

SCOTTISH BIRDS



THE JOURNAL OF THE
SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Volume 6 No 2

SUMMER 1970

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LOST—Bound volumes of 'Scottish Birds' —an urgent appeal for help

There has been an unfortunate muddle in the binding of copies of volume 5 of *Scottish Birds*. As a result, the editor has received back from the binder someone else's volumes; his own personal volume and the editorial copy have both been lost. It seems that other people have also received the wrong copies. If you had volume 5 bound, will you please check that you have received back your own copy (annotated or unmarked, as the case may be). The editor's and editorial copies are both annotated and may be recognised from the fact that at the top of the editorial page of each issue the date of receipt is written into the heading in ink. If you have got the wrong copy it would be very much appreciated if you would let the club secretary or the editor know so that matters may be put right. In particular, the editors are very anxious to recover their copies, these being in a sense the tools of their trade.

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Vol. 6 No. 2

Summer 1970

Edited by A. T. Macmillan, assisted by D. G. Andrew

Editorial

New editor. Many readers will know that the SOC has been seeking a new editor for *Scottish Birds*. It can be very rewarding and satisfying to be responsible for such a journal, even if one's principal function is often to remain unobtrusively in the background easing other people's work into print. But it calls also for a great deal of spare time, something that gets progressively scarcer as the responsibilities and demands of a growing family crowd upon one. Thus it was, with considerable regret, that we eventually bowed to the inevitable, asking that the Council should appoint a new editor and allow us to slip into retirement. In Tom Delaney they have found a most enthusiastic and experienced successor. In the coming months he will be picking up the threads of the work, with a view to taking over completely before the end of the year. We trust he will find his time in office as worthwhile as we always have; we appeal to all Scottish ornithologists to give him their fullest support in a difficult job; and we wish him every success with it.

SOC subscriptions. As approved last year and detailed in the spring issue (*Scot. Birds* 6: 56), SOC membership subscriptions go up this autumn (except for those who have joined the club since 1st November 1969 and are already on the new scale) by relatively modest amounts considering the extraordinary length of time since the previous rise, the present level of subscriptions to other organisations, and the benefits of membership. We sincerely hope no one will grudge the small extra cost. What has made it possible to continue so long at the old level has been the club's steadily expanding membership; the clear moral is that it is in everyone's interest to be on the lookout for potential new members at all times (descriptive leaflets and application forms may be had from the club secretary). The other painless way to help offset rising costs is by buying all one's new bird books from the SOC Bird Bookshop (at no extra cost, as the bookshop pays the postage).

(To smooth the way for the collection of subscriptions in the autumn everyone with a banker's order or deed of covenant has been approached with a request to revise it in line with the new arrangements. Most

people have now done so, but apparently some members have not yet responded; it would be thoughtful if they did so now, and thus saved the club secretariat the most tedious work of writing about small unpaid balances of 1970/71 subscriptions.)

Scottish Bird Report 1969

Compiled by ANDREW T. MACMILLAN

(Plates 5-8)

This 1969 report follows that for 1968 (*Scot. Birds* 5: 302-356), the first of a new series, and it is compiled on the same principles, though working out somewhat longer. We are sorry for its late appearance, a product basically of the very large volume of material handled.

What we have tried to produce, so far as the information is available, is an unbiased record of changes in status and of the year's patterns of migration. Much of what is included may be felt to make heavy reading, but we firmly believe that its value as a source of reference will continue to grow as succeeding reports become available for comparison. We have not usually attempted to define the ordinary status of a species (for which see mainly Rintoul & Baxter *The Birds of Scotland* 1953), because of the difficulty of covering so large and varied an area as Scotland in a line or two, but the text should indicate clearly which species breed in Scotland.

Time does not permit us to prepare a day-by-day account of the year, nor have we the capacity to consider its outstanding features in relation to the weather. We have thought it more important to concentrate on getting the material sorted and published, in a single species list, so that those who wish to rearrange and analyse it may be provided with the basic data from which to work. As before, the most continuous series of records comes from Fair Isle; there is also a nice tie-up with Shetland material this year, often from several islands at once, with migration simultaneously recorded in some detail on Fetlar, Whalsay, Out Skerries, Unst, Foula and elsewhere. Good cover was obtained along the east coast, from Orkney, Aberdeen, East Fife, the Isle of May and elsewhere; and also substantial volumes of material from Speyside, Kinross, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, as well as more locally elsewhere.

Emphasis in the report is on the commoner birds, and on distribution and migration rather than behaviour, but all species known to have occurred during the year are listed, including some interesting escaped cage birds. Rarities within the scope of the *British Birds* Rarities Committee have been accepted by the committee unless noted as still subject to a

decision. So far as possible, all other records have also been vetted, particularly those that seem most unusual, but it is unlikely that no bad ones have slipped into the report. There is also a risk of transcription errors as details move from observer to recorder to compiler to printer, and we will be glad to learn of anything to be corrected next year. Some additions and corrections for 1968 are given at the end of this report.

Various ringing recoveries have been quoted, rather haphazardly, where we received details and thought them of special interest, but it is not really practicable to obtain and use all the interesting information of this kind that accumulates each year. We would suggest reading the regular ringing reports in *British Birds* in conjunction with these Scottish Bird Reports for a full picture of what has been happening in Scotland during the year.

Although we have no wish to discourage readers from working their own way right through the report, it is perhaps appropriate to mention some of the more interesting occurrences during the year; 292 full species are mentioned in the species list, 18 more than for 1968.

About eight pairs of Ospreys had nests in 1969, four laying, and rearing six young. Wrynecks bred for the first time, at at least three sites, but neither Bluethroat nor Little Ringed Plover did so this year. Three more nesting pairs of Fieldfares in the north brought the Scottish total to at least five, and many Redwings bred, in known and new localities. Wood Sandpipers were scarce in summer and they and the south Scotland Black-tailed Godwits may not have bred, while numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were down by half. Snowy Owls nested for the third year on Fetlar but reared only one chick, and Fair Isle lost its introduced White-tailed Eagles. Operation Seafarer, among other finds, discovered a new ganetry on the Flannans.

Passerine summer visitors were often late in arriving, and scarce, especially Whitethroats. Passage in early May included spectacular arrivals at Fair Isle on the 3rd—45 Wrynecks, 1500 Tree Pipits and 32 Oortolan Buntings. The Black-browed Albatross was back at the Bass Rock for a third summer, but much more briefly, and probably accounted for sightings elsewhere. Great numbers of Sooty Shearwaters (up to 1000 in a day) were recorded on autumn passage in Orkney, and there was a big movement of Kittiwakes off the Aberdeen coast; it was a good autumn for Little Stints and, especially, Curlew Sandpipers, and Redwing passage in mid October was exceptionally heavy. Waxwings fortunately gave us a miss this year, but there were huge influxes of large northern gulls at Fair Isle in late-autumn storms, including up to 300 Glaucous Gulls

(mostly adults) on 24th November, and large numbers also in Shetland.

Sincere thanks are due to all who have contributed to this report, whether with notes or photographs or by acting as local recorders. At the latest count, over 510 contributors are listed in the key to their initials; about half of the 450 contributors to the 1968 report feature again this year, but not far short of 300 appear for the first time. The increased number makes it progressively more awkward to separate those with only one Christian name, and the problem is even spreading to those with more (we have three RSBs this time). The local recorders bear the brunt of collecting and sorting the records, and without their very considerable efforts no report would be possible. Unfortunately, this year, records were sent in less promptly than last, which led to severe delays and increased the burden on local recorders. May we appeal for all 1970 records to be sent promptly. Much bird activity is on the wane after October (migration is largely over for the year), and it would help greatly to have all records for the first 10 months of the year sent in during November; local recorders are then able to get ahead sorting and checking them while they have time, so that all that has to be done in January is to add the few records for November and December. Rarities should of course continue to be submitted as early as possible without waiting for the end of the year.

In compiling the report we have again been very terse, to keep within a reasonable number of pages, and we have abbreviated months, counties and other words, and omitted most qualifications such as "near" and "about". References in the form (5 : 302) are to the pages of *Scottish Birds*. English and scientific nomenclature follows the same rules as last year (5 : 304), and an asterisk indicates that all known records are included.

Local recorders for 1970

- Shetland (except Fair Isle)** R. J. Tulloch, Reafirth, Mid Yell, Shetland.
Fair Isle R. H. Dennis, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.
Orkney E. Balfour, Isbister House, Rendall, Orkney.
Outer Hebrides (except St Kilda) W. A. J. Cunningham, Aros, 10 Barony Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.
St Kilda Dr I. D. Pennie, Bonhard Place, Bo'ness, West Lothian.
Caithness D. M. Stark, 2 Harland Road, Castletown, Thurso, Caithness.
Sutherland, Ross-shire (except Black Isle) D. Macdonald, Elmbank, Dornoch, Sutherland.
Inverness-shire (within 18 miles of Inverness) Ross-shire (Black Isle only)
 Dr Maeve Rusk, Arniston, 51 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.
Inverness-shire (mainland more than 18 miles from Inverness) Hon. D. N. Weir, English Charlie's, Rothiemurchus, Aviemore, Inverness-shire.
Nairnshire, Morayshire, Banffshire J. Edelsten, 14 South High Street, Portsoy, Banffshire, AB4 2NT.
Aberdeenshire, North Kincardineshire N. Picozzi, Nature Conservancy, Blackhall, Banchory, Kincardineshire, AB3 3PS, and W. Murray, Cul-

- terty Field Station, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB4 OAA.
South Kincardineshire, Angus G. M. Crighton, 23 Church Street, Brechin, Angus.
Perthshire Miss V. M. Thom, 19 Braeside Gardens, Perth.
Kinross-shire J. H. Swan, Vane Farm Reserve, Kinross.
Isle of May Miss N. J. Gordon, Nature Conservancy, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS.
Fife (east of A90) D. W. Oliver, 4 Lawview Cottages, Abercrombie, St Monance, Fife.
Fife (west of A90), Clackmannanshire, East Stirlingshire T. D. H. Merrie, West Faerwood, Stirling Road, Dollar, Clackmannanshire.
West Lothian Dr T. C. Smout, 19 South Gillsland Road, Edinburgh EH10 5DE.
Fourth Islands (except May), Midlothian R. W. J. Smith, 33 Hunter Terrace, Loanhead, Midlothian.
East Lothian, Berwickshire K. S. Macgregor, 16 Merchiston Avenue, Edinburgh EH10 4NY.
Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire A. J. Smith, Glenview, Selkirk.
Clyde faunal area, North Argyllshire, Skye, Inner Hebrides Prof. M. F. M. Meiklejohn, 16 Athole Gardens, Glasgow W2.
Dumfriesshire J. G. Young, Benvannoch, Glencaple, Dumfriesshire.
Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtownshire A. D. Watson, Barone, Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Boundaries are shown in 'The Birds of Scotland'. Note that Skye and the Hebrides are treated separately from the counties in which they lie.

Key to observers' initials

D. Y. Abbey, A. F. Airey, A. Allison (AA), A. Anderson (AA), D. R. Anderson, J. A. Anderson, Mrs M. D. Anderson, W. Anderson (WAN), D. G. Andrew, J. S. Annand, I. H. Armstrong, K. Armstrong, W. Arthur (WAR), I. C. Audsley, W. Austin (WA).

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B. Unwin, D. Urquhart, L. A. Urquhart.

N. van Swelm, W. Veitch, J. D. R. Vernon.

I. Waddington (IWA), J. Wagstaff (JWg), J. Walker (JWa), R. Walker (RW), D. I. M. Wallace, W. W. Wardrop, I. Wares (IW), C. N. Warren, E. Warren, Dr A. Watson (AWa), A. D. Watson, A. J. Watson, J. Watt (JW), C. R. Wedgwood, Hon. D. N. Weir, T. Weir, Count H. G. Westarp, I. S. Wheatley, G. T. White, Mrs J. A. Whyte, E. J. Williams (EJWi), M. Williams (MW), A. Williamson (AW), Miss M. Williamson (MWi), S. Williamson, W. Williamson (WWi), D. P. Willis, G. Wilmett, C. Wilson, J. Wilson (JWi), M. G. Wilson, Lt.-Cdr. R. Wilson (RWi), W. Wilson (WW), E. J. Wiseman (EJW), K. Wood, D. B. Wooldridge, W. C. Wright, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Dr E. I. Young, J. A. Young, J. F. Young, J. G. Young, L. Young.

B. Zonfrillo, P. Zwitzer.

Species List

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*. Pre-migration moulting parties in usual Shet places included 24 Mid Yell 1 May and 45 Quendale Bay 11 May (15 on 21st) (RJT); 18 were at Rattray Head, Aber, 12 May (MW). July records away from N and NW : 2 Lunan Bay, Angus, 3rd (GMC); 6 Tiree 1st-2nd (MJE, JGr). First post-breeding family party Fetlar 18 Aug (ARM); first of autumn at Fair Isle 28th and 31 Aug (RHD).

