

SCOTTISH BIRDS



THE JOURNAL OF THE
SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Volume 5 No 1

SPRING 1968

price 5s

With or without spectacles



Eric Hosking F.R.P.S. the celebrated ornithologist and bird photographer, writes

"I have recently found that for the most exacting observations particularly at twilight or over the sea or misty terrain, I need a binocular with greater brilliance of illumination.

Consequently, after testing various types, I have changed to the new 8 x 50B Zeiss binocular which I find to be a really marvellous production; not only is the quality of illumination and optical correction beyond criticism,

but this binocular gives a remarkably wide field of view for both the spectacle wearer and the naked eye.* The price is high but the Zeiss 8 x 50B binocular is beyond compare and I am delighted with it."

* Actually 130 yards at 1000 which has never been equalled in a spectacle wearer's model of this specification.

Degenhardt & Co. Ltd.,
Carl Zeiss House,
20/22 Mortimer Street,
London, W.1.
01-636 8050 (15 lines)



Degenhardt

British Agents for Carl Zeiss West Germany

**TAKE A
GOOD CLOSE
LOOK with the
SWIFT "AUDUBON"—the
specialist binocular for
bird-watching**



Observe bird-life in its natural surroundings—close up, in great detail. Become an Eagle-eyed spectator, the Swift way with the 'Audubon' 8.5 x 44. Designed to the suggested specification of an internationally-known Group of Ornithologists this is one of the finest nature study binoculars available today. Power and brilliance reveal details at dawn or dusk. The fantastically wide field permits easy tracking and extra-close focussing enables the skilled stalker to approach within 12ft to watch feeding activities as if they were only 18" away. Price inc. case & PT £42.0.0d.

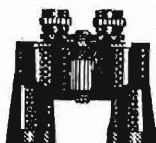
Please send me the new Swift brochure 6244B

PYSER-BRITEX (SWIFT) LTD

Sole Importers of SWIFT Instruments

FIRCROFT WAY, EDENBRIDGE, KENT. Edenbridge 2434

STD Code OSE 271



NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

SB 60



**Cruise to a bird watching
holiday in
ORKNEY &
SHETLAND
from Leith & Aberdeen**

Study, at close hand,
an extraordinary variety of birds
which never come south. Unforgettable
scenery. Modern ships. Good food.
Comfortable hotels. Glorious holiday.
Send for FREE illustrated brochure to:



**NORTH OF SCOTLAND, ORKNEY
& SHETLAND SHIPPING CO LTD**
Dept. 17, P.O. Box No. 5
Matthews' Quay, Aberdeen. AB98DL.

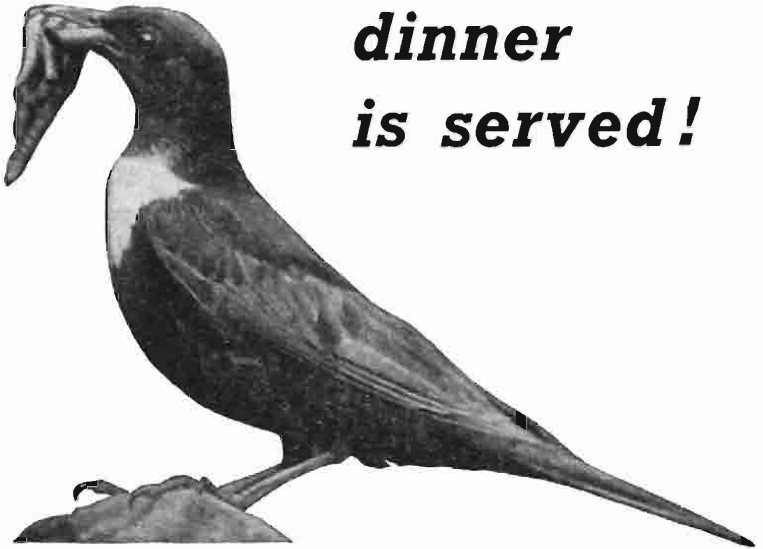
COLOUR SLIDES

We are now able to supply slides of most British Birds from our own collection, and from that of the R.S.P.B. Send for our list covering these and birds of Africa—many fine studies and close-ups.

FOR HIRE

We have arranged to hire out slides of the R.S.P.B. These are in sets of 25 at 7s 6d per night's hire. Birds are grouped according to their natural habitats.

W. COWEN, Keswick



**dinner
is served!**

Haiths have not yet in operation a department for the production of nice juicy worms but we are able to satisfy almost every other requirement of birds of all species. Our range of foods and seeds will please the most demanding of ornithologists.

Just a few of our products are mentioned here. A more comprehensive list will gladly sent on request.

WILD BIRD FOOD (contains only cultivated seeds—no wild seed used)
5 lb 7/9, 9 lb 11/6, 13 lb 14/-, 28 lb 19/6, 56 lb 34/-, 112 lb 65/-.

FOOD FOR THE TIT FAMILY 5 lb 10/6, 9 lb 16/3, 13 lb 21/6, 28 lb 35/9, 56 lb 67/-, 112 lb 130/-

SONGSTER FOOD for Blackbirds, etc. 5 lb 8/9, 9 lb 13/6, 13 lb 17/-, 28 lb 25/6, 56 lb 46/-, 112 lb 88/-

SUNFLOWER SEEDS (mixed) 5 lb 10/6, 9 lb 15/9, 13 lb 21/-, 28 lb 32/6, 56 lb 60/-, 112 lb 115/-

MONKEY NUTS (in shell) for bird feeding 5 lb 10/6, 9 lb 16/3, 13 lb 21/6, 28 lb 35/9, 56 lb 67/-, 112 lb 130/-

PEANUT KERNELS for bird feeding 5 lb 10/6, 9 lb 16/3, 13 lb 21/6, 28 lb 35/9, 56 lb 67/-, 112 lb 130/-

RAISINS for bird feeding 5 lb 10/3, 9 lb 15/3, 13 lb 21/-, 28 lb 34/9, 56 lb 64/6, 112 lb 125/-

ALL POST OR CARRIAGE PAID

JOHN E. HAITH LTD.

Dept. S.B., Park Street, Cleethorpes

SCOTTISH BIRDS

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Contents of Volume 5, Number 1, Spring 1968

	Page
Editorial	1
Isle of May Bird Observatory and Field Station Report for 1967. By Nancy J. Gordon	6
Review of ornithological changes in Scotland in 1966. By D. G. Andrew	13
Black-browed Albatross summering on the Bass Rock. By G. Waterston	20
Short Notes	
American Wigeon in Shetland (M. Sinclair, F. J. Walker)	23
Scaup breeding in Orkney (D. G. Andrew)	23
King Eider in Aberdeenshire (P. B. Heppleston)	24
Buzzards breeding in Aberdeenshire and North Kincardineshire (D. G. Andrew)	24
Possible nesting of Marsh Harriers in Scotland (A. T. Macmillan)	25
Little Ringed Plover in Lanarkshire (D. Stalker)	27
White-rumped Sandpiper in Caithness (D. M. Stark)	27
Cream-coloured Coursers in Lanarkshire (D. Stephen)	28
White-winged Black Terns in the Outer Hebrides, Shetland, Caithness and Aberdeenshire (A. Smith; R. H. Dennis, R. J. Tulloch; E. M. Smith, R. W. J. Smith; R. Donaldson)	29
Green Woodpecker breeding in Perthshire (V. M. Thom)	30
Hooded Crow making child-like cry (T. M. Cameron)	31
Fieldfares breeding in Orkney (E. Balfour)	31
Redwings breeding in Scotland (C. Knowles; J. K. Hasler; K. M. Shaw; J. A. R. Grant; W. A. Sinclair; M. T. Barnes, G. M. S. Easy; F. J. Walker)	32
Blackbird and Song Thrush laying in the same nest (G. M. Lees)	39
Abnormally plumaged Willow Warbler (D. Macdonald)	39
Current Notes	40
Obituaries	
Rev. E. T. Vernon; David Hamilton; C. W. Sanderson	53
Reviews	
Birds of the Antarctic. By F. A. Wilson. Reviewed by R. Seath	57
Thorburn's Birds. By J. Fisher. Reviewed by R. Seath	58
The Birds of North Africa. By R. D. Etchécopar and F. Hüe. Reviewed by N. Picozzi	59
Animals and Birds in Australia. By G. Pizzey. Reviewed by G. M. Dunnet	60
Penguins. By J. Sparks and T. Soper. Reviewed by M. J. Everett	60
Hummingbirds. By W. Sheithauer. Reviewed by W. J. Eggeling	61
The Shetland Book. By A. T. Cluness. Reviewed by A. T. Macmillan	62
Island Saga. The Story of North Ronaldsay. By M. A. Scott. Reviewed by P. J. B. Slater	62
Where to Watch Birds. By J. Gooders. Reviewed by R. S. Baillie	63
Nesting Birds, Eggs and Fledglings. By W. Reade and E. Hosking. Reviewed by R. G. Caldow	63
A Field Guide to the Mammals of Britain and Europe. By F. H. van den Brink. Reviewed by R. H. Dennis	64
Estuary Birds. Moor and Heath Birds. Shell Nature Records	65
Letter	65
The Scottish Ornithologists' Club	66

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.



In Scotland the R.S.P.B. now maintains nine Reserves and employs regional representatives in Orkney, Shetland and Speyside—but much remains to be done. We need your support. Please write for Membership Prospectus.

*to 'protect
and conserve'*

RSPB

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7

Tel. 031 - 556 5624

SCOTTISH BIRDS

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB



Vol. 5 No. 1

Spring 1968

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.

Editorial

A new suit of clothes. People may be divided into those who prefer the reassurance of things as they have always been and those who grow restless for change. Various friends have suggested that the cover of *Scottish Birds* might be due for a facelift, though opinions as to how to go about it, or what was good or bad about the old one, or the various ideas for a new one, were as contradictory and varied as the people canvassed for their views. We like the new design more and more, and believe it gives a more lively and up-to-date appearance to the journal, now entering volume 5 and moving towards the end of its first decade. We hope readers like it too. Our sincere thanks are due to Ian T. P. McIntosh, who really got us moving on this, and to John Busby, who designed the new cover and drew his highly individual portrait of the Crested Tit—with perhaps a sideways glance at the editor.

Photographs. For some time we have been keen to have the plates bled off the edge of the page—a printer's way of saying that the picture goes right to the edge and is not surrounded by a distracting white border. The effect is generally more pleasing, but we have hesitated over the slight extra cost for larger blocks and the fear that we would not get enough pictures of adequate quality and sharpness to justify the change. Now we have taken the plunge.

Disturbance. Under the Protection of Birds Act 1967 anyone wishing to photograph birds listed in Schedule 1 (as amended) of the 1954 Act at the nest must get a licence first. Not all these birds are rare, and many of them are popular with photographers in Scotland. No one is allowed to help to catch or ring birds, even as a trainee under full supervision at a bird observatory, without first getting a licence from the Natural Environment Research Council, 19 Belgrave Square, London SW1. We believe that these provisions stemmed from a desire to prevent such things as misguided schoolboys putting bits of bent wire on birds' legs, or law-abiding

sheep farmers keeping eagles from their nests to prevent the eggs hatching. The methods chosen to achieve these worthy aims have been described, with some feeling and much justification, as bureaucracy gone mad. The consequences of this legislation seem to have greatly surprised its supporters, and though it was advocated by birdwatchers it is very difficult now to find anyone to speak in favour of it—among, that is, the few who understand it. We hope shortly to publish a paper dealing with the whole subject, and therefore content ourselves meantime with saying that if you intend doing any of the many things for which a licence is needed, and do not know that you have to have one, you had better find out about it at once, and you may already be too late for 1968.

Current Notes. Readers will now be familiar with the plans for an annual Scottish Bird Report, set out in detail in the Winter 1967 issue. Most regular contributors will have received also a duplicated *aide-mémoire* on the revised arrangements for sending notes to *Scottish Birds*, but anyone who has not had this and would like a copy may have it for the asking.

The last of the old-style Current Notes, to the end of 1967, is published in this issue. It will in future be a very much shorter section and will be confined to matters of special topical interest; the mass of more-general information will appear only in the annual Scottish Bird Report.

A brief summary of what should be done with notes in the future may be useful. Rarities and material for Short Notes should be sent at once, preferably to the appropriate local recorder to forward to the editor. Material of possible interest for the new, short, quarterly Current Notes should be sent to local recorders by the end of March, June, September and December, for collation with other notes and transmission to the editor. Early in November all records for the first ten months of the year (including those already reported, unless you make special arrangements) should be sent to the local recorders, and early the following January those for the final two months should follow.

Index and binding vol. 4. Titlepages and an index to volume 4 are being distributed with this issue. Binding arrangements are described inside the cover of the index, and readers who want their copies bound are urged to give the details asked for on the back cover and to send the parts and the right money to the binders as soon as possible. Charges are up a little, thanks quite largely to the high level of postage, but also to the thickness of many issues of the journal, each of

which has to be divided and rejoined into three sections in the binding process to make a neat job.

Conservancy appointments. At the end of 1967 Dr John Berry retired from the position of Director of the Nature Conservancy in Scotland, a post he had held since it was created in 1949, and in the New Year's Honours list he was awarded the C.B.E. for his work in this and other fields. He is succeeded by Dr W. J. Eggeling, equally well known in Scottish ornithological circles. We send them both our congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Ornithological atlas. Possibly the most important and certainly the most ambitious cooperative enquiry ever tackled by British ornithologists gets under way this summer. The BTO has given the go-ahead to the British ornithological atlas (see *Scot. Birds* 4: 402), and over the next five years it is hoped to map the exact distribution of all the breeding birds throughout the British Isles. A leaflet about the project is enclosed with this issue of *Scottish Birds*, and we hope that as many people as possible will join in and help with the work. It is not very difficult but it is very important. Let us put on a really good show in Scotland, so that the larger part of the country need not be covered by visitors from south of the Border who have finished their own areas. Certainly we will need and welcome help from holidaying birdwatchers to cover the remoter areas, but let us make a big effort to cover as much as we can. If the botanists can do it (and they did), so can the birdwatchers.

Seabird Breeding Distribution Survey. It is nine years since the last Fulmar and Kittiwake census was made in 1959, and counts of these species are therefore due to be repeated in the summer of next year. The Seabird Group has decided that the occasion should be utilised to attempt a national census of the other major colonial seabirds as well, and has entrusted the preparation of this project to a Census Committee which numbers among its members many of those responsible for such historic censuses as those of Fulmar, Gannet and Kittiwake, including James Fisher (Chairman), John Coulson (Scientific Advisor) and George Waterston (Scottish Representative).

It has been decided to prepare for this census (which has the support of the major ornithological societies) by carrying out a distribution survey of breeding seabirds this summer, with the object of establishing the location of the major colonies and the approximate numbers of each species present; the full census can then be carried out more easily in the course of the 1969 season. A pilot survey last summer

has confirmed the feasibility of this procedure and indicated the nature of the main difficulties likely to be encountered in the course of the project. Inevitably the task of counting the seabirds breeding in Scotland must rank as the major of these difficulties, with the country containing so many breeding birds along so much inaccessible coast. Despite these problems SOC members were able to provide considerable information on the distribution of seabird colonies during the pilot work last summer and it is hoped that they will again assist this summer and next.

The object of the breeding distribution survey this year is to obtain as comprehensive data as possible on the presence or *absence* of each species along the coast and on islands, together with estimates at least, and counts where possible, of the numbers present. For the time being, information on inland distribution is not being requested, though this may well be collected in another year. SOC members spending any time on the coast or on islands in the course of the breeding season are invited to participate in the survey. It is intended shortly to base a fulltime Organiser for the scheme in Scotland but until these plans have been finalised further information about the project can be obtained from the Census Secretary, Raymond O'Connor, Department of Physics, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1.

Seabird Census Organiser. A fulltime Organiser is required by the Seabird Group to organise and coordinate its National Seabird Census 1968-70 and to arrange for the analysis and publication of the results. The salary offered will be in the range £1200-£1500 p.a. For further details those interested should write to Dr W. R. P. Bourne, Shrodel's Hospital, Vicarage Road, Watford, Herts.

Seabird survey. A survey of the dates of attendance of various seabirds at their breeding colonies is being organised with the backing of the Seabird Group. Anyone able to visit a colony regularly throughout the year, or merely during the periods of increase or decrease in numbers, can help. Further details may be had from the organiser, Jeremy Greenwood, Zoology Department, University of Dundee, who would also be glad to hear from anyone who has kept records of regular visits to colonies during past years.

Ringling training. From time to time we are asked where one may learn to become a ringer or a mistnetter. Up to three people will be welcome at weekends at Bamburgh Ringing Station, which also provides cooking facilities and camp beds (bring your own sheets) for 4/- a night. Full details from J. M. Bayldon, Orchard House, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, near Rotherham (telephone: JMB at Thrybergh 329; if he is out, M. Bell at Newcastle upon Tyne 628196).

R.S.P.B. courses. Courses in birdwatching, open to all members of the R.S.P.B., even complete beginners, have been arranged for 1968 in the Scottish Highlands and half-a-dozen places in England. Mostly these cover the general study of birds, but there is one on bird photography, one on drawing and painting, and one on a sailing ketch off the coasts of Suffolk and Essex. Details from The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Wildlife Photographer of 1967. We are very pleased to see that the British Birds section of the *Animals Wildlife Photographer of 1967* competition was won by Sydney J. Clarke of Duns, and we send him our congratulations on his medal. He is a photographer who concentrates on the ordinary birds round his home (like the Hedge Sparrow—*Scot. Birds* 4: 162) rather than pursuing rarities, and his winning entry was a typical and charming colour cameo of a Song Thrush on a snow-clad branch.

Current literature. Material of interest to Scottish ornithologists in recent periodical literature includes:

Transactions and Proceedings of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science for the Years 1963-65. Vol. xi. 1966. Revived after a gap of 12 years, and including the following ornithological material:

Perthshire heronries. V. M. Thom, pp. 28-29.

Grey geese in Perthshire. V. M. Thom and C. Murray. pp. 38-42

The spread of the Collared Dove. A. M. M. Macfarlane. p. 43.

Birds of Perthshire: a list of selected species. P. F. James. pp. 44-46.

Ornithological Section. pp. 62-63. Formed in 1963.

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin. Vol. 5. No. 7. 1967.

Among many valuable notes by the warden, R. H. Dennis, may be mentioned 'Changes in the arrivals and departures of seabirds at Fair Isle', pp. 236-240, and 'The status of the Cormorant at Fair Isle', pp. 247-250.

Forth Island bird counts 1967. R. W. J. Smith, 1967. *Edin. Nat. Hist. Soc. News-Letter* 1967: 18.

Ecological studies of seabirds. G. M. Dunnet [1968]. *Seabird Bull.* 5: 2-11. Text of paper given at S.O.C. Annual Conference on 28th October 1967.

University seabird work. University of Aberdeen. Anon [1968]. *Seabird Bull.* 5: 27-28. Survey of present activity.

The plumage of Fulmars. K. G. Walker, 1967. *Bird Study* 14: 247. Letter suggesting that scruffy St Kilda birds are ill, not aged.

The Peregrine situation in Great Britain 1965-66. D. A. Ratcliffe, 1967. *Bird Study* 14: 238-246. Including Scottish data.

- Red Grouse chick survival in captivity and in the wild. D. Jenkins, A. Watson and N. Picozzi. *Trans. 6th Cong. Int. Union of Game Biologists*, 1963. pp. 63-70.
- Heather performance and Red Grouse populations. 1. Visual estimates of heather performance. G. R. Miller, D. Jenkins and A. Watson, 1966. *J. appl. Ecol.* 3: 313-326.
- Population fluctuations in the Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*. D. Jenkins, A. Watson and G. R. Miller, 1967. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 36: 97-122.
- Three papers from the Unit of Grouse and Moorland Ecology at Banchory. See also *Shooting Times* 19.1.67, *The Field* 11.5.67, *Country Life* 22.6.67 (pp. 1602-1603), and *Nature* 16.9.67 (215: 1274-1275).
- Blackgame and Capercaillie in relation to forestry in Britain. G. W. Johnstone, 1967. *Forestry Supplement* 1967: 68-77. Based on Scottish studies.
- Sardinian Warbler on Fair Isle. R. H. Dennis, 1967. *Brit. Birds* 60: 483-485. First Scottish record.

Isle of May Bird Observatory and Field Station Report for 1967

*Prepared for the Observatory Committee by
NANCY J. GORDON, Honorary Secretary*

The Observatory was manned for a total of 194 days between 2nd April and 4th November 1967. The number of observer nights was 815.

The only major gap in observer cover was in October; coverage of spring migration was good, and as in 1966 continuity of observations was maintained throughout the summer by the Durham University team working on the gull populations. As at other east coast stations, spring migrants put in a late appearance, and at no time reached high numbers. The highlight of the autumn migration was the number and variety of warblers, occurring mainly in mid and late August, and mid September. The main fall of Scandinavian migrants came at the end of October.

New species recorded were a Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*, trapped on 22nd September, and an Olivaceous Warbler of the eastern race *Hippolais pallida elaeica* trapped on 24th September (and later beheaded by a Great Grey Shrike on the 26th)—a first record for Scotland. A third new addition to the ringing list was an Arctic Warbler (30th August). Other rarities included Scarlet Grosbeak, Aquatic Warbler and *Tawny Pipit.

*Subject to confirmation by the Rarities Committee

Spring

Observers were on the island 2nd-29th April, 2nd-16th May and from 19th May onwards.

