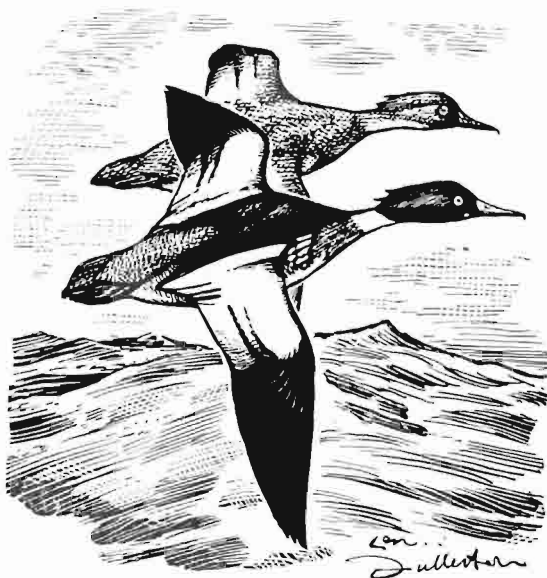


Scottish Birds



The Journal of The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Vol. 4 No. 8

Winter 1967

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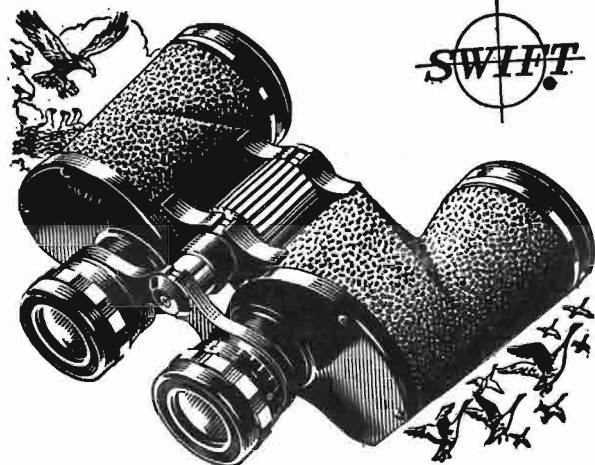
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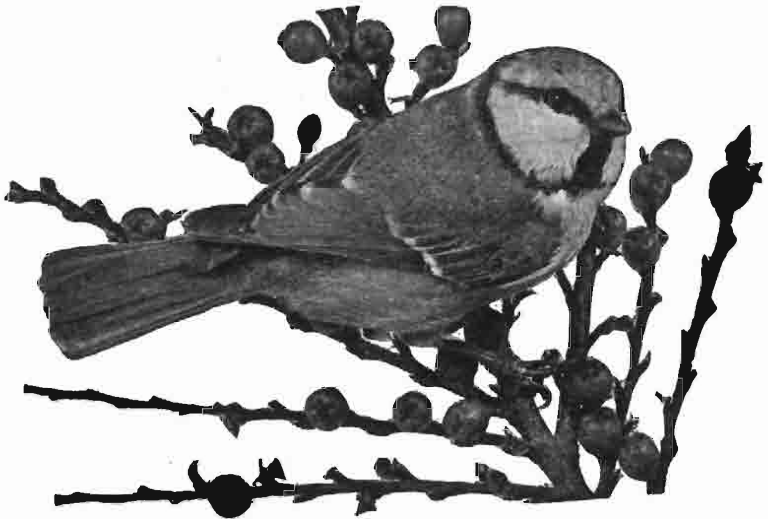
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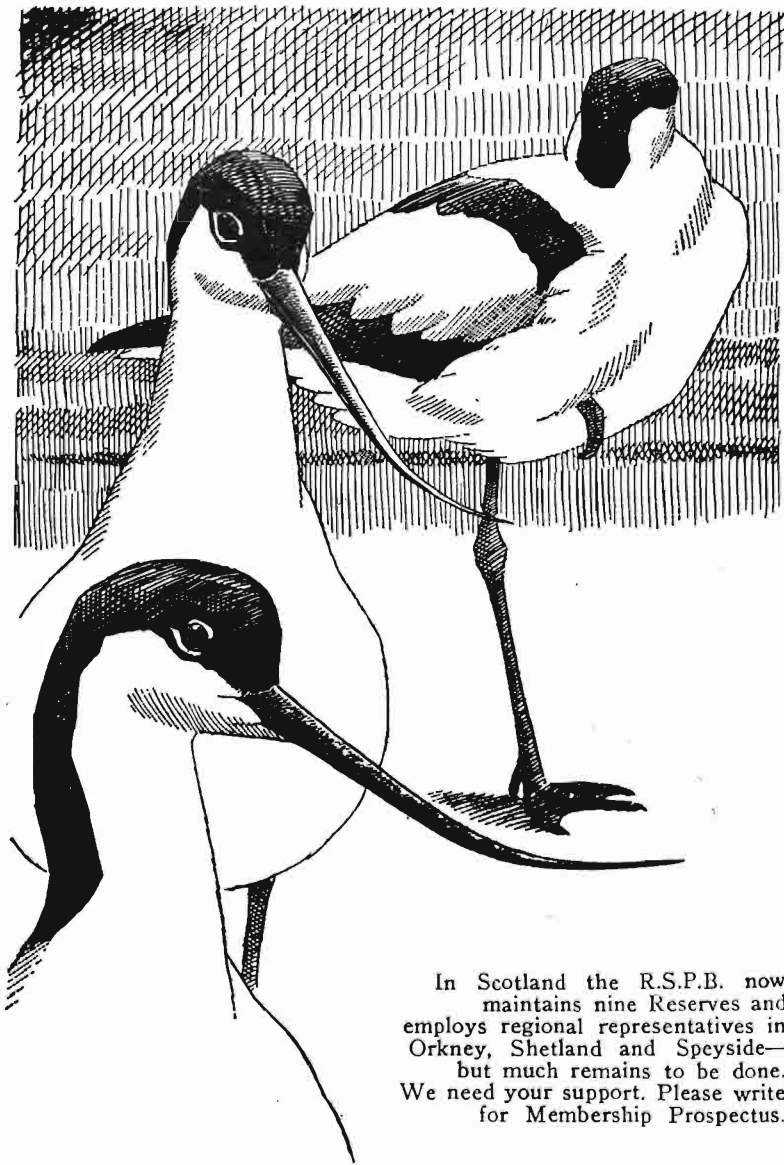
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Edited by Andrew T. Macmillan, 12 Abinger Gardens, Edinburgh 12.

Assisted by D. G. Andrew, T. C. Smout and P. J. B. Slater.

Business Editor T. C. Smout, 93 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh 9.



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Vol. 4 No. 8

Winter 1967

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

Editorial

Scottish Bird Report. Current Notes in this issue of *Scottish Birds* embrace some 600 records, of 148 species, contributed by 143 observers; these are the published records—a fraction of those submitted.

A lot more correspondence, research and editorial time per page is involved in producing this section than for any other. Therefore one wants to be sure that the result justifies the effort, and that one is not just publishing a mass of unclassified information in a form that may largely deprive it of permanent value. Such a fear is certainly exaggerated, but there are other snags to Current Notes besides the heavy burden of producing them regularly on time.

Most of the correspondence is handled by the editor, but for several years Peter Slater has compiled Current Notes, sorting out what is worth including and why, and putting it in order for the printer, and always working against time. This may sound a relatively straightforward task, but in fact one can spend half an hour checking the literature on a single point, only to decide that the record is not worth using. Peter Slater can no longer afford the time for this, as he has to prepare a thesis for his doctorate. None of the other editors is able to take on this most demanding job, and it would be hard to find anyone to do it so well as at present. Some change is unavoidable, and the time seems ripe for a new approach to the great volume of this type of material. This editorial outlines the plan and the thinking behind it.

There are several objections to publishing so much in the form of quarterly Current Notes. It is true that many people like the relative topicality and feeling of involvement with this section, and it stimulates them to send in notes. But without an annual summary it is becoming progressively more difficult to make use of the valuable information published in it. Also, many of the records are not so much current news as items which ought to be noted down for the future.

They go in this section because there is nowhere else, but they tend to hide reports of what really is current, except from those who are willing to read right through. At times, too, Current Notes can be actually misleading, because cover is patchy and varies from quarter to quarter, and because it is difficult for the editors always to judge the true interest of casual notes sent by visitors to areas with which they are not familiar.

To meet all these points there will in future be an annual Scottish Bird Report, gathering together records of both common and rare birds, published and unpublished; Current Notes in each issue of *Scottish Birds* will be abbreviated to a comparatively short news column, and the Scottish Bird Report will form a major part of one of the quarterly issues.

With the large number of active contributors to *Scottish Birds*, good cover is possible for much of the country. It is hoped that the new Scottish Bird Report will stimulate people to think more about changes in status of common birds than about rarities, and that it will show where information is lacking. The report should provide useful comparisons from year to year, and in a readily accessible form.

It is impossible to get really adequate cover by the present method of people sending in notes if they feel like it. A more systematic gathering of records with the help of active and experienced local birdwatchers in all areas seems essential. The Council of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club has therefore approved the appointment of Local Recorders throughout Scotland, and a list of those appointed is given below. Areas vary greatly in size, but have been determined as much by the present organisation and distribution of birdwatchers in Scotland as by the natural faunal divisions of the country.

Everything continues unchanged until the end of 1967, and material for the present style of Current Notes should be sent to the editor at the end of December. The new arrangements start on 1st January 1968, and the first Scottish Bird Report will cover 1968.

Ordinary records from January onwards should be sent direct to the appropriate local recorder, not to the editor, but the editor will forward them for anyone who is not sure where to send them. The idea is that each local recorder will prepare a summary for his area at the end of the year and send it in by the end of the following January. It is hoped that if all goes according to plan the Scottish Bird Report will appear in the summer issue of *Scottish Birds*. Cooperation from everyone, especially in sending their notes on time, will be essential if this is to be achieved and the best use

made of the records.

Many observers will arrange to give their notes to their local recorders regularly throughout the year. So that the local recorders may get started on their reports in good time, it is particularly asked that any other records for the first ten months of the year, January-October 1968, should be sent to them as early as possible in November 1968. Records for November and December (usually quiet months) should be sent as early as possible in January 1969, and certainly by the end of the first week of the month.

Material will be needed also for the new, brief Current Notes in *Scottish Birds*. Anything that could be of interest for this section should be reported to local recorders by the end of March, June, September and December, so that they may send in short reports on what has been happening in their areas.

Anything that might be suitable for a Short Note in *Scottish Birds* should be sent at once, either to the editor or to the local recorder.

Rarities should be reported at once to the local recorder, and full notes prepared for him to forward. We have been asked to say what should be done by anyone who discovers a rare bird. The first and most important thing is to make full and detailed notes in the field, even if you know the bird well and have no doubts about it; the next most important step, especially if you are alone or not yet known as an expert observer, is to get other competent birdwatchers alerted with all speed to come and look for the bird.

We believe that the proposed Scottish Bird Report is an important step forward. With the help of all active Scottish ornithologists it can be a really interesting, useful summary of all that has been happening in Scotland year by year. We appeal to everyone to give their fullest support to the local recorders, and to help to make the report as complete and informative as possible.

List of Local Recorders

Shetland (except Fair Isle). R. J. Tulloch, Reafirth, Mid Yell, Shetland.

Fair Isle. R. H. Dennis, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.

Orkney. E. Balfour, Isbister House, Rendall, Orkney.

St Kilda. Please write direct to editor.

Outer Hebrides (except St Kilda). W. A. J. Cunningham, Aros, 10 Barony Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Caithness. D. M. Stark, 2 Harland Road, Castletown, Thurso, Caithness.

Sutherland, Ross-shire (except Black Isle). Dr I. D. Pennie, The

- Hollies, Golspie, Sutherland.
- Inverness-shire (within 18 miles of Inverness), Ross-shire (Black Isle only).** Dr Maeve Rusk, Arniston, 51 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.
- Inverness-shire (mainland more than 18 miles from Inverness).** Hon. D. N. Weir, English Charlie's, Rothiemurchus, Aviemore, Inverness-shire.
- Nairnshire, Morayshire, Banffshire.** R. Hewson, 170 Mid Street, Keith, Banffshire.
- Dee faunal area.** Joint recorders: N. Picozzi, Unit of Grouse and Moorland Ecology, Blackhall, Banchory, Kincardineshire; W. Murray, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire.
- South Kincardineshire, Angus.** G. M. Crighton, 23 Church Street, Brechin, Angus.
- Perthshire.** Miss V. M. Thom, 19 Braeside Gardens, Perth.
- Kinross-shire.** J. H. Swan, Vane Farm Reserve, Kinross.
- Isle of May.** Miss N. J. Gordon, Nature Conservancy, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh 9.
- Fife (east of A90).** D. W. Oliver, 4 Lawview Cottages, Abercrombie, St Monance, Fife.
- Fife (west of A90), Clackmannanshire, East Stirlingshire.** T. D. H. Merrie, West Faerwood, Stirling Road, Dollar, Clackmannanshire.
- West Lothian.** Dr T. C. Smout, 93 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh 9.
- Forth islands (except May), Midlothian.** R. W. J. Smith, 33 Hunter Terrace, Loanhead, Midlothian.
- East Lothian, Berwickshire.** K. S. Macgregor, 16 Merchiston Avenue, Edinburgh 10.
- Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire.** A. J. Smith, Glenview, Selkirk.
- Clyde faunal area, North Argyllshire, Skye, Inner Hebrides.** Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, 16 Athole Gardens, Glasgow W.2.
- Dumfriesshire.** J. G. Young, Benvannoch, Glencaple, Dumfriesshire.
- Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtownshire.** A. D. Watson, Barone, Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Faunal areas and divisions are shown on the map in 'The Birds of Scotland.' It will be seen that the Hebrides and Skye are treated separately from the rest of the administrative counties in which they lie.

Agricultural pesticides. The sixth report of the Joint Committee of the B.T.O. and the R.S.P.B. on Toxic Chemicals, in collaboration with the Game Research Association, covers the period from July 1964 to December 1966. Residues of persistent organochlorine chemicals are now found through-

out the environment and in all parts of the country, though their significance cannot always be assessed. Breeding success of the Golden Eagle remains low in most areas, probably because of residues of dieldrin sheep dips acquired from eating sheep carrion. The Committee strongly argues that existing restrictions on the use of pesticides such as aldrin and dieldrin must continue.

The Rarities Committee. Though the *British Birds* Rarities Committee may seem remote and inexorable to some, Scotland is well represented on it. Of the nine members at the last count, Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn is very much a Scottish Ornithologist and both P. E. Davis and D. I. M. Wallace have strong Scottish connections. Now R. H. Dennis has accepted an invitation to join the committee, thus demonstrating the quality both of Fair Isle's birds and of its wardens, by completing the hat trick of the latter to serve on the committee.

Waxwings. Waxwings are with us again; details of locality, date, number of birds, and food taken, if any, should be sent to M. J. Everett, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7.

Irish Bird of Prey Conference. A one-day conference with the theme "The Peregrine Falcon in Ireland" has been arranged by the Bird of Prey Research Centre (All Ireland) at the Great Northern Hotel, Rostrevor, Co. Down, on Saturday 20th January 1968. Speakers are John Temple-Lang, John W. Greaves, Ian Prestt and Peter Olney, and there will be ample discussion time. Details from Ulster Museum, Stranmillis, Belfast.

Current literature. Recent articles of special interest to Scottish ornithologists have included:

Changes in farming practice. A. R. Wannop and A. Macdonald 1967. *Scot. Wildlife Trust Newsletter* 7: 13-16. Useful review of effects on wildlife.

Puffinosis in Fulmars in Orkney and Shetland. J. W. Macdonald, D. A. McMartin, K. G. Walker, M. Carrins and R. H. Dennis, 1967. *Brit. Birds* 60: 356-360.

A survey of the ducks breeding at Loch Leven in 1966. H. Boyd and C. R. G. Campbell, 1967. *Ann. Rep. Wildfowl Trust* 18: 36-42. Seven species bred and 705 nests were found.

Golden Eagle Survey Panel. In *The Sixth Report of the Joint Committee of the B.T.O. and the R.S.P.B. on Toxic Chemicals*, S. Cramp and P. J. S. Olney, 1967. Two-page report, with four interesting tables of breeding statistics. Winter territory in the Stonechat. J. S. Phillips, 1967. *Bird Study* 14: 191-192. Ayrshire study.

Waxwings in Scotland, 1965/66 and 1966/67

MICHAEL J. EVERETT

(Plates 53-54)

Introduction

In recent winters, Waxwing invasions have become all but commonplace events, leading Macmillan (1964) to suggest that "the subject has become almost a bore" to some observers. Scottish records for invasions over the last thirty years have been dealt with in detail by Baxter & Rintoul (1937, 1947) and by Macmillan (1959, 1960, 1962, 1964); on a broader scale, the extraordinary series of successive invasions in the winters of 1956/57 to 1959/60 has been discussed in detail, with reference to earlier invasions and to population fluctuation and winter food-supply, by Cornwallis (1961). These papers provide extensive background to the present report. Much additional information on the factors influencing bird irruptions can be found in Svårdson (1957), where Waxwings are among several species considered. The invasion which occurred during the winter of 1965/66 will be discussed in greater detail and on a wider basis in *British Birds* in due course; meanwhile, this report aims to describe briefly the irruption as a whole, and to deal more extensively with the arrival and movements of Waxwings in Scotland.

I was very kindly given an unpublished summary of events in Europe and elsewhere in Britain that had been compiled by Dennis Townsend, and the following brief account is based on this.

Breeding numbers were more or less normal in the U.S.S.R., but exceptional numbers of Waxwings nested in northern Sweden and Swedish Lapland. From the last week of September large numbers of birds began to move through Finland. Numbers were more or less normal, but the early dates and speed of the movement were most unusual; passage there was over by mid October. By this time, a mass invasion of northwest Russia had also taken place. By the end of October Waxwings were being reported in almost every European country; particularly large numbers are mentioned in Poland and, by inference, in Norway. Later, "fantastic numbers" were recorded all over France, a "huge invasion" had taken place in Hungary, and "enormous masses" had reached Czechoslovakia. There were several records from north or northeast Spain, and a bird taken on the west coast of Portugal was the first recorded in that country. Ringing recoveries of birds trapped in Hungary, U.S.S.R., Norway and Finland show that some birds reached Italy, Yugoslavia, and even European Turkey. Far to the northwest, Waxwings

reached Iceland by the end of October, with more following in November.

From 9th October Waxwings began to appear on the east coast of England in flocks of varying sizes, with at least one flock of 300 in north Norfolk by 20th. By the end of the month they were present in sizeable parties in all the eastern counties as far south as Kent, and a westward spread was evident, with records from Westmorland, Lancashire and Caernarvonshire. In the first half of November the east coast flocks became more scattered, but at the end of the month they were still present in 46 counties in England and Wales, and had reached Devon and Cornwall in the extreme southwest. Throughout December and January, birds were still widespread but were mostly in smaller flocks.

