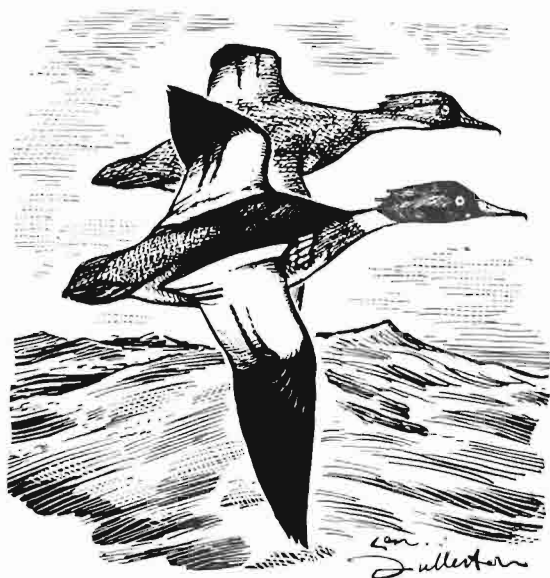


Scottish Birds



The Journal of The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Vol. 4 No. 4

Winter 1966

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Scottish Birds

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB



Volume 4 No. 4

Winter 1966

Edited by A. T. MAOMILLAN 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.

Editorial

"The Birds of the Western Palearctic." Perhaps more than any other factor in recent years the publication of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* led British amateur birdwatchers to look at birds in a wider context than whether or not they were on the British List. The book filled a great need for a good pocket guide to the birds that might be seen on a continental holiday. Translated into numerous languages it proved not only a spur to birdwatchers to explore all over Europe but also the means whereby they could identify the birds they saw with comparative ease.

Correct identification is however a mere preliminary to more serious topics. Here there is an equally great need for everything to be brought together. Ornithology has surged ahead in the last 20 years and a tremendous amount is known of the basic facts about European birds; but it is scattered through so many books and journals that much of it is inaccessible and easily overlooked.

The editors of *British Birds* (59: 321-324) have just announced most ambitious plans to put this right in the early 1970s with a seven-volume work covering the whole of Europe west of Russia plus the Mediterranean countries of North Africa and east to Turkey. The promised contents make one's mouth water, and it will obviously be one of the major ornithological works of the next decade. One can readily believe that it will do as much to channel serious ornithological study as the *Field Guide* has done to stimulate an international outlook in birdwatching.

"Nature Trails 1966." This is the title of a new Council for Nature publication. Well over 50 trails (12 in Scotland) are listed county by county with details for each trail of how to get there, when it opens, its length, habitat and interest, who is responsible for it, and where to get a guide or permit.

This useful list may be had for 1/6d from the Information Officer, Council for Nature, c/o The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London N.W.1. A well planned nature trail is a most valuable means of interesting all sorts of people in natural history, and it is good to see that the idea is spreading.

Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise. The organisers of the cruise can now be very glad that all the work is over and that it was such a success. Yet many S.O.C. members must still have only a hazy idea of the whole operation. We hope that Nancy Gordon's account, illustrated with photographs and the first cartoons to be published in *Scottish Birds*, will bring it to life for those who did not go on the trip.

S.O.C. Annual Conference. The nineteenth annual conference of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club was held in Dunblane at the end of October. Somehow Irene Waterston had found time to organise it at the same time as dealing with the climactic stages of the cruise and compiling an extensive winter programme of branch lectures. As usual it was a highly enjoyable and valuable weekend. R. K. Cornwallis and Dr Staffan Ulfstrand linked up skilfully in their contributions on irruptive migration, stimulating an excellent animated discussion of the subject. Stanley Cramp presented a broad survey of changes in the ranges of birds in Europe and of some of the factors involved. There were films and slides of the cruise, Japanese films of cranes and albatrosses, and an absolutely superb prize-winning film on "The Private Life of the Kingfisher," top favourite with cruise passengers three months earlier.

Waxwings. The invasion of Waxwings in the autumn of 1965 was greater than any recorded before. Records from more than 1000 people are being worked upon by M. J. Everett, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7. From as early as the middle of October 1966 there have been reports of another invasion and all records of this one also will be welcomed by Mr Everett if they have not already been sent to the editor.

Collared Doves. A small press notice early in September indicated another milestone in the spread of the Collared Dove. Officially it now becomes an ordinary common British bird. No longer will it be specially protected with a £25 penalty; its value will be reduced to the standard £5. This is an entirely realistic move. One may well wonder whether this bird may yet complete the highly improbable transition from specially protected Schedule 1 rarity to outlawed Schedule 2 pest.

Current literature. Recent papers and reports of special interest to Scottish ornithologists include:

Nature Conservancy Unit of Grouse and Moorland Ecology, Twelfth Progress Report, 1966. Pp. 76+. Duplicated typescript. Studies of Red Grouse from many angles, and also of Ptarmigan, Black Grouse, Capercaillie, Golden Eagle, Crow, and roe and red deer.

A census of the Great Crested Grebe in Britain 1965. Ian Prestt and D. H. Mills, 1966. *Bird Study* 13: 163-203. Half the Scottish population still in Fife, Perth and Angus, but total of 311-351 birds at end of May 1965 was about twice that in 1931.

The plumage of the Fulmars of St Kilda in July. W. R. P. Bourne, 1966. *Bird Study* 13: 209-213. Suggestion that birds in wing moult with mottled mantles might be senile, discussed in relation to mechanics of population expansion.

Catching wildfowl by artificial light. R. H. Dennis, 1966. *Ann. Rep. Wildfowl Trust* 17: 98-100. Fair Isle techniques.

Movements and flock behaviour of Barnacle Geese on the Solway Firth. E. L. Roberts, 1966. *A.R.W.T.* 17: 36-45. Data on Caerlaverock flock—up from 1000 in 1957-58 to 3700 in 1965-66.

Winter food habits of Capercaillie in north-east Scotland. F. C. Zwickel, 1966. *Brit. Birds* 59: 325-336. Eats mainly Scots pine.

Purple Sandpipers feeding above the littoral zone. Letters from E. Waters and C. J. Feare, 1966. *Brit. Birds* 59: 345-348. Habit noted in Shetland and O. Hebrides.

The seabirds of the Forth islands. R. W. J. Smith, 1966. *Seabird Bull.* 2: 58-60. Changes in past ten years.

Recording breeding seabirds on Sumburgh Head. M. Carins, 1966. *Seabird Bull.* 2: 63-65. Preliminary discussion.

Colour marking of Sandwich Terns. A. J. M. Smith, 1966. *Seabird Bull.* 2: 49-51. Methods used in Aberdeenshire study.

The status of the Chough in the British Isles. Richard Rolfe, 1966. *Bird Study* 13: 221-236. Scottish population dropped sharply to about 70 birds, all in Argyll, in 1963 (11 breeding pairs found).

The migrational dispersal of British Blackbirds. D. W. Snow, 1966. *Bird Study* 13: 237-255. Fresh analysis of ringing data.

Waxwings in Scotland. M. J. Everett, 1966. *Birds* 1: 92-93. Preliminary summary of 1965-66 greatest-ever invasion.

The Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise— an intimate account

NANCY J. GORDON

(Plates 28-39)

On a calm sunny day in the middle of July 1966 the cruise ship *m.s. Devonia* steamed slowly down the Clyde with over 900 ornithologists on board from all over the world, on the start of a memorable tour of Scottish bird-islands, planned and executed by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. Nearly 400 of the passengers were delegates to the International Conference on Bird Preservation and to the 14th International Ornithological Congress held in Cambridge and Oxford before and after the cruise, which was the official excursion for both these gatherings.

The huge success of the venture may be summed up by one delegate's remark: "I have attended the Congress; but I have lived the Cruise." Add to this the many verbal thanks and over a hundred letters, some quite lyrical, which flowed in afterwards, praising especially the planning and organisation and the friendly atmosphere on board. "To describe the excellence of the planning and organisation to those who were not there would be almost impossible," as David Wilson put it in *B.T.O. News*. There are three good reasons for a success greater than anyone had dared to hope: the hours, days and months of work and careful planning by the Cruise Committee—above all by the secretary, Irene Waterston; the carrying-out of all these plans on board by cruise staff and a band of willing helpers (mostly S.O.C. members); and, last but not least, the cheerful cooperation of passengers and crew and the spirit of goodwill (helped by good weather) which pervaded the whole cruise.

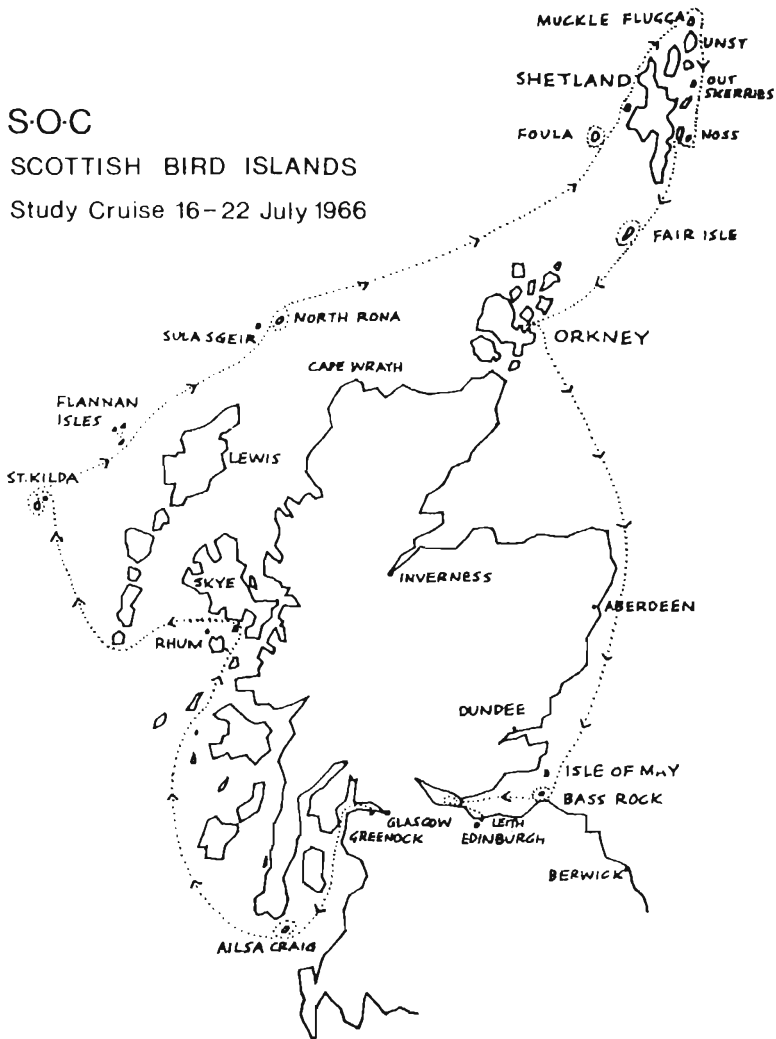
Many cannot have realized quite how much preparation was necessary. The burden borne by Irene Waterston could best be illustrated by a photograph of her hard at work behind a typewriter, stacks of letters, a card index and numerous files, seen dimly through a haze of smoke late at night in the basement office at Regent Terrace.

To go back to the beginning, it is reputed (but may be disputed) that it was James Fisher who first thought of the cruise, way back in 1962 when Britain was chosen as the venue for the next I.O.C. At this stage it was hoped that the Congress might be held in Edinburgh, but later that year Oxford was chosen and the S.O.C. (with great abandon) agreed to organise a water-borne excursion for the delegates, later extended to include a day in Edinburgh and a reception

S.O.C.

SCOTTISH BIRD ISLANDS

Study Cruise 16-22 July 1966



at the University. By the end of 1962 the British India Company had been approached and m.s. *Devonia* provisionally booked for mid July 1966. Things lay fairly dormant for the next two years, but by January 1965 an official Cruise Committee had been formed from S.O.C. Council members, with Irene Waterston as secretary, Joe Eggeling as chairman and cruise leader, and George Waterston, Maxwell Hamilton, Ian Pennie, Alastair Macdonald, Chris Mylne and Ian Munro as members. They were assisted then and later,

particularly on sub-committees, by Dougal Andrew, Charles and Marjorie Waterston, and others. Meetings were held on average once a month, but in the early days and in the end towards C-Day, when the pace was hottest, there were meetings two or three times a week, and even on a Sunday. In the earliest stage, financing the cruise was the main worry, but a solution was found by floating a Limited Liability Company (S.O. Cruise Ltd) in August 1965 with guarantors from within the Club. Prices had been decided—£30 for dormitory; £54 to £75 for cabin passengers—and a good deal of work had been put into preparing a leaflet about the cruise. This brochure, printed free of charge by Oliver & Boyd Ltd, well known as publishers of many fine bird books, as a contribution towards the cruise, bore an attractive vignette of St Kilda on the cover. Copies were posted in April 1965 to Oxford and New York—where the Audubon Society kindly agreed to handle distribution and replies—for sending on to Congress applicants. Press notices went out to editors of ornithological journals for their summer issues, and appeared again in autumn and winter issues. From then on the bookings rolled in; priority was given to Congress delegates and overseas applicants, but several hundred other ornithologists would be needed to fill the ship, and it was some months before the target seemed certain to be accomplished. In the event, fears were groundless and by October all 200 cabin places were booked and about half the dormitory ones; the others soon filled and about 140 applicants were disappointed. The day before the cruise there was still a waiting list of 40 who were prepared to take a last-minute cancellation. Dealing with bookings, cancellations, forms and cheques consumed much of the time of Irene Waterston and her assistant Fiona McLaren (specially recruited to the S.O.C. staff), not to mention the volume of other paperwork and telephone calls. One lengthy headache was the sorting of people into cabins and dormitories, and choosing dormitory leaders and sleeping companions.

Meanwhile, and assisted by the generous advice of the National Trust for Scotland, based on their wide experience of previous big ship cruises, the committee continued to deliberate on many other matters: planning the itinerary, possible stops and visits (distances, times and tides permitting); shore excursions to Rhum, Shetland and Orkney, involving guided walks, visits to archaeological sites, wet-weather shelter, special opening of shops, hire of buses, and even a specially constructed landing stage; preparation of a booklet about the places to be visited; arranging and timing the programme of films and lectures to fit in with meals and commentaries (and of course choosing and button-holing the lecturers); collecting material for exhibitions; choosing, cata-

loguing and packing books from the S.O.C. bookshop for sale on board; arranging press publicity for before, during and after the cruise; planning the final day in Edinburgh; preparing folders for each passenger to contain a name label, a cafeteria card (for dormitory passengers), cruise booklet, Rhum leaflet, bookshop list, special issues of *Scottish Birds* (for delegates), leaflets on the *Devonia* timetable and facilities, excursions and Edinburgh Day, and a letter of welcome from the cruise leader.

There was a slight panic at the time of the seamen's strike, until it was confirmed that, as an educational cruise, *Devonia* would not be affected. Perhaps the worst struggles were with the various transport arrangements, not only fleets of buses to Greenock, from Leith, on excursions, and to the reception, but also rail transport to the Congress after the cruise, for which special overnight sleepers were needed. This requirement led to a two-year struggle, the train being satisfactorily guaranteed only one month before the cruise, after the committee had taken the matter to their local Member of Parliament. Train troubles did not end there, and it will suffice to say that the confusion at Waverley at the final departure to Oxford was in no way the fault of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, and that by a miracle it did not visibly dampen the strongly surviving spirit of goodwill.

So much for the 'before' and 'after', and even then only some of it—the rest can be told only by the organisers, by 16 fat box files, and by the bills for paper, telephone calls, cables and stamps.

At 5 p.m. on the eve of C-day an advance party left Regent Terrace for Greenock with a van load of books and an assortment of equipment and exhibition boards, much of this loaned by the National Trust for Scotland, in readiness for loading on board next morning. Eight persons slept that night in various corners of the S.O.C. headquarters and were joined by other staff on board the coach at 6.30 a.m. on the 16th, leaving Alastair Macdonald in charge of the fleet of buses from Edinburgh. The staff arrived at Greenock in time for their first orders from George Waterston. Armed with coloured flags, they began the task of welcoming and sorting the passengers into cabin and dormitory queues, and in little more than an hour all 900 were shepherded on board and consuming coffee. A special tribute is due to Alec Warwick, Jim Nicholson and Allen Aitken who came through to Greenock as part of the advance party and assisted in the preparation of the exhibition rooms, direction signs and map studies. All three had past experience of National Trust for Scotland cruises and knew exactly how best these things could be arranged.