April. Cold weather and north or westerly gales deterred all but a few migrants during the first week of the month. The few were one or two Wheatears (on 2nd and 3rd), 12 Blackbirds and a flock of 20 Greenfinches on 3rd, one or two Fieldfares and Song Thrushes and local movement of Meadow Pipits. A Long-eared Owl seen on 6th was the earliest spring record. From 7th to 13th April winds were less strong and northeasterly, bringing several influxes of Dunnocks (up to 40 daily) and Robins (up to 60 daily). 70 Chaffinches and 40 Greenfinches appeared on the 8th with 3 Mistle Thrushes (sole spring record). Three Ring Ouzels and a Black Redstart arrived on the 9th, a Great Grey Shrike on the 10th, and another Black Redstart on the 12th. A small depression passing on 14th and 15th April brought 50 Blackbirds, 2 Woodcock and a few Fieldfares and Song Thrushes. During the following week of west winds there was no movement apart from 20 Wheatears on the 19th. On the 23rd, however, after a day of east winds, mist descended and the first Willow Warblers (25) came in overnight, with 60 Goldcrests, 100 Meadow Pipits, and small numbers of Wheatears, Blackbirds, Ring Ouzels, Fieldfares, Song Thrushes, Bramblings and a Woodcock. The first Swallows passed over on the 25th, and the first Whinchat on the 26th. Winds varied with passing fronts during the last few days of the month, the only additional species being a Golden Plover and a few Redpolls.

May-June. Cold northerly winds veered to southeast and strengthened by 4th May, a day of poor visibility and hence an influx of birds: Turdidae, 6 Whinchats, 3 Redstarts, 4 Blackcaps, 6 Goldfinches, 30 Wheatears and 4 Linnets. Similar movement continued off and on for the next 12 days as winds remained easterly and visibility often poor. 5th May added a Turtle Dove, a Whimbrel, 2 Lesser Redpolls, 4 Tree Sparrows, 6 Garden Warblers, 3 Sedge Warblers and a White-throat. New species after the 5th were 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 6 Pied Flycatchers, 2 Yellow Wagtails and 4 Siskins on the 7th, the first Sand Martin and Spotted Flycatchers (4) on the 8th, the first Cuckoo and Swift on the 10th, a Quail on the 12th, a Common Sandpiper and Wryneck on the 13th and a Tree Pipit on the 14th. After a two-day gap, observers returned on 19th May to find many migrants still present despite a return to west winds: 60 Willow Warblers, 60 Whitethroats, 20 Sedge Warblers, 7 Whinchats and 7 Redstarts. Numbers decreased in the clear weather of the next few days, though 6

Tree Sparrows were seen on 21st May and a Cuckoo on 22nd, and a Collared Dove was trapped on 23rd. The spring's last Fieldfare passed by on the 24th with a few Redstarts, Wheatears and Willow Warblers, but little movement was noted for the next few days, and the month ended with the passage of an Osprey on the 31st. Small numbers of martins, Wheatears, warblers and Spotted Flycatchers continued passing during the first few days of June, especially 1st and 2nd, when east winds and fog prevailed.

Summer

In June and July observers concentrated mainly on the island's breeding populations, and the only migrants or vagrants recorded were another Osprey and a Whitethroat on 19th June, 12 Bar-tailed Godwits on 2nd July, a Whinchat on 4th, a Redstart on 5th, and an early Whimbrel on 9th July. Purple Sandpipers returned much earlier than usual—the first on 4th July, increasing to 70 by 20th. A Collared Dove arrived on 11th and the year's third Osprey on 21st.

Autumn

Observers were in residence throughout August and September, 1st-2nd and 8th-16th October, and 28th October-4th November. Autumn migration was heralded by the first few Willow Warblers during the last week of July.

August. Apart from a Garden Warbler on 2nd, and a few Willow Warblers daily, 3 Pied Flycatchers on 7th and an Icterine Warbler on 8th, little migration was in evidence until a big influx on 9th after 48 hours of fog and east winds. Warblers predominated, with 20 Garden Warblers, 2 Icterine Warblers, 15 Sedge Warblers, a Wood Warbler, 5 Willow Warblers, a Blackcap and 2 Whitethroats, and also 30 Pied Flycatchers and 8 Wheatears. Movement continued for another two days in variable west winds, with 10 Whimbrel and a Greenshank on 10th, 3 Dunlin, 2 Sandwich Terns and 2 Sand Martins on 11th. East winds on 13th-16th brought another Whimbrel, a Green Sandpiper on 13th, more Wheatears, Garden and Sedge Warblers and an Aquatic Warbler on 14th, and an Icterine Warbler on 15th. A return to west winds produced a quieter spell with a trickle of Swallows and warblers, numbers increasing on 21st with light east winds and mist. A good influx on 25th brought 200 Willow Warblers, a Red-backed Shrike, 12 Whimbrel and a few Pied and Spotted Flycatchers. Coastal movement continued (warblers and Wheatears) in sunny weather for the rest of the month, which closed auspiciously with the capture of an Arctic Warbler on 30th, and a Reed Warbler on 31st.

September. The month began with a small movement of Tree Sparrows and Goldcrests, soon stemmed by westerly gales on

2nd and 3rd. As these lessened, local movement continued until 8th with Meadow Pipits and Swallows. On 9th interest was revived by the advent of 3 Barred Warblers and a Chiffchaff. On 11th, winds backed to the east, and at least 14 Fieldfares arrived, with a Redstart, a Garden and a Barred Warbler, 2 Whinchats, 20 Willow Warblers and 25 Goldcrests. East wind and poor visibility until 19th ensured a continued supply of interesting migrants, especially on 12th-14th (warblers, hirundines, Redstarts, Fieldfares, Whinchats, a Scarlet Grosbeak and a Red-breasted Flycatcher). Single Yellow-browed Warblers were recorded on 18th and 20th, 2 more Red-breasted Flycatchers on 17th and 20th, and a Spotted Redshank on 20th. After two or three days of north and west winds, a return to easterlies on 22nd brought 3 more Red-breasted Flycatchers, with Chaffinches, Garden and Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Redstarts, a Whitethroat, and the island's first Spotted Crake. 23rd September was one of the peaks of the autumn migration, including at least 500 Swallows, a Red-breasted Flycatcher, a Yellow-browed Warbler, Fieldfares, Redwings, Starlings, Ring Ouzels and Song Thrushes, a Black Redstart and 3 Grey Wagtails. On 24th, with a Great Grey Shrike, 4 Garden and 8 Willow Warblers, there arrived a new species for the island, an Olivaceous Warbler, which was ringed but survived only until decapitated by the Great Grey Shrike. There was slight passage up to the end of the month of Fieldfares, Wheatears, pipits, Skylarks and Swallows. A Black Tern, a Great and an Arctic Skua were seen on 25th, and a Jack Snipe and 2 Lesser Redpolls on 28th. Redwing numbers reached 70 on 29th, Merlins were seen on 27th and 29th, and a Yellow-browed Warbler was caught on 30th.

October-November. Strong west winds blew almost continuously until 17th, and the only good day for migrants was the 9th, when 20 Goldcrests, 3 Blackcaps, 40 Fieldfares, 30 Redwings, 30 Song Thrushes, a Merlin, 3 Bramblings and a Red-necked Grebe were recorded. Other species worth noting were a Long-tailed Duck and 4 Black Guillemots on 12th, a Merlin on 13th, a Peregrine and a Blue Tit (the first for 10 years) on 14th. After a gap of 12 days observers returned on 28th, and north and west winds stayed with them until the end of the month. At first they saw only small movements of Fieldfares, Blackbirds and Redwings, with 2 Snow Buntings, 3 Whimbrels, a Woodcock, a Sparrowhawk, a Merlin and a late last Swallow arriving on 29th. By the 31st the wind shifted eastwards, and during this day and the next over a thousand each of Blackbirds and Redwings, and several hundred Fieldfares, passed through the island, with 12 Waxwings and a Long-eared Owl on 31st, and 20

Bramblings and another Sparrowhawk and Merlin on 1st November. After overnight gales, 2nd November saw more movement of Turdidae, but also a great increase in Goldcrests, which arrived in hundreds, and 20 Robins, 10 Blackcaps, 2 Great Grey Shrikes, 4 Long-eared Owls, a Black Redstart and a Water Rail. Between 31st October and 2nd November a total of 4 late Redstarts was recorded. Many of these birds (apart from the Goldcrests) had moved on by the 3rd, when the wind veered west once more, bringing few but noteworthy new arrivals—a Tawny Pipit, a Goldfinch and a very late Yellow-browed Warbler. The Observatory closed on 4th November after recording only 2 or 3 Siskins, Redpolls and Snow Buntings as new arrivals.

Unusual occurrences

Red-necked Grebe One, 9th-16th October. Seventh record.

Pochard One, 16th-23rd August. Sixth record (first since 1956).

Osprey One each, 31st May, 19th June, 21st July. Eighth year of occurrence, and a record number for a single year.

Quail One, 12th May. Eighth year of occurrence.

Spotted Crake One, 22nd September. First record.

Bar-tailed Godwit Twelve, 2nd July. First July record, and largest flock ever seen.

Black Tern One, 25th September. Third year of occurrence.

Collared Dove Two, 25th-26th May; one, 11th July. Fourth year of occurrence.

Long-eared Owl One, 6th April. Earliest spring record.

Blue Tit One, 14th October. Only seventh record, and first for 10 years.

Aquatic Warbler One, 14th August. Sixth record.

Olivaceous Warbler One, 24th September. First Scottish record.

Arctic Warbler One, 30th-31st August. Second record.

Yellow-browed Warbler One, 3rd November. Latest autumn record.

***Tawny Pipit** One, 3rd November. Third record.

Great Grey Shrike One, 10th-13th April. Third and earliest spring record. One, 24th-27th September. Earliest autumn record.

Goldfinch Six, 4th May. Largest number in one day.

Breeding populations

As in 1966, the largest of the breeding populations (the Herring Gulls) received the most attention, from the Durham University team (Jasper Parsons and assistants) who were on the island from mid April to mid August continuing large-scale ringing and research on egg-laying, chick survival and post-fledging mortality in eight demarcated areas of the gull colony. From the 1967 studies, the size of the Herring Gull population was estimated at 11,000 pairs—a considerable increase on previous estimates. Though included in the study and ringing programme, Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers were not estimated. Great Black-

backed Gulls bred for the sixth successive year. Three pairs bred, but no young reached the flying stage. As in 1966 a pair (one a ringed bird) bred on the original site near the South Horn. Two chicks hatched but disappeared a week later. A second pair nested nearby, but their two eggs were gone three weeks later. A pair on the North Ness failed to hatch one egg. In June the Eider Duck population received some attention from Ian Marshall, who has been working on this species. His count of 58 nests included 8 that had been predated. The remainder contained a total of 171 eggs, but, as in previous years, probably only a small percentage of these hatched and fledged successfully amongst the dense gull colonies. No estimate was made of the Kittiwake or auk populations, though observers agreed that the Puffin colony continues to increase, judging by the numbers of birds present around the island and the spread of nest holes west of Holyman's Road, and on Rona, where at least 30 pairs bred. Two or three pairs of Razorbills nested on ledges at East Tarbet for the first time. The colony of Fulmars had a record year, rearing at least 25 chicks. Several pairs used new sites, near the South Horn, and on the Burrian rocks. Oystercatcher numbers increased, over 20 pairs breeding, but fledging success was as low as ever, probably about four broods.

At least two broods each of Blackbirds, Swallows and Dunnocks fledged, and one brood of Pied Wagtails.

Ringling and recoveries

8559 birds of 69 species were ringed—2000 more than the record total of 1966. The total includes a record number of gulls ringed mainly by Durham University—5410 Herring Gulls and 625 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Other record totals were Shag (630), Redshank (30), Purple Sandpiper (5), Collared Dove (2), Swallow (12), Wren (57), Redpoll (7) and Gannet (2). High totals were Long-eared Owl (5), Yellow-browed Warbler (5), Red-breasted Flycatcher (6), Dunnock (62) and Curlew (3). New birds ringed were Spotted Crake, Arctic Warbler and Olivaceous Warbler. A Blue Tit and a Common Tern were the first to be ringed for more than a decade. Low totals were Chaffinch (19) and Brambling (5); no Siskins or Linnets were ringed.

The total of 156 recoveries includes 105 Herring Gulls and 12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. There were fewer Shag recoveries than usual—only 18. Nearly 8% of ringed gull pulli were recovered before leaving the island. The remaining recoveries showed the usual southerly dispersal pattern—many around the Firth of Forth, only one north of Dundee, many over 100 miles to south and west, four from Holland and one

from France. The Great Black-backed Gull recovery was from the first brood to be reared on the island. This and the other foreign recoveries or controls are listed below:

		Ringed	Recovered	
Great Black-backed Gull	Pull	4. 8.62	Zeebrugge, Belgium	19. 8.67
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Pull	26. 7.66	San Fernando, Cadiz, Spain	20. 8.67
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Pull	1. 7.67	Ovar, Beira Litoral, Portugal	11. 9.67
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Pull	1. 7.67	Mira, Beira Litoral, Portugal	— 9.67
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Pull	1. 7.67	Peniche, Estremadura, Portugal	4.11.67
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Pull	2. 7.67	Rio Barbate, Cadiz, Spain	16.11.67
Herring Gull	Pull	19. 6.66	Hoogeberg, Texel, Holland	7. 4.67
Herring Gull	Pull	9. 7.66	Broekpolder, Vlaardingen, Holland	15. 4.67
Herring Gull	Pull	6. 7.67	Breskens, Zeeland, Holland	7.11.67
Herring Gull	Pull	4. 7.67	Groningen, Holland	16.11.67
Herring Gull	Pull	8. 7.66	off Baie de Somme, France	16. 7.67
Song Thrush	Ad	23. 3.64	St Julian-en-Born, Landes, France	6.11.67
Blackbird	1st S♂	9. 4.62	Oppland, Jossund, N. Trondelag, Norway	1.11.67
Blackbird	1st W♂	31.10.63	Nol, Starrkär, Alvsborg, Sweden	1.11.67
Blackbird	FG♂	13.10.66	Skanevik, Nordaland, Norway	23. 7.67
Blackbird	1st W♀	23.11.66	Brasted, Arendal, Norway	26. 3.67
Garden Warbler	Ad	3. 9.63	Heligoland, Germany	1. 6.66
Chaffinch	1st W♂	1.10.65	Urangsvag, Bremnes, Hordaland, Norway	14. 5.67

Other observations

No changes were observed in the population of grey seals and no pups were born. Rabbit numbers continued to increase during the third season free from myxomatosis.

The lichen survey of the island carried out in 1965 by Messrs B. W. Ferry and J. W. Sheard has been published in *The Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh* (1967) Vol. 40, Part III.

The Committee wishes to thank firstly the Principal Keeper and his staff for all the help given to the Observatory during the season, and secondly the skippers of the Breadwinner who took on the job of Observatory boatmen in June 1967.

Review of ornithological changes in Scotland in 1966

DOUGAL G. ANDREW

Introduction

This is the fourteenth report of the Scottish Bird Records Committee, and it is concerned with records *published* during 1966. The periodicals searched, with the abbreviations used in this report, are as follows:

SB	<i>Scottish Birds</i> , Vol. 4: 1-336
BB	<i>British Birds</i> , Vol. 59
BS	<i>Bird Study</i> , Vol. 13
FIBOR	<i>Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report</i> , 1965
FIBOB	<i>Fair Isle Bird Observatory Bulletin</i> , Vol. 5: 155-226
	<i>Birds</i> , Vol. 1: 1-123
	<i>Ibis</i> , Vol. 108
Bull BOC	<i>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club</i> , Vol. 86
	<i>Seventeenth Annual Report of the Wildfowl Trust</i> , 1964-65
ENHS	<i>Edinburgh Natural History Society News-Letter</i> , 1966
NSBR	<i>North Solway Bird Report</i> , No. 1—1965
	<i>The Seabird Group—Seabird Bulletin</i> , Nos. 1 & 2

There have been no changes in the composition of the Committee since the publication of our last report (SB 4: 286).

Birds new to Scotland

GREY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus m. minimus*. The Morayshire record (see under "Birds new to areas and counties" below) provides the first definite identification of this race for Britain.

[BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*. One, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 29th August-6th September 1966 (BB 59: 352; SB 4: 451); there are circumstances which suggest that this bird was an escape from captivity.]

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*. One, Fair Isle, 11th October 1966 (BB 59: 438; SB 4: 454).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*. One trapped, Fair Isle, 17th-19th October 1964 (FIBOR 1965: 28; BB 60: 161). A second bird of the same species was trapped at Fair Isle, 29th-30th September 1965. These are also the first and second British records.

Birds new to areas and counties

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. One (subsequently found

- dead), Endrick Mouth, 23rd January 1966 (SB 4: 238); first for West Stirling.
- BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*. One, Horselaw Loch, Yetholm, 19th-20th March 1966 (SB 4: 239); first for Roxburgh.
- GREAT SHEARWATER *Procellaria gravis*. At least six off Girdleness, 22nd September 1965 (SB 4: 222); first for Dee and North Kincardine.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER *Procellaria diomedea*. 88 counted flying past Fair Isle between 18th and 23rd September 1965 (SB 4: 218); first for Shetland faunal area and Fair Isle. The exceptional nature of this movement is illustrated by the fact that there are only four previous Scottish records of this species, all of single birds.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procellaria grisea*. Four off Rudh' Re, 2nd September 1966 (SB 4: 314); first for West Ross.
- FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. One over Clairinch, Loch Lomond, 5th June 1966 (SB 4: 239); first for West Stirling.
- GANNET *Sula bassana*. Counts of up to 1600 off Inverness in February/April 1966 (SB 4: 239); first published occurrence for East Inverness, though in fact the species is regular off the coast between Nairn and Longman Point (J. MacGeoch and Dr Maeve Rusk); this also provides the first published occurrence for Nairn.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*. Adult drake, North Ronaldsay, 10th November 1966 (BB 59: 438; SB 4: 503); first for Orkney.
- SCAUP *Aythya marila*. Female, Gartmorn Dam, 30th October 1965 (SB 4: 107); first published record for Clackmannan, though in fact there are unpublished records of odd birds on the Clackmannan shore of the Forth in winter, going back to 29th January 1922 (T. Paterson).
- SMEW *Mergus albellus*. Drake, Loch Eriboll, 11th June 1966 (SB 4: 242); first for North Coast and North Sutherland.
- GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Two adults, Tibbermore, 18th December 1965 (SB 4: 108); first record of this race for North Perth.
- BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. One, Dornoch, 30th October 1965 (SB 4: 109); first for South East Sutherland.
- [RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*. Five near Greenlaw, Berwickshire, 21st March 1966 (SB 4: 323), were probably escapes from captivity.]
- BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*. One, Harray, 18th-19th May 1966, and what was probably the same bird near Sumburgh Airport, 27th May-2nd June (SB 4: 295); first for Orkney and Shetland faunal areas respectively. There is only one pre-

vious Scottish record.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. One seen in the Glenberrie area several times in early January 1966 (SB 4: 243); first published occurrence for North Kincardine, although in fact the species is regularly seen in this division, both in winter and summer, and there is an unconfirmed report of a nest having been destroyed by a keeper (per Dr D. Jenkins).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*. First-year bird trapped, Fair Isle, 4th-7th September 1965 (SB 4: 224); first for Shetland faunal area and Fair Isle. One, Whalsay, 17th-19th September 1965 (SB 4: 225); first for Shetland other than Fair Isle. One, Aberlady, 12th October 1965 (SB 4: 225); first for Forth and East Lothian. An earlier record of one at Aberlady on 1st July 1950 (*Edinburgh Bird Bulletin* 1: 7) was later withdrawn (*The Birds of Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve*, p. 13).

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*. One, Elie Bay, 21st April 1966 (SB 4: 226); first for Forth and South Fife. Third Scottish record.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. In the North Perthshire division of Tay a single bird was display-fighting on 11th June 1966; in the first week of July two birds were behaving anxiously in the same area and breeding was suspected (SB 4: 228); first occurrence for North Perth.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*. First-winter male seen and subsequently shot, Islesteps, near Dumfries, from about 10th to 16th November 1965 (SB 4: 111, 230); first for Solway and Kirkcudbright.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris testacea*. One, Gruinard Bay, 18th September 1966 (SB 4: 318); first for North West Highlands and West Ross.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*. One near Abington, 21st April 1966 (SB 4: 296); first for Lanark.

PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*. One, South Ronaldsay, 6th October 1963 (SB 4: 90); first for Orkney.

