Zoo.

The two young birds, however, were very wild and learned to fend for themselves, being seen several months later soaring in the hills. They were heard calling in flight and clearly identified by their wedge tails. One was later found in a fox trap some 50 miles south at Otter Ferry in January 1960. Of the other nothing further has been heard except perhaps for a sight record from the Mull of Kintyre about this time (P. Glazier *As the Falcon her Bells* 1963, Ch. 14).

P. W. SANDEMAN.

### Gyr Falcon at St Kilda

On 1st December 1964 a large bird was seen at St Kilda gliding with Herring Gulls above the village. The day was clear and sunny. The bird appeared as pale as the gulls but the shortness of its wings attracted attention. It glided over, giving occasional slow wing-beats. The rather broad but pointed wings and the relatively small head were evident. Although the bird appeared very white it was clear as it passed rapidly overhead that the underparts were finely vermiculated all over with pale brown marks. The pallor of the bird and its shape suggested that it could only be one of the pale forms of Gyr Falcon.

It disappeared round Oiseval. PG ascended the hill, and after some minutes saw a large falcon approaching the Gap from the east. It now appeared much duller as it glided and flapped past; the markings on the upperparts were seen to be very numerous, giving it a pale brown colour; these markings were denser towards the wingtips, and the extreme ends of the primaries were entirely brown; there were faint streaks on the crown and a very thin moustachial stripe. It disappeared among the rock faces near Ard Uachdarachd, and then reappeared flying rapidly over the terraces of the promontory. Seen at a greater distance and a different angle to the sun it looked white with dark wingtips.

The bird was seen by one or both of us on twelve occasions between 1st December 1964 and 24th January 1965. It was most frequently recorded on brief sorties which it made over the village area of Hirta. As a rule it would first be seen gliding slowly with a nonchalant air fairly low overhead, putting up Turnstones and Starlings and being mobbed by gulls and, more particularly, by Ravens, which it rivalled in size. During these flights its resemblance to a Peregrine was noted, with stout body, shortish tail, and rather short but very broad wings meeting the body at right angles, occasionally appearing broadest at the wrist. It was once described as resembling a large white pigeon, and its general colour as being like that of an immature Glaucous Gull, a familiar bird about the village. The visits generally culminated in its soaring in circles like a Peregrine. Having gained height it would set off in a rapidly accelerating swoop round the shoulder of one of the surrounding hills, twisting and turning in flight. Once it swooped very fast at a Black-headed Gull, which escaped by plunging round a cleit. The Gyr Falcon made no effort to continue the pursuit.

On 24th January it was sitting on a slope several hundred feet down from the cliff edge on the west side of Hirta near the tarn of Glen Mor. The small round head could be made out from above, and also the short bill with apparently a

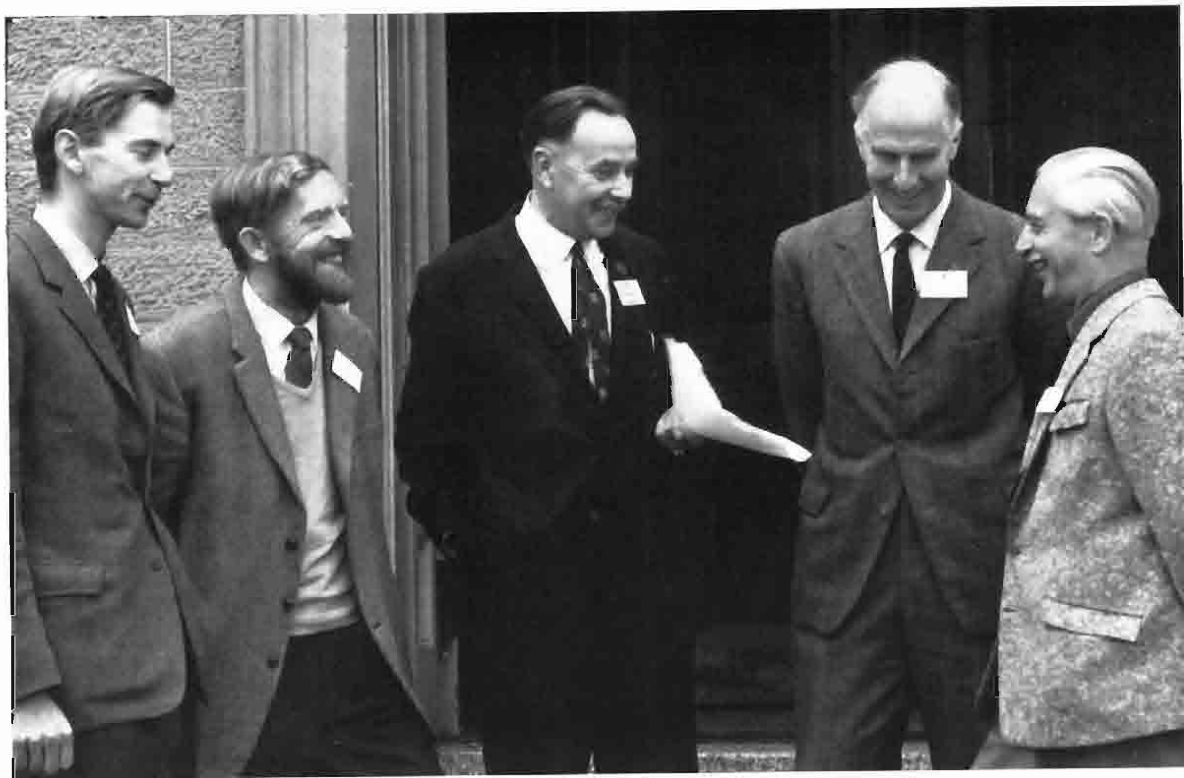


PLATE 54. The President of the S.O.C., Dr Ian D. Pennie (*centre*) with speakers at the 1965 Annual Conference in Dunblane, (*left to right*) Malcolm A. Ogilvie, Dr Adam Watson, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards and Stanley Cramp (see Editorial).

*Photograph by James MacGeoch*



PLATE 55. Great Black-backed Gull landing on its prominently sited nest, Horse Island, Ayrshire, May 1964. The photograph gives some idea of the size and power of this bird.

*Photograph by William S. Paton*

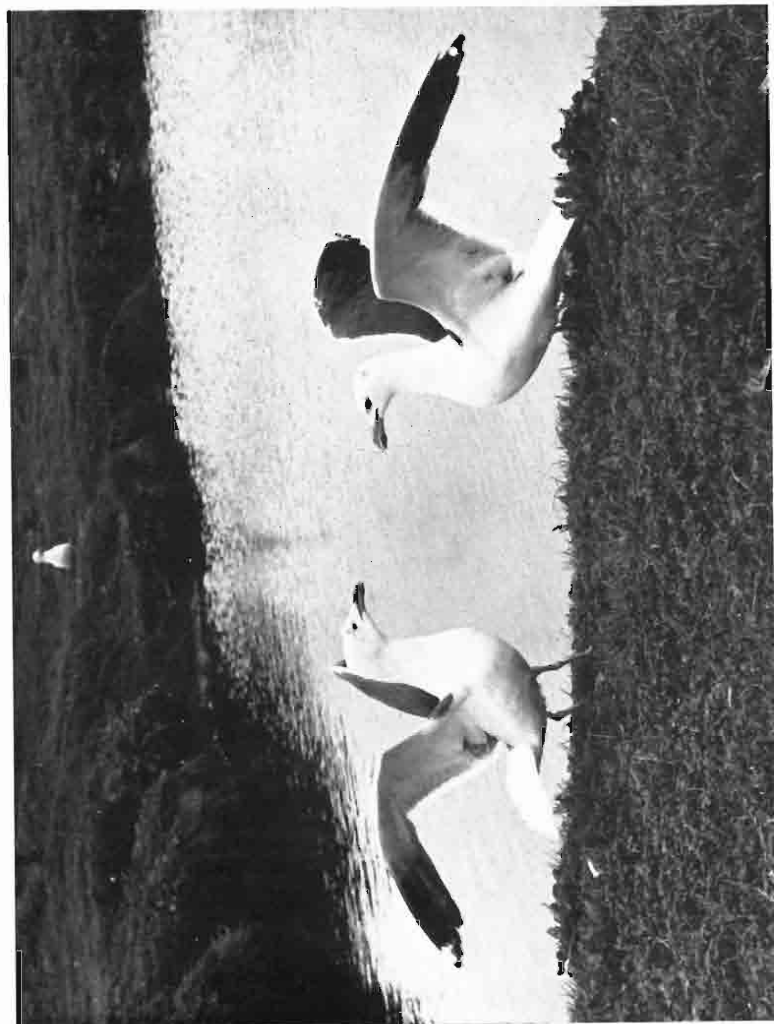


PLATE 36. Lesser Black-backed Gulls displaying, Horse Island, May 1965. This and the previous plate show two of the breeding species found on this R.S.P.B. reserve.

*Photograph by William S. Patton*

yellow cere. Apart from what appeared to be black barring on the folded wings there seemed to be no other markings on the body and none on the head, but it was not possible to approach closely enough for a better view.

There is one previous record of a Gyr Falcon on St Kilda, a bird of the Greenland form in spring 1910.

P. GRUBB, D. GWYNNE.

### Spotted Crake in Dunbartonshire

At 9 p.m. on the evening of 24th May 1965 we heard calls coming from a marshy area in Dunbartonshire. AGG recollected having heard a recording of similar calls in a BBC programme some months previously. The calls were regular and can best be described as a vigorous but musical *whoo-it* repeated at intervals of one or two seconds. We walked straight towards the source of the calls and eventually put up a small crake which flew weakly for a short distance. Almost immediately after it had settled it began to call again. The call was very loud and penetrating and could easily lead one to underestimate the distance between oneself and the bird. It was not, however, ventriloquial. We saw the bird again and though the light was failing we managed to see the following details:

The body was 8" to 9" long, and of a crake-like shape. In flight the legs dangled weakly; the body was roughly symmetrical about the wings, tapering to a short bill in front and to a short blunt tail behind; the wings were of moderate length, of low aspect ratio, parallel for a way and then tapering quickly to a blunt point. AGG also noted that there was a pale to white flash on the fore-edge of the wing, noticeable from the front as the bird tipped back on landing. The bird was dark above, and pale on the lower breast and belly.