At noon, 26 tons of anchor and cable were lifted and we slid past the sister ship *Dunera* down a calm Clyde towards Ailsa Craig, in brilliant sunshine. George Waterston opened the batting from the bridge with a commentary over the Tannoy as we passed the Cumbrae Islands, after which the coastline and islands of Scotland continued to unfold before our eyes accompanied by relevant (though occasionally irreverent) commentaries from the bridge on birds, other wildlife, geology, land forms, archaeology, vegetation, land use and history, given by James Fisher, Joe Eggeling, Charles Waterston, Ronald Miller, Sandy Fenton, George and Irene Waterston, James MacGeoch, Nancy Gordon and Tom Huxley, with others chipping in. Two of our overseas guests, Walter Thiede and Raymond Lévêque, gallantly undertook translations into German and French of nearly all the commentaries. A few spicy words were added here and there by the Captain, as when he hinted at the alternative name chosen for the Muckle Flugga by his fellow seamen, lying off that treacherous headland in submarines during the war. All this information, over the loudspeakers and in the cruise booklet, was some compensation for being unable to land on many of the enticing islands—Ailsa Craig, Soay, Canna, St Kilda, the Flannans, Sula Sgeir, North Rona, Foula, Unst, Fair Isle, the Isle of May, the Bass Rock and other Forth islands. However, we had excellent views of most of these (several of them National Nature Reserves) and saw a large proportion of Britain's seabirds, some of them concentrated in huge cliff-nesting colonies: Puffins, Guillemots, Razorbills, Kittiwakes, Fulmars, gulls, terns, skuas and six of the eight Scottish Gannet colonies, which represent half the world population of this species. Many other birds were seen—even the most common of them giving pleasure to overseas visitors who had never seen, for instance, a Skylark. Most of the seabirds were fairly unconcerned about the presence of an extra-outsized Gannet peering at them with 1800 eyes; a greater response was evoked from the inhabited islands, especially from lighthouses, which answered *Devonia's* fog-horn salute with waved handkerchiefs and hoisted flags.

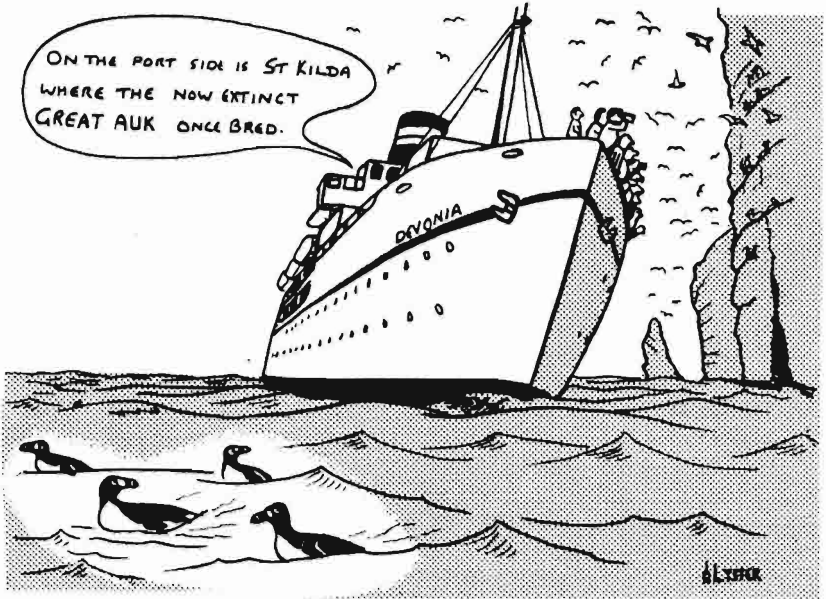
Sunday dawned sunny and warm for the first shore excursion, to the Isle of Rhum. The setting was perfect with distant blue views of Skye and the Cuillins, the mainland mountains from Kintail to Ben Nevis, and the surrounding islands of the Inner Hebrides. All went ashore in the ship's boats, assembled in front of the massive Kinloch Castle, and dispersed on excursions varying in energy from the ascent of Hallival and Askival or the walk to Kilmory Bay to a gentle potter along Kinloch Glen and the Bay, or just a snooze on the castle lawns. Kinloch Castle itself, with its period furniture, fantastic baths and mechanical organ,

proved a great attraction. The mountaineers saw the burrows of the huge Manx Shearwater colony on the higher slopes, and Red-throated Divers on the high lochans, as well as many red deer. Back on board, we cruised up Loch Scavaig in the sunset, close to the hills of Skye, passing Soay and Canna before night fell.

Next morning, in thick mist, cruising apparently in the open Atlantic, we suddenly saw a fantastic sight—great rock stacks rising five or six hundred feet sheer out of the water in the middle of nowhere. To many of us this was our first view of the St Kilda group, and the swirling mist made it memorably impressive. The huge seabird colonies, especially the world's largest single colony of Gannets on Boreray and nearby stacks, were just visible and easily audible. Gannets formed a welcoming party, hundreds following *Devonia* as she circled the stacks and squeezed through the narrow gap between Stac Lee and Stac an Armin.

Long after the last Gannet had returned to its ledge we sighted the Flannan Isles and were told the grim story of the mysterious disappearance of three keepers from the lighthouse soon after it was built in 1899. We saw a variety of seabirds on the islets, rocks and stacks, but not the rare Leach's Petrel which nests there. Towards dusk the ship passed a third Gannet colony on the rocky island of Sula Sgeir where the men of Ness from Lewis have an annual expedition to collect young Gannets or 'gugas' for food. James MacGeoch, who has been on several of these expeditions, gave us fascinating accounts of both this and the next island, North Rona, which we approached at dusk. It was still light enough to see some of its grey seals, numbering about 7500 in the breeding season—one seventh of the world population.

By breakfast-time on Tuesday morning we were nearing Shetland; the magnificent 1200 ft cliffs of the Kame of Foula loomed out of the mist, and those who were stationed at the stern of the ship were rewarded with the unusual sight of hundreds of Great Skuas following the wake as we circled the island. Nearly a thousand pairs of these 'Bonxies' now breed on Foula. Cruising up the west coast of Shetland we saw the hump of Ronas Hill, the highest point of these islands, with its forbidding steep and barren cliff slopes; then as we passed the sharp Ramna Stacks, lying off the north tip of Mainland, James Fisher ordered all binoculars to be trained on the largest, where for several years he has been eagerly awaiting proof of nesting by the small group of Gannets which has been frequenting them. Alas, he will have to wait at least another year. By the time we reached Hermaness, its wonderful seabird cliffs were completely shrouded in thick mist; even the top of Muckle Flugga lighthouse was



invisible. It was the same when we rounded the Noup of Noss, where we could hear and smell the Gannets, Kittiwakes and Guillemots but could not see them. At 8 p.m., as we dropped anchor in the fog, three of us and the First Officer prepared to be lowered in one of the ship's boats from the davits high up on C Deck. Shortly afterwards we departed into the mist to reconnoitre the Noss shore for the proposed landing of 250 passengers next morning. This feat, never before attempted from the *Devonia* or *Dunera*, depended entirely upon the weather and the efficiency of a landing stage built by Tom Moncrieff of the Bressay Ferry Services. Both of these were unknown quantities throughout the months of planning, but were risks that in the end proved well worth taking.

A floating platform of planks and barrels, roped to the shore, greeted our advance party on Tuesday evening. After many soundings the crew was satisfied that the landing would be possible. Meantime our guide to Noss had come out to *Devonia* from Lerwick with the Lord Lieutenant, the Editor of the *Shetland Times*, and a group of musicians to welcome the ship to Shetland and entertain passengers as she sailed towards Bressay Sound. The Noss survey party followed later, guided by the Bressay foghorn and consuming cheese sandwiches, whisky and coffee.

Next morning over 600 passengers disembarked at Lerwick, where they had a chance to explore its shops, the new museum (under the direction of Tom Henderson) and the

nearby Clickhimin Broch. Both in the morning and afternoon a fleet of buses took off for a tour of the south Mainland, which included a visit to Jarlshof and a view of crofting townships, land reclamation schemes, peat cuttings, Mousa Broch, and the Lochs of Spiggie and Brow. Some of our visitors were lucky enough to see Red-necked Phalaropes. While all this was going on, *Devonia* had gone across to Noss and in ideal calm and sunny weather the ship's crew and boats had carried out a most efficient transfer of 250 passengers onto its beach via Tom Moncrieff's landing stage. Even Captain Downer dared to come ashore, but went back to his ship in time to sound the signal to remind stragglers to return to the boats by 2 p.m. Everyone had a good view of the seabird colonies on the Noup of Noss, and the Great and Arctic Skuas on the moorland; some saw Red-throated Divers on the hill lochan. Stage by stage in the afternoon the Noss and Lerwick passengers were safely returned to ship and *Devonia* lifted anchor at 5.30 p.m. for the next leg of her voyage. By the time we had finished dinner she was circumnavigating Fair Isle, where the islanders were out to welcome us with flares at the South End. Later, beside a magnificent bonfire near the bird observatory, Roy Dennis and visiting birdwatchers waved from the cliff edge and received a message of thanks from George Waterston over the Tannoy.

Thursday dawned another sunny day for our visit to Orkney, but a stiff breeze and our distance from Kirkwall made the journey in the ship's boats rather wet and bumpy. Buses from all corners of Orkney carried 450 people on a tour of Mainland in the morning and another 450 in the afternoon. Despite the shortage of time and the inevitable difficulties of narrow lanes, nearly everyone had a chance to see some of the prehistoric sites of Orkney—the Standing Stones of Stenness, Ring of Brogar and Skara Brae; also Puffins, Kittiwakes and Guillemots on the cliffs of Marwick Head, and Pochard on the Loch of Skail. Orkney's R.S.P.B. Warden, Eddie Balfour, stopped some of the buses near a Hen Harrier's nest on the moorland edge, and a number of people had excellent views, both of nearly fledged young and of the parent birds in flight. As in Shetland, the croft fields and hillsides were bright with flowers. In Kirkwall many of our passengers took advantage of the guided tours of St Magnus Cathedral, arranged by the Custodian, and also saw the remains of the sixteenth-century Bishop's Palace and Earl's Palace. The return trip to the *Devonia* was if anything wetter and windier than in the morning, and many rushed at once to seek internal central heating in the bar.

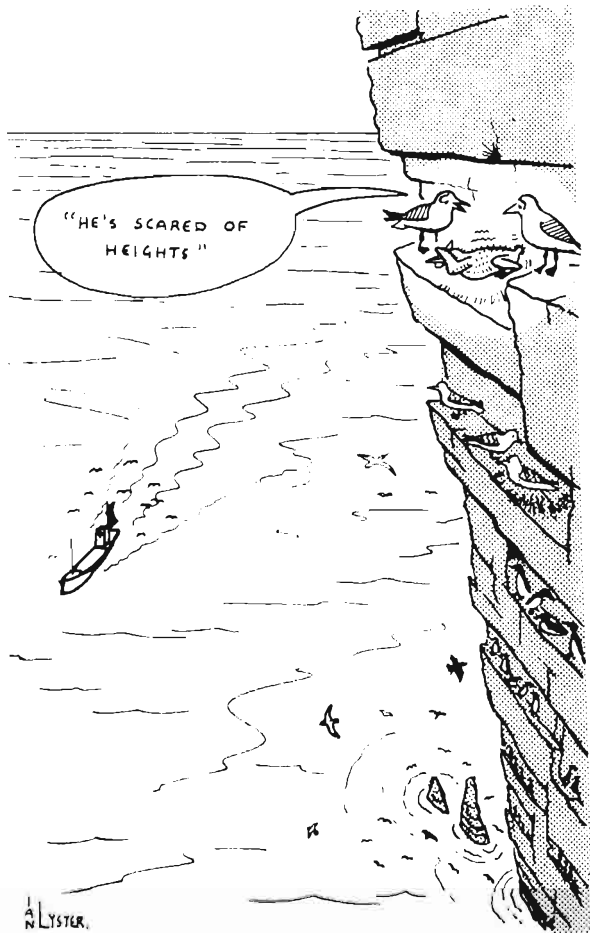
As the final day of the cruise dawned we were approaching the Bell Rock in thick mist, which began to lift as we reached the Isle of May, where Joe Eggeling gave us a lively account

of the island's history and birds, and we were greeted by the lighthouse keepers and the occupants of the bird observatory. Then, in brilliant sunshine, the Bass Rock, teeming with Gannets, loomed ahead, and now we had seen the six main Gannet colonies of Scotland. After passing the Forth islands—Craigleith, the Lamb, Fidra, Inchkeith, Inchmickery—with their varied seabirds (especially terns, Shags and Puffins), we sailed under the two Forth Bridges—the *Devonia's* mast seeming to clear the centre spans by only a few millimetres, and slowly turned around to make for Leith. At this point all passengers were mustered on the foredeck and Joe Eggeling gave votes of thanks to all the organisers and helpers, the ship's Captain and crew, and the lecturers, commentators and translators, each of whom in turn took a bow from the bridge. Thanks on behalf of the delegates and passengers were expressed by Roger Tory Peterson, Jean Delacour and Karel Voous in American, French, Dutch and German.

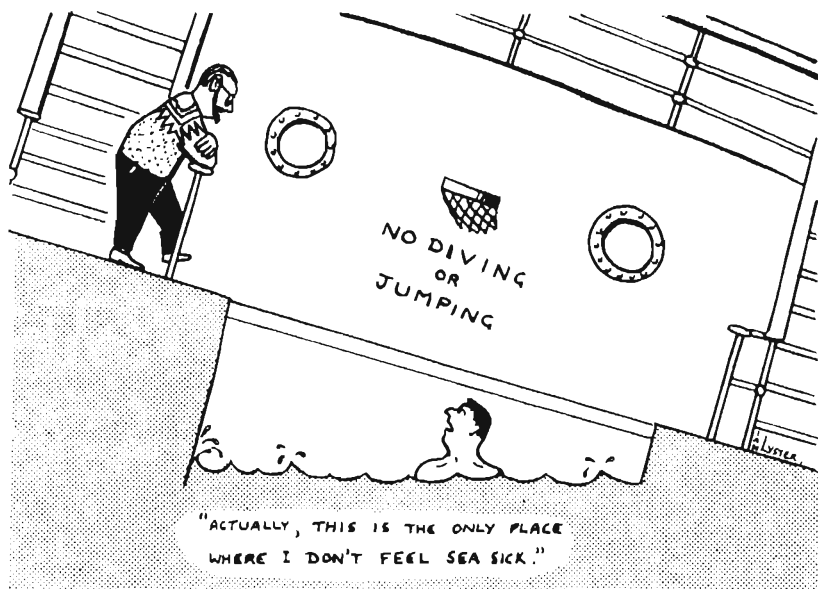
Nearly at the end of the cruise, but before disembarking at Leith, a word about the ship itself. The m.s. *Devonia* (12,796 tons), now run as an educational cruise ship by the British India Steam Navigation Company, was built on the Clyde in 1938 as a troop ship, and it was not until 1962 that she was converted to take 200 cabin and 834 dormitory passengers, with 300 officers and ratings. It was Captain F. A. J. Downer's last voyage in *Devonia*—throughout the cruise he was most kind and helpful to everyone and very tolerant of the increasing number of commentators cluttering the space on his bridge. The Asian crew, mainly from northeast India, are usually employed for 6-month periods; it was noted that at times their cheerfulness exceeded their skill in tying knots!

The organisation on board *Devonia* was a result of careful planning beforehand, and efficient execution by willing helpers. As James Fisher remarked: "What impressed me more than anything else was the complete unselfishness and cooperation of all members of the S.O.C. in establishing such a splendid atmosphere of friendliness on board." Many of the domestic arrangements were planned on the model of the National Trust for Scotland's Adventure Cruises, and a great deal of thought had to be given to the timing of meals, lectures and commentaries. Nearly every day there was a staff meeting to decide the details of the next day's programme, when to sell excursion tickets, when to fit in a repeat of a popular film, how to speed up meal queues, when to open the bookshop, and so on. Each evening, the next day's programme had to be stencilled for issue to all passengers.

A typical day in the life of a dormitory passenger began with 'lights on' at 7 a.m. and the muted strains of Tchaikov-



sky or of Sibelius's *Finlandia* floating over the Tannoy. Some of the taller passengers were quite glad to get out of bed in the mornings because of the slightly cramped conditions and the proximity of their neighbour's feet or face, otherwise all were comfortable. In fact several cabin passengers were heard to complain that they were missing all the fun by not being in a dormitory. It is hoped that James Fisher will publish his survey of the different greeting habits of husbands and wives emerging from their separate dormitories each morning. The meal system was a study in itself—the dormitory passengers had to be divided into four sittings for each meal in the cafeteria, so were issued with grey, red, yellow and pink cards, each colour called to the meal (in a



different order each day) by the Tannoy, with S.O.C. helpers marshalling the queue at each meal. Considering the numbers catered for, the meals were good and very substantial, the courses neatly fitted into the compartments of a metal tray, served by a row of cheery Indian crew all talking like Peter Sellers. Packed lunches were equally large (I was still consuming accumulated Kit-Kat, apples and biscuits several days after the cruise) and were efficiently handed over at the head of each gangway as the passengers climbed down to the ship's boats.

Of the other facilities on board, one of the most popular was surely the bar, where some distinguished ornithologists found their true habitat, and were seldom seen to migrate to other parts of the ship. The swimming pool—only a few cubic feet of it—proved very popular after the first brave venturer had established the fact that the water was not near freezing but nearer boiling point (in fact its temperature rose by some accounts to near 100°F). At times a number of eminent ornithologists and others could be seen wallowing or playing a sort of water polo therein, providing an alternative spectacle to diving Gannets or Bonxies. Some disappointment was registered when the pool was suddenly emptied at odd times of day (or night).