Numbers were well down in February, and isolated records in March may indicate return passage. Several stragglers were reported during April, but there were no May records.

The 1965/66 invasion

Most of the foregoing information was not received until some time after the collection of Scottish records had started; it underlines two basic assumptions made by observers in Scotland in October—firstly, that Waxwings were arriving unusually early, and secondly that they were present in unprecedented numbers. Waxwings normally arrive in Scotland at the end of October and in early November, but in 1965 the first wave had reached Argyll by mid October, when the main invasion was under way along the eastern seaboard. In the 1946/47 invasion, which is considered a major one, Baxter and Rintoul estimated that 6000 birds reached Scotland; over 1500 records received for 1965/66 show that, even allowing for some duplication of reports, over 10,000 birds were involved.

This summary is based on records sent in by S.O.C. members and the general public from all over Scotland; many reports were spontaneous, but the majority came as a result of repeated requests for information in both local and national newspapers, in this journal, and, indirectly, in other periodicals and on radio. Several very early and generally unlikely records mentioned here have been carefully checked with the observers. Waxwings received a great deal of publicity, and it is pleasing to record here the tremendous interest in them shown by the non-birdwatching public. There seems to be no very obvious peak in the number of reports received to link with any single appeal, most reports coming in when other sources indicated that maximum numbers of birds were present. Table 1 shows the distribution of reports over the faunal areas of Scotland, and the estimated

Table 1. Number of reports of Waxwings from each faunal area of Scotland in winter 1965/66, and estimated number of birds involved

Faunal area	Reports	Birds
Northern Isles	46	770
North Coast	51	500
Moray	217	2155
Dee	54	455
Tay	219	1270
Forth	339	2000
Tweed	61	410
Outer Hebrides	26	110
Northwest Highlands	52	435
Argyll/Inner Hebrides	117	1235
Clyde	299	2510
Solway	63	695
	1544	12545

number of birds these involved. Very little bias is evident in the table, with good cover in all areas.

The first 13 Waxwings to be sighted appeared at Strontian, Morvern, Argyll, on the exceptionally early date of 22nd September—just before the main passage through Finland started; they remained in the area for about a month. They were followed by birds which appeared in Argyll several days before arrivals were noted on the east coast: 21 were seen on Eilean Mhor, Loch Keil, in the first week of October; there were at least four in the Lochgilphead area on 10th October, and at least 14 there the following day; "a lot" arrived at Eredine, Loch Awe; four were seen at Dalmally; and 20 appeared at Kilmelford, Oban. By 15th October well over 100 birds were scattered across Argyll, and it was not until the end of the month that any noticeable increases occurred—by which time the influx was obvious in many other areas.

Quite apart from the very early appearance of this first small wave of birds, the fact that they were first seen well to the southwest is both unusual and interesting. It seems improbable that scattered small parties could arrive via the east coast and not be noticed somewhere *en route* to Argyll, and it looks as if they did not in fact land until they had crossed a substantial section of the mainland. The records suggest that these birds did not move about very much after their arrival, although some 20 reached Jura on 23rd October.

Meanwhile the main arrivals of Waxwings were reported all along the eastern seaboard, from Shetland south to Berwickshire. Data from Shetland are rather incomplete, but the earliest record is of a single bird on Fetlar on 17th October; the main arrivals in the islands were from 20th onwards, with flocks widely scattered in many areas. A similar position obtained in Orkney, although the first bird was seen in Kirk-

wall on 11th. On Fair Isle a continuous small passage was noted from 16th, with a maximum of 30 birds on 17th.

On the northern mainland the first Caithness date is 17th October, when 19 Waxwings were seen at Dunbeath; thereafter they were well distributed in small numbers, and 70 were seen in Thurso on 23rd. In northern Sutherland there were 60 birds at Bettyhill on 28th, and 80 at Armadale next day. Further west, nine birds reached Tongue on 14th, and the first bird reached Lewis on 20th when one was seen in Stornoway. Another was found dead at Ness around this time. It was suggested that these birds had reached the northwestern extremities of Scotland by moving westwards along the north coast, but it seems more likely that they arrived direct from Shetland or Orkney, following a roughly southwest course; a record of 20 Waxwings on North Rona on 24th October seems to lend weight to this idea.

To return to the east coast—from mid October there was a steady influx involving many hundreds of birds, from southeast Sutherland to the Tweed, with especially large numbers reported in the Moray, Tay and Forth faunal areas. The earliest dates were: 15th October—one at Burnmouth, Berwickshire; 16th October—one at Cleeve, Perth, and one near Banchory, Kincardineshire; 17th October—two at Portmahomack, E. Ross, and seven flying north over the Isle of May; 18th October—"some" at Brora, Sutherland; and 19th October—12 near Crathie, Aberdeenshire, three at St Andrews, and two at Liberton, Edinburgh.

By the end of October parties of Waxwings were being seen well inland and had penetrated to most areas in the west and southwest. Early records in the northwest include 14 at Loch Laxford, Sutherland, from 16th October, and a single bird at Droman, near Kinlochbervie, Sutherland, on 24th. The earliest date for Wester Ross is during the week ending 22nd October, when 12 birds were seen in Ullapool. On 18th a single bird appeared on Isle Ornsay, Sleat, and by 27th 12 were present there. The first to reach Skye itself were 35 birds seen at Dunvegan on 31st. The first of a small party to reach Rhum arrived at Kinloch on 23rd. There were good numbers of Waxwings in Stornoway by the end of October, while further south a single bird arrived in South Uist on 31st. Most parties seen in western areas towards the end of October were small, but 200 were seen at Arisaig from 20th to 31st, and over 200 had arrived in the Fort William area by 31st. Fig. 1 shows the numbers and distribution of Waxwings in Scotland during October.

In November arrivals continued much as they had in the latter half of October, and by the end of the month there were very few areas where Waxwings had not put in an ap-

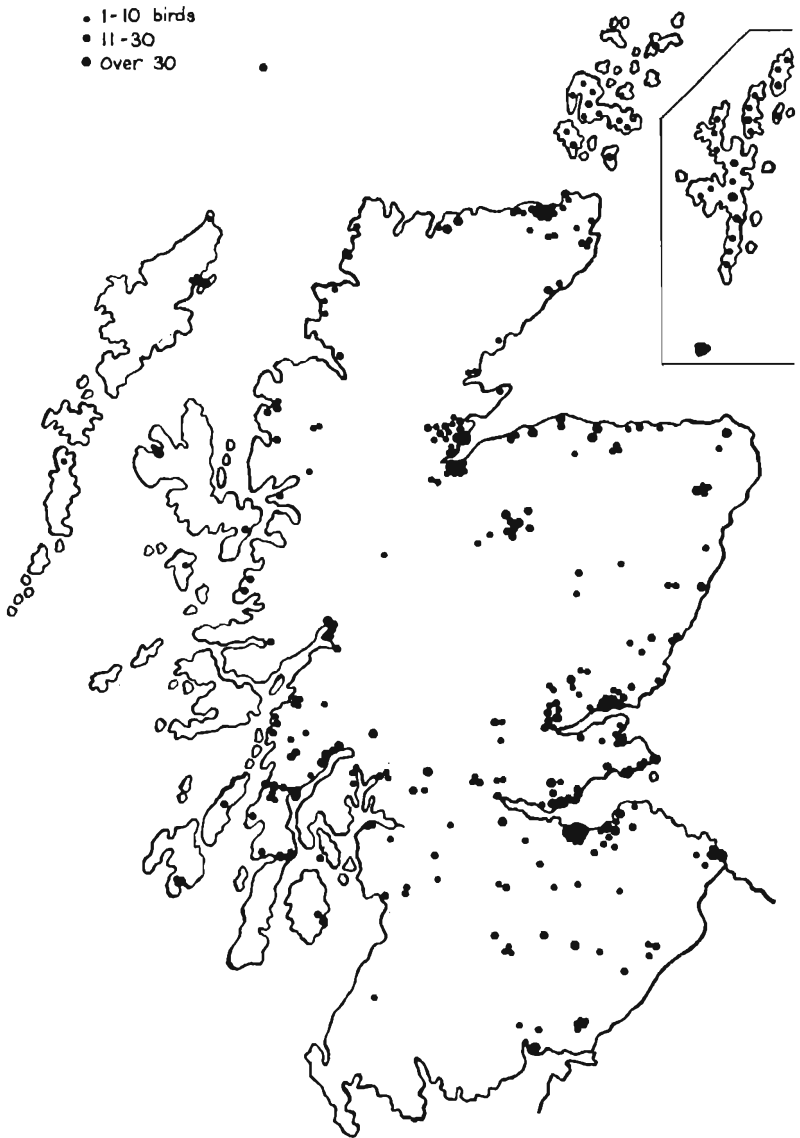


FIG 1. Reports of Waxwings in October 1965. Note that in figs. 1-4 a random pattern of dots has been used for Shetland and Orkney where complete details are lacking.

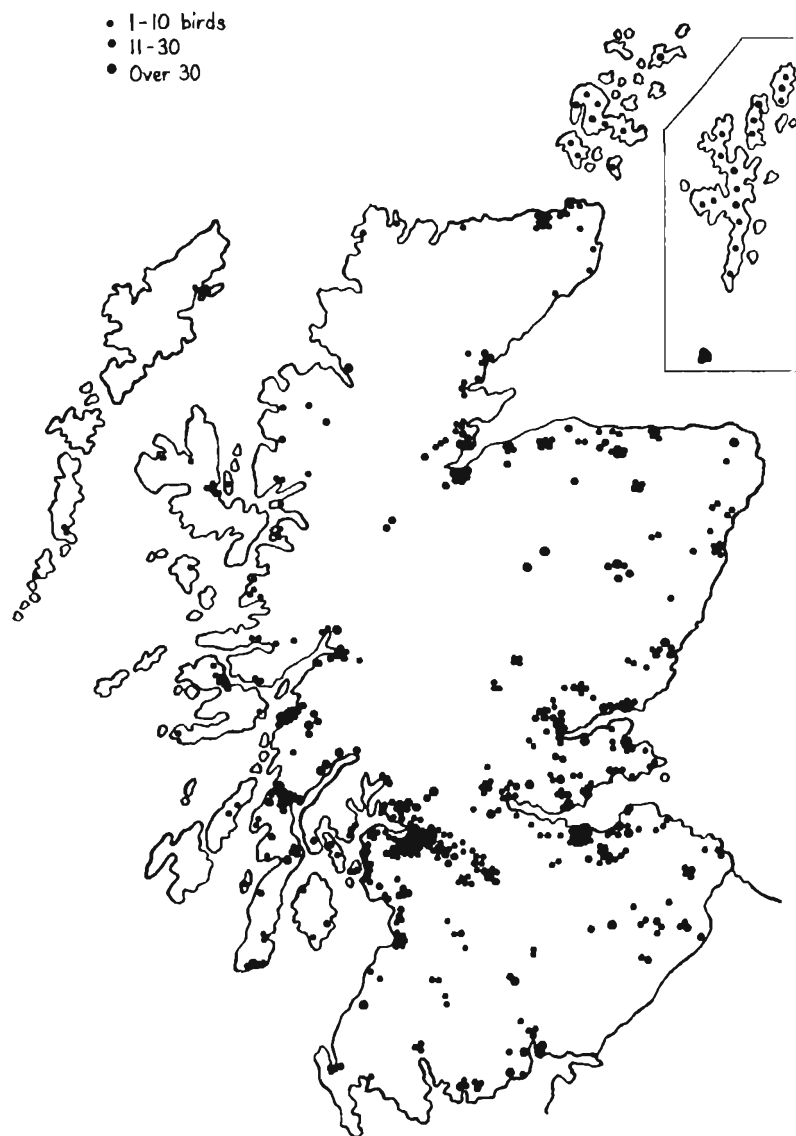


FIG. 2. Reports of Waxwings in November 1965. See note to fig. 1.

pearance either in strength or in small numbers. Two hundred passed through Fair Isle on 1st, and between 23rd October and 3rd November at least 120 had gone through Speyside. Further outlying areas were reached—Mull on 1st and Islay on 5th. The main brunt of the invasion seems to have hit Scotland in the area from Moray southwards, although considerable numbers were recorded in areas further north well into November.

Several flocks of over 50 birds were reported in November, including 75 at Killearn, Stirlingshire, by 13th. Larger flocks were seen at Inveraray and in Aberdeenshire, and there was an unusual record of 100 or so resting in a field at Rothiemurchus, on Speyside, on 16th or 17th. The large flock at Arisaig disappeared, and numbers at Fort William dropped to about 75 birds by 13th.

The most striking feature of the invasion during November was an impressive build-up of birds in the southwest, which took place while others were still arriving in the east. This build-up was under way by the end of October, but becomes more obvious when the figures for the whole of that month are compared with those for November (see table 2). An exodus from the southwest took place in December, by which time Waxwings were being seen in some numbers in Ireland. Fig. 2 shows the numbers and distribution of Waxwings in Scotland during November.

In December arrivals of Waxwings slackened off considerably, and reports received indicate a fall in numbers in all faunal areas; good numbers however remained in the Forth area (although there could be some bias towards such a well watched area). A late wave boosted totals for the Moray area considerably; all told, between 500 and 600 birds were seen between Forres and Findhorn Bay on 12th December. These had all moved on by 18th, perhaps sooner. There were no December records from the Northern Isles, North Coast or Northwest Highlands. Elsewhere birds were apparently moving about at random, but many individuals or small parties showed signs of settling as winter residents. For example, a Waxwing remained in a garden at Clarkston, Renfrewshire, feeding on apples, for six weeks. Fig. 3 shows the numbers and distribution of Waxwings in Scotland during December.

From January to March there was no suggestion of any further influx of birds; no reports were received from the Northern Isles, North Coast, Outer Hebrides, Northwest Highlands, Argyll or the Inner Hebrides. Numbers of wintering birds were small in most areas, mostly falling by the end of March. Nearly all birds had gone by April, and figures for that month are perhaps predictable from the March totals. It is difficult to be sure if March and April records indicate

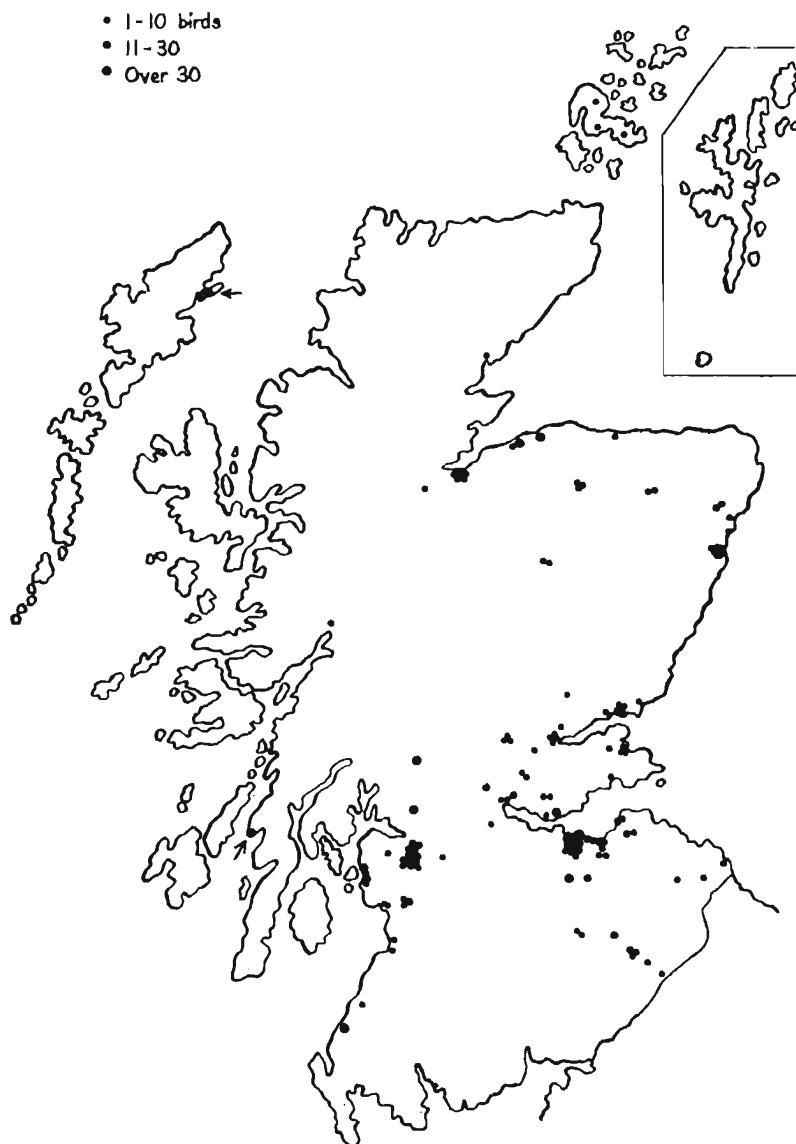


FIG. 3. Reports of Waxwings in December 1965. See note to fig. 1.

Table 2. Estimated monthly total of Waxwings in each faunal area of Scotland in 1965/66

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Northern Isles		560	610						3
North Coast		500	40						
Moray		740	900	685	85	35	11	6	1
Dee		145	290	25	4	13	9	7	
Tay		460	655	75	50	60	38	18	
Forth		615	700	420	200	80	85	51	7
Tweed		230	185	60	15	8			
Outer Hebrides		110	25	5					1
NW Highlands		290	180						
Argyll/ I. Heb.	13	685	675	2					
Clyde		410	1800	230	45	30	18		
Solway		60	500	30	1	3	1		
	13	4805	6560	1532	400	229	162	82	12

a return passage, but a local build-up in west Edinburgh in this period suggested that this was happening; however, the numbers in table 2 suggest that any movement was very small—and pose the question of where all the thousands of Waxwings which came through earlier had gone. An interesting number of stragglers appeared in May; these are listed in table 3.

Table 3. Records of Waxwings in Scotland in May 1966

Foula, Shetland	1 on 6th
Fair Isle	1 on 3rd, 1 on 5th
Dornoch, Sutherland	1 on 1st (from 22nd April)
Munlochy, Black Isle	1 on 4th
Edinburgh	1 from 1st to 3rd
Near Haddington	1 from c.1st to 24th
Tynninghame, E. Lothian	4 on 1st
Stornoway	1 on 8th

Few really large flocks of Waxwings were recorded during the 1965/66 invasion. Flocks of 100 or more are listed in table 4.

Table 4. Flocks of 100 or more Waxwings in Scotland in 1965/66

c. 200	Passing through Fair Isle	1st November
c. 200	Fort William area	Late Oct to early Nov
c. 200	Arisaig	20th-31st October
c. 150	Foot of Gairn, Aberdeenshire	1st-4th November
100+	Rothiemurchus, Aviemore	16th or 17th November
100+	Kingoodie, Perthshire	6th November
100+	Crarae, Inveraray	Late Oct to early Nov

The 1966/67 invasion

Predictably perhaps, Waxwings re-appeared in Scotland during the winter of 1966/67, although this time numbers were very much smaller and the records were very scattered. I again sought information from many sources, and managed to build a reasonable picture of this more normal-sized irruption; however, perhaps the subject really had become a bore by this time, and I expect that more birds were actually present than the following summary indicates. Certainly as far as the extreme north is concerned records are few.