CREAM-COLOURED CURSER *Cursorius cursor*. Three, near Cumbernauld, 10th October 1949 (*Glasgow Bird Bulletin* 2: 31; SB 5: 28); this record was not accepted in an earlier Report (*Scottish Naturalist* 1955: 102) but fuller details have now been made available to us and we agree with Dr David Bannerman (*Birds of the British Isles* XI: 2) in considering the record to be valid. We accordingly accept it as the second Scottish record, and it is also the second for Lanarkshire. One, Aberlady 9th-21st October 1965 (SB 4: 230); this is the third Scottish record and the first for Forth and East Lothian.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. One seen on the Beauly

- Firth (at Bunchrew), 30th December 1965 (SB 4: 112); first published record for East Inverness, though the observer (R. H. Dennis) informs us that he has several earlier records for this area, the first being of a first-winter bird at Thornbush Quay, Inverness, on 1st April 1963.
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*. One, An-cum Loch, North Ronaldsay, 11th-13th June 1966 (*Birds* 1: 121; SB 4: 373); this is the second Scottish record and the first for Orkney.
- GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*. One, Dalmeny, 3rd September 1966 (BB 59: 440; SB 4: 448); this is the third Scottish record and the first for West Lothian.
- COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Two, Milnathort, 10th May 1966 (SB 4: 309); first for Kinross. One, Lamlash, 13th September 1966 (SB 4: 309); first for Arran. Two, Little Cumbrae, early in April 1966 (SB 4: 309); first for Bute. One, St Kilda, 29th April 1965 (SB 4: 309); first for St Kilda.
- BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*. Three, Binscarth Plantations, about 31st May-5th June 1966 (SB 4: 310); first for Orkney. One, Fair Isle, 13th June 1966 (*FIBOB* 5: 194); first for Fair Isle.
- GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*. Adult which had been dead for about two months found near Ballater, 15th June 1966 (SB 4: 247); first for Dee and Aberdeen. In an earlier Report we noted the first record for Clackmannan as taking place on 16th April 1965 (SB 3: 373; 4: 290); it now transpires that birds have been present in this division since 1963, and that 5-6 pairs were established there in 1965, when breeding was proved for the first time (SB 4: 95).
- SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris*. Male seen and at least three more heard during an enormous weather movement of Skylarks, Powfoot, 19th February 1966 (SB 4: 247); first for Solway and Dumfries.
- NORTHERN TREECREEPER *Certhia f. familiaris*. One, Isle of May, 12th September 1965 (SB 4: 74, 78); first definite record of this race for Forth and Isle of May.
- [WHITE'S THRUSH *Turdus dauma*. One, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 1st October 1965 (BB 59: 88); this record has not been accepted (BB 59: 303).]
- GREY-CHEEKED THRUSH *Catharus minimus*. One (died during night), St Kilda, 29th October 1965 (SB 4: 310); first for Outer Hebrides and St Kilda. First-winter male found dying, Lossiemouth, 26th November 1965 (BB 59: 88; 60: 55); first for Moray Basin and Moray. The first of these probably and the second certainly belonged to the typical race. This

species has been recorded twice before in Scotland.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Female, Balgay Hill, Dundee, 22nd May 1966 (*SB* 4: 249); first for Angus.

BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica*. One near Thurso, 20th October 1965 (*SB* 4: 114); first for North Coast and Caithness. One of White-spotted race *C. s. cyanecula* found dead near North Berwick, 2nd October 1965 (*SB* 4: 114); first record of this race for East Lothian.

REED/MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus/palustris*. One, Barns Ness, 30th August-1st September 1966 (*SB* 4: 322); first record of either species for East Lothian.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*. Male, Out Skerries, 10th-11th May 1966 (*Birds* 1: 97; *SB* 4: 469); first for Shetland other than Fair Isle.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*. See under "Birds new to Scotland" above; first for Shetland faunal area and Fair Isle.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*. See under "Birds new to Scotland" above; first for Shetland faunal area and Fair Isle.

SCANDINAVIAN ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta littoralis*. Single birds seen at St Andrews, 14th March 1965, and at Isle of May, 27th May 1965 (*SB* 4: 100); first identification of this race for Forth, North Fife and Isle of May.

[LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*. One, Barns Ness, East Lothian, 14th October 1966 (*BB* 59: 440); this record has not been accepted (*BB* 60: 338).]

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*. Female trapped, Barns Ness, 4th-15th September 1965 (*SB* 4: 102); first for East Lothian.

[CONTINENTAL CROSSBILL *Loxia c. curvirostra*. During the 1966 invasion flocks of continental birds, distinguished from the local birds by their call, were noted on Speyside from 5th July and eight were at Loch Broom on 21st August (*SB* 4: 321); we feel that more positive evidence of racial identification is required before accepting these as the first definite identifications of this race for East Inverness and West Ross respectively.]

[WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis*. One trapped, Fair Isle, 13th May 1966 (*FIBOB* 5: 193); this would be the first for Shetland faunal area and Fair Isle, but the possibility of escape cannot be excluded—see *BB* 60: 332.]

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. Two, mouth of River North Esk, 22nd September 1966 (*SB* 4: 322); these birds were seen on both sides of the river and provide the first record for South Kincardine.

First breeding records for areas and counties

[LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. The statement that this species has recently been found nesting in Shetland (James Fisher, *The Shell Bird Book*, 1966, p. 39) is not supported by any evidence known to the Committee.]

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. A colony of under ten pairs breeding at Muncraig in 1957 (*BS* 13: 57); this is the first published report of breeding in Kirkcudbright, but the first proven breeding was in fact in 1952 when an egg was seen at Port o' Warren (R. T. Smith and W. Austin per A. D. Watson).

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Duck with young, Sandgreen, near Gatehouse-of-Fleet, 8th June 1966 (*SB* 4: 315); first breeding for Kirkcudbright since 1908.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*. Has bred in Wigtownshire every year since first introduction in 1963 (*SB* 4: 242); first breeding for Wigtown. A pair reported as nesting at Morton Lochs, North Fife, on 23rd April 1966 (*SB* 4: 242) were not in fact pure Canadas but descendants of a Barnacle x Canada cross-breeding in captivity nearby. This pair had bred at Morton Lochs in previous years (*SB* 4: 325).

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. "In Wigtownshire, where it is considered a very local breeder, a nest of eggs was robbed by a farmer" in 1965 (*NSBR* 1: 4); first published report of breeding for Wigtown. "A number of pairs bred successfully in wooded glens in Dumfriesshire where no evidence of decline" (*NSBR* 1: 4); this is the first published report of recent breeding for Dumfries, but in fact the species now breeds widely throughout the county (about twelve pairs in one area in 1964), where the current breeding history goes back to well before 1955 (A. D. Watson).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Pair bred on a chimney stack in Church Street, Inverness, 1965 (*SB* 4: 116); first breeding for East Inverness. Pair with nest at Loch Broom, near Ballinluig, 7th June 1966 (*SB* 4: 245); first breeding for North Perth apart from the old record of a clutch of eggs taken in 1884 at Loch Dirdonnie (not Loch Rannoch as has been stated: Loch Dirdonnie cannot be identified on contemporary or modern maps but it seems to have been on Rannoch Lodge estate—Miss V. M. Thom). Several pairs on Loch Thom (two chicks found) and one pair on Gryffe Reservoir (one chick found), June 1964 (*SB* 4: 253); first published breeding for Renfrew, but in fact a pair nested at Loch Thom as far back as 1947 (Dr J. A. Gibson). About 45 nests on Inchmickery, summer 1966 (*ENHS* 1966: 21); first published breeding for Midlothian, although in fact this colony dates back to 1959, when a nest with three eggs was found on 8th July (G. L. Sandeman).

- COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. Nest with two eggs, Fair Isle, June 1966 (FIBOB 5: 202); first breeding for Fair Isle.
- COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*. Three adults with two chicks, Westwater Reservoir, 31st July 1966 (SB 4: 319); first breeding for Tweed and Peebles.
- COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Two nests with eggs, Dornoch, summer 1966 (SB 4: 309); first breeding for South East Sutherland. Nest with two eggs, Bearsden, June 1965 (SB 4: 309); first breeding for Dunbarton.
- GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*. Nest with one newly-hatched chick and two eggs, Wood Hill, Alva, 17th June 1965 (SB 4: 96); first breeding for Clackmannan.
- GREAT TIT *Parus major*. Adult feeding three fledged young, Stornoway Woods, 27th June 1966 (SB 4: 248); first breeding for Outer Hebrides.
- COAL TIT *Parus ater*. In Stornoway Woods (where a pair had been present in summer 1965) a party including young birds was seen on 25th June 1966 (SB 4: 248); first breeding for Outer Hebrides since 1906.
- MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*. Adult feeding two newly-fledged young near Yetholm, 20th June 1966 (SB 4: 248); first breeding for Roxburgh.
- GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. Nest with five eggs near Rowardennan, 5th June 1954 (SB 4: 264); first breeding for West Stirling, where in fact the species now seems to be quite well established.
- PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. Two nests at Inver-snaid, summer 1966 (SB 4: 251); first breeding for West Stirling.
- HEDGE SPARROW *Prunella modularis*. Pair nested at Halli-garth, 1965, and laid three eggs which failed to hatch (FIBOB 5: 218); first breeding for Shetland faunal area and Shetland. There is nothing to indicate the race to which these birds belonged, but it may be noted that there is as yet no definite identification of the British race *occidentalis* in Shetland other than Fair Isle. All specimens critically examined have been referable to the continental race *modularis*.

Records carried forward

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

- BAIKAL TEAL *Anas formosa*. Fair Isle, 30th September 1954 (FIBOB 2: 194); Loch Spynie, Moray, 5th February 1958 (Bull BOC 78: 105).
- EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*. Fair Isle, 23rd April 1964 (FIBOR 1964: 19).

Black-browed Albatross summering on the Bass Rock

GEORGE WATERSTON

(Plates 1-3)

During the summer of 1967 an adult Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophrys* spent the period from May to August consorting with Gannets on the Bass Rock. It was first spotted in early May by the lightkeepers, but its identity was not established until 18th May when Professor W. H. Thorpe recognised it as an adult Black-browed Albatross. He found it sitting among a group of nesting Gannets and was able to photograph it at a range of ten yards. Later observers found that it would tolerate the presence of about a dozen people down to ranges of eight or ten feet without much sign of uneasiness. Murphy (1936) described this species as being the most fearless of man.

The publication in mid June of some fine close-up photographs of the bird in the *Scottish Daily Express* quickly attracted birdwatchers to the Bass in the hope of seeing this unusual vagrant from the southern oceans. Many however were unlucky, as during the daytime it was often away from the Rock. It was most frequently seen in the evenings, gliding in spectacular fashion among the Gannets and settling among them in their nesting area. It was often surprisingly difficult to pick it out from the swirling throng of airborne Gannets, among which were a few immatures with a good deal of black feathering. It was of course longer in the wing and more bulky than the Gannets, and its characteristic gliding flight, on stiff rigid wings like a giant Fulmar, were useful identification features. A fuller description has been given by Waterston (1968); and Warham, Bourne & Elliott (1966) have considered the problems of identifying the various albatrosses likely to be seen in the North Atlantic.

When it landed among the Gannets, it did so lightly and quite gracefully without any suggestion of a 'belly-flop.' It would stand for a time like a gull and then squat down on its tarsus. It took off by just stretching its wings and legs and lifting into the air on the strong up-currents of wind, and would glide around in steep banking circles to return again to the same spot close to the Gannets.

What surprised us was its inter-relationship with the Gannets, which showed little sign of aggression towards it; they appeared to accept it as one of themselves. Gulls on the other hand resented its intrusion and frequently mobbed it. This affinity with Gannets is a curious one. In the nine-

teenth century a Black-browed Albatross lived in a Gannet colony on Myggenaes Holm in the Faeroes from 1860 until it was shot there in 1894. To the Faeroese it was known as the King of the Gannets. I am indebted to W. A. Crow for drawing my attention to a note in Edwin Way Teale's *North with the Spring* (London, 1954 edition, p. 36) of an albatross, 'the King of the Gannets,' said to have lived 18 years in a Scottish gannetry and ended up in the American Museum of Natural History. With the help of Dr W. R. P. Bourne we have checked this with Dr Dean Amadon of the Museum and, through him, with the author of the book. As the statement was based on notes made at a lecture, it seems clear, as the author agrees, that there has been some confusion with the well known Faeroe saga. There is evidently no such specimen in the American Museum of Natural History.

On 20th July 1966, for one day only, an albatross was seen among nesting Gannets on Vestmannaeyjar off Iceland. From a photo taken by P. Steingrimsson it was identified by Dr J. A. Falla as a Black-browed. This bird did not reappear at Vestmannaeyjar in 1967; so there is a possibility that it may have been the one which turned up in that year at the Bass.

The courtship display of albatrosses is of a highly ritualised nature. It was therefore a surprise to find the lone bird on the Bass indulging in an incomplete form of courtship display directed at a Gannet. Irene Waterston and A. G. S. Bryson were fortunate enough to be on the spot when this took place, and the following is a brief summary of their joint observations.

On a flight over a group of Gannets, the albatross hung in the air above one of them sitting beside a nest. The Gannet raised its head, opened its bill widely and called, but 'not fiercely.' The albatross answered with a deep *gah*, before gliding down to land on a ledge immediately below. A second Gannet came in beside the first, just above the albatross and within wing-reach but facing away. The albatross began to preen, first down one side and then the other, and at the same time fanned its tail widely. Then it bowed forward with neck outstretched, and beak opening and shutting very quickly. Shortly afterwards it repeated the same routine to the completely uninterested Gannet. After a short circling flight it returned to its ledge. It then suddenly tipped forward on its breast, with tail up and fanned, and began to shuffle on its axis very like a Lapwing making a scrape, occasionally poking its breast with its bill as though tucking in an imaginary egg, and paddling a little with its feet. It is surely remarkable that a bird which nests in the southern

hemisphere should indulge in a partial breeding display 'out of season' with Gannets on the Bass Rock.

William Auld and the lightkeepers told me that on calm sunny days it usually went away from the Rock, returning late in the evening. It was known to alight on at least seven different sites, usually facing out into the wind. The lightkeepers are almost certain it roosted each night on the Bass. One of them, Duncan Jordan, caught the bird at 2 a.m. on 19th August in the dark by torchlight. He picked it up without a struggle, tucked it under his arm, and carried it down to the lighthouse station to remove a piece of courlene which had got entangled in one of its feet. In daylight, later in the morning, it struggled and pecked at Jordan when he released it.

Both Fred Marr and William Auld observed that the albatross was able to take off from the surface of the sea with remarkable ease, even on a calm day. R. G. Caldow saw it plunge once head-first into the sea from about 15 feet above the water and momentarily submerge. Bannerman (1959) quotes instances of albatrosses diving when occasion requires.

Twice during the summer it was seen close inshore, once off Tantallon Castle and once off the West Bay at North Berwick. It was also reported as having been seen off the Bell Rock by the lightkeepers there. It remained on or around the Bass Rock all summer and was last seen there on 22nd August. The last sighting of the season was on 28th September when M. J. Everett saw it off Fidra; the Fidra lightkeepers told him that they had watched for the bird during the summer but had only one probable sighting.

The recent upsurge of interest in seawatching from suitable vantage points around the coast of the British Isles has resulted in an increased number of sightings of albatrosses—mainly Black-browed. There are several records from Cape Clear in Co. Cork. In Scotland, apart from the records of the bird in the Forth area in 1967, there are only two records of albatrosses: one in Orcadian waters on 18th July 1894 seen by Harvie-Brown (1895), species unknown; and one, probably a Black-browed, seen by Waterston, Hughes-Onslow and Vicary circling the Sheep Rock at Fair Isle on 14th May 1949 (Williamson 1950).

The occurrence of the Black-browed Albatross on the Bass Rock in 1967 is the first 'natural' land record of this species in the British Isles.

In conclusion I would like to thank the many members of the SOC who kindly sent me notes on their observations; also Dr W. R. P. Bourne and I. J. Ferguson-Lees for valuable assistance in compiling this paper. A more complete account

of the bird at the Bass Rock has appeared in *Brit. Birds* 61: 22-27.

References

- BANNERMAN, D. A. 1959. *The Birds of the British Isles*. Edinburgh and London. vol. 8.
- HARVIE-BROWN, J. A. 1895. Albatross in the Orcadian seas. *Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist.* 1895: 57
- MURPHY, R. C. 1936. *The Oceanic Birds of South America*. New York.
- WARHAM, J., BOURNE, W. R. P. & ELLIOTT, H. F. I. 1966. Albatross identification in the North Atlantic. *Brit. Birds* 59: 376-384.
- WATERSTON, G. 1968. Black-browed Albatross on the Bass Rock. *Brit. Birds* 61: 22-27.
- WILLIAMSON, K. 1950. Fair Isle Bird Observatory: notes on selected species, spring 1949. *Scot. Nat.* 1950: 23-24.

Short Notes

American Wigeon in Shetland

A pair of ducks similar to Wigeon but differing in the colouration of the head, flanks and upperparts was first seen by M.S. and Lance Tickell and later observed by F.J.W. at Haroldswick, Unst, on 22nd-23rd May 1967. They appeared tired and allowed close approach, as they fed among the gulls at the water's edge in a shingle bay. Although the glossy green band from eye to nape in the male was not present, we concluded that they were American Wigeon from the following field description:

Male. Forehead and front of crown pale greyish-white; rest of head, back and neck grey, mottled darker; dark area round eye; rump grey; breast, flanks and scapulars reddish-mauve, with flanks barred slightly darker; posterior flanks white; under tail-coverts black; wings dark brown with white speculum and axillaries; bill blue-grey.

Female. Forehead pale brown; darker brown area round eye and dark greyish-brown cap; rest of neck brown, speckled darker; upperparts brown with back appearing darker; tail dark brown; flanks light brown; underparts greyish-white; small white patch on closed wing gave impression of two white bars enclosing darker area when wings spread.

This is the third record of this species in Shetland and follows close on that of an undoubted wild bird, ringed in Canada, and shot in the south of Shetland on 7th October 1966 (*Scot. Birds* 4: 445).

MAGNUS SINCLAIR, F. J. WALKER.

Scaup breeding in Orkney

The 1965 breeding record from North Ronaldsay is described in the editorial note (*Scot. Birds* 4: 504) as the first satisfactory breeding record for Orkney, but there are in fact earlier breeding records which have never been published.

These relate to Loch of St Tredwall on Papa Westray during the period 1954-59. The first proof of breeding was in 1954: on 1st July one drake, two ducks and a single duckling were seen by P. J. Conder, Dr Constance Dunbar and James Henderson. In June 1955 Henderson reported that three pairs were still present on the loch and strongly suspected that there was at least one nest. In 1956 Henderson found two nests, each with 7 eggs, and reported that both hatched successfully. In 1957 one pair was again present but no nest was found. Breeding last took place in 1959, when Henderson reported that two pairs nested, of which at least one reared young.

I am indebted to Peter Conder and Edward Balfour for providing the information on which this note is based.

DOUGAL G. ANDREW.

King Eider in Aberdeenshire

On 24th May 1967 I discovered a group of ten male common Eiders feeding and preening on a small mussel bed on the Ythan estuary, Aberdeenshire. With these was a bird resembling a common Eider in general shape and size, but with the following distinctive features:

Head grey-blue with lighter streak running back over crown; large orange shield on upper mandible; black back with two small, but distinct, black sails; sides black except for narrow white line running longitudinally on each side; small white patch on hind flanks; breast white; belly black; legs pale orange.

The bird was clearly a male King Eider in full plumage, an identification confirmed by W. Murray the same evening. A lone female eider was also with the group and appeared to be being defended from the other males by the King Eider; unfortunately its bill structure was not seen clearly enough to decide to which species it belonged.

P. B. HEPPLESTON.

(This record is the first for Aberdeenshire. A King Eider which was present for over a month in March and April 1951 off Aberdeen apparently remained on the south side of the Dee and therefore in North Kincardineshire (*Scot. Nat.* 1951: 133).—Ed.)

Buzzards breeding in Aberdeenshire and North Kincardineshire

In Deeside the Buzzard was apparently exterminated as a breeding species during the 1800s, but from 1947 onwards birds began to be seen regularly in the Ballater area (*Scot. Nat.* 1952: 177), and Dr David Jenkins tells me that the

species now breeds regularly in the Dee valley above Bal-later, Aberdeenshire. A pair has also nested every year since 1963 in a small wood at Glassel in North Kincardineshire. Four different nests were built in this wood, all within a radius of 200 yards, during the five years 1963-67, and there is some evidence that at least one young bird was reared successfully in each of these years although I was not able to confirm this personally until 1967, when I saw two old birds escorting a fully fledged young bird on 29th July only 100 yards from the nest. I had first discovered this nest on 10th April, when the bird was apparently already incubating.

DOUGAL G. ANDREW.

Possible nesting of Marsh Harriers in Scotland

Although apparently not rare in southern Scotland in the early 1800s, the Marsh Harrier has never been proved to breed, though a pair may have done so in Fife in 1937 (*Scot. Birds* 2: 142). There were no Scottish records at all between 1903 and 1932, but since then, and especially in the past ten years, it has occurred with increasing frequency and has even summered in Scotland.

On 8th May 1966 a pair of these birds was found on a Scottish marsh, where they were seen frequently until the 18th, but not after that date. On the 21st, however, a Marsh Harrier was seen at another marsh about 40 miles away, and next day there was a pair. Since the dates fit, and the male was in first-summer plumage at both places, it is assumed that there was only one pair. The birds stayed on the second marsh throughout the summer and may have attempted to nest.

Display was said to have occurred near a large *Phragmites* bed at the end of May, and both birds were seen often until 5th June. From then until 8th July the male was seen at least twelve times but the female only twice. Most sightings were near the large reedbed, which was watched for a total of 45 hours between 5th June and 8th July.

No aerial food pass and no carrying of nest material was seen. The female was once seen to land in a spot in the reeds from which she did not reappear before the watcher left four hours later; the male was once seen to hover over this spot and once to land in it with food. His favourite perch was a low bush some 50 yards west of the spot, and he was twice seen to go to roost about 50 yards further west.

By mid July the female was being seen again and both birds were sometimes absent for several hours. In spite of further watching, no food was seen to be brought in, and on 15th July it was decided to search the area. No nest was

found, but there was a small trampled platform in the reeds about 25 yards north of the possible nest site. There were a few Marsh Harrier feathers and some raptor droppings on this platform, and it may have been a cock's nest (see the *Handbook*). It is possible that a nest was missed, since progress was difficult and sometimes dangerous, and visibility among the reeds was only about five feet in places.

Both birds remained until at least 20th September, the male continuing to roost in the same place and defending the area against Herons as late as 1st September. A regular habit of either bird was to hunt low for some time, and then drop into the reeds and thick sedge, out of sight, remaining hidden for long periods. The only kills found that could be attributed to the harriers were two immature Starlings and an unidentified young bird, possibly one of the Rallidae.