As we returned to the car along the edge of the marsh we heard at least two other similar crakes calling, at times simultaneously, from other parts of the marsh. The time was now 10.30 p.m. It was quite dark.

C. E. Palmar, T. D. H. and H. L. W. Merrie heard two crakes calling on 28th May. CEP made an excellent tape-recording of one. The following night J. M. S. and L. Arnott visited the marsh. They saw one bird whilst another was calling some distance away. JMSA was able to compare the call with a Swedish recording in the BBC collection.

The marsh was not searched for nests for fear of disturbance. However, on subsequent visits only one bird could be heard calling, and on each visit was less vocal than the time before. Two calls at about 10 p.m. on 3rd June were the last we heard.

T. D. H. MERRIE, A. G. GORDON.

(A. D. Watson heard a Spotted Crake calling from the same Kirkcudbrightshire marsh as in 1963 (2: 426) on 7th June 1965, but not on later visits.—Ed.)

### Stone Curlew in North Fife

Late in the afternoon of 12th January 1965 I saw a Stone Curlew at Tentsmuir Point. The bird was on the foreshore searching amongst old tidal rubbish about 10 yards from the marram and 300 yards south of the point. It was entirely alone, the only other birds in the area being Dunlin, Knot, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls foraging above the tide some 200 yards away.

I came on it quietly and unexpectedly through a tidal gap cutting the dunes, which had hidden my approach. I had it under observation during its search for about 25 seconds through 10x50 glasses at a distance of 15 yards. Details of its plumage, apart from its streaked fawny-brown dirty-white colour and white wing-bar, went almost unnoticed, so taken was I by the bird's strange build and appearance—certainly like no other bird I had seen. My strongest impressions were of a large Oystercatcher-sized wader-type bird with a short bill and a head very small in proportion to its body, giving it a hunched "sorry-for-itself" appearance.

It sighted me and flew off, describing a wide turn out to the tide line and landing on the sands nearer the point. I followed behind the dunes and managed to see it doing a short skulking run on the sand before it lifted off again and disappeared to the south. In flight the wing-beat was almost leisurely, much slower than, say, that of a Curlew. The double wing-bars stood out in great contrast to the rest of the wings, and this really unmistakable feature, together with the flight, clinched the identification for me.

This is a new species for Tentsmuir, though curiously the only previous record of a Stone Curlew in Scotland in winter is of one shot a few miles away near St Andrews in January 1858.

MALCOLM SMITH.

### Scops Owl in Orkney

On 11th June 1965 a Scops Owl appeared in Leitch's Gardens in Kirkwall. Along with D. Glue, Mrs Traill-Clouston and others I was able to view it from four or five yards. It was perched about eye level in a bushy tree over a stream and presented a more or less full front view through a gap in the foliage.

It was a very small owl—perhaps slightly less tall than a

Starling—and had medium to short erect ear tufts. Its stance was upright with a somewhat attenuated appearance, as commonly seen in Long-eared Owls. The underparts were a mixture of lavender grey and soft browns with fine vermiculations and darker streaks. Part of the facial discs near the beak was pale or whitish, and a border fringed the discs as a darker curving line. What little was seen of the upperparts appeared to be browner with a hint of reddishness and with light spots and darker streaks. The beak was blackish and the iris pale yellow, but the eyes were closed most of the time.

E. BALFOUR.

(*The Birds of Scotland* gives two previous records for Orkney, but we have not been able to trace any occurrences in Scotland at all since 1953, when one was seen in Shetland on 7th June (*Brit. Birds* 47: 244). More than half the Scottish records are from Orkney and Shetland, most of the birds being recorded on spring passage.—ED.)

#### Alpine Swift in Orkney

At 9 p.m. on 8th June 1965 I noticed a large swift trying to land on the lighthouse on North Ronaldsay. It kept trying for nearly an hour but failed to do so until it found a place under the guttering behind the ladder up to the dome, where I was able to catch it with a small hand net.

Comparing it with the *Handbook* description of an Alpine Swift I could find no difference to speak of. There were slight signs of moult on the rump but nowhere else.

Upperparts mouse-brown with very little sign of greyish tips; sides of chin and throat, ear-coverts, sides of neck, and band across upper breast mouse-brown, feathers slightly tipped white; chin, centre of throat, lower breast, and belly white, feathers with very fine brown shafts; under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts, and axillaries mouse-brown with white tips; tail brown, slightly tinged green; outer webs and tips of wing feathers and primary coverts dark brown with green tinge; wing coverts mouse-brown; wing 222 mm, tail 86 mm.

This seems to be the first record for Orkney.

KENNETH WALKER.

#### Wrynecks in Inverness-shire

Whilst on holiday at Drumnadrochit G. M. King and I had close views of a Wryneck nearby and heard it daily during our stay from 2nd to 12th June 1965. The bird frequented about half a mile of a valley, of which one side was natural oak, ash and birch and the other was a young conifer plantation. There were also a few decayed birches on an un-



planted part of this area, and it was in one of these that the bird was first seen.

A. J. HARTHAN.

A Wryneck was heard and seen near Aviemore from 9th to 15th June 1965. It was seen by Reg May, M. G. Robinson, D. N. Weir and others. It frequented a moorland area with clumps of Scots pine and scattered single trees, moving about and calling from different perches.

The bird could not be found after 15th June, but it is just possible that it could breed in the area, as Wrynecks become silent and inconspicuous when incubation begins. As a British breeding bird the Wryneck is now a considerable rarity, with only one known nest site in 1964.

R. E. F. PEAL.

(Wrynecks have never been proved to breed in Scotland, even when they were much more numerous in England, but they occur on passage in both spring and autumn. These two records are most interesting for the length of time the birds remained. The habitat seems similar to parts of Scandinavia and northern Europe where the birds breed, and if one of them was successful in finding a mate they might well nest here.

It is most remarkable that apart from obvious migrants on the coast and one near Perth in the first week of September 1964 (3: 204) there have been no recent records of Wrynecks anywhere in Scotland except in Inverness-shire, where no less than eight have been reported since 1950, all in the early summer between 25th May and 20th June, as below:

Strathfarrar—5th June 1951 (*Scot. Nat.* 1952: 57)

Glenmore—25th-26th May 1952 (*Scot. Nat.* 1953: 57)

Urquhart Bay - near Drumnadrochit—20th June 1952 (*Scot. Nat.* 1952: 117)

Loch Garten—1st-3rd June 1961 (*Scot. Birds* 1: 494)

Carrbridge—10th June 1961 (*Scot. Birds* 1: 494)

Loch Garten—26th May 1962 (*Scot. Birds* 2: 445)

Near Drumnadrochit—2nd-12th June 1965

Near Aviemore—9th-15th June 1965—Ed.)

### **Eye-browed Thrush on North Rona A new Scottish bird**

On 16th October 1964 a thrush, slightly smaller than a Red-wing, was found in a geo at the south end of the island. The bird was under observation for one and a half hours at ranges down to a few feet. The most noticeable features were: olive-brown head, back and tail; white superciliary, broader behind the eye; white chin and throat streaked with black; orange-buff upper breast and flanks; white lower breast and

belly. At close range the head and neck were in fact seen to be grey-brown and a very thin grey band separated the white chin and throat from the orange-buff of the upper breast. The bill was brown with the base of the lower mandible yellow, and the legs were yellow-brown. A comparison with skins of Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* in the British Museum has since been made and the bird judged to be a male of that species.

When disturbed it flew only short distances and seemed very tired. The only call heard was a soft *tchuck* given in flight. During most of the period under observation it searched for food and often held its head to one side before pecking in the damp grass.

This Siberian species normally migrates through Mongolia, Manchuria, Korea and China to winter in Formosa, the Philippines and Palau. Stragglers have previously been recorded in several European countries but never before in Britain until 1964 when no less than three individuals were reported. The other two were at Oundle (Northamptonshire) on 5th October, and on St Agnes (Isles of Scilly) on 5th December. The North Rona bird was the first for Scotland and the second for Britain. A full account will appear elsewhere.

In view of this occurrence it is worth noting some of the other species seen on North Rona during mid October. These included a Turtle Dove on the 13th and 14th, a Lapland Bunting on the 15th, 3 Blackcaps and a Garden Warbler on the 16th, a Redstart and a Long-eared Owl on the 17th, and a Yellow-browed Warbler, a Red-breasted Flycatcher and a Yellow Wagtail on the 19th. The Long-eared Owl and Yellow-browed Warbler were also new for the island list.

N. PICOZZI.

#### Lesser Grey Shrike in Orkney

A Lesser Grey Shrike which had been found dead in a nearly full water barrel on North Ronaldsay with a sparrow was given to me on 30th May 1965. Full details have been submitted to the *British Birds Rarities Committee*. The bird was partly decomposed. I skinned it and sent the skin to R. H. Dennis, who confirmed the identification.

The bird had evidently drowned in the barrel. It appears that north-westerly winds, as had been blowing just before it was found, create a very strong down draught over the area of the barrel because of the shape of the surrounding disused buildings.

This is the first published record for Orkney, though I understand that a 1962 record has recently been sent to the Rarities Committee. The majority of the small number of Scottish records are from Shetland, particularly Fair Isle.

KENNETH WALKER.

## Current Notes

Compiled by P. J. B. SLATER

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Unless otherwise stated all dates refer to 1965.)

### *Distribution*

This section does not include records made before 1st June 1965, except where such records are relevant to more recent topics. An account of the arrival of geese and winter thrushes has been held over until the next number so that a more complete picture will be possible. September was noteworthy for two falls of continental migrants: these are dealt with separately at the end of this section.

The **Red-throated Diver** breeds on Skye in small numbers only (*Glasgow Bird Bulletin* 3 (1954): 6) but it apparently still does so, as a pair with two young was seen on the island between 12th and 18th July (REFP). Numbers of this species lingering on salt water at Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire, well into the summer have already been recorded (3: 367): a count on 7th September revealed that 61 had returned there (CO). Further south, one in breeding plumage was seen off Tentsmuir, Fife, on 4th July (RJ).