As in 1965/66, the invasion began early. The first Waxwing reported was from Yell, Shetland, on 9th October. Birds were seen in Unst and on Fair Isle the following day, and by the middle of the month there were small parties throughout Shetland (mostly 6-10 birds but sometimes 20); on Fair Isle single birds were noted on four dates later in October, with two birds on three dates. The position in Orkney was presumably much the same, although no reports were received to confirm this suspicion. A single bird appeared on Foula on 19th October. On the mainland, "scores" of birds had arrived at Tongue, Sutherland, by 18th October, small numbers appeared in Caithness from 15th, and in the Moray Basin birds were seen at Evanton and Muir of Ord (30) on 22nd and at Gordonstoun on 20th. A single Waxwing reached Ullapool in the west around 25th October, and a few days later small numbers arrived in Cullen and Banff. In the Spey valley two were seen at Coylumbridge on 26th. Small groups were reported from Aberdeenshire from 21st (Aberdeen), including five at Braemar on 24th.

Further south on the eastern side of the country about a dozen birds arrived in Dundee in "early October" and within ten days the flock had grown to 30; three reached Invergowrie on 26th, and four days later 15 were present. Three small parties appeared well inland in Perthshire on 29th and 30th. Surprisingly, only one report came in from Fife, of a single bird in Kirkcaldy on 29th October. On the other side of the Forth, however, the first birds were seen in Edinburgh on 26th and at Gullane the following day; the earliest reports in this area were of six at Dirleton on 21st, and 12 at Longniddry on 25th. Five Waxwings were seen at Eyemouth, Berwickshire, on 28th, and two records were received from places in Selkirk around the same date. One bird arrived at Carluke, Lanarkshire, on 27th October, while another turned up outside Glasgow University the following day.

Once again some Waxwings made an early appearance in Argyll: 12 were at Benderloch on 20th October, and at least 40 had arrived in Inveraray on 30th. Six appeared at the Point of Knap the next day. The first Lewis bird was at Gisla

on 16th, and seven were in Stornoway ten days later. A lone straggler reached the most unlikely place of all for a Waxwing, St Kilda, on 19th October.

November saw a build-up of numbers throughout Scotland, as shown in table 5. Stragglers remained in Shetland until the end of the month, while on Fair Isle singles were seen on 4th, 5th and 20th, and six came through on 23rd. The last of the Caithness birds was seen on 25th. Only five November reports were received from Ross-shire, but among these were 36 (in two groups) at Muir or Ord on 6th, and, in the west, over 50 in Ullapool from 20th. Small numbers were present in Stornoway for much of November, and in Skye 15 were seen at Portree on 6th, and one was there on 12th. Parties of varying sizes were seen in central Scotland on various dates, the largest being 20 at Gordonstoun on 9th and 30 nearby on 12th, 22 at Turriff, Aberdeenshire, on "a late November date," and about 50 near Elgin on 6th. By the third week of the month at least 20 individuals were present in Inverness.

Small numbers were reported in an area from Helensburgh in the west to Dundee in the east, while about 75 birds in all were present in Fife, mainly on the coast, including 25 at Newburgh on 16th. Small groups were present in East Lothian, Berwick, Selkirk and Roxburgh, the biggest being 17 at one of the favourite Gullane haunts on 12th. At least 90 birds were in and around Edinburgh during November, the largest party being 17 at Donaldson's School on 14th. Several reports were received from Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Ayrshire, the biggest flock being of 25 birds in Kilmarnock in "mid November." At least 35 Waxwings were seen in Glasgow in November. The scattered groups in Argyll totalled about 135 birds, with 40 still present in Inveraray until 11th—perhaps longer—being the largest single gathering. Only three records came in from the south of Scotland: a single bird was seen in Dumfries on 7th or 8th; 53 were at Rockcliffe, Kirkeudbrightshire, on 2nd; and two were at West Freugh, Wigtonshire, on 1st. Fig. 4 shows the numbers and distribution of Waxwings in Scotland during October and November.

Numbers appeared to dwindle considerably in December (see table 5); ten birds were seen in Dornoch on 28th, and small numbers were still present in Inverness. Odd small groups were reported in Banff, Elgin and Forres and in Kingoodie, Perthshire, on various dates. Between 12 and 15 Waxwings remained in Dundee until 19th December, while 27 and 15 were reported in Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively. Nine records of singles or small parties came from Fife and Berwickshire. During January nine reports were received, small numbers of birds being seen in Inverness, Forres, Aber-



FIG. 4. Reports of Waxwings in October and November 1966. See note to fig. 1.

Table 5. Estimated monthly total of Waxwings reported in each faunal area of Scotland in 1966/67

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Northern Isles	100?	50?				
North Coast	75?	20?				
Moray	65	200	45	9	11	1
Dec	11	42		10	8	
Tay	60	105	30	13	6	9
Forth	80	155	40	3	1	6
Tweed	15	50				
Outer Hebrides	10	30?				
N.W. Highlands	1	60				
Argyll/I. Heb.	60	135				
Clyde	2	100	15			5
Solway		56				
	479	1003	130	35	26	21

deen, St Fillans, St Andrews and Edinburgh. Much the same pattern, with nearly as many birds involved, emerged in February, a single bird in Glasgow on 18th being the exception. March produced six records: singles at Blanehead, Stirlingshire, on 4th, Banff on 3rd, and Lundin Links, Fife, on 30th (the latest 1967 record); four at Bearsden, Glasgow, on 13th; five in Kirkcaldy on 1st and 2nd; and nine in Perth on 19th.

Food of Waxwings, 1965/66

During the huge 1965/66 invasion, large numbers of observers reported on the food of various Waxwing flocks (see table 6). The table shows the birds' known liking for cotoneaster, the abundance of which probably accounts for the great number of records from urban and suburban areas. Considering the reliance migrating Waxwings place on rowans in Fenno-Scandia there are surprisingly few records of the berries of this tree being eaten during the invasion. Hips and haws are a favourite food in more open country, but Waxwings clearly eat a great variety of fruits—and other interesting items as well, including such unlikely fare as bread and cake (14 records—6 of them in April, when natural food was scarcer), bananas, grapes, oranges and carrots, put out for them by enterprising garden-ornithologists. Birds were recorded "flycatching" on six occasions. Three records each were received for the fruits of juniper and pyracantha; two each for Prunus, privet, ribes and "unidentified seeds"; and the following were recorded once: ash, willow and elm buds, primrose flowers (April), mulberry, fuchsia, ash, alder, broom, raspberry and potatoes. Several observers reported preference for one food over another when two or more species were available, but the records were either inconsistent with one another or even in direct contradiction—so nothing

Table 6. Fruit eaten by Waxwings in Scotland in 1965/66—number of records per month excluding items recorded less than ten times (see text)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Cotoneaster	88	240	32	22	6	2			390
Haws	24	69	7	4	1	1			106
Berberis	22	56	7	3					88
Hips	11	38	11	7	8	5			80
Apples	8	30	11	7	6	4	1	1	68
Yew	13	32							45
Honeysuckle	21	15	1						37
Elder	9	22	1						32
Rowan/Sorbus	14	6	4	1		1			26
Bramble	11	11							22
Pears	6	12				1	1		20
Holly		7			1		1	2	11
	227	538	74	44	22	14	3	3	925

much was gleaned on food preference. One observer pointed out that a certain well-known brand of bird-food was not attractive to Waxwings.

Mortality

During any Waxwing invasion, observers are struck by the large numbers of Waxwings found dead. From the records received over the course of two winters it seems that the main cause of death is the birds' curious habit of flying into stationary objects—not only glass windows, but much more unlikely things, such as a crane on a South Uist jetty. Cats certainly catch a lot of Waxwings; the birds are often very confiding, and even rather sluggish, and doubtless fall easy prey to prowling felines. Only one of the birds picked up dead (in Oban during the second week of December 1965) bore a ring; it had been trapped and ringed on 5th October 1965 at Raksila, near Oulu, Finland.

Not all the birds which were picked up after crashing into such things as windows died; several were restored to full health in captivity and later released. One correspondent related how her Waxwing became so tame that it rode about the house perched on her dog's head.

Acknowledgments

Space has not permitted mention of every individual record received, nor of the names of the 1200 or so observers who sent me these records; I hope they will accept my grateful thanks here. I must particularly thank Mrs Ida Rainier, who eased my labours by collecting all the Argyll records in both invasions; Dennis Townsend for kindly preparing the summary which I used in writing the first section of this report; and, for their help and advice on various matters, Dick Cornwallis, Andrew Macmillan, Peter Olney and George Waterston.

Summary

The strikingly large Waxwing invasion of the 1965/66 winter involved much of Europe, and the occurrence of the birds in various countries and in England is briefly described. Waxwings reached Scotland earlier than usual and in unprecedented numbers; over 1500 records were received, involving well over 10,000 birds.

Details are given of the arrival and spread of birds in Scotland during October, November and December, when Waxwings were reported from almost all areas. There was a very early arrival of birds in Argyll before the main numbers began to appear in the east, and an impressive build-up in the southwest during November prior to an exodus from this area, presumably to Ireland. The monthly position is shown on a series of maps. Waxwings ceased to arrive about mid December, although on 12th a wave of 500-600 birds arrived on the Moray Firth; for the remainder of the winter birds appeared in many areas, mostly in central Scotland, with stragglers until April and May.

A smaller invasion, again starting early, took place the following winter, 1966/67. The arrival and spread of birds is described. As in 1965/66, there was a very early arrival of Waxwings in Argyll.

Records of the fruits eaten by Waxwings during the 1965/66 invasion are listed month by month, and other miscellaneous food items are mentioned. Mortality is briefly discussed.

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A visit to Stack Skerry and Sule Skerry

DAVID M. STARK

(Plate 52)

Introduction

Stack Skerry, sometimes known as Sule Stack, is an isolated rock in the Atlantic Ocean about 26 nautical miles north of Whiten Head in North Sutherland, and about 33 miles west of Orkney Mainland (59°2'N, 4°30'W). It is a twin-humped rock of hornblende gneiss, a narrow channel separating the two humps. In the northern hump there is a very deep geo which almost splits it in half. The highest point of the rock

is between 120 and 130 feet, and the area is about 6 acres. There is no vegetation on it. It is a well known gannetry, previous population estimates being between 5000 and 6000 pairs in 1914 by the Duchess of Bedford, 3500 pairs in 1937 by Malcolm Stewart, 2010 pairs in 1949 and 2800 pairs in 1960 by James Fisher and Dr W. J. Eggeling.

Sule Skerry is little more than a reef, 40 to 50 feet high and about 35 acres in area, lying approximately 5 miles NNE of Stack Skerry (59°4'N, 4°24'W). It is some 850 yards long from east to west and 550 yards broad from north to south and is deeply incised by geos on all sides. Some 12 acres of the centre of the skerry are covered by a rich brown loam of varying thickness composed of decayed vegetation. The vegetation is primarily an 18" high mayweed *Tripleurospermum maritimum*. The loam is riddled with Puffin burrows. A manned lighthouse was built on Sule Skerry in 1895.

On 15th July 1967 at 10.30 a.m. BST a party of eleven birdwatchers from Caithness and Orkney left Kirkwall Harbour for Stack Skerry. The Caithness members of the party had crossed the Pentland Firth the day before on the *St Ola*, which plies daily between Scrabster on the mainland and Stromness in Orkney. The night was spent camped in the back garden of Jim Williams, one of the Orkney party.

In a fresh northeasterly breeze and dull conditions. the 55 ft seine-netter, the *Flourish* K914 of Shapinsay, headed north through the Wide Firth, past Gairsay on the starboard beam and then through Eynhallow Sound to Costa Head on the west of the Orkney Mainland.

At Costa Head Skipper Davidson took his vessel between the cliffs and the Standard, a tall stack just offshore, to give us a good view of the Kittiwake and Guillemot colony. It was estimated that there were about 1000 pairs of Kittiwakes and 1000 pairs of Guillemots on the Head, with some 50 Shags and 50 pairs of Puffins on the Standard.

Having passed the Brough of Birsay on the port beam, the *Flourish* altered course and headed west into the Atlantic. There was little of interest to be seen. Small parties of Kittiwakes were heading east towards Costa Head and the inevitable Fulmars were seen around the boat, occasionally chased by a Great or an Arctic Skua. The Arctic Skuas probably came from Rousay and Eynhallow. Small parties of Razorbills, Puffins and Guillemots were occasionally seen, but they were surprisingly few. Soon after we lost sight of the Orkney Mainland, the cloud cleared, the sun came out, and the wind dropped to light and veered to easterly. About 15 miles off the Orkney Mainland a party of six Turnstones flew past the *Flourish* heading eastwards.

As we headed further into the Atlantic, two things were

particularly noticeable. Firstly, the number of Great Black-backed Gulls, flying in all directions and at varying heights, and secondly, the absence of Gannets, in an area where they are generally reckoned to be plentiful.

Sule Skerry lighthouse was sighted some 10 miles ahead at 3.30 p.m., and we passed about a mile to the south of it, heading for Stack Skerry, as it is called in Caithness and on the Admiralty charts. From a distance of one mile Sule Skerry was an impressive sight, as it lay bathed in brilliant sunshine against a bright blue background, with thousands of Puffins flying round it. From off Sule Skerry, Stack Skerry could be clearly seen—a tall rock, the top three-quarters of which were white with guano.

Stack Skerry

Our first close view of the Stack revealed that both the north and south humps were covered with Gannets. The Stack was circumnavigated twice so that possible landing places could be surveyed and, during this period, what we took to be non-breeding birds flew off and circled our vessel.

Some idea of the sea conditions around the Stack can be derived from the fact that, with a very light easterly breeze, it was almost impossible to stand upright on deck on the windward side of the Stack, owing to the swell, while on the leeward side there was a dead calm, and also a most pronounced smell.

At 5.30 p.m. we heaved to, some 20 yards off the deep geo on the west side of the Stack's northern hump, and made our preparations for landing. Having been told of the difficulties of landing on the Stack, the party was fully equipped with all the necessary gear, but when Skipper Davidson, having rowed over, jumped ashore and ran some 60 feet up the rock in his plimsoles, a sigh of relief was heard. First of the bird-watchers ashore was the writer, who promptly began to slide back towards the Atlantic. Fortunately, his slide was soon stopped. The whole party was quickly ashore and a count of the Gannet nests made as we made our way to the top of the Stack. Generally the going was easy, but once among the nesting birds, which frequently pecked at our trouser legs, footwear became extremely slippery with Gannet droppings, fish and offal. Some of the fish, mostly mackerel, were at least 9" long. A particular hazard was when what looked to be a flat piece of rock proved to be a crust of white guano on top of two or three inches of greasy water.

Nesting of the Gannets was in all stages of development; eggs unhatched, eggs hatching, and young at all stages from newly hatched chicks to some birds almost ready to fly.

Guillemots were found nesting amongst the Gannets. Nests were generally made of tangle, with occasional pieces of flotsam. Three fisherman's net needles were seen in the composition of the nests. Usually the nests were on the dry rock but quite a number were found to be floating on water trapped in ledges. This seemed to have no effect on the young.

Two thousand Gannet nests were counted, and it was estimated that there were about 1500 more on the east face of the north hump, which we felt was too dangerous to climb down. No Gannet nests were seen on the south hump. An estimate of the non-breeding Gannet population was 3500, roughly the same as the number of nests.

The Guillemot population was estimated at about 200 pairs, and out of a sample count of 50 birds, five were Bridled.

A hundred pairs of Kittiwakes were nesting, with 400 non-breeding birds present. The breeding birds were all on the west face of the north hump.

One juvenile Shag was seen on the north hump.

Twenty grey seals were seen in the water close to the Stack.

A Gannet and a Guillemot were seen to be slightly oiled.

After about two hours on the Stack, the party re-embarked and headed northeast for Sule Skerry. The sight of Stack Skerry bathed in sunshine contrasting sharply against the blue of the sea with thousands of Gannets flying around was magnificent.

Sule Skerry

The landing on Sule Skerry proved to be more difficult than that on Stack Skerry. Despite the aid of a rope ladder which was lowered by the lightkeepers, there was still a 10 foot climb to be negotiated. From a distance the ascent looked difficult, but once the top of the ladder was reached it proved to be easy, with plenty of handholds and footholds.

On landing on Sule Skerry, two things are particularly noticeable. Firstly, the smell, and secondly, the thousands of Puffins which are flying around. We quickly realised that the smell came from the Puffin droppings.

Having pitched camp, and eaten, the party split up to explore the Skerry and to watch the thousands and thousands of Puffins flying around. As the sun slowly set, there seemed to be a continuous stream of Puffins dropping into their burrows, each bird carrying a mouthful of small fish.

About midnight the movement of Puffins ceased and the Storm Petrels came out. Two mistnets were erected and half of the party spent the next two hours catching and ringing Storm Petrels. We had the good fortune to catch and ring

a Leach's Petrel, which was a new bird for all members of the party. As dawn came, the mistnets were quickly taken down while the movement of Puffins to and from their burrows started.

When we awoke later in the morning the Skerry was shrouded in mist, but this soon began to clear. The ringers set to work ringing Puffins, and we quickly found that the easiest way to catch them was to put an arm up the burrow, while crawling on all fours amongst the mayweed. A sharp bite or scratch soon told us whether the burrow was occupied or not. In this way 150 Puffins were ringed before it was time to pack up and depart. During our spare moments, a quick census of the birds on the Skerry was made.

Puffins were found nesting almost everywhere, including suitable stony areas. It was estimated that there were some 60,000 pairs nesting on Sule Skerry.

Storm Petrels were heard under the hut to the south of the lighthouse, but none was heard under the railway lines, a place where previous visitors to the Skerry had reported them. The site where mistnetting took place was an outcrop of rock to the northeast of the light towards Long Geo, and nests were found in this area. No estimate of numbers was made but it was felt that the birds probably nest throughout the Skerry. There are plenty of empty burrows and suitable rock sites.

Razorbills were found nesting under rocks but no estimate of the population could be made.

The following is a summary of the other birds recorded:

Fulmar—10 pairs

Shag—100 pairs

Eider—20 nesting pairs, 20 non-breeding birds

Redshank—one heard

Great Black-backed Gull—20 pairs

Herring Gull—50 pairs

Kittiwake—500 pairs

Terns—4 colonies, totalling 400 pairs—mostly Arctic, with the odd Common

Black Guillemot—2

Rock Pipit—4

Previous visitors to the Skerry have commented on the number of earwigs to be found, and we noted the same thing.

No seals were seen at Sule Skerry.

At noon on the 16th, in brilliant sunshine, the *Flourish* sailed for Kirkwall. Our 14 hours on Sule Skerry were too short, particularly when we thought about Leach's Petrels.