***White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*. One dead Aberdeen 24 Mar (BBR), first for Dee; 1 Whalsay, Shet, 4-7 May (WAR, JHSi); both subject to acceptance by the Rarities Committee.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*. No reported changes in breeding status. First of autumn : 5 Gullane Pt, E Loth, 16 Aug (JMo). Others included : 1 West Voe of Skellister, Shet, where few records, 3-10 Sep (DC, JHSi); W Ross, 25 Opinan Bay and 10 Red Pt, 6 Sep (substantial numbers evidently frequent this coast, where it is commonest diver in autumn and winter) (ENH); 10 Sands of Forvie, Aber, 1 Nov (MJHC). Inland winter : 1 Black Loch, Lochinch, Wig, 31 Dec (JKRM, ADW, AJW, JGY).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*. Apparently increasing N Suth (EGH). As 1967/68, some in winter Shet, mainly tidal streams between islands, moving to voes late Feb/early Mar, 20 Weisdale Voe 27 Feb (DC, RJT). Oiled birds included singles inland : L Leven, Kinross, 27 Jan in poor condition (AA, JHS); Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, 23 Mar obviously distressed (DWO); Rosebery Reservoir, Midl, also 23 Mar, dead (RWJS).

12 Oldshoremore Bay, W Suth, 16 June (DRS). Small passage late Aug/early Sep Tarbat Ness, E Ross (CJMCK-G). Peak 74 Montrose, Angus, 30 Sep (GMC). Inland : 1 Yetholm, Rox, 27 Oct after SW gales (RSB); 1 Craigmaddie Reservoir, W Stir, 15 Nov (RGN, DJN).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. Breeding success poor in Gallo-way (ADW, JGY); but some indication of increase Tweed, breeding Fruid Reservoir, Peeb, where eggs left by falling water level (LAU), successfully Lindean Reservoir, Selkirk (AJS), and Alemoor Reservoir, Rox (JB); slight increase Kilconquhar, Fife, but no success (DWO), and at Morton Lochs 24 birds 30 Mar led to 5 prs breeding but only 1 young fledged (CST); 2 L Leven, Kinross, again failed to breed (AA, JHS); pr with young Ardnave Loch, Islay, June, first breeding I Heb (DJS).

At Leith, Midl, 500 early Jan (RWJS), 1100 on 8 Mar (DGA), 500 on 8 Dec (DLC). 1 Fair Isle 8-20 May, first there for 11 yrs (RHD), same time as 1 Calfrith, Shet, where rare, 16 May (DC); 1 close inshore St Kilda 30 June (LNC), first record; 2 Corpach July (RAH), first for S Inv. Back on L Arthur, Kirk, 25 Jan (RBT); 1 Gladhouse, Midl, 26th (then frozen out till 30 Mar) (DGA). On sea, 1 Sandhead, Wig, by 12 June (RCD), 6 Lunan Bay, Angus, 19 June (GMC); but 1 still inland L Ken, Kirk, 21 Nov (ADW). Small influx L Leven, Kinross, late summer, maximum 8 on 19 Sep (AA, JHS). At Musselburgh, Midl, 24 on 6 Aug, rose to 95 on 13 Sep, but fewer Oct (JB, DIMW).

***Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps griseigena*. No spring records, though usually more than autumn. Recorded 9 Aug onwards thus : Ork, 1 S Ronaldsay 19 Oct (EJWi); Aber, 2 Br of Don 22 Oct-1 Nov (MAMcD); Midl, 5 Musselburgh 22 Oct (DIMW); E Loth, 1 Gullane Pt 9 Aug, 2 on 16 Aug, 1-2 on 7 dates to 8 Nov (JADH, DCS, EMS, RWJS), 2 Gosford Bay 12 Sep, 6 Dec (DJ, DCS); Wig, 1 S of the Wig, L Ryan, 31 Dec (JKRM, ADW, AJW, JGY).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. First 8 on breeding loch E Inv 23 Mar (THJ), maximum 41 on nearby loch 18 Oct (MIH); first at Caith breeding loch 7 Apr, peak 12 on 13 June (DG).

Inland winter : 1 L Voil, Perth, 26 Jan (TCS). Spring Shet Mainland : 3 on 16 Feb, 6 on 27 Feb, 14 on 26 Mar (DC), last 9 on 14 Apr (PKK); also 1 Kilconquhar, Fife, 5 Apr (DWO). Autumn : 1 L Leven, Kinross, 6 Aug (AA, JHS); first L Spiggie, Shet, 28 Aug (DC).

***Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*. At E of two established colonies in central lowlands first bird 2 Mar, 2 on 23rd, 7 on 2 Apr, 11 on 14th, fair to good success, 3 broods seen 30 June. No report from other site; but pr with up to 3 chicks 29 June-20 Aug at site between other two (anon).

Early months : 12 Soleburn, L Ryan, Wig, 18 Jan most there since 22 seen from ferry in 1965 (RCD); 1 Southernness, Kirk, 2 Mar (AAB, DLC, RJHR). Others from 17 Aug : S Inv, 1 Arisaig 5 Oct on sea with Little Grebes (DNW); Skye, 1 Teangue 20 Aug (MPS); Midl, 1 Gladhouse 17th

and 31 Aug, 1 Cobbinshaw 18 Oct (EMS, RWJS), 1 Newhaven 25 Dec (TD); E Loth, 2 Gullane Pt 11 Oct (MFMM); Rox, 1 Hoselaw Loch Nov-Dec (RSB); Wig, 6 between Stranraer and the Wig 31 Dec (JKRM, ADW, AJW, JGY).

Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis*. None Yetholm Loch, Rox, though regular breeder 1967 and earlier (RSB). In E Loth bred Aberlady for first time (MJE). Good numbers reared Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO), though little success L Leven, Kinross (JHS). Fewer Balranald, N Uist (DH), and Lewis (WAJC) than 1968. Most breeders back at Kilconquhar 23 Mar (DWO); first back L Garten, E Inv, that day (HB). Also, on passage, 3 Boddam, Shet, 23 Mar (RJT); then singles, Tresta, Shet, 25 Mar (DC), Fair Isle 8 Apr, 11 May (RHD), Whalsay, Shet, 21 May (JHSi). One on sea L. Shieldaig, W Ross, by 16 July (ENH); 1 Sei Water, Shet, 24 July (DC). Common on sea Arisaig, S Inv, 5 Oct (DNW); other reports of small winter numbers on coast E Inv, S Inv, Midl, E Stir, Renf, Ayr.

***Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophrys*. Bass Rock bird there for third summer: seen 6 mls off St Abbs Head, Ber, 28 Feb (DMcL); only 4 sightings at Bass, 10 Apr-3 May (FM); probably same bird Elie Ness 23 Aug (ITD, MMD), first record S Fife. One Hoy 13 Aug (6: 26) (KJ, MJ, NvS), first for Ork and the first specifically identified albatross outwith the Forth.

***Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. No reports from breeding islands. One caught at night Fair Isle 31 July, 1 on crossing 23 Sep (RHD). One dead in seabird wreck Doonfoot 30 Sep noted as first in Ayr for 17 yrs (GAR); 1 dead Dounreay, Caith, 1 Oct (PJ).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Over 1700 mistnetted Fetlar, Shet, included 51 ringed there 1968 (and 1 from 1966), 5 from Foula (1967-68) and 3 from Fair Isle (1967-68) (ARM). Seen on Fair Isle crossing 27 May-1 Oct, first ashore 21 June (RHD). Regular Thurso Bay, Caith, in summer, even in fine weather (PJ, DMS). One dead on beach Usan, Angus, 6 Apr (GMC); 1 alive by coastal house Strath, W Ross, 16 Oct after SW gale (ENH); 1 Ardnamurchan lighthouse, N Arg, overnight 24 Oct (JC).

Manx Shearwater *Procellaria puffinus*. Little data on island colonies, but up to 150 frequently offshore at dusk near Fetlar, Shet, colony (ARM). Small numbers apparently bred Hoy, the one Ork site, and breeding suspected Westray (EB).

Usual summer records outer Firth of Forth; 50, 6, 11 Isle of May 12-14 Sep (AFL); 32 noted from ship to Leith, Midl, 13 Sep (JMo); 13 flew E 27 Sep Burntisland, Fife (JMC). Flying N at Rattray Head, Aber, from 15/hr on 18 Apr to 21/hr on 22 Aug and 58/hr on 24th (MW); also 16 Collieston, Aber, 29 July, and a few there and Buchan Ness 3-4 Aug (LHC, JAL, BP); E Ross, 17 Chanonry Pt 2 Aug (RAH), 4 N at Tarbat Ness 3 Sep (CJMCK-G); Caith, 25 N at Noss Head 23 July (DMS); Ork, 10 passing Brough of Birsay 10 Sep (EJWi); W Suth, where few records, 3 N at Stoer Pt 30 Aug (CJMCK-G). In SW 25 noted 2 mls off Portpatrick, Wig, 16 July (JFG). Very late bird flying N off Red Head, Angus, 7 Dec (MN).

Good description provided of **Balearic Shearwater** *P. p. mauretanicus* flying S at Fife Ness 18 Aug and 3 N on 19th (MEG, PAL, PHS); there is one previous Scottish record (*Scot. Nat.* 1916: 249)—a bird shot in the Forth 19 Aug 1874—and there was one 65 mls W of S Uist on 10 Sep 1966 (*Ibis* 110: 3).

***Great Shearwater** *Procellaria gravis*. Several Rockall area, a usual haunt, 10 Nov, late date (RWi). Otherwise 16 July-5 Aug thus: 3 with Manx 2 mls W of Portpatrick, Wig, 16 July (JFG); 3 with Manx off Tarbert, L. Fyne, 24 July (MLSS), first for S Arg; 1 off Foula, Shet, 28 July (PKK); 8 N at Rattray Head, Aber, in 1½ hrs 3 Aug, 2 N on 5th (MW).

***Sooty Shearwater** *Procellaria griseus*. Early one Fair Isle crossing 2

May (RHD); otherwise 15 July-29 Oct. Spectacular numbers Dennis Head, Ork, sea watches Sep 7th (990), 9th (180), 10th (515), 11th (650), 12th (170), 13th (940), 15th (700), 21st (200), 22nd (800-1000 feeding all day, up to 600-800 at once), 23rd (780, all day round Seal Skerry), 28th (550), under 30 daily in early Oct declined to last 4 on 29th, great majority flying W except when feeding (BSD, DVJ, EJW, DBW). Elsewhere: Shet, offshore late July and Aug (per RJT), reports from Whalsay boats 20-31 Aug (JHSi); Fair Isle, from 15 July, 159 passed island 13 Aug-26 Sep, peaks Aug 15th (21), 16th (17), 23rd (45), 24th (25), 28th (13), rather few on crossing but 5 on 2 Sep and late one 21 Oct (RHD); Ork, 49 W in 3 hrs Brough of Birsay 6 Sep, 22 E on 13 Sep (EJWi); Aber, 2 Buchan Ness 3 Aug (LHC, JAL, BP), 1 N at Collieston 6 Sep (NP), and at Rattray Head 12 N/hr 22 Aug, 26 N/hr 23 Aug, 2 N/hr 29 Sep (MW); Angus, 1 N at Arbroath 23 Aug (MN); Fife Ness, 3 N 15 Aug, 2 N 18th, 3 N 19th, 3 N 23rd, 1 N 29th, 4 N and 1 S 30th, 1 N 15 Sep (AGG, MEG, JADH, PAL, DWO, PHS); Isle of May, Sep 12th (1), 13th (7), 15th (2), 25th-26th (1) (AFL, RKMCG); W Loth, 8 flew up Forth at Hound Pt 18 Oct (RMB), first for county. Only records from W coast: 1 Reiff, W Ross, 7 Aug (RAH); 1 dead Uig, O Heb, 8 Oct (WAJC).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. Continues increase Shet, e.g. 12,000-13,000 prs Fetlar (ARM, RJT); increasing and spreading O Heb (WAJC); bred new site Munloch Bay, E Ross (MKMcD-D); increase to 46 prs Isle of May (30 in 1968) (NJG). Pre-laying dispersal Fair Isle 7-25 May (RHD). Young birds wrecked Caith 1 Sep after violent gale, 50 (24 alive) on Dunnet beach (PJ).

Movement 200 N at Arbroath, Angus, 22 Feb (MN); 220 N at Fife Ness in 1½ hrs 30 Aug (AGG); large movements N at Rattray Head, Aber, 22-23 Aug, peaks 1110/hr 22nd, 1563/hr 23rd (MW). W Ross movement 1-3 Sep along N shore Greenstone Pt, 25/hr on 3rd, from direction of Priest Island to headland N of Mellon Udrigle, coasting round Greenstone Pt to SW (JADH).

Inland: Benarty Crags, Kinross, 1 on 14 Apr, 2-4 on 25 Apr-5 July, with 5 on 3 dates from 22 June (AA, JHS); E Stir, 1 over Falkirk 10 July (MH); Midl, 1 Arthur's Seat 15 Apr (RM), 1 in York Pl, Edinburgh, 27 June (DGA). Blue-phase birds: 1 at Girvan colony, Ayr, 1 Feb (JTM); 1 flying S at Tarbat Ness, E Ross, 3 Sep (CJMCK-G).