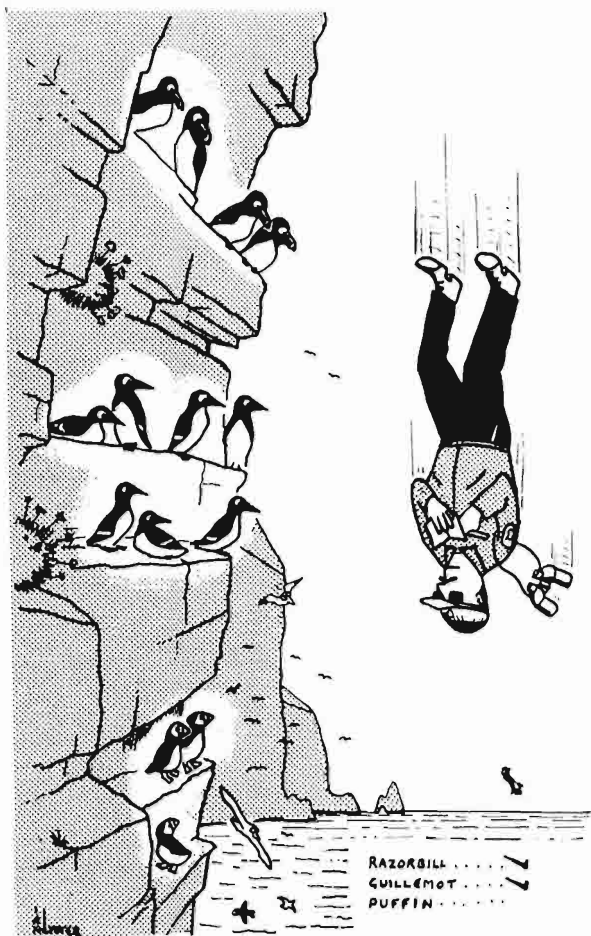
It took time to discover secluded spots and good vantage points on board; the stern deck and rails proved ideal for watching and photographing wheeling birds following the

ship; the bows were good for watching the sea; the foredeck plethora of ropes, funnels and pipes, for seeing over people's heads; the bridge for watching other people watching the bridge; the bar for observing the true character of ornithologists; and the cruise office for watching an endless sequence of heads in small square holes.

To turn to the more serious aspects of the cruise: apart from sleeping, eating, drinking, swimming, sunbathing, shopping, watching birds, listening to commentaries and going on excursions, there was a full programme of lectures and films, all of which were very well attended, and covered just about every aspect of the life of the Scottish highlands and islands, and many other topics further afield. Nearly all the speakers had to repeat their lectures (in the large assembly hall and smaller lecture rooms), and the halls were compulsorily emptied after each talk, to overcome the tendency of passengers to stay (or sleep?) in the same seat throughout an evening.

Most popular were the first two lectures on Saturday evening—Joe Eggeling on "The Isle of Rhum" and Charles Waterston on "Coastal Scenery of Scotland." On other days we heard Ian Pennie on "A 17th Century Doctor's Island Travels," Chris Mylne on "Foula," Sandy Fenton on "Daily Life in Orkney and Shetland" and "Scottish Country Life," Charles Waterston again, on "Prehistoric Sites in Orkney and Shetland," Joe Eggeling again, on "Conservation in Scotland," George Waterston on "Fair Isle," David Lea on "Conservation and Wildlife Reserves" and Ronald Miller on "The Geographical Background." The bird films were all very popular; they included James MacGeoch's "Sula Sgeir Gannets," Bryan Nelson's "Gannet City," Eastman's "Private Life of the Kingfisher" and the R.S.P.B.'s "Birds of Strathspey." More-general films about wildlife and conservation were "Journey into Spring," "The Last Stronghold," "The Grey Seals of North Rona" (James MacGeoch), "Island Hills" and "A Summer Safari" (Gordon Hollands), "The Wild Highlands," "The Vanishing Coast" and, standing out among all these, Roger Tory Peterson's "Wild Europe." A number of very Scottish, non-ornithological films occupied the late-night viewing time—"The Maggie," "Whisky Galore," "Laxdale Hall," "Greyfriars Bobby," and "Geordie." Added to this were two sessions of Any Questions, and a Brains Trust held in the cafeteria, which found great difficulty in retaining an atmosphere of serious discussion, lapsing frequently into unseemly frivolity.

Tireless S.O.C. staff and helpers manned the Cruise Office nearly all day long, and the bookshop for many hours each day. The shop did a roaring trade in postcards and sold a



large number of books. Quite a number of the authors were on board, and it is not surprising that Peterson's *European Field Guide* was a best-seller, followed closely by Scottish books on St Kilda, Fair Isle, Orkney and Shetland, and the Highlands and Islands. In all, books to the value of about £1000 were sold and many orders received, thus helping considerably the Club's finances. The bookshop staff, Ruby and Jim Smillie, Cathie MacGeoch and Evelyn Fenton, also managed to ensnare and enroll nearly 50 new members for the S.O.C. Next door the R.S.P.B., B.T.O., Nature Conservancy, National Trust for Scotland, Seabird Group, and Royal Naval Birdwatching Society had exhibits and sold their wares or spread their gospel.

Stationed for much of the time in the bookshop was the President of the S.O.C., in plain clothes, ostensibly getting people to sign an album as a memento of the cruise, but surreptitiously gathering donations from passengers. Dr Pough of the U.S.A. was involved in a similar activity, and the word spread like wildfire that there would be a presentation to Irene and George Waterston after the cruise of a pair of Leitz Trinovid binoculars each, with the surplus going to the "Waterston Exploration Fund." This took place just before the final dinner in the Assembly Rooms and was apparently quite unexpected by the recipients—a much deserved reward for all their hard work.

The end of the cruise came with our arrival in Leith on Friday evening. Many passengers left, much unloading was done, but the Congress delegates did not disembark until 7 a.m. on Saturday (all except one passenger who was found fast asleep in one of the dormitories by the cruise leader doing the rounds to collect lost property). The rest of the lost property contained some quite amusing items, some of which have still to be claimed. Has no one yet missed their dressing gown (man's), or a pair of wellingtons in a shopping bag?

Whilst we were enjoying ourselves on board *Devonia*, Tom Delaney, Peter Slater and helpers were preparing in Edinburgh for the invasion of delegates. The Assembly Rooms were decorated with exhibitions of paintings and photographs; binoculars and cameras were on display; and there were exhibits from the Glasgow Museum and Aberdeen University. Excursions round the city, to Duddingston, the Zoo and the Museum had been organised, and several small groups were taken to the border hills to see Red Grouse. In the late afternoon a programme of dancing and singing by members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and the Silver Cross Club was followed by dinner in the Assembly Rooms. There was then a mass migration to the University's magnificent Upper Library (with Audubon's *Birds of America* on display) for an official reception by Professor Michael Swann, at which the Senior Past President of the I.O.C., Dr Stresemann, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of delegates, just before they all left for Waverley Station and the trains to Oxford. Dr Ian Pennie, President of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, was Master of Ceremonies throughout the whole of Edinburgh Day.

The passenger list of the cruise included many of the world's leading ornithologists; it was certainly the first time that so many had been brought together in such circumstances. No more than a few have been mentioned here, but what a volume could be compiled from the many anecdotes

and photographs—both of birds and of people. Some cartoons that appeared from time to time, and a few photographs, are reproduced to illustrate this account of the cruise. It is hoped that they convey something of the atmosphere of this memorable occasion. Unfortunately it has seemed kindest to the victims to suppress all the funniest stories and most remarkable 'quotes,' but everyone who took part in the cruise will have his own memories to add between the lines.

Of the 905 passengers, 392 were conference delegates—about 400 were from overseas from 37 countries. Every country in Europe was represented, including Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. There were about 200 visitors from America, and others from India, Venezuela, Chile, Egypt, Israel, Bermuda, Hong Kong, Japan, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

There could be no finer tribute to the success of the cruise, nor greater reward for all who worked so hard to achieve it, than the pleasure it gave to so many people.

Review of ornithological changes in Scotland in 1965

DOUGAL G. ANDREW

Introduction

This is the thirteenth report of the Scottish Bird Records Committee, and it is concerned with records *published* during 1965. The periodicals searched, with the abbreviations used in this report, are as follows:

SB	<i>Scottish Birds</i> , Vol. 3: 217-454
BB	<i>British Birds</i> , Vol. 58 <i>Bird Study</i> , Vol. 12
FIBOR	<i>Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report</i> , 1964
BN	<i>Bird Notes</i> , Vol. 31: 213-404 <i>Ibis</i> , Vol. 107
Bull BOC	<i>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club</i> . Vol. 85 <i>Sixteenth Annual Report of the Wildfowl Trust</i> , 1963-64
ENHS	<i>Edinburgh Natural History Society News-Letter</i> , 1965

Reference will also be found to *A Check-List of the Birds of Ayrshire (B Ayr)* by G. A. Richards—an unpublished duplicated typescript of which a copy has been placed in the S.O.C. Library (reviewed SB 3: 434). Abbreviations are also used for the following works:

BofS	<i>Birds of Scotland</i> , 1953
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- GDSBS *Geographical Distribution and Status of Birds in Scotland, 1928*
 ASNH *Annals of Scottish Natural History, 1892-1911*
 SN *Scottish Naturalist, 1871-1964*
 FIBOB *Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin, 1951-*

There have been no changes in the composition of the Committee. The members are listed in our last report (SB 3: 390), which also lists references to previous reports.

Birds new to Scotland

[RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*. Drake seen, Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, 20th June to end July 1965 (SB 3: 422). This North American species is commonly kept in captivity, and fair numbers are now breeding in a feral condition in England: it must be assumed that all birds occurring in Scotland are of captive origin unless there is positive evidence to the contrary.]

Birds new to areas and counties

- RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. One found dead, Portmore Loch, 7th March 1965 (SB 3: 367); first for Peebles.
- BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*. One found shot, Reay, 29th January 1964 (SB 3: 267); first for North Coast and Caithness. One, Kilmory, Rhum, 15th March 1960 (SB 3: 377); first for Inner Hebrides. One, Loch Mhor, 29th July 1965 (SB 3: 422); first for East Inverness (an earlier reference to an occurrence in this division (SN 1933: 74) appears to be based on a record from Loch Lochy (SN 1932: 168) and this locality is in South Inverness).
- MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria puffinus puffinus*. One flying up the Beaully River near Beaully, 27th August 1965 (SB 3: 422); first for East Inverness.
- PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*. One, Fair Isle, 17th-22nd June 1965 (BB 58: 391; SB 4: 81); this (the fifth Scottish record and the first since 1917) is the first for Shetland faunal area and Fair Isle.
- WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*. One, near Innerwick, 16th-17th March 1965 (SB 3: 406); first for East Lothian and also the first for Forth apart from the pair that nested on St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, in 1416 (BofS: 333). The possibility that this bird had escaped from captivity cannot be ruled out.
- SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*. Immature, near Crieff, 16th July 1964 (SB 3: 310); first for Tay and North Perth. One, Isle of May, 16th September 1964 (SB 3: 285); first for Isle of May. Immature, mouth of Findhorn, 19th October 1964 (SB 3: 310); first for Moray Basin and Moray (not

- Nairn as has been stated—BB 58: 32).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas crecca carolinensis*. Drake, Barr Loch, 10th-19th April 1965 (SB 3: 408); first for Clyde and Renfrew.
- RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*. Female, Loch Mahaick, 19th September 1965 (SB 3: 422); first for South Perth, though the possibility that this bird had escaped from captivity cannot be ruled out.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. Drake, Gartmorn Dam, 8th May 1965 (SB 3: 422); first for Clackmannan.
- SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*. Drake off Moray coast (the locality was off Findhorn), 14th October 1964 (SB 3: 252); first for Moray Basin and Moray. Drake, Luce Bay, 23rd February 1965 (SB 3: 364); first for Wigtown.
- HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Pair, Fair Isle, 11th January-2nd February 1965 (BB 58: 352; SB 4: 83); first for Shetland faunal area and Fair Isle. Pair, near Wick, 18th April-1st May 1965 (BB 58: 352; SB 4: 84); first for North Coast and Caithness. It seems likely that these records both refer to the same two birds.
- PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser arvensis brachyrhynchus*. One, Hunterston, 26th November 1957 (B Ayr: 10); first for Ayr. We can find no published record to support the description of the species as "Occasional" in this county (GDSBS: 230), and Paton & Pike in their *Birds of Ayrshire* (1929) give no record for the county.
- BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. One, Baddinsgill, 8th November 1964 (SB 3: 263); first for Peebles. Two out of three shot (one had been ringed in Spitsbergen in July 1963), Bowhouse, Alloa, 4th January 1965 (SB 3: 320); first for Clackmannan.
- CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*. Fifteen near Devonmouth, 18th June 1965 (SB 3: 423); first for Clackmannan.
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. The 1956 breeding record (see under "First breeding records" below) also provides the first occurrence for Clackmannan, antedating an October 1962 record accepted in an earlier report (SB 3: 171) as the first for the county.
- ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*. One, Durness, 18th September 1965 (SB 3: 423); first for North Sutherland.
- MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*. Adult or near-adult, Tarriefessock, 31st May 1952 (B Ayr: 13); first for Ayr. Adult female, Loch Sween, 18th May 1964 (SB 3: 268); first for Argyll faunal area and North Argyll.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One, St Kilda, 29th March 1965 (SB 3: 369); first for St Kilda.

- HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*. Male found dead, Stornoway woods, 9th May 1965 (SB 3: 369); first for Outer Hebrides faunal area.
- QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. One calling, Thornhill, early August 1965 (SB 3: 424, corrected SB 4: 116); first for South Perth.
- LITTLE BUSTARD *Otis tetrax*. Male, Kidsdale Farm, Luce Bay, 29th April 1964 (SB 3: 253); first for Solway and Wig-town.
- LONG-BILLED OR SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus* or *griseus*. One, West Ardmore Bay, 15th August 1964 (SB 3: 255); first for Dunbarton.
- BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. One, Loch Fleet, 22nd July 1965 (SB 3: 424); first for South East Sutherland.
- WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. One, New Cumnock, 5th September 1965 (SB 3: 425); first for Ayr.
- SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. One, Tarradale, 31st August 1965 (SB 3: 425); first for East Ross.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. One, Clerklands Loch, 29th October-8th November 1964 (SB 3: 430); first for Roxburgh.
- BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*. One, Gartmorn Dam, 12th September 1965 (SB 3: 427); first for Clackmannan.
- COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. First appeared at Bo'ness about 1960 (SB 3: 295); first for West Lothian. First appeared at Banff in 1960 or 1961 (SB 3: 296); first for Banff. Two first seen at Inverbervie in 1961 (SB 3: 296); this antedates and replaces the 1963 record from Duntottar Castle accepted in an earlier report (SB 3: 173) as the first for North Kincardine. The 1962 breeding record at Arbroath (see under "First breeding records" below) is also the first occurrence for Angus. Two, Cambuslang, March 1963 (probably some months earlier) (SB 3: 298); this antedates and replaces the September 1963 record from the same locality accepted in an earlier report (SB 3: 173) as the first for Lanarkshire. One, Killearn, 23rd April 1963 (SB 3: 298); first for West Stirling. One, Munches, Dalbeattie, 27th May 1963 (SB 3: 298); first for Kirkcudbright. Two, Clattering Brig, June 1963 (SB 3: 296); first for South Kincardine. One, Elphin, early in June 1963 (SB 3: 299); first for North West Highlands and West Sutherland. Pair, Upper Duntuilim, throughout summer 1963 (SB 3: 299); first for Skye. Two, Iona, August 1963 (SB 3: 299); first for North Argyll. One, Shildaig, about second week March 1964 (SB 3: 299); first for West Ross. One, Dornoch, 27th April 1964 (SB 3: 297); first for South East Sutherland. One, Kilcreggan, 14th May 1964 (SB 3: 299); first for Dunbarton. Single birds at Berriedale, Lybster and Thurso

and pair at Wick, all in May 1964 (SB 3: 297); first for North Coast and Caithness. One, Aird Torrisdale, 10th June 1964 (SB 3: 297); first for North Sutherland. One, Machariorch House, June 1964 (SB 3: 299); first for South Argyll. Two, Dollar, 4th August 1964 (SB 3: 295); first for Clackmannan.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*. One caught, North Ronaldsay, 8th June 1965 (SB 3: 418); first for Orkney.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*. One, Eigg, 18th-26th May 1965 (SB 3: 373); first for Inner Hebrides.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*. Pair has been present in central Ayrshire since 1961; nest-holes have been bored but breeding has not yet been proved (B Ayr: 29); first for Ayr. An earlier record of one heard calling by the Girvan Water on 19th July 1925 was subsequently placed in square brackets by the observer, E. R. Paton, in his *Birds of Ayrshire*: 93. One, Walkerburn, 30th March 1965 (SB 3: 322); this is the first published record for Peebles, but in fact records go back to 1953 when a pair was seen at Traquair (T. MacLaren per George Waterston) and a pair probably bred in Flora Wood near Walkerburn in 1961 and 1962 (J. Ballantyne). One near Alva, 16th April 1965 (SB 3: 373); first for Clackmannan.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*. Male, Iona, 27th May 1965 (SB 3: 374); first for Argyll faunal area and North Argyll. Male, Carloway, Lewis, 29th May 1965 (SB 3: 374); first for Outer Hebrides faunal area.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. One, Stroma, May 1965 (SB 3: 374); first for Caithness.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*. Two, Stornoway Castle woods, 2nd April 1965 (SB 3: 374); first for Outer Hebrides since July 1906, when several family parties were seen in the same locality and the species was evidently breeding (ASNH 1907: 19). Two, Whalsay, 29th September 1965 (SB 3: 430); first for Shetland other than Fair Isle.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. One showing the characteristics of the black-bellied continental race, *C. c. cinclus*, North Ronaldsay, 4th April 1965 (SB 3: 374); first record of this race for Orkney. Dippers have not bred in Orkney since the mid 1940s. This bird was therefore certainly a migrant and it seems reasonable to discount the possibility of its having been an abnormally-plumaged bird of British stock (see SB 1: 336).