Do they nest there? A previous report of their nesting on the Skerry has never been accepted.

The return trip to Orkney was uneventful, except for the sighting of four Leach's Petrels some 10 miles off the Brough of Birsay. Costa Head was our first landfall, and as we sailed through Eynhallow Sound it became very cloudy and dull, though this did not damp our spirits. We docked at Kirkwall seven hours after leaving Sule Skerry. Once more the Caithness party slept in the back garden, before returning to 'Scotland' on the *St Ola* next day.

Members of the party were David Stark, Eddie Balfour, Pamela McMorran, Peter James, Jim Williams, David Glass, Tony Cumstey, Bill Scharf, Peter Chester and Mrs Chester, Marshall Fairbairn.

Summary

Landings on Stack Skerry on 15th and Sule Skerry on 15th-16th July 1967 are described. Counts and other details are given of the breeding and non-breeding birds (including Leach's Petrel) and those seen on the voyage from Orkney.

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Short Notes

Hybrid Tufted Duck x Pochard in Edinburgh

On 18th February 1967 I visited Duddingston Loch. There were some 1500 to 1800 Pochard and a good many Tufted Duck on the loch and a duck which I could not recognise. My first reaction was that it was a hybrid of which one parent must have been a Tufted Duck, as there was a clear indication of a short crest. I was joined by D. R. Anderson and together we noted every detail which we could and we

agreed that it was a bird new to us. We watched it for at least an hour and noted its Scaup-like shape. It was much smaller than a male Scaup which was on the loch at the time, and we wondered if it might be a Lesser Scaup.

Next day, after looking up books and reports on wildfowl, we returned and had very excellent views and were able to get a good look at the plumage pattern and colour as well as the comparison of shape with Pochard and Tufted Duck. The bird seemed very similar in shape to a Lesser Scaup but its plumage did not exactly fit any of the illustrations we had seen. I would describe it as follows:

Shape and colour of bill similar to male Scaup's; irides bright yellow; head very dark, but not black, with top and back showing bronze-purplish reflections in sunlight; small but distinctive tuft; breast black; back dark grey, but no vermiculation could be seen, perhaps owing to the distance (100 yards); sides much paler grey, paler than Pochard; tail, upper and under coverts blackish; white clearly visible on secondaries when the bird stretched a wing.

Amongst a substantial number of skins of Lesser Scaup at the British Museum I found one of a male which seemed virtually identical to the Duddingston bird. It had coarse vermiculation on the back, but much paler and finer markings on the flanks. Hybrids are always rather difficult unless the features of one or other parent are fairly obvious, and if the Duddingston bird was a hybrid it could only have been between a Tufted Duck and a Pochard. One likes to be certain about the identity of any bird before reporting it, and therefore it may not be a good thing to publicise this record, except that as so many Scaup winter in the Forth, mostly too far out to be seen clearly, an occasional member of the American species could possibly turn up.

J. A. ANDERSON.

(We sent this account, together with an excellent painting of the bird which Mr Anderson made, to Dr C. M. Perrins, author of a paper on "The 'Lesser Scaup' problem" (*Brit. Birds* 54: 49-54) which dealt with one particular hybrid Tufted Duck x Pochard and referred to a dozen other recent English records. He reported that the bird looked much more like that hybrid than a Lesser Scaup—especially the colour on the top of the head and the crest. He passed the details to B. L. Sage, who has examined many museum specimens and has a very extensive skin collection of duck hybrids, and he wrote that both the drawing and the notes left him in no doubt that this was another Tufted Duck x Pochard hybrid.—Ed.)

Goshawk in Aberdeenshire

In the late afternoon of 5th February 1967 I was in my garden near Hazlehead, Aberdeen, when I happened to glance up and saw a large grey bird gliding towards me. It was about the size of a Herring Gull but the wings were much darker as well as being broader and blunt ended. As it passed over me, the bird banked steeply in the bright sunlight and I was able to note its very long, narrow tail with three dark bands across it, its white under tail-coverts and comparatively small head. It rapidly disappeared from view but these features, and its flight, which consisted of a few wing beats followed by a glide, convinced me that the bird was a Goshawk.

GORDON M. LEES.

Gyr Falcons in Outer Hebrides and Shetland

On 11th May 1967 I watched a Gyr Falcon at Port of Ness, Lewis, for about an hour and a half in good light. The bird was first seen in flight with a Rock Dove in its talons, but it dropped this when mobbed by gulls and Hooded Crows. It was seen at ranges down to 30 yards, flying around and perching on fence posts, before it finally retrieved the pigeon and flew off. Its flight was strong, with slower wingbeats than a Peregrine, and its wings were more broad-based and less pointed; it was seen to glide for short distances and to soar. When perched it stood very erect and appeared bigger than a Hooded Crow but smaller than a Raven. Its body was white and unmarked, while its wings and tail were cream, the wing coverts showing spots of greyish-brown. The legs were covered with white feathers.

ALLAN SMITH.

On the evening of 24th May 1967 James T. Thomson telephoned to report an unusual bird in one of his fields at Haroldswick in Unst. I went there immediately and watched the bird for about five minutes in overcast conditions as it fed on the corpse of a dead bird, later found to have been a Rock Dove. At first I thought it might be a Snowy Owl, but this possibility was rapidly excluded by its long tail, long, narrow neck and small head. I did not see the breast as it was facing away from me, but the general colour of the back was white, with a few dark streaks on the nape. The wings were light grey with numerous small dark spots, and the primaries were darker. The whole of the tarsus appeared to be covered with thick white feathers. The bird seemed from its general colouring to be a Greenland Falcon, though it looked larger, about one and a half times the size of the Hooded Crows that

were mobbing it. It has been accepted by the Rarities Committee as a Gyr Falcon showing the characteristics of the Greenland race.

MAGNUS SINCLAIR.

(There have been several recent records of Gyr Falcons in the Northern Isles, including one in Unst for several months in 1966 (*Scot. Birds* 4: 372), and one wonders how many birds are actually involved.—ED.)

Cranes in North Argyll

An adult-plumaged Crane at Ferry Farm, Clachan, West Loch Tarbert, was seen first by I. McPhail on 10th May 1966 and stayed in the area of Loup Farm until at least 28th May 1966 (I. MacDonald per A. McArthur); it was seen once or twice at Ardpatrik on the north side of the loch. Thereafter it is said to have moved to a small island at the entrance to the loch, frequenting the area between these two localities for most of the summer. We have been unable to get adequate details of these subsequent sightings.

A Crane was seen in a shallow bay a mile south of Loup Farm on 17th February 1967 by the Rev. J. D. Sutherland, but it is not known whether this was the same bird or the one recorded below.

At the end of January 1967 it came to light that an immature Crane had been frequenting another area 10 miles south, at Rosehill Farm, Muasdale, Glenbarr, for some time. The bird was photographed by the *Scottish Sunday Express* (which has kindly allowed us to use one of the pictures—plate 55), and the publicity led many birdwatchers to make the trip to Kintyre to see the bird. It had been seen first on 19th December 1966 by D. MacKinnon, on whose land it was, and was last reported on 19th March 1967 by R. G. Caldow, R. A. Jeffrey, G. L. A. Patrick, B. Thurston, G. T. White and others.

We have had detailed notes about the Glenbarr bird from many people. It was not approachable, though taking less notice of farm workers than of birdwatchers. It apparently spent a lot of time turning over small piles of manure spread out on an unploughed stubble field. Among those who saw the bird or wrote about it, apart from those already mentioned, were D. Colville, W. M. M. Eddie, J. Greenlees, A. McArthur, Capt. Macdonald, Mrs M. E. McNeill, D. J. Norden, W. K. Richmond and W. Russell.

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN.

Marsh Sandpiper in Caithness—a new Scottish bird

Following reports of a peculiar wader at Mid Sands, Dunnet Bay, on 3rd September 1966, I saw it there in poor light that evening and obtained a brief description. Next day it was watched also by Dr P. McMorrán, Mrs J. A. R. Grant, Keith Goodchild and Ken Melhuish, and a more detailed description was taken by DMS and PM in sunlight at 20 yards range. It was last seen on the 5th, when unsuccessful attempts were made to mistnet it.

It was a slender, long-legged wader with a rather slow flight, very white rump and tail, and legs projecting well beyond the tail; no wing-bar could be seen. The legs were about the same height as a Redshank's, and the body if anything slightly bigger, but distinctly slimmer than a Bartailed Godwit or a Greenshank, species which could be seen within a few minutes walk. The flight was noticeably slower than either of these, with deep wingbeats. On the ground the bird had a slender, graceful appearance, which accentuated the length of the legs.

It fed only on the freshwater part of a burn filled with clumps of vegetation, bobbing its head in typical sandpiper fashion. When disturbed it gave a soft *teoo-teeo* and flew about 30 yards towards the mouth of the burn, but made no attempt to feed there. After a few minutes it returned to the freshwater area and resumed feeding. When any other bird appeared it became very alert.

Description. Crown and nape streaked grey-brown; chin white; very noticeable white sides and front of forehead, making white V with grey-brown of crown; slight but noticeable eyestripe; front of neck white, but sides streaked grey-brown, if anything slightly darker than crown, coming further round towards front than on chin area; upperparts dark brown, edged grey-white, as on primary, secondary and greater coverts; primaries dark brown, edged light brown; rump and tail white, with streaks of brown on a few of the central tail feathers giving a trace of barring in flight, but not detracting from the overall impression of whiteness; white of rump seen to extend almost to base of neck when head bent forward in feeding; breast, underparts and underwing white; bill medium long, broad at base, tapering considerably to tip, generally slender, with slight upturn at tip; base of bill greenish slate-grey and tip dark; iris dark brown; legs greenish yellow.

DAVID M. STARK.

(Although the Marsh Sandpiper has not previously been recorded in Scotland, there are some 15 English records, in April-May and August-October (*Brit. Birds* 57: 268; 60: 318). The species is a summer visitor to western Asia and eastern Europe.—Ed.)

Current Notes

Compiled by A. T. MACMILLAN

(Key to initials of observers : D. R. Anderson, R. S. Baillie, G. J. Barnes, D. A. I. Baty, Miss P. G. T. Baxter, J. A. Begg, F. Beltman, G. Bennett, J. F. Bissett, H. Boase, T. Boyd, D. Bremner, Miss E. Brown, Miss C. F. H. Bruce, D. E. Bruce, R. G. Caldow, T. M. Cameron, E. N. Campbell, J. Campbell, W. D. Campbell, Miss C. Charlier, D. Coutts, M. C. Coyne, H. G. Cree, G. M. Crichton, W. A. J. Cunningham, R. H. Dennis, P. de Pree (PdP), R. C. Dickson, G. Dixon, H. E. M. Dott, Capt. H. Drummond, I. Dunbar, Miss C. F. Dunsire, G. M. S. Easy, W. M. E. Eddie, N. Elkins, Sir R. Erskine-Hill, M. J. Everett, R. Farmer, B. C. Forrester, M. Forrester, R. W. Forrester, A. M. M. Fyffe, H. Galbraith, I. Gibson, T. Gibson, A. Goodin, A. G. Gough, Mrs J. A. R. Grant, K. Hague, J. Hamilton, J. J. C. Hardey, E. R. Harris, N. Hayes, C. G. Headlam, L. R. Higgins, Dr R. D. Hill, D. C. Hulme, R. A. Hume, E. N. Hunter, F. Hunter, E. Hutchison, Rev. G. T. Jamieson, R. A. Jeffrey, Dr D. Jenkins, P. Johnson, T. H. Jorgensen, G. D. Joy, G. Kerr, J. Knowles, D. G. Law, A. F. Leitch, J. Lockerbie, J. A. Love, I. H. J. Lyster, A. Macdonald (AM), D. Macdonald, M. A. Macdonald, Miss C. R. MacKinnon, I. M. MacLean, A. T. Macmillan, Mrs E. H. L. Macmillan, A. MacRae (AMcR), F. Marr, J. Maxwell (JMx), W. S. Medlicott, R. Meekin, T. D. H. Merrie, J. Mitchell (JMt), W. M. Morrison, C. C. I. Murdoch, W. Murray, D. J. Norden, D. W. Oliver, C. E. Palmar, W. Porteous, J. Potter, G. F. Raeburn, Mrs I. Rainier, A. D. K. Ramsay, I. B. Roy, R. Shand (RSd), R. Shaw (RSw), R. J. W. Shaw, G. Simmons, J. H. Simpson (JHSp), M. Sinclair, D. Skilling (DSk), P. J. B. Slater, Mrs E. M. Smith, P. Smith, R. T. Smith, R. W. J. Smith, Dr T. C. Smout, D. Stalker (DSt), D. M. Stark, Lt. Cdr. A. W. A. Stevens, A. G. Stewart, R. W. Summers, I. S. Suttie, J. H. Swan (JHSw), C. S. Tait, I. Taylor, Miss V. M. Thom, D. B. Thomson, D. Thorogood, J. Thorogood, B. Thorston, D. A. Tindal, R. J. Tulloch, Flt. Sgt. F. J. Walker, K. G. Walker, G. Waterston, Hon. D. N. Weir, Dr R. S. Weir, Hon. W. Weir (WWr), G. T. White, R. Willson, W. Wyper (WWy), J. G. Young, R. F. Young, B. Zonfrillo.

Unless otherwise stated all dates refer to 1967.)

Distribution

Records from before 1st May 1967 are excluded from this section except where related to more recent ones.

Summer records of **Great Northern Divers** in Sutherland and Caithness are of one in Balnakeil Bay, Durness, on 6th July (RAH); one at Tongue on 22nd July (GMSE); and two in Dunnet Bay on 9th August (RAH, DT, JT). In Aberdeenshire, counts of **Red-throated Divers** off the Sands of Forvie showed 35 on 19th August and 27 on 27th September but only odd birds on other days (HEMD); there were 45 off Balmedie on 21st September (NE). In seven half-hour watches from various places between Portpatrick and the Mull of Galloway on 24th September a total of 33 divers, of which two



PLATE 52, Stack Skerry from the north (see p. 548).

Photograph by David M. Stuck



PLATE 53. A typical small party of Waxwings, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, October 1966 (see p. 534).

Photograph by William S. Paton



PLATE 54. Portrait of a Waxwing, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, October 1966.

Photograph by William S. Paton



PLATE 55. The Crane which spent the winter of 1966/67 at Glenbarr, Argyllshire (see p. 556).

Photograph by Scottish Sunday Express

certainly and all probably were of this species, flew south through the North Channel into the Irish Sea (GK, JMX, DSk, RTS, JGY).

Six **Great Crested Grebes** were back on the sea at Port Allen on the Tay on 1st July (HB). **Red-necked Grebes** are reported from:

Norwick Bay, Unst—1 on 1 Oct (FJW).

Fair Isle—1 from 31 Aug to 3 Sept (RHD).

Gruinard Bay, W. Ross—1 on 15 Sept; there are virtually no records for the northwest (CFHB, ADKR).

Loch Marlee, Perth—1 on 17 Sept (VMT).

Aberlady Bay/Gullane Point, E. Lothian—1 on 27 Aug (THJ), and up to 3 between 17th and 24 Sept reported in numerous letters (GB, DEB, RF, RWF, RAJ, PJ, AFL, MAM, BT, GTW, BZ).

A **Slavonian Grebe** was on Craighall Dam, Renfrewshire, on 4th and 5th June (WMME, DJN); and one was on Lintrathen Reservoir, Angus, on 18th August (HB). An adult **Black-necked Grebe** in moult was on Forfar Loch on 31st July (HB). A pair of **Little Grebes** on Hillwell Loch in September with three chicks is the first record of breeding in Shetland (RE-H, FH, GDJ).

A **Leach's Petrel** was caught on North Ronaldsay by a cat on 31st July (KGW). Others away from their known breeding haunts were one off Dunnet Head, Caithness, on 31st August (DMS), and one off the mouth of Gruinard Bay, Wester Ross, on 15th September (CFHB, ADKR).

Eight **Manx Shearwaters** were off Montrose, an area where they are not often noted, on 8th July (GMC). Fewer than usual were seen in the outer Firth of Forth this summer (FM); but off Cramond Island 20 were flying east on 1st July (TCS). On 6th September one came in from the east over mudflats at Skinflats, Stirlingshire, and rose to a considerable height over the Kincardine Bridge, continuing westward. Westerly gales had been blowing during the previous 24 hours, and the observer had seen hundreds of Manx Shearwaters off Troon, Ayrshire, the day before (DSt). About 160 were reported two miles offshore at Prestwick, nearby, on 31st August (AGS). At Meikle Ross, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 16th July 207 were counted moving into a force 4 SSW wind during three half-hour watches (DSk, RTS, JGY).

A **Great Shearwater** was seen at Fair Isle on 27th August (GJB). Though a bird of the northwest, this species is not often seen from the mainland, but there was one off the mouth of Gruinard Bay on 15th September (CFHB, ADKR). The following records of **Sooty Shearwaters** include reports from Shetland, where they are regular in autumn, but not usually in such numbers:

Between Foula and Shetland—8 near small fishing boat on 22 Aug

(JJCH, EH).

Off Shetland—10 seen from Aberdeen boat on 22 Aug (JJCH, EH).
Fair Isle—first 1 on 14 Aug, with 15 on crossing on 8 Sept, and 12 off island on 14th (RHD).

Pentland Firth—singles on 6th and 19 Aug (NE).

Between St Kilda and Flannans—1 on 5 Sept (GB).

Balchrick, Kinlochbervie—1 with SE movement of Manx Shearwaters and Kittiwakes on 24 July (GMSE). First for West Sutherland.

Between Islay and Kintyre—1 on 7 Sept (GB).

Troon—1 flying up Clyde on 22 July (RGC).

Montrose—1 on 25 Aug (GMC). First for Angus.

Bell Rock, Angus—1 or 2 on 16 Sept (JD, RAJ, RWS, DBT).

Fife Ness—2 on 1 Sept (PGTB).

A **Fulmar** of Fisher's dark phase 'D' (*The Fulmar* p. 267) had a site at Whinnyfold, Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire, on 27th July, but breeding was not proved (HEMD). One was up the Forth at the Kincardine Bridge on 3rd September (IT); and inland records include one at Loch Leven, Kinrossshire, on 5th June, and two on Benarty Crag nearby on the 18th which stayed most of the day and landed on the rocks (JHSw). Two miles north of Dumfries one was flying inland on 30th August (DSk). An immature **Gannet** flew over the centre of Falkirk on 13th September, and there was one over Carronshore, Stirlingshire, on the 17th (IT).

The Lamb had 206 **Cormorant** nests (33 empty) when counted this year and there were about 30 on Craigleith, where apparently about half the birds moved in 1966 after failure on the Lamb (*Birds* 1: 242).

A heronry not listed in *Bird Study* 5: 90-109 is on a steep grassy cliff on the east side of Fuiay (1 mile N of Barra). On 20th July there were five adult and two juvenile **Herons** there and two of the three nests seemed to have been used this year (RDH).