The first **Red-necked Grebe** to be seen at Gladhouse, Midlothian, was there on 8th August (EMS, RWJS). Three birds of this species were seen in the area of Gullane, East Lothian, on 15th August and 26th September (RSB, GAR, TCS): the

numerous records between these dates suggest that the same birds spent this whole period there. A **Slavonian Grebe** was seen at Loch Hougharry, North Uist, on 10th June (ER, SR); and **Black-necked Grebes** seen have been one at Loch Mhor, Inverness-shire, on 29th July (JF, JO, JT), and three at Hule Moss, Berwickshire, on 17th July (KM, JSO).

A most unusual occurrence of a **Storm Petrel** is of one flying over the shore at the mouth of Dornoch Burn, Sutherland, on 25th September (DM). Also strangely close inshore were single **Manx Shearwaters** flying up the Beauly River, Inverness-shire, about a mile and a half down from Beauly on 27th August (DPW), and flying up the Forth close off Gullane Point on 25th September (AFL, JSO). Apart from Shetland where large numbers have been seen this autumn (per RJT), **Sooty Shearwaters** reported have been: one off Tiumpan Head, Lewis, on 5th September (NE); two near John O'Groats, Caithness, on 14th and 15th August (JB, JMF-D); two near Gigha, Argyllshire, on 4th September (RBW); and one with **Manx Shearwaters** in Largo Bay, Fife, on 29th August (DWO).

A **Spoonbill** seen at Lochportain, North Uist, on 27th September, was found dead there on 29th (AJM). The body was flown to Glasgow where examination suggested that it had died of starvation (CEP).

Three **Gadwall** are reported from Balranald, North Uist, on 11th July (HLWM, TDHM). At Loch Ken, Kirkcudbrightshire, a pair of **Wigeon** was seen on 14th June, though with no evidence of breeding, and there was a pair of **Pintail** there all summer, the duck being seen with two young on 3rd July (ADW). In Lewis, where **Shovelers** are very uncommon, there was one near Stornoway on 9th August and one at Loch Stiapavat on 14th (NE). A female **Red-crested Pochard** on Loch Mahaick, Perthshire, on 19th September may well have been an escaped bird, though there is no report of any local collection having lost one (VMT).

A pair of **Scaup** spent most of the summer on Kilconquhar Loch, Fife (DWO). There was an adult male at Barassie on 24th July and three males were at Prestwick, Ayrshire, on 29th July (GAR). There were also up to three immature **Goldeneye** at Kilconquhar all summer (DWO), and the one previously reported at Eckford, Roxburghshire, on 13th June (3: 368), was still there in early September (RSB). A male **Long-tailed Duck** in summer plumage was at Gartmorn Dam, Clackmannanshire, on 1st August (AGG, TDHM), in the same place as one was seen on 8th May (TP). Another male was at Barvas, Lewis, on 25th July (NE).

An unusual occurrence was of a **Ruddy Duck** on Kilconquhar Loch between 20th June and the end of July (CH, DWO).

This is a North American species of "stiff-tail" more closely related to the White-headed Duck than any other European species. The Kilconquhar bird is most likely to have escaped from captivity, however, as free-flying Ruddy Ducks are kept in several parts of England.

There are few recent records of **Eider** nesting in Wigtownshire but three pairs were found at Knock Bay in 1964 and four broods were seen there in June this year (TH).

There were two **Barnacle Geese** at the Beaully Firth on 17th June, when the moulting flock of **Canada Geese** numbered 110 (JAL). The highest count reported was of 116 on 25th August (DPW). Other birds of this last species away from their breeding localities were 15 near Devonmouth, Clackmannanshire, on 18th June (TP); and two in the Leith Docks area of Edinburgh between 13th and 26th August (RSB, ATM).

The **Whooper Swan** reported from Borge, Lewis, in June (3: 369) was still present in September (NE). Other summer records are of a pair at Loch Hougharry, North Uist, on 11th and 12th July (TDHM, CEP); one at St Kilda up to 28th June (NE); one on Loch Lomond up to 26th June (TDHM); and one at Forfar Loch, Angus, on 23rd July (GMC).

The first record of a **Rough-legged Buzzard** in North Sutherland is of one seen at Durness on 18th September. The bird was seen hovering, moving on, and hovering again for about five minutes (WJE). On 6th June at Rendall, Orkney, a number of squawking Common Gulls attracted attention to a **Honey Buzzard** soaring and drifting in an easterly direction. In bright sun, the broad band near the tip of the tail and the two narrower ones near the base were plainly seen; the underparts were almost uniformly pale and dark carpal patches showed on the wings (EB). In recent years this species has been very scarce indeed in Scotland, but there were English sightings at about this time (*Brit. Birds* 57: 232). Another unusual bird of prey was a **Marsh Harrier** seen flapping and gliding around Yetholm Loch, Roxburghshire, on 31st August (RSB).

The Loch Garten **Ospreys** reared one chick this year but, for the third successive year, the eggs laid by the other Speyside pair failed to hatch. After the eggs were sent for analysis, this pair built a frustration eyrie obviously and precariously on the Duke of Gordon's monument near Aviemore, whence it was soon blown down (*Bird Notes* 31: 370). Several Ospreys have been reported from areas other than Speyside:

Invernaver Nature Reserve, Sutherland—1 on 6th June (KSM).

Loch Fleet, Sutherland—1 on 10th Aug (ICM).

Glenesk, Angus—1 on 29th June (WP).

Endrick Mouth, Stirling/Dunbarton—1 from 12th to 18th Aug (JMSA, AGG, HWLM, TDHM).

Gullane, East Lothian—1 on 25th Aug (WUF).

River Tweed, near Tweedsmuir, Peebles—1 seen fishing on 30th Sept (GAM).

Tongland, Kirkcudbright—1 eating trout at roadside on 4th Sept (EDL).

There are several sight records of **Peregrines** and **Merlins** but these do not provide an accurate pointer as to their status. While no Merlins could be found anywhere on Islay (per MJE), there was an apparent increase in the number of nests in Shetland (RJT). Only one of several Peregrine eyries visited in Shetland was found to be occupied, but the three eggs laid did not hatch (RJT).

The only reports of **Quail** during the period are of one seen at West Byres, Dalkeith, Midlothian, on 9th July (MJE), and another calling at Thornhill, Stirlingshire, during early August (JK). **Corncrakes** have been heard: one at John O' Groats on 20th June (JAL); one near Alloa, Clackmannanshire, between 30th June and 25th July (TP); three or four at Gartocharn, Dunbartonshire, throughout June (TDHM); and one at Paisley Moss, Renfrewshire, from 22nd July to 2nd August, followed by two there from 25th to 28th August (RGC, HG, IG, RCM, GTW).

**Dotterel** occasionally appear at Fair Isle on migration: this year two were netted and ringed on 10th September and another was present on 13th (RHD).

In 1965 a pair of **Black-tailed Godwits** nested in the same area of southern Scotland as in 1964 (3: 256). The birds were less demonstrative according to one observer, but there was a nest with four eggs on 15th and 24th May. It is not known if the chicks hatched, but not even the adults were seen on 29th May, though they were both in the area on 5th June (per Eds.).

Wader migration has been particularly striking this autumn with good numbers of all the usual species. **Black-tailed Godwits** have been seen in the following places:

Yell, Shetland—1 on 27th Sept (RJT).

Whalsay, Shetland—1 on 17th and 22nd Sept (JS).

Benbecula—7 from 11th to 15th Sept (VW).

Loch Fleet, Sutherland—1 on 22nd July; the first for the area (IDP').

Balephuill, Tiree—1 on 28th July (WR).

Kingoodie, Perth—1 on 30th Aug (HB).

Eden Estuary, Fife—35 on 17th July; 52 on 3rd Aug (DWO); 62 on 15th Aug (CT); 61 on 7th Sept (RJ).

Skinflats, Stirling—3 on 7th Aug; 6 on 12th Sept; 1 on 19th Sept (JP, IT).

Scafield, Midlothian—1 on 11th Aug (RSB).

Aberlady, E. Lothian—1 on 12th Sept (KSM).

Paisley Moss—2 on 22nd Aug (RCM, GTW).

New Cumnock, Ayr—1 on 3rd Sept (JL).

Caerlaverock, Dumfries—30 on 8th July; 40 on 11th July; 50-60 on 27th (ELR).

Carsethorn, Kirkcudbright—about 70 on 31st Aug (RBT).

The following reports are of migrant **Green Sandpipers**:

Kergord, Shetland—singles on 21st and 29th July (DC).

Lerwick, Shetland—1 on 28th Aug (DC, RJT).

Tingwall, Shetland—1 on 5th Sept (DC, RJT).

Fair Isle—Odd birds between 23rd July and 25th Sept, with 2 on several days in Aug (RHD).

Strathbeg, Aberdeen—1 on 23rd Aug (DPW).

Kinaldie, Aberdeen—1 on 6th Sept (CO).

Montrose Basin, Angus—1 on 28th Aug (GMC).

Largo Bay, Fife—1 on 22nd Aug (DWO).

Tullibody, Clackmannan—2 on 5th Sept (TP).

Glencorse, Midlothian—1 on 23rd Aug (RLS).

Rosewell, Midlothian—1 at flood pool on 25th July (EMS, RWJS).

Tynninghame, E Lothian—2 from 15th to 29th Aug (TB, EMS, RWJS).

Yetholm, Roxburgh—1 on 22nd Aug; 1 on 31st Aug; 2 on 3rd Sept (RSB).

Cadder wilderness, Lanark—1 from 31st July to 7th Aug; 2 on 8th Aug (WMME).

Bardowie, Stirling—1 on 27th Sept (WMME).

Hamilton Low Parks, Lanark—2 on 17th Aug (WMME).

Caerlaverock—1 on 6th July and 1 on 21st Aug (ELR, MCR).

A breeding pair of **Wood Sandpipers** was found again this year in the same part of Sutherland as they were originally found nesting in 1959 (see 1: 150) (MJE). Other records of this species are as follows:

Tingwall—2 on 7th Aug (DC).