GREENLAND WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoea*. At least one trapped and a few present on Island Roan during the period 26th August/20th September 1963 (SB 3: 405); first identification of this race for North Sutherland.

- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. One, St Kilda, 1st May 1965 (SB 3: 375); first for Outer Hebrides faunal area and St Kilda.
- GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. One heard singing and seen, East Inverness, 8th-20th June 1964 (SB 3: 315); first for Moray Basin and East Inverness. It is also the first record for the Scottish mainland and has the unusual distinction of being the second-equal Scottish record—another bird having been trapped on Fair Isle on the same date (FIBOR 1964: 18).
- [AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola*. One, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 3rd May 1965 (BB 58: 352); this record was subsequently withdrawn by the observer.]
- ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. A record of a bird which was either this species or a Melodious Warbler *H. polyglotta*, seen at Elie, 8th September 1965 (SB 3: 429), has been followed by a definite Icterine Warbler, Fife Ness, 2nd-5th September 1966 (SB 4: 323); first for South Fife.
- BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. One, Reay, 22nd September 1965 (SB 3: 429); first for Caithness.
- CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. Two singing, Lochinver, 11th June 1964 (SB 3: 323); first for West Sutherland. Two, Island Roan, 2nd September 1963 (SB 3: 405); first for North Sutherland.
- FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*. Male, Seafield, Lerwick, 11th June-3rd July and 29th August-27th September 1965 (BB 58: 391; SB 4: 99); this, the third Scottish record, is also the first for Shetland faunal area.
- PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. Male, Kishorn, 12th June 1965 (SB 3: 376); first for West Ross.
- LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*. One found dead, North Ronaldsay, 30th May 1965 (SB 3: 420); this is the first published record for Orkney, but an earlier record has subsequently been published—one, Finstown, 11th November 1962 (SB 4: 232).
- [BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*. Male, Whalsay, Shetland, 1st-5th June 1965 (BB 58: 391; SB 4: 103); a male Red-headed Bunting *E. bruniceps* was present in the same area at the same time, and it seems very likely that both birds were escapes from captivity.]
- RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. One, South Uist, 7th May 1965 (BB 58: 352; SB 4: 104); first for Outer Hebrides faunal area.

First breeding records for areas and counties

- BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*. Pair present at one

- loch in Ayrshire in 1955 and bred in 1956, hatching two chicks, neither of which survived (*B Ayr*: 1); first breeding for Ayr.
- RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. Pair laid two eggs (both subsequently taken) at a loch in Ayrshire in 1957 (*B Ayr*: 1); first breeding for Ayr.
- GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. Has bred regularly since 1950 at one locality and more recently elsewhere in south Ayrshire (*B Ayr*: 9); first breeding for Ayr.
- GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. A pair (no doubt from the expanding feral colony in Wigtownshire) bred at a loch in Ayrshire in 1963 and 1964 (*B Ayr*: 10); first breeding for Clyde and Ayr.
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. Pair at occupied nest, King's Seat Hill, 14th May 1965 (*SB* 3: 410); this is the first published breeding record for Clackmannan, but a much earlier record has subsequently been published—a nest with three eggs near Dollar in May 1956 (*SB* 4: 264).
- HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. Pair bred in Ayrshire in 1960, hatching three young (*B. Ayr*: 13); first breeding for Ayr this century.
- OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. A pair or two breed each year on an island in the Tweed below Rutherford House (*SB* 3: 48); first breeding for Roxburgh.
- CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Pair with at least three young found in Lewis, 20th June 1965 (*SB* 3: 370); first breeding for Outer Hebrides faunal area.
- BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. Pair hatched at least two young at a locality in southern Scotland in June 1964 (*SB* 3: 256); eggs were again laid in the same locality in 1965 (*SB* 3: 424); first breeding for southern Scotland.
- GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. Pair bred, Handa, 1964, hatching one chick which was killed shortly before fledging (*SB* 3: 313); first breeding for North West Highlands and West Sutherland.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Breeding on Craigleith was first suspected in 1963 and proved in 1965 when a single chick was found (*ENHS* 1965: 14); first breeding for East Lothian since the old Bass Rock colony became extinct some time after 1851.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. Pair breeding, near Cove, 28th May 1965 (*SB* 3: 430); first breeding for North Kincardine.
- ARCTIC TERN *Sterna macrura*. Two or three pairs bred (two nests found), Largo Bay, July 1949 (*SB* 3: 313); first breeding for South Fife.
- PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. Egg located in one of three bur-

rows on Inchkeith, 1965 (*ENHS* 1965: 14; *SB* 4: 246); first breeding for South Fife.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. One pair nested at Arbroath in spring 1962 (*SB* 3: 296); first breeding for Tay and Angus. Three birds first noticed in Hamilton Place, Perth, in May 1962 and two free-flying young observed there later that summer (*SB* 3: 295); first breeding for North Perth. Now breeding at several localities in East Ross, and breeding is thought to have first taken place at North Kessock, Tarbat and Invergordon in 1962 (*SB* 3: 297); first breeding for East Ross. Several pairs bred at Gullane and Aberlady in 1963 (*SB* 3: 294); first breeding for East Lothian. One pair bred at Stonehaven in 1963 (*SB* 3: 296); first breeding for North Kincardine. In 1964 there were three nests at Garlieston (*SB* 3: 298); first breeding for Wigtown, although breeding had been suspected in 1963 (but not proved as has been implied—*BB* 58: 127). Pair bred at Linlithgow in 1964 (*SB* 3: 295); first breeding for West Lothian, though there is evidence (but not proof as has been implied—*BB* 58: 114) that breeding had taken place at Bo'ness since about 1960. Pair bred at Cambuslang in 1964 (*SB* 3: 298); first breeding for Lanark. Pair bred near Campbeltown in 1964 (*SB* 3: 299); first breeding for South Argyll. Single pairs bred successfully at Dunfermline and Crail in 1964 (*SB* 3: 295); first breeding for South Fife. Pair bred at Inverness in 1964 (*SB* 3: 297); first breeding for East Inverness. Single pairs nested at Wick and Castle Mey in 1964 (*SB* 3: 297); first breeding for North Coast and Caithness. Nest with eggs at Binscarth Wood in 1964 (*SB* 3: 300); first breeding for Orkney. At least three pairs bred at Lerwick in 1965 (*BN* 31: 398); first breeding for Shetland faunal area.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. Adult singing, and later adult seen with two recently-fledged young, West Sutherland, 13th June 1964 (*SB* 3: 315); first breeding for North West Highlands and West Sutherland.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. Pair seen carrying food into thick bushes and scolding intruders, Binscarth Wood, 15th/16th July 1964 (*SB* 3: 268); first breeding for Orkney.

Records carried forward

The following records are 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).

EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*. Fair Isle, 23rd April 1964 (*FIBOR* 1964: 19).

Short Notes

Green-winged Teal and American Wigeon in Inverness-shire

On 30th December 1965 I identified an adult drake American Wigeon swimming with a flock of Wigeon off the south shore of the inner Moray Firth just east of Inverness. I last saw it on 11th February 1966, and in between it had been seen by several other people. It was identical to the one I found in the same area on 17th January 1965 (*Scot. Birds* 3: 360).

After looking at this bird on 5th January 1966 I examined a flock of 400 Teal nearby and found a drake Green-winged Teal swimming with them. It was still there on the 16th, when M. Morrison and I saw it with 340 Teal. This is the same place where I recorded a similar bird with 300-400 Teal between 5th and 22nd February 1963 (*Scot. Birds* 2: 418). It is the seventh Scottish record of this American race of Teal.

Full descriptions have been submitted to the Rarities Committee. These two American ducks are usually associated with their European counterparts when seen in the British Isles. It seems reasonable to assume that the two birds were the same ones previously recorded and had stayed with their respective flocks. The few recoveries of ducks which I have ringed at Inverness suggest that Teal and Wigeon wintering in this area migrate northeast in spring to breed in northern Europe and Russia. As it is feasible that these two American strays might interbreed with European Teal and Wigeon it will be worth looking for hybrids in future winters at Inverness.

ROY H. DENNIS.

Surf Scoter in Kirkcudbrightshire

A drake Surf Scoter was reported from Southerness on 27th December 1965. This is the same place where a drake was seen on 1st January 1964 (*Scot. Birds* 3: 195) and from 13th February to 14th March 1965 (*Scot. Birds* 3: 362).

We went to Southerness on 1st January 1966 and eventually located the bird when it flew in from the west with several Common Scoter. It settled with them and started feeding. Even at extreme range it was relatively easy to pick out, though the light shining on the backs of the heads of Common Scoter could be confusing at certain angles.

Full notes were made and have been submitted to the Rarities Committee. On both 1st and 2nd January, when we saw the drake again, we thought that there was a female present as well, but we were not able to establish this with

certainty and most subsequent observers noted only the drake. It was seen later by W. Austin, Miss P. G. Baxter, D. G. Bell and many others and stayed in the area until at least 27th February, when it was seen by A. D. K. Ramsay.

ANDREW PATERSON, D. I. REDHEAD.

King Eider in Shetland

Ferrymen crossing from Scalloway on the Shetland Mainland to Hamnavoe in Burra Isle reported seeing a duck with an orange lump on its forehead among Eiders on 19th, 20th and 21st April 1966. A gale was blowing on the 22nd and I declined an opportunity to look for the bird, as the Eiders tend to move further from the land in rough seas.

On the 23rd it was calm and bright. I left Scalloway by boat and found the bird with about 200 Eiders near the Atla Holm, a low rocky skerry off Hamnavoe. It was a male King Eider, conspicuous with the large orange knob on its forehead. The raft of Eiders swam out to sea and we followed and had excellent views of the King Eider. As we tried to get closer the flock broke in two, leaving the King Eider between them. I hurriedly took some photographs before it flew off into the distance.

Apart from the orange knob, the head was very noticeable, for the velvety grey (rather like the wing of a Common Gull) contrasted sharply with the black crowns of the male Eiders; the cheeks were green; the eyes seemed thickly set in the large angular head, which looked very wide from behind. Comparing this bird with the *Field Guide* illustration I noted that the head was slightly less blue, longer from front to back, and highest at the back, with a bigger orange shield protruding further forward. The bird seemed scarcely smaller than an Eider, although one I saw in October 1964 (*Scot. Birds* 3: 311) had been noticeably smaller. The white line on the wings did not show when it was at rest.

It rose from the water with almost the ease of a surface feeder, unlike the laborious flapping of an Eider. The black on the back was obvious now, with the white wing patches showing a narrow black line on the fore-edge.

The bird was seen again in the same area on 26th and 29th April, and after a gap it reappeared in Lang Sound, Burra Isle, on 10th, 17th and 20th June.

DENNIS COUTTS.

Black Kite in Orkney and Shetland

On 18th May 1966 a pair of Hen Harriers which I was watching in the Lyde area of Harray were joined by a Black Kite. It had a much greater wingspan than the harriers and a slightly forked tail. The flight was graceful and

buoyant and it used its flexible tail a lot. I had it under observation for well over an hour that day and again the following morning.

E. BALFOUR.

A Black Kite was first seen about noon on 27th May 1966 being mobbed by gulls near Sumburgh Airport. Subsequently it was seen throughout Dunrossness in the south of Shetland. It remained in the area until 2nd June and was seen by many people and successfully photographed by Dennis Coutts, both in the air and at bait put out at the airport.

G. D. JOY, M. CARINS.

(Detailed descriptions have been supplied for both these records, and very extensive field notes on the Shetland occurrences. Full details of these records and of others in England about the same time will be published in *British Birds* together with photographs taken in Shetland.

Although the Black Kite is a summer visitor to many parts of its range and breeds regularly as near as northern Germany, there is only one previous Scottish record—a male which was shot near Aberdeen in mid April 1901 (*Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist.* 1901: 133). There has been no acceptable British record since a bird was obtained in Northumberland on 14th May 1947 (*Brit. Birds* 40: 251).—Ed.)

Stone Curlew in Lanarkshire

On 21st April 1966 on a visit to Scotland my wife and I had good views of a Stone Curlew near Abington. I am familiar with this species, having seen it in East Anglia and in Sussex. It was standing motionless and upright on barren pasture—stony ground with weeds and low scrub—and we watched it for about two minutes before it scuttled away, head down, and disappeared over a rise. It was not seen in flight and no call was heard. I made the following field description of the bird:

Large long-legged bird with smallish rounded head; prominent staring yellow eye with white stripe below; upperparts sandy brown, streaked darker brown; crown appeared darker brown; white band clearly visible on closed wing; chin, throat and belly white; breast and flanks streaked light brown; bill short and yellow with black tip; legs long and yellow.

SIDNEY KENT.

(This is the tenth Scottish record and the first for Lanarkshire; it is also the earliest in spring by two days.—Ed.)



PLATE 28. Dr W. J. Eggeling, leader of the Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise.
16th-22nd July 1966.

Photograph by J. MacGeoch

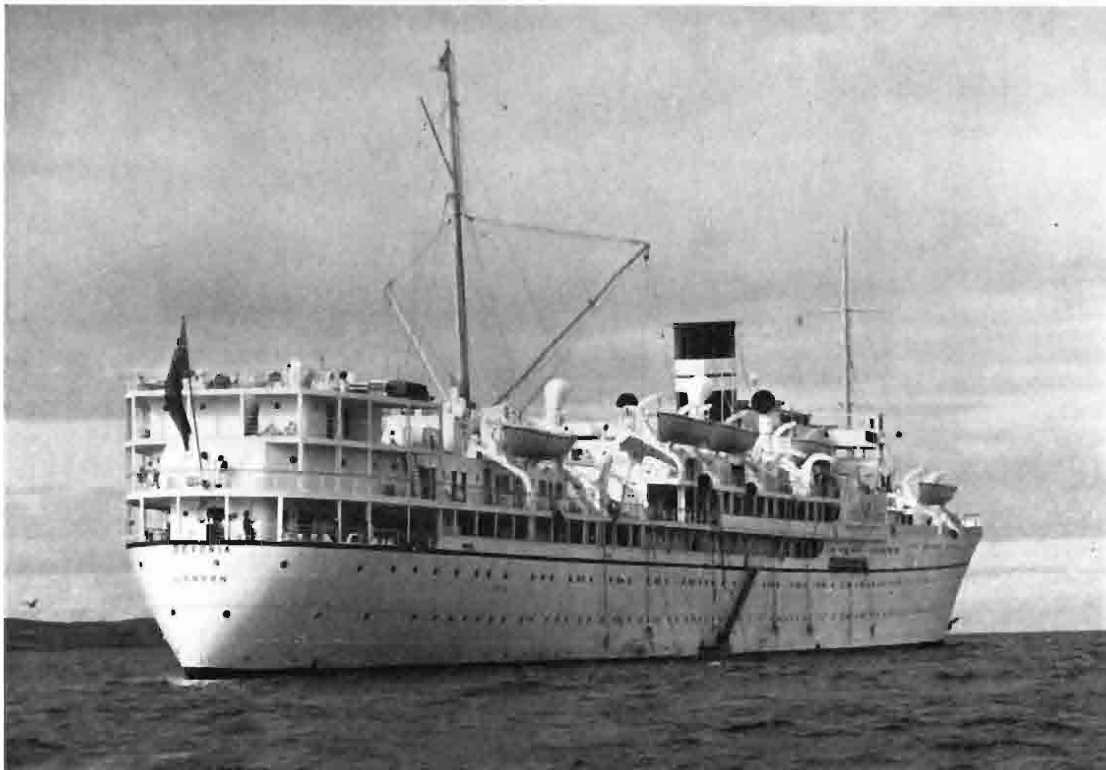


PLATE 29. The cruise ship m.s. *Devon*, 12,796 tons, built on the Clyde in 1938 and converted in 1962 to carry over 1000 passengers and a crew of 500.

Photograph by J. MacGeach



PLATE 30. Embarking at Greenock. In little more than an hour 900 passengers were shepherded on board and consuming coffee.

Photograph by J. MacGeoch



PLATE 31. Commentaries from the bridge were listened to with great attention and mention of any interesting species brought passengers crowding to the rails with a variety of optical equipment.

Photograph by C. K. Mylne



PLATE 32. The Bass Rock, sixth of the Scottish Gannet colonies visited, was seen in glorious sunshine. The Gannet *Sula bassana* takes its name from this island.

Photograph by C. K. Mlyné



PLATE 55. James Fisher, Roger Tory Peterson and George Waterston (*left to right*) were among those whose expert commentaries and lectures contributed to the understanding and enjoyment of passengers on the cruise.