One of the very red **Caribbean Flamingos**, at Tynninghame from 28th June (*Haddingtonshire Courier* 30.6.67), was possibly the same as a Flamingo reported at Berwick a day or two earlier (*Scotsman* 28.6.67). The dried remains of a Flamingo were found under tufts of grass at Tynninghame about the middle of September, and it is possible that it had been shot (AM). No skin of the West Indian race was available at the Royal Scottish Museum, but it was thought that the bird was of that form (IHJL). A **Chilean Flamingo** (with grey legs and pink 'knees') was at Aberlady from 23rd July to 15th August (HGC, DJ, AFL); and a third bird was at Glencaple, Dumfriesshire, on the 18th (PJ). It is clear that there are quite a few escaped Flamingos of various species and races in the British Isles, and they often seem to survive quite well.

A drake **Garganey** was shot near Browell, Dumfries, on 5th

October (RW, JGY). *Birds* (1: 238) reports the first breeding of **Gadwall** in the Outer Hebrides, a pair with nine chicks being seen on a loch in North Uist on 29th May. Records of possible interest are of a pair on the Loch of Strathbeg on 3rd September (NE), and of a drake at New Cumnock, Ayrshire, from 14th to 16th September (JL). A duck **Wigeon** on Handa on 1st October was the first recorded by the R.S.P.B. in the five years since they took it over (MJE). Some reports of **Pintail** mention a duck and drake at Sandside Bay, Reay, Caithness, on 23rd September (JARG); seven with Mallard at Meikle Loch, Aberdeenshire, on 25th September, and three on 27th (HEMD); and three at Aberlady on 2nd September (MJE), and one there on the 17th (PJ, AFL). A duck **Shoveler** was on Fair Isle from 28th July to 5th August (RHD); at Strathbeg there was a maximum of 36 on 9th September (NE); at Possil Loch, Glasgow, there were at least 30 on 26th August (THJ); and at Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, numbers built up to 42 on 18th September (DRA).

Summer records of **Scaup** are of two pairs at Durness, Sutherland, on 23rd July (GMSE); a single bird at Inverness on the 29th (NE); a drake on the Langbank-Bishopton mudflats, Renfrewshire, on 31st July (GD, GTW); and a duck and drake in Dunnet Bay on 9th August (RAH, DT, JT). A duck was on Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, on 9th September (MJE, MAM); and about 30 were back at Seafield, Leith, by 3rd October (MJE, JK). There was a duck **Pochard** at Fair Isle on 18th and 19th September (RHD). The duck **Goldeneye** at Gadloch, Lanarkshire (4: 511) could not be found from 1st to 11th July but was back on 10th and 13th August (WWy, BZ). Other summer records are of two at Spey Dam on 14th July; one at Loch Brora on 18th July (GMSE); one at Lintrathen on 7th August (HB); two at Kilconquhar on 12th August and three on 21st (JARG); and one at Gladhouse on 10th August (ADKR, RWJS). One was at Opinan, W. Ross, on 17th September (CFHB, ADKR); two on the Ythan on 7th September and 4 on the 11th (NE); and two on Speyside on the 24th (DNW). Summer **Long-tailed Ducks** were one at Loch Branahue, near Stornoway, on 18th July (AMMF); and one off Rousay pier, Orkney, on 13th August (NE). There were three in Sandside Bay, Reay, Caithness, on 4th September (JARG). A duck **Common Scoter** was seen with two young at South Yell on 29th August (RJT). Where up to 800 **Eiders** are normally seen off the Ayr-Troon coast, there were nowhere near the usual numbers in 1967 (AGS).

On 17th July there were 330 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Kilmuir on the Cromarty Firth, and next day 70 at Gallrope Bank and 200 elsewhere in the Dornoch Firth, and 100 in Loch Fleet (GMSE). Other reports from the Moray Basin are

of 210 at Whiteness Head, near Nairn, on 1st July (NE, WMM); and over 200 in Nigg Bay, Cromarty Firth, on 15th August (RAH, DT, JT). There were 180 at the Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire, on 20th July (NE), 186 on 19th August, and over 100 on the 23rd, but few on other days (HEMD). On 11th September there were 400 off Montrose (GMC). A duck **Goosander** sitting on eggs in the stump of an old oak tree near Hawick in June is evidently the first proved to breed in Roxburghshire (WSM).

An immature **Shelduck** was at Gadloch, Lanarkshire, on 20th August (BZ). A drake **Ruddy Duck**, presumably an escape, was on Kilconquhar Loch on 4th September (PGTB).

The analysis of records of **Grey Lag Geese** is complicated by the wild and semi-domestic populations which breed in Scotland. In Tay a few were seen off Kingoodie up to 10th May; and there were 14 at Port Allen on 1st July (HB). A white goose at Kingoodie on 12th May and at Port Allen on 1st July seemed to be an albino Greylag, as also a pale goose at Montrose Basin on 16th June and 23rd August (HB). Two Greylags were seen on the sea with Eiders in Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire, on 27th July (HEMD). Autumn records of parties of debatable origin are of 20-25 tired-looking birds trying to land on the shore at Arbroath on 3rd September (JD); four at Strathbeg on 16th September (NE); 24 at Kilconquhar on the 17th (DWO); and 12 flying south at Reay, Caithness, on the 23rd (JARG).

There is a 'reliable report' of four **Pink-footed Geese** at Kingoodie in mid August (per HB), and a series of early records:

- 2 Sept—first 10 flew W over St Monance, Fife, calling (DWO).
- 7 Sept—32 flew E over Dollar, Clackmannan (FB per TDHM).
- 11 Sept—45 'geese' seen from bus 1 mile SE of Pathhead, flying SW as if for Gladhouse (RSB).
- 15 Sept—30 flew over Mellon Udrigle, W. Ross (CFHB, ADKR); and 30-40 'geese' flew S over Lundin Links, Fife (RSW).
- 16 Sept—1 at Strathbeg (NE).
- 24 Sept—40 passed over Speyside (other birds were moving too) (DNW); 180 at Kinross (TCS); two at Gladhouse (EMS, RWJS).
- 25 Sept—three were on Meikle Loch, Aberdeenshire, all summer, but there were 20 more on this date (HEMD).

The four **Snow Geese** at Wooden Loch, Roxburghshire (4: 511), moulted and were still there on 5th August (RSB). Two rose from a field at Aultbea, Ross-shire, on 2nd September (AWAS). On Fidra, East Lothian, one, almost certainly a Lesser, was seen on 10th June (IBR, RWJS), and two were seen almost daily by the lightkeepers from 8th until about 18th September, and were wholly unapproachable (MJE). Five which arrived near Errol, Perthshire, with the wild geese on 2nd October (HD and *The Scotsman*, 12.10.67), could

perhaps be the same five that were seen at various places on the Tay and elsewhere between 21st October 1966 and 12th March 1967 (4: 457); though doubtless originally escapes from a collection it is possible that they may have migrated north in the spring with the Pinkfeet, as others have evidently done in the past (3: 138).

Two **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** were on North Ronaldsay on 21st July (KGW). Summer **Barnacle Geese** may be not only injured birds or escapes but, anywhere near Newport, Fife, may in fact be domestic hybrids with Canada Geese. These comments probably cover reports of two moulting in June on Loch Dornal, Wigtownshire (JGY); two with Greylags at Port Allen on 1st July (HB); and three at Elie Ness, Fife, on 3rd September (CFD per DWO). There was one at Skirsa, Caithness, on 28th September (JARG, DMS). The highest count of the flock of moulting **Canada Geese** on the Beaully Firth was 183 on 28th July (NE, JAL, WMM). In view of the evidence that some at least of these birds come from Yorkshire, the sighting of 60-70 Canada Geese flying south at Arbroath at 9 p.m. on 29th August is extremely interesting (JD). Twenty-five in flightless moult on the Islands of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 17th July were neither ringed nor pinioned and were not part of the Dumfriesshire stock (JGY).

Summer records of **Whooper Swans** pose the same questions as those of geese; there is, for instance, a resident bird on the Tay in Perth, and several free-flying birds are in a collection near the Endrick mouth (JMt). A pair was at Forfar Loch from 21st June (HB); one was at Evanton on 17th July and one at Loch Meadie, Sutherland, on the 19th (GMSE); one was on the Beaully Firth on 28th July (NE). The bird on the River Ayr (4: 512) was still there on 1st September (AGS), but had moved 1½ miles to the Doonfoot by the 17th (IG, RAJ, GTW).

An exceptionally early **Buzzard's** nest in the Culbin Forest had the smallest of three young birds at least two days old on 17th May, suggesting that the first egg was laid about 9th April (DNW). A pair nested successfully in northern Ayrshire again this year (DNW). One was seen near St Monace, Fife, on 25th September (PGTB). An early but very well described **Rough-legged Buzzard** was seen on moorland near Daviot, Inverness-shire, on 13th September (CC, CCIM).

There are several additions to the unusual number of records of **Marsh Harriers** this year (4: 512): one was seen at the Endrick mouth on 30th April and 18th June (MF, DSt), and one nearby at Gartocharn Ponds for about two weeks from 10th August (RSw); there was one at Airlie, Angus, on 23rd July (DAT); and one with tattered wing and tail feathers at the remnants of Hilda Marshes, Glasgow, on 10th September

(BZ). A female or immature **Hen Harrier** was seen in autumn north of the Scottish breeding range at Quarf, Shetland, on 29th September (DWO). There was a marked passage in Speyside from mid August to the end of September (DNW). One recovered in West Kilbride, Ayrshire, at the end of August had been ringed as a chick in central Scotland earlier in the year (JMt).

The Loch Garten **Ospreys** reared three young this year, but the second Speyside pair, although moving to a new site, again produced infertile eggs, which have been sent for analysis. A third nest was found elsewhere in Scotland and two young were reared (GW). Other sightings of Ospreys include single birds at North Third Reservoir, Stirlingshire, on 8th May (GTJ), and at Laxford Bridge, Sutherland, on 6th July (RAH); and in autumn being chased by a Great Skua south of Bressay, Shetland, on 30th September (DWO); over Insh marshes (the first bird in Speyside for a month, and evidently a migrant) on 24th and 28th September (DNW); near Kilconquhar on 27th August (DWO); and fishing in a reservoir in southeast Ayrshire on 5th September (WWr).

There are two records of **Hobbies**, extremely scarce birds in Scotland: one near Gardenstoun, Banffshire, on 1st June (AGG); and one near the Manse on Fetlar on 19th August (TG). There was a marked passage of **Merlins** on Speyside from mid August to the end of September (DNW). One may compare this with the situation on Fair Isle, where passage began on 28th August but was mainly from 8th September, with a maximum of three birds on the 21st (RHD).

A rather low **Ptarmigan** was seen by the railway at about 1000 ft at Tomatin, Inverness-shire, on 19th September (THJ). A **Quail** was calling at Outer Skaw on Unst on 14th July (MS); one sang on Fair Isle till 17th July, and there was one on the 30th (RHD). One was heard at Evanton, Ross-shire, on 11th July (CGH). Near Haddington one was seen twice on 26th August during harvest at West Morham Farm (PdP per AM). For the fourth successive year Quail were recorded in the Lochmaben district of Dumfriesshire, one being heard at Applegarthtown between 0345 hrs on 17th June and 9th July (RTS).

The West Sutherland **Spotted Crake** was heard calling until 28th July, and for a short time there were two (DM); it may be stressed that all the evidence suggests that the 1966 invasion (4: 372) was not just the discovery of an established colony that had been previously missed (RWJS). **Corncrakes** have become so scarce in Forth that it is worth recording one calling on 13th July by Largo Bay, Fife (DWO).

Flocks of 20-30 **Oystercatchers** flying SW from Inverness

down the Great Glen were noted several times from 31st July (WMM). Numbers of **Lapwings** arrived almost a month late in Caithness this autumn with over 1000 at Achscrabster on 22nd September, the same number at Kirk on the 24th, and 500 at Riverside, Wick, also on the 24th (DMS). There were greater numbers of **Ringed Plovers** in Caithness this autumn than usual, particularly young birds, including over 100 at Sandside on 1st October (DMS). The **Grey Plover** is scarce in Caithness, where there was one at Castlehill and two at Sandside on 22nd September, and one at Sandside on 1st October (JARG, DMS). One was at the Endrick mouth on 23rd September (JMt). The male **Dotterel** at the site in North Sutherland (4: 513) was with one well grown chick on 2nd August, when there were two addled eggs in the nest (DCH).

Turnstones inland were at Gladhouse, Midlothian, on 30th July (2), and 8th (1) and 15th August (2) (EMS, RWJS). Fair Isle had single **Jack Snipe** from 5th September, but eight on the 18th (RHD); at Paisley Moss the first was seen on 19th September, and they increased steadily to seven on 1st October (GTW).

At Aberlady there were 250-300 **Curlew** on 19th June, which seems to fall into the midsummer period when they are said to be very scarce (*The Birds of Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve*) (HEMD). The first reports of migrant **Whimbrel** are as follows:

12 July—heard at Easthaven, Angus (HB).

15 July—14 calling in flight near Fife Ness (JARG).

18 July—a migrant on Jura (PJ); first few on Ythan (6 there next day) (HEMD, WM); 1 at Kingoodie (HB).

Records of **Black-tailed Godwits** come from:

Montrose—singles on 15 Aug, 3rd and 6 Sept (GMC).

Eden estuary—15 on 1 July (AMMF), and counts of about 80 on 6 Aug (GB) and 70 on 12th (DWO).

Aberlady—3 on 13th (DJ) and 22 Aug (MAM), 2 on 10 Sept (AGS), and 1 on 18th (DEB, MAM).

Seafield, Leith—2 on 4th, 6th, 21st and 22 Sept (MJE).

Skinflats—1 on 31 Aug (IT).

Bemersyde Moss, Berwick—on 10 July 10 flew off, 17 came back, then all flew off (AMMF).

Troon—1 on 9 Sept (RGC).

New Cumnock—1 on 6 Sept (JL).

Inland there were three **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Gladhouse on 8th August (EMS, RWJS). **Green Sandpipers**, a good sprinkling of them, were at:

Fair Isle—2 only; 1 on 12-15 Aug and 1 on 5 Sept (RHD).

Montrose—1 on 12 Aug (GMC).

Fife Ness—1 on 9 Aug (DWO).

Tynninghame—1 on 29 Aug (MAM).

Aberlady—1 on 1 Sept (AM).

Gladhouse—singles (probably 3 or 4) intermittently from 8 Aug to 24 Sept (EMS, RWJS).

Yetholm Loch—2 on 14 Aug and 1 nearby on 6 Sept (RSB).

River Bowmont, Yetholm—1 on 29 Aug (RSB).

River Kelvin, Glasgow—3 at Summerston on 27 Aug (DJN).

Dumbarton Golf Course—1 on 10th and 25 Aug (DGL).

Clyde above Hamilton—2 on 8th, 12th and 17 July (DSt).

Ballantrae, Ayr—1 on 29 July (AF, RWF).

In contrast to the last species, very few **Wood Sandpipers** were recorded:

Arbroath—1 on 20 Aug (JD).

Seafield, Bilston, Midlothian—1 on 9 Aug (ADKR).

Paisley Moss—1 on 28 Aug (RGC, GD, IG, RAJ, GTW).

At Yetholm, Roxburghshire, a marked increase was noted in the number of **Common Sandpipers**, seven pairs breeding where there were usually three or four (RSB). Autumn records of **Spotted Redshanks** are from:

North Ronaldsay—1 on 24 July (KGW).

Ythan—singles on 24 Aug and 22 Sept (NE).

Montrose—singles on 8th and 30 July, 13-17 Aug, and 3rd and 6 Sept (GMC, JD).

Arbroath—1 on 1 Sept (JD).

Eden estuary—1 on 12 Aug (DWO).

Cameron Reservoir, Fife—4 on 24-25 Sept (PGTB, RSW).

Skinflats—1 on 17 Sept (IT).

Barr Loch, Renfrew—1 on 23 Sept (RGC).

Sandmill, Sandhead, Wigtown—2 on 19 Aug (RCD).

The first records of **Greenshanks** on the move are:

1 July—1 at Gadloch, Lanark, stayed to 11th (WWy, BZ).

8 July—1 on Luce estuary (RCD); 1 at Montrose Basin, where others were noted from 23rd (GMC).

20 July—1 or more on Ythan (HEMD).

23 July—1 or 2 at Montrose Basin (JD).

24 July—1 on North Ronaldsay (KGW).

There was a **Knot** in Gruinard Bay, Wester Ross, on 26th July (AMMF); there are few records for the northwest mainland. Inland a red one was at Gladhouse on 8th August and a grey one on the 13th (EMS, RWJS). Good numbers of **Little Stints** were reported in September:

Haroldswick, Unst—1 on 23rd and 27th (MS, FJW).

Pool of Virkie, Shetland—24 on 5th, 4 on 6th, 20 on 8th and some still there on 24th (MCC, GDJ).

Fair Isle—1 on 6th-7th, 14 on 18th, 13 on 19th, 12 on 20th, decreasing to 1 on 27th (RHD).

Birsay, Orkney—5 on 10th on shore (PJBS).

Sandside, Reay, Caithness—2 on 18th and 1 on 22nd-24th (JARG, DMS).

Loch of Strathbeg—1 on 16th (NE).

Ythan—7 on 17th (NE).

Mouth of N. Esk, Angus—7 on 15th (GMC).

Montrose—2 on 4th and 1 on 16th (GMC).
 Cameron Reservoir, Fife—1 on 24th-25th (PGTB, RSW).
 Fife Ness—1 on 11th (DWO).
 Barns Ness, East Lothian—3 on 13th (MJE).
 Aberlady—3 on 22 Aug (MJE); in Sept, 1 on 9th (DJ), 1 on 17th-18th (DEB, AFL, MAM), and 2 on 23rd (AM).
 Gladhouse—2 from 7th to 24th (EMS, RWJS).
 East of Grangemouth Docks—1 on 19th and 11 on 22nd (IT).
 Barrassie, Troon—1 on 30th (HG, RM, GTW), still there on 1-3 Oct (RGC, RM, GTW).
 New Cumnock—4 on 14th, dwindling to 1 on 18th (JAB, JL).

It is interesting to record that in four years living beside the Pool of Virkie, Shetland, GDJ has seen no Temminck's Stints but has found the Little Stint occurring in small numbers each autumn. This is what one expects and fits the Fair Isle data, in contrast to the suggestion in *Birds and Mammals of Shetland* that Temminck's is at least as common as the Little Stint in Shetland.