When first seen, the two birds were distinguishable only by size, the female being clearly larger. Both were almost uniform chocolate brown, with straw-coloured crowns and shoulder patches. The female had also a small pale patch on the throat. Her plumage did not change very obviously during the season, but by September the male in flight showed prominent silver-grey 'sleeves' on his wings and his tail was the same colour but for two dark brown central feathers; his chest and nape also appeared paler. It was not possible to make more precise observations as all watching was done from about 300 yards away.

The reasons for suspecting an attempt at nesting may be summarised: display was followed by the virtual disappearance of the female for about the normal incubation period; both birds showed interest in a particular spot in suitable breeding habitat, and the male perched and roosted near it and behaved aggressively when other large birds came near; and both birds remained in the area until autumn. There was almost no disturbance by man, and the reeds had not been entered when they were searched on 15th July. If there was a nest there, it was not robbed by man. Other possible causes of failure could have been the immaturity of the male, although first-summer birds have nested in Britain (H. E. Axell, pers. comm.), and the severe floods which occurred in mid June, destroying many duck and wader nests on the marsh.

In spite of frequent visits to the marsh, there were only two sightings in the summer of 1967, both of a female, on 16th May and 13th July. There were no reports from the first marsh.

At the request of the observers this note is published over the editor's name to avoid giving any clue to the locality.

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN.

Little Ringed Plover in Lanarkshire

As I was walking over an expanse of rubble on the Clyde upstream from Hamilton on 1st July 1967, my attention was drawn by the call of a wader which was new to me. It flew over and settled nearby, allowing me to observe it for about 20 minutes.

Although strikingly similar to a Ringed Plover, the bird lacked a wing bar and its slimmer build was obvious when it was on the ground. The bill appeared dark with a little yellow at the base. The call, which was uttered frequently, was quite different from that of the Ringed Plover, being higher pitched and more reedy. I was left in no doubt that I had seen a Little Ringed Plover. On several subsequent visits, including one on the following day, I failed to rediscover the bird.

DONALD STALKER.

(In England the Little Ringed Plover, breeding mainly at gravel pits, continues to spread into the northeast (*Brit. Birds* 60: 110). Scottish occurrences have been reviewed recently, and there is no previous one for Clyde (*Scot. Birds* 4: 226). In the next few years we may expect more Scottish records, and possibly breeding.—Ed.)

White-rumped Sandpiper in Caithness

At Brims Ness, Thurso, on 10th September 1966, I came upon as unusual wader, slightly smaller than a Dunlin. It was also seen briefly in flight by Keith Goodchild, who thought it was about the same size as a Dunlin. The bird was feeding in a pool in the rocks; freshwater vegetation was growing in this pool, whereas most of the others were salt. It was watched for about 20 minutes and seemed very reluctant to fly, though its general behaviour was timid. When moving, it appeared more upright than a Dunlin. When disturbed, it gave a call that I noted as *teety teety*. The light was fairly good but dull, and the following description, from which I identified it as a White-rumped Sandpiper, was taken at the time, using 7x50 binoculars and at ranges down to four yards. It was not at all like a Curlew Sandpiper, a species with which the *Field Guide* compares it.

Upperparts pale grey ash brown, streaked indistinctly; crown and sides of head same grey ash brown, with faint but distinct eyestripe; wing coverts, primaries and secondaries same pale grey ash brown, but odd primary coverts dark brown centred, with faded edges; upper breast as upperparts, but flanks and lower breast white-grey; legs dark brown with yellowish tinge; bill straight and black; iris dark. In flight a faint wing-stripe showed; tail coverts and part of tail feathers white, with broad dark band at tip of tail.

DAVID M. STARK.

(This is the third Scottish record of this American wader; the fourth record has already been published in *Scot. Birds* 4: 506.—ED.)

Cream-coloured Coursers in Lanarkshire

In the 1953 *Glasgow and West of Scotland Bird Bulletin* 2: 31, I was reported as having seen three Cream-coloured Coursers in Lanarkshire on 10th October 1949. No description of the birds was published. In the "Review of ornithological changes in Scotland in 1953" (*Scot. Nat.* 1955: 102) the Scottish Bird Records Committee stated: "Before acceptance as the second Scottish record, further corroboration is required of the report."

I saw the three Cream-coloured Coursers at 11 a.m. on 10th October 1949 on some newly ploughed land close to my old home in Luggiebank, north Lanarkshire. My notes, written immediately afterwards, read:

"Stopping at the field gate, I noticed movement on the furrows about 30 feet away. The movement was momentary like a Partridge flattening. There were three creamy-buff patches on the dark furrows. I lifted the puppy and edged nearer."

"The three patches were three birds, crouched flat, throats to earth. I looked at them from ten paces, noting the buff plumage, the black wing feathers, and the white eye-band edged with black. I drew back with the puppy, but the birds that had crouched at my approach took wing when I retreated, and I watched their flight in dismay. Luckily they did not fly far—no more than 40 yards. When they pitched again they did not crouch. They started running about the furrows, in short spurts, feeding."

"I left quietly and kennelled the puppy, and when I returned to the field gate the coursers were still in sight, about the same place. For the better part of half an hour I watched them. They were whisking about, pecking at the soil, behaving like plovers. Periodically they stopped to preen their feathers with their near-black curved beaks. Their legs were long and cream-coloured. On the ground they appeared much smaller than in the air. Their short flights were slow and leisurely, but when they finally left the field they flew high and fast without wavering."

"I saw them once again, later in the day, in flight, after which they appeared to have left the neighbourhood."

I made a sketch of the birds at the time, which I still keep, but I was completely unable to get a half-decent photograph.

DAVID STEPHEN.

(This record was accepted by Bannerman in 1962 (*The Birds of the British Isles* XI: 2) after personal investigation. The Scottish Bird Records Committee has now seen the original notes and sketch and accepted it as the second record for Lanarkshire, Clyde and Scotland. Though spanning almost a century, all three Scottish records fall between 8th and 10th October (see *Scot. Birds* 4: 230-232.—Ed.)

**White-winged Black Terns in the Outer Hebrides, Shetland,
Caithness and Aberdeenshire**

At Loch Stiapavat, Lewis, on 7th May 1967 I saw a White-winged Black Tern flying over the narrow strip of water at the end of the machair. Much smaller than a Common Tern, the bird had a black body and white, slightly forked, tail. The wings were white, but with the flight feathers and undersides black. The bird was watched without binoculars for about 15 minutes in bright sunshine.

ALLAN SMITH.

In the late afternoon of 30th June 1967 we saw a White-winged Black Tern in full summer plumage at Burrafirth, Unst. We had good views of it both on the ground and in flight, when it was seen dipping to the surface of the water several times in true marsh tern fashion. We were immediately struck by the white shoulders, white tail and black underwing. The white forewing was very noticeable when it perched on rocks; the rest of the wings were grey with tips darker. At a range of 40 yards we were able to note the red legs, feet and inside to mouth, the black bill and dark eye. The bird was seen again the following morning by Magnus Sinclair and F. J. Walker as it flew along the sands at the south end of Burrafirth. It was last seen on 6th July by E. Fellows.

ROY H. DENNIS, ROBERT J. TULLOCH.

We discovered a White-winged Black Tern feeding in the manner of a Black Tern over the water and reeds at Loch Heilen, Caithness, on 12th July 1967. It seemed annoyed at our approach and half-heartedly mobbed us with shallow dives, uttering a hoarse, double, or extended *kay-ey* note. The flight was more buoyant than that of nearby Arctic Terns, and even at a distance the contrast of the black body and under wing-coverts with the white tail, tail-coverts and upper wing-coverts was very conspicuous. The flight feathers were pale grey above and below. We took a detailed description and this was supplemented by the notes and sketches of R. A. Hume, who found the bird independently the following day.

E. M. SMITH, R. W. J. SMITH.

On 21st June 1967 I saw an unusual tern, similar to a Black Tern but with white on the wings and tail, flying over Meikle Loch of Slains, Aberdeenshire. The weather was poor at the time but the bird remained in the area till 28th June, during which time it was seen by several observers who were able to confirm that it was a White-winged Black Tern. Good views were had of it and such features as the red legs and red inside to the black bill were noted. The primaries were greyish compared with the very white upper wing-coverts. Its flight was swift and erratic, as it spent much of the time hawking for insects.

R. DONALDSON.

(All these records have been accepted by the Rarities Committee on the basis of detailed field notes. The only previous Scottish records are of single birds in the Outer Hebrides on 23rd May 1964 (*Scot. Birds* 3: 258) and Orkney from 11th to 13th June 1966 (4: 373). The present spate of records comes in the wake of a large influx of Black Terns in the north (4: 514), the Lewis bird being seen at the same time as these and the others within the following two and a half months.—ED.)

Green Woodpecker breeding in Perthshire

There have been sporadic records of Green Woodpeckers in North Perthshire since early in the present century, yet as recently as 1960 the species could still only be classed as 'occasional' (H. Boase, *Birds of North and East Perthshire*, see *Scot. Birds* 2: 266). Most of the early reports referred to the Perth-Scone area and to the Carse of Gowrie, and it was not until December 1962 that the first record for South Perthshire was made, at Menteith (*Scot. Birds* 2: 318). In the last five years there has been a big increase in both the number and the scatter of reports, and it has seemed probable that the species was breeding.

In February 1965 A. Chapman saw a pair of Green Woodpeckers at a nest-hole near Glencarse but was unable to obtain definite proof of breeding. In June 1967 students at Faskally Forestry Training School, Pitlochry, located a nest-hole about 45 ft up in an ash tree on the hill above Faskally. Examination of the hole with a torch and a mirror revealed the presence of four nestlings. On 5th July, when I was taken to the site, the last of the young birds flew as the forester approached the hole.

The frequency of reports from the vicinity of Perth, Dunkeld and Pitlochry in the last two or three years suggests that the species is now established in these areas. Elsewhere there have been scattered records, not all of them published,

from Glenfarg, Crieff, Glenalmond, Strathtay, Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl in the east of the county, and from Menteith, Loch Ard, the Trossachs and Glen Lochay in the west.

VALERIE M. THOM.

Hooded Crow making child-like cry

At Toe Head in South Harris on 3rd October 1965, my wife and I were watching a family of Golden Eagles when we were startled to hear what we took to be the cry of a young baby. As we were over a mile from the village of Northton and there was nobody about, we were puzzled by this plaintive calling and started to look for its source. I eventually traced the noise to a small depression in the moor, where I saw two Hooded Crows. The crow making the call was parading round the other, which was perched on a boulder. They were so engrossed in this performance that they allowed approach to within five yards before flying off.

This episode makes me wonder if such a thing gave rise to the Hebridean legends of fairy children crying underground, because unless the crow was actually seen to make the sound it would not be associated with it.

T. M. CAMERON.

Fieldfares breeding in Orkney

On 24th July 1967 two visitors to Orkney, Mr and Mrs Veitch, checking a report from some children, found a pair of Fieldfares nesting by a burn in a little valley. I was able to see the nest that same evening with W. Scharf and to inspect the three young, which were at least a week old. The nest was in the middle of a small elder, about 5 feet up, and completely hidden in the foliage. Rather like a Blackbird's, but with less mud, it was made mostly of dead grasses.

From a man living in a nearby cottage I learned that the Fieldfares had been in the area since at least 22nd June. They were very demonstrative, coming quite close and continuously scolding with harsh *chack* notes, and chattering as they flitted from post to post. They were about the size of Blackbirds, with grey heads and rumps and chestnut-brown backs. The male's bill was all yellow, but the female had some brown on the upper mandible. I am of course very familiar with Fieldfares in winter.

On 1st August the adults were hunting in rough grass and heather and bringing large green caterpillars, thought to be those of the emperor moth, to the young birds, now out of the nest and hidden in the bushes. Three days later they

still remained in thick cover, tended by their parents, but one was flushed and its grey rump plainly seen.

This is the first satisfactory record of the Fieldfare nesting in the British Isles. Considering the number of recent breeding records of the Redwing in Scotland, which is near the southern limit of its range, it is curious that the Fieldfare does not breed here more often, for in Scandinavia and continental Europe it breeds far to the north and to the south of Scotland.

E. BALFOUR.

Redwings breeding in Scotland

The breeding of Redwings in Inverness-shire is briefly mentioned in a recent summary of Scottish records (*Brit. Birds* 59: 501), and further details may be of interest.

On 21st May 1955 a cock Redwing was singing from the top of a spruce at Dunlichity Lodge in Strathnairn, about 10 miles southwest of Inverness. The pale supercilium and splash of orange on the flanks were noticeable. Eventually I found the nest 200 yards away beside a ruined croft, being drawn to the site by the agitated behaviour of the adults. The birds were always very noisy when anyone was near the nest, which was about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground between three slender boles of a rowan. It had a rather deep cup, and was made and lined with dead grass. The six blue-green eggs were heavily freckled with auburn spots and rather smaller than Blackbirds'.

I had to be away from 30th May, but my gardener visited the nest every other day. There were six small young on 4th June, and two days later the blue sheaths of their wing feathers were beginning to show; but on the 8th they were dead in the nest. It had been very cold on the night of 6th-7th (33° F), and I suspect that the young birds' death could have been caused by Kestrels that were nesting nearby killing the hen. The cock was heard calling for a day or two and then disappeared.

Another pair of Redwings suffered much the same fate in 1936 at Farr, also in Strathnairn. Fuller details are not now available, but Miss E. P. Leach and the late H. F. Witherby saw the nest while staying with the late Colonel and Mrs Mackenzie of Farr, and when staying with me Miss Leach often referred to this record.

CECILIA KNOWLES.

On 15th June 1967, while walking in extensive wooded grounds at a locality well down the Great Glen, but still within the faunal division of East Inverness-shire, my wife



PLATE 1. Black-browed Albatross in flight, Bass Rock, East Lothian, 11th June 1967, showing the broad white central stripe and black margins, broader at the leading edge, on the underwing (see page 20).

Photograph by W. Kenneth Richmond





PLATES 2 AND 3. Black-browed Albatross, Bass Rock, June 1967. Note the soft outlines and squat, rather ungainly, shape, the short greyish tail fanned out and showing the white shafts, the unexpectedly trivial 'black brow', the shape of the bill, and the pale legs and feet. It will be seen that the long Fulmar-like wings scarcely project beyond the tail, and that they are crossed much flatter than those of the immature (2 or 3 year old) Gannet perched behind.

Photographs by Scottish Daily Express



PLATE 4. Albino Black-headed Gull, Horse Island, Ardrossan, Ayrshire, 25th June 1967. This bird was mated to an ordinary Black-headed Gull, and the single egg in the nest was marked normally. In flight the bird seemed conspicuously whiter than others and the wings appeared broader and rounder at the tips, probably because of the lack of dark markings. As may be seen from the photograph, the usual brown, black and grey markings on head, wings and body were absent; eye, bill and leg colours were normal.

Photograph by Gordon Fraser

and I heard some birds making alarm calls in the bushes. They proved to be a pair of Redwings with at least one fully grown juvenile. The adults were very agitated by our presence and we had good views of their pale eyestripes and red underwings. My wife saw one of them feed the fledgling. As we could not find them next day, the birds were evidently on the move.

J. K. HASLER.

On 1st June 1967 my husband found a pair of Redwings with a nest containing five well grown young birds. It was built in a dead stump in a copse on the banks of a loch in central Wester Ross. We were in the area until 3rd June and saw the birds several times. They were readily identified by their pale eyestripes and chestnut patches under the wings. Whenever we approached the nest they became more and more agitated, flying close to us and calling, and we therefore did not stay for more than a few moments.

K. MONICA SHAW.

On 10th June 1967 in open woodland by a stream in the northeastern part of Southeast Sutherland I saw a Redwing in a birch tree. It did not seem to want to move out of the area, and later I found one or both parents feeding three well grown young (with short tails but fairly well marked eyestripes). They were being given small worms, which the parents found under piles of dead branches, and they were just able to fly short distances.

On 25th and 29th June I flushed a single adult from a clump of birch but could find no nest. I was away during the summer, but on revisiting the area on 2nd September found two Redwings feeding on rowan berries only 150 yards from the original site. They were greyish about the head and I wondered if they could be immatures or moulting adults (the red flanks were quite distinct).

JEAN A. R. GRANT.

On 13th June 1967 I was told that in the past few years a pair of Redwings had been seen in summer at a house in the northern part of the faunal division of Southeast Sutherland. In 1967 they had nested 20 feet up a conifer 25 yards from the front door. Next day I saw the nest and was told that the young had flown a week earlier and had been skulking in the heavy undergrowth of an overgrown vegetable garden. I could not find them but had good views of the two adults and tape-recorded the cock giving what I took to be an alarm call from a regular perch on a post, while the hen clucked in the background. I visited the area again on 12th July with D. Macdonald. A good bit of the nest had

been blown away in a gale, and we did not see the birds.

I gather that the locality is about 11 miles from that mentioned in Mrs Grant's note.

WILLIAM A. SINCLAIR.

On 21st July 1967 we found an adult Redwing with a fully grown young one in the area described above by Mr Sinclair. The birds were not particularly wild, and kept within the bounds of a single walled field, where we watched them for some time. The young bird showed pale flecks over the upperparts and was large enough to fend for itself. It could have flown a mile or so, but it seemed more likely to us that a pair of Redwings had bred in the vicinity.

M. T. BARNES, G. M. S. EASY.

A pair of Redwings reared two broods in a small wood on one of the northern islands of Shetland in 1967. Redwings were present on 6th May, and one was in full song on the 26th. The first nest was about 2½ feet from the ground on a stump at the edge of the trees, and contained four eggs on 10th June. On the 17th there were four smallish young, and a week later these were well feathered, with pronounced pale superciliaries.

The second nest was found on 7th July about 2 feet up in the offshoots of a small sycamore in the middle of the wood. There were three eggs then, and also on the 15th. when we caught one of the young from the first brood. I was unable to visit the area for some time after this, but learned that the young of the second brood fledged and were seen about the area for several days.

Both nests were untidy and rapidly disintegrated, the first while the young were still in it.

F. J. WALKER.

(In addition to the remarkable series of 1967 Scottish breeding records, we have received several other reports of Redwings in the summer: one in full song 5 miles south-west of Wick, Caithness, on 10th May, but not seen on later visits (Mrs J. A. R. Grant); one singing from a high tree in a plantation at Loch Choire Lodge, North Sutherland, on 12th and 13th May (G. Waterston, Mrs M. I. Waterston); and two in birchwood at Ben Hope, North Sutherland, on 1st August (D. C. Hulme). One in song at Gairloch, Wester Ross, from 25th May to 15th June has already been noted (*Scot. Birds* 4: 517).

Previous breeding records, to the end of 1966, were summarised recently (*Brit. Birds* 59: 500; 60: 398); and fuller details of two of these have been given above. Even allow-

ing for the increased number of birdwatchers in the north of Scotland in spring, the number of Redwings remaining to breed or summer in 1967 seems exceptional, and amply supports the view that the species at present breeds in Scotland every year. There are vast areas to search, and apart from a few obvious places the breeding pairs are not easily found unless one hears and recognises the song.

It may be doubted whether there would be any great risk in giving more precise localities for the 1967 nests but in deference to the wishes of some of the observers and to avoid any risk we have left them vague. The actual localities have been notified to the RSPB for their confidential files and are entered on the editor's own copy of *Scottish Birds* and on the editorial reference copy.—ED.)

Blackbird and Song Thrush laying in the same nest

In 1967 I discovered a pair of Blackbirds building a nest outside my dining room window at Hazlehead, Aberdeen, on the same site as a pair of Song Thrushes had nested the previous year. While the hen Blackbird was laying, I noticed that a pair of Song Thrushes was trying to gain access to the hedge, and I subsequently found the nest, which was not lined with mud, to contain four Song Thrush and four Blackbird eggs. A struggle lasting eleven days followed, the cock Blackbird being most determined in his efforts to defend the nest. The Song Thrushes, however, succeeded in gaining complete control of the nest for the last five or so days of incubation. Unfortunately one of the thrushes disappeared at about the time that the first egg hatched, and the other was unable to cope with such a large brood on its own, so that the chicks died one by one.

GORDON M. LEES.

(A similar instance has been described (*Brit. Birds* 53: 89), in which a mixed clutch of six eggs was incubated entirely by a hen Blackbird; and the young, four Blackbirds and two Song Thrushes, were reared successfully by a single Song Thrush.—ED.)

Abnormally plumaged Willow Warbler

While walking through a wood on the outskirts of Dornoch, Sutherland, on 5th September 1967, my attention was suddenly attracted to a small, unusually pale bird which flitted out from a clump of birches in pursuit of insects. This fleeting glimpse of the bird gave me the impression that it was an escaped canary. On closer observation I found that it was a Willow Warbler in most abnormal plumage. It was a strikingly beautiful bird, feathered a bright yellow all

over, the wings and mantle being slightly darker and having a faint greenish hue. The bill and legs were exceptionally bright, even showing a tinge of orange, but the eyes were dark. In flight the tips of both primaries and secondaries looked so pale as to appear almost transparent.

The fact that two recent notes (*Scot. Birds* 4: 97) on similar aberrations also refer to this species suggests that it is particularly prone to such abnormalities.