Photograph by J. MacGeoch



PLATE 54. Walter Thiede (*left*) and Raymond Lévêque gallantly undertook translations of nearly all the commentaries into German and French respectively.

Photographs by J. MacGeoch



PLATE 35. C. K. Mylne with the much photographed lone Indian officer on the ship. The cheerful Asian crew came mainly from northeast India.

Photograph by J. MacGeoch



PLATE 36. Irene Waterston, Secretary of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and responsible for the detailed planning and administration of the cruise. Taken on Noss.

Photograph by J. MacGeoch



PLATE 37a. Passengers going ashore on Noss from *Devonia's* launches over a floating landing stage specially prepared for the day by Bressay Ferry Services of Shetland. More than 250 people were able to land on Noss.

Photograph by C. K. Mylne



PLATE 37b. Buses from all corners of Orkney were called in to take 450 people in the morning and another 450 in the afternoon on a tour of the local bird haunts and prehistoric sites.

Photograph by J. MacGeoch



PLATE 58. An assortment of cameras and binoculars at Marwick Head, Orkney. For many people the great colonies of cliff-nesting seabirds were a new experience and an exciting highlight of the cruise.

Photograph by J. MacGeoch



PLATE 39. The best part of 900 passengers gathered on the foredeck, and elsewhere, for speeches of thanks in English, French, German and Dutch as the ship sailed up the Forth to berth at Leith.

Photograph by Nancy J. Gordon

The Collared Dove in Scotland—some first records

All known records of the Collared Dove in Scotland to the end of 1964 were listed recently (*Scot. Birds* 3: 292-301). It is too soon for a further paper on these lines, but a lot of new records have been gathered and it seems worth keeping local lists up to date by publishing details of first occurrences and breeding records for particular faunal divisions.

Kinross. Two at Milnathort on 10th May 1966 are the first for the county (Miss V. M. Thom).

Southeast Sutherland. Up to 20 birds were resident in Dornoch by the end of June 1966; two nests found earlier (2 nestlings died in the first; 2 eggs were taken by a predator from the second) are the first evidence of breeding in the county (D. Macdonald).

Arran. One at Lamblash on 13th September 1966 is the first for the division (L. A. Urquhart).

Bute. Two on Little Cumbrae early in April 1966 are the first for the division (H. Miller).

Dunbarton. A nest with two eggs in a copper beech in Glenburn Road, Bearsden, in June 1965 is the first breeding record (J. Watson; and C. Johnston, Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, C. E. Palmar).

St Kilda. The first three records were in 1965: one appeared on a building about 2 hours after the arrival of a ship from South Uist on 29th April; one was in the village area on 25th and 26th May; and one was on Hirta on 11th and 12th June (D. Gwynne).

Shetland. At least three pairs bred in gardens in Lerwick in 1965 (first nest found at end of June) and about 20 birds were present on 3rd August 1965; this is the first breeding record for Shetland (D. Coutts).

Only a few records have been given here, but this does not mean that other reports are not of interest. All of them are being carefully filed for future use. Any notes on Collared Doves in new places, or breeding anywhere in Scotland, and details of increases and decreases, are still wanted and should be sent to the editor.

Collared Doves have now been seen in every Scottish county except Peebles and Selkirk, and, in fact, in every one of the 50 faunal divisions except these two and East Stirling, South Perth and West Inverness. They have been recorded breeding in 26 divisions, but not yet in those mentioned above nor in Roxburgh, Isle of May, Kinross, Clackmannan, North Fife, South Kincardine, North Sutherland, Kirkcudbright, Renfrew, West Stirling, Arran, Bute, North Argyll, South Inverness, West Ross, West Sutherland, Skye, St Kilda and Fair Isle.

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN.

Alpine Swift in Shetland

An Alpine Swift was seen at Compass Hill at 0800 hrs GMT on 31st May 1966 by R. A. Richardson and myself, and again two hours later by R. H. Dennis. Compass Hill is barren and 320 ft high, with a vertical cliff from the summit to the North Sea. The large swift shape, with brown wings, back, tail and breast band, and the white belly and chin, were unmistakable. The wingspan of almost 2 ft, and the rapid wingbeats alternating with long soaring glides, were almost hawklike. At times the bird was 200 ft above the summit, and at others almost at sea level under the cliffs. We were all impressed by this jet fighter of the bird world.

G. D. JOY.

(One on Unst on 13th June 1962 (*Scot. Birds* 2:249) is the only previous Shetland record.—ED.)

Bee-eaters in Orkney

On 5th June 1966 a number of people, including Dr Bruce Campbell, E. J. Williams and myself, watched three Bee-eaters in Binscarth Plantations. The birds stayed fairly close together, usually perching on the topmost twigs or high branches of half-dead trees, from which they made sallies to capture insects, mainly bumble bees, which were brought back to the perch to be prepared (removing the sting) and eaten. They called to each other a good deal, especially when moving from one perch to another. The single, repeated call note is difficult to describe but it had a liquid quality. The flight was graceful and swallow-like. These brilliantly coloured birds were quite unmistakable, with long curved beaks, projecting middle tail feathers, chestnut and orange-yellow upperparts, bright green underparts and tails, and vivid yellow throats.

It appears that they arrived about 31st May and had disappeared by 6th June. This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in Orkney.

E. BALFOUR.

(We understand that a Bee-eater, the first for the island, was recorded on Fair Isle on 13th June 1966.—ED.)

Grey-cheeked Thrushes on St Kilda and in Morayshire

On 29th October 1965 a bird flew ahead of me along Village Street, St Kilda, and began to feed in short grass

among stones. In colour it suggested a Song Thrush but it was clearly far too small, being more the size of a Robin. Apart from size it was in every respect a thrush, having a large dark eye, a moderate-sized bill and no peak to the crown (such as, say, a Whitethroat has). It moved like a Song Thrush or Blackbird, pitching forward with each hop or run and returning to a more upright stance when stopping; it also pecked for worms and other things in the same manner. It kept near cover—boulders, walls or woodpiles—and once hopped into a cleft. In colour it was olive-brown, like a Song Thrush but less yellowish, with pale buffish grey underparts. There were one or two distinct pale spots on the forewing. There were some marks on the upper breast but these could not be made out clearly until the bird faced me, when they showed as two conspicuous black moustachial stripes ending on the upper breast, where they gave way to black spots. The legs were pink.

Later in the day it rained heavily and I caught the bird in a ruined house. It was very bedraggled and had blood on the flank. It recovered when brought inside but unfortunately injured itself further by flying into the window. It fed eagerly on worms, but by evening appeared in poor condition, and it was found dead next morning.

A full description was made on the 29th after its capture. Of the soft parts, the iris was very dark brown; bill dark brown, with whitish horn base to lower mandible; gape chrome yellow, showing at base of closed beak; rictal bristles, three pairs; legs pale pinkish buff, paler on ventral surface. After it died the bird was skinned and found to be extremely thin. The skin was sent to Kenneth Williamson, who reported:

"It is a Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*. It is the fourth record for the British Isles and all have occurred during October, two early and two on 29th."

"**Description.** Upperparts from head to tail uniform dark olive-brown. Wings browner, the primaries a little paler on their outer margins, the primary coverts and alula broadly tipped blackish olive. Large pear-shaped buffish white spots on two median coverts in the left wing, and one in the right wing, indicate unmoulted juvenile feathers. Similar but smaller spots, almost worn off, remain at the tips of the innermost greater coverts of each wing, and there is a faint brownish buff line across mid-wing formed by the worn pale tips of the greater coverts."

"Underparts: chin white, with dark olive moustachial streaks at either side, descending onto throat; dark brown mottling at sides of neck. Throat and upper breast creamy to pale buff, heavily spotted with dark olive-brown, the spots becoming larger but more clouded on the breast. Lower breast and flanks washed with greyish olive; belly and vent white. Axillaries greyish, tinged olive; under wing-coverts mostly white, tinged brownish."

"Head: ear-coverts dark greyish olive, their hind-margins uniform and strongly outlined, but the feathers otherwise speckled buffish; no buff eye-rim. These two features rule out the possibility of its being a specimen of *C. ustulatus*."

"Measurements: wing 103 mm, tail 68 mm, tarsus 31 mm, bill from skull $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Wing formula: 3rd primary longest; 2nd $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm shorter, falling between 4th and 5th. Other primaries shorter than 3rd by: 4th 1 mm; 5th $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm; 6th 14 mm; 7th 20 mm; 10th 30 mm. Distal secondary 3 mm shorter than innermost primary. Emarginated deeply on outer webs of 3rd-4th and very slightly near tip of 5th."

"Soft parts: Bill blackish brown above, yellowish white on basal half of lower mandible. Tarsi pale brownish in front, straw-coloured behind. As the skin did not reach me till 22nd November some changes may have taken place."

"Previous British occurrences of this North American thrush have been at Fair Isle, 5th-6th October 1953 (*Fair Isle Bird Obs. Bull.* 2: 3-8; *Scot. Nat.* 1954: 18-20), 29th October 1958 (*Brit. Birds* 52: 316), and Bardsey (N. Wales), 10th October 1961 (*Brit. Birds* 56: 192). The Bardsey specimen was examined by Charles Vaurie and was referred to the form *C. m. bicknelli*; the Fair Isle birds were indeterminate as to race but the St Kilda specimen would appear on wing length to belong to the northern form *C. m. minimus*, which ranges across Canada and Alaska and extends to Anadyrland in E. Siberia."

I should like to thank Dr W. J. Eggeling for his advice and assistance and Kenneth Williamson for critically examining the skin and identifying it.

PETER GRUBB.

(This St Kilda specimen was also examined by Ian H. J. Lyster of the Royal Scottish Museum, where it now is. The wing-length (103 mm) is well into the range of *C. m. minimus*—♂♂ 99-109 (average 104), ♀♀ 97-107½ (100)—and seems too big for *C. m. bicknelli*—♂♂ 88½-98 (92), ♀♀ 85-93 (88½) (Ridgway, R. 1882 *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 4: 377-379; 1907 *Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 50 (4): 59-63).

Another Grey-cheeked Thrush, a first-winter male, was found dying at Lossiemouth on 26th November 1965 (*Brit. Birds* 59: 293). Full details will be published in *British Birds*. We understand that the wing of this bird measured 111 mm, making it unquestionably an example of the larger race *C. m. minimus*.

Subject to confirmation by the Rarities Committee these are the first British records of the species that can be definitely ascribed to the northern race *C. m. minimus*. As noted above, the two Fair Isle birds were indeterminate, while the Welsh one was referred to the southern race *C. m. bicknelli*.—Ed.)

Current Notes

Compiled by P. J. B. SLATER

(Key to initials of observers : Miss P. Alexander, D. R. Anderson, N. K. Atkinson, R. S. Baillie, J. Ballantyne, D. A. Barbour, Miss P. G. Baxter, G. Bloor, H. Boase, T. Boyd, Miss E. Brown, R. J. Buxton, R. G. Caldow, A. Campbell, R. Campbell, J. F. M. Carson, D. Coutts, G. M. Crichton, N. P. Danby, Major P. Deas, R. H. Dennis, D. Dewar, R. C. Dickson, J. Douglas, J. M. Dunn, W. M. M. Eddie, N. Elkins, Sir R. Erskine-Hill Bt., M. J. Everett, J. Faulkner, M. Forrester, I. Gibson, A. G. Gordon, J. C. R. Gubbins, G. H. Gush, M. K. Hamilton, B. L. S. Hardy, R. Hewson, E. E. Jackson, P. James (PJs), A. Japp, R. A. Jeffery, P. Johnson (Pjn), D. Joy, D. J. Law, A. F. Leitch, R. Lévêque, J. A. Love, I. H. J. Lyster, A. Macdonald, D. Macdonald (DMcD), M. A. Macdonald, Miss E. McEwen, J. MacGeoch, W. G. McKay, Dr P. MacMorran, Dr P. S. Maitland, D. Manning (DMg), Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, T. D. H. Merrie, D. G. Middleton, F. M. Moore, W. M. Morrison, J. H. B. Munro, C. Murray, J. B. Murray, D. J. Norden, C. Ogston, D. W. Oliver, J. S. Oliver, T. Paterson, P. N. Paul, Dr I. D. Pennie, N. Picozzi, R. M. Ramage, A. D. K. Ramsay, G. A. Richards, S. Roberts, I. B. Roy, W. K. Russell, J. H. Simpson, I. C. Sinclair, P. J. B. Slater, Mrs E. Slee, Dr J. Snee, Mrs E. M. Smith, R. W. J. Smith, Dr T. C. Smout, G. Speedy, D. M. Stark, R. L. Swann, C. Tait, I. Taylor, Miss V. M. Thom, R. J. Tulloch, L. A. Urquhart, F. Walker, K. Walker, D. I. M. Wallace, G. Waterston, Mrs M. I. Waterston, A. D. Watson, J. Watt, Hon. D. N. Weir, Dr R. S. Weir, T. Weir, J. P. M. Whipp, G. T. White, Mrs W. H. Wild, R. D. Wilson, W. Wyper, J. G. Young, B. Zonfrillo.

Unless otherwise stated all dates refer to 1966.)

Distribution

This section does not include records from before 1st May 1966. As usual the arrival of geese and winter thrushes is being held over to allow a fuller account in the next issue. Details of an influx of continental migrants on the east coast in late August and early September are given separately at the end of this section.

No doubt on its way to the sea, an adult **Black-throated Diver** was seen at Lintrathen Loch, Angus, on 10th August (GMC).

There seems to have been an increase in the number of **Great Crested Grebes** nesting in Fife this year. At Morton Lochs, where three pairs bred in 1965 (3: 367), there was a further increase to five pairs this year and seven broods were raised (CT). At Lindores Loch there were at least ten pairs with young on 11th August—last year there were only about six pairs (JW).

A few **Red-necked Grebes** seem to winter annually along the south coast of the Forth: near Gullane Point, East

Lothian, the first was on 3rd and 10th September, and there were 2 on the 18th and 26th and 3 on the 25th (JSO, WW, BZ). A **Slavonian Grebe** was inland at Linlithgow Loch, West Lothian, on 19th September (TB, EMS, RWJS); and a **Black-necked Grebe** was at Cobbinshaw Reservoir, Midlothian, on 18th September (JB).

An interesting occurrence is that of a **Leach's Petrel** which was found exhausted in Inverness on 6th September and died two hours later (JM). A new breeding locality for **Storm Petrels** is Bressay, Shetland, where seven birds were caught and a nest found (EEJ). A colony of **Manx Shearwaters** at West Neap, Fetlar, was also discovered for the first time this year—a visit on 26th August suggested that there were at least 100 pairs in the area (RJT).

Not surprisingly, several noteworthy records are as a result of the *Devonia* cruise: a **Great Shearwater** was seen off St Kilda on 18th July and a **Sooty Shearwater** was south of Foula, Shetland, on 19th (MFMM). Other occurrences of this last species are of four seen during a sea-watch from Rudh' Re, Wester Ross, on 2nd September (PNP, RDW); one seen at sea off Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, on 1st September (NE); and one flying past Fife Ness on 25th (DWO).

Although not previously published, **Hérons** have apparently bred on the small islands in Loch Shuna, Argyllshire, for at least six years. They used to nest on the island of Dun but a visit on 11th August gave no sign of them there, though five nests were discovered on Buidhe Isle nearby (JD). An additional heronry for Banffshire is one at Parkmore House, Dufftown, which has been occupied for several years and consisted of at least nine pairs this year (RH).

Night Herons have not been reported so much in the Edinburgh area recently although there is still a free-flying colony at Edinburgh Zoo, but an immature was at Duddingston Loch between 26th August and 20th September (DRA). An escaped **Flamingo** of the Chilean race has already been reported at Tynninghame, East Lothian, in May (4: 240). Since then there have been several records, the descriptions and dates suggesting that all could refer to a single Chilean bird. On 30th July it was at Ardoch, Dunbartonshire (DMg), and it was seen at Endrick Mouth, Stirling/Dunbartonshire, on various dates between 31st July and 13th August (MF, PSM, TDHM). On 16th August it was at Ardmore Bay, Dunbartonshire (TDHM); on 19th it was seen at Skinflats, Stirlingshire, and on 21st at Longanet, Fife (IT). It was again at Ardmore Bay on 25th (TDHM), and at Loch Lomond on 26th (AGG, DMg). The last record is for 11th September when it was seen near Kilchoan, Ardnamurchan, Argyllshire (ES, JS).

A female **Garganey** on Whalsay on 25th September (JHS), and a drake **Gadwall** at Loch Hillwell on 26th (RE-H), are both unusual occurrences in Shetland. Three **Pintail** at Thriepley Loch, Angus, on 26th August (HB), and two at Stormont Loch, Perthshire, on 18th September (VMT), are also noteworthy. At least one pair bred successfully at Loch Ken, Kirkcudbrightshire, where a female was seen with three young on 3rd July (ADW), while what was probably a different bird was seen with five young at about the same time (GHG per ADW). A count of 32 **Shoveler** at Dudgingston on 18th August is a high one (DRA), and three pairs were noted at the Almond Estuary, on the border of Midlothian and West Lothian, on 18th September (TCS).