Fair Isle—1 on 7th July; singles several days in Aug and on 5th Sept (RHD).

Strathbeg, Aberdeen—1 on 21st Aug (JE).

St Fergus, Aberdeen—1 on 26th Sept (JE).

Buddon Burn, Angus—1 on 6th July (RJ).

Skinflats—singles on 12th and 25th Sept (GD, JP, IT).

Paisley Moss—1 still present on 1st July (see 3: 370) (RGC, IG, GTW); 1 on 11th Sept (MJE, RCM, GTW).

New Cumnock—1 on 5th Sept (JAB, JL).

**Spotted Redshanks** are reported from a number of widely scattered localities:

Loch of Clumlie, Shetland—1 on 13th Sept (JND).

Benbecula—1 from 12th to 15th Sept (VW).

Tarradale, E. Ross—1 on 31st Aug; 2 on 2nd Sept (DPW).

Montrose Basin—1 on 22nd Aug (GMC).

Tentsmuir, Fife—1 on 6th Sept (RJ).

Elie Ness, Fife—1 on 17th Aug (DWO).

Skinflats—5 on 26th Aug; 1 on 25th Sept (GD, JP, IT).

Aberlady—singles on 14th, 15th and 21st Aug; 2 on 28th Aug (JAL, JSO, GAR, RWJS).

Tynninghame—1 from 15th to 29th Aug (TB, AM, EMS, RWJS); 1 on 5th Sept (JND).

Paisley Moss—singles on various dates from 16th Aug to 12th Sept, with 2 on 16th, 17th and 27th Aug (GAD, HG, IG, GTW).

Hamilton Low Parks—singles on 17th and 29th Aug (DB, WMME, DJN).

Barassie, Ayr—1 on 26th Sept (RWF).

New Cumnock—singles on 3rd, 19th and 26th Sept, with 2 on 12th Sept (JAB, JL).

Caerlaverock—1 on 27th July (ELR, MCR), at least 15 on 5th September, increasing steadily to over 60 by the 30th (ELR).

Of the numerous **Greenshanks** reported, one seen circling over Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, on 12th September is the most interesting as the species is new to the area (DRA).

The number of **Little Stints** reported this autumn has been particularly large:

- Whalsay, Shetland—2 on 22nd Aug (JS).
- Pool of Virkie, Shetland—4 on 14th Sept (DC, RJT); 3 on 26th Sept (WGP).
- Fair Isle—small numbers from 7th to 27th Sept with peak of 8 on 9th (RHD).
- Montrose Basin—1 on 12th Sept (GMC).
- Easthaven, Angus—1 on 11th Sept (HB).
- Carnoustie, Angus—2 on 26th Sept (GMC).
- Barnhill, Angus—1 on 26th Sept (GMC).
- Invergowrie, Perth—1 on 15th Sept (HB).
- Eden Estuary—2 on 7th Sept (RJ).
- Fife Ness—2 on 4th Sept; 1 on 5th and 9th Sept (PGB, DWO).
- Largo Bay—1 on 23rd August (DWO).
- Skinflats—3 on 12th Sept; 1 on 25th Sept (GD, JP, IT).
- Aberlady—7 on 4th Sept; 2 on 5th; 6 on 11th; 1 on 12th; 1 on 20th; 3 on 27th (HGC, JND, KSM, ADKR, RWJS, BZ).
- Tynninghame—2 on 15th and 1 on 17th Aug; 1 on 25th Sept (TB, ADKR, EMS, RWJS, CT).
- Barns Ness, E. Lothian—1 on 8th Sept (MJE).
- Libberton, Lanark—a very early bird in summer plumage, on 11th July (RE-H).
- Barassie, Ayr—1 on 26th Sept (RWF, RCM).
- Doonfoot, Ayr—1 on 15th Sept (GAR).
- Caerlaverock—2 on 19th and 1 on 22nd Sept (ELR).

The following are reports of **Curlew Sandpipers**:

- Montrose Basin—3 on 12th and 1 on 26th Sept (GMC, JD).
- Invergowrie—6 on 9th and 15th Sept (HB).
- Eden Estuary—6 on 11th and at least 3 on 26th Sept (CT).
- Skinflats—3 on 25th Sept (GD, JP, IT).
- Aberlady—1 on 18th and 2 on 25th July; 1 on 15th Aug (JAIDH, KSM, GAR).
- Tynninghame—2 on 5th Sept (CT).
- Barns Ness—2 on 20th Sept (KSM).
- Gladhouse, Midlothian—1 on 18th July (DGA).

If this year has been a good one for other waders, it has certainly been exceptional for **Ruff**, records of which are far too numerous to give in any detail. Suffice to say that flocks of up to 15 birds have been seen in many parts of the country during August and September. On Fair Isle there was the high count of at least 40 on 9th September (RHD). Early birds at Caerlaverock were a male in partial breeding plumage on 3rd June, another on 3rd July and two or three on 6th July (ELR, MCR). Also at Caerlaverock was a **Red-necked Phalarope** which stayed from 15th to 21st August (ELR, RBT).

Three **Great Skuas** have been observed in the Firth of Clyde, an area for which there are few records: singles off Ayr on



30th July and 10th September (GAR), and one between Brodick and Fairlie on 10th August (WW)—all were seen at sea. One was as far up the Forth as the Kincardine Bridge, which links Fife with Stirlingshire, on 25th September (GD, JP, IT). Single **Pomarine Skuas** have been seen at Fair Isle on 9th July (RHD), near Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, on 22nd-26th August (RWM), and at Gosford Bay, East Lothian, on 22nd September (MFMM). A **Long-tailed Skua** was at Fair Isle between 13th and 15th July (RHD), and another, very tame, individual was in the Eden estuary area from 9th to 12th August (WR). A very unusual record is of one seen hovering, in typical fashion, over some rough ground about a mile inland at Golspie, Sutherland, on 28th June (IDP).

Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** of the Scandinavian race were seen on 7th September: one at Scatness, Shetland (DC), and the other at Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire (CO). July records of **Glaucous Gulls** are of one at Cullivoe, Shetland, on 7th (RJT), and one at Kilchiaran Bay, Islay, on 14th (CT).

The first **Little Gull** arrived at Kilconquhar Loch on 10th July and numbers there reached a peak of 240 on 23rd July (DWO). Elsewhere, there were 26 at Carnoustie on 18th September (JD), and one was seen at Longskelly Point, Dirleton, East Lothian, on 25th July (RSB). Although so numerous in Fife, this species is seldom seen on the south shore of the Forth. The **Kittiwake** is the most maritime of the gulls but about 200, mostly immatures, were well up the Forth at Skinflats on 25th September (GD, JP, IT).

Single **Black Terns** have been seen at: Meikle Loch, Slains, Aberdeenshire on 22nd August (DPW); Peppermill, Fife, on 15th August (JP, IT); Gartmorn on 12th September (TP); Elie Ness on 19th September (DWO); Cramond, Midlothian, on 9th September (HAF); Aberlady on 19th August (JSO); Tynninghame on 17th and 21st August (ADKR, EMS, RWJS); and Barns Ness on 19th September (KSM). This appears to be rather more records than usual but nearly all are from the Forth area so that several may refer to the same bird. Two **Sandwich Terns** flying about over Stornoway estuary on 12th August are the first recorded in Lewis, although this species has bred in Uist (NE).

While **Razorbills** are frequently observed from Gullane Point, a count of 183 in the area on 16th August is unusually high (RSB).

A **Turtle Dove** was seen at the top of Glenesk, Angus, on 20th July (GMC). This species was seen regularly on Fair Isle between 30th August and 27th September (RHD); and other September birds, which do not seem to tie in with the arrivals of other migrants discussed later, were: one at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, on 14th (DPW); one at Carloway,

Lewis, on 17th (NE); and one at Kergord, Shetland, on 20th (RJT). Although records of the **Collared Dove** are not being given here meantime, it is still important that details of increases, decreases and new localities are sent in—those received so far are being kept with a view to publishing another article on the spread of this species in a future issue.

An immature **Cuckoo** was at Gullane Point on 21st and 22nd August, and another in the same area was at the Peffer Burn, Aberlady, on 11th September (JSO).

**Swift** passage in Shetland was strongest during late July, with a maximum of 12 at Unst on 17th (MS, RJT). In Lewis more were seen in August, a high count being 22 at the Butt on 14th (NE).

A very tame **Hoopoe** was seen near Hunterston power station, Ayrshire, on 18th September. It was seen to extract worms from the grass with its long bill but seemed to dislike them as they were left uneaten (JAP-M).

There have been several recent reports of **Green Woodpeckers** in North Perthshire, which is on the fringe of this species' range (see 3: 265, 322). Another is of a bird seen in young forest high above Dalguise on 15th August (JCS).

Several large concentrations of **Ravens** have occurred during the last quarter. A flock of 100 was seen working round the shoulder of a hill at Bridge of Orchy, Argyllshire, on 13th July (ACR). In the first half of September numbers in Caithness built up to the highest remembered, with one flock of 35 in the Loch More area from 13th to 15th (Caith Gp), and in Lewis a count at the Castle grounds roost, Stornoway, revealed 540 on 15th September (NE).

Winter thrushes seen during June were two **Fieldfares** at Dalnaspidal, Perthshire, on 5th (AP), and a **Redwing** in Unst on 17th (ELR, MCR).

The inland breeding stock of **Stonechats** in Kirkcudbrightshire has shown a good recovery since the hard winter of 1962-63 and the increase has been especially apparent in the young forests during this year (ADW). Six pairs bred this year along a stretch of cliff in the Mull of Kintyre, Argyllshire, where there were only two pairs last year (AGG, TDHM).

Three **Blackcaps** at Cortachy, Kirriemuir, Angus, were still singing in the second week of July—no doubt due to the difficulty of finding mates on the fringe of their range (JD).