D. MACDONALD.

Current Notes

Compiled by A. T. MACMILLAN

(Key to initials of observers: W. Alexander (WAl), D. R. Anderson, J. A. Anderson, D. G. Andrew, W. Austin (WAu), R. S. Baillie, I. V. Balfour-Paul, Miss P. G. T. Baxter, Miss E. P. Beattie, J. A. Begg, Miss F. M. Black, H. Boase, T. Boyd, W. Brackenridge (WBk), D. Brooke-Webb, W. Brotherston (WBr), Miss E. Brown, R. Brown, Miss C. F. H. Bruce, G. H. C. Byford, T. M. Cameron, R. A. Cheke, Sir C. G. Connell, G. M. Crighton, Miss M. H. E. Cuninghame, W. A. J. Cunningham, R. H. Dennis, E. Dicerbo, R. C. Dickson, Miss M. Donald, H. E. M. Dott, J. Dunbar, Capt. J. B. Dunbar of Pitgaveny, Dr G. M. Dunnet, J. Edelsten, N. Elkins, Sir R. Erskine-Hill, M. J. Everett, Miss K. Forrest, I. Gibson, D. C. Gladwin, S. Gordon, W. D. Grant, Mrs R. Hamilton (RHa), C. G. Headlam, P. B. Heppleston, R. Hodgkinson (RHo), J. A. D. Hope, C. Hughson, E. N. Hunter, E. T. Idle, Miss A. Jackson, J. E. Jackson, R. A. Jeffrey, Dr D. Jenkins, P. Johnson, T. H. Jorgensen, G. Kerr, Miss H. Knight, A. J. Knox, R. Lambie, D. J. Law, A. F. Leitch, D. Lloyd, J. A. Love, W. G. Luton, J. McCraw (JMc), A. Macdonald, D. Macdonald, M. A. Macdonald, K. S. Macgregor, R. D. Macgregor, E. A. Machell, I. M. MacLean, A. V. MacLeod, A. T. Macmillan, Miss M. Macmillan (MMc), M. Marquiss (MMq), W. Matheson (WMA), J. Maxwell (JMx), Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, J. K. R. Melrose, B. G. Miller, M. G. Miller, J. Mitchell (JMi), Mrs S. Morgan, W. Moss (WMO), H. Murdoch, W. Murray (WMu), C. K. Mylne, Dr I. Newton, C. Ogston, D. W. Oliver, G. Oliver, J. Osborn, N. Picozzi, R. K. Pollock, A. Pringle, A. D. K. Ramsay, C. P. Rawcliffe, G. W. Reid, W. K. Richmond, A. Robb, E. L. Roberts, Dr E. Rowling, S. Saxby, J. A. Scott, R. Shaw, D. C. Shenton, A. Sillitto, J. H. Simpson (JHSp), M. Sinclair, D. Skilling, P. J. B. Slater, Mrs E. Slee, J. Slee, Mrs E. M. Smith, H. D. Smith, R. T. Smith, R. W. J. Smith, W. Stein, A. I. Stewart, R. W. Summers, J. H. Swan (JHSw), I. Taylor, R. G. Thin, Miss V. M. Thom, D. B. Thomson, E. Thomson, D. A. Tindal, A. L. F. K. Tod, R. B. Tozer, R. J. Tulloch, Miss M. van Oostveen, F. J. Walker, K. G. Walker, R. Walker, Dr A. Watson, J. Watt, G. T. White, D. F. Whyte, Mrs J. A. Whyte, W. H. Wild, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards, L. Young, J. G. Young, B. Zonfrillo.

Unless otherwise stated all dates refer to 1967.)

Distribution

Records from before 1st August 1967 are not included in this section except where related to more recent ones. These

are the last Current Notes in the present form. From the next issue, as already announced, this section will be quite short, and much of the material will appear instead in the annual Scottish Bird Report.

Ten **Great Northern Divers** were counted at Rattray, Aberdeenshire, on 5th November (MMq). The same day, 239 **Red-throated Divers** were off the 3½ miles of coast between Collieston and the Ythan, Aberdeenshire (ADKR); the previous day there had been a compact group of 15 close inshore in Gullane Bay, East Lothian (MFMM). Off one mile of coast at the Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire, the highest total between the end of September and mid November was 178 on 22nd October (HEMD), and there were 55 off the mouth of the Ythan on 11th November (ADKR, IT).

Further **Red-necked Grebes** (see 4: 563), all single birds, were at Norwick, Unst, on 1st October; Baltasound, Unst, on 21st October (FJW); Fair Isle from 5th to 13th October (RHD); the Ythan on 5th November (ADKR); and Aberlady on 4th November (MJE). A **Slavonian Grebe** was seen on Glencorse Reservoir, Midlothian, on 24th December (ADKR). A **Black-necked Grebe** was at Duddingston Loch, Edinburgh, on 24th December (DGA); on the sea, there were two off Tentsmuir, Fife, on 5th November (JD, RWS, DBT), and two at Loch Ryan, Wigtownshire, on the 18th (RCD).

Two exhausted **Leach's Petrels** were found in Stornoway harbour on 19th October at a time when there were many in the area (WAJC). A **Storm Petrel** at Longniddry, East Lothian, on 5th December was struck by a car as it flew into the headlamp beam (JMc).

At the Sands of Forvie a **Great Shearwater** was flying north, close inshore, in heavy gales, on 4th October (CO). A very late **Sooty Shearwater** (cf. *Ibis* 105: 347) was seen twice on a boat trip from Arbroath, Angus, round the Bell Rock on 2nd December (JD, NE, DCG, DWO, RWS).

A count of at least 250 **Cormorants** in the area of Inchcolm (on Carr Craig, the Haystack and Oxcars) on 10th September may in fact be quite usual, but illustrates the abundance of the species well up the Firth of Forth (DGA). Inland records of **Shags** are of two sitting on posts in the middle of the Lake of Menteith, Perthshire, on 8th October (TMC); one at Bardowie Loch (near Milngavie), Stirlingshire, on the 19th (AJ); and one at Rowbank Reservoir, Renfrewshire, on 10th December (FHB, MD).

There were over 30 **Hérons** at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, on 16th September (BGM). One found dead at Baltasound, Unst, on 19th November is reported to have been ringed as a nestling on 2nd July in Norway, at Stofvik, 60°58'N, 7°50'E (JAS per FJW).

A **Garganey** was at Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, on 1st October (DWO). A female **Gadwall** was on Drumpellier Loch, Coatbridge, on 29th October (WS); a drake at Seafield, Leith, on 4th November, had almost certainly come down to the sea from Dunsappie (DGA). A high count of **Wigeon** for the area was of 1000 on Loch Milton, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 20th November (DS, JGY). Big numbers of **Pintail** are found in Kirkcudbrightshire; on 19th November there were over 2200 at Carsethorn and Drumburn and high numbers continued into 1968 (JGY). A pair was in Little Loch Shieldaig, Wester Ross, in December with Mallard (but see 4: 510) (ENH). **Shoveler** were unusually numerous on Stormont Loch, Perthshire, this autumn, with 200 counted on 13th October (HB), and 245 on 15th, compared with a maximum of 130 in the past ten years (VMT).

The unusualness of a record of 15-20 **Scaup** at Gullane Point on 27th December is in contrast to the large numbers which winter further up the Forth (PJ, AFL). Inland there was a drake at Kilconquhar the same day (PGTB). The presumed hybrid **Tufted x Pochard** (4: 553) was back again at Duddingston, if it was the same bird, on 17th December (JAA), the day on which numbers of **Pochard**, after building up all week, reached the fantastic total of 8000 (DGA, DRA). At Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire, the peak count of 900 was on 26th November (NE). Although large numbers of **Goldeneye** are recorded off Edinburgh in winter, a total of seven on Duddingston Loch on 24th October was another record, being two more than previously seen at one time there (DRA).

On 5th November 240 **Long-tailed Ducks** were counted at Rattray, Aberdeenshire (MMq); the same day, about 200 were counted on a seawatch from Tentsmuir, which seems more than recorded in recent years (see 2: 134) (JD, RWS, DBT). Six off Montrose on 17th December were the observer's first for Angus (GMC). The following inland records have been received:

Kinardochy Loch, Perth—♀ on 25 Nov (VMT).

Kilconquhar Loch, Fife—♀ on 15 Oct (DWO).

Woodend Loch, Coatbridge, Lanark—1 on 12th and 18 Nov (RB, WS).

Castle Semple Loch, Renfrew—1 on 12 Nov (WHW) and 9 Dec (RL, AIS).

Livingstone, Loch Ken, Kirkcudbright—♀ on 3rd and 5 Dec (JKRM, JGY).

A drake **Ruddy Duck**, presumably an escape, and probably the same bird recorded in September (4: 566), was on Kilconquhar Loch from 15th October until the end of the month (DWO).

The flock of **Goosander** on the Beauly Firth totalled 370 on 23rd December (RHD). Two female **Red-breasted Mergansers**

at Portmore on 1st October seem to be the first published record for Peeblesshire, though the area is not in fact in Tweed, the faunal area which embraces Peeblesshire (DGA). Two 'redhead' **Smews** were at Rowbank Reservoir, Renfrewshire, on 26th November and 31st December (IG, GTW), and there were single birds on Loch Ken, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 16th December (RDM, RBT), and Glencorse Reservoir, Midlothian, on 22nd-24th (PJ, AFL, ADKR, DW), and there was a drake nearby, at Loganlea, on 24th (ADKR). There was a **Shelduck** at Barr Loch on 17th and 21st December (IG, RAJ, GTW, BZ).

Not all reports of **Grey Lag Geese** at the beginning of October necessarily refer to arrivals from abroad, but there are sufficiently many to make them worth giving. One bird was at Strathbeg on 1st (NE); 45 flew north at the Ythan at 1630 hrs on 2nd (CO); 150 flew south over Gordonstoun, near Elgin, on 3rd (THJ), and 75 flew west over Port Elphinstone, Aberdeenshire (CO); on 4th, 13 arrived at the Sands of Forvie from the east in a gale (CO); on 5th there were more arrivals there from the east, including 374 in 11 flocks between 0845 and 0945 hrs, and 124 in three flocks in the next hour (CO), and 32 were counted at Kinnordy, Angus (HB), and 16 at Middleton, Midlothian (RW per WBr). There were 400 near the Lake of Menteith on 8th October (TMC). At Fair Isle the main passage was from 15th October, with peaks on 17th (44) and 20th (56) (RHD). Peak numbers at Strathbeg were 7000 on 22nd October (NE), while Angus counts on 27th gave 650 at Lintrathen and 2000 at Kinnordy (HB).

Eleven **White-fronted Geese** were at Strathbeg on 22nd October (MMq). Twenty-three of the Greenland form arrived the same day at the Endrick (and stayed for two weeks) (ETI, JMi, RS), and four Greenland birds (2 adults and 2 immature) were at Vane Farm Reserve, Loch Leven, the day before (JHSw). A single Whitefront was at the Lake of Menteith on 28th (NE). In Wigtownshire, the first 26 Greenland birds were on the Moor of Genoch on 9th November, and had increased to 94 by 13th and 96 on 12th December (RCD). A European Whitefront was seen at Llanbryde, Elgin, on 13th December (RHD).

Early records of **Pink-footed Geese** have already been given (4: 566). The first arrived on the Solway on 14th September, and the flight at Browhouses had increased to 3000 by 14th October (RTS, JGY). Only very small parties (under 100) were in the Moorfoots in September and up to at least 2nd October, but at Loch Leven there were some 800 on 1st October, increasing to several thousand by 4th, and over 6000 by 11th (per WBr). At Strathbeg there were 400 on 30th September (AR per NE), 1400 next day, and a peak of 3000 on

22nd (NE); 1100 passed over Invergowrie on 10th October (HB).

The following records of **Snow Geese** (and **Ross's Geese**), presumably escapes, have come in, though it is clear that not all sightings are reported:

Aberdeen—1 at L. of Skene on 25 Nov (ADKR, IT).

Angus—following the report of 5 near Errol on 2 Oct (4: 566), 5 were with Greylag at Kinnordy Loch from 15 Oct, being last seen on 24th (GWR, DAT); 1 with Greylag at Airlie on 11 Nov (DAT).

Fife/Kinross—1, thought to be Lesser, at L. Leven on 17 Oct (JAA, JEJ); 5, doubtless the same as the Angus flock, at Star of Markinch on 23 Dec (ER). A letter by K. Bishop in the *Dundee Courier* of 12.1.68 reported 5 in the L. Leven/Kinglassie area, and elicited a very interesting reply on 18th from the Earl of Dundee that he had bred Snow Geese at Birkhill, Cupar, for 15 years, and had left some unringed and unpinioned in the last 4-5 years. Usually these disappear, but one group of 5 has kept together for several years, returning in the spring to breed inside the enclosure where they were reared. Except when nesting they are quite wild, and they are strong, fast fliers. Quite a few recent reports of Snow Geese are explained by this valuable information.

Midlothian—1, usually reported as Ross's, with Pinkfeet at Gladhouse on 14th, 15th and 22 Oct and 5 Nov, and at Whiteside Law on 29 Oct (DGA, IVB-P, WBr, PJBS, RW, LY).

East Lothian—1 at Aberlady on 4 Nov (MFMM).

Dunbarton—2 over Gartocharn on 9 Dec, and 1 on 31st (SM).

On Islay there were three **Brent Geese** at Indaal on 8th October and four on 10th, and one at Port Ellen on 14th (HK). A Pale-bellied bird was at Strathbeg on 1st October (NE), and an apparently Pale-bellied one was at Tynninghame on 21st (AM). **Barnacle Geese** were in:

Fair Isle—13 on 19 Oct, and 6 on 22nd (RHD).

Aberdeen—14 on 29 Sept (cf. Caerlaverock) at Strathbeg (BGM), and 1 on 22 Oct (NE, MMq); 1 at L. of Skene on 25 Nov (ADKR, IT).

Angus/Kinross—1 near Edzell with Greylag on 15 Oct (DGA, JADH); 1 at Airlie with Greylag on 9 Dec, and 6 there on 17th (DAT).

Perth—2 at Lake of Menteith on 18 Nov with Greylag and 6 possible Barnacle x Grey Lag Goose hybrids (with much less white on face) (DCS).

Midlothian—1 with Pinkfeet at Gladhouse on 1 Oct (DGA), and 22nd (PJBS, RWJS).

Dumfries—first to arrive at Caerlaverock were 30 on 28 Sept, increasing to 2500 by 1 Oct (ELR, JGY).

A **Canada Goose** was at Blackford, Perthshire, with a flock of Greylag and Pinkfeet on 28th October (DJ, ATM), and a pair was at Edgelaw, Midlothian, from 14th October until at least 17th December (DGA).

Whooper Swans were scarce at Fair Isle, the first being on 1st October, with counts of 34 on 11th and 12 on 16th (RHD). The hazards of counting are well illustrated by the peak on 22nd October at Strathbeg. One observer counted 822, of which 250 left in parties of 50-100 between 7.40 and 8 a.m. (JE),

another observer reported 690 (MMq), and a third got 350 (NE); the time of day can clearly make a big difference, on top of the variation expected between one counter and another. At Islesteps, Kirkcudbrightshire, the first 11 arrived on 21st October, increasing to 43 by 12th November, when the flock did not include a single first-year bird (JKRM, JGY).

Five **Buzzards** were counted in the bottom half of Glen Esk, Angus, on 2nd October (GMC), and there were singles at Cameron reservoir, Fife, on 29th October (GO), and near the Crook Inn, Peeblesshire, on 6th November (CGC). Isolated reports of **Sparrowhawks** are difficult to assess, but eight widely scattered sightings in Perthshire in the autumn are more than the observer has ever made before (VMT). Single 'ring-tail' **Hen Harriers** were at Fife Ness on 22nd October; Pittenweem, Fife, on 29th (PGTB); and Gladhouse on 11th November (DGA). Five miles SE of Sumburgh Head on 30th September an **Osprey** was seen from the *St Clair* being chased by a Great Skua until it dropped its catch (RE-H, DWO). There was one near Stoer, Sutherland, on 23rd August, and two together between Ullapool and Garve, Ross-shire, on 28th (ALFKT). At Banchory, Kincardineshire, one was being mobbed by Crows on 20th September (NP). **Merlins** were on passage at Fair Isle throughout October, with peaks of 8 on 3rd, at least 10 on 5th, and 8 on 18th (RHD).

Some records of **Water Rails** include: an immature dead under wires at Shieldaig, Ross-shire, on 7th November (DFW, JAW); one by Dornoch Burn, Sutherland, on 7th December (DM); one at West Edge Farm, Burdiehouse, Edinburgh, on 17th December, reported to have been there for about six weeks and to have come out of its ditch to follow the plough in one cold spell (MAM); one calling at Gladhouse on 29th October (DGA); and two at Linton Bog, 1½ miles SSW of Yetholm Loch, Roxburghshire, on 17th December (RSB). At Loch Milton, Kirkcudbrightshire, no fewer than 1120 **Coot** were counted on 17th December (DS, JGY).

There was a **Grey Plover** on Whalsay, Shetland, where it is a scarce bird, on 12th October (JHSp). About ten flew across a line of guns and two got killed on 5th October at Loch Spynie, Morayshire, the only previous entry of the species in the game book being one in 1906 (JBD). **Woodcock** were scarce at Fair Isle, where there were 40 on 23rd October, 20 on 24th, and 30 on 9th November (RHD). The first of the season in Lewis were at Carloway on 25th November (WAJC). A latish **Whimbrel** was at Aberlady on 15th October (WKR), and there was another on the same date on Unst, where one was also seen and heard on 4th November (MS). One flew W past Southernness Point, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 19th November (GK, JMx), six were as far north as Out Skerries on 24th

November (RJT), and four were at Dingwall on 6th December (HDS). At Seafield, Leith, a **Black-tailed Godwit** was noted on 28th October (WMO). Further **Green Sandpipers** (see 4: 569) were at:

Ythan—1 on 2 Oct (CO).

Tynninghame—1 on 12 Nov and 3 Dec (RWJS).

Moffat Water, Dumfries—1 dead at Roundstone Foot on 14 Nov (ED).

Islesteps, Kirkcudbright—1 on 21 Oct had been there for some weeks (WAU, JGY).

One more **Wood Sandpiper** may be added to the short list of records (4: 570)—at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, on 4th August (BGM). There was a **Spotted Redshank** on the Tarty Burn at the Ythan on 2nd October (CO), and one at Tynninghame on 24th November and 3rd December (TB, EMS, RWJS). Winter records of **Greenshank** come from the mouth of the R. Evelix, Sutherland, where one was seen on 16th December (DM); and the Ythan, where there was one up to 25th November (ADKR) and again on 24th December (NE). At least three were still at Caerlaverock on 27th December (JGY). A **Knot** was at Tynninghame in full summer plumage on 3rd December (TB, EMS, RWJS). The unusual numbers of **Little Stints** have already been detailed (4: 570). On Whalsay, Shetland, they were seen between 1st September and 12th October, and the peak was 50 on 6th September (JHSp); while Out Skerries had three on 5th September, singles on 16th and 18th, and three on 20th (RJT). Further records are of one at Shandwick Bay, Easter Ross, on 1st October (AVM), and eight at Gladhouse on 2nd (EMS, RWJS). Three **Temminck's Stints** on Whalsay on 14th September were closely observed and compared with Little Stints and other small waders. They could not be found next day. The observer's previous record was a single bird on 4th September 1961 (JHSP). The following records of **Curlew Sandpipers** may be added to the many already given (4: 571):

Whalsay—1 on 5 Sept, 5 on 6th, 2 on 7th, and 1 on 8th (JHSp).

Strathbeg—1 on 29 Sept (BGM).

Ythan—1 on 4 Aug, 3 on 24th, and 2 on 16 Sept (BGM).

Montrose—1 on 3 Oct (GMC).

Fife Ness—2 on 1 Oct (DWO).

Gladhouse—1 on 14th and 18 Sept (DGA).

Peak numbers of **Ruff** on Whalsay were 20 on 6th September (JHSp). At Forfar Loch there were 16 on a football pitch on 4th October (GMC). Near Aberlady 19 were back on stubble by 14th October, and similar numbers were still there at the end of the year (DJ). A first-year **Grey Phalarope** was found newly dead in Shetland on 16th December (RJT), and one of two on Fair Isle on 26th October was killed by wires (RHD).

A **Great Skua** in November was seen off Rattray Head, Aberdeenshire, on 5th (MMq). Single **Pomarine Skuas** were at Tentsmuir on 1st October (DCG), Fair Isle on 14th (RHD) and Leith on 15th (WKR). Single November **Arctic Skuas** were at Tentsmuir on 5th and 19th (JD, RAC, CH, RWS, DBT). A **Long-tailed Skua** was on the Atlantic side of Islay on 22nd October (RHo per HK).

December **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** away from their usual haunts were one at Gracemount, Edinburgh, on 3rd (MAM), and two at Aberlady on 17th (PJ). More **Glaucous Gulls**—all first-winter birds—are reported round Shetland (up to 12.12.67) than in the past few winters (RJT). At East Bay, Dunoon, one was seen frequently from 14th November; at high tide it often sat on top of a lamp standard (WBk). There was one in the harbour at Ayr on 25th November (RDM, RBT). There was an immature **Iceland Gull** on Unst on 30th September (MS). South of the Forth there were two **Little Gulls** over Duddingston Loch on 11th October (DRA), and two adults and two immatures at Aberlady on 15th (WMO). **Kittiwakes** stayed very late at Fair Isle, with some still at the colonies on 5th November (RHD). On 10th December numbers were sitting, flying round and calling at two small cliff colonies in Yell, something the observer had never seen before at that season (RJT).

Single **Black Terns** were at Loch Spynie, Morayshire, on 5th October (per JBD), and over the Ponds at Gartocharn, Dunbartonshire, on 13th (WAL, ETI). Last records of '**Comic**' **Terns** in October are of two on Unst on 9th and one on 15th and 21st (MS, FJW), and four at Tynninghame on 15th (RWJS). A **Common Tern**—the observer's fourth there this year, though he had seen none before—was at Yetholm Loch, Roxburghshire, on 16th October (RSB), and an **Arctic Tern** was seen at Whalsay, Shetland, on 12th (JHSp). Finally, to round off this cluster of mid-October dates, a **Sandwich Tern** was close in at Portobello on 15th (TMC).