Gannet *Sula bassana*. Small colony (under 20 nests) found Flannans, may have existed before 1969 (WC). Hermaness, Shet, colony continues to grow, with new group of about a dozen nests Toolie (RJT). At Fair Isle 3 on Sheep Rock late June and 4 on stack off Hoini 1 July were first healthy adults the warden had seen ashore (RHD). On 22 Feb 125 flew N at Arbroath, Angus (MN); in 3 hrs on 13 Sep 190 flew E at Brough of Birsay, Ork (EJWi). An adult well inland was picked up undamaged near Dunning, Perth, in mid June (JMa).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Changes compared with 1968 survey (5: 369): Kirk, 17 nests Meikle Ross 19 May (12 in 1968) (DSk), 2 nests Balcarray Pt, not certainly used since 1956, and 4 Hestan Island, used only 1962 (JGY); Wig, only 18 nests on 'Hippo', but increase to 64 on neighbouring cliffs near Garlieston (RHM); increase Clyde, 10 nests Ailsa Craig, Ayr, where 1-3 recently, and 16 Little Cumbrae, Bute (JAGi); W Ross, new colonies, 23 prs Longa Island off Gairloch (DRS), 20-30 nests still in Aug on Eilean Mullagrach (new one of Summer Isles) (WJE), 12-13 nests Rudha Duilich, NW of Achnahaird Bay, and 2 nests 1 ml NW (GMB); Caith, numbers apparently made good (after drop in 1968), with new parts of cliff at Ord used (DMS); Moray, pr bred Primrose Bay, Covesea, where reported also 1962 (DSm); Ber, nested Fast Castle, only one recent record for county (DMcD); O Heb, perhaps 30-50 nests Stockay colony 1968 (WJE), new colony Shillay, Sound of Harris, at

least 100 nests 1967 and 1968 (WJE); also at least 4 very small colonies (2 Shet, 2 off Skye) found by Operation Seafarer (DRS).

Spring movement Fair Isle 25 Mar-8 May (maximum 4), autumn 3 Aug-25 Oct, mainly 31 Aug-21 Sep, peaks 20-40 on 31 Aug, 3rd, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 21 Sep, 1 Oct, and 47 on 2 Oct (RHD). High autumn numbers upper Forth, maximum 70 Skinflats, E Stir, 29 Sep (DS). Other Forth counts: 160 Hound Pt, W Loth, 16 Feb (TCS); 200 off Cramond Island 28 Oct (DIMW); up to 300/hr moving Fife Ness some days Dec (DWO).

Inland: E Inv, usual mainly imm birds Speyside 16 Apr-20 May and Sep-Oct (DNW); Moray, minor influx 24, mostly imm, 15-24 Mar (THJ); Kinross, maximum L Leven 20 on 20 Jan (JL), 24 on 28 Mar (WW); Midl, with very low water 2 Gladhouse 31 Aug increased to 30 on 19 Oct (DGA, EMS, RWJS).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Small colonies between Ethie and S Sutor (MR), first breeding in E Ross; increase to 880 nests (800 in 1968) Isle of May (NJG); 4 nests Meikle Ross, Kirk, where few proven breeding records (NSRG). Started laying about 10 Apr Shet (RJT), though not till late May (very late) Isle of May (NJG); half-grown young still in Shet nests 24 Sep (ARM), an indication of the protracted breeding season of the species. Emigration from Fair Isle from late Aug, especially on 24th (RHD). Ten oiled on 2 mls beach Fife Ness 29 Mar (DWO). Three 20 Dec on Nith at Glencaple, Dumf, where scarce winter visitor (JGY).

Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Increased, at least 24 nests, and good breeding season Dalskaith, Wig (BST); slight increase small colony Carsphairn, Kirk (ADW); Endrick, W Stir, colony up from 19 to 22 nests (TMC, JMi); more sightings, though only one colony, Rox (RSB); colony formed with 3 prs 1960 Byrescleugh, Longformacus, Ber, increased against trend in SE Scotland to 15 prs 1969 (AC); nest Mountblairy, Banff, new site (AFWS); little-known colony near Boat of Garten, E Inv, over 30 prs nesting in two groups (mostly successful in large group, none so in smaller one), average 2.9-3.1 young fledged from successful nests (DNW); but decreased Ork, with only 2 nests on cliffs Lyra Geo, Yesnaby (EB); and much poorer breeding season than usual Dumf (JGY).

Fair Isle passage to 19 May and from 5 July, mainly from 23 July, peaks 10-13 on 26th and 31 July, 5th and 29 Aug, 17 Sep and 2 Oct, only stragglers after 9 Oct (RHD); Isle of May maximum 9 on 18 Sep (RWS). In Midl, low water brought unusual number to Gladhouse, 9 on 5 Oct, increasing to 21 on 11 Nov (DGA, EMS, RWJS), and Glencorse, 6 on 25 Oct, 7 on 13 Nov (RMB). There were 26 at Lintrathen, Angus, on 9 Nov (JEF).

***Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*.** 1 Fair Isle 2-31 May had been ringed as 1967 chick in Holland (6: 27) (RHD), 6th Scottish record.

***Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.** 4 Lochdonhead, Mull, 12 Oct-20 Nov (when 3 only), probably later (MTdK, GSH, JWi), first for Argyll faunal area and N Arg; 1 Dunblane 26 Oct (MMa, DER), first for Forth and S Perth; 1 found dead (now in Glasgow Museum) L Portain, N Uist, O Heb, 29 Oct (RMcl per CEP).

***Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.** One frequented garden pond and bamboos Kilmaccolm, Renf, 23 Jan-2 Feb, seeming rather poorly (JDo, DMcR). In Dumf, singles Caerlaverock during Aug (per ELR), Lochmaben 27 Sep (HO), and Br of Ae 18th and 20 Oct (CH, HO).

***White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*.** Full-winged ad Milltimber and Balmedie, Aber, 15-20 Apr (REW, AR, JRo).

***Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*.** Ad Morton Lochs 2 Apr (PJC), first for N Fife.

***Flamingo sp.** Presumed escapes. Dingy off-white bird with no red plumage (perhaps 2, but not seen together) all summer from 18 May at

Norton, S Harris (RMcl, IMcl), and 2 L Bee, S Uist, July (per DH). Two escapes from Edinburgh Zoo (said to be Chilean *Phoenicopterus chilensis*) fed Musselburgh lagoons, Midl, from end Apr to early Oct, though one or both often away (RWJS), probably accounting for Chilean at Grange-mouth Docks, E Stir, 16-19 Aug (MH, DCS). Chilean bird Balmedie beach, Aber, and Ythan estuary 25 Aug (GMD, CHF, WM).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Good breeding season Kirk/Dumf reflected in high autumn/early winter numbers in many places, and at least 870 moulted Blackshaw Bank by 4 June (ADW, JGY); breeding numbers well above average Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO), but 1968 breeding not repeated on Isle of May (NJG), and poor breeding season L Leven, Kinross, with wet conditions throughout May and poor survival of ducklings (AA, JHS).

Small spring movement Fair Isle from 28 Feb, peak 6 on 17 Mar, in autumn from 4 Sep, mainly Oct-Nov, peaks 5 on 29 Sep, 17 on 22 Oct, 10 on 25 Oct and 25 Nov (RHD); E Ross, autumn numbers above average Cromarty Firth (CGH); Kinross, L Leven built up from late July to over 3000 mid Sep, and constantly over 2000 thereafter, with 2650 on 16 Nov, highest winter numbers for many years (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS); Midl, Gladhouse increased from 65 mid Aug to 1000 by 7 Sep, another influx to 2000 in first half Oct (DGA, EMS, RWJS). In Dumf, Wildfowl Count waters give poor idea of very large winter population, with 300 shot from one evening flight of 4000 over a group of ponds that are never counted, and up to 2000 regularly on flooded parts of Lochar Moss in late Dec (EBd, EBe, HO, JWg, JGY).

An ad ♀ ringed L Leven 21 May 1969 was recovered 235 mls SW in Co Westmeath, Eire, on 1 Dec (JHS).

Teal *Anas crecca*. No reported changes in breeding status; good breeding season Kirk, where spring peak (early Apr) was late (ADW). Small passage Fair Isle 12 Apr-28 May and 12 Aug-5 Nov, with 11 on 20 Sep, 8 on 21 Oct (RHD); E Ross early autumn counts Cromarty Firth higher than usual (CGH), and exceptional 1000 Skibo estuary, SE Suth, 10 Oct (DMcD); slow build-up L Leven, Kinross, from early Aug to 777 on 8 Oct (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS); Moorfoot reservoirs total doubled to 400 in last wk Sep (DGA, EMS, RWJS); scarce on shore Dumf Sep but 1500 on Nith estuary by early Nov (JGY); exceptionally high autumn peak 500 L Ken, Kirk, occurred early (mid Oct) (ADW), and numbers above usual in early autumn in lower Dee valley (EBd). Jan influx to Yetholm area, Rox, 94 Yetholm Loch, 70 Hoselaw Loch, 70 Clinton Bog (RSB).

***Garganey** *Anas querquedula*. Spring: 3 Endrick mouth, L Lomond, 15 Mar (AGG); 2 ♂♂ Caerlaverock, Dumf, 24 Apr (JGY); pr Possil Marsh, Glasgow, 24 May (DJN). Autumn: pr Barr Loch, Renf, 14-28 Aug (IG, RAJ, GTW), with extra ♂ 28 Aug (DLC); ♂ Rosslynlea Reservoir, Midl, 31 Aug-7 Sep (DGA, EMS, RWJS).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. Reasonable breeding season at main centre L Leven, Kinross, arriving from late Mar, highest count 36 on 4 Sep, less than 5 after 31 Oct (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS); probably bred E Fife at Cameron and/or Kilconquhar, where 8 on 29 June (RBT) and still 4 as late as 16 Nov (DWO); bred Sanday (EB), first time in Ork; 2 broods Balranald, O Heb, July (cf. 5: 315) (DH).

Very small numbers winter on Edinburgh lochs. First record for Islay was ♂ at mouth of R Sorn, Bridgend, 16 Feb (MFMM). Spring: pr Tynninghame, E Loth, 4 May (TB, EMS, RWJS); 4-5 in May-June at Skinflats (MH), first for E Stir; 2 Hillwell Loch 8th and 26 Apr, ♂ Garth Ness 4 May, both Shet (PKK). Autumn: ♂ Uig, O Heb, 5 Sep (EC, EK); 2 Blackdog, Aber, 1 Oct (WMM); ♀ Barr Loch, Renf, 25 Sep (RAJ); ♀ near Dee estuary, Kirk, 27 Sep (JS). Winter (Nov-Dec): Ork, ♂ shot near Kirkwall 28 Dec (EB); SE Suth, 2 Dornoch 15 Nov, 13 Dec (DMcD); Dunb/W Stir, 2 Endrick 3 Dec (HGC); Lan, ♂ Hogganfield Loch 16 Nov (RGN, DJN);

Dumf, 6 shot Sep-20 Nov Lochar Moss (JGY), ♂ shot Village of Ae 22 Nov (HO), 1 Caerlaverock 9 Nov (ELOC); Kirk, ♂ shot Lochrutton 27 Nov (JGY); Wig, 2 ♀♀ L Elrig 16 Nov (RHM).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*. Scattered breeding Ettrick/Ale complex (Tweed faunal area) indicates continued breeding S of L Leven, Kinross (see 5 : 312) (JLFP), where breeding season poor (JHS). Slight increase in small Ork breeding population (EB). Pr bred Balranald, O Heb (DH).

Last 240 Glencaple, Dumf, 4 May (JGY); main exodus Moorfoots, Midl, 23 Mar-6 Apr (DGA, EMS, RWJS); over 1200 L Leven, Kinross, late Feb decreased to breeding population by mid Apr (JHS); small spring passage Fair Isle to 15 May (RHD). Autumn movements there sporadically 13 Aug-25 Nov, 26 on 22 Oct (RHD); slow to build-up L Leven, only 58 on 8 Oct, more after that, and 725 from 15 Dec (AA, CRGC, JHS); first 3 Moorfoots 23 Aug, slow increase from 50 on 21 Sep to 200 on 2 Nov (DGA, EMS, RWJS); widespread Dumf in small numbers by 1 Sep, increased to 2000 on Nith estuary by 18 Sep (EBe, JGY).

Pintail *Anas acuta*. No definite proof of breeding anywhere in Scotland, even Kirk, where 5 prs 1968 (5 : 312) (ADW). Small spring movement Shet, 8 at 4 localities 1-8 May (DC, ARM, RJT). Summer : O Heb, pr Balranald 27 May, ♂ 19 June (DH), ♀ Lewis 24 June (TDR). Scattered autumn (from late Aug) and winter records, odd birds and small parties. Autumn build-up : Kinross, L Leven, 2 on 10 Sep, rose to 16 by 1 Oct (AA, JHS); Midl, first Gladhouse 31 Aug, maximum 9 on 2 Nov (DGA, EMS, RWJS); E Loth, maximum Tynninghame 9 on 24 Aug (TB, EMS, RWJS). Winter counts : E Inv, maximum 164 Longman Bay 9 Feb (MR); Angus, about 100 usually Montrose Basin (GMC); E Stir, Skinflats-Grangemouth, maximum 60 spring (DF, MH), 120 autumn (DS); Renf, maximum 42 Longheugh Pt 19 Oct, only half normal (IG); Kirk, 100 L Ken 2 Jan, still over 50 on 4 Apr (ADW); Dumf/Kirk, 1700 maximum Drumburn 22 Sep (JT, ADW), Drumburn/Carsethorn flock regularly flighted to Caerlaverock, and flight of 3000 ducks 14 Nov included 1700 Pintail with 700 Mallard, 400 Wigeon and 200 Teal (HO, JGY).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*. Breeders back 7 Apr Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO), and from early Apr L Leven, Kinross, where breeding poor (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS). Drake near Badachro 2-9 May, 2nd record W Ross (see 5 : 312) (ENH); about same time, small movement indicated by ♂ Fair Isle 26 Apr (RHD) and Shet records from Unst 28 Apr (ET) and Hillwell 4 May (2) and 7 May (3) (DC, PKK). Usual influx late June/early July Kilconquhar, Fife, peaking at 300 about mid July (DWO). Autumn/winter counts : Angus, 100 Forfar Loch 8 Oct (GMC); Perth, autumn peak Stormont 45 on 14 Sep, lower than last few yrs (5 : 312) (VMT); Kinross, following pattern of recent autumns, build-up again small, peak 48 on 1 Oct (JHS); E Stir, peak 22 Grangemouth docks 8 Dec (DF); Midl, peak 56 Duddingston 24 Sep (DRA); Rox, peak over 100 Hoselaw Loch by Nov (RSB); Dumf, peak 400-450 at low tide Priestfield-Powfoot by 21 Dec, such numbers probably annual but not always on Scottish side (RTS, JGY); Kirk, peak 60 L Ken 13 Oct (ADW).

***Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*. Feral flock still in Perth (5 : 312) (VMT).

Scaup *Aythya marila*. Pr bred W Mainland, Ork (EB); pr bred Balranald, O Heb (DH). Other May-Aug records : Ber, ♂ St Abbs Loch 3 May (KSMcG); Peeb, 2 ♂♂ Portmore 27 July, 3 Aug (DGA, EMS, RWJS); W Ross, ♂ L Coulin (inland) 17 May (JAW); W Suth, first record, 4 Handa 8 May (MJE); Caith, ♀ Dunnet 4 June (JARG); Shet, ♂ Clickhimin to 3 June (DC), ♂ Foula 5 May-8 June (JGH), pr Fetlar 21-22 June (ARM). Inland (not already noted) : Midl, ♀ Gladhouse 21 Dec (RWJS); Kinross, ♂ L Leven 21 Jan, 1st-W ♂ shot 26 Nov, and another 8 Dec (AA, JHS); Fife, 1 Kilconquhar 19 Jan, 3 on 14 Dec (DWO), 1 Otterston, Aberdour, 8 Feb (TGMcL).

Autumn return : 17 Aug, 1 Collieston, Aber (WM, AR); 31 Aug, ♀ Old Findhorn Bar, Nairn (JE); 6 Sep, 8 at Isle of May (ADW). Winter counts : Angus, 200 Broughty Castle 22 Jan (TMCI); E Stir, 40 Skinflats 24 Dec (DF); W Loth, 500 Cramond 15 Mar (TCS); Fife, record 700 Largo Bay 25 Dec, 250 sitting on beach, many oiled (PGTB); Midl, 30,000 Seafield early Jan, down to 17,000 on 19 Jan, 10,000 by 2 Feb, 48 on 11 Oct, up to 6000 by 23 Nov, 20,000 by 7 Dec, 35,000 on 21 Dec (DGA, JB); Dumf, 300 maximum Waterfoot, Annan, 2 Nov (RTS); Kirk, Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec maxima 200/300 Carsethorn/Port o' Warren (JGY), and similar situation Wig, in Luce Bay and L Ryan (WBr, ADW, JGY).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. Breeding strength rather low at main Kirk/Wig haunts but bred at new site Kirk (ADW, JGY); nest and 6 eggs Mountblairy 18 May (JE), first breeding Banff; small Shet breeding population increasing and pr bred Fetlar (4 young) for first time (ARM, RJT). Most winter birds left Shet by about 4 May; arrivals during Oct (RJT).

Counts : Angus, 55 on sea Stannergate, Dundee, 10 Feb (TMCI); Kinross, L Leven peak 2500 from 6 Aug to mid Sep, rapid drop below 1000 by 1 Oct and under 200 by 8 Oct (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS); Fife, Kilconquhar peaks 944 on 19 Jan and 1134 on 14 Dec, rather below normal, but 800 on sea Methil 19 Jan (DWO); W Loth, record 125 on sea Cramond 15 Feb (TCS). Summer occurrence near L Hourn (per DNW), first record for W Inv. In the Forth : ♂ off Inchmickery 19 June (MJE); 2 Isle of May 18 Sep, only 3rd yr noted there (NJG).

Many caught L Leven continue to be recovered SW in Ireland Sep/Dec, but there are also recoveries (of birds ringed as juvs) from Essex about 10 May 1969 (ringed 18.8.68), Co Durham 20 Sep 1969 (29.8.69), Lincolnshire 22 Nov 1969 (17.9.69), and from Finland 17 May 1969 (18.9.67), Norway 25 Aug 1969 (12.8.68), Sweden 28 Sep 1969 (23.9.68), France 18 Dec 1969 (4.9.69) and Portugal 9 Nov 1969 (24.8.69) (JHS).

***Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*. 1 Don estuary 16 Feb (6 : 33) (MJHC), first for Dee and Aber, and 2nd Scottish record.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*. Present Ork all summer but no sure news of breeding (EB); otherwise bred same counties as 1968 (5 : 313); pr Shet (does not breed) on Fetlar 12-18 May (ARM). Moulting flocks of over 70 L Ashie, E Inv, 18 July (RAH), and 26 ♂♂ L Scarmclete, Caith, 22 June (DMS); 73 L Leven (none breed), Kinross, 13 June, rose to 110 on 24 June then dwindled, fresh influx from late July (JHS).

3000 Duddingston, Midl, 3 Mar down to 300 on 26th (DRA), peak 4400 on 23 Nov (DGA); main arrival Moorfoots end Sep (45), with exceptional 100 most of Nov (DGA, EMS, RWJS); L Leven peak 550 on 21 Sep, much below past 3 yrs, 250-450 Oct-Nov, then rapid drop (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS); Fife, Kilconquhar peak only 1075 on 14 Dec, but often 200 on sea Methil to make it up (DWO). Other peaks : 123 L Brow, Shet, Jan (PKK); 130 Woodend Loch, Lan, 26 Jan (DJN), and 85 Fannyside Loch, Dumb, 8 Nov (JB), large counts for Clyde; 120 maximum Dumf, Priestfield-Powfoot (JGY).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. Usual non-breeders summer : Wig, 2 all summer Mochrum, 2 ♂♂ and ♀ July L Ochiltree (JGY); Midl, last ♂ (imm) Moorfoots 22 June (RWJS); S Fife, up to 3 Kilconquhar through summer (DWO); Kinross, some L Leven all months (JHS); Aber, ♂ Sands of Forvie, 22 June (JF); E Inv, summered at least 3 Speyside localities with displaying pr at one (DNW); Ork, ♂ Loch of Stennes 5 July (EJWi); Fair Isle, last ♂ 4-6 June (RHD); Shet, dull-plumaged pr Spiggie 20 June (DC).

Spring : Kinross, up to 350 L Leven Jan, then from break-up of ice in late Feb build-up to 727 on 21 Mar (most in 3 yrs), down to 243 by 6 Apr (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS); Fife, peak Kilconquhar 800 roosting 2

Apr, large numbers to mid Apr, another increase 10 May (DWO); Midl, 2500 Seafield over winter, 4000 on 22 Mar (DGA), late leaving Moorfoots, 135 on 30 Mar was most ever, 110 on 13 Apr, 32 on 4 May (DGA, EMS, RWJS); Kirk, cold spring delayed departure, 30 still L Ken Apr and a few in early May (ADW). Autumn: E Ross, 2 Tain 24 Aug (CJMCK-G), but elsewhere later; Shet, main arrival mid Oct (RJT); Fair Isle, 1 on 7 Oct, a few from 23 Oct (RHD); E Ross, build-up from late Oct to usual 250 Invergordon despite construction work on aluminium plant (CGH); E Inv, late arrival Speyside, numbers low till last wk Oct (HB, DNW); Kinross, a few L Leven Sep, main influx early Oct, 60 on 8 Oct, peak 377 on 16 Nov (AA, CRGC, JHS); Fife, peak on sea Methil only 300 on 16 Nov, but almost as many Kilconquhar (DWO); Midl, arrived Moorfoots 21 Sep, 5 on 19 Oct rose to 55 on 26 Oct, and from 60 on 2 Nov to 110 on 9 Nov (DGA, EMS, RWJS), 2500 Seafield by 23 Nov (DGA); Lan, 90 Fannyside 8 Nov (JB); Kirk, first arrivals early Oct, mainly imms till later (ADW).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. Summer: W Suth, pr Oldshoremore Bay 25 June (JB); Shet, ♂ Mid Yell 7 June (RJT), imm ♂ Strand Loch 20 June (DLC), 1 Hillwell 17 July (PKK).

Rather scarcer than usual Shet winter 1968/69, larger numbers 1969/70 (RJT). E coast peaks: Musselburgh, Midl, 60 on 15 Feb (EMS, RWJS); 40 Methil, Fife, 19 Jan (DWO), and 80 St Andrews, Fife, 1 Jan (JARG); 80 Balgowrie, Aber, 30 Nov (MM); 500 Spey Bay, Moray, 26 Apr (JMB); 110 Castlehill, Caith, also 26 Apr (DMS). Departure: last 2 Ythan, Aber, 12 May (AR); ♂ Fair Isle 4-9 May (RHD); last Fetlar, Shet, 17 May (ARM). Return: first Hascosay, Shet, 30 Sep (RJT); Fair Isle from 2 Oct (RHD). Clyde and Solway, where scarce: Renf, 1 Castle Semple Loch 7-13 Dec (ITD, MMD, AGG); Ayr, 23 off Irvine 29 Dec, large number for Clyde (AGS), 1 Traboch Loch 24 Oct-2 Nov, 2 Martnaham Loch 9-15 Nov, with 3 on 16th (PM); Wig, 2 L Ryan 31 Dec (JKRM, ADW, AJW, JGY); Kirk, ♂ Southernness 5 Feb (JGY); Dumf, 1 Waterfoot, Annan, 6 Apr (JDN). Others inland: ♀ Kilconquhar, Fife, 4 Oct (PGTB); 1 Cobbinshaw, Midl, 8 Nov (TB, EMS, RWJS); 1 Portmore, Peeb, 5-26 Oct (DGA, EMS, RWJS).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*. Little information from breeding areas: ♂ at Wig loch July (JGY); pr arrived on a loch in Yell, Shet, 30 Apr (same date as 1968), up to 6 later, may have bred (RJT); odd birds noted summer Caith and Ork (Swona). Summer moult flocks Wig: 400 Wigtown Bay July, 55 Luce Bay July (per JGY). Other counts: SE Suth, 3000 scoters (possibly more Velvet than Common) 6-18 Oct between Dornoch and Embo, where such numbers very infrequent (DMcD); Wig, 1300 Luce Bay 3 Aug was highest count for years (RCD).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*. For large numbers SE Suth 6-18 Oct see Common Scoter. In unusual areas: 2 Tokavaig 18 Aug (MPS), first for Skye; 1 Cramond Island, Forth, reported as first there since war (DIMW); 1 Port William, Wig, in harbour for a wk from 24 Dec (GW).

***Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*. 1 Echnaloch Bay, Burray, 16 Nov (MT-C), subject to description and acceptance by Rarities Committee.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*. Good numbers reared Tentsmuir, N Fife, despite fast growing Herring Gull colony (DWO), and likewise increased Isle of May (NJG). "At Kyleakin lighthouse islands, on one small island, artificial drinking pools, coloured plastic windmills, flags, strips of bunting, bells, installed 1967/68. Nests thought to average about 20 previously. In 1968 rafts of up to 500 birds and 275 apparently 1968 nests counted. The future of this Eider farming project now uncertain following death of its sponsor, G. Maxwell" (DNW). Few breed Wig but moulting flock L Ryan increased from 42 on 27 June to 500 on 13 July (RCD).

Seafield winter counts: 850 on 9 Nov, 1500 on 23 Nov (DGA), 2500 on 10 Dec (RMB), and at least 3600 off Midl coast 27 Dec (DGA). Winter

flock of 500 on 24 Dec Eilean na Creighe Duibhe, W Ross (ENH).

***King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*. ♂ Ronas Voe, Shet, 18 Apr-7 May (DC); another ♂ Scalloway 24 May-25 June, with ♀ there 30 May-9 June (DC, RHD).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*. Bred 30 Dumf localities (JM, JGY); but less good breeding season than 1968 in Kirk suggested by post-breeding flock of only 20 ♀/imm birds (against 61) L Ken (ADW).

One 15th and 2 on 16 Feb Bridgend, first for Islay (MFMM). Counts in early months: Kirk, 20 L Ken 19 Jan (ADW); Dumf, 37 Lochmaben 18 Jan (RTS); Midl, Moorfoots peak 22 on 12 Jan (RWJS); Fife, 30 Morton Lochs 16 Mar (JDM); Kinross, good number L Leven from 1 Jan, 66 on 12 Jan, peak after thaw 122 on 12 Mar, decreasing from late Mar, last 23 Apr (AA, CRGC, JHS); Shet, after unusual Dec 1968 influx (5: 314) many notes Jan-Apr (RJT). Last dates: Midl, 4 Moorfoots 4 May (RWJS); Shet, 1 Clickhimin 4 May, 1 Strand 5 May (DC); Caith, 6 L Caluim 11 May (DG); Fair Isle, ♂ on 29 May (RHD).