A female **Red-backed Shrike** was discovered perched on a roadside fence-post near Loch Clavat, North Uist, on 8th June (ER, SR). Nearly all **Red-headed Buntings** seen in this country are males and these have most probably escaped from captivity as it is a popular cage bird. Males seen recently have

been at Asta, Shetland, from 29th May to 2nd June (DC, WGP, JS); Fair Isle on 17th June (RHD); and Sanday, Orkney, on 11th July (EB). All these could conceivably have been the same bird, but nevertheless it is curious how many of the recent records of this species are from the islands.

Further recolonisation by the **Tree Sparrow** is indicated by the fact that a small flock was seen in Durness, Sutherland, several times in late June and early July (MJE).

### *September migrants*

Although the main arrival of continental migrants did not occur until the first week of September, Fair Isle had small numbers of the commoner species throughout August, mostly in the third week of that month. Less usual species included a **Grasshopper Warbler** on 16th, an **Icterine Warbler** from 14th to 25th and a peak of four **Barred Warblers** on 16th (RHD). Elsewhere, an **Icterine/Melodious Warbler** was at Elie, Fife, on 8th (DWO); and there was a **Barred Warbler** at Reay, Caithness, on 22nd (Caith Gp).

South-east winds during the first few days of September led to a large fall of migrants on the east coast, mainly on 4th. Observations at Shetland (per RJT), Fair Isle (RHD), Sands of Forvie (CO), Fife Ness (DWO), the Bass Rock (JBN) and Barns Ness (AM) suggest that the main species involved were: **Wheatear**, **Whinchat**, **Redstart**, **Garden Warbler**, **Whitethroat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Willow Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Pied Flycatcher**. A few **Bluethroats**, **Wrynecks**, **Red-backed Shrikes** and **Ortolan Buntings** were seen at Fair Isle, where there were also several **Barred Warblers**. Singles of this last species in Shetland were at Mid Yell on 4th (RJT) and Seafield on 5th (WGP), and an **Icterine Warbler** was at East Yell on 4th (RJT). Further south, less usual species included a **Black Redstart** at Sands of Forvie on 7th (CO); a male **Yellow Wagtail** at Montrose Basin on 5th (GMC); a **Wood Warbler** at Fife Ness on 4th (DWO); and a **Wryneck** at Tynninghame on 5th (CT). An immature **Cuckoo** was seen in Stornoway on 6th (NE), and there were several in Shetland and Fair Isle at the same time.

Another fall took place on 26th and 27th September. This involved largely the same species as listed above but, being later, reports from Shetland and Fair Isle include good numbers of **Robins**, **Goldcrests**, **Siskins**, **Chaffinches** and **Bramblings**. Fair Isle had a **Yellow-browed Warbler** on 25th and single **Red-breasted Flycatchers** were found at Seafield, Shetland, on 26th and 27th (DC, WGP); Helendale, Shetland, on 27th (WGP); and with a number of other migrants at Barns Ness on 26th (TB, KSM, EMS, RWJS).

At about the same time as this, and probably connected

with it, was an exceptional influx of tits in Shetland, where these species are seldom seen. **Great Tits** recorded were: singles on Fetlar on 28th and 29th (WO, RJT); two on Unst, one on Yell and two at Haroldswick on 30th (MS, RJT). Single **Blue Tits** were seen on Unst and Whalsay on 27th (JS, MS); there were two on Fetlar on 28th and 29th (WO, RJT); and no less than six on Whalsay on 29th (JS). Two **Coal Tits**, also on Whalsay on 29th, are the first recorded in Shetland outside Fair Isle (JS).

*Earlier observations—before 1st June 1965*

In view of the scarcity of **Quail** records this year it is worth noting that one turned up on St Kilda on 13th May (DG).

A **Red-necked Phalarope** was found at Clerklands Loch, Roxburghshire, on 29th October 1964 and seen there on several occasions up to 8th November. The bird was usually seen spinning anti-clockwise at about 50 revolutions per minute and pecking busily into the water for food (WSM, AJS).

The first breeding record of the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** for North Kincardineshire is of a pair found near Cove on 28th May this year (JMH).

An additional **Hoopoe** to those mentioned previously (3: 373) is one which was seen at Cunningsburgh, Shetland, on 4th May (per RJT).

A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** seen near Loch Slapin, Skye, on various dates in early 1963, throughout 1964, and in January 1965, seems to be the first recorded on the island (CM per REFP).

Finally, three Shetland records for earlier this year. A further **Golden Oriole** (see 3: 374), was a male on Whalsay on 9th May; and there was a cock **Black Redstart** on the same island on 26th (JS). A male **Hawfinch**, which was found exhausted in Lerwick on 14th May, was fed for a week and then released (DC).

*General observations—behaviour, plumage, etc.*

Large numbers of **Fulmars** were found on beaches throughout Caithness on 11th September following a gale. There were about 50 at Sandside, 200 at Dunnet and 100 at John O'Groats: all were dead or weak, and were no doubt young birds just fully fledged and not yet able to cope with such weather (Caith Gp).

An interesting example of a **Mallard** duck killing another bird was seen on the Tay in Perth recently. The duck, which had a brood of well grown young, was being fed with bread at the water's edge, when it suddenly grabbed a House Sparrow which was trying to share its meal and plunged it

in the water leaving it soaked. The duck then turned on a young but fully fledged Black-headed Gull and held it under the water until it died (per TP).

The tendency of **Herring Gulls** to lay eggs in **Eiders'** nests has already been recorded (3: 253). A similar instance reported recently was of a nest from which an Eider was flushed on the slopes of Mullach Mor, St Kilda, on 24th June. This was found to contain three Eiders' eggs and two gulls' eggs, thought by their size and the fact that there was a colony nearby, to be those of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (NE). Another interesting Eider nest was found at Dunrossness, Shetland, on 22nd June. This one contained four newly hatched ducklings which were being brooded by two ducks sitting side by side: both later led the brood away together (ELR, MCR).

Shortly after finding a male **Red-necked Phalarope** with four young chicks in Shetland, the observer picked up a chick which seemed in danger of falling into a hole. When he opened his hands on the ground to release it, the male bird came up and actually climbed onto his hands to brood the chick. It then called the other chicks which ran up and tried to burrow under the parent (RJT).

Mild weather sometimes encourages birds to burst into song on unusual dates—one such occurrence was of a **Song Thrush** singing at Prestwick, Ayrshire, on 26th September (RMR).

Yet another leucistic **Blackbird** has been found in Dornoch (see 3: 377). This bird, undoubtedly different from the previous two, was a creamy white colour and did not have a single dark feather in its plumage (DM). A pale creamy coloured juvenile **Wheatear**, seen in Wigtownshire on 12th July, must also come into this category of plumage aberration (ADW).

## Reviews

**The Highlands and Islands.** New Naturalist series No. 6. By F. Fraser Darling and J. Morton Boyd. London, Collins, 1964. Revised edition of "Natural History in the Highlands and Islands" by F. F. Darling, 1947. Pp. xvi + 336; 28 plates (4 in colour) and 15 figs. 30/-.

Darling's pioneering *Natural History in the Highlands and Islands*, published in 1947, was one of the most popular of the early New Naturalist books and has been out of print for years. Although research was meagre before 1947, the field to cover was too big for any one man to avoid errors in natural history, as Darling himself was aware when writing the preface. However these were minor when set against the book's message. For the first time someone spoke out clearly to the public about the damage man had done in the Highlands, and about the research that was so badly needed.

Darling's efforts were not in vain. People are fast becoming aware of

the problems, as anyone can see almost daily in press articles and letters and in parliamentary business. Research has expanded rapidly, and far more is now known about Highland natural history and land management. J. Morton Boyd has done a major job in putting the new information together. This book is a revision, but some chapters have been substantially rewritten and there are 33 more pages.

Darling's statements and predictions about conservation and land-use in 1947 were ahead of contemporary knowledge about these fields in the Highlands, and the book had a considerable effect. The revised book has not kept pace with the expansion of these fields, although their importance even for natural history alone is undeniable. Such current conservation problems as tourism, hydro-electric schemes, general amenity and landscape, marginal farming, forestry and hill land-use are too briefly treated for the book to have much impact in these years of political concern about the Highlands. Two big conferences on natural resources in Scotland (Scottish Council) and on Highland land-use (British Association) are not mentioned. A little more on conservation would have made the book indispensable for intelligent farmers, foresters, landowners, and above all for the planners and politicians who will increasingly be taking action in the Highlands. As it is, they will probably not read it unless they also happen to be interested in natural history. These matters could have been emphasised only by sacrificing some of the more detailed natural history, but this need not have entailed much loss of appeal for naturalists.

This is above all a book about Highland animals and plants. It is biased towards the western islands and coastal mainland, with the east Highlands and north Sutherland receiving scantier treatment, but in this respect it is much less biased than the old book. Highland natural history in 1947 was past the exploratory stage that one man could easily cover, and may now be past what two can manage. Scientific accounts of such large areas should perhaps be referred to an expert group with some executive authority. This would keep the refreshing style that tends to disappear if a team does the writing, without sacrificing the accuracy that comes from teamwork.

The book opens with several good chapters summarising geology, climate and topography, and historical changes in natural history due to man. Future editions would be of wider interest with the inclusion of adequate summaries on glaciology, geomorphology, soils and prehistoric changes in vegetation.

The main part of the book consists of chapters describing the natural history of woodlands, hill summits, coastal areas, islands, fresh waters, and the millions of acres of deer forest, grouse moor and sheep farm. There are also two chapters on red deer and grey seals. On the whole, the information is completely up to date and readably presented, and it would be a lopsided review which carped over various small errors. However the book says very little about the Hill Farming Research Organisation's ecological work, and does not mention the Conservancy's research on rain-water minerals and recent studies on hydrology in Scottish rivers, and on water relations in forests, although all these are highly relevant to upland vegetation and animals. The red deer chapter gives about half a page on the Conservancy's research on Rhum and east Scotland and nothing from the recent annual reports of the Red Deer Commission, while the seals chapter barely mentions in a few lines the years of research of E. A. Smith. This is only partly the author's fault, since much of the deer and seals research has not yet been published. The descriptions of freshwater biology and marine animals are much more complete than in the old book, partly because of major advances in these fields but also because of careful checking

by Morton Boyd. Ornithology occupies a very large part, with new observations particularly on the birds of the islands, woods and hills. SOC members should find the ornithology first class and up to date, including a lot of material either in press or unpublished when the book was written.