The first **Little Auk** of the autumn was early at Fair Isle on 24th September. At least 1000 were seen on the crossing to Shetland Mainland on 21st October (RHD). On 24th November there were considerable numbers between Yell and Out Skerries—eight parties of 10-20 on the crossing, all flying SW, and other smaller groups—and fishermen reported that the birds had been there for two weeks (RJT).

The last **Turtle Doves** were seen on Unst on 14th October (FJW), and on Fair Isle on 18th (RHD). A **Barn Owl** was seen at King's College, Aberdeen, in a snowstorm on 18th October (CFHB, ADKR), and there was one over Mount Street on 7th December (JAL). A **Little Owl** was roosting at Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfriesshire, on 13th December (JGY). A

Nightjar was heard once at Duror of Appin about the end of July or early in August (WGL).

Further October **Swifts** (see 4: 573) were one at Strathbeg on 1st (MMq), and 2 on 14th and 3 on 15th at Fair Isle (RHD). A **Kingfisher** was at Belleisle Golf Course near Ayr on 2nd December (HM). The last sighting of one of the **Hoopoes** on Whalsay (see 4: 574) was on 25th September, with one again on 4th October (JHSp). One was in Unst next day (FJW), and on 7th one was flying and alighting in front of a car near Dornie Ferry, Wester Ross (SG). Rather later, one was in a St Andrews garden on 21st November (per MHEC). A dead **Green Woodpecker** was picked up near Comrie, Perthshire, on 30th November (RH_a). A **Wryneck** was on Unst on 2nd September and two were there next day (FJW); two were on Whalsay on 21st (JHSp); and Out Skerries had singles on 12th, 18th and 20th (RJT).

A rather early **Woodlark**, described in detail, was on Whalsay on 24th September (JHSp). About 400 **Skylarks** passed over Balgownie Golf Course, Aberdeen, in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour on 21st October (ADKR). A first-winter female **Shorelark** was at Fair Isle on 5th-7th November (RHD).

There was quite a string of November **Swallows**, though probably not all of them were different birds:

11th—2 at Dirleton, E. Lothian (RGT); 1 at Gullane (DCS).

12th—1 at Sands of Forvie (HEMD); 1 at Gullane (MJE), and 2, possibly different, seen there by other observers (ES, JS).

19th—1 at King's College, Aberdeen (ADKR).

22nd—1 at St Andrews (RAC, CH); 1 at Blackness, W. Lothian (per CKM).

24th—1 at Elie, Fife (per DWO).

26th—1 at Tentsmuir (JD, RWS, DBT).

2nd Dec—1 at Aberlady (PJ, AFL).

A late **House Martin** was at Liberton, Edinburgh, on 27th October and 9th November (MAM).

With reference to **Magpies** in Ross-shire (4: 574), there are two or three localities within 10 miles of Evanton at which one may usually see them at any time of year (CGH). There were 20 **Jays** at Strachan, near Banchory, Kincardineshire, on 3rd December (VCW-E).

Close views were had of a **Willow Tit** (with black bib, dull black crown, etc.) which visited a feeding site, frequented by several other species of tits, at Gairloch, Wester Ross, on 15th October and again on 13th November (ENH).

A Black-bellied **Dipper**, the usual form there, was at Fair Isle from 2nd to 20th November (RHD).

A further September record of **Fieldfare** (see 4: 574) was of three at Kinlochewe on 11th (DFW, JAW). Numbers at Fair Isle in October were small until 23rd, with peaks on 11th (350)

and 20th (300), but over 2500 on 23rd, 1500 on 24th and 25th, 1000+ on 26th and 300+ on 27th (RHD). The main influx in the Yetholm district was on 16th October, and flocks were passing S on the evening of the 28th (RSB). A westerly movement was noted on 4th November, with 50 over St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, at 0750 hrs, parties totalling perhaps 300 seen from the bus, and some 700 passing Aberlady between 0850 and 1100 hrs (MJE). In the sea buckthorn near Eyebroughty Point, East Lothian, there were 600 on 12th November (RSB).

Nine **Redwing** were at Yetholm on 30th September, but the main influx there was on 16th October, with birds passing S also on 28th (RSB). They were scarce at Fair Isle in October, with peaks on 13th (350, mostly Iceland), 23rd and 25th (250), and 2nd and 3rd November (300) (RHD). There were hundreds at Colinsburgh, Fife, on 6th October (PGTB). September figures for Unst (see 4: 575) were 50 on 20th, 18 on 24th, 40 on 25th, and 100 on 28th (MS, FJW).

A late cock **Ring Ouzel** was at Lang Crag, Dunbartonshire, on 5th November (DJL). There was a great arrival of 2000 **Blackbirds** at Fair Isle on the morning of 9th November, but they were all gone next day (RHD).

Small numbers of **Wheatears** were regular at Fair Isle until 28th October and the last was seen on 6th November (RHD). The latest **Whinchat** was one at Gladhouse, 900 feet above sea level, on 5th November (EMS, RWJS). Several **Redstarts** were seen early in November: two on 4th and one on 5th and 6th at Fair Isle (RHD); one near Collieston, Aberdeenshire, on 5th (ADKR); and one at Cupar, Fife, on 3rd (DWO). A **Black Redstart** was at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, on 16th September (BGM); singles were at Fair Isle on 21st, 23rd and 30th October (RHD); there were two on Whalsay on 5th November and one next day (JHSp); and a cock was at Prestwick on 8th and 20th December (JAB). At first light on 6th November there were 43 **Robins** on the lawn of Crombie Hall, Old Aberdeen, in an area of 50 yards x 80 yards, but only three were left an hour later (ADKR).

A **Reed/Marsh Warbler** was at Norwick, Unst, on 21st and 24th September (FJW). There was a peak of 20 **Blackcaps** at Fair Isle on 20th October, and the latest records were of two on 14th November and one on 21st (RHD). Reports that probably refer to wintering birds are of a female coming to feed at Gairloch from 5th to 19th December (ENH), a female at a birdtable at Kyle of Lochalsh on 14th November and a male on 19th (MvO), a male at Elie on 25th November (DWO), and a male in a back garden at St Bernard's Crescent, in the middle of Edinburgh, on 9th December (JO). Following the

two **Barred Warblers** on Out Skerries on 4th September (4: 576), there were two on 5th and 10th, three on 12th, and singles on 13th, 16th and 18th (RJT). At Fair Isle the last **Garden Warbler** was noted on 6th and 7th November (RHD). There were very few **Chiffchaffs** there in October-November, the most being three on 4th-7th November (RHD). Presumed **Chiffchaffs**, rather than **Willow Warblers**, in November were three at Halligarth, Unst, on 19th and one on 25th (FJW), at least four at Culterty, Aberdeenshire, on 4th, and one on cliffs nearby at Collieston on 5th (ADKR). Still more **Yellow-browed Warblers** have been reported (see 4: 576): one at Halligarth, Unst, on 21st October (FJW); one at Lerwick on 3rd October (NE); Fair Isle sightings in October on 1st-5th (1-2), 6th (4), 7th (1), 11th (2), 20th-24th (1-2) and 29th (1) (RHD); and one at Slains Castle, Aberdeenshire, on 20th September, probably the first for Dee (BGM).

Large numbers of **Richard's Pipits** at Fair Isle in September have been noted (4: 577); in October there were up to three until 8th, and singles on 11th, 12th and 21st; in November there were up to three from 6th to 9th (RHD). The first **Rock Pipit** to reach Gladhouse was there on 5th and 11th November (DGA, EMS, RWJS). An 'alba' **Wagtail** at Stornoway on three successive Sundays in December, to the 17th, was the latest the observers have seen in Lewis by over three weeks (IMM, WMa). A **Grey Wagtail** by the R. Bowmont at Yetholm on 10th December was the first the observer had seen in any December since 1962/63; the species has been increasing in the area during the past two years (RSB). There was an immature 'Yellow' **Wagtail** at Gladhouse on 5th August (DGA).

There is a most impressive series of records of **Great Grey Shrikes**:

Shetland—on Unst, 1 at Norwick on 21 Sept (4: 577) (FJW), 1 at Halligarth on 23rd (SS), 1 at Saxa Vord on 14 Oct (ET), and 1 at Norwick on 14th and 15th (FJW); on Whalsay, 1 dead on 21 Oct (JHSp).

Fair Isle—in Oct, 1 on 7th, 5 on 11th, 7+ on 12th, up to 3 until 18th, singles until 23rd, and in Nov, 2 on 3rd (RHD).

Ross—1 on 23 Oct at Glascarnoch reservoir (GHCB); 1 at Alligin village on 8 Nov, and 1 in Glen Torridon on 19th (EB).

Inverness—1 at Kingussie on 4 Nov (VMT); 1 in Inverness on 23 Dec (RHD).

Moray—1 at Rothes on 25 Nov (AP).

Aberdeen—1 at Newburgh on 8 Nov (NE), 1 at Tarty nearby on 11th (PBH, DL, ADKR), and 1 at Newburgh on 29th (GMD); 1 at Tillypronie on 10 Dec (AW, VCW-E).

Kincardine—1 at Strachan on 24 Nov (NP).

Perth—1 at L. Chon on 29 Oct (FHB, MD); 1 at Meikleour on 11 Nov (VMT); 1 at Dunning on 19 Nov (VMT); 1 at L. Rannoch on 21 Nov (WDG); 1 at Lake of Menteith on 12 Dec (RKP); 1 at Tibbermore on 29 Dec (IN).

Argyll—1 on Taynuilt-Connel road on 3 Nov, and 1 in Glendaruel

on 10th (WBk).

Dunbarton—1 near Gartocharn on 2 Dec (WKR).

East Lothian—1 at Tynninghame on 12th and 24 Nov (TB, EMS, RWJS).

Roxburgh—1 at Ale Water reservoir on 3 Nov (KF, MMc).

Kirkcudbright—1 at Trostan, New Abbey, on 12 Nov (JKRM); 1 at New Galloway Station on 18 Nov (AJK).

In contrast, there is just one record of a **Red-backed Shrike**—at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, on 16th September (DB-W, WMu).

The **Greenfinch** is very uncommon in Shetland, where a female was seen at Haroldswick, Unst, on 22nd October (FJW). Five were at Fair Isle on 1st November (RHD). Various northern observers mention **Goldfinches**, mainly in November, without making clear just how unusual they are, but the following seem worth noting:

Lewis—1 at Butt on 18 Nov (IMM); 8 at Stornoway on 2 Dec, the observer's biggest flock in Lewis, where it is only an occasional winter visitor (WMo).

Sutherland—1 at Dornoch on 26 Nov and 6 on 2 Dec (DM).

Ross—3 appeared at Gairloch on 14 Nov, the observer's first in the northwest (ENH).

Inverness—3, again the observer's first for the area, at Tulloch, Boat of Garten, on 27 Nov, and singles on 22nd and 30 Dec (RHD).

Aberdeen—1 at Dyce on 8 Nov (NE).

Kincardine—1 in Glen Dye on 8 Nov (NP).

Only odd **Siskins** were at Fair Isle in October and November (RHD), but there are indications of immigrants: three at Fife Ness on 8th October (DWO); small party near Oldhamstocks, East Lothian, on 29th October (EPB); a number of December reports from East Lothian, including small flocks between Spott and Stenton and near North Berwick, and 16 at Barns Ness on 16th (AM); and seven at Flotterstone, Midlothian, on 24th December (ADKR). Twenty **Twite** were by the Ythan, Aberdeenshire, on 26th November (HEMD), and 15 on 3rd December (NE). In Dumfriesshire 24 were at Barnkirk Point on 19th November (JKRM), and there were 32 on the Wigtownshire coast near the Moor of Genoch on 3rd December (RCD). Some **Bramblings** have been noted (4: 578); there were singles on Unst on 3rd and 23rd September at Norwick and 40 on 21st October and 17 next day (FJW). At Fair Isle there were fewer than in 1966, with a peak of 280 on 18th and 200 on 21st October (RHD). There were 35 just south of Aberdeen on 21st October, and 17 on Scotstoun Moor, Aberdeenshire, on 25th (CFHB, ADKR). By the end of the year there was a fair scattering in parts of Aberdeenshire (GMD), and a flock of 200 was at Kirriemuir, Angus, on 25th December (JD).

A **Yellowhammer** was on Whalsay on 5th November (JHSp). There were two **Ortolan Buntings** at Norwick, Unst, on 10th

September (FJW). Single **Little Buntings** were seen at Fair Isle on 18th and 20th October and 12th November (RHD). There were two **Lapland Buntings** there on 1st-2nd October, singles until 11th, and 1-2 on 3rd-8th November (RHD). At Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, five were seen on 15th October and one on 19th November (BGM), and there was one at the Sands of Forvie on 3rd December (HEMD). At Aberlady one was seen on 4th November (MJE). Further early-September sightings of **Snow Buntings** (see 4: 578) were of five on Unst on 4th (FJW), and two flying in off the sea at Port Henderson, Wester Ross, on 7th (KSM). At Fair Isle there were peaks of 300 on 27th and 28th October, 880 on 4th November and 700 next day (RHD). Otherwise, the largest flocks reported were 200 on Unst on 6th November (MS, ET), 200 at Strathbeg on 5th November, 200 at Gladhouse on 26th November (EMS, RWJS), and 160 at Aberlady on 2nd December (PJ). A **Tree Sparrow** was at Baltasound, Unst, on 10th September (FJW), and three were seen on 6th November (ET).

Earlier observations—before 1st August 1967

Two **Red-throated Divers** in Nigg Bay on 8th October 1966 and three on 16th are evidently the first published record for North Kincardineshire (ADKR).

In 1966 there were at least ten pairs of **Great Crested Grebes** breeding at Lindores Loch, Fife. In 1967 there were none, and **Little Grebes** were down from two pairs to none. The loch had been sprayed with derris and rotenone to kill the pike, with a view to restocking with rainbow trout. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (JW).

In Princes Street Gardens there was a duck **Mallard** with at least one duckling (in the hand of a policeman) on 25th April; and on 18th July there was a duck with eight small ducklings hiding in a flower bed (DGA). A drake **Garganey** in eclipse was at Rosebery, Midlothian, on 22nd July (DGA).

An **Osprey** was at Boddam, Aberdeenshire, on 17th July (BGM). A **Hobby** on Out Skerries on 30th and 31st May ties in well with the report of one in Banffshire on 1st June (4: 568) (RJT).

A pair of **Ringed Plovers** bred on reclaimed land north of the Imperial Dock in Leith in 1967. Breeding was suspected on 25th April and a scrape found. Three birds were present on 27th May; and two pairs were acting as if young were present on 3rd June, when one, 2-3 days old, was in fact found (CPR).

A **Long-tailed Skua** flew along a valley at Norwick, Unst, on 4th June (BGM). Single **Iceland Gulls** (perhaps only one) were on Unst in July, at Springfield Hotel on 1st, Halligarth on

16th, and Baltasound Pier on 21st (EAM, SS, MS, FJW). A pair of **Common Terns** bred in Leith Docks in 1967. There were two eggs on 12th June, and it was later learned that of the full clutch of three, one was addled, one was stolen and one hatched by 3rd July, the chick being seen again on 15th being fed. It was not seen after 16th, and remains found later suggested that it was killed by a rat (CPR).

A **Short-toed Lark** was at Norwich, Unst, on 10th and 11th May (MS, FJW). There were five **Garden Warblers** in the Forest of Birse, Aberdeenshire, on 29th June; this is on the edge of the bird's range (BGM). A spring **Richard's Pipit** was recorded on North Ronaldsay on 13th April (KGW); and there was a **Red-throated Pipit** at Haroldswick, Unst, on 11th and 12th June (MGM, MS, FJW). Two **Yellow Wagtails** in the Carron Valley on 14th April were 16 days earlier than those already mentioned (4: 519) (AS). A **Red-headed Bunting** was on Out Skerries on 27th April (RJT). A **Tree Sparrow** at Burrafirth, Unst, was feeding three freshly fledged young on 20th July (FJW).

General observations—behaviour etc.

On 5th November a **Red-throated Diver**, flying some 20 feet above the water off the Sands of Forvie, slowed down, partly folded its wings, and plummeted head-first into the sea like a Gannet. It went right under the water, then surfaced and ate a fish before flying off in a few seconds. It did not repeat the performance (ADKR).

At Loch Kinardochy, Perthshire, on 25th November there was a female **Goldeneye** with an unusual bill colour. The bill was entirely orange-yellow and appeared somewhat heavier than normal, but perhaps only because of the bright colour. In every other respect the bird was a typical Goldeneye, though only three drakes were available for direct comparison. The closely related Barrow's Goldeneye from the Rocky Mountains are said to have this bill colour quite often (*A Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World*) (VMT).

O b i t u a r i e s

Rev. E. T. VERNON

By the death of the Rev. E. T. Vernon at Fairlie on 13th November 1967 the S.O.C. lost one to whom we shall always be indebted. It was 'Edward T.', as many of us affectionately came to know him, who 'held the fort' during those difficult and uncertain war years, and afterwards he acted as interim Honorary Secretary until George Waterston returned in

summer 1946. No meetings were held during the war but, thanks largely to his efforts, the club was speedily reconstituted when things returned to normal, and the first post-war meeting took place in Edinburgh on 10th January 1946.

One or two meetings were held in Glasgow, and it soon became clear that a separate branch could be launched there. Who more obvious than Mr Vernon for its first Chairman, a position he held from 1948 to 1952, also representing the branch on the Council, to which he had been elected in 1939. Under his enthusiastic leadership the new branch grew rapidly and became a model for others which were to spring up all over Scotland.

Edward Vernon was born in the early 1890s, the son of the minister for Edzell in Angus. He went to Edinburgh University, and to New College. He served on combatant duty in the first world war, and was invalided out, having contracted, and nearly died of, enteric fever.

He was ordained at Kinross in 1919, and moved to London in 1924. In 1929 he returned to Scotland to take up the ministry of Queen's Park Saint George's Church—then Queen's Park East—in Glasgow, where he served until 1938. From then until 1947 he was at Hyndland Parish Church, Glasgow, from which he moved to the country as minister at Ranfurly, Bridge of Weir, until his retirement in 1961. He then moved to Fairlie, where the mudflats and their waders had always fascinated him. He was the author of many writings on Church affairs, and was also much loved for his imaginative addresses to children, which were afterwards printed in *British Weekly*. His fondness for nature featured prominently in his sermons and writings.

He studied the birds that happened to be near him and did not go chasing after rarities. For example, he kept methodical records of the song periods of common species and showed clearly that they began earlier in his town parish than in his country one. In this, though not a scientist and with no opportunity for full-time work, he was, perhaps, a precursor of leading modern ornithologists. On the other hand, he came on the Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise and thoroughly enjoyed it.

As Branch Chairman, his lucid speaking and pawky sense of humour, coupled with a wide understanding of humanity as well as birds, ensured the success of every meeting. One recalls his story of two canaries called Byng and Walt—"Byng sings and Walt disnae." He tackled all problems with an almost boyish enthusiasm, his powers of persuasion being such that for any member to be asked to undertake some quite dull chore for the club was regarded as an honour. Amongst the feats we remember was his 'promotion' of Miss

Elsie Macdonald, despite her protestations that she knew nothing about birds, to become, under his enthusiastic spell, a model first Branch Secretary.

Mr Vernon leaves a widow and two daughters, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

C. E. PALMAR.

DAVID HAMILTON

The death, on 24th August 1967, in his ninetieth year, of David Hamilton has deprived the Scottish Ornithologists' Club of an outstanding Founder, and later Honorary, Member. From the age of about five years, he lived (a first occupant of the newly built house) at 63 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh, where he early watched cows feeding in the pastures on the other side of the road (a list shows that he had observed 31 species of birds in or about the house and garden during his long residence). That, at the time of his death, he was the foremost *all-round* field naturalist in the Lothians, is an opinion acquiesced in by various experts in particular fields whose opinion has been sought.

David Hamilton, a 'working-man' in the common parlance, worked for many years as a toolmaker with Bruntons of Musselburgh. His enthusiasm for everything relating to natural history was unbounded, which perhaps explains why he never smoked or touched intoxicants and never entered a cinema, preferring to spend his money on books like Bannerman's *Birds of the British Isles*, which he bought when in his eighties. He was denied much of the free time most of us enjoy (even working seven days a week during World War II), and Scottish natural history absorbed every moment of his spare time. During that war, when his wife died, he would rise early, make his breakfast, and pocketing a 'piece' for his lunch, cycle to Musselburgh, start work at 6 a.m. and cycle home at night, perhaps looking over the surface of Duddingston or, as once happened, chasing a Quail in a field near Portobello. His midday meal he would consume while strolling by the Esk, making observations later to be reported in the *Scottish Naturalist*.

Like many of his generation he collected butterflies, moths, beetles, and, one must add, birds' eggs. Even so, his determination to record accurately all his finds made him refuse any specimen not collected by himself. His diaries are a treasure-house of most valuable information, and it is hoped that they will be made over to the club by his Executor. His enthusiasm lasted to the very end, for when his walking powers were diminished, he with the help of 'Dallimore & Jackson' and the car of his friend Mr Andrew Milne, toured the

countryside, collecting cones and identifying conifers.

He will be remembered as the discoverer and recorder of the Bee-eater's attempt to nest in Scotland, and by his extensive observations on the Swift at dusk, which showed how the bird returned silently in the dark to its nest, not spending the night sailing in the upper air, as had been widely supposed. As for his last splendid action—giving his body to Science—it must evoke our profoundest respect.