There was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on Fair Isle on 11th August (RHD). Like the Little Stint, the **Curlew Sandpiper** is reported in unusual numbers during September:

Pool of Virkie and Sumburgh Airport—from 9th to 19th, with maximum of 5 (GDJ).
 Elsewhere in Shetland—recorded but details not received (RJT).
 Fair Isle—1 on 11 Aug; in Sept, 1 on 7th-15th (RHD).
 Sandside, Caithness—6 on 18th, and 1 on 24th-30th (JARG, DMS).
 Ythan—4 on 13th, 2 on 15th, 3 on 17th and 4 on 22nd (NE).
 Montrose—1 on 4th and 3 on 16th (GMC).
 Eden estuary—3 on 10th, 16th, 20th and 24th, and 2 on 25th (JD, RAJ, RWS, DBT).
 Fife Ness—1 on 12th-17th (PGTB).
 Tynninghame—1 on 3rd, 2 on 9th, 1-3 on 16th, and 1 on 17th (TB, PJ, AFL, EMS, RWJS).
 Aberlady—2 on 9th and 1 on 18th (DEB, RF, RWF, MAM, EMS, RWJS, CST).
 Seafield, Leith—1 on 21st (MJE).
 Dalmeny, West Lothian—1 on 16th (TCS).
 Gladhouse—2 on 12th (EMS, RWJS).
 Skinflats—1 on 8th, 3 on 9th, 10 on 10th, 5 on 11th, 2 on 12th, 4 on 17th, 8 on 22nd and 10 on 24th (RF, RWF, IT).
 East of Grangemouth docks—45-50 on 19th (IT).
 Irvine harbour, Ayr—1 on 1 Oct (TMC).
 Barrassie, Troon—1 on 1 Oct, and 2 on 3 Oct (RGC, RM, GTW).
 New Cumnock—4 on 13 Sept (JAB).

Numbers of **Sanderling** were more than usual in the autumn at Aberlady, Tynninghame and Barn Ness (AM); 121 were counted at Aberlady on 19th August (RSB) and over 100 on the 27th (THJ). There was one inland at Gladhouse on 30th July (EMS, RWJS).

A further spring record of **Ruff** (see 4: 514) is of one on Speyside on 7th May (DNW). Autumn records are too numer-

ous to detail but the earliest birds and largest numbers are given:

- Sandside, Caithness—12 on 18 Sept (JARG, DMS).
- Montrose—passage from 8 July (1) to 15 Sept, with maximum of 5 on 17 Aug (GMC).
- Forfar Loch—25 or more on 2 Oct (DBT), and 16 on 4th (GMC).
- Aberlady—1 on 15 July (DSt).
- Gladhouse—passage from 8 Aug (EMS, RWJS).
- River Cant, Paisley Moss—1 on 25 July (IG, GTW).

A **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen offshore at Fair Isle on 15th July (RHD); and at North Ronaldsay in July there were singles from 15th to 24th, two on 18th, 19th and 22nd and three on 27th (KGW). One was spinning on the sea at Mellon Udrigle, Wester Ross, on 17th September (CFHB, ADKR).

Five immature **Arctic Skuas** were chasing gulls and terns at Crinan Moss, Argyllshire, on 21st August; locally it is reported that both adults and immatures have been quite regular in Crinan harbour for the past two summers (IR).

The table in the 1966 Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise booklet indicates that **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** do not breed in the Shiant, though *The Birds of Scotland* says they bred there on Eilean Mhuire in 1888 and were still doing so 22 years later. At least some of the 50-60 pairs on Eilean an Tighe and Eilean Garbh in June 1967 were breeding; there were 25-30 pairs at Streatish on E. Garbh and some nests and chicks were found (LRH).

Apart from records from the Northern Isles, reports of **Glaucous Gulls** are of one between Fife and the Isle of May on 16th May (RAJ); one, given bread as it was slightly distressed, near Aultbea on 26th July (AMMF); and singles at Scrabster on 6th and 19th August (NE). At Balranald, North Uist, there were two immatures on 4th-5th July; one at least had been there since early June, and one was still there on 22nd July (MJE, AMMF, CEP, GS). Another was reported in Benbecula about 4th July (per MJE). An **Iceland Gull** was seen near Anstruther, Fife, on 9th September (MJE, MAM).

Five **Little Gulls** flew across Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, on 9th May, the second record for the loch (DRA). At Kilconquhar there were small numbers in early July, building up to about 300 on the 23rd, but not staying as long as usual (DWO). There were 36 at Monifieth on 18th August (GMC), and one at Arbroath on 5th September (JD, RWS, DBT). Away from Fife and Angus, there were two at Strathbeg on 9th September and one on 16th (NE), and one at the Luce estuary, Glenluce, Wigtownshire (RCD).

About 40 **Kittiwake** nests at Clett Head (not listed in *Bird Study* 10: 147-179) are thought to be the first record of this

species breeding on Whalsay (JHSp).

Further spring records of **Black Terns** (see 4: 514) are from Unst, where in all there were 3 on 5th May, 6 on 6th and 5 on 7th (MS, FJW), and Kilconquhar, where there was one on 4th June (AMMF). One flew south at Tentsmuir Point on 9th July (DBT). A juvenile was at fishing nets at Waterfoot, Annan, on 20th August (AG, RTS); there was one at Loch Spiggie, Shetland, on 4th September (THJ); and one was at Kilconquhar Loch from 7th to 9th September (PGTB, MJE, MAM).

As **Common Terns** are scarce in Roxburghshire it may be worth noting two at Hoselaw Loch on 6th August and one at Yetholm Loch on 6th September (RSB). Strong southerly passage of 'Comic' and **Sandwich Terns** was observed over the Grangemouth-Falkirk area between 10th and 13th September (IT). On 15th July a Sandwich Tern was seen flying beside the road and perched on a post 5 miles south of Dalwhinnie (AGS). Other inland records are of one at Loch Leven, Kinross-shire, on 22nd July (MAM), and one at Kilconquhar Loch on 9th September (MJE, MAM).

Three **Black Guillemots** at Meikle Ross, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 24th June were proved to have bred when a young bird was seen on the sea there later, representing a further extension in Solway (RTS, RWJS, JGY). A **Puffin** egg on Fidra on 10th June provides the first breeding record for the island (EMS, RWJS).

Three single **Stock Doves** and a party of four flew south over Fidra on 28th September, but how far they had come or were going is unknown (MJE). Another spring **Turtle Dove** (see 4: 514) was at Inchdrein, where they have been recorded in other years, on 7th June (DNW), and probably the same bird was 2 miles away at Auchgourish by the Spey 3 miles NE of Aviemore next day (NH). Autumn records are:

Fair Isle—several between 7th and 24 Sept, with 4 on 11th and 14th (RHD).

Auskerry, Orkney—1 on 10 Sept (DMS).

Butt of Lewis—1 on 23 Sept (IMM).

Rothiemurchus, Inverness—1 on 1 Sept (DNW).

Acharacle, Argyll—1 on 17 Aug (GTJ).

During a heavy shower on 17th July there were 1000 **Swifts** wheeling over Vane Hill, Kinross-shire (JHSw); and on the 23rd there were 22 at 4000 ft above Lochnagar (NE). Late records are of single birds at Aberlady on 28th September (MJE), Fife Ness on the 30th (PGTB), and Aberdeen on 10th October (ADKR).

A **Kingfisher** was seen on the Endrick near Killearn, Stirlingshire, on 15th August; one is said to have been seen there

in 1966 also (JH per JMt). One was on the River Add at Kilmichael-Glassary, four miles north of Lochgilphead, for at least a week from mid September; the most recent reports for the area were of one in the same place in August 1960 and one on the outskirts of Lochgilphead three months later (IR).

There were several reports of **Hoopoes** in the second half of September: two on Whalsay, Shetland, from 19th (JHSp); one at Anstruther, Fife, on 20th (PS per DWO); one seen by two ladies at Bridge of Don, Aberdeenshire, on 26th (per RFY); and one at Mellon Charles, Wester Ross, on 28th (AWAS).

An adult **Green Woodpecker** was seen with a newly fledged young one at Mugdock Wood (2 miles north of Milngavie), West Stirlingshire, on 31st August. This is about 4 miles from Lennox Castle, where they first bred in 1959 or 1960 (2: 43), and there was a record from Craigmaddie Wood, halfway between, in 1966 (4: 320) (ENC). A **Wryneck** was on Fetlar on 31st August (RJT), and Fair Isle had them on August 27th (2) and September 3rd, 10th, 16th and 19th-22nd (all 1), with three on 18th and 24th (RHD).

There were seven **Shore Larks** on Unst on 22nd May (MS).

There were about 4000 **Swallows** at the Ythan estuary on 30th August in a fairly well concentrated flock; there had been good numbers before, but there were definitely far fewer by 31st (NE).

Two **Ravens** were seen over Ben Rinnes, Banffshire, on 12th August; they are scarce in the northeast (GFR). On the same day 45 were flying about using the updraught from a cliff at Knockan (11 miles NE of Ullapool), Sutherland (RAH, DT, JT). In unusual areas there were three **Magpies** at Strathconon, Ross-shire, on 23rd September (DCH), and one at Castletown, Thurso, on 10th June (DMS).

A party of nine **Dippers** was seen at Slateford Bridge, Edinburgh, on 10th August (ADKR). At least six **Mistle Thrushes** were on the move with early **Fieldfares** at Kinlochewe, Ross-shire, on 9th September (EB). A late spring record of **Fieldfare** is of one at Loch Leven, Kinross-shire, on 23rd May (JHSw). The first of the autumn was noted on 11th August and there was an extensive early arrival reported from many places from 9th September, and especially from 15th onward:

Shetland—a few odd birds early in the month, and a small passage from 20th (RJT), with 80 on Unst that day (FJW).

Fair Isle—first on 11 Aug; mainly from 10 Sept, with surprisingly early large falls of 110 on 15th and 400 on 18th (RHD).

Auskerry, Orkney—1 on 13th (DMS).

Caithness—12 at Wick, 1 at Castletown, and 2 at Stanstill, all on 17th (DMS).

Loch Shin, Sutherland—noted on 21st (AMcR).

Evanton, E. Ross—first seen on 21st (CGH).
 Laide, W. Ross—3 on 19th (CFHB, ADKR).
 Stac Polly, W. Ross—10 on 26th (DCH).
 Kinlochewe, W. Ross—15-20 on 9th (EB).
 Abriachan, L. Ness—120 on 28th (DCH).
 Tomatin, Inverness—6 on 19th (THJ).
 Insh, Speyside—100 flew over on 24th (DNW).
 Glen Lui, Mar Forest, Aberdeen—18 flew over on 23rd (NE).
 L. Leven, Kinross—1 on 19th (JHSw).
 Barns Ness, E. Lothian—2 on 16th (PJ).
 Musselburgh—2 on 18th (MAM).
 Gryffe Reservoir, Renfrew—38 on 27th (HGC).
 Yetholm, Roxburgh—1 on 24th (RSB).

In contrast to the flood of letters about Fieldfare, only a few **Redwing** have been reported:

Shetland—small parties from 20 Sept (RJT).
 Fair Isle—first on 1 Sept; 35 on 18th and 200 on 27th (RHD).
 Auskerry—4 on 13 Sept (DMS).
 Speyside—first seen on 19 Sept, and a few thereafter (DNW).

Three **Ring Ouzels** were on Out Skerries, Shetland, between 18th and 22nd September (RJT); the first three at Fair Isle were on 17th, and numbers increased to 40 on 20th (RHD). A female **Blackbird** was seen with two or three fledglings in June near the sheep pen on the Shiant; the species is not mentioned as a breeding bird in the book kept in the bothy (LRH).

In the middle of Edinburgh a **Wheatear** was in Roseburn Park on 9th September (ATM, EHLM). Fourteen pairs of **Redstarts** nested this year on the Carron Glen slopes, Stirlingshire, in a distance of about a mile, and have definitely increased (JFB). A dead one on Canna about 17th or 18th July is the first recorded on the island (see 4: 437) (per JC). Single cock **Black Redstarts** were on Fair Isle on 16th July (RHD), and at Sumburgh, Shetland, on 27th September (DWO). There were two **Bluethroats** on Out Skerries between 18th and 22nd September (RJT); and five at Fair Isle on 18th, with between one and four until the 27th (RHD).

Further reports of **Grasshopper Warblers** may be added to the long list already published (4: 518):

Moray—1 at Hopeman on 1-4 June (ISS).
 Inverness—1 singing at Insh marshes on 26 May (DNW).
 Angus—1 still singing at Forfar Loch on 6 July (GMC).
 Stirling—1 heard and seen at Ardingning Loch, Strathblane, on 11 May; 1 heard at Bardowie Loch on 13 May (TMC).
 Jura—1 at Lealt in June and July (PJ).
 E. Lothian—1 at Aberlady on 28 July (GMSE); autumn migrant at Tynninghame on 2 Sept (AM).
 Renfrew—1 between Langbank and Bishopton on 31 July (GD, GTW).
 Roxburgh—1 at Yetholm Loch on 14 Aug (RSB).

On Out Skerries there were **Reed Warblers** on September 4th (1), 18th-20th (2) (RJT), and 26th (1) (DC); and on Fair Isle there were singles on 10th-12th and 20th-23rd (RHD). Single **Icterine Warblers** were on Out Skerries on 4th September (WP, RJT), at Fair Isle on 22nd August and 10th-16th September (RHD), and at Fife Ness on 22nd September (DWO).

A **Blackcap** was seen and heard at Tongue, in the extreme northwest, where it is a rare species, from 21st May until at least early June (ERH). At least seven held territories in northeast Angus this summer (GMC). Passage started rather early at Fair Isle, on 3rd September, with 16 on 18th and 22 on 22nd (RHD). **Barred Warblers** are reported as follows:

Fetlar—1 at Tresta on 15th and 19 Aug (TG); 2 from 1 Sept (RJT).

Mid Yell—1 on 1 Sept (RJT).

Out Skerries—2 on 4 Sept (RJT).

Sumburgh, Shetland—1 on 27 Sept (DWO).

Fair Isle—1-2 on 12-16 Aug; passage from 27 Aug to 16 Sept, with peaks of 3 on 27 Aug, 4 on 3rd and 10 Sept, and 5 on 12th; singles on 24th and 26 Sept (RHD).

Fife Ness—1 on 9 Sept (MJE, MAM).

A **Garden Warbler** was seen and heard from 21st May until early June at Tongue, an area for which there are few records (ERH). In northeast Angus at least 14 were holding territories (GMC). An adult **Lesser Whitethroat** was ringed at Killichonan, Loch Rannoch, on 19th August (WDC). On Fair Isle there was one on 8th August, and passage from 5th September, with a maximum of four on 18th (RHD); there was one near Rattray Head, Aberdeenshire, on 16th September (NE); and one with other migrants at Barns Ness on 13th September (AM).

As there are so few records for Roxburghshire, single **Chiffchaffs** at Yetholm Loch on 17th September and 1½ miles north of it on 18th should be noted (RSB). In Speyside, where it is very unusual, one was singing at Insh marshes in early June (DNW). A **Wood Warbler** was heard at Reay, Caithness, throughout May (DMS). Single autumn migrants were at Fetlar on 15th-16th August (TG), Sumburgh about the 18th (DC, RE-H), and Fair Isle on 8th-9th and 26th-27th August and 15th September (RHD). An **Arctic Warbler** (subject to approval of the Rarities Committee) was on Fair Isle from 30th August to 4th September, and another on 21st September (RHD); and one was reported at Halligarth on Unst on 3rd September (FJW); and yet another on Fetlar on 12th September (KH, RJT). The first **Yellow-browed Warbler** was at Fair Isle on 14th September and they were seen most days to the time of writing (27th September), with peaks of eight on 23rd and 27th—probably the best arrival ever recorded there (RHD). In Shetland there was one on Fetlar on 12th Septem-

ber, one or two on Out Skerries from 16th, one at Aywick on 16th, and one or two about the same time at Sumburgh(RJT), where there were three to five on the 27th (DWO); they were also noted at several places on Unst, with two on 21st September and singles on 23rd-25th and 27th (MS, FJW). A little further south, one was caught at Castletown, Caithness, on 1st October (DMS).

One or two migrant **Goldcrests** were noted in Shetland from 17th September, with more on 27th (RJT), and correspond rather nicely with in-town reports of singing birds in Whitinghame Drive, Glasgow W.2, on the 24th (HGC), and in George Square, Edinburgh, on 28th (TCS).

A great increase of **Spotted Flycatchers** breeding in the Yetholm area was noted, with 26 feeding at one place on 7th September and probably about 100 in the area (RSB). A **Pied Flycatcher** at Yetholm on 6th September was the observer's first for the area (RSB). There are reports of **Red-breasted Flycatchers** in September from:

- Mid Yell—1 on 23rd (RJT).
- Out Skerries—1 on 16th-22nd (RJT).
- Fair Isle—1 on 19th and 1 on 26th (RHD).
- Fife Ness—1 on 16th (CRM, RJWS).
- Tynninghame—1 on 10th (RF, BCF, RWF).

There were two to four **Richard's Pipits** at Fair Isle most days from 15th September, with a record total of eight on the 27th; and two **Red-throated Pipits** on 21st September, one of which stayed until the 25th (RHD). A **'Yellow' Wagtail** was at Riverside, Wick, Caithness, on 24th September (DMS), and a migrant cock *flavissima* was at Gadloch, Lanarkshire, on 13th August (WWy).

A **Great Grey Shrike** on Unst on 21st September chased a Yellow-browed Warbler for several minutes until it took refuge in the garden of a croft (FJW). A **Woodchat Shrike** was on Fair Isle on 13th July, subject to Rarities Committee approval (RHD). Single **Red-backed Shrikes** were on Fair Isle on four days between 9th and 18th September, with two on the 11th (RHD); and at Fife Ness there was a male on 22nd and a 1st-winter bird on the 23rd (DWO).

At Ellon, Aberdeenshire, a **Hawfinch** was rescued from a cat on 14th September (GFR). **Goldfinches** increased greatly in the Yetholm area; towards the end of August and early in September the residents were joined by others, and on 10th September there were 70, mostly juveniles, in a flock, and probably 130 in the area. One pair was still feeding newly-fledged young on 23rd September (RSB). At the Esso installation at Bowling, Dunbartonshire, there were 12 **Siskins** in a flock with Greenfinches, Reed Buntings and House

Sparrows on 25th September (TMC); and at Montgreenan, Ayrshire, there was a flock of 30 on 15th September (DNW). Two hundred **Redpolls** at Insh marshes on 25th September could have been local, but are thought more likely to have been migrants (DNW), a view perhaps reinforced by a record of four at Brims Ness, Caithness, two days earlier (DMS).

Scarlet Grosbeaks were at Fair Isle on August 29th (1), and September 9th (1), 10th (4), 11th-12th (2), and 18th-27th (1-2, but 3 on 24th) (RHD). Reports of **Crossbills**, presumably immigrants, in July, are of 12 females and immatures in pines near Westloch, St Abbs, Berwickshire, on 8th (DAIB); one over Vane Farm, Kinross-shire, on 22nd (JHSw); and at least 27 near Carnoustie, Angus, on 27th (JD). A female **Brambling** was on Unst on 27th August (FJW), and two were on Out Skerries on 18th September (RJT).