The new book has more text and many new illustrations. There are fewer black-and-white photographs and many fewer in colour, but the new black-and-whites are of far better quality. The maps are also better, giving more precise information at relevant places in the text. The bibliography occupies 15 pages with about 300 references. This gives some idea of the book's wide field and of the major task accomplished by the authors. They have done well to give a good scientific account without sacrificing a refreshing style and a great enthusiasm for the Highlands.

ADAM WATSON.

**Fair Isle and its Birds.** By Kenneth Williamson. With **A List of the Birds of Fair Isle** by Peter Davis. Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd, 1965. Pp. xvi + 311; 16 photographic plates, and 17 text figures and maps. 30/-.

A book by Kenneth Williamson is always worth waiting for. This one is no exception, although not to be compared with that classic, *The Atlantic Islands* (1948), which made his name. Despite two scene-setting chapters, entitled "Folk and Festivals" and "Mainly Historical," his present work deals with the birds of Fair Isle rather than with the place itself. The introductory chapters are followed by a series of rather loosely connected essays on miscellaneous bird residents, Arctic Skuas and Bonxies (3 chapters), nest defence, and Fulmars—all this forming Part I. A fair amount of the material has appeared before in other form in a variety of magazines or over the air.

Part II of the book (8 chapters) is concerned entirely with migration. Although, as the author again points out in his introduction, the problems dealt with have received fuller treatment in ornithological journals, this more popular account is very welcome, even if it is still rather heavy going for anyone not particularly interested in bird movements. Part III, completing the book, is a systematic list by Peter Davis of the birds of Fair Isle; it includes all available records up to the end of 1964 and is a consolidated, revised and up-to-date version of his earlier list published in four instalments in Vol. 5 (1963-64) of the *Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin*.

It would be uncharitable to call the book a hotchpotch, although this summary might suggest as much. Very pleasantly written, welded together by the author's obvious love for his subject, and embodying many valuable first-hand observations, it both contains much information of interest on a wide range of subjects and provides a fruitful basis for stimulating thought on a whole host of ornithological problems. Many of the riddles of migration are still far from solved and Ken Williamson is right to record of his book that "a number of the ideas developed in it are personal ones, and are not universally accepted." As he goes on to say, the book is "a record of a personal quest which occupied me physically and intellectually for upwards of a dozen years" and he asks the reader's indulgence if at times he seems to see the problems of migration in sharp focus. No one could ask fairer than that.

The publication of *Fair Isle and its Birds* can only enhance the high reputation of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory. In his foreword Sir Arthur

Duncan reminds us that the work of that Observatory, whose first Director has given us so stimulating an account of work done there, is sustained by voluntary contributions. We hope, with Sir Arthur, that one result of Ken's book will be that more people become subscribers to a very worthy cause.

W. J. EGGELING.

(**Postscript.** Fair Isle is not only the base of a world famous bird observatory, it is also a property of the National Trust for Scotland. That Trust, through its publicity and by means of its *Meteor* and "adventure" cruises—on *Dunera* and *Devonia*—has introduced Fair Isle to a greater number of people than ever before. More and more, as a result, a definitive account of the island and its history, of its inhabitants and their crafts and land-use, and the economics of island living, is required. Such a book was begun some time ago—but never produced—by the Secretary of our Club, Mrs Irene Waterston, assisted by her husband, our Honorary President George—who is a past proprietor of Fair Isle and who founded its Observatory. Could not somebody—possibly the N.T.S.—commission them to complete this task? It is very badly wanted—W.J.E.)

**A Check-List of the Birds of Ayrshire.** By G. A. Richards. Unpublished duplicated typescript, 1965. Pp. (4) + 40.

*The Birds of Ayrshire* by E. Richmond Paton and Oliver G. Pike was published in 1929. One of the aims of the present checklist is to augment this with the mass of material that has accumulated since then.

It is essentially a critical summary of the literature, extended from the author's personal observations in recent years, and including other relevant unpublished records when these are available. It is so up to date as to include observations for summer 1965 and contains a mass of detailed information of value to anyone interested in the birds of Ayrshire.

It is a pity that there is no introduction and general comment on the habitats and birds of the county, and no map, but this is partly because the list is designed for private circulation meantime, and not for publication. A copy has been placed in the Library of the S.O.C. at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh.

Detailed local lists of this kind are of great value, and even when it is not possible to publish them they are available to the student, so that the work and observations on which they are based are not lost. It is to be hoped that other people with extensive local information may be encouraged by the lead of those such as Mr Boase and Mr Richards to write up their knowledge and deposit it at 21 Regent Terrace.

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN.

**Binoculars & Telescopes for Field Work.** B.T.O. Field Guide No. 2. Fifth edition. First published under this title (4th edition) 1961; originally published as "How to Choose and Use Field-Glasses" by E. M. Nicholson 1950 and enlarged (2nd edition) by present author 1953. By J. R. Hebditch; revised by A. C. Atkinson. Tring, British Trust for Ornithology, 1965. Pp. 19; one halftone and one line drawing. 3/-.

An up-to-date version of this extremely useful booklet. A.T.M.

**Serengeti Shall Not Die.** New edition. First published Berlin 1959; first



English edition 1960. By Bernhard and Michael Grzimek. London, Collins, 1965. Pp. 256; 45 photographs and 14 figures. 25/-.

Somewhat outwith the scope of this journal, but a most important and highly readable classic in the cause of African game conservation. A.T.M.

## Correspondence

SIR,

### Manx Shearwaters breeding in Lewis

In their paper on the birds of Bearasay (2: 410-414) Robson and Wills record finding in August 1962 a large breeding colony of Manx Shearwaters and state that they can find no previous mention of a shearwater colony in the west of Lewis. The Scottish Bird Records Committee subsequently accepted this as the first published evidence of breeding in the Outer Hebrides (other than St Kilda) in the present century (3: 175). There used to be colonies on the three southernmost islands of the Outer Hebrides chain (Pabbay, Mingulay and Berneray) but these had become extinct by 1900.

It was, therefore, with considerable interest that I came across the following statement in a paper entitled "List of Birds observed on eight several visits to Loch Roag, Outer Hebrides, in the months of June and July, from 1886 to 1902" by David Bruce (*Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Glasgow* 1902-03, New Series, Vol. 7: 1-9):

"**Manx Shearwater.** As far as I know only breeding on the Stack of Berissay, Loch Roag. Have observed the bird at sea near the Flannan Islands, where it probably also nests."

It is unfortunate that the paper is a bare systematic list, without any introductory comment which might throw further light on this statement. It is, for instance, not clear whether the author personally visited Bearasay, though he certainly landed on some of the other islands in Loch Roag. It is worth mentioning that in the same volume of the *Transactions* (p. 92) it is recorded that, at a meeting of the Society held on 30th September 1902 "Mr David Bruce exhibited the Manx Shearwater with its egg; and also the egg of the Fulmar Petrel, brought from the Flannan Isles." The Fulmar egg must have been one of the two taken by Dr H. Langton on one of the Flannan Islands in 1902, and it seems likely that the Manx Shearwater and its egg were taken the same year on Bearasay by Bruce. At all events I think it may be safely

accepted that the Bearasay colony of Manx Shearwaters has been in existence since at least the beginning of this century.

It is possible that Harvie-Brown was aware of this colony, for in his paper bringing up to date the *Vertebrate Fauna of the Outer Hebrides* he wrote: "There is excellent evidence afforded us of at least one additional colony in the Outer Hebrides, besides those previously mentioned. It is *not the first time* we heard of it; but for those 'obvious reasons', and from the small number of the birds breeding there—some twenty pairs only—I prefer to retain the details concerning this colony" (*Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist.* 1903: 19). Bruce's paper was not published until January 1905, and his notes were evidently not available to Harvie-Brown at the time when he wrote his paper.

DOUGAL G. ANDREW.

SIR,

**The numbers and behaviour of geese in the Lothians  
and Berwickshire**

Your allowance of space was so generous and Mr Dougal G. Andrew's praise so warm that it seems ungrateful to suggest that his review (3: 350) does less than justice to Mr William Brotherton's paper in one important respect. Yet I must do so, because the matter is one for which I am responsible.

Mr Andrew questions the reliability of the figures given and notes in particular the lack of a detailed explanation of how the "arrival peak population" was derived from the observations. He implies that the apparent simplicity of the published results was achieved by glossing over the difficulties of counting geese and of comparing records made under widely varying conditions. This is incorrect. The original report was accompanied by four schedules detailing and commenting on the observations. Schedule III, "Abstract of Goose Arrival Notes, including calculation of fall from peak population by date of count," provides the missing explanations. But the schedules added fifty foolscap pages to an already lengthy paper. As editor of the *Wildfowl Trust Annual Report* I felt that another £120 was too high a price for members of the Trust to pay, so I omitted the schedules. I should have said so. Copies of the report, including the schedules, can be found in the libraries of the Wildfowl Trust, the Nature Conservancy and the S.O.C.

HUGH BOYD.

**Official Section**  
**THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB**  
**REPORT OF COUNCIL**

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

**Membership** By the end of the Session membership had reached a total of 1488, an increase of 93 over the previous year. 258 new members were enrolled while 165 resigned or failed to renew their subscriptions by 31st March. Comparative figures for five years are given in the following tables:

	31/8/61	31/8/62	31/8/63	30/6/64	30/6/65
Ordinary	852	918	1062	1194	1263
Junior	177	181	195	198	222
Honorary	6	4	4	3	3
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
	1035	1103	1261	1395	1488

Deeds of Covenant signed by members rose from 179 to 205, representing 232 subscriptions and contributing a total of £175 to the general funds of the Club. The Council thanks all those who have signed new Covenants and urges members who have not already done so, and who pay income tax at the full rate, to consider helping the Club in this way.

During the Session the Council decided that, in view of the volume and importance of the work connected with subscriptions, Mrs R. Smillie should now become Membership Secretary of the Club.

**Death** The Council records with great regret the death of William Crawford, a member of the Club for many years, whose work in the field and staunch support of the Annual Conferences will be remembered by all his friends.