Summering drake **Scaup** have been a single at Eden Estuary, Fife, on 26th June and two there on 10th July (CT); one on a pond near Dunalastair, Perthshire, on 3rd July (RL); and three on Loch Ryan at Stranraer, Wigtownshire, on 10th July (PJBS). In August, two were at Loch of Lowes, Perthshire, on 18th; one was at Loch Shandra, Perthshire, on 20th (RMR); and one was at Lochgoin, Renfrewshire, on 25th (LAU). An immature male was seen at Loch Leven, Kinross-shire, on 19th September (TCS).

There are three interesting breeding records for **Tufted Duck**: a female with two young on Loch Asta, Shetland, on 31st July (DC); one with three young on Loch Ospisdale in Southeast Sutherland on 1st July (DMcD); and one with four young on the Union Canal at Craiglockhart, Edinburgh, on 7th August (IDP). Five birds of this species were on the pools behind the dunes at Aberlady, East Lothian, on 17th September (PJn, AFL). A duck **Pochard** with four small young was seen on Castle Semple Loch, Renfrewshire, on 23rd July (LAU).

Some idea of the numbers of **Common Scoter** spending the summer off the east coast may be gained from the fact that they were flying north past Fife Ness at a rate of 100 per hour on 17th July (DWO).

The discovery of an **Eider** duck with young at Sandgreen, near Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 8th June is the first definite breeding record for that county since 1908 (GB per ADW). The raft of moulting birds off Troon and Prestwick in Ayrshire reached a peak of 1120 on 19th July, when it included only five females (GAR).

Other ducks found in unusual places were two female **Goosanders** at Virkie, Shetland, on 27th September (DJ); and a female **Shelduck** inland at Yetholm, Roxburghshire, on 25th September (RSB).

A wary **Barnacle Goose** on Eilean Hoan, Sutherland, in mid June made only short flights when disturbed and may have

been unable to migrate north in the spring (RJB).

A further increase is reported in the number of **Canada Geese** at Rowbank Reservoir, Renfrewshire/Ayrshire (see 2: 377). On 27th July 52, including 10 immatures, were counted there (RGC, LAU). Possibly on their moult migration, 11 were seen in flight at West Links, between Gullane and North Berwick, East Lothian, on 25th June (WGM); and 14 were at Duddingston on 15th June (DRA). The flock on the Beaully Firth numbered about 110 on 3rd June but later counts suggested that about 160 birds were present (WMM).

Three **Whooper Swans** spent the summer on the Forth in Clackmannanshire (TP); two were seen at Forfar Loch, Angus, on 16th August (HB); an adult was on the south side of the Beaully Firth on 27th August (TCS); and another was on the Tay in Perth on 31st July (IG). At the west end of Loch Tulla, Argyll, an adult was seen on 31st July (JPMW) and on 28th August (GW, MIW). Another, which is injured and unable to fly, is still on Glenbuck Reservoir, Ayrshire, after three years there (GAR).

The **Hen Harrier** has not been recorded breeding in Bute, but a female was seen at the south end of the island near Quien Hill on 9th July (DGM).

An **Osprey** was in the area of Endrick Mouth between 19th and 21st August (AC, JMD, AGG, DJL, TDHM). It was seen to catch a fish at Balmaha, Stirlingshire, on 20th (TW). Single birds were noted during July at Tentsmuir, Fife, on 9th (DWO, JW), and flying northwestwards at Eyebroughty, East Lothian, on 31st (RSB, FMM). One flew over Loch of Lowes on 18th August (RMR), and one was seen in flight at Brechin, Angus, on 20th (GMC).

The only **Quail** reported is one which was both heard and seen at Paisley Moss, Renfrewshire, on 22nd May (RGC, IG, RAJ).

A curious place for a **Ringed Plover** to be seen is on top of Carn Ban Mor, Inverness-shire, where one was found at a height of 3500 feet on 3rd August (ADKR). Two early **Grey Plover** were at Barassie, Ayrshire, on 30th August (GAR).

A **Woodcock** was flushed from its nest containing four eggs at Eaglescairn, Haddington, East Lothian, on the late date of 24th July. This nest was also unusual in being situated in the middle of a field some 40 yards from the nearest cover, though concealed in a clump of ryegrass. Despite this the eggs hatched successfully on 10th August (JCRG).

There are rather few records of **Black-tailed Godwits** for this autumn:

Tarty Burn, Ythan Estuary, Aberdeen—1 on 10 Sept (CO).

Arbroath, Angus—1 on 7 Aug (NKA, IG).
 Tentsmuir—9 early birds on 3 July (TP).
 Eden Estuary, Fife—50, many in breeding plumage, on 14 Aug
 (DWO).
 Skinflats, Stirling—1 on 30 Aug (TDHM).
 Seafield, Edinburgh—2 on 28 Sept (MJE).
 Barassie—14 on 2 July (JGY); 1 on 20 Aug (LAU).
 Troon, Ayr—1 on 8 Sept (GAR).
 Piltanton, Luce Bay, Wigtown—1 on 17 Aug, 2 on 23 Aug (RCD).

A pair of this species bred once again this year in southern Scotland close to where they nested in the previous two years (3: 256, 424). On 23rd May the nest contained four eggs and at least two young are reported to have been reared to the flying stage (Ed.).

A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was seen at Achnahaird Bay, Wester Ross, on 25th August (TCS).

The following are **Green Sandpiper** records:

Whalsay, Shetland—1 on 5 Sept (JHS).
 Foula—1 on 13 Aug (RJT).
 Fair Isle, Shetland—2 on 4 Aug and small numbers till 13 Sept;
 maximum 3 on 10-11 Aug (RHD).
 Scrabster Brae, Caithness—1 on 3 Aug (PM).
 River Don near Kinaldie, Aberdeen—1 on 31 Aug (CO).
 Montrose Basin, Angus—2 on 8 Aug; 4 on 10 Aug; 1 on 12 Aug
 (GMC).
 North Esk mouth, Angus—1 on 12 Aug (GMC).
 River Kelvin, Summerston/Bardowie, Stirling/Renfrew/Dunbarton—
 up to 4 between 20 Aug and 8 Oct (WMME, DJN, WKR).
 Dow Loch, Cleish Hills, Kinross—1 on 28 Aug (IB).
 Aberlady—1 at freshwater pools on 6 Aug (JSO).
 Tynninghame—regular from 31 July with 3 on 28 Aug and still 2 on
 18 Sept (TB, EMS, RWJS, CT).
 River Bowmont, Yetholm, Roxburgh—1 on 7-9 Sept (RSB).
 Bogside, Ayr—1 on 15 Aug (GAR).
 Near New Cumnock, Ayr—1 on 19 Sept (GAR).

Migrant Wood Sandpipers have been seen as follows:

Unst, Shetland—1 on 12 Aug (FW).
 Fair Isle—1 on 31 July; singles on 11 days between 5 Aug and 7
 Sept, with 2 on 9 Aug and 5 Sept (RHD).
 Montrose Basin—1 on 11 and 13 Sept (GMC).
 St Vigean's Marsh, Arbroath, Angus—7 on 8 Aug; 1 on 10 Aug
 (NKA, IG).
 Skinflats—1 on 22 Aug; 1 freshly dead on 25 Sept (IT).
 Aberlady—1 on 13 Aug (EMS, RWJS).
 Tynninghame—1 on 10 Sept (ADKR).
 Gadloch, Lanark—1 on 27-31 July (BZ).
 Paisley Moss—1 on 31 July and 1 Aug (RGC, IG, DJN).

A **Redshank** which was picked up dead at Piltanton Estuary, Luce Bay, Wigtownshire, on 10th September was of the Icelandic race as it had a wing measurement of 172 mm (RCD).

Spotted Redshanks have been seen at the following places:

Fair Isle—3 on 27-30 Aug, with 4 on 28th; 1 to 3 on 9-14 Sept (RHD).
 Castlehill, Caithness—5 on 3 Sept (DMS).
 Dornoch Point, Sutherland—1 on 28-29 Aug (DMcD).
 Longman Bay, Inverness—1 on 19 Sept (JM).
 North Esk mouth—1 on 12 Aug (GMC).
 Montrose Basin—2 on 12 Aug; 1 on 5th; 2 on 9th; 3 on 11th; 1 on 13th and 1 on 17th Sept (GMC).
 St Vigean's Marsh, Arbroath—1 on 9 Aug (NKA, IG).
 Fife Ness—1 on 4 Sept (PGB, DWO).
 Rosyth, Fife—1 on 11 Sept (DWO).
 Skinflats—1 on 21, 22, 26, 27 Aug, 3 and 4 Sept (IT).
 Aberlady—1 on 11 Aug (DIMW); 2 on 25 Aug (MAM, RLS); 1 on 14 Sept (ADKR).
 Tynninghame—1 on 14 Aug (MFMM); 7 on 28 Aug (TB, EMS, RWJS).
 Bogside, Ayr—1 on 15 Aug (GAR).
 Loch Ryan—2 on 17 Sept (RCD).
 Wigtown Merse—3 on 18 Sept (RCD).

A **Greenshank** at Soleburn, Loch Ryan, is worth mention as being so far south as early as 9th July (RCD). A **Knot** was seen inland at Rowbank Reservoir on 4th September (IG, RAJ, GTW).

The following are reports of **Little Stints**:

Virkie, Shetland—singles on several days about 21 Sept (DC, DJ).
 Foula—singles on several days in mid Aug (RJT).
 Fair Isle—1 on 30 Aug; 1 on 6-11 Sept (RHD).
 Montrose Basin—5 on 11 Sept; 1 on 23rd and 6 on 28 Sept (GMC).
 Buddon, Angus—2 on 2 Sept; 1 on 19 Sept (GMC).
 Skinflats—2 on 4 Sept (JFMC); 1 on 25 Sept (IT).
 Aberlady—1 on 25 Aug (MAM, RLS); 1 on 26 Sept (WW, BZ).
 Tynninghame—1 on 10-11 Sept; 1 on 17th and 2 on 18 Sept (TB, ADKR, IBR, EMS, RWJS, CT).

As with most other waders the number of **Curlew Sandpipers** seen has been about average:

Fair Isle—1 caught on 4 Sept (RHD).
 Thurso, Caithness—1 on 11 Sept (PJs).
 Guinard Bay, W. Ross—1 on 18 Sept (RE-H).
 Montrose Basin—2 on 13, 17 and 23 Sept (GMC).
 Eden Estuary—1 on 3 Sept (WMME, WKR).
 Fife Ness—2 on 24 Sept (DWO).
 Skinflats—1 on 25 Sept (IT).
 Gullane Point—2 flying past on 17 Sept (PJn, AFL).
 Tynninghame—1 on 3 Sept (ADKR); 3 on 10 Sept (MAM).
 Barns Ness, F. Lothian—1 on 1 Sept (MJE, IHJL, ADKR).
 Troon—1 on 10 Sept (RGC).

Two **Sanderling** were seen at Achnahaird Bay on 25th August (TCS). This species is unusual as far up the Forth as Skinflats, where there were three on 19th and two on 22nd August (IT). One was at Seafield, Edinburgh, on 28th September (MJE).

Ruff records are again too numerous to give in detail. The earliest was a male moulting from breeding plumage at

Buddon Burn on 22nd July (DAB). At Skinflats the first was on 27th July and varying numbers were seen regularly thereafter, with a peak of 25 on 7th September (IT). Numbers seen elsewhere were smaller but for a flock of 55 at Tyninghame on 14th August (TB, MFMM, RWJS).

A juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** at Barassie on 20th August was rather wary when in association with some Dunlin but after it parted from them it could be approached to within a few yards, as is characteristic of this species (GAR).

On the west coast, seven **Great Skuas** were seen from Rudh' Re, Wester Ross, on 2nd September (PNP, RDW), and one was seen from a boat between Brodick and Ardrossan in the Firth of Clyde on 17th September (LAU). Single light-phase **Pomarine Skuas** were seen between the Great Cumbrae and Largs on 23rd May (BLSH), and off Fife Ness on 17th July (DWO). In Shetland a **Long-tailed Skua** was seen from the *Devonia* near Foula on 19th July (EM), and another was near Hascosay on 27th September (RJT).

Four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** flying west off Troup Head, Banffshire, on 6th September and one going south at Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire, on 7th were of the Scandinavian race (CO).

Single **Glaucous Gulls** seen have been an immature at Ravelston, Edinburgh, on 11th and 12th September (PA); another at Paisley Moss on 18th August and 25th September (MJE, IG, GTW); and an adult at Nigg Bay, Kincardineshire, on 28th September (ADKR). This species continues to be seen regularly on the Ayrshire coast each winter; an immature was at Ayr Harbour on 26th August and a near adult was found dead at Turnberry on 15th September (GAR).

The earliest **Little Gull** was at Kingoodie, Perthshire, where an immature was seen on 8th July (HB). The first was at Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, on 10th July and numbers there reached a peak of 310 on 17th August (DWO). Other high counts are of 96 at Buddon on 2nd September and 134 at Carnoustie on 16th (GMC). In less usual places, an immature was on the Tay above Perth on 12th September (CM), and one was seen flying past Gullane Point on 14th August (JAL).

A first-summer **Kittiwake** seen near Carsphairn, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 22nd May was some 25 miles from the sea (ADW). Two **Black Terns** have been seen: one at Kilconquhar Loch on 17th August (DWO), and the other at Linlithgow Loch on 19th September (TB, EMS, RWJS).

Three adult **Common Terns** with two chicks were discovered on a small islet in the new Westwater Reservoir, near West Linton, Peeblesshire, on 31st July. The island, which will be

submerged eventually by the rising water, was at that time eighteen inches above water at its highest point (MKH, JHBM). **Little Terns** first bred in Wigtownshire in 1957 (1: 120). This year two pairs were found at Chapel Rossan Bay, Ardwell, on 29th June and the breeding of one pair was confirmed when two chicks were found on 6th July (RCD).

A **Sandwich Tern** was at Seilebost, Harris, on 4th July and another at Back, Lewis, on 13th (MAM). On Fair Isle, there were two on 3rd July and one on 14th August (RHD). High autumn counts in more usual places are of about 100 at Musselburgh, Midlothian, on 11th August (DIMW), and 500 at Aberlady on 14th (ADKR).

A **Turtle Dove** was recorded at Kinlochewe, Wester Ross, on 17th and 20th May (EB, RC), and one was at Bixter, Shetland, on 16th July (DC). Though within their range, single **Green Woodpeckers** at Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire, on 25th June (DIMW), and in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, on 25th September (ICS), are worth mentioning in view of the local distribution of this species. A pair was discovered in Craigmaddie Wood (near Milngavie), Stirlingshire, on 31st July (WMME).

Two pairs of **Swallows** nested on Unst, Shetland, this year, the young leaving their nests on 7th and 10th August respectively (FW). In the Outer Hebrides one was at Rodel, Harris, on 5th July, and a **House Martin** was seen at Stornoway, Lewis, on 13th (MAM). The numbers of this last species breeding in the northeast seem to have fallen this year and none could be found at their usual sites in Banchory (NP).

At Borve, Harris, there was a **Blue Tit** on 22nd July and a pair of **Coal Tits** was in the same place on 25th (MAM, RLS).

Two **Grasshopper Warblers** were singing at Yetholm Loch on 8th July as well as the bird previously reported from there (4: 249) (RSB). Singles were heard at Carron, Morayshire, between 7th and 11th June (SR), and at Barnhill in Perth on 29th June (VMT).

Far north for these species, two **Blackcaps** were singing in Strath More, Wester Ross, between 29th May and 9th June (LAU), and a **Chiffchaff** was in the wood at North Bay, Barra, between 30th July and 11th August (WHW). One was also heard at the end of June in Rothiemurchus, Inverness-shire (DNW).

A **Grey Wagtail** flew west over the Meadows, in the centre of Edinburgh, on 8th September (TCS). Outwith its breeding range a female was seen at Rodel, Harris, on 18th July (MAM). On the east side of the country a female **Yellow Wagtail** was at Skinflats on 9th July (IT), and a male *flavissi-*

ma was recorded at Leith Docks, Edinburgh, on 18th September (CT).

A juvenile **Hawfinch** died when it flew into a glass window-pane at Crieff, Perthshire, on 30th June (VMT). In south Selkirkshire, an area for which there is no breeding record of this species, a fully-fledged juvenile was seen at Ettrick Marsh (at the confluence of the Tima and Ettrick Waters) on 10th August (DIMW). Another Hawfinch is reported from Roslin, Midlothian, on 8th September (ADKR).

An adult male **Siskin** was watched by several cruise members at Jarlshof, Shetland, on 20th July (MKH). Single males were also at Fair Isle on 12th and 23rd of that month (RHD), and one was singing at Kilconquhar on 10th (DWO). At a more normal time for migrants two were noted in the company of about 150 **Redpolls** at Yetholm on 25th September (RSB). A particularly large flock of **Twite** at Rhilochan, Rogart, Sutherland, on 10th September consisted of over 200 individuals (DMcD).