An unringed cock **Red-headed Bunting**, presumably an escapee like all the rest, was on the foreshore at Skinflats on 5th August (MCC, JP). At Fair Isle there was a hen on 23rd-28th August and a cock on 9th-21st September (RHD). Subject to Rarities Committee approval there were two **Yellow-breasted Buntings** on Fair Isle on 10th September, one staying until 12th, and another on 18th-19th (RHD). Single **Ortolan Buntings** were there on 5th-7th and 20th-26th September, and **Little Buntings** on 17th, 19th and 26th (RHD); one of the latter (subject to approval) was on Out Skerries between 18th and 22nd (RJT).

There was a **Lapland Bunting** on Out Skerries on 14th September (WP), and one in sand dunes 2 miles north of Brig o' Don, Aberdeenshire, on 4th October (ADKR). Fair Isle had one on 6th September, five on 7th, and one or two until the 25th (RHD). A juvenile **Snow Bunting**, able to fly freely but apparently Scottish-bred, was feeding at 2500 ft on Bheinn Eighe on 28th July below a massive scree (there had been over 500 Snow Buntings on the next hill in March); no adults were seen (ENH). Autumn arrival is reported at:

Shetland—one or two parties from mid Sept (RJT).

Fair Isle—8 on 4 Sept, building up to 70 on 8th were the first (RHD).

Auskerry—1 on 3 Sept (DMS).

Butt of Lewis—first one in NE gale on 20 Sept (WAJC), and 40 by 23rd (IMM).

Fife Ness—2 from 9th to at least 13 Sept (PGTB, MJE, MAM, DWO).

Earlier observations—before 1st May 1967

A drake **Garganey** was on the marshes near Twechar, Dunbartonshire, on 5th April (cf. 4: 510) (JJCH, EH). There was a **Little Gull** at Ackergill, Wick, Caithness, on 10th April, the first record for the county; others are said to have been seen in April in 1958, 1965 and 1967, but details that would enable

the records to be accepted have not been received (RSd, DMS).

We do not usually pick up arrival dates after the main report on the spring to which they refer, but the following notes expand or fill gaps in data in the last issue of *Scottish Birds*. Further April **Cuckoos** were one in Glen Kinglas, Argyllshire, on 23rd, and three at Craigend Castle, near Milngavie, on 29th, a normal first date for the area. Several **House Martins**—earlier than any already noted—were hawking insects over L. Bowie, near Dumbarton, on 10th April. Two male and one female **Whinchats** by L. Craignish, Argyllshire, on 23rd April are also the earliest reported. Single **Willow Warblers** seen and heard at Culzean Castle, Ayrshire, on 5th April, and at Benmore Gardens, near Dunoon, Argyllshire, on 7th, are additional to the sole early April record already given. A **Chiffchaff** was seen and heard at Culzean on 5th April (TNC).

A **Chiffchaff** was heard a mile south of Forres on 23rd April; the observer previously noted one in Morayshire in 1956 a mile east of Forres, which seems to be the first in the county (ISS). **Snow Buntings** were reported as unusually numerous on the Cairngorm tops in late April (DNW).

General observations—behaviour etc.

A 14 lb pike from a loch in Wigtownshire in May 1966 was found to contain an almost fully grown **Grey Lag Goose** gosling (JGY). The remains of an apparently fully-grown **Moorhen**, with green legs, were found inside a 10½ lb pike caught near Dumfries on 29th July (DSk).

Near Sandmill, Wigtownshire, **Moorhens** have been seen feeding far out on a large tract of sands exposed at low tide, up to ¼ mile from the nearest vegetation. Eight on 27th August, including four full-grown juveniles, was the highest count. If disturbed they half ran, half flew, to a coastal marsh nearby (RCD).

On 1st July in a wood between Kirkliston and Winchburgh, West Lothian, a **Woodcock** rose from beneath a tree and flew off slowly and clumsily, without zig-zagging, about three feet from the ground. The legs were dangled and held close together, with a brown spherical protruberance, presumed to be a chick, pressed against the body between the thighs. It pitched in cover a short distance away. A perfectly camouflaged Woodcock chick remained under the tree. Unfortunately, the observer was distracted from fuller investigation by the silent explosion of a brood of Spotted Flycatchers from a nest in a tree he was passing, and by the time these were reunited with their parents the remaining Woodcock chick was gone (RSB).

On 16th June at the broch of Dun Dornadilla, Sutherland, a **Curlew** repeatedly flew back and forth across the Strathmore river calling. Eventually two adults flew to the far bank and started calling to three chicks about two weeks old, which jumped off the three-foot river bank, disappeared under the water, and bobbed up like corks. The river was two feet deep and quite fast. The birds resembled ducklings as they made slow steady progress, encouraged by the calls of their parents, one of which flew over, shepherding them to a sandy stretch on the other side, where they were led away into the marsh, none the worse (TMC).

On 12th August a **Curlew** on mudflats at Loch Fleet, Sutherland, ate 338 marine worms (probably lugworms) in 45 minutes with hardly a pause. During this period the bird covered a strip about 40 yards long. Generally worms were secured about every third probe. At times it plunged its bill into the mud right to the base, but occasionally the worms, which appeared to be 1-2 inches long, were taken almost on the surface. The bird made droppings after consuming the 156th, 170th, 214th and 338th worms, and finally started to preen (DB, DM).

A **Great Skua** with a chick on the ground at Handa on 3rd July was seen mobbing **Oystercatchers** over the breeding site; two were brought down and attacked on the ground, the one escaping and the other being bitten on the neck and killed (DCH).

On 27th May a **Common Gull** was found incubating a nest on a flat branch of a Scots pine on an islet in a loch in South-east Sutherland. The bird was flushed and watched back but the contents of the nest, about 30 feet above the water, and its ultimate fate, are unknown (DM).

On the evenings of 7th and 8th September, at Yetholm, Roxburghshire, a **Short-eared Owl** was watched hiding short-tailed field voles, which it had caught, under tussocks of grass beneath a hawthorn hedge—two on the 7th and one on the 8th. The voles in each case were gone early the following morning. The *Handbook* (and *The Birds of Scotland*) records the formation of larders by autumn migrants, but this was a resident, apparently the only one in the area (RSB).

On 29th September at the Loch of the Lowes, Perthshire, a **Rook** was watched playing with what seemed to be a small clump of grass, or perhaps wool; the item was often carried in the bird's foot, both in flight and at rest, but was frequently transferred to the bill, again both in flight and at rest. The whole game, which lasted for several minutes before the bird dropped the item, was accompanied by weird, falsetto 'Rook-talk' (MJE, GW).

Reviews

The Snow Bunting. By Desmond Nethersole-Thompson. Edinburgh and London, Oliver & Boyd, 1966. Pp. xii + 316; 14 plates (18 photographs, one in colour) and 11 text figures. 22½ x 14½ cm. 45/-.

Although Desmond Nethersole-Thompson has lived in Scotland for over 30 years, to most Scottish birdwatchers he has been virtually unknown except in name as a "nasty word" in ornithology, a fire-eating iconoclastic anti-royalist and bitter antagonist of the Establishment and all orthodoxy. Only those who have taken the trouble to find out for themselves are aware that the admittedly unattractive exterior belies a sensitive character of great sincerity and personal charm.

His outstanding ability as a field naturalist with a particular bent for behaviour studies has been well demonstrated in *The Greenshank* and in the various contributions to Bannerman's *The Birds of the British Isles*, and whereas Inverness County Council may well miss this enzymic personality more than it cares to admit, Nethersole-Thompson's decision to abandon politics and devote his time to recording and publishing should certainly be welcomed in ornithological circles.

The Snow Bunting brings together the fruits of a vast programme of fieldwork carried out by the Nethersole-Thompson family under the most arduous, sometimes almost unbearable, conditions in the Cairngorm mountains, during which no less than 263 nights were spent under canvas. The author's personal contribution then, consists of accounts of his studies of Snow Bunting pairs and individuals, with their nest histories, found during this period; but this is not a book solely on the species in Scotland, for he has synthesised material dealing with all aspects of Snow Bunting biology throughout its total world range.

This treatment demonstrates many behavioural differences between arctic and Scottish birds, but these differences are certainly not attributable to the existence of a distinct Scottish population. In fact, available evidence suggests that Scottish breeding stocks are derived from a mixture of Greenland and Scandinavian birds. Territorial behaviour, for example, differs between Greenland and Scotland, where territories are much less clearly circumscribed, and may also differ in various parts of the arctic; but it is surprising to find in Spitsbergen, whose birds are so well documented, that Snow Bunting territory appears to be quite unstudied.

Snowbirds seem to have been commoner in Scotland at the end of the last century, during a series of cold and prolonged winters, but the author believes that colonists are more likely to nest following periods of severe climate in northern Europe than following hard springs in the Scottish Highlands. Much has been written recently on the correlation between the spread northwards of bird species and the amelioration of the arctic climate, but in the present book an interesting though highly speculative comparison is made between severe winters in the Iceland seas, the Baltic and Denmark Sound, the occurrence of breeding Snow Buntings in Scotland and the nesting in Scotland of other boreal birds—e.g. Long-tailed Duck, Green and Wood Sandpiper, Brambling, Whooper Swan, Whimbrel, Redwing. This chapter is well worth the attention of anyone interested in changes in northern bird faunas.

Two useful chapters (one by Derek Ratcliffe) describe the habitat of the Snow Bunting on a world scale and in Scotland, but little is said about flocks in the winter months. One curious omission (unless the re-

viewer has overlooked it) is John Berry's account of a fantastic immigration at Strathy Point in November 1931 (*Scot. Nat.* 1932: 39-42).

The book contains a great deal of personal reminiscence and historical accounts of nest-hunting in general and Snow Buntings' nests in particular, without which it could have been smaller and cheaper, but there are many to whom the historical side of ornithology is of absorbing interest. But the reviewer cannot excuse the statement that "William MacGillivray...as a poor young student...is said to have tramped from Aberdeen to London." MacGillivray's walk to London is a well authenticated historical fact, undertaken after he had abandoned the study of medicine for botany and zoology.

The Snow Bunting tells a great deal about *Plectrophenax nivalis* and also a great deal about Desmond Nethersole-Thompson; it is to be thoroughly recommended to anyone who is interested in either. It also does a great service in emphasising the deficiencies in our knowledge of the former (which the author is the first to point out) and should be carefully read by any ornithologist contemplating a visit to the arctic who is in search of subjects for study.

IAN D. PENNIE.

Mammals of Britain—their Tracks, Trails and Signs. By M. J. Lawrence and R. W. Brown. London, Blandford, n.d. [1967]. Pp. 223; plates (32 in colour) and line drawings throughout. 21½ x 14½ cm. 30/-.

This book will be valuable to ornithologists, for reasons given below, and the ornithologist reader is therefore asked to read on. It is the best book on the tracks, trails and signs of British mammals yet published. *The Handbook of British Mammals*, published by the Mammal Society of the British Isles in 1964, gave little information on tracks or skulls, and this book will fill the gap. The aim is to provide information that will allow people to identify species of mammals without actually seeing them—from tracks, droppings, signs or bony remains. It will therefore be of great value to ornithologists, who are often badly puzzled when trying to decide, from skull remains and teeth, which species of mammals occur in the pellets of owls or other birds of prey.

The introduction tells how to make plaster casts of tracks. The first two-thirds of the book describe the distribution, habits, habitat, track, trail, signs and dwelling place of each species of British mammal. Scottish readers will detect a number of errors, such as the incorrect information about reindeer distribution, or the grey squirrel being restricted to the Central Lowlands and "the glens" in Scotland, or the distribution of the wild cat in northeast Scotland. However in general this section is good, and there are useful distribution maps and many good photographs in colour and black-and-white. The best part of this section is the illustration of tracks. These drawings are particularly useful because they show variations in the type of track according to whether the animal is walking or running, on soft mud, snow or hard ground, or landing from a height, and whether it is a fore or hind foot, left or right. The tracks of closely-related species are illustrated side by side. The only criticism here is that the scale is sometimes given as "reduced" or "greatly reduced," rather than as an exact fraction. The last third of the book is a detailed section, describing skulls and teeth patterns and illustrating these, with a useful key to identify species by special features of the skulls and teeth. Several practical examples are given of identifying the material in owl pellets.

ADAM WATSON.

Tracks. By E. A. R. Ennion and N. Tinbergen. Oxford, Clarendon Press (Oxford University Press), 1967. Pp. 63; 122 photographs and coloured drawings. 28 x 21½ cm. 25/-.

This is an enchanting picture book, and more. Tracks is a comprehensive term not restricted to footprints. It includes records of locomotion by paws, claws, flippers or other means, but shows the purpose of these movements in hunting, feeding and play. Tinbergen stresses the importance of early morning work on nocturnal animals' tracks, when the slanting sun shows each print in sharp relief and they are as yet unblurred. His sensitive photographs are excellent. Sand prints show remarkable clarity of detail, and beauty of pattern is visible again and again.

The first photographs are straightforward footprints of a trotting hedgehog, a plodding Shelduck, a wriggling adder. The tracks cross one another, and changes in them reveal events. It is with these more complex event-photographs that Ennion's sketches come into their own, and show exactly what happened. Sometimes the sketch is superimposed on the track photograph, as the leaping rabbits, or the Oystercatcher which turned into the wind and took off. Sometimes the bird or mammal picture is shown separately, on the same page as the track photograph. Parent Shelduck with their brood, and a grand one of a fox suddenly sitting down to scratch, are instances. The artist must have enjoyed choosing his attitude of suspended movement exactly to fit the tracks.

Mammals, birds, reptile and amphibian are illustrated, the scale varying from aerial views of migrating African wildebeeste to a poignant little photo-story of a weevil which, unlike Bruce's spider, laboured so hard but failed. Is it unfair to wish that the common toad had been included for comparison with the restricted though photogenic natterjack's sand-prints, and that other small rodents as well as one speeding woodmouse had been allowed to show their paces? Probably, for this is not a systematic book, but a delight to examine, and a stimulus to look more closely at the evidence left in tracks of snow, mud and sand.

WINIFRED U. FLOWER.

The Penguin Dictionary of British Natural History. Penguin Reference Books series. By Richard and Maisie Fitter. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1967. Pp. 348; figures. 18½ x 11 cm. Paperback, 8/6.

During the period when I have had this dictionary and have referred to it for information, I have rarely been disappointed. Naturally, it does not profess to contain every species, but the selection is very wide, both animal in its broadest sense and botanical, and included also are definitions of geological, meteorological and ecological terms which occur in scientific journals today. One is occasionally tempted when reading to skip such words with but a hazy idea of their exact meaning; here is the correct interpretation speedily available. It is pleasant to see the S.O.C. defined as "the national bird-watching organization of Scotland," and to find included such homely words as Pink-foot and Cushie-Doo.

Under Isopoda there is a small misprint where "woodlice or skaters" are mentioned instead of "slaters," and under Pond Snail, *L. truncatula* should read *L. truncatula*, but these only serve to indicate the wide field covered and how accurate the information is.

There is appended a checklist of several thousand scientific names, which should prove very useful.

This dictionary should be conveniently placed in every naturalist's private library for it will be in frequent use, and can be recommended even as a reading book for the odd moment.

A. J. SMITH.

Letter

SIR,

The "Carrick" gull and others

I read the article on the "Carrick" gull (*Scot. Birds* 4: 493-502) with interest. During my stay in Stornoway from March 1963 to September 1965 I identified three different albino Herring Gulls and seven Iceland Gulls. The first albino Herring Gull was obvious—an adult on 18th March 1963 with an almost white mantle and very pale grey wing-tips. The second, on 15th March 1964, was also an adult, with pure white plumage and wingtips so pale that the grey could be seen only at close quarters. Both these birds were in the vicinity of Stornoway for a long while. The third albino was an immature on 26th September 1964, with wholly dark bill and eye and pure white plumage, but at close range showing some very faint mottling at the end of the tail.

The Iceland Gulls were in various stages of immature plumage. The most adult was one at Laxdale estuary on 28th February 1964. It appeared to be at a stage of plumage not described by G. T. Kay (*Brit. Birds* 43: 399-402); the mantle, wings and tail were as an adult, but the head and underparts were as an immature. With all the Iceland Gulls that I have seen I looked first at the head, finding the facial 'expression' and the more delicate head and bill an excellent guide to identification. In my opinion the bird illustrated in *Scottish Birds* (pl. 48) is without doubt an albino Herring Gull.

I have also a record of an albinistic Common Gull at Loch Stiapavat, Lewis, on 24th February 1964, an immature with wings pure white from the tip to the carpal joint; and one of an albino Black-headed Gull on the Ythan estuary, Aberdeenshire, on 12th and 24th July 1967, a bird with pure white plumage and faint grey-brown patches on the scapulars and face.

NORMAN ELKINS.

(Ian M. MacLean reports that an albino Herring Gull was still to be seen at Stornoway in mid September 1967 and that one, if it was always the same one, has been seen regularly over recent years by W. Matheson, who saw it feed a young bird in the harbour in 1966.—ED.)