**Business of Council** Five meetings of Council were held during the Session. In addition, frequent meetings were held of the special Committee formed under the Chairmanship of Dr W. J. Eggeling to organise the Bird-Islands Study Cruise for the International Ornithological Congress 1966. To meet charter and administration costs a limited company, "Scottish Ornithological Cruise Ltd", was formed by a private guarantee, which relieves the Club of all financial responsibility for the Cruise, and Mrs D. A. Harley was appointed in April as full-time Assistant Secretary with particular responsibility for Cruise administration. The terms of Mrs Waterston's appointment were altered from part-time to full-time Secretary of the Club, as from 1st April 1965.

**Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise** Preliminary arrangements for this excursion of the International Ornithological Congress 1966 were carried out early in the Session with the charter of the *Devonia* and the preparation of the brochure. Oliver and Boyd Ltd prepared an attractive brochure free of charge as the firm's contribution to the cruise. Copies of this were sent to overseas delegates, and also the National Audubon Society in New York whose President, Mr Carl Buchheister, kindly arranged to deal with preliminary enquiries in the States. Individual members of the Club also gave a great deal of their time to help with the detailed planning of the itinerary and other matters, and their help is most gratefully acknowledged. The number of early reservations from Congress delegates proved encouraging, but in view of the responsibility carried by the Club of making this excursion a success the Council hopes that as many members as possible will take part in it.

**Club Branches** As previously announced at the Annual General Meeting

on 24th October 1964, the Inverness Group, formed in 1963, was given Branch status. This was made possible by the rapid growth of attendance at the meetings, largely due to the work and enthusiasm of the Branch Secretary, James MacGeoch. A full programme of lectures was carried out during the winter in each Branch and Group and the Council thanks all the lecturers for their help, and also Branch Office-Bearers and Secretaries for arranging an excellent programme of field excursions during the summer. The members of the Dumfries Branch are also thanked for their contribution to the success of the weekend Club excursion to the Solway in February.

**Annual Conference** The seventeenth Annual Conference, held in Dunblane in October, was attended by about 250 members and guests. Papers were given and films shown on the theme of conservation by Dr W. J. Eggeling, A. E. Smith, M. D. England and I. J. Ferguson-Lees.

**"Scottish Birds"** Four numbers of the Journal were published during the year and the number of exchanges and overseas subscriptions were increased. P. J. B. Slater accepted an invitation to become an Assistant Editor and he has undertaken the responsibility of compiling the Current Notes in each number. Advertisement revenue, promoted by Dr T. C. Smout, has continued to increase.

**Scottish Bird Records Committee** The Committee met once during the Session under the Chairmanship of D. G. Andrew, and the Review for 1964 will be published in *Scottish Birds*.

**Club Library** By means of a generous grant from the Russell Trust (already reported in *Scottish Birds* 3: 281) the Library Committee was able to purchase a complete set of the *Ibis* for the sum of £780. Other valuable gifts received from members included many books and papers from Dr D. A. Bannerman, and a copy of Sir Frederick Jackson's *Birds of Kenya Colony and the Uganda Protectorate* from J. B. Laws. The Council thanks all the donors most warmly for these gifts. Other important acquisitions during the years were *Fauna Orcadensis* (Low), *A History of Sussex Birds* (Walpole-Bond), *Game Birds of Sweden and Norway* (Lloyd) and *Birds of the Labrador Peninsula* (Todd), all purchased from the Library Fund.

Mr Ritchie Seath accepted an invitation from the Council to act as Honorary Librarian of the Club and to serve on the Library Committee.

**Bookshop** By the end of the Session books to the value of over £2200 had been sold through the Club bookshop. Special displays of books were taken to the Annual Conference of the Club, and also the Annual Conference of the British Ornithologists' Union held in Scarborough, where over £120 worth of books were sold.

**Scottish Centre** Many visitors from home and overseas have again visited the Centre for information. A party of American ornithologists led by Mrs Joel Massie was entertained to a reception by members of the Edinburgh Branch Committee in June. Meetings of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the World Wildlife Fund, the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, and the Isle of May Committee were also held in the Centre in addition to informal meetings of Club members and discussion groups.

**Scottish Wildlife Trust** Facilities were again provided for office accommodation for the Secretary of the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

For the Council, IAN D. PENNIE, President.

## TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB

The twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Hotel Dunblane, Perthshire, on Saturday, 23rd October 1965 at 6

p.m. Dr I. D. Pennie, President of the Club, presided over an attendance of over one hundred members.

**Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from Rev. J. M. McWilliam, an Honorary President of the Club, and Lt.-Col. W. M. Logan Home.

**Minutes** The Minutes of the twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting, held in Dunblane on 24th October 1964, were approved and signed.

**Business Arising. Proposed Reserve in Portugal.** A cheque for £25 representing the sum collected at the seventeenth Annual Conference had been forwarded to the Secretary of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Council had been assured that this donation would in due course be used for the purpose for which it was intended. **Telegram to Mr Brezhnev** No acknowledgment had been received in reply to the telegram sent to the new President of the U.S.S.R.

**Report of Council** The Report of Council for the past Session, presented by the Chairman, was adopted.

**Election of Honorary Member** In view of his long service to the Club and to ornithology in Scotland, the Council had decided to elect Mr Henry Boase, Invergowrie, an Honorary Member of the Club. Mr Boase had accepted the invitation with great pleasure, and the meeting warmly approved the Council's decision.

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

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

**Election of new Council Members** In the absence of any other nominations, Miss Valerie Thom, Perth, and Mr William Brotherston, Edinburgh, were unanimously elected to Council in place of Dr J. W. Campbell and Mr Alastair Macdonald, who were due to retire by rotation.

**Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise** The Chairman invited members to give their fullest support to the cruise, by applying for places on it, and also by helping in any way that might be required later by the Cruise Committee.

**Daily Bird Counts** At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Henry Mayer-Gross asked members present to assist in the Daily Bird Counts organised by the British Trust for Ornithology.

**Next Conference** It was unanimously agreed that the next Conference should be held in Dunblane in preference to a city.

**Lending Library** Mr Ian F. Stewart asked the Chairman if it would be possible to issue a list of books contained in the Club Lending Library. The Chairman agreed that this would be considered at a later date when the Club staff were less busy with Cruise and other matters.

**Scottish Wildlife Trust** Mr Bernard Gilchrist, Organising Secretary of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, thanked the Council for providing office accommodation for the Trust in the Scottish Centre since the Trust was formed until its removal to new premises the previous week, and said how much he had appreciated the value of daily contact with the Club and the R.S.P.B.

**Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust** Mr Pat Sellar asked if the Club would consider making an annual grant to the Trust. The Chairman said that an annual subscription was already given. The whole question of grants from the Club was, however, under consideration, and the possibility of a grant to the Trust would be reconsidered when our policy was determined.

**Votes of Thanks** The Chairman moved a warm vote of thanks to all those who had helped with the Conference, and in particular to Mr Alas-

tair Macdonald, retiring Council Member, who had given such valuable assistance each year in the Conference Office and in many other ways, and to Mr James Smillie for all his help in the Conference Bookshop. This was warmly accorded and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman on the motion of Lt-Col. J. P. Grant.

### COUNCIL AND OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE CLUB FOR SESSION 29

**Hon. Presidents :** David A. Bannerman, O.B.E., LL.D., Sc.D., F.R.S.E., Sir Charles G. Connell, W.S.; Rev. John Morell McWilliam, M.A.; George Waterston, O.B.E., F.R.S.E.

**President :** Ian D. Pennie, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.

**Vice-President :** W. J. Eggeling, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E.

**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, P. J. B. Slater.

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

**Council :** William Brotherston, Dr G. M. Dunnet, H. A. Maxwell, Dr D. H. Mills, J. H. B. Munro, C. K. Mylne, G. L. A. Patrick, A. I. Smith, R. T. Smith, Miss V. M. Thom.

**Branch Representatives to Council :** J. M. S. Arnott (Glasgow); William Austin (Dumfries); Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame (St Andrews); D. W. Garvie (Aberdeen); H. A. Maxwell (Inverness); Mrs A. E. S. Scorgie (Ayr); J. Hunter Sutherland (Dundee); Miss O. T. Thompson (Edinburgh).

### BRANCH AND GROUP OFFICE-BEARERS

**Aberdeen :** Chairman, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards; Vice-Chairman, J. Edelsten; Secretary, Miss Florence Grieg; Committee, Alexander Anderson, D. W. Garvie, J. L. Riddell.

**Ayr :** Chairman, G. A. Richards; Vice-Chairman, S. L. Hunter; Secretary, Dr M. E. Castle; Committee, Miss J. E. Howie, R. M. Ramage, Mrs A. E. S. Scorgie, A. G. Stewart.

**Dumfries :** Chairman, William Austin; Vice-Chairman, A. D. Watson; Secretary, H. M. Russell; Committee, J. K. R. Melrose, Derek Skilling, John Young, J. H. Young.

**Dundee :** Chairman, J. Hunter Sutherland; Vice-Chairman, J. E. Forrest; Interim Secretary, J. E. Forrest; Committee, F. D. Graham, Miss J. Stirling, Ronald Summers, D. B. Thomson.

**Edinburgh :** Chairman, A. T. Macmillan; Vice-Chairman, M. K. Hamilton; Secretary, Miss Olive Thompson; Committee, Tom Delaney, M. J. Everett, Miss Nancy Gordon, C. P. Rawcliffe.

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

**Inverness :** Chairman, H. A. Maxwell; Vice-Chairman, C. E. MacDuff-Duncan; Secretary, James MacGeoch; Committee, W. M. Fernie, W. M. Morrison, L. W. Payne, Dr Maeve Rusk, Mrs A. M. Wilson.

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

**Thurso :** Chairman, J. M. Gunn; Secretary, D. M. Stark.

### 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, Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, Dr I. D. Pennie, Kenneth Williamson, George Waterston, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Dr W. J. Eggeling (Convener), Ritchie Seath (Hon. Librarian), Dr I. D. Pennie, George Waterston.