A hint that a **Crossbill** invasion might be approaching was given by one or two observations in the last number (4: 251). There have indeed been several further reports but these suggest a more limited influx, confined mainly to the north. The daily record at Fair Isle indicates two separate arrivals, the first from mid June to early August and the second in early September, possibly connected with the appearance of other continental migrants at the same time (see below). Other reports also fit nicely into this picture. Numbers at Fair Isle in July showed irregular fluctuations with peaks of 20 on 7th, 36 on 9th and 47 on 16th. Thereafter the numbers fell off and the only August record was of five on 5th. From 1st September more began to arrive: maxima were 16 on 2nd and 15 on 5th and 6th. The last was seen on 12th (RHD). In the rest of Shetland there were many reports of singles, pairs and small parties during July and again in early September (RJT). In late September a few remained in gardens in Lerwick (DC). In Kirkcudbrightshire 12 were in Cairn Edward Forest on 25th June and 12 were seen at Dalry on 2nd July (ADW). Flocks of continental birds, distinguishable from the local ones by their call, were noted on Speyside from 5th July (DNW), and eight were at Loch Broom, Wester Ross, on 21st August (TCS). Finally, nine which arrived on the Isle of May, Fife, on 28th August (DWO), and a female and two immatures at Finstown, Orkney, on 3rd September presumably formed part of the second movement (PJBS).

Lapland Buntings are seen regularly at Fair Isle in September, and this was a good year for them with a maximum of 41 on 11th (RHD). Elsewhere, one was at Scatness, Shet-

land, on 14th September (DC, DJ), and two were at the North Esk mouth on 22nd (GMC).

A good count of **Tree Sparrows** is of about 60 at Marlee, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, on 18th September (VMT).

Continental migrants

A substantial fall of continental migrants took place on the east coast in late August and early September. On Fair Isle numbers of the commoner migrants began to build up on about 25th August and the main arrivals were between then and 3rd September (RHD). The daily records there provide a more sensitive 'migration meter' than is possible elsewhere, but other reports fit well into this picture, though concentrated mainly in the period 30th August to 1st September. The main species involved were **Whinchat**, **Redstart**, **Blackcap**, **Whitethroat**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Garden Warbler**, **Willow Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Pied Flycatcher** and there are too many reports of these to set out in detail. There were many occurrences of less usual birds, however, and some of the more notable of these are given below, excluding those classified as 'rarities':

Hoopoe—one at Reay, Caithness, on 4th and 12th September (JF, PJs, DMS).

Cuckoo—one tired bird in an Inverness garden on 30th August (WMM); one at Fife Ness on 23rd August and 3rd September (PGB); immature at Barns Ness, East Lothian, on 31st August and 10th September (AM, MAM).

Wryneck—many Shetland reports: one at Sandwick from 25th August to 4th September (DC); two on Out Skerries from 30th August to 1st September (JHS, RJT); one on Whalsay on 31st August (JHS); and one at Halligarth, Unst, on 4th September (RJT). First on Fair Isle were three on 26th August and peak was of 12 on 2nd September (RHD). Many on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, with maximum of seven in one day (KW), and three on the Isle of May between 27th August and 3rd September (DWO).

Treecreeper—one on Out Skerries on 30th August (JHS).

Bluethroat—at least five on Out Skerries on 31st August (RJT); one at Sumburgh on 9th September (DC, JHS); and one on Vord Hill, Fetlar, on 16th (per RJT)—all in Shetland. On Fair Isle one to two were noted on twelve days between 1st and 23rd September (RHD).

Reed/Marsh Warblers—one at Unst on 31st August (FW), and one at Barns Ness between 30th August and 1st September (MJE, IHJL, ADKR). One or two **Reed Warblers** were at Fair Isle between 31st August and 12th September, with five on 2nd (RHD). One was on North Ronaldsay on 31st August (RHD, KW).

Icterine Warbler—different singles at Fair Isle on 26th and 30th August and on 3rd September (RHD), and one killed by a cat on North Ronaldsay at about the same time (KW). Four on the Isle of May between 27th August and 3rd September (DWO); one at Fife Ness between 2nd and 5th September (PGB, TCS, RSW); and one at St Monance, Fife, on 8th September (DWO).

Barred Warbler—immature at Whalsay on 3rd September (JHS), and small numbers at Fair Isle from 23rd August with peak of nine on 26th (RHD). Several on North Ronaldsay in late August and early September and two were ringed (KW). Four were recorded on the Isle of May between 27th August and 3rd September (DWO). An immature at Barns Ness between 29th and 31st August (MJE, IHJL, AM), was joined by an adult, showing strong barring and a bright yellow eye, on 31st (MAM, ADKR).

Red-breasted Flycatcher—one at Barns Ness on 31st August (MAM, ADKR), and one on the Isle of May at about the same time (DWO).

Red-backed Shrike—singles on Fair Isle from 23rd August, with five on 2nd September and six on 3rd (RHD). Several also seen on North Ronaldsay and the Isle of May (KW, DWO).

Ortolan Bunting—in Shetland, one on Out Skerries on 31st August (RJT), and one at Grutness on 4th and 9th September (DC, DJ). Singles at Fair Isle from 2nd to 8th September with three on 3rd and two on 5th (RHD).

Although they are rarities still requiring the official stamp, this is no more than a formality for single **Scarlet Grosbeaks** at Fair Isle on various dates between 26th August and 28th September. Four **Yellow-browed Warblers** were trapped there on 28th September, and at least one further bird was present on 29th. On 21st a first-year **Lesser Grey Shrike** was caught and ringed (RHD).

Earlier observations—before 1st May 1966

An ailing **Gannet** seen on the edge of a Common Gull colony at Archiestown, Morayshire, on 4th April and later found dead was nearly 15 miles from the sea (SR).

Five **Red-breasted Geese** were feeding separately from about 1000 Pinkfeet in a grass field adjoining the moor half way between Longformacus and Greenlaw, Berwickshire, all afternoon (except when they flew over to drink at a nearby burn) on 21st March. The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee on the basis that the birds were probably escapes (PD, GS).

An adult **Water Rail** was found perched on a fence post by

a field full of rushes next to the road three miles south of Comrie, Perthshire, in early May 1961. After it had been watched for some time five small chicks covered in black down appeared from amongst the undergrowth (AJ).

Near Harlaw Reservoir, Midlothian, on 15th April a **Nightjar** rose from a fern-filled valley, flew close past the observer and out across a field (RLS).

General observations—behaviour

Early in the summer a cock **Black Grouse** was seen displaying to a male **Pheasant** at Culloden, Inverness-shire. Neither this Pheasant nor a hen which was nearby paid much attention to the bird's misguided behaviour (WMM).

In late June several **Common Gulls** were noticed sitting in old Scots pines in Millbuie Forest in the Black Isle, Easter Ross. Two broken eggs were discovered beneath the trees, and a nest containing one warm egg was found at a height of eighteen feet, though this may in fact have been built by another bird and later adopted. By early July the egg had disappeared and there was no sign of any chicks. Another interesting point about this site is that the nearest water is some five miles away (NPD). A previous instance of Common Gulls building in a tree was also in Easter Ross (2: 266).

A fully-fledged juvenile **Arctic Tern** was seen practising fishing at Burray, Orkney, on 25th August. When given a small fish by one of its parents it flew up from the rock on which it was perched and repeatedly dropped the fish in the water and swooped down to pick it up again. The bird did this about thirty times above almost exactly the same spot before it finally landed again and began to eat (PJBS).

On 7th August two immature **Ravens** were watched prising limpets off the rocks and eating them on the shore at Blackness Castle, West Lothian (JBM).

Strange tales are often told of aggressive encounters between two species which could not possibly achieve any nutritional satisfaction from each other. One of these occurred recently in Midlothian where a cat was disturbed playing with a shrew. On being disturbed, the cat made off and the shrew proceeded to run round in circles on the road. After a short time, however, a **Robin** began to swoop down on it and finally landed and attacked it on foot for a moment or two before losing interest, both animals remaining all the while oblivious of the presence of the observer (DD). Such behaviour is certainly strange and without any apparent function: the Robin's aggression may have been triggered off by some predator-like aspect of the shrew's odd behaviour.

Corrections

Dr John Berry points out that the pair of **Canada Geese** found with a nest at Morton Lochs, Fife, on 23rd April (4: 242) were not in fact pure Canadas but descendants of cross breeding between a Barnacle gander and a Canada goose in the feral flock at Tayfield, Newport-on-Tay, Fife. This pair of 'Barnadas' has bred successfully at Morton Lochs in previous years but this year they appeared to desert their nest.

The record of a **Tree Sparrow** at Clunie Loch, Perthshire, on 29th June (4: 252) was made by HB and not VMT as stated.

Reviews

Europe: A Natural History. The Continents We Live On series. By Kai Curry-Lindahl. British edition. London, Hamish Hamilton (Chanticleer Press), 1964. Pp. 300; 243 photographs (108 in colour) and 21 halftone maps; coloured endpaper maps. 31½ cm x 24½ cm. 94/6.

This is no mere picture book; but it does contain quite superb colour photographs of European scenery and habitat and wildlife. Many people would buy it for these alone. They should then discover that the text is most readable and interesting.

It might, inadequately, be described as a semi-popular ecological survey of European natural history from a conservation angle. Written with a broad sweep over the better-known forms of wildlife, and with plenty about birds, it covers one by one the most important regions from the Mediterranean and the Russian steppes to the tundra, taiga and the Arctic. The richest natural history areas are described, along with the hazards they face and efforts being made to preserve them. There is much to admire and much to worry about.

The quality of the chapters is a little uneven, some being far more informative than others, and it is not difficult to pick out errors of detail, but this is misleading. The total effect is highly instructive, and a tremendous amount of information is given. It is very good for us to be made to see our problems in an international perspective. For instance, anyone who thinks of the Mediterranean area as a semi-tropical holiday paradise will have his eyes opened to learn how much of the land is being steadily eroded into desert through gross misuse; the worst villain, apart from man, is the domestic goat, picturesquely herded by the peasants and tugging up every tuft of vegetation before it can spread and bind the soil.

At times the prose, at least in translation, is unfashionably colourful ("the mighty symphony of nature") and the author has an adjectival habit that makes it difficult to know what is bird and what is description ("the long-legged stone curlew"), but he is never dull. Britain is put in its place as "Europe's largest island" and our complacent view of ourselves is confirmed from outside by his comment that "My theory is that the British have a deeper feeling for and interest in nature than any other people in Europe."

This is a truly international volume: planned in New York, written in Stockholm, manufactured in Zurich, and published in London. The spelling, but only some of the bird names, reflects its American origin. With

a delightful British touch the price is "4½ gns. net"—a sum to baffle the bookseller's assistant. It is worth the money.

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN.

Birds in Colour. Illustrated by Karl Aage Tinggaard. Descriptive text by Bruce Campbell. Revised edition, London, Blandford, 1966. First published, Penguin, 1960; based on "Faglarna i Färg" (Sweden) and "Fugle i Farver" (Denmark). Pp. 231; 128 coloured plates (256 illustrations). 18 x 11½ cm. 21/-.

This edition is little changed. The *Handbook* order is followed, and the plates precede the text. Each bird is numbered, and reference to its description is easy, and possibly quicker than when the relevant text is either a few pages before or after the illustration. It is essential to look at both together, since the picture is usually of one male bird in breeding plumage, and gives no size or scale.

Many of the birds are drawn with great felicity; a few are rather wooden. Some colours might be misleading, such as the brilliance of Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff, while the pinkish-buff Goosander could not gleam white in the distance. The original publication in Scandinavia determined the choice of species, or White-tailed Eagle and Scarlet Grosbeak, for instance, might not have been selected. The Nuthatch belongs to the paler race.

Bruce Campbell's concise and excellent text is written to supplement the plates. Included for each bird are status, distribution and habitat, and descriptive points not obvious in the plates, such as plumage differing with sex, age and season. Voice and habits follow, including stance, gait, feeding methods, flight, flocking and roosting. Most accounts end: "May be confused with Nos..." The cumulative effect of this could well depress beginners, and the more positive "Distinguish from Nos..." would be preferable.

Inevitably comparison must be made with the *Field Guide*, for this book would fit the same pocket and also is concerned with identification, not breeding. Beginners may find it easier to deal with the smaller number of birds, but the pictures cannot compete for ease of recognition. The three black-and-white pages of ducks and birds of prey are insufficient, when compared with the innumerable silhouettes, the rows of birds in similar positions and the Petersonic lines to which we have become accustomed. One feature in which the book does score is that habitat and distribution, concerned only with Britain, can be treated more fully.

WINIFRED U. FLOWER.

Sea Birds. A Shell Nature Record. British Bird series. No. DCL 701. One 33½ r.p.m. 7" record in illustrated descriptive sleeve. Recorded and edited by Lawrence Shove. Published by Discourses Ltd, 21 Manchester Square, London W.1, 1966. 12/6.

This is the first of five records, and promises well for the series. The voices of Gannets and five species of gull fill one side, while auks and petrels call from the other. The sleeve, with pictures of the birds by Hilder, White and Ennion, is delightful. Inside are Jeffery Boswall's brief, clear notes on each bird and its calls.

The introduction is simple and sufficient. Each bird is named before it is heard. The recordings were made on Skomer, Skokholm and Grassholm, but take you immediately to wherever you have heard these sounds, watching the Guillemot ledges and looking for the Razorbills in their crevices. Puffins moan and complain, and every movement of a pair of

Fulmars can be imagined to fit the sounds. Yet a more ecstatically vocal pair, with a more varied repertoire, might have been found. The Storm Petrels are fine, and then, best of all, come the Manx Shearwaters.

The Gannet chorus and the throaty gurgles of individual birds are typical of a colony. Not all the vocabulary of the gulls can be given, but basic differences are well demonstrated. Attention is called to the deeper note of the Lesser Blackback, following several of the Herring Gull's calls. There is rather much of the Greater Blackback's alarm call.

This record can teach, but its main value is probably to give pleasure in retrospect. The Manx Shearwater made my day.

WINIFRED U. FLOWER.

(We have also received *Garden and Park Birds* and *Woodland Birds*, Nos. DCL 702-3 in the same series.—Ed.)

Letter

SIR,

The birds of Cramond

Since 1960 I have been making regular observations on the estuary of the Almond and its hinterland at Cramond and Dalmeny in Midlothian and West Lothian. In this fascinating area I have tried to concentrate on three aspects:

1. In making regular counts of duck, waders and gulls to trace and if possible explain their seasonal and annual fluctuations.
2. To chronicle the rapidly changing birdlife of Cramond Island.
3. To compile a full checklist of the area, comparable to that made by Hamilton and Macgregor for Aberlady Bay (the total for the Almond area now stands at 154 species).

This threefold task is laborious but also fun. I would enormously appreciate any help which members of the S.O.C. could give me, for many people must visit the area and see much that I miss. In particular I would value:

1. Any counts or estimates of the numbers of ducks (especially Mallard, Wigeon and Shelduck), waders or gulls made at any time on the Almond estuary, but especially before 1960.
2. Any notes, however slight, from Cramond Island at any time at all.
3. Any other records, new or old, that are unpublished or may seem of interest. This would include any records at all of herons, divers, grebes (except Great Crested), hawks (except Kestrel), Sanderling, auks, Cuckoo, woodpeckers, Pied Flycatcher, warblers (except Willow and Whitethroat), Hawfinch, Snow Bunting and Brambling; also any records of Shelduck before 1960, Eider between 1940 and 1965, large numbers of Cormorants or Shags, irruption species such as Waxwing and Little Auk, and Collared Dove, as well as proof of breeding of Woodcock or Redstart in the area.

If you can help I would be most grateful. All letters will be promptly acknowledged, all loaned notebooks promptly returned, and all help fully acknowledged in any publication of results. My address is 93 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh 9.

T. C. SMOUT.

Requests for Information

Micro-lepidoptera in nests. A study is being made of micro-lepidoptera in birds' nests. It is thought that old nests of passerine birds may yield some interesting species. Readers are asked if they will help by sending some old nests, up to the end of February 1967, to B. Morrison, Room R/127, Government Buildings, Sighthill, Edinburgh 11. Telephone CRA 4010, Extension 244.

Birds of Threipmuir. With a view to writing up the results of observations at Threipmuir Reservoir, Midlothian, over the past three years R. L. Swann would be very glad to hear from anyone who has records of common or uncommon birds seen there at any time. His present address is Plot 36, Highover Park, Station Road, Amersham, Bucks.

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The Council submits the following Report for the past year:

Membership By the end of the session the membership of the Club had reached a total of 1628, an increase of 140 over the past year. 285 new members were enrolled while 145 members resigned or failed to renew their subscriptions. The comparative figures given below reflect an average increase of 120 members per year over the period of five years:

	31/8/61	31/8/62	31/8/63	30/6/64	30/6/65	30/6/66
Ordinary	852	918	1062	1194	1263	1373
Junior	177	181	195	198	222	252
Honorary	6	4	4	3	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1035	1103	1261	1395	1488	1628

The number of Deeds of Covenant signed by members rose from 205 to 228, representing 256 subscriptions and contributing a total of £216 as additional income to the Club. As many of these Covenants will have completed the seven year period by the end of the coming session, the Council hopes that these members will be willing to renew them for a further period, and that more members who pay income tax at the standard rate will consider paying their subscriptions in this way.

Death The Council records with deep regret the death of George Stout of Field, Fair Isle, one of the first Honorary Members of the Club. An appreciation is published in *Scottish Birds* 4: 255.

Honorary Member At the Annual General Meeting in October 1965 the Council had the pleasure of recording the election of Henry Boase, Invergowie, as an Honorary Member of the Club.