P. W. G. GUNN.

CHARLES WILLIAM SANDERSON

Charles William Sanderson died at his house, Birnieknowes, Cockburnspath, on 11th June 1967 in his 72nd year. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and served throughout the first world war in the 7th Royal Scots, in which he became a Captain. During the second world war he was a keen member of the Observer Corps.

Charlie Sanderson's enthusiasm for ornithology started in his boyhood and lasted throughout his life. In this he had the advantages of a keen intelligence, a methodical mind, and a most sensitive feeling for all living creatures. He would never allow anything to disturb or alarm the birds he loved to watch, and he built up a really fine range of photographic equipment from which he obtained memorable results.

He was, it is believed, the first to photograph the Green Woodpecker at the nest in Scotland, and during his periodic visits to Inverness-shire he made delightful studies of the Crested Tit and the Slavonian Grebe and many other species. Nearer home he obtained a very successful picture of a Grey Phalarope on a small loch in the Borders, and further afield his friendship with a Dutch ornithologist enabled him to obtain valuable records of the Black Tern.

He was a man of many interests, although the study of birds was no doubt the greatest. His rock garden at Birnieknowes was known and appreciated by many visitors, and the carnations which he grew and which beautified his house will not soon be forgotten.

It was characteristic of him that none of these interests was allowed to interfere with the management of his large East Lothian farm.

He was a quiet and retiring man, but his humour, kindness and courtesy endeared him to a host of friends who will remember him with a lasting affection.

R. C. NOTMAN.

Reviews

Birds of the Antarctic. By Edward A. Wilson. Edited by Brian Roberts. London, Blandford Press, 1967. Pp. 191; photograph and 320 paintings and drawings (4 unnumbered; 172 in colour). 30 x 24; cm. 105/-.

To begin with, we must say that this is the most attractive work on birds we have seen for a very long time. The purpose of the book, published some fifty-five years after Dr Wilson's death, is stated in the Introduction as being to "bring together and make available to a wider public a representative selection of his illustrations of Antarctic birds."

Edward Adrian Wilson (1872-1912), by reason of his personal character and the manner of his death with Captain Scott, Captain Oates, "Birdie" Bowers and Seaman Evans in February 1912, has become a noble figure occupying a unique place in the history of Antarctic exploration. Much has been written about him and his companions and their sad fate, on which we need not enlarge here.

But a proper assessment of Wilson's place as an ornithologist, and particularly as a painter of birds, is overdue, and this is the task that Dr Brian Roberts has undertaken so ably in this book. He has had at his disposal all the known work, writing, drawings and paintings, that Wilson had time to do. He has made a selection from this material, known only to a few, of some 300 drawings and paintings, which have been reproduced in splendid style by photolithography in some 60 quarto pages of colour and 42 pages of monochrome illustrations.

We have long been an admirer of Wilson's bird and animal painting, having come across examples in various books over the years, for example Barrett-Hamilton's unfinished work *British Mammals*, Hesketh Pritchard's *Sport in Wildest Britain*, the facsimile volumes of the famous *South Polar Times*, and of course *Scott's Last Expedition*. His ornithological reputation rests chiefly on *The Grouse in Health and in Disease*, of which he wrote about a third, in addition to drawing all the illustrations, and on several reports on birds and seals on the *Discovery Expedition* for the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), *Ibis*, *Geographical Journal*, and others, some of which were illustrated by his paintings. We think that perhaps his greatest strength as an artist lies in his drawing, whatever the subject. This is usually well-nigh perfect, but his plumage work is never quite up to the standard of say Thorburn, the most famous of his contemporaries, or indeed several others. His own words show him to have been aware of room for improvement; he was a stern critic of his own work, and indeed of other people's at times (see remarks re George Lodge, page 31). He was also more than a little unfortunate in the quality of reproduction apparent in most of his published work. The plates in *The Grouse in Health and in Disease* were all reproduced by letterpress, and compare unfavourably with his lithographed plates published by the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) in the scientific reports on the *Discovery Expedition* (Nos. 63-66, 68-76, 93-98, 149, 280-284 and 289-293 in the present book), which we think by far the best plates in the book. We particularly admire the plate of the famous Emperor Penguin eggs, which is as good as anything we have seen by those masters of egg painting, Grönvold and Frohawk. For some reason few painters are successful with eggs, which certainly demand ability to draw in detail.

It must also be remembered that most of the sketches were made under the most difficult conditions. We feel there is no doubt that had Wilson lived to return to England and work on his sketches, the same

rate of development in skill shown on comparison of his earlier pictures with those of 1910 and 1911 might reasonably have been expected—Wilson was only forty years of age when he died. At the same time we must take into consideration Dr Roberts' suggestion (p. 29) that Wilson was more concerned by 1910 with wider fields for his art than bird painting—a distinct probability, as commercial success as a bird and animal painter had so far eluded him.

Of Wilson's standing as a professional zoologist there is no doubt. His merit as a pioneer in ornithological research has been assessed by Dr Lack (*Ibis* 1959: 75). The pity was of course that he did not survive to write the ornithological report of the *Terra Nova* expedition himself. This handsome volume helps to compensate for that loss to ornithological literature, and at the very least, coupled with the recently published 'Discovery' *Diary*, will help to keep forever green the memory of a man of remarkable character, a skilled ornithologist and a very fine painter of birds. Anyone interested in birds is bound to find this book fascinating and, one must say it these days, full value for money.

RITCHIE SEATH.

Thorburn's Birds. Edited with an introduction and new text by James Fisher. First published 1915-18 as *British Birds* by Archibald Thorburn, 4 vols 4to. London, Ebury Press and Michael Joseph, 1967. Pp. 184; endpaper maps and 82 colour plates. 25½ x 19 cm. 50/- [prepublication price 42/-].

Were the sole reason for this book to draw the attention of new generations of ornithologists to the bird paintings of Archibald Thorburn its publication would still be timely and justified.

At the time of his death over 30 years ago, Thorburn (1860-1935), a Scot born and bred, was generally considered to be the best painter of birds and mammals of his time, indeed by many people, of all time. Since contemporary painters of birds and beasts over his working lifetime included Wolf, Lear, Gould, Keulemans, Liljefors, the two Alexanders, Fuertes, Brooks and many other fine painters, some measure of his eminence as an artist in his own field may be appreciated.

Thorburn's famous quarto work in four volumes, *British Birds*, has long been an expensive collector's item beyond the means of most people. In the present work the 82 plates from the original work have been reproduced by photolithography approximately half size. While we cannot expect the sharpness and brilliance of the original quarto plates, which were produced by first-class letterpress process, these reproductions are really very satisfactory indeed and bring the splendid plates within everyone's reach, at moderate cost. Had all the illustrations been of the quality of the book jacket (from plate 71), which is treated on a somewhat larger scale and without the border, no doubt imposed for technical reasons, we would have been indeed fortunate. But on the whole we have nothing but praise for the plates, which will surely rouse in many the ambition to possess a set of the original quarto volumes.

Mr Fisher has written a splendid introduction, a mine of biographical and bibliographical information on Thorburn—difficult subjects because of his extensive output over a long period; in this connection the author has omitted to mention the two post-war volumes of Archer's *Birds of British Somaliland*, which contain some fine posthumously published plates by Thorburn. Due appreciation of his merits as a painter is also given in this introduction.

Thorburn himself made no claim for any great authority for his

letterpress, and Mr Fisher has rightly written a completely new text, bringing particularly our present knowledge of distribution and status up to date, even to the recording of Fetlar's Snowy Owl last summer. The method of estimating numbers of breeding pairs by a geometric or logarithmic order is quite fascinating and very enlightening. Although the text is avowedly confined to distribution and status, had the author only seen fit to give (1) breeding dates and simple nesting facts, and (2) some indication of size, this book, with its fine illustrations and modest price, would have been as good a condensed handbook of British birds as one could wish for. In any case it must find its place in most libraries.

RITCHIE SEATH.

The Birds of North Africa from the Canary Islands to the Red Sea. By R. D. Etchécopar and François Hue. Illustrated by Paul Barriel. Translated by P. A. D. Hollom. Edinburgh and London, Oliver & Boyd, 1967. First published Paris, 1964, as *Les Oiseaux du Nord de l'Afrique*. Pp. xx + 612; maps and line drawings throughout and 27 plates of birds (24 in colour). 23½ x 16 cm. 168/-.

The authors have studied the birds of North Africa for ten years and in this book have brought together their extensive first-hand knowledge of the region with additional information from the work of other ornithologists. They have covered the whole area from the Canary Islands to the Red Sea and as far south as, approximately, the 21st parallel, thus taking in most of the Sahara. Many of the species found in this region do not breed in Europe, but great numbers of European and Asian breeding birds pass through on migration. All species which have been recorded are described under the headings of identification, behaviour, nesting (where relevant), distribution and subspecies. The section on identification is concise, with a sub-division giving field characteristics. The sections on behaviour and nesting both give interesting and useful information, and for breeding species a distribution map follows the final section of the description.

Descriptions of the species within each genus are preceded by an identification key. Where possible, the most noticeable field characteristics have been used, but in cases where differences are subtle, a technical key is presented for considering identification in the hand. Keys are certainly useful for identifying birds in the hand, although for field identification one is far more likely to turn first to the illustrations.

The 24 colour plates include all the species which are not found in Europe. Most of these plates are of a high standard, and only plate XIX, the wheatears, is spoiled by being too crowded. Three monochrome plates cover the petrels, ducks and terns, and most other species not covered by the plates are illustrated by excellent line drawings. The authors, however, do refer their readers to R. T. Peterson's plates in *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*.

The book has been designed for use in the field, but is rather bulky. A great deal of information has been condensed which will enable a visitor to identify quickly birds which are new to him. It will also give him more information about such species than one would expect from a field guide. The production of this book, which covers such a vast and difficult region, has been a fine achievement, and it is an essential item for ornithologists visiting North Africa. Unfortunately, at eight guineas, it is probably too expensive for those without a special interest in the region.

N. PICOZZI.

Animals and Birds in Australia. By Graham Pizzey. Australia (and London etc.), Cassell, 1966 (London 1967). Pp. 10 un. + 170 + 4 un.; 257 photographs (23 in colour) and 77 maps. 32 x 24 cm. 105/-.

Large, profusely illustrated books of animals from all over the world seem to be the rage these days. However, one rarely comes across the combination of high quality photographs, taken to illustrate the ways of life of animals and the habitats in which they live, and an authoritative but interestingly written text, linking the author's own experience with important factual information about the animals he has encountered. Graham Pizzey has achieved this remarkably well in this book.

Mammals, particularly marsupials, and birds occupy most of the pages but the treatment includes illustrations of insects, spiders, reptiles, frogs and the marine animals of the coral reefs. The material is arranged according to habitat, and most of the conspicuous habitat types in Australia are included, for example, the hard-wood forests, the mallee scrub, the grasslands, the rain forests, and the coast. Unfortunately he does not consider the deserts. Within each habitat, a variety of the more conspicuous species of animals has been illustrated with first-class photographs, black-and-white for the most part, though the twenty or so full-page colour photographs have been very well selected. For each species and for each habitat, there is a concise and interestingly written account.

This is a very pleasing book which gives a clear impression of the great variety of habitats and of animals of many kinds which are still to be found on the Australian continent.

G. M. DUNNET.

Penguins. By John Sparks and Tony Soper. Illustrated by Robert Gillmor. Newton Abbot, David & Charles, 1967. Pp. 263; 24 plates (33 photographs), and line drawings throughout (many coloured). 20½ x 14½ cm. 45/-.

Few of us have ever seen a wild penguin, and most of us probably never will, but even so we think of penguins as familiar, endearing creatures and share the popular enthusiasm for them—even if we sometimes find it difficult to think of them as birds. We would expect a book about penguins to reflect our feelings for them, and, as we claim to be ornithologists, to tell us all about them accurately and concisely. Much of the appeal of these birds is in their appearance, so we would hope too for a book full of illustrations.

This sounds a tall order; but John Sparks and Tony Soper have written a book which is both eminently readable and, in summarising and discussing every aspect of our present knowledge of penguins, scientifically sound. The photographs are first-class, but the pictorial impact this book immediately makes is due to the numerous lively illustrations and meticulous diagrams by Robert Gillmor, who is clearly in his element drawing penguins.

The opening chapter deals with "Penguins as Birds," describing how they are adapted to their environment and comparing them with other aquatic birds and animals; the section on heat-conservation is especially interesting. The evolution of penguins is not discussed until the fifth chapter, after three chapters on breeding biology and ecology. There is a wealth of detail in these chapters, each being full of interesting facts and ideas; did you know, for example, that a fit penguin can outswim a leopard seal; or that the 'tube-noses' are considered to be their nearest relatives; or that the breeding cycle of the King Penguin lasts for 15

months? A very pleasing feature of these chapters is that most points in the text are illustrated by line drawings or diagrams.

Unexpectedly, there is a chapter giving an account of how penguins were discovered (and often slaughtered in incredible numbers) by early explorers, complete with a series of reproductions of the first drawings of them. Past and present exploitation of penguins by man is discussed, and the need for conservation measures in certain areas is stressed. Mention is made of the ultimately unsuccessful introduction of penguins to Norway in 1936; the last sighting of one of these birds was made as recently as 1954. Full notes on the 17 living species of penguins, with full-page drawings of each, a comprehensive bibliography and an appendix on penguins in captivity complete the book.

Only one thing disappointed me—and that was that I reached the last page all too quickly. It was slightly startling to find "tarsi" spelt "tarsi!" Tarsius, as far as I know, is a primitive East Indies primate and not part of a bird's leg. However, I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and learned a great deal from it. If you like penguins you should buy it—even at 45/-.

M. J. EVERETT.

Hummingbirds. By Walter Sheithauer. Translated by Gwynne Vevers. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell (with Arthur Barker), 1967. First published West Germany, 1966, as "Kolibris." Pp. 176; map, 9 line drawings and 76 colour photographs (33 plates). 24½ x 20½ cm. 45/-.

A review of a book devoted to a family of birds confined exclusively to America and the West Indies may appear out of place in the pages of *Scottish Birds*. I would argue, however, that on more than one count a notice of this one is justified.

To begin with, *Hummingbirds* is just the sort of book to read through and admire, as I did, on one of those dreich, dank, Scottish winter evenings from which we suffer too often; its illustrations would infuse warmth, colour and beauty into the drabest circumstance. Secondly, the book contains a wealth of fascinating facts about its subject that will intrigue any lover of bird lore. Did you know, for example, that size for size some of the smallest of these 'tiny jewels' lay the largest eggs of any bird in the world? The Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*, which migrates a distance of about 2400 miles from Alaska to Mexico, weighs less than three-quarters of an ounce; its egg is half an inch long or about half the length of its body. No wonder that egg-laying takes a lot out of it!

The book contains an excellent account of hummingbird flight. The same *Selasphorus* may vibrate its wings at a phenomenal 200 wing-beats a second during courtship display, and at 35-37 beats a second when hovering. On a measured circuit with corners, lap times of over 47 m.p.h. have been recorded for another hummingbird; some species could probably achieve speeds of up to 55 m.p.h. without much difficulty on an uninterrupted course.

Not everyone approves of keeping birds in aviaries but Walter Scheithauer, doing just that with hummingbirds, has provided a fund of new information about them. Particularly valuable also are his instructions on feeding, and the details he gives of how his high-speed photographs were taken. Nearly 10,000 exposures were needed to obtain the pictures illustrating this book, which should not be confused with an earlier one with the same title, by Crawford H. Greenewalt, dealing with the life of hummingbirds in the wild.

W. J. EGGELING.

The Shetland Book. Edited by A. T. Cluness. [Lerwick], Zetland Education Committee, 1967. Pp. ix + [3] + 174; text figures and 24 plates (26 photographs). 24 x 15½ cm. 25/-.

Islands have a special attraction for many of us, and Shetland is doubly attractive, because it is the furthest north we can go in Scotland. It is strikingly different from the more populous parts of the country where most of us live, as witness the northern birds that nest there, the short summer nights, the Norse place names, and the constant presence of the sea.

The Shetland addict revels in the fascinating books that have been written about it and will need no excuse for adding this one to his collection, even if he never quite understands the doings of the old Norse heroes, or just where legend becomes fact. The uncommitted will find much of interest in the book, by way of a broad but highly condensed introduction to many facets of the area.

It is basically a school textbook, designed to give pupils a wide knowledge of their present home and its history. Twenty-eight chapters in a variety of styles, by about a dozen contributors, cover such diverse topics as geology, climate, agriculture, fishing, population, the rule of the Jarls, pressgang days, folklore, place names, prehistoric monuments, botany, biography and animal life.

Birds have always been very much part of daily life in Shetland, but now their tourist potential gives them a new economic significance to the islands. One would not expect a definitive account of them (for that, one must look to *Birds and Mammals of Shetland*) but the short chapter on the subject is by no means superficial.

The book is printed on pleasantly heavy quality paper and illustrated with interesting photographs, many of them by Shetland birdwatchers. If you are at all interested in Shetland or its people this book is worth a place on the shelves of your library.

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN.

Island Saga. The Story of North Ronaldsay. By Mary A. Scott. Including "The Birds of the Island," 42 pages, by Kenneth [G.] Walker. Aberdeen, Alex. P. Reid & Son (28 Market Street), 1967. Pp. 213; map and 33 line drawings. 18¼ x 12½ cm. 25/-.

North Ronaldsay is not a well known island; many ornithologists will remember it as a thin dark line visible on the southern horizon from Fair Isle, but few have ventured closer. Although they have the problems of isolation in common, North Ronaldsay is a very different place from its northern neighbour, as those who read this book will find out. The text wanders widely, from Norse history to beer-making, from shipwrecks to fairy stories. Miss Scott, being a native of the island, is able to give us an insight into the rigours and rewards of life there, and her efforts have been aided by illustrations, poems and anecdotes provided by her friends and relations. The whole is an interesting account of a way of life, which one hopes will be more than its epitaph.

The last chapter, and that which concerns us most here, is on the birds of the island, and is contributed by Kenneth Walker, for some years now a lighthouse keeper there. This is a most useful addition to our knowledge, for little has been written recently on the birds of Orkney. The systematic list shows the difference in breeding birds from those on Fair Isle, reflecting the differences in habitats. There is a close similarity in migrants, however, and considering the amount of cover and lack of coverage on North Ronaldsay, the list of rare birds seen there is surprisingly long. Nevertheless, one cannot but hope that Mr Walker will continue his observations for further years to provide a

fuller account, for the status attributed to some species is curious and accents the current lack of knowledge; only one record of Great Northern Diver could be found, for example, and that was in the last century.

PETER J. B. SLATER.

Where to Watch Birds. By John Gooders. London, Deutsch, 1967. Pp. 313; 8 plates (12 photographs) and 27 maps. 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ cm. 30/-.

This book is the first comprehensive and fully detailed guide to places of ornithological interest in England, Wales and Scotland. It lists over 500 of the best birdy places, giving a description of each, lists of the birds which are most likely to be seen, and the best time of year at which to see them. Precise directions as to how to get to each place are also given, with information about access to the area and, in many cases, excellent sketch-maps showing the best vantage points from which to watch. The book is an efficient production, well laid-out, with all necessary information clearly and precisely presented.

A field guide to habitats, such as this, must of course be kept up to date, and the author asks people to send him corrections—a wise request. There are a number of inaccuracies in the Scottish section, mostly due to the rapid, man-engendered changes in the countryside. Vast areas of Flanders Moss, for instance, were drained and planted by the Forestry Commission some years ago, and a motorway now runs through the Low Parks at Hamilton. It is to be hoped that Scottish readers will send corrections to the author without delay, so that visiting bird-watchers, on reaching a recommended location, will not be confronted by a row of conifers, or cars, instead of the expected flock of geese.

The book could have been greatly improved by substituting general maps, showing the location of each place, for the photographs, mostly aerial views, which are of no value.

I was very pleased to see that a copy of the RSPB leaflet *Code for the Birdwatcher* was enclosed with each copy. This might well have been made an integral part of the text, which contains no adequate warnings to prevent, as far as possible, harm to the birds from invasions of birdwatchers and others, particularly during the breeding season. If, for instance, they walk along the East Lothian coast from Yellowcraig to Eyebroughty in June and July "to see the moulting Eiders," as recommended, a great deal of damage could be done to shingle and dune nesting birds by inexperienced observers. The author makes the point that by publishing such a book he hopes that many people will be encouraged to visit the recommended places and to take an interest in the protecting and preservation of the birds and of the places themselves. One hopes that this will be so.

R. S. BAILLIE.

Nesting Birds, Eggs and Fledglings. By Winwood Reade and Eric Hosking. Plates of eggs by Portman Artists. Drawings by Robert Gillmor. London, Blandford, 1967. Pp. vi + 275; 209 photographs (168 in colour), 19 plates of eggs (16 in colour) and about 54 line drawings (including 4 double-page). 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ cm. 25/-.

This pocket encyclopaedia is about "birds at their nests and with their young," but its obvious inspiration is the block of photographs, mostly by Eric Hosking, of "the better known birds found in the British Isles and Western Europe."

Possibly the availability of photographic material has influenced the selection; for example, the Siberian Jay is not likely to be well known

even in Europe, but the fact is that a lot of the appeal of a book of this kind would have disappeared without the European birds. The breeding of the Snowy Owl and Fieldfare in Scotland this last year and, maybe, the Turnstone next year, is sufficient vindication of the more outward look our ornithology sometimes needs. Colour reproduction is for the most part very good, although the Temminck's Stint, Wood Sandpiper and Goldcrest have an unnatural bluish cast. and the Rock Pipit looks quite bleached.

The egg plates are less inspiring. One egg is illustrated for each of 191 species, and it would have been more helpful to show the range of colouration and marking within some species, even though fewer birds were represented.