### SCOTTISH BIRD-ISLANDS STUDY CRUISE COMMITTEE

**Chairman :** Dr W. J. Eggeling.

**Committee :** D. G. Andrew, M. K. Hamilton, Alastair Macdonald, J. H. B. Munro, C. K. Mylne, Dr I. D. Pennie, Dr & Mrs Charles Waterston, George Waterston.

### WEEKEND EXCURSION TO DUMFRIES

An excursion has been arranged with the County Hotel, Dumfries, for the weekend 4th to 6th February 1966, to see the geese on the Solway.

Accommodation: inclusive terms, (a) £48.6d (including 10% service charge) as follows—bed on Friday 4th; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and bed on Saturday 5th; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 6th; (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.

Members may bring guests and should book direct with the Manager, County Hotel, Dumfries (tel. 5401), 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 winter months. Members who wish to participate should meet promptly at 10 a.m. at City Square, Dundee, after previously informing the Secretary, J. E. Forrest, 5 Glamis Place, Dundee (tel. 66664), in order that sufficient transport may be arranged.

Sunday 9th January 1966—Barryburn.

Sunday 6th February 1966—Lintrathen Loch.

Sunday 6th March 1966—Forfar and Rescobie Lochs.

### CHANGES IN BRANCH MEETINGS

**Glasgow Branch :** Will members please note that the date of the April meeting has been changed to Monday 4th April, as the 11th is a public holiday.

**Edinburgh Branch :** Members attending the Edinburgh Branch are asked to note that the meeting on 12th April will be a Members' Night. This change has been made because George Waterston will now be giving a public lecture on the West Greenland Expedition 1965 in the Usher Hall on 7th December. This lecture is sponsored by the Club and will be in aid of Club funds.

### CLUB BOOKSHOP

Members are invited to shop for their Christmas books in the Club Bookshop which carries a large stock of natural history titles. Among the new books recently published, the following are in stock:

- Birds, Birds, Birds** (Bruce Campbell and others, 1965) 12s 6d.  
**Birds of the Palearctic Fauna**, Vol. 2 (Vaurie, 1965) 7 gns.  
**The Bird Table Book** (Tony Soper, 1965) 21s.  
**Birds of Town and Village** (Campbell & Ede, 1965) 6 gns.  
**Bird Watching** (Peter Clarke, 1965) 10s 6d.  
**The Concise British Flora in Colour** (Keble Martin, 1965) 35s.  
**Fair Isle and its Birds** (K. Williamson, 1965) 30s.  
**The Harvest that Kills** (Coleman-Cooke, 1965) 25s.  
**The Life and Death of St Kilda** (Tom Steel Jnr., 1965) 21s.  
**The Living Air** (Jean Delacour, 1965) 45s.  
**Treasure of Kenya** (Macdonald & Loke, 1965) 84s.  
**Water Birds with Webbed Feet** (Geroudet & Barclay-Smith, 1965) 42s.  
**Birds of the Atlantic Islands**, Vol. 2 (Bannerman) will be published on 29th Dec.  
**The Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe** (Peterson, Mountfort & Hollom; New Edition, 30s) will not now be published until early in 1966.

### MISCELLANY

**Hon. Member** Members and friends of Henry Boase will be pleased to hear that he has accepted the invitation from Council to be elected an Honorary Member of the Club (see Minutes of 29th Annual General Meeting). Mr Boase has been a member for many years and has written many valuable papers on the birds of his area, in Angus, Perthshire and Fife.

**Marquetry Picture** The winner of the marquetry picture of a Golden Eagle, made by James Smillie and donated by him at the Annual Conference, was Miss E. Slidders, Dundee. The sale of tickets realised £5 towards Club Funds.

### THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

#### Revenue Account for the year ended 30th June 1965

INCOME—	Year to 10 Months 30/6/65 to 30/6/64		
Subscriptions received for year ... ..	£1628	7 9	£1521
Income Tax recoverable on Covenanted Subscriptions	174	14 5	153
Dividends and Interest received ... ..	208	7 6	156
Surplus on Book Shop (Sales £2174) ... ..	603	14 10	339
Sales of "Scottish Birds" to non-members ... ..	83	6 5	75
Sundry Sales ... ..	122	13 2	72
Contribution from Scottish Wildlife Trust Ltd. towards facilities granted by Club ... ..	52	0 0	17
Donations received ... ..	2	10 0	18
	£2875	14 1	£2351



## EXPENDITURE—

Branch expenses including lectures ... ..	£284	5	2	£236
Travel expenses of Council Members and of Delegates to Conferences ... ..	55	8	7	57
Secretarial Services ... ..	843	18	9	625
Office Expenses ... ..	266	16	11	282
Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection: Club's share of running expenses including £100 annual contribution to House Fabric Fund ... ..	363	16	0	355
Cost of Books purchased for Library ... ..	133	13	10	114
Cost of publishing "Scottish Birds" (less advertising revenue £249) ... ..	335	12	11	352
Net Cost (Surplus) of Annual Conference ... ..	5	10	3	(23)
Subscriptions Paid ... ..	15	2	0	14
Sundry Purchases ... ..	110	13	4	50
	£2414	17	9	£2062
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet</b> ... ..	460	16	4	289
	£2875	14	1	£2351

## Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1965

	As at 30/6/65	As at 30/6/64
<b>Accumulated Surplus:</b>		
As at 30th June 1964 ... ..	£1825	13 0
<b>Add:</b> Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ... ..	460	16 4
	£2286	9 4
<b>Made up of:</b>		
Cash: In hands of Secretary ... ..	11	1 9
In Royal Bank of Scotland ... ..	634	18 4
In Royal Bank of Scotland No. 2 A/c. ... ..	2	17 8
In Edinburgh Savings Bank ... ..	346	9 3
In hands of Cruise Fund ... ..	8	17 3
	£1004	4 3
Book Shop Stock at valuation ... ..	313	11 0
Debts due to Club ... ..	174	9 6
	£1492	4 9
5% Defence Bonds ... ..	500	0 0
Loan to Renfrew County Council at 6½% repayable 1965 ... ..	0	0 0
Safeguard Industrial Investments Ltd.—700 Ord. Shares of 5/- each at cost ... ..	507	19 11
	£2500	4 8
<b>Less:</b>		
Subscriptions paid in advance ... ..	£56	5 0
Donation from the late Miss E. A. Garden— amount not yet expended ... ..	28	8 1
Debts due by Club ... ..	129	2 3
	213	15 4
	£2286	9 4

**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
						<u>£2000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>£2000</u>

**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
						<u>£2000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>£2000</u>

**Note:**

£976, 4/4d representing receipts less expenditure to 30th June 1965 was held in S.O.C. No. 3 A/c. with the Royal Bank of Scotland on behalf of the Cruise Fund.

**House Fabric Fund—Summary of Accounts for year to 30th June 1965**

Year to 10 Months  
30/6/65 to 30/6/64

**RECEIPTS—**

Balance as at 30th June 1964	...	...	...	...	...	£151	6	6	£287
Year's rent from Royal Society for Protection of Birds	...	...	...	...	...	100	0	0	100
Year's rent from Mr & Mrs George Waterston	...	...	...	...	...	100	0	0	100
Annual Contribution from S.O.C. Revenue Account	...	...	...	...	...	100	0	0	100
Special Contribution from S.O.C. Revenue Account	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	60
Miscellaneous interests	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	8	3
						<u>£454</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>£650</u>

**EXPENDITURE—**

Repairs and maintenance (including redecoration of Mr & Mrs Waterston's living room—£110)	...	...	...	...	...	£114	19	9	£177
Expenditure out of Harvey Donation on new Lending Library	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	161
Property Burdens	...	...	...	...	...	162	7	4	150
Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	14	12	0	11
						<u>£291</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>£499</u>
On deposit with Dunedin Building Society	£124	7	6						
At credit of account with Fraser, Stodart & Ballingall, W.S.	...	38	11	7					
						<u>162</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>151</u>
						<u>£454</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>£650</u>

**Note:**

The balance of £162:19:1 includes £38:13:5 unexpended from the Harvey Donation.

EDINBURGH, 4th October, 1965—I have audited the foregoing revenue accounts for the year to 30th June 1965 and the Balance Sheet as at that date. I have accepted as correct the subscriptions and other receipts 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.

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## THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

**T**HE Scottish Ornithologists' Club was founded in 1936 and membership is open to all interested in Scottish ornithology. Meetings are held during the winter months in Aberdeen, Ayr, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and elsewhere at which lectures by prominent ornithologists are given and films exhibited. Excursions are organised in the summer to places of ornithological interest.

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

There are no entry fees for Membership. The Annual subscription is 25/-; or 7/6 in the case of Members under twenty-one years of age or in the case of University undergraduates who satisfy the Council of their status as such at the time at which their subscriptions fall due in any year. Joint membership is available to married couples at an annual subscription of 40/-. "Scottish Birds" is issued free to members but Joint members will receive only one copy between them.

The affairs of the Club are controlled by a Council composed of the Hon. Presidents, the President, the Vice-President, the Hon. Treasurer, the Editor and Business Editor of "Scottish Birds", the Hon. Treasurer of the House Fabric Fund, one Representative of each Branch Committee appointed annually by the Branch, and ten other Members of the Club elected at an Annual General Meeting. Two of the last named retire annually by rotation and shall not be eligible for re-election for one year.

A Scottish Bird Records' Committee, appointed by the Council, produce an annual Report on "Ornithological Changes in Scotland."

An official tie with small white Crested Tits embroidered on it can be obtained in dark green or in navy blue by Members only from Messrs R. W. Forsyth Ltd., Princes Street, Edinburgh, or 5 Renfield Street, Glasgow, C.2 at a cost of 17s 9d post extra. A small brooch in silver and blue can be obtained for the use of Members of the Club. Price 2s 6d each from the Secretary, or from Hon. Branch Secretaries.

Forms of application for Membership, copy of the Club Constitution, and other literature is obtainable from the Club Secretary, Mrs George Waterston, Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7. (Tel. Waverley 6042).

### CLUB-ROOM AND LIBRARY

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

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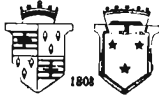
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of Vertebrate Zoology  
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