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1967

		Year to 30/6/67	Year to 30/6/66
As at 30th June, 1966	£2435	15 8	£2287
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year		322 13 6	149
		<u>£2758 9 2</u>	<u>£2436</u>
 Made up of :			
Cash: in hands of Secretary		£8 9 10	£14
In Royal Bank of Scotland No. 1 Account		87 15 1	220
In Royal Bank of Scotland No. 2 Account		13 1 8	61
In Edinburgh Savings Bank		127 12 5	358
In account with Scottish Ornithological Cruise Ltd.		—	66
		<u>£236 19 0</u>	<u>719</u>
Bookshop stock at valuation		597 0 0	666
Tie and Badge stock at valuation		225 0 0	—
Debts due to Club		300 5 4	140
		<u>£1359 4 4</u>	<u>1525</u>
5% Defence Bonds		500 0 0	500
Loan to Edinburgh Corporation at 6½% repayable 1968		500 0 0	500
Loan to County Burgh of Wigan at 7½% repayable 1968		600 0 0	—
Loan to Matlock Urban District Council (now at 5½%) repayable at 7 days		3500 0 0	—
Safeguard Industrial Investments Ltd.—700 Ord. Shares of 5/- each at cost		507 19 11	508
		<u>£6967 4 3</u>	<u>3033</u>
 Less :			
Subscriptions paid in advance	£79 11 11		71
Donations from the late Miss E. A. Garden—not yet expended	28 8 1		29
Debts due by Club	378 0 8		384
Amount due to Endowment Fund	13 1 8		113
Amount due to Scottish Ornithological Cruise Ltd. in Liquidation	3709 12 9	4208 15 1	<u>597</u>
		<u>£2758 9 2</u>	<u>£2436</u>

Revenue Account for the year ended on 30th June, 1967

	Year to		Year to
	30/6/67	30/6/66	30/6/66
INCOME—			
Subscriptions received for year	£1966	5 0	£1772
Income Tax recovered on covenanted subscriptions	248	5 2	216
Dividends and Interest received	282	8 6	85
Surplus on Bookshop (Sales £4408)	1151	8 1	643
Sale of "Scottish Birds" to non-members	124	5 5	88
Sundry Sales less sundry purchases	16	0 3	49
Contribution from the Scottish Wildlife Trust towards facilities granted by the Club		—	16
Contribution from the Scottish Ornithological Cruise Ltd. towards facilities granted by the Club	27	0 0	96
Donations received	85	14 2	59
	<u>£3901</u>	<u>6 7</u>	<u>£3024</u>
EXPENDITURE—			
Branch Expenses including lectures	£393	5 3	£310
Travel Expenses of Council Members and of Delegates to Conferences	48	17 3	66
Secretarial Services	1535	17 11	1142
Office Expenses	396	13 11	268
Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection: Club's share of running expenses including £225 Contribution to the House Fabric Fund	454	10 3	317
Cost of Books purchased for Library	63	1 4	82
Cost of publishing "Scottish Birds" (less advertising revenue £263)	605	15 11	523
Cost of publishing "Foula" supplement	—	—	149
Net cost of Annual Conference	64	8 9	2
Subscriptions paid	16	2 6	16
	<u>£3578</u>	<u>13 1</u>	<u>£2875</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet	322	13 6	149
	<u>£3901</u>	<u>6 7</u>	<u>£3024</u>

House Fabric Fund—Summary of Accounts for year to 30th June, 1967

	Year to		Year to
	30/6/67	30/6/66	30/6/66
RECEIPTS—			
Balance as at 30th June, 1966	£202	3 3	£162
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
Special Contribution from S.O.C.	125	0 0	—
Miscellaneous Interests	5	4 6	5
	<u>£632</u>	<u>7 9</u>	<u>£467</u>

EXPENDITURE—

Repairs and maintenance (including roof repairs—£275)	...	...	...	...	...	378	17	11	69
Property Burdens	...	...	...	...	...	212	5	1	181
Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	15	3	7	15
						<u>£606</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>265</u>
At credit of account with Fraser, Stodart & Ballingall, W.S.	...	...	...	...	£0	10	0		
On deposit with Dunedin Building Society	25	11	2			26	1	2	202
						<u>£632</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>467</u>

Note: The balance of £26, 1/2 includes £18, 15/11 unexpended from the Harvey Donation.

ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Revenue Account for the year ended 30th June, 1967

			Year to	Year to		
			30/6/67	30/6/66		
INCOME—						
Interest and Dividends received (gross)	£115	9	11	£113
EXPENDITURE—						
Grant to the R.S.P.B. for the Vane Farm Reserve			100	0	0	--
Unexpended Income for the year	<u>£15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>113</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1967

Endowments as at 30th June, 1966	...	...	...	£2074	19	6	£2000
Additions during year—A. C. Phillips	...	...	...	5	0	0	75
				<u>£2079</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2075</u>
Unexpended income at 30/6/66	...	...	£113	1	8		
Add: Unexpended income of current year	...	...	...	15	9	11	113
				<u>£2208</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2188</u>
Made up of:							
£1151 3½% War Stock at cost	...	...	...	£1000	0	0	1000
976 Units of the Equities Investment Trust for Charities at cost	...	...	...	1000	0	0	1000
On Deposit Receipt	...	...	...	—	—	—	75
In Royal Bank of Scotland Deposit Account	...	...	...	195	9	5	—
Due by Club's main funds	...	...	...	13	1	8	113
				<u>£2208</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2188</u>

EDINBURGH, 12th September, 1967.—I have audited the foregoing Revenue Accounts for the year to 30th June, 1967, 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.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Your Council submits the following Report for the year 1966/67:

Membership By the end of the session, Club membership had reached 1787. An increased number of new members was enrolled, 325 as compared with 285 in 1965/66. This was due in part to new subscriptions received on the Cruise. There was an increase in resignations and lapsed subscriptions, 166 as compared with 145 the year before, so that the total increase for the year was 159, continuing our steady growth in membership. A table of membership figures for the past six years is given below:

	31/8/62	31/8/63	30/6/64	30/6/65	30/6/66	30/6/67
Ordinary	918	1062	1194	1263	1373	1524
Junior	181	195	198	222	252	259
Honorary	4	4	3	3	3	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1103	1261	1395	1488	1628	1787
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase	68	158	134	93	140	159

The number of Deeds of Covenant signed by members for their subscriptions rose from 228 to 262, representing 295 subscriptions and contributing £249 to the income of the Club. Members whose covenants completed the seven years at the end of the session have been invited to renew them for a further period. The Council thanks those who have already signed covenants, and invites all members to take advantage of this method of increasing the value of their subscriptions.

Honorary Member At the Annual General Meeting in 1966 the Council had great pleasure in recording the election of Sir Landsborough Thomson as an Honorary Member of the Club.

Business of Council Five meetings of Council were held during the session. A special Committee, appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr W. J. Eggeling, examined and reported on the planning of Club resources, including staffing, accommodation and storage space. The Committee submitted their final report to Council in May 1967 and is now dissolved. Council considered and accepted their recommendations, which covered a wide range of Club activities and requirements, and included the allocation of funds from the Cruise surplus.

A donation of £100 was made out of the Endowment Fund to the R.S.P.B. Vane Farm Reserve. The Council also proposed that there be a Life Membership subscription.

One of our Honorary Presidents, Mr George Waterston, continued to represent the Club at meetings of the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and Sir Landsborough Thomson accepted the Council's invitation to succeed Dr John Berry as the other representative.

Scottish Bird Islands Study Cruise Administration in connection with the conclusion of Cruise affairs continued into the autumn. A note of the Cruise was included in the last Report of Council (see *Scottish Birds* 4: 329) and a fuller account of it, published in the winter number of the journal (*Scottish Birds* 4: 272-286), was sent to all passengers who were not already members of the Club.

In July 1967, just after the end of the financial year, the Limited Company "Scottish Ornithological Cruise Ltd," formed in connection with the Cruise, was dissolved by voluntary liquidation. The funds remaining amounted to £4202 from which, on the recommendation of the guarantors, grants totalling £450 were made to the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust (£250), the Isle of May Bird Observatory (£100), the National Trust for

Scotland (£50) and the Scottish Wildlife Trust (£50), leaving £3752 for the Club's own use. £1000 of this has been laid aside by Council for the Club Endowment Fund and a similar amount for the House Fabric Fund, £962 was approved for expenditure on additional storage shelving, renovation of a packing room, new office equipment, library binding and a bookcase showcase. The remaining £790 has been added to the accumulated surplus of the Club.

Annual Conference The Nineteenth Annual Conference and Annual Dinner of the Club, held in Dunblane, was attended by over 250 members and their guests. Lectures on irruptive migrations and range changes of European birds were given by Dr Staffan Ulfstrand (University of Lund, Sweden), Mr R. K. Cornwallis and Mr Stanley Cramp, and films were shown.

Branches A full programme of lectures was given in eight Branches. The Thurso Group continued to meet regularly and sponsored one public lecture. The annual excursion to the Solway goose grounds took place as usual, much assisted by the office-bearers and members of the Dumfries Branch. Local excursions were organised by all Branches during the summer.

Council considered a request to establish a new Branch or Group in the Stirling area. The response to a questionnaire sent out to members was sufficient to justify the formation of a Group on a trial basis. It will meet in Stirling in the coming winter under the interim Chairmanship of Mr T. D. H. Merrie.

"Scottish Birds" Four numbers of the journal were published during the year. Copies were sent out regularly in exchange or by subscription to 90 libraries at home or overseas.

Club Library The Library Committee met several times to consider the scope of the Library and its requirements. It made recommendations to Council regarding the binding of back runs of important journals, for which a special allocation has now been made by Council. The Committee also recommended new arrangements for lending books from the duplicate section and for borrowing by junior members (see *Scottish Birds* 4: 464).

Council again thanks those who have generously presented books, journals and reprints; these have been a valuable addition to our collection.

Scottish Bird Records Committee The Committee met once, under the Chairmanship of Mr D. G. Andrew. Its annual Reviews will continue to be published in *Scottish Birds*.

Bookshop Sales of books increased considerably. A very large number of orders resulted from the Cruise, when books to the value of £1000 were sold. The Cruise led also to regular orders from several overseas societies. Wider advertisement by the distribution of booklists has attracted further custom and it is hoped that with the continuing support of members, purchasing books through the Bookshop, the revenue will continue to show an increase this coming year.

Book displays were taken to the annual conferences of the British Trust for Ornithology and the British Ornithologists' Union, and to the RSPB/USPB Meeting in Northern Ireland. Council thanks these bodies warmly for the assistance this gave to publicity and sales.

Scottish Centre Facilities were again made available for informal discussion groups, meetings of the Young Ornithologists' Club, and meetings of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust and the Isle of May Bird Observatory and Field Station Committee. Many enquiries were dealt with from British and overseas visitors.

Alterations to the Centre have included new shelving in the basement for stocks of *Scottish Birds* and stationery items, the reconditioning of a cellar to provide a packing room for the Bookshop, and the installation of a new hall showcase affording more adequate storage for new books.

Acknowledgments In conclusion, Council wishes to record its sincere thanks to all those who have helped the Club so freely throughout the session, by covenants, donations, lectures, Branch organisation, editorial assistance, service on special Committees, and in many other unseen and useful ways.

For the Council, W. J. EGGELING, President.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB

The 31st Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Hotel Dunblane, Perthshire, on Saturday 28th October 1967 at 6 p.m. Dr W. J. Eggeling, President of the Club, presided over an attendance of over 120 members.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from Dr and Mrs D. A. Bannerman, Dr and the Hon. Mrs John Berry, Dr David Boddington, Dr G. M. Dunnet and Professor and Mrs V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Minutes The Minutes of the thirtieth Annual General Meeting, held in Dunblane on 22nd October 1966, were approved and signed.

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

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

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

Election of Hon. President Proposing the election of Sir Arthur Duncan as an Honorary President of the Club, the Chairman said that Sir Arthur had given great service to the Club as a founder member and first President, and to the Branch in his own area of Dumfries. His part in establishing the Fair Isle Bird Observatory, and as Chairman of the Nature Conservancy in Scotland, was widely known, but few members knew that without his support as a guarantor of the Scottish Bird Islands Study Cruise, this enterprise might not have taken place. The meeting unanimously endorsed his election.

Election of new Members of Council In the absence of any other nominations, Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn and T. D. H. Merrie were elected as new Members of Council in place of C. K. Mylne and Arthur J. Smith who were due to retire by rotation. The Chairman thanked the retiring Members for their service to the Council.

Life Membership Subscription The meeting approved the recommendations of the Council for a Life Membership subscription and the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Club to replace 3. MEMBERSHIP (e), as follows:

"There shall be no entry fees. The Annual Subscription shall be 25s; or 7s 6d in the case of Members who are under 21 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. The Life Subscription shall be £50. Married couples shall be eligible for Joint Membership at an Annual Subscription of 40s or a Life Subscription of £75, and shall enjoy all the usual privileges of Membership with the exception that they shall receive only one copy of *Scottish Birds* (Club journal), and any other literature circulated by the Club, between them."

Scottish Bird Report At the invitation of the Chairman, A. T. Macmillan, Editor of *Scottish Birds*, introduced plans for a Scottish Bird Report, starting in 1968, and for the appointment of Local Recorders throughout the country and appealed for the support of all members of the Club. On the motion of George Waterston, a special tribute was paid to the Editor and his assistants for giving so much of their spare time to the journal, and in particular to P. J. B. Slater for compiling the Current Notes up to the present time. ,

Votes of Thanks The Chairman moved a warm vote of thanks to the Conference lecturers, exhibitors, excursion leaders, projectionist, staff and others who had helped with the organisation. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Dr I. D. Pennie, to the Chairman, Dr Eggeling, and to Donald Watson, Vice-President, who had taken his place at short notice during the first part of the Conference.

COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE CLUB FOR SESSION 31

Hon. Presidents : David A. Bannerman, O.B.E., LL.D., Sc.D., F.R.S.E.; Sir Charles G. Connell, W.S.; Sir Arthur B. Duncan; 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, C.A.

Assistant Editors of "Scottish Birds" : D. G. Andrew, P. J. B. Slater, Dr T. C. Smout.

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

Council : William Brotherston, R. G. Caldow, Dr David Jenkins, H. A. Maxwell, Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, T. D. H. Merrie, J. H. B. Munro, G. L. A. Patrick, R. T. Smith, Miss V. M. Thom.

Branch Representatives to Council : J. E. Forrest (Dundee); Miss F. J. Greig (Aberdeen); S. L. Hunter (Ayr); J. K. R. Melrose (Dumfries); A. L. Ogilvy (Glasgow); Miss O. T. Thompson (Edinburgh); J. S. Wiffen (St Andrews).

BRANCH AND GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Aberdeen : Chairman, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards; Vice-Chairman, A. Anderson; Secretary, Miss F. J. Greig; Committee, Miss A. T. Grant, J. L. Riddell, Dr G. Swapp.

Ayr : Chairman, S. L. Hunter; Vice-Chairman, A. G. Stewart; Secretary, Dr M. E. Castle; Committee, Miss M. S. P. Gibson, Miss J. E. Howie, T. B. Kay, Mrs M. Y. Macgregor.

Dumfries : Chairman, W. Austin; Vice-Chairman, A. D. Watson; Secretary, H. M. Russell; Committee, J. Maxwell, S. Skilling, R. T. Smith, J. F. Young.

Dundee : Chairman, J. E. Forrest; Vice-Chairman, D. B. Thomson; Secretary, Miss J. Stirling; Committee, A. Beat, 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, R. S. Baillie, Miss M. E. Grace, I. J. H. Lyster, J. A. Stewart.

Glasgow : Chairman, A. L. Ogilvy; Vice-Chairman, R. G. Caldow; Secretary, Mrs J. B. Hutchison; Committee, Dr I. T. Draper, C. E. Palmar,

A. D. R. Palmer, G. L. A. Patrick.

Inverness : Chairman, H. A. Maxwell; Vice-Chairman, C. G. Headlam; Secretary, J. MacGeoch; Committee, Miss J. Banks, Miss G. Bush, L. W. Payne, Dr M. 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. S. Wiffen.

Stirling : Chairman, R. J. Clough; Vice-Chairman, Rev. G. T. Jamieson; Secretary, T. D. H. Merrie; Committee, P. Clark, A. Tewnton.

Thurso : Chairman, Dr P. M. McMorran; Vice-Chairman, M. K. Goodchild; 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), A. T. Macmillan, Dr I. D. Pennie, George Waterston.

HONORARY MEMBERS

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

BRANCH WINTER EXCURSIONS

Ayr : Excursions will take place on Saturday 6th January; Saturday 3rd February; Saturday 2nd March; and Saturday 6th April. Details will be announced at the evening lecture before each excursion, or members should contact the Secretary, Dr M. E. Castle, 15 Glenpark Place, Ayr. Tel. Alloway 41828.

Dundee : Excursions will take place on the following dates, leaving at 10 a.m. from the City Square.

17th December 1967—Stormont Loch.

21st January 1968—Tayport and Morton Lochs.

18th February 1968—Thriepley and Long Lochs.

17th March 1968—Cameron Loch area.

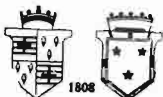
21st April 1968—Rescobie and Balgavies Lochs.

WEEKEND EXCURSION TO DUMFRIES

The weekend excursion to the Solway goose grounds has been arranged with the County Hotel, Dumfries, from 9th to 11th February 1968.

Accommodation: inclusive terms £5.5.0, inclusive of gratuities, as follows—bed on Friday 9th; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and bed on Saturday 10th; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 11th. Members should inform the hotel in advance if they require dinner on Friday night (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.



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Notice to Contributors (revised 1st December 1967)

1. General notes (not of sufficient importance to be published on their own as Short Notes) should be sent to the appropriate local recorders for inclusion in their summary for the annual Scottish Bird Report, not to the editor. A list of local recorders is published from time to time, but in cases of doubt the editor will be glad to forward notes to the right person. All other material should be sent to the editor, Andrew T. Macmillan, 12 Abinger Gardens, Edinburgh 12. Attention to the following points greatly simplifies the work of producing the journal and is much appreciated.

2. If not sent earlier, all general notes for January to October each year should be sent to the local recorders early in November, and any for November and December should be sent at the beginning of January. In addition, local recorders will be glad to have brief reports on matters of special current interest at the end of March, June, September and December for the journal. All other material should of course be sent as soon as it is ready.

3. All contributions should be on one side of the paper only. Papers, especially, should be typed if possible, with double spacing. Proofs will normally be sent to authors of papers, but not of shorter items. Such proofs should be returned without delay. If alterations are made at this stage it may be necessary to ask the author to bear the cost.

4. Authors of full-length papers who want copies for their own use **MUST ASK FOR THESE** when returning the proofs. If requested we will supply 25 free copies of the issue in which the paper is published. Reprints can be obtained but a charge will be made for these.

5. Particular care should be taken to avoid mistakes in lists of references and to lay them out in the following way, italics being indicated where appropriate by underlining.

DICK, G. & POTTER, J. 1960. Goshawk in East Stirling. *Scot. Birds* 1:329.
EGGELING, W. J. 1960. *The Isle of May*. Edinburgh and London.

6. English names should follow *The Handbook of British Birds* with the alterations detailed in *British Birds* in January 1953 (46:2-3) and January 1956 (49:5). Initial capitals are used for names of species (e.g. Blue Tit Long-tailed Tit) but not for group names (e.g. diving ducks, tits). Scientific names should be used sparingly (see editorial *Scottish Birds* 2:1-3) and follow the 1952 B.O.U. *Check-List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* with the changes recommended in 1956 by the Taxonomic Sub-Committee (*Ibis* 98:158-68), and the 1957 decisions of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (*Ibis* 99:369). When used with the English names they should follow them, underlined to indicate italics, and with no surrounding brackets.

7. Dates should normally be in the form "1st January 1962", with no commas round the year. Old fashioned conventions should be avoided—e.g. use Arabic numerals rather than Roman, and avoid unnecessary full stops after abbreviations such as "Dr" and "St".

8. Tables must be designed to fit into the page, preferably not sideways, and be self-explanatory.

9. Headings and sub-headings should not be underlined as this may lead the printer to use the wrong type.

10. Illustrations of any kind are welcomed. Drawings and figures should be up to twice the size they will finally appear, and on separate sheets from the text. They should be in Indian ink on good quality paper, with neat lettering by a skilled draughtsman. Photographs should either have a Scottish interest or illustrate contributions. They should be sharp and clear, with good contrast, and preferably large glossy prints.

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 in dark green, navy or maroon terylene, embroidered with small crested tits in white, can be obtained by Members only from the Club Secretary, at a cost of 17s 6d. A brooch in silver and blue is also available to Members, price 3s 6d, from the Club Secretary or from Hon. Branch Secretaries.

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 there is a small duplicate section, consisting of standard reference books and important journals, which can be lent to students and others wishing to read a particular subject. A lending section for junior Members, which is shared with the Young Ornithologists' Club, is also available.

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

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