Miss Reade crams a wealth of accurate material into the text, covering breeding distribution and habitat, descriptions of nest, eggs, nestlings, fledglings and adults, together with hints on nest-finding, for 235 species. Commendably, the danger of disturbance at the nest is often stressed, but readers might be well advised to acquaint themselves with section 4 of the new Protection of Birds Act 1967 in relation to the "finding" of nests of our rare birds. Occasionally the conciseness of text disallows sufficient qualification; for example, that the Fulmar "nests usually on precipitous sea cliffs, but also on inland crags and on flat ground" is barely discriminating enough for Europe, at least not yet.

The brilliant little illustrations we have now come to expect from Robert Gillmor add pleasant relief to these fact-packed pages.

The book will appeal to the advancing beginner of whatever age, but it is good value for whoever buys it, even just for the pleasure of looking at the delightful pictures.

ROBERT G. CALDOW.

A Field Guide to the Mammals of Britain and Europe. By F. H. van den Brink. Translated and edited by Hans Kruuk and H. N. Southern. Illustrated by Paul Barruel. London, Collins, 1967. Based on "Zoogdierengids," Holland, 1955. Pp. 221; 32 plates (20 in colour), 135 maps, 75 drawings, pictorial endpapers. 18½ x 12 cm. 30/-.

F. H. van den Brink is to be congratulated on this most beautifully illustrated field guide, which could mark a turning point in the field identification of mammals, in much the same way that *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* revolutionised the identification of European birds in the wild.

Unlike birdwatching, mammal-watching as a hobby is relatively unknown in Britain, and nearly all studies of mammals are done by professionals or dedicated amateurs working on their favourite projects. Britain has a small number of mammal species, less than one third of the European total, and identifications are either basic or very difficult. This book will enable British naturalists to identify all the animals they might see in the wild, but often the identification of closely related species is still confused. Bats are notoriously difficult for field observers, and the separation of ground and water voles in Britain is more difficult than our most difficult warblers.

This field guide vividly illustrates the challenge of mammal identification awaiting any visitor to Europe. By stimulating interest in field identification it will do a great service, so that in the future the identification of mammals in the wild will approach the high standards of birdwatching.

One hundred and seventy-seven species, terrestrial and marine, are featured in this book. All of them are excellently illustrated in colour

by Paul Barruel, except whales which are shown in black-and-white. The Peterson system of pointers is employed to indicate field characters. The book is closely styled on the Peterson field guides, and birdwatchers will have no difficulty in following the layout. Each species is described in about half a page of text under the headings of identification, habitat, range, habits and similar species. The range of most species is indicated on a map of Europe which is more detailed and informative than in the bird field guide, but almost certainly less accurate because of the lack of information.

The format is so similar in places that users, weaned on the bird field guide, might gain the wrong information unless they read the print carefully. The checklist symbols, to denote the status of the species, have different meanings here. For a field guide, I see no point in marking the British distribution of wolf and brown bear with a black dot, even though it is amended by the symbol E under the illustration to explain that the species is now extinct in Britain. The maps may also be misleading for use in the field, as for example that of the sable, now extinct in northern Scandinavia, which is deliberately 300 years out of date.

Illustrations of tracks, skulls and dental formulae are added for identification purposes. Chapters on "how to use the book," "the problem of species," "the study and protection of species" and "taxonomic notes," along with a checklist, a glossary and a bibliography, make this a very readable and instructive book. The 221 pages contrast with 344 in the bird field guide, but as it is printed on heavier paper the books are similar in size and thickness.

For anyone visiting Europe this book is a must and very good value for money; for the stay-at-home it is a revelation to see how many more species of mammals occur just across the sea in Europe.

R. H. DENNIS.

Estuary Birds and Moor and Heath Birds. Shell Nature Records. British Birds series. Nos. DCL 704 and 706. Two 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ r.p.m. 7" records in illustrated descriptive sleeves. Recorded by Lawrence Shove and others, and edited by him. Published 1967 for Shell-Mex and B.P. by Discourses Ltd, London. 12/6 each.

The sixth and seventh records in this series. For further details see *Scot. Birds* 4: 326, 523.

Letter

SIR,

The Magpie in western Scotland

In his notes on Magpies in Argyll (*Scot. Birds* 4: 449) T. D. H. Merrie states that within the last four years they have been seen regularly in certain areas, including Ardyne Point, Toward. Magpies have been in this area for a much longer period than four years. I can remember seeing my first Magpie's nest in lower Glen Fyne in 1947. As far as I know there has always been a small breeding population in Toward.

WALLACE BRACKENRIDGE.

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

SUMMER EXCURSIONS

Important Notes

1. Members may attend excursions of any Branch in addition to those arranged by the Branch they attend regularly.

2. Where transport is by private cars please inform the organisers if you can bring a car and how many spare seats are available. All petrol expenses will be shared.

3. Please inform the organiser in good time if you are prevented from attending an excursion where special hire of boats or buses is involved. Failure to turn up may mean you are asked to pay for the place to avoid additional expense for the rest of the party.

4. Please bring meals as indicated (in brackets) below.

ABERDEEN

For all excursions, please notify Miss F. Greig, 9 Ashgrove Road, Aberdeen (tel. 40241, Ext. Old Aberdeen 342, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.), one week in advance.

Sunday 8th September. YTHAN ESTUARY AND LOCHS. Meet Culterty 10.30 a.m. (lunch).

Sunday 20th October. LOCH STRATHBEG (lunch).

AYR

Saturday 27th April. CULZEAN CASTLE, MAYBOLE (by kind permission of the National Trust for Scotland). Leader: S. L. Hunter. Meet Wellington Square, Ayr, 2 p.m. or car park, Culzean Castle, 2.30 p.m. (tea).

Saturday 18th May and Sunday 26th May. HORSE ISLAND, ARDROSSAN (by kind permission of the R.S.P.B.). Joint excursion with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Leaders: A. G. Stewart and T. B. Kay. Meet Ardrossan Pier 2 p.m. (tea). Boat fare 5s. There will be a maximum of 11 passengers per excursion and members must contact Dr M. E. Castle, 9 Finlas Avenue, Ayr (tel. Alloway 41828), at least 7 days before the excursion.

Saturday 15th June. DRUMLANRIG CASTLE, THORNHILL, DUMFRIES (by kind permission of the Duke of Buccleuch). Leader: J. F. Young. Meet Wellington Square, Ayr, 1 p.m. or entrance to Queens Drive (off main road), Drumlanrig Castle 2.30 p.m. (tea).

Wednesday 19th June. AUCHINCUIVE ESTATE, by AYR (by kind permission of the Principal, West of Scotland Agricultural College). Leader: Dr M. E. Castle. Meet on drive near bus shelter at main gates of College on the Mauchline road 7 p.m. prompt.

Sunday 15th September. ENDRICK MOUTH, LOCH LOMOND NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE (by kind permission of the Nature Conservancy). Joint excursion with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Leader: Dr M. E. Castle. Leave Wellington Square, Ayr, by coach 9 a.m. (lunch). Members must book seats at least 7 days before excursion by contacting Dr M. E. Castle, 9 Finlas Avenue, Ayr (tel. Alloway 41828).

DUMFRIES

Saturday 25th May. DRUMLANRIG WOODS, THORNHILL (by kind per-

mission of the Duke of Buccleuch). Leaders: J. Maxwell and J. F. Young. Meet Queens Drive, Drumlanrig, 2 p.m.

Sunday 30th June. BASS ROCK (by kind permission of Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple). Boat leaves North Berwick Harbour 10 a.m. (lunch and tea). Tickets, about 11s, will be purchased on the boat. If weather is unsuitable for landing an alternative excursion will be arranged. Members should make their own transport arrangements and should be at the harbour half an hour before sailing time. Applications by 16th June to H. M. Russell, Nara, Dalbeattie Road, Dumfries (tel. 3858).

Sunday 1st September. WATERFOOT, ANNAN. Leader: W. Austin. Meet Ewart Library, Dumfries, 2 p.m.

DUNDEE

All excursions by private cars, leaving City Square, Dundee, 9 a.m., except for June and July excursions.

Sunday 21st April. RESCOBIE AND BALGAVIES LOCHS.

Sunday 19th May. ST CYRUS.

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June. FIDRA AND BASS ROCK (subject to permission). Details of this excursion will be announced at the Branch meeting or may be obtained from the Branch Secretary, Miss J. Stirling, 21 Johnston Avenue, Dundee.

Sunday 7th July. GLEN FESHIE, CAIRNGORMS. Leave City Square 7 a.m.

Sunday 25th August. MONTROSE BASIN AND SCURDYNESS.

Sunday 22nd September. EDEN ESTUARY.

EDINBURGH

Saturday 27th April. ABERLADY BAY NATURE RESERVE (spring migrants). Joint excursion with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Leader: K. S. Macgregor. Meet Timber Bridge 2.30 p.m. (tea).

Saturday 11th May. WESTWATER RESERVOIR, WEST LINTON (subject to permission). Joint afternoon excursion with the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Applications by 4th May to William Brotherton, 22 Rutland Square, Edinburgh 1, who will supply details of time and meeting place (tea).

Sunday 26th May. THE HIRSEL, COLDSTREAM (by kind permission of Sir Alec Douglas-Home). Excursion by private cars, leaving Edinburgh from square behind National Gallery 10.30 a.m. for Hirsell at 12 noon (lunch and tea). Applications by 18th May to J. A. Stewart, 109 Greenbank Crescent, Edinburgh 10 (tel. MOR 4210), stating number of seats required or available.

Saturday 8th June. ISLE OF MAY (numbers limited to 12). Excursion by private cars. Party meets and sails from West Pier, Anstruther, 10.30 a.m. prompt returning by 5 to 5.30 p.m. (lunch and tea). Cost of boat about 12s 6d. Applications by 1st June to Alastair Macdonald, Hadley Court, Haddington (tel. 3204), stating number of seats required or available.

Saturday 20th July. BASS ROCK (by kind permission of Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple). Numbers limited to 60. Boat leaves North Berwick Harbour 2.30 p.m. returning about 7 p.m. (tea). Tickets, about 11s, will be purchased on the boat. If weather is unsuitable for landing an alternative excursion will be arranged from North Berwick. Applications by 13th July to Miss O. T. Thompson, 3a Falcon Road West, Edinburgh 10 (tel. 031-447 1637).

Saturday 7th September. ABERLADY BAY NATURE RESERVE (autumn migrants). Leader: K. S. Macgregor. Arrangements as for April.

GLASGOW

Sunday 5th May. BARR MEADOWS. Leader : R. G. Caldow. Meet Lochwinnoch Station Yard 2.30 p.m. (tea).

Sunday 26th May. INCHCALLOCH, LOCH LOMOND. Leader : E. Idle. Meet Balmaha Pier 12.30 p.m. (tea). Applications by 15th May to Mrs Hutchison, 27 Northbank Road, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow.

Wednesday 12th June. HORSE ISLAND, ARDROSSAN (by kind permission of the R.S.P.B.). Numbers limited to 12. Leader : R. G. Caldow. Meet Ardrossan Harbour 6.30 p.m. Boat fare 5s. Applications by 1st June to Mrs Hutchison (address above).

Saturday 15th June. HORSE ISLAND, ARDROSSAN (by kind permission of the R.S.P.B.). Numbers limited to 12. Leader : R. G. Caldow. Meet Ardrossan Harbour 2 p.m. (tea). Boat fare 5s. Applications by 1st June to Mrs Hutchison (address above).

Saturday 29th June. BASS ROCK (by kind permission of Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple). Numbers limited to 12 per boat. Boats leave North Berwick Harbour at 12 noon and 1 p.m., returning 7 and 7.30 p.m. (tea). Tickets, about 12s, will be purchased on the boat. Applications by 1st June to Mrs Hutchison (address above).

Saturday 6th July. BASS ROCK. Arrangements as for 29th June.

INVERNESS

All excursions by private cars. Applications to Outings Secretary, Mrs W. Morrison, 83 Dochfour Drive, Inverness (tel. 32666).

Sunday 12th May. COVESEA CLIFFS. Leader : Miss Janet Banks. Leave Station Square, Inverness, 10 a.m. (lunch and tea).

Saturday 25th May. MUNLOCHY BAY HERONRY. Leader : Mrs W. Morrison. Leave Ness Bank Church, Riverside, Inverness, 2 p.m. (tea).

Sunday 2nd June. INSHRIACH FOREST, SPEYSIDE. Leader : H. A. Maxwell. Leave Station Square 10 a.m. (lunch and tea).

Sunday 16th June. TARBAT NESS, DORNOCH FIRTH. Leader : C. G. Headlam. Leave Station Square 10 a.m. (lunch and tea).

ST ANDREWS

Applications. not later than one week before each excursion, to Miss M. M. Spire, 4 Kinburn Place, St Andrews (tel. 523).

Saturday 18th May. KILCONQUHAR LOCH (subject to permission from Elie Estates). Meet North Lodge 2.30 p.m. (tea).

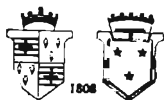
Sunday 26th May. ST SERF'S ISLAND (subject to permission from the Nature Conservancy). With the Warden. Numbers limited. Applications must be made by 18th May (lunch and tea).

Sunday 16th June. AN ANGUS GLEN (provisionally GLEN ESK). Cars leave St Andrews bus station 9 a.m. (lunch and tea).

Saturday 22nd June. TENTSMUIR. Cars leave St Andrews bus station 2.30 p.m. (tea).

GLASGOW BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Glasgow Branch will be held in the Berkeley Restaurant, North Street, Glasgow, on Friday, 29th March 1968 at 7 for 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 25s, obtainable from the Branch Secretary, Mrs Hutchison, 27 Northbank Road, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow.



SUTHERLAND ARMS HOTEL

**GOLSPIE
SUTHERLAND
SCOTLAND**

Telephone : Golspie 216

Situated on the main North Road near the sea, Golspie offers invigorating open air holidays to all.

In addition to its unique golf course, it has fine loch fishings, sea bathing, tennis, bowls, hill climbing, unrivalled scenery, including inexhaustible subjects for the field sketcher and artist and is an ornithologist's paradise. It is, indeed, impossible to find elsewhere so many natural amenities in so small a compass.

The B.T.O. Regional Representative, who lives in the village, will be pleased to offer local advice regarding the astonishing diversity of bird life in the vicinity and to receive lists of birds from visitors.

The Hotel is fully modern, but retains its old world charm of other days, and enjoys a wide renown for its comfort and fine cuisine.

Fully descriptive brochures, including birdwatching, will gladly be forwarded on request. Central Heating.

Proprietor, Mrs F. HEXLEY

A.A. R.A.C. R.S.A.C.

Garage & Lock-ups available

THE BOAT HOTEL



Set amidst mountain and moorland scenery, the Boat Hotel, with its reputation for comfort and good food, is an ideal centre for studying birds—the Ospreys at Loch Garten are only three miles away, and this is the country for Crested Tit, Crossbill, Capercaillie and much besides. Also ideal for photography, fishing and climbing. 18-hole golf course 2 minutes from hotel. Permits available for the river Spey. Under ownership of Mr and Mrs James Harris. Reduced rates for children.

BOAT OF GARTEN Inverness-shire

Books wanted by A. T. Macmillan, 12 Abinger Gardens, Edinburgh 12 :

Pre-1800 and later Scot. topography, esp. with bird lists

Old books on St Kilda, Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney

Old Statistical Acct. of Scot. Mitchell & Cash Bibliography of Scottish Topography

Stewart Ronay and St Kilda Papers

Holbourn or Powell on Foula Laing Voyage to Spitzbergen

Svensson Lonely Isles

Bedford Birdwatcher's Diary Seton Gordon Hebridean Memories and Highlands of Scotland

Omond How to know Orkney Birds Millais Surface-feeding Ducks and Diving Ducks

Booth Rough Notes

Scot. Nat. pre-1892, esp. 1885-91

Good runs of Scottish nat. hist. societies' journals

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.

Bird Books



Please support

The Scottish Centre for Ornithology
and Bird Protection

by buying all your new Bird Books from

THE BIRD BOOKSHOP

21 REGENT TERRACE
EDINBURGH, 7

Managed by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club,
profits help to maintain services to ornithology
at the Scottish Centre

We offer expert advice on the largest and most
comprehensive choice of bird books in Scotland

We stock Peterson's American "Field Guides"

ALL BOOKS SENT POST FREE

Terms: Strictly cash with order

Ask for the latest Price List and Catalogue

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."

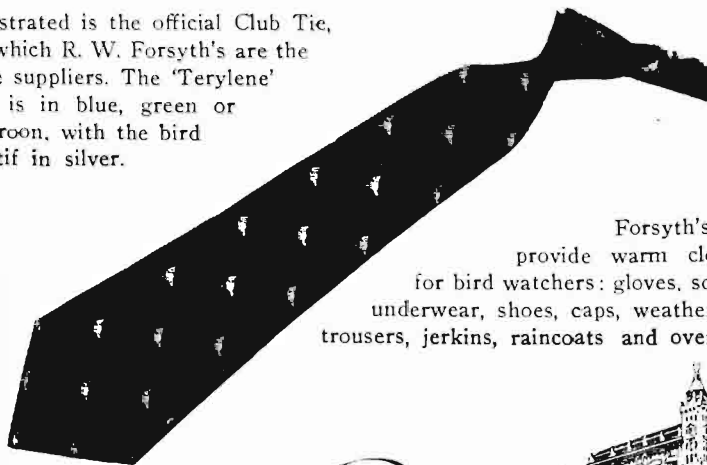
An official tie in dark green, navy or maroon terylene, embroidered with small crested tits in white, can be obtained by Members only from the Club Secretary, at a cost of 17s 6d. A brooch in silver and blue is also available to Members, price 3s 6d, from the Club Secretary or from Hon. Branch Secretaries.

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).

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club Tie

Illustrated is the official Club Tie, of which R. W. Forsyth's are the sole suppliers. The 'Terylene' tie is in blue, green or maroon, with the bird motif in silver.



Forsyth's also provide warm clothing for bird watchers: gloves, scarves, underwear, shoes, caps, weatherproof trousers, jerkins, raincoats and overcoats.



R. W. FORSYTH LTD. PRINCES STREET EDINBURGH WAV 3333 AND AT GLASGOW

Cliff House

Residential Club

Dunwich

In walking distance of
Minsmere Bird Sanctuary

Open from Easter till the
end of September

Good food
Packed lunches available
Comfortable rooms, H. & C.
Club Licence

Telephone: Westleton 282

Tigh Fasgaidh

ERBUSAIG

KYLE OF LOCHALSH
ROSS-SHIRE

A new Centre for birdwatchers in magnificent country. Within 3 miles of Kyle, close to the sea, there is a wealth of bird life and glorious walking country. The house is very comfortable, the food good. Packed lunches. There is an excellent bird library and assistance is given to birdwatchers where required.

Write Miss M. S. van Oostveen,
or Mrs Houston
Phone Kyle 4243

A SELECTION OF NEW AND USED BINOCULARS SPECIALLY RECOMMENDED BY MR FRANK

The Frank-Nipole range of Prismatic Binoculars is made in Japan to our own specifications. The standard of construction is extremely high and performance compares favourably with much more expensive binoculars. Each binocular carries our 7 Year Written Guarantee.

Each of the following models has features of special interest to the bird watcher:

10 x 50, centre focus, coated. Wt. 36 ozs. This is by far the most popular of the range and is ideal for all general viewing purposes. £5.10.0 (w/case).

8 x 30 model. Wt. 18 ozs. £10.19.6 (w/case).

From the new range of Frank-Nipole Miniature Prismatics, we can recommend the 7 x 18 PET. This is a beautiful little glass which can be carried in pocket or handbag. Price with soft zip pouch £14.14.0.

The rather larger miniature 10 x 40 weighing 18½ ozs. is offered at £15.15.0 (w/case).



A specialist Binocular for the bird watcher. The Swift AUDUBON 8.5 x 44 designed to the specification of the World renowned Audubon Society of America. Unusually wide field of 445 ft. at 1000 yards. Extra close focusing down to 12 ft. enables feeding activities etc. to be watched as from 18 ins. Included amongst other features are retractable eyecups for spectacle users, built-in adaptor to suit any camera tripod. This outstanding binocular has easy positive focusing by cylindrical control, weighs 58.4 oz. and the height closed is 6½ ins. Price with fine leather case £42.10.0.

Among good British glassees, we have no hesitation in suggesting the ROSS 9 x 35 STEPTOVA. Compact and weighing only 21 oz. Price £45.4.9.

For wildfowling, etc. we can recommend the Day and Night 7 x 50 Canadian Naval Binocular (Bausch & Lomb) £24. Also the new Russian 7 x 50 at £17.19.6.

The Swift PANORAMIC 7 x 35 Binocular is an excellent general purpose glass which has extra large prisms for a tremendous field of view. Price £34.10.0 (w/case).

Also available—the Swift SARATOGA 8 x 40 at £19.10.0 (w/case).

We stock binoculars by Zeiss, Leitz, Barr & Stroud, Swift, etc.

Britain's greatest stocks of new and used ex-Govt. Binoculars, Telescopes and Navigational Equipment. Actual makers of Astronomical Telescopes.

Any instrument willingly sent on approval

SEND FOR NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE CHARLES FRANK LTD.

145 QUEEN ST., GLASGOW C1

STD 041-221 6666

YOUNG BIRD WATCHERS

of up to 18 years of age qualify for special price concession. Details on request.

TELESCOPES—Just a mention of the portable NICKEL SUPRA TELESCOPE. It zooms from 15x to 60x with 60 mm. O.G. and is a truly remarkable instrument. Price £39.19.0.

Any Instrument willingly sent on approval.