Business of Council Five meetings of Council were held during the session. The Council approved a proposal to establish an Endowment Fund, to be used for the advancement of ornithology in Scotland and to further the objects of the Club. The Fund will be administered by the Council, and the Endowments bequeathed by Miss E. V. Baxter and Miss L. J. Rintoul are incorporated in it, with the addition of the proceeds of a special lecture on Greenland given by George Waterston.

The Committee appointed to organise the Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise met frequently under the chairmanship of Dr W. J. Eggeling. In January Mrs D. A. Harley left the staff and Miss Fiona McLaren was appointed in her place as Assistant Secretary with special responsibility for Cruise administration.

Dr I. D. Pennie and George Waterston served as members of the British Executive Committee concerned with the organisation of the International Ornithological Congress at Oxford, and Dr Pennie was appointed official Club Delegate to the Congress.

Dr John Berry and George Waterston represented the Club at meetings of the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation and attended the I.C.B.P. Conference at Cambridge, to which Mrs Waterston was also invited as a Club Delegate.

Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise The organisation of the Cruise as the sole excursion for the I.C.B.P. Conference and the International Ornithological Congress continued throughout the session. Sub-committees were formed to deal with publications, transport, lecture programmes, shore excursions and the entertainment of delegates during their final day in Edinburgh. A Cruise booklet describing the islands to be visited was printed for issue to all passengers. Administrative work increased in volume and an immense amount of correspondence was handled by the staff. By the end of the session the ship was fully booked with a long waiting list of applicants, and on 16th July she sailed with 905 passengers, half of whom travelled from overseas, representing 37 different countries. 392 of the passengers on board were also conference delegates. Shipboard organisation was carried out under the leadership of Dr W. J. Eggeling by members of the Committee, sub-committees and staff, with the assistance of members of the Club who were on board. The great success of this venture is shown by the number of letters of appreciation received from passengers, and nearly 50 have since become members of the Club.

The delegates who remained in Edinburgh before travelling on to the Congress were entertained in the Assembly Rooms, which were booked for the whole day for this purpose. Exhibitions were arranged and excursions were organised. In the evening the delegates were present at a reception in the University Library at the invitation of the Principal of Edinburgh University, and a special train was chartered by the Club to take them overnight to Oxford. A full report of the Cruise will be published in *Scottish Birds*.

Annual Conference The Eighteenth Annual Conference was held in Dunblane in October with an attendance of 260 members and their guests. Lectures were given by Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards, Dr Adam Watson and M. A. Ogilvie, on the theme of Arctic Adaptations in Birds and Mammals, and films were shown. The principal lecturer, Dr Finn Salomonsen, was prevented by illness from attending and the gap was filled at the last minute by Dr Watson, to whom the Council is greatly indebted.

Special Lecture During the autumn the Club sponsored a public lecture in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, given by George Waterston, on the Danish Expedition to West Greenland 1965. The lecture was well attended, resulting in a profit of £75 which was given to the Endowment Fund at Mr Waterston's request.

Branches A full programme of lectures was carried out in eight Branches. Members of the Thurso group held regular informal meetings and also two public lectures during the winter. Attendance at Branch meetings showed an encouraging increase, particularly in Glasgow. The annual Solway weekend, organised with the assistance of the Dumfries Branch, was well attended, and local excursions were also organised by the Branches during the summer.

"Scottish Birds" Four numbers of the journal and a special supplement on "The Birds of Foula" were published during the year, completing the third volume with an index and commencing volume 4. The summer issue was devoted to articles of particular interest to Cruise passengers, and copies of this number and the special supplement were given to all delegates on the ship.

Scottish Bird Records Committee The Committee met once during the year under the chairmanship of D. G. Andrew. The Review for 1965 will be published in *Scottish Birds*.

Club Library A number of books were purchased for the reference library, and generous donations of scarce books, journals and reprints were also received. The lending section was used regularly by younger members of the Club.

Bookshop Sales of books throughout the year increased and regular orders were obtained from libraries and museums, in particular from Aberdeen University Library. Special displays of books were taken to the annual conferences of the Club at Dunblane, the British Trust for Ornithology at Swanwick, and the British Ornithologists' Union at Cambridge, and at each of these a large number of books was sold. The Bookshop was also taken on the Cruise, and the profit from the many books sold and orders since received will be shown in next year's accounts.

Scottish Centre As in previous years, a party of American birdwatchers on a tour of Britain, led by Orville Crowder, was entertained by members of the Edinburgh Branch Committee at the Scottish Centre. Ornithologists from overseas taking part in the Cruise also visited the Centre to obtain information on birdwatching in Scotland, and numerous postal enquiries were answered. Facilities were provided for informal meetings of Club members and discussion groups, for meetings of the Young Ornithologists' Club, and for executive meetings of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust and the Isle of May Committee.

In October the Scottish Wildlife Trust moved their office from the temporary accommodation provided in the Centre to new premises.

Votes of Thanks In closing this Report, the Council wishes to record their sincere thanks to the many people who have given their help so freely to the Club throughout the session. These include the members who have covenanted their subscriptions, the donors of books and papers to the library, the lecturers to the Annual Conference and Branch Meetings, and the Branch Secretaries, Office-Bearers and excursion leaders who have worked so hard for the benefit of our members. The invitation extended by the B.T.O. and B.O.U. to display books at their Annual Conferences is also greatly appreciated. The Council is particularly indebted to the Cruise Committee and sub-committees who gave so much of their time to Cruise affairs, and to all the members who helped to make the Cruise such a success. They also wish to thank the Editor and Business

Editor of *Scottish Birds* for their invaluable services to the journal, which is now well established among the leading ornithological journals in Britain.

For the Council, IAN D. PENNIE, President.

THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB

The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Hotel Dunblane, Perthshire, on Saturday, 22nd October 1966 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 Dr David Bodington, Dr Bruce Campbell, Sir Charles and Lady Connell, Miss Mary Henderson, and Professor and Mrs V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Minutes The Minutes of the twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting, held in Dunblane on 23rd October 1965, were approved and signed.

Report of Council The Report of Council for the last session, presented by the Chairman, was adopted.

Election of Honorary Member In view of his great service to ornithology in Scotland, the Council had decided to elect Sir A. Landsborough Thomson an Honorary Member of the Club, and he had accepted the invitation with great pleasure. The meeting warmly approved the decision of Council.

I.C.B.P. British Section The Council had also appointed Sir A. Landsborough Thomson as Club representative to the British Section of the International Council for Bird Protection, in place of Dr John Berry who already served as a representative of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise The Chairman read a letter received from members of the Audubon Naturalists' Society of Washington, U.S.A., expressing their thanks for a memorable Cruise. An appropriate reply would be sent.

Endowment Fund The Chairman reported that the first donation to the Endowment Fund, the sum of £5, had been received from a member, and he expressed the appreciation of the Council for this gift.

Accounts The Accounts for the past session, presented by the Hon. Treasurer, were approved. He told the meeting that a surplus of at least £3500 might be expected from the Cruise, a substantial proportion of which was likely to accrue to the Club. The disposal of these funds was not yet decided.

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

Election of new Office Bearers and Members of Council In the absence of any other nominations, the Council's recommendations for the following elections were approved. President, Dr W. J. Eggeling to replace Dr I. D. Pennie who had completed his term of office. Vice-President, A. Donald Watson to replace Dr W. J. Eggeling. Council Members: Dr David Jenkins and R. G. Caldow to replace Dr G. M. Dunnet and Dr D. H. Mills, who were due to retire by rotation. The Chairman thanked the retiring members for their services to the Club.

Votes of Thanks The Chairman moved a warm vote of thanks to the Conference lecturers, the projectionist, exhibitors, excursion leaders, staff and all the members who had helped with the organisation. A vote of thanks was also warmly accorded to A. T. Macmillan, Editor of *Scottish Birds* and to M. K. Hamilton, Hon. Treasurer of the Club. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring President on the motion of Dr W. J. Eggeling, President-elect of the Club.

THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Revenue Account for the year ended on 30th June 1966

	Year to		Year to	
	30/6/66		30/6/65	
INCOME—				
Subscriptions received for year	£1771	19 9	£1628	
Income Tax recovered on Covenanted Subscriptions	215	19 5	175	
Dividends and Interest received	85	4 7	208	
Surplus on Bookshop (Sales £2390)	642	12 10	605	
Sale of "Scottish Birds" to non-members	88	4 6	83	
Sundry Sales	161	10 8	123	
Contribution from Scottish Wildlife Trust Ltd towards facilities granted by Club	16	0 0	52	
Contribution from Scottish Ornithological Cruise Ltd towards facilities granted by Club	96	0 0	—	
Donations received	59	4 6	2	
	£3136	16 3	£2876	
EXPENDITURE—				
Branch expenses including lectures	£309	15 0	£284	
Travel expenses of Council Members and of Delegates to Conferences	65	14 9	55	
Secretarial Services	1142	7 11	845	
Office Expenses	268	9 4	267	
Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection: Club's share of running expenses including £100 annual contribution to the House Fabric Fund	317	8 1	364	
Cost of books purchased for Library	81	11 1	134	
Cost of publishing "Scottish Birds" (less advertising revenue £266)	523	8 3	336	
Cost of publishing "Foula" Supplement	148	13 11	—	
Net Cost of Annual Conference	2	5 1	5	
Subscriptions paid	15	12 6	15	
Sundry Purchases	112	4 0	110	
	£2987	9 11	£2415	
Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet	149	6 4	461	
	£3136	16 3	£2876	

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1966

	As at		As at	
	30/6/66		30/6/65	
Accumulated Surplus:				
As at 30th June 1965	£2286	9 4	£1825	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	149	6 4	461	
	£2435	15 8	£2286	

Made up of:

Cash: In hands of Secretary	£13 12 10	£11
In Royal Bank of Scotland No. 1 A/c	219 12 5	635
In Royal Bank of Scotland No. 2 A/c	61 4 2	3
In Edinburgh Savings Bank	357 17 8	346
In Account with Scottish Ornithological Cruise Ltd	65 18 5	9
	<u>£718 5 6</u>	<u>£1004</u>
Bookshop stock at valuation	666 0 0	314
Debts due to Club	140 3 6	174
	<u>£1524 9 0</u>	<u>£1492</u>
5% Defence Bonds	500 0 0	500
Loan to Edinburgh Corporation Mortgage at 6½% repayable 1968	500 0 0	-
Safeguard Industrial Investments Ltd—700 Ord. Shares of 5/- each at cost	507 19 11	508
	<u>£3032 8 11</u>	<u>£2500</u>

Less:

Subscriptions paid in advance	£71 0 0	56
Donation from the late Miss E. A. Garden—amount not yet expended	28 8 1	20
Debts due by Club	384 3 6	129
Amount due to Endowment Fund	113 1 8	—
	<u>596 13 3</u>	<u>£214</u>
	<u>£2435 15 8</u>	<u>£2286</u>

House Fabric Fund—Summary of Accounts for year to 30th June 1966

	Year to 30/6/66	Year to 30/6/65
RECEIPTS—		
Balance as at 30th June 1965	£162 19 1	£151
Year's rent from Royal Society for Protection of Birds	100 0 0	100
Year's rent from Mr and Mrs George Waterston	100 0 0	100
Annual Contribution from S.O.C. Revenue Account	100 0 0	100
Miscellaneous Interests	4 14 7	4
	<u>£467 13 8</u>	<u>£455</u>
EXPENDITURE—		
Repairs and maintenance (including stripping woodwork in hall—£60)	£69 0 0	£115
Property burdens	181 6 10	162
Insurance	15 3 7	15
	<u>£265 10 5</u>	<u>£292</u>
Balance on deposit with Dunedin Building Society	202 3 3	163
	<u>£467 13 8</u>	<u>£455</u>

Note: The balance of £202.3.3 includes £38.13.5 unexpended from the Harvey Donation.

Scottish Ornithologists' Club Endowment Fund

(the free annual income of which is available for the advancement of ornithology)

Year ended 30th June 1966

Income

Interest and Dividends received (gross)	£113 1 8
--	----------

Expenditure

Grants made	Nil
Unexpended income for year	£113 1 8

Balance Sheet**Endowments as at 1st July 1965**

Miss L. J. Baxter	£1000 0 0
Miss E. V. Rintoul	1000 0 0
	<u>£2000 0 0</u>

Additional Endowment during year

George Waterston O.B.E.: Proceeds of Edinburgh Lecture on Greenland ...	74 19 6
--	---------

	<u>£2074 19 6</u>
Unexpended income	113 1 8
	<u>£2188 1 2</u>

Made up of:

£1151 3½% War Stock at cost	£1000 0 0
976 Units of the Equities Investment Trust for Charities at cost	1000 0 0
On Deposit receipt	74 19 6
Due by Club's main funds	113 1 8
	<u>£2188 1 2</u>

EDINBURGH, 3rd October 1966—I have audited the foregoing revenue accounts for the year to 30th June 1966 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.

**COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE CLUB
FOR SESSION 30**

- 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 :** W. J. Eggeling, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E.
- Vice-President :** A. Donald Watson.
- 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, R. G. Caldow, Dr David Jenkins, H. A.
Maxwell, J. H. B. Munro, C. K. Mylne, G. L. A. Patrick, A. J. Smith,
R. T. Smith, Miss V. M. Thom.
- Branch Representatives to Council :** J. M. S. Arnott (Glasgow); J. E.
Forrest (Dundee); Miss F. J. Greig (Aberdeen); J. K. R. Melrose
(Dumfries); G. A. Richards (Ayr); Miss O. T. Thompson (Edinburgh);
J. Wiffen (St Andrews).

BRANCH AND GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

- Aberdeen :** Chairman, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards; Vice-Chairman, J.
Edelsten; Secretary, Miss F. J. Greig; Committee, A. Anderson, J. L.
Riddell, Dr G. Swapp.
- Ayr :** Chairman, G. A. Richards; Vice-Chairman, S. L. Hunter; Secretary,
Dr M. E. Castle; Committee, Miss J. E. Howie, T. B. Kay, R. M. Ram-
age, A. G. Stewart.
- Dumfries :** Chairman, William Austin; Vice-Chairman, A. D. Watson;
Secretary, H. M. Russell; Committee, Miss J. M. Donnan, J. K. R. Mel-
rose, D. Skilling, J. F. Young.
- Dundee :** Chairman, J. E. Forrest; Vice-Chairman, D. B. Thomson; Sec-
retary, Miss J. Stirling; Committee, W. D. G. Henrickson, G. C. Sime,
R. Summers, J. Hunter Sutherland.
- Edinburgh :** Chairman, M. K. Hamilton; Vice-Chairman, J. H. B. Munro;
Secretary, Miss O. T. Thompson; Committee, T. Delaney, M. J. Everett,
Miss M. E. Grace, I. H. J. Lyster.
- Glasgow :** Chairman, J. M. S. Arnott; Vice-Chairman, A. L. Ogilvy;
Secretary, Mrs J. B. Hutchison; Committee, R. G. Caldow, Dr I. T.
Draper, A. D. R. Palmer, G. L. A. Patrick.
- Inverness :** Chairman, H. A. Maxwell; Vice-Chairman, C. G. Headlam;
Secretary, James MacGeoch; Committee, Miss J. Banks, Miss G. M.
Bush, D. Gardiner, L. W. Payne, Dr Maeve Rusk.
- St Andrews :** Chairman, Dr W. Cunningham; 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. Wiffen.
- Thurso :** Chairman, Dr P. M. McMorran; Vice-Chairman, M. K. Good-
child; 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.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Clyde Bain Henry Boase P. W. G. Gunn Sir A. Landsborough Thomson

WEEKEND EXCURSION TO DUMFRIES

A weekend excursion has been arranged with the County Hotel, Dumfries, for the weekend 3rd to 5th March 1967, to see geese on the Solway.

Accommodation: inclusive terms £5.5.0, inclusive of gratuities, as follows—bed on Friday 3rd; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and bed on Saturday 4th; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 5th. Members should inform the hotel in advance if they require dinner on Friday evening (extra).

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. It is advisable to bring warm clothing, gum boots if possible, and thermos flasks.

WINTER EXCURSIONS**AYR**

Sunday 4th March BARR LOCH. Leader, Miss J. M. Howie. Meet County Hotel, Ayr, 10 a.m. or Howwood Railway Station 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 1st April GALLOWAY. Leader, Dr M. E. Castle. Meet County Hotel, Ayr, 10 a.m.

DUNDEE

Sunday 6th November 1966 LINTRATHEN LOCH.

Sunday 11th December TAYPORT AND TENTSMUIR.

Sunday 8th January 1967 STORMONT LOCH.

Sunday 5th February EDEN ESTUARY.

Sunday 5th March DUNS DISH.

Sunday 2nd April FORFAR/RESCOBIE LOCHS. Meet City Square, 10 a.m.

Details will be announced at Branch meetings, or may be obtained from the Branch Secretary.

CHANGE IN AYR BRANCH MEETING

The meeting of the Ayr Branch on Wednesday 18th January will be held jointly with the Ayrshire Branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, in the Savoy Park Hotel, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m., to hear Mr Tom Huxley speak on "Conservation in a Changing Landscape." Members are asked to note the change of meeting place on this occasion.

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THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

THE Scottish Ornithologists' Club was founded in 1936 and membership is open to all interested in Scottish ornithology. Meetings are held during the winter months in 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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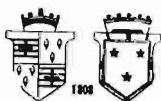
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