Autumn: 32 Talla Reservoir, Peeb, 2 Aug (JB), and 350 at Ythan mouth, Aber, 16 Aug (GMD), were first substantial counts; apparently none Beaully Firth before flock 500 on 14 Dec (MIH); small arrival L Leven, Kinross, from early Oct, no large numbers till 80 on 4 Dec, rising to 162 on 7-9 Dec, still 100 on 31st (AA, JHS); arrived Moorfoots, Midl, 26 Oct, 20 passing through on 23 Nov (RWJS). Other counts: Aber, 50 L of Skene 7 Dec (ADKR); Rox, 21 Ale Moor 14 Dec (JB); 6 over Leith Docks 25 Dec (TD).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. No reported changes in breeding status. Present Speyside, E Inv, 2nd wk Apr to early Sep (HB). Fair Isle autumn passage 12 days 7 Oct-14 Nov (3-4 on 21-22 Oct) (RHD). Counts: Wig, 200 from steamer L Ryan 23 Sep (RTS), 100 from shore 31 Dec (JKRM, ADW, AJW, JGY); Kirk, 400 Nith-Southernness Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec (JGY); Midl, 60 Granton early Feb (RF), no autumn numbers Musselburgh till 75 on 4 Oct (JB), 134 on 22 Oct (DIMW); Fife, some passage Fife Ness Aug (DWO), high count for area 80 Lundin Links 24 Sep (PGTB), 96 Burntisland 6 Oct (JMC); E Inv, 34 Beaully Firth 12 Jan, rose to 200 by 18 Jan (MIH); E Ross, 110 Evanton 23 Feb, 80 there 27 Nov, 100 Dingwall-Evanton 14 Dec (CGH); SE Suth, 250 Embo 6 Sep (DMcD); N Suth, moulting flock 156 already Tongue Bay 14 July (DG); S Inv, 267 Inversanda, L Linnhe, 2 Aug, still 51 on 14 Sep (JASN). Inland winter: Ayr/Renf, 1 Barcraigs Reservoir 30 Nov (DLC); Glasgow, ♀ Possil Loch 11 Jan (DJN); Midl, 3 Glencorse 13-16 Nov (RMB, DM); Kinross, ♀ L Leven 4 Mar (CRGC), 2 ♀♀ 26 Nov (AA).

***Smew** *Mergus albellus*. Winter (redheads unless specified) to 2 Apr and from 30 Nov (one autumn record 13 Oct): Kirk, 1 Earlston Loch 25 Dec (ADW, AJW); Renf, 2 Barr Loch 5 Jan (RAJ), 1 on 18 Jan (DCS), 2 Castle Semple Loch 10 Jan (DLC), 1 on 7th and 13 Dec, 1 Rowbank 30 Nov (IG, RAJ); Rox, 1 Hoselaw 2 Apr (JDGL); Midl, 1 Glencorse 16 Feb (MJE), ad ♂ Gladhouse 23 Mar (EMS, RWJS); W Loth, pr Morton Reservoir, Broxburn, first half Feb (per MJE); S Fife, 1 Kilconquhar 30 Mar (PGTB); Aber, 1st-W ♂ Br of Don 30 Nov-3 Dec (MAMcD); Moray, 1 L na Bo 5 Jan-22 Mar (JMB), 1 L Spynie 13 Oct (per AP); E Ross, 1 Balnagowan River 20 Dec (per CGH).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*. Good breeding season inland L Leven, Kinross, 38 fledged (broods 5-13), maximum count 42 on 9 July, ads gone by end Aug (AA, CRGC, IKM, JHS). Pr flying along edge of big wood as though prospecting for nest site Lake of Menteith, Perth, 20 Apr (MFMM). At least 1 pr bred Isle of May, where does so sporadically (NJG). Little comment on coastal breeding, but 60 young Aberlady, E Loth, July (KSMcG), and 189 unfledged Findhorn Bay, Moray, 5 July (BE).

Counts: Dumf, 1200 Caerlaverock-Annan 14 Dec (JGY); E Stir, 1000 Skinflats 13 Dec (DF); N Perth, spring peak 227 Invergowrie 19 May (HBo); Angus, 337 Montrose Basin 13 July (GMC); E Inv, 24 Longman Bay 14 Sep, all juvs (MR), ads returning from mid Oct, 69 on 14 Dec (EY); E Ross, 298 Munloch Bay 19 Jan (MIH); Fair Isle, 8 on 29 May was peak, also 4 on 10 May, 5 on 3 June (RHD); Shet, first back from moulting grounds were 2 Virkie 18 Dec and 9 on 22nd (WH). Inland: Renf, juv Barr Loch 6 Sep (IG, RAJ); Midl, 2 ads Gladhouse 17 Aug (EMS, RWJS); E Inv, 1 Kincaid 26 Mar (AF-L).

Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*. Little change large Galloway population (about 1000 birds in post-moult period), decreased one Wig site (JGY), but 3 nests successful at new Kirk site where young introduced 1967 and other birds apparently came 1969 (ADW). Pinioned flock released L Laggan, S Inv, by Ardverkie estate (GC). Caith population unchanged, about 60 prs (DG, DMS); also bred N Suth, W Ross and elsewhere, and 55 prs L Druidibeg, O Heb (IN).

Spring and departure: Dumf, last Glencaple 1 May (though pair Lochar Moss, possibly feral, June); Rox, 1 apparently unringed Hoselaw till 8 June (RSB); Ber, 200 Coldstream area Jan (HDH), 250 Coldingham Moor 4 Apr (CNW, EW), unusual areas; Kinross, 3500 peak L Leven 5 Feb, dropped Apr to 122 on 30th, last 4 on 15th May (3 summered but did not breed) (AA, CRGC, JHS); Perth, still 23 Kingoodie 26 Apr (VMT); E Inv, Speyside passage from 150 arriving Insh 21 Mar, throughout Apr to 4 May (HB, DNW); Moray, 150 Findhorn 18 Apr (BE), 8 Spey Mouth 27 Apr (JMB); Banff, 70 N over Troup Head 23 Apr (JE); E Ross, passing over Evanton 17th-18th and 25-26 Apr (CGH).

Protracted ill-defined autumn passage from about 22 Sep: Shet, most geese heard passing 25 Sep to early Nov were Greylag (RJT); Fair Isle, heard at night 16 Sep, 1-3 early Oct, heavy passage 20 Oct (100), 21 Oct (40 and many on crossing), small numbers to 25 Oct (17), stragglers to 27 Nov (RHD); Ork, small parties passing N Ronaldsay several days from 25 Sep, 10 landed 19 Oct, 28 on 25 Oct (EJW), 26 back L Harray 16 Nov (EB); Caith, 200 L Heilan 25 Oct (DG); E Ross, passing Evanton 1st-2nd and 10-11 Oct (CGH); Moray, 60 W over Kinloss 22 Sep (BE); E Inv, passage late and prolonged Spey, with low peak numbers, mainly 2nd wk Oct, on to at least 2nd wk Dec (HB, DNW); Aber, 10 Meikle Loch of Slains 14 Sep (AR), 23 Newburgh 22 Sep (BP), 200 Skene 19 Oct (AR), also 2 (?local birds) Strathbeg 29 Aug (MW); Angus, 25 W over Brechin 22 Sep (GMC); Kinross, 2 on 27 Sep, 20 on 29 Sep, very slow build-up to 733 by 29 Oct, then larger numbers, peak 2500 reached 26 Nov (AA, CRGC, JHS); Fife, first 2 Lundin Links 27 Sep (PGTB); E Stir, maximum 109 Skinflats 23 Oct (MH); Midl, first Gladhouse 5 Oct (RWJS); Rox, return to Hoselaw from 28 Sep, building to 440 by Nov (RSB); Ayr, up to 40 Hunterston 12 Nov-31 Dec, first regular flock for 4 yrs (JLE); Dumf, number insignificant until 700 in mid Dec (HO, JGY).

Annual count 9 Nov in appalling conditions 62,000 (much as 1968), all but 1400 in Scotland; abnormal distribution, partly owing to fine summer, good harvest and consequent lack of spilt barley in E central Scotland; much reduced numbers Perth (18,500 against 31,000) and Bute, and increased numbers Aber and Midl, were biggest numerical changes (over 2000 each); 21.2% were young birds, similar to 1965 and 1966, much above poor 1967 and 1968 figures, but brood size rather low at 1.9; bad weather and some later arrivals probably kept total on low side (MAO).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. European race *A. a. albifrons*: 1 with Greylag at Dunragit, Wig, 4 Jan (ADW); 1 shot L Leven, Kinross, 9 Jan (JHS); 34 closely observed (pink bills, lightly marked on belly), Slains estate, Aber, 15 Nov (WM); family party 4 with Pinkfeet at Caerlaverock, Dumf, 30 Dec (PSc); first records of this race in Wig, Dee

and Aber. Others unspecified unless marked G for Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris*.

Departure late Apr: last 200 G at L Ken, Kirk, 25 Apr (ADW); last G at Moor of Genoch, Wig, 26 Apr (RCD); 1 G at Newburgh, N Fife, 25 Apr (VMT); Caith, last 62 G on 27 Apr (PJ); Ork, 70 Birsay 5 Apr (EB); O Heb, 1 G at Balranald 25 June (DH, MFMM).

Ad G back 29 Sep L Leven, Kinross (JHS). Other arrivals: O Heb, 2 G Ness 10 Oct (WAJC); Caith, 24 G Forss 19 Oct, 300 L Killiminster 9 Nov is largest flock in recent years (DMS); E Ross, 13 L Eye 14 Oct, 70 on 9 Nov (CGH); Aber, 2 Rattray and 1 G Strathbeg 6 Nov (MW); N Perth, 4 G Dunning 8 Nov (VMT); Kinross, imm G shot L Leven 25 Oct, 2 ad and 4 imm G on 3 Nov (AA, CRGC, JHS); Midl, 28 SW over Gladhouse 26 Oct, 10 on 9 Nov (EMS, RWJS); I Heb, 8 ad and 20 imm G on Tiree 9 Oct (CST); Dumb/W Stir, 33 Endrick mouth 5 Nov to year end (JMi); arrival L Ken, Kirk, from about 20 Oct (ADW), and first 51 Moor of Genoch, Wig, same day (RCD), never over 300 L Ken (rather low), but 200 Moor of Genoch 2 Nov was observer's highest count there; only 5% or fewer young birds in several Oct-Dec counts L Ken and at Moor of Genoch Nov (RCD, ADW). Sundry winter records include odd G birds S Fife (PGTB, DWO), the first recorded there, 1 G Gadloch, Lan, 16 Feb (BZ), and 11 Caerlaverock, Dumf, 14 Jan (RES, JGY).

***Bean Goose** *Anser arvensis arvensis*. Castle Douglas, Kirk, 15 intermittently 1 Jan-2 Mar (AAB, DLC, RJHR, ADW); 3 back by 3 Dec, early compared with recent years, perhaps to do with widespread cold spell in NW Europe from late Nov, some increase by year end (ADW); 3 on 3 Jan and 2 on 11 Jan Caerlaverock, Dumf, where evidently stop at times on Blackshaw Bank (in relatively recent years largest flock 30-40 in 1929 when 7 shot, since when reliable reports of 14 single birds shot) (per JGY). At Endrick mouth, L Lomond, 7 from 26 Nov (RSh); but none reported Aber 1969.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser arvensis brachyrhynchus*. Spring: Dumf, main departure Nith by 10 Apr, but 153 Caerlaverock 19 May (JGY); Kinross, general decrease L Leven from early Apr but minor peak 2350 on 30 Apr (birds passing through), rapid fall to last 80 on 11 May (JHS); last 16 over Perth 14 May (VMT); E Inv, usual late Apr/early May Speyside passage, especially 1-4 May (DNW); E Ross, large movement Evanton 29 Apr-1 May and 5-10 May, apparently held up by weather, roosting on sandbanks where not usually seen (CGH); O Heb, 2 Stornoway 20 Apr (RMcl). Summer: Midl, 6 Fala 3-4 June (WB); Kinross, 2 pricked birds summered L Leven (JHS).

Autumn (rather early): at main arrival point L Leven, Kinross, 6 on 4 Sep, few till 40 on 21 Sep, influx 2000 on 22 Sep, fluctuating numbers (arriving and departing) till 9000 on 27 Sep and peak 10,200 on 1 Oct, dropping to high end-of-Oct total of 3560 on 29th, increasing early Nov to 5250 on 5th (AA, CRGC, JHS). Other records fit this picture: Shet, only flock 5 L Spiggie 28 Sep (DC); Fair Isle, a few, especially 26 Sep-2 Oct (RHD); Ork, 1 N Ronaldsay 26 Sep, 20 on 20 Oct (EJW); Caith, 170 L Calder 25 Sep (DG), passage 25-27 Sep (DG, PMcM); E Ross, passage Evanton 10-11 Oct, 2500 fogbound Edderton 19-21 Oct (CGH); E Inv, 50 over Inverness 22 Sep (JAL) and others 11 Oct (JMCG), first Speyside 23 Sep (RMcC), 20 on Inv/Perth border 26 Sep (DNW); Aber, 14 Rattray 22 Sep (MW), 170 Newburgh 26 Sep (BP), 150 Aberdeen 21 Oct (AR); N Kinc, 35 Glen Dye 25 Sep, 660 on 26th, over 900 flew SSW over Kerloch in 2 hrs 26 Sep (NP); Perth, arrivals 22-24 Sep (VMT); Fife, 50 Cupar 15 Sep, quite a few by end of month (DWO); Midl, 80 Middleton 5 Sep (RW), arrivals in wk 21-28 Sep (per RWJS); Dumf, 12 on 14 Sep, 200 by 17 Sep, 2000 by 22 Sep, 7000 on Nith estuary by 1 Oct, then rapid fall to 2200 mid Nov-Dec (JGY).

In appalling conditions 74,000 counted nationally 9 Nov (9000 up on

1968), 64,000 of them in Scotland (count affected by same factors as Greylag), with increases of over 2000 in Angus/Kinnc, Fife, Kinross, Ber, Peeb and Dumf, and huge shortage (the only one exceeding 2000) in Perth (7000 birds compared with 25,000 in 1968); moderately good season, with 24.4% young birds and mean brood 2.2, a great advance on 1967 and 1968 and above the 1962-66 average); total back in line with 20-year longterm growth line, but grave fears expressed at threat to flood breeding grounds in Iceland for a hydro-electric project (MAO).

***Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*. Presumed escapes: Dumf, 1 from 1968 (5: 316) Caerlaverock to 14 Jan, evidently Lesser (JGY); Kirk, 1 (probably Dumf bird) Southernness/Carruchan 19 Jan-8 Feb, considered to be Lesser (JGY); Midl, 2 Middleton 1 Oct (JWa), 1 (probably different) Middleton/Gladhouse 4-9 Oct (WB, EH, MMo, EMS, RWJS, LY); Fife, 2 Morton Lochs 16 Mar (JDM), 4 N of Inverkeithing much of Nov (AS); Kinross, 1 L Leven 15 Feb, 2 on 29 Sep (1 possibly Ross's Goose *Anser rossii* on short stubby bill), one 1 Oct-20 Nov (AA, CRGC, JHS); O Heb, 1 L Erisort, Lewis, 9 June (RMCl, IMCl).

***Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*. 2 Swona, Ork, 11 May, presumed escapes (EB, TMCl).

***Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*. Dark-breasted *B. b. bernicla*: Shet, 2 Unst 23-24 Mar (MS), 1 Bressay 12 Dec (GH); Ork, 1 N Ronaldsay 11th, 12th, 15th, 19 Oct (EJW, DBW); Banff, 9 Portgordon 23 Mar (JMB); Aber, 1 Rattray 6 Nov (MW); Angus, 3 West Haven, Carnoustie, 22 Mar (TMCl); Fife, 1 Morton Lochs with Pinkfeet 26 Jan (CST). Note 3 records (14 birds) 22-24 Mar.

Pale-breasted *B. b. hrota*: Fair Isle, 2 on 16 Mar, first since 1963 (RHD); Aber, 1 Ythan 19 Oct (MAMcD); Kinross, 1 L Leven 15 Oct, 29 Nov, 13 Dec (CRGC, JHS).

Also 4, race not known, Isle of May 29 Oct (IFS).

***Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*. Last 270 Caerlaverock, Dumf, 22 Apr (JGY). In NW, 60 on Summer Isles, W Ross, 17 Apr (DCH); and flock Stornoway, O Heb, 24 Apr (RMCl).

Return to Caerlaverock: 10 on 25 Sep (ELR), 1700 by 16 Oct, 2200 on 18th, 4000-4200 on 3 dates Nov (JGY) and once Dec (RHK), midwinter average 2000 suggesting dispersal or onward passage, evidently reasonable Spitsbergen breeding season, with 27.3% young and 2.6 average brood (JGY). Most arrivals Oct: Shet/Fair Isle, 5 records (19 birds) 7th-23rd (RHD, WDi, ARM, ISR, JHSi); Aber, 45 Br of Don 8th, 15 Torry 12th (MAMcD); Angus, most unusual passage S at Usan on 9th (18), 11th (14), 12th (44) (GMC), and Arbroath 7th (1), 11th (215), 12th (15) (MN); F. Stir, 3 Skinflats 9th, 7 with Pinkfeet between Arnprior and Menteith 19th (DS); Midl, 10 SW over Gladhouse 11th, 4 on 19th (DGA); E Loth, 30 Tynninghame 7th (AFA). But first 100 of autumn not at Stornoway until 10 Nov (WAJC). Odd birds and small parties widely reported outside main winter areas, maximum 19 L Leven, Kinross, 16th Feb (AA, CRGC, JHS).

***Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*. Slight increase Dumf feral breeding population, and 50-70 regular Oct-Nov Browell (EBd); in Wig (breeds) 46 Wigtown Merse 5 Aug (RCD). Goose eggs robbed from 2 nests Ness Islands, E Inv, were almost certainly this species (per DNW); there is no Moray Basin breeding record.

Counts of Beaully Firth, E Inv, moulting flock of Yorkshire birds: 21 June 112 (GS), 26 June 127 (DCH), 21 July and 4 Aug 300 (Eiy), 10 Aug 282, 23 Aug 10, 14 Sep 0 (MIH). Probably associated records: geese low over Inverness 2-3 a.m. 20 Aug (JMcG, WAS); 35 L Leven, Kinross, 21 Aug (BL, WW), 2 flying S on 22 Aug (also 7 there 30 Aug-28 Sep) (AA, CRGC, JHS); 20 geese flew S over Edinburgh 23 Aug (though reported as Pinkfeet, which does not fit); 15 on Gladhouse, Midl, 23 Aug (EMS,

RWJS), were at Tynninghame, E Loth, on 24 Aug (also 14 on 30 Aug, 2 on 7 Sep) (RWJS). Eight flying N over L Leven 4 June may have been on way to Beaully Firth (JHS), but also Angus record of 17 on new Backwater Reservoir (near Lintrathen) mid June, 9 Invergowrie 23 July, 15 Dundee airstrip Aug-Sep, where 6 on 9 Oct and some stayed to end Oct (HBo). Other records : 1 Harris Apr (AM-M), 2 Balranald 25 June (DH), both O Heb; small party overnight L Garten, E Inv, late Sep (HB); 1 Kinnaird, Angus, 4 Nov (JD); 1 Braco, Perth, 5 Jan (VMT); 2 Fife Ness 28 Aug (DWO, AS).

Bird of medium-sized race Islay 17 Feb (5 : 466) (MFMM). Small one with Greenland Whitefronts, size no larger and perhaps smaller than them, New Galloway area, Kirk, Feb-Mar (AAB, DLC, IN, RJHR, ADW, JGY).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*. Bred 3 sites Banff, where few breeding records (EBR, AFWS, CSI); brood reared Kilconquhar, Fife, for first time in several years (usually die when three-quarters grown) (DWO).

Maximum Stranraer harbour-L Ryan, Wig, 100—more than previous years (JAY). Badly oiled ad ashore Fair Isle 28 Dec, first definite dated record there (RHD); 75 medium-badly oiled Invergorden, E Ross, autumn, oil persisting to year end (CGH); 25 contaminated with fuel oil, mixed with spent maize on which they feed, Ben Nevis distillery, S Inv, Oct-Nov (DNW).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. No breeding records. Unusually large numbers, 377 on 11 Jan in Ednam/Eccles area, Ber (WML-H), and also large flock 200 Coldstream area Jan (HDH). In E Loth, Drem/Aberlady/Gosford now regular winter haunt (up to 19 in Jan-Mar, 11 in Nov-Dec) where only occasional 5-10 yrs ago (WB, DJ). Maximum 34 Isle-steps, Kirk, 2 Jan is much less than 1968 (JGY).

Departure : Kirk, last 11 flew N over Dalry 2 Apr (ADW); Kinross, last 2 L Leven 6 Apr (JHS); Aber, 1 Auchlossan 8 May (RSBy); E Inv, few Speyside Jan-Feb, but 50 by 21 Mar, last 2 on Perth border 11 May (DNW), last 2 L Laide 27 Apr (MIH); E Ross, 3 Achanalt 13 Apr, 4 L Droma 13 Apr, 1 Nigg 18 Apr (DCH); O Heb, 4 Stornoway 27 Apr (RMCl); Ork, 25 on 9 Apr (EB); Fair Isle, about 15 in all, only 1 (on 1 May) after end Mar (RHD); Shet, left early Apr, last 5 Spiggie 8th (PKK), 2 Fetlar 11th (ARM). Odd summer records : 2 Aber, 2 E Inv (1 Newtonmore and Spey Dam, 3 crocks Beaully Firth), 1 E Ross, 1 Caith, 1 I Heb (6 Tiree early July), 1 O Heb.

Return mainly from 26 Sep : Shet, arrived Fetlar (8) (ARM) and Spiggie (5) (DC) 28 Sep, normal build-up, distinctly more juvs than 1968 (RJT); Fair Isle, 5 on 1 Oct, passage from 23 Oct (18) to 30th (11), fewer to 27 Dec (8), 18 of 35 birds aged were 1st-W (RHD); Ork, 7 immes N Ronaldsay 21 Oct, 13 on 30th (EJW); Caith, 5 on 27 Sep, building up to 118 Murza 23 Nov (DMS); O Heb, first Stornoway 26 Sep (RMCl); W Ross, 4 Torridon 27 Sep (JAW); E Ross, 10 Dalmore, Cromarty Firth, 13 Oct, 17 Edderton 14 Oct, appreciably more juvs than 1968 (CGH); E Inv, 10 (5 juvs) L Mhor 5 Oct (MR), first Speyside 29 Oct (late) and very few juvs (HB, DNW); Moray, 14 Findhorn 27 Sep (BE); N Kinc, 1 Nigg 30 Sep (HNR); Kinross, 1 L Leven 15 Sep, mainly from 29 Sep (35 passed), slow build-up until leapt to 358 by 10 Nov, down to 10 by year end, 19%-20% juvs (7%-8% in 1968) in counts of 198-245 (AA, CRGC, JHS); Midl, 6 Cobbinshaw 18 Oct (EMS, RWJS), 5 Musselburgh 22 Oct (DIMW), SW gale brought unprecedented 31 to Moorfoots on 2 Nov (DGA); Rox, pr arrived Yetholm 26 Oct (RSB); Kirk, 26 L Ken 29 Oct (IHA), 33 Br of Dee 30 Oct included 8 young birds (AFA), juvs much more numerous than 1968, average 20%, best counts 16/56 (ADW). None L Ryan or L Connel, Wig, 31 Dec, where reduced 1968 after many died 1967 (JKRM, ADW, AJW, JGY).

***Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*. Only spring record, 5 Endrick

mouth, L Lomond, 18 Jan (DS). Autumn from 27 Oct, mainly Dec: Shet, 2 Skerries 27 Oct (ISR), 1 Whalsay from about then (JHSi); Caith, 9 Castletown 21 Dec (PMcM); Aber, 3 ads Strathbeg 10 Dec (MM); Midl, 18 Rosslynlea Reservoir 7 Dec, evidently first record for Moorfoots (EMS, RWJS); Lan, 1 Hamilton 23 Nov (RGN); Kirk, 2 ads L Ken 14 Dec (ELR), 2 ads (probably same) on flooded pasture New Galloway with Whoopers 28 Dec (ADW, AJW).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. In 1964-68, from 363 active nests, the RSPB survey recorded 210 young fledged out of 179 successful nests; partial 1969 data shows that from 44 active nests at least 28 prs reared young (per MJE). In SW Scotland 1 pr probably did not lay (one bird imm), 1 pr failed, and 2 prs reared single young (ARu, ADW). In general no gloomy reports, and successful breeding recorded in various places. Imms wander, and single ones outwith breeding range were: Ork, Stenness Hills 28 May, Rousay 11 Nov (EB); Ber, Longformacus area, 20 Aug-14 Sep, first for county though not for SE Scotland (WV per AC); Wig, flying S near Stranraer 6 Dec (DCI).

***Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*. 1 Isle of May 18 Sep (PJo, AFL, RKMCG, RWS), first Scottish record, possibly an escape, subject to acceptance by Rarities Committee (it is not certain that the description rules out Lesser Spotted Eagle *A. pomarina*).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. In Speyside, E Inv, probably just over half of 35 territorial prs Kingussie/Boat of Garten bred, nearly all rearing good broods (2.5 young per successful nest) (DNW). Bred Aberlour, Banff, a county for which there is a lack of recent breeding records (SR). Nested Midl, for first time, with escaped American Red-tailed Hawk *B. jamaicensis* (a ♂, as it now appears) (6: 34) (JBM). Chick ringed Beauly, E Inv, caught Speyside 11 Nov same year; 7 chicks ringed Speyside since 1966 show random 1st-W dispersal averaging 24 mls (DNW); Dumf chicks recovered Wig (where few records) and Lan (NSRG). Increased records Midl: regular Moorfoots (WB), 6 soaring with Red-tailed Hawk 12 Oct, all but it passing on E (ABC).

Singles, Shet, Gott 27 Apr (DC, RJT), Unst 4 dates 6 May-24 June (MS), Fair Isle 18-24 Dec (RHD), about time of 2-3 sightings W Mainland of Ork (1-2 prs breed Ork) (EB). A few scattered spring and autumn non-breeding records in eastern lowlands, most being 7 Glenesk, Angus, 27 Sep (GMC).

***Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*. Singles (5, in N): E Inv, Dalwhinnie 22 Feb (RSt), Kingussie 20 Dec (dived at decoy *B. buteo*) (DNW); Caith, Lochend 29 Mar (DG), L Watten 23 Nov (PMcM, DMS); Fair Isle 6 May (RHD).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. Marked increase lower Speyside (AP); increased or encouraging number of records Angus (10) (GMC), Midl (though numbers still small) (RWJS); widespread in maturing conifers, but also in hardwoods, Kirk, and continuing increase, though still frequently illegally shot or trapped (ADW, JGY); estimated 130-150 prs breeding Dumf at about a pr per 500 acres of woodland—of 84 territorial prs, 63 nests found, average clutch 4.1, 38 failed, 66 young (HO, JGY). ♀ Yetholm, Rox, 1 Sep was first there in 12 yrs (RSB).

Fair Isle had 1-3 migrants on 23 days 7 Apr-1 June, 5 on 6 May, and singles 15 days 31 Aug-30 Nov (RHD); Shet, ♂ and ♀ Kergord 23 Feb-end Mar may have wintered (DC, RD, PKK, RJT), and about a dozen other records fitting Fair Isle pattern, as also half-a-dozen Ork and 3 Isle of May.

***Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*. In the more N of two areas where now regularly recorded, small numbers noted from early 1950s (rarely in winter), annual since 1964, display and territorial behaviour but no proof of breeding, some (possibly all) records refer to released birds (anon). Single spring and autumn records in other area 1969 but no suggestion

of breeding (anon). Single ♂ Kergord, Shet, 23-26 Feb (DC); ♀ Aberlady 31 Mar (5 : 380) (MAMcD), first for E Loth.

***Kite** *Milvus milvus*. Three records (spring), after only two in 49 years, at same time as spate of English records (*Brit. Birds* 62 : 248) : 19 Mar, Scourie, W Suth (5 : 381) (ABC); 15 Apr, 2 Kinnaber, Angus (6 : 37) (GST); 26 Apr, Benarty Hills, Kinross (5 : 381) (JHS).

***White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*. 2 ♀♀ and 1 ♂ overwintered Fair Isle after 1968 introduction; 1 ♀ evidently left island 3rd wk Apr; remaining pr started killing ad Fulmars in May, but ♀ evidently left island 2nd wk June; ♂ found soiled with Fulmar oil late Aug, probably died Sep-Oct (RHD). Only possible sighting elsewhere, very large raptor said to have been seen carrying rabbit near Vidlin, Shet, 26 Apr, and similar unsatisfactory report of bird flying from Whalsay towards Vidlin a few days previously (per RJT).

***Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*. Exceptionally many (7), 5 May-12 June, for first time in recent years reflecting something of spring migration on Continent : Fair Isle, 4 singles, May 5th, 27th, 29th, June 1st-2nd, 4th (RHD); Shet, 1 Fetlar 12 June (ARM, ISR); Ork, 1 Lyde 10 May, 1 fairly fresh dead (spattered with fishy oil) Copinsay 8 June (EB).

***Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. Pr summered May-25 July on marsh were 1966 pr first appeared (5 : 25), but evidently did not breed (5 : 466) (anon). Single ♀♀ Fair Isle 25 May, 16 June (RHD); imm Lewis 2 Sep (AJF), first for O Heb faunal area.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Near normal number of nests Ork but increased incidence of bigamy owing to shortage of ♂♂ (EB); usual breeding numbers SW Scotland but less successful than 1968, probably owing to bad spring weather (RCD, ELR, ADW); 3 young reared Islay (DJS), the 1 Heb not being a particular stronghold of the species.

N of breeding range : Fair Isle, imm 18 Sep-8 Oct (RHD); Shet, 1 Wester Quarff 23 June, 14 July (DC), 1 Whalsay 19 Oct (JHSi). Scattered autumn/winter records SE Scotland (Kinross, Fife, Midl, Ber); widespread and quite numerous in winter in SW.

***Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*. None Speyside, E Inv, till 3 Apr, but 2 prs building and ♂ at a 3rd site by 6th; 2 young reared L Garten; at 2nd site (used 1967, 1968) same ringed ♀ as 1968 laid 3 eggs, did not hatch; a presumably young pr arrived at 3rd site May, after first bird left, built and lined nest but did not lay, though ♀ still brooded nest as late as 29 Aug (HB, DNW). At "third" Scottish site, first used 1967, 2 young reared from 3 eggs; at nearby 1968 eyrie (no eggs 1968) 2 young fledged; and a 3rd pr may have built a little further W (DNW). At 5th 1968 site (5 : 319) eyrie built-up late in season but no eggs laid (DNW). At Loch of Lowes, N Perth, bought early in 1969 for quite other reasons by Scottish Wildlife Trust, pr (probably imm) built eyrie July-Aug but did not lay; a public hide is being put up at this very public site (VMT, *SWT Newsletter* 15 : 8). Thus 1969 saw a total of some 8 prs with nests, 4 prs laying (the others probably imm), and 6 young reared.

Speyside birds gone by 1st wk Sep, but presumed passage birds building there at another site 30 Aug, and one seen 3rd wk Sep (HB, DNW). Widespread reports elsewhere (certainly incomplete) mid Apr-mid Oct, especially May-early June and in N and E (singles unless stated) : Dumf, 2 Closeburn 17 Apr (EBd, JGY); Dunb/W Stir, Endrick mouth 14 June, 13 July, 18 Oct (JMi, CEP, DS, IWA); I Heb, Islay May-June (MJE, DJS); N Arg, L Ternait, Morvern, 7 June (IT), West L Tarbert 3 Aug (CABC); Rox, Tweed at Rutherford June (per AJS); Selk, Bowhill 16 June (AJS), Ettrick, June (per AJS); Peeb, Leithen valley 2 May (DCG); Isle of May, 27 June (JP), 18 Sep (AFL); Angus, Rescobie 25-26 Apr (GMC, MN); Banff, 2 Couvals 18 Sep (PC); E Ross, 1 Rosque 20 May (ENH); W Ross, 2 L Clair, Glen Torridon, 18 May (DCH), Kinlochewe/Torridon 19th, 20th, 29

May (ENH), Rubba Coigeach 10 June (DRS), Torridon 22 June, Applecross 14 Aug (JAW); W Suth, Handa 5 May (MJE), Laxford Br 11 July (per MJE); N Suth, L Naver 15 June (JCC); Caith, Forss/L Caluim from 4 May (DMS); O Heb, Druidibeg, S Uist, 29 May (DH); Fair Isle, 4-5 May, 22nd, 30 May, 17 Sep (4 in all) (RHD); Shet, Ronas Voe 23 Apr (PKK), Virkie (WH) and Basta Voe, Yell, 4 May (AW), L Spiggie (DC) and Whalsay 5 May (JHSi), Herra, Yell, 7 May (ARM, RJT), North Roe and Out Skerries 8 May (ISR), Virkie 9 May (GDJ), L Watlee, Unst (MS) and Out Skerries 10 May (ISR), Basta Voe 16 May (RJT), L Spiggie 22 May (DC), and Foula 19 Sep (JGH); one visited F.R.S. *Explorer* 13 June 25 mls NE of Flugga, Unst (JHAM).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo. 1 Fair Isle 6 May (RHD). Present at least two Speyside, E Inv, localities for a time from about 20 June, one, catching young Swallows 29 July, present to mid Aug, but no suggestion of display or breeding (HB, DNW).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. Situation improving generally. Northern Isles: 3 flew from one Shet eyrie (DC); 1 reared from 2 prs Fair Isle, as in 1968 (RHD); probably a dozen prs attempting to breed Ork but less than half reared young (EB). At least 3 broods reared Caith (CMS). Continues recovery E Inv, also in W of county: 5 widely separated traditional sites held birds for first time, so far as known, since late 1950s/early 1960s, broods reared at three; 2 ♀♀ shot just before laying were replaced in under 2 wks by an ad (successful) and a 1st-W bird (did not lay) (DNW). Distraction display was noted at an apparently new Perth site (VMT). ♀ Gladhouse, Midl, 5 Oct was first there for many years (EMS, RWJS). Successful eyries reported Ayr (WRB) and Islay (DJS). Marked improvement on 1968 in Dumf, 7 prs (4 rearing young) (JM, WM, HO, JGY), and improved good breeding results Galloway, especially in hills, despite severe pressure from photographers and others (DAR, RR, ARu, ADW).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. More known Shet breeding prs than 1968 (RJT), and slightly increased breeding stock (quite successful) Ork (EB). First back Speyside, E Inv, 7 Mar (HBI).

Single migrants (7) Fair Isle 26 Mar-27 May; autumn from 22 Aug, peaks 4 on 11 Sep, 5 on 27th, 4 on 19 Oct and 5th, 10th, 20 Nov (RHD); several N Ronaldsay, Ork, Oct (EJW); 1 flew in from sea Tarbat Ness, E Ross, 29 Aug (CJMCK-G); 1 Ythan 22 Aug, several others Aber coast to 25 Oct (RSBy, MJHC, JD, JAL, BP); only one in autumn Isle of May (NJG), and distinctly fewer than usual Fife Ness (DWO). One in Edinburgh at Dunsappie 7 Dec (DGA).

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus. Ad ♀ trapped Isle of May 5-12 May (DJN), first for island and earliest Scottish date by one day; 1st-Y ♂ Yell, Shet, 30 May to about 9 June (6:39) (RLe, RJT).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Very poor season Dumf, many territorial prs not attempting to breed (?voles scarce) (KB, HO, JFY); not so many young reared Kirk as 1968 (ARu), and ground nest among Herring Gulls, Heston Island, not a success (DSK, JGY); but numbers much as usual most areas, and good breeding season Kinross (JHS).

Spring: Shet, scattered passage, probably scarcer than usual, 12 reports 22 Apr-19 May (RJT); Fair Isle, passage 19 Apr-5 June, mostly 1-2 but 4 on 22 Apr, 8 on 6 May (RHD). Autumn: Shet, 1 on 24 July, a few Aug, a dozen Sep, one 23 Nov (RJT); Fair Isle, 1 on 5-6 July, passage 30 July-19 Oct, 1-3 most days, 4 on 17-20 Sep, late ones to 20 Dec (1 wintered 1968/69) (RHD); obvious influx Fife Ness area mid Sep, at least 14 there after E winds (DWO); no fewer than 31 Isle of May 18 Sep (AFL); 6 Mull of Galloway, Wig, 17 Aug (JCS).

Red Grouse *Lagopus scoticus*. Most reports "no change"; but "shooting improved" Caith (DMS); great breeding success (dry spring) Islay,

where much more conspicuous than usual in following winter (MFMM); estate game records show 1969 was best season in Stranraer area, Wig, since 1931 (DL); but except for isolated moors on higher grounds it was worst season in Dumf for some years (NSRG); and a "generally poor shooting season" on Speyside (DNW).

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*. In E Inv numbers and breeding performance generally high in Monadiaths and low in Cairngorms (DNW). Further attempted introduction in S Lan with Braemar eggs failed (JGY).

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*. Slow increase in woods near Tain, E Ross, but numbers small (CJMcK-G); no other changes reported.

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*. Generally good breeding season Speyside, E Inv (DNW).

***Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*. No notes on Perth feral population.

Partridge *Perdix perdix*. Remarks on good breeding season (dry spring) or some increase in numbers W:g (RCD, ADW), Kirk (ADW), Dumf (one of best breeding seasons for 5-6 yrs) (JM, HO, JFY), I Heb (Islay) (MFMM), E Loth (KSMcG), Kinross (AA, JHS), E Fife (DWO), Speyside, E Inv (DNW), E Ross (CGH), Caith (DMS); but numbers still very slow to recover in Midl (RWJS) and E Fife (DWO).

***Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. Breeding not proved; ad ♀ killed on road Pityoulish, E Inv, 2 July would probably have laid within a wk (ova up to 11 mm) (TLE, IHJL). Spring/summer: Kirk, 1 calling Troqueer 5 May (WA); Isle of May, 1 caught 24-27 May (RAJ); Angus, calling Cantsmill, Airlie, 29 May, 13-18 July (probably 3 on 13th), 17-18 Aug, and juv shot 7 Oct (DAT); Fair Isle, 1 dead under wires 24 May, 1 on 19 June, 1 calling 30th, 1 on 6 July, 1 killed by cat 28 July (RHD); Shet, 1 Fetlar 24-25 May (ARM), 1 Foula 1 Aug (JGH). One of 5 shot Elgin, Moray, 14 Oct, identified by VCW-E (DR).

Situation confused by **Percolin**, sometimes described as hybrid, but evidently just a very dark form of Quail, migratory and with similar call and interbreeds with Quail. Under development for some years, as poultry, rather than game. Imported from Italy, they breed easily and rapidly, laying almost like hens, and many people have them. Midl: nest Upper Keith with 13 eggs had only dead young at end of July; ad and 2 flying young Fala Hill 9 Sep; family party 12 Gorebridge Oct, possibly too late for ordinary Quail (JBM, LY).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*. Exceptionally productive season for wild-bred birds Dumf (NSRG); small numbers still breeding Ork and Shet (EB, RJT).

***Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*. Feral population still present Kirk, no obvious change (ADW).

***Crane** *Grus grus*. About 10 birds, more than any previous year, most 19 Mar-28 June, two 14 Aug-early Sep: E Loth, 1 Aberlady 14 Aug (RMA), first for Forth; N Fife, 2 Leuchars 19-30 Mar (DWO, MSm, CRW), 3 others Peat Inn 22 Mar (per DWO), and 3 (probably same) Boarhills 24 Mar-1 Apr (AO, GO, JO); 1 Oldshoremore 20-28 June (JB, GLH, MW), first for W Suth; Ork, 1 Stronsay for at least 10 days from 20 May (Rfo), 1 L of Swannay 20 Aug to about 6 Sep (EB, EJWI); Shet, 1 N Unst 30 May-4 June (BC, MS, RJT).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. Little data on breeding; calling summer at 7 breeding localities Dumf (NSRG), and calling or likely breeding noted also Kirk (LAU, ADW), Ayr (WRB), Renf (MJE), S Fife (DWO), E Inv (DNW), Moray (DSm).

Winter records in S Scotland and many eastern counties N to Fair Isle and Shet, even to N Unst (MS). Spring: E Loth, 1 Aberlady 17 Apr (JADH); S Fife, 1 living under caravans Fife Ness 23 Apr after easterly

gales (DWO); Fair Isle, 21st, 23rd, 28 Mar, 13 May (RHD). Autumn: Fair Isle, 13th, 19th, 22 Sep, and 1-2 on 11 days 10 Oct-11 Nov (RHD); E Inv, 1 Lentrans 3 Aug (MIH); Angus, 2 Montrose Basin 24 Aug (JD); E Loth, 1 Tynninghame 3 Aug (DM).

***Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana*. No breeding records. Arrived W Suth site for 4th yr (see 5: 320) 9 May, calling to 21 May, and again 18 June-4 July and 16 July, but just one bird (per DMcD). Others: Dumf, calling Lochar Moss 2nd, 6th, 7 July (NSRG); Renf, 1 seen Barr Loch 28 Aug, 3rd and 7 Sep (RGC, DLC, IG, RAJ); Aber, 1 calling Dinnet late May-early June (per NP); E Inv, passage birds calling L Mallachie 24 May (HB), Insh marshes 4 June (per NP); Shet, 1 calling and seen Scalloway 16-29 June at least (DC, RD), 1 Grutness 10 Aug (DC).

Corncrake *Crex crex*. Over 25 calling Dumf (by 8 June) (NSRG); bred Comrie, N Perth (AH), and present summer in 6 other areas of Perth (EDC, THE, TDHM, KW); 4 calling Brechin area, Angus, and young seen at two sites nearby (AB, GMC, JRi); but none Lochgilphead, Arg (IR); becoming scarce Gairloch area, W Ross (ENH), and not heard Ardelve, where present 1968 (GJL); none heard, for first time in 10 yrs, Altnahara area, N Suth, May-June (EGH).

Arrival: 14-15 Apr, early bird Fetlar, Shet (ARM); 28 Apr, 1 Lundin Links, S Fife (PGTB); 29 Apr, 1 Gordonstoun, Moray (THJ); 1 May, first Fair Isle (then 2 on 7th, 3 on 11th) (RHD); 4 May, 1 Torry, Aber (MAMcD); 6 May, 1 Isle of May (to 11th) (AMcD), heard Murkle, Caith (ACa); 8 May, 1 Kilconquhar, S Fife (to 13th) (DWO); 11 May, 1 Unst, Shet (to end of month) (MS); 12 May, first O Heb, N Uist (WAJC). Other summer records in SE from Selk (1) (AJS), Peeb (2) (JHH, ADFL), Fife (2) (DWO, PS), E Stir (3) (JBI, MDS). Autumn: 1 Fair Isle 22 Sep (RHD); ad freshly dead on road Kirkcolm, Wig, 28 Oct, late date (IHA).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. No status changes reported. Ad with 2 small downy chicks 21 Jan, Haddington, E Loth; the species does, rarely, breed in winter (per RWJS). Fair Isle, 1-3 on 14 days 17 Apr-11 May; small passage (up to 3 a day) 10 Oct-7 Nov (RHD).

Coot *Fulica atra*. No reported changes in breeding status. Post-breeding flock L Leven, Kinross, built up in Aug to 252 on 4 Sep, then declined steadily to 10 by year end (AA, JHS). Other counts: Ork, flock 75 L of Bosquoy Oct-Nov moved to nearby Harray Loch in Dec (EB); E Ross, 230 L Eye 4 Oct (DMcD, WAS); N Perth, 620 L Clunie 16 Nov (VMT); Selk, 65 St Mary's Loch 14 Dec (JB); Rox, Yetholm Loch peak 260 end Aug (RSB), Alemoor Loch peak also 260 on 19 Oct (JB). One on sea Cramond, W Loth, 15 Feb (TCS).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. Return to breeding territories: Dumf, by 3 Mar (inland) (JGY); Rox, Yetholm Loch 23 Feb (RSB); Kinross, built up Mar to flocks of 20-30 L Leven by end of month, then dispersing to breeding grounds, build-up again from mid July to flocks 20-60, most gone by end of Aug (AA, JHS); E Inv, Speyside first flocks 8 Mar (DNW); Fair Isle, mainly from 3 Mar (and most away early Aug) (RHD); Shet, mainly Mar, and gone by end Aug (RJT). Many seem to have lost first clutches Altnahara, N Suth, where several still on eggs 15 June (EGH).

Flock migrating down Great Glen, E Inv, 15 July, a usual date (WMM); inland Forth-Solway passage noted Gladhouse, Midl, 20 July (45)-26 Aug (DGA, EMS, RWJS). Large packs as usual inner Solway by 4 Nov, when 15,000 Gretna-Caerlaverock, Dumf (JGY).

***Sociable Plover** *Chettusia gregaria*. 1 Eday for about a wk around 15 Jan (5: 467) (JSB), 3rd Scottish and Ork record.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Breeding numbers slowly recovering Ork (EB); again breeding commonly O Heb after almost disappearing (WAJC); slight increase Kinross (AA, JHS); good numbers bred Fife but very few

reared (owing to cold damp early-spring ?) (DWO); good numbers bred in parts of Moorfoots, Midl, but still well below pre-1963 level in most parts (WB). Many first nests lost Kirk in severe weather (ADW), and most broods 14 days later than average Altnahara area, N Suth (EGH). First back Speyside, E Inv, 8 Mar (DNW), and on Caith breeding territory 27 Feb (DMS); first spring arrivals Yell and Whalsay, Shet, 15 Mar (RJT, JHSi).

Main spring arrival Fair Isle from last wk Feb, peaks 17-18 Mar (50), 22 Mar (60), 7 Apr (55), 19 Apr (38), 28 May (23); return passage 9-25 June and especially 31 July-5 Nov, main peaks 13-14 Aug (32, 25), 6 Oct (30), 19th-20th (90, 50) and 22-23 Oct (50, 30) (RHD); Caith numbers very high Oct-Dec, estimated 10,000 (DMS); 2500 in L Leven area, Kinross, 17 Oct (DIMW). Flocks 20-50 already by shore Dumf 20 June, large numbers inner Solway by 17 Sep and peak of 12,000 Greta-Caerlaverock mid Nov (JGY). Weather movements 2 Feb: 600 SW over Gladhouse, Midl, and 350 SW over Portmore, Peeb (EMS, RWJS).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Using wartime concrete foundations for nest sites on Wig moorland plateau, possibly new area for inland breeding (RCD); 4 prs bred Endrick, L Lomond, the first for several years (JMi); fair numbers breed still East Neuk of Fife but very low success owing to disturbance by bathers at site after site (DWO).

Return to Fair Isle (one local bird wintered) from 16 Mar, spring peaks 14th (12) and 17 May (8) (RHD); record count 2000 Tynninghame, E Loth, 18 May (TB, EMS, RWJS); inland peak Endrick mouth 34 on 4 May (JMi). 1 St Kilda 30 June (LNC). Autumn passage Fair Isle 23 July-1 Oct, peaks Aug 8th (20), 15th-16th (25, 70), 18th-20th (40, 80, 50), 23rd (50), Sep 9th-11th (24, 40, 30), 21st (25) (RHD); passage Midl, Gladhouse peaks Aug 13th (13), 20th (20), last 28 Sep (DGA, EMS, RWJS), Musselburgh 19 Aug (200), 18 Sep (105) (JB); 300 Caerlaverock, Dumf, by 14 Aug (JGY).

***Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*. Clyde 1968 breeding site overgrown and unsuitable (DS). 1 Fair Isle 20 July (DBr, JAG).

Grey Plover *Charadrius squatarola*. Furthest N in winter, 1 Embo, SE Suth, 3 Jan (DMcD); 1 Nigg Bay 30 Jan (AR), first for N Kinc. In Clyde, where very scarce, noted Ayr (the most usual division), 1 Prestwick 15 Feb, and Doonfoot and Heads of Ayr 27 Dec (WRB). Autumn: Fair Isle, singles 28-30 July (very early), 8-9 Aug, 25 Aug, 17 Sep (RHD); Shet, 1 Whalsay 18 Sep (JHSi), 1 Foula 2-4 Oct (JGH); Dumf, several 19-22 Aug (2 Glencaple 19th, 1 Caerlaverock 21st, 2 Powfoot 22nd) (JGY). 1 Stornoway, O Heb, 26 Oct (WAJC).

Golden Plover *Charadrius apricarius*. Adverse weather prevented some prs laying at usual time Kirk, where afforestation threatens further reduction of main breeding areas (JSt, ADW); most broods 14 days late Alnahara, N Suth (EGH). Not recorded on territory Speyside, E Inv, until 26 Mar (DNW); first eggs Shet, Fetlar 17 Apr (ARM).

Spring passage: Dumf, 300 Northern form *Ch. a. altifrons* Thornhill 28 Apr (JM); Midl, 120 Northern at Gladhouse 9 Mar, 600 on 27 Apr, still 40 on 11 May (DGA, EMS, RWJS); Fair Isle, 9-28 Mar and 6 Apr-7 June, peaks 16-17 Mar (15, 20), 21-22 Apr (18), 4 May (11), 9 May (18) (RHD). Post-breeding flocks: Shet, Skerries from 14 July (ISR); 26 Kingoodie, N Perth, 15 July (HBo). Autumn passage and winter: Fair Isle, 12 July-24 Oct, mainly Aug-Sep, peaks Aug 8th (50), 11th (47), Sep 10th-16th (70-100 daily), 21st (50), 26th (46), Oct 13th (75), 19th (35) (RHD); Caith, Oct-Dec numbers smaller than usual (DMS); Moray, 400 Findhorn 2 Nov (BE); Perth, 550 Powgavie 9 Aug (VMT); Kinross, 1-3 noted 6 Aug-25 Sep, 45 on 26 Sep, 30 on 16 Oct, but no big build-up (AA, JHS); E Stir, maximum Skinflats-Kincardine Br 2200 on 11 Oct (DIMW); W Loth, 800 Cramond 28 Oct in open weather, a record count (DIMW); Midl, Moorfoots had 50, 100, 200 on Aug 10th, 17th, 23rd, still 200 on 19 Oct, 600 on 9

Nov (DGA, EMS, RWJS); peak Inchinnan, Renf, 600 on 24 Dec (IG); Dumf, first on shore Caerlaverock 14 Aug (320), increasing to known 6000 Gretna-Glencaple 17 Nov (JGY); Wig, first 100 Luce Bay 23 Aug, peak 1000 there 11 Oct (RCD).

***Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*. Breeding S to Tay faunal area but little information; 12 on one Cairngorm hill 15 May, display noted from 30 May (JCr, TAL, DNW). None reported on migration.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. Spring passage: O Heb, 14 Stornoway 11 May (RMcI); Fair Isle, to 22 May (RHD); Shet, departures May (RJT); but usual non-breeding birds in summer. Autumn: Shet, arrivals July-Aug (RJT); Fair Isle, from 18 July (RHD); E Inv, first Beaully Firth 4 Aug (MIH); Kinross, 2 inland L Leven 29 July (AA, JHS), first for county; Midl, Musselburgh 50-100 Aug-mid Oct, peaks 19 Aug (215), 18 Sep (150) (JB), 22 Oct (125) (DIMW), and 200 Inchmickery 21 Sep (JPK). Others inland: Gladhouse, Midl, ad 8 Aug, imm 26 Aug (EMS, RWJS); Barr Loch, Renf, 2 on 26 Aug and 20 Sep (IG, RAJ, GTW).

***Dowitcher** *Limnodromus* sp. **Long-billed Dowitcher** *L. scolopaceus*. L Lomond, Dumb, 2 May (6: 40) (RJWS), only the 2nd specific identification in Scotland and first of species for Clyde. Dowitcher sp. Tires 6-8 Oct (6: 41) (CST), first of either species in I Heb. Dowitcher sp. Nith estuary 16 Aug (*Brit. Birds* 62: 454) (MRO), first of either species in Solway and Dumf.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. No reported changes in breeding status. After only odd records, breeding numbers built up fairly quickly during Mar at L Leven, Kinross (JHS). Late brood of small young Craighens, Kirk, 13 Aug (JMCC).

Autumn: Fair Isle, passage from early Aug, peaks 15 Aug (8), 18 Aug (13), 17 Sep (16), 10th and 22 Oct (30) (RHD); N Suth, 26 in marsh Durness 5 Oct (DMcD, WAS); Kinross, frequent parties 10-25 in Aug, steadily dropping to early Nov (AA, JHS); Midl, 50-70 Gladhouse 20 July-7 Sep, then sharp drop, 50 appeared 26 Oct-2 Nov Rossllynlea Reservoir (DGA, EMS, RWJS); Dumf, widespread large numbers a feature of inland waters in autumn, trips 40-50 common, 170-200 one area near Dumfries Oct-Nov, dispersing by mid Dec (EBd, CH, JMe, HO); Wig, 41 Luce area 11 Oct (RCD).

***Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*. 1 Fair Isle 23 Sep (RHD).

Jack Snipe *Limnocyptes minimus*. Scattered winter records as far N as Fair Isle. Only two dated spring records after Mar: singles Skerries, Shet, 9 May (ISR), and Fair Isle 10 May (RHD). Very early autumn record L Leven, Kinross, 14 Aug (JHS). Autumn passage from 15 Sep, mainly Oct: Shet, 1 Fetlar 3rd and 10 Oct (ARM), passage Skerries 13-28 Oct (ISR); Fair Isle, small numbers 15 Sep-20 Oct, peak 8 Oct (8), singles 30 Oct, 13 Nov (RHD); Ork, 2 N Ronaldsay 11th and 14 Oct (EJW); Isle of May, 1 on 11-12 Oct (NJG); Midl, 10 Cobbinshaw 18 Oct, some lingering (EMS, RWJS), 1 Gladhouse from 26 Oct (to 21 Dec) (DGA, EMS, RWJS); Renf, Paisley Moss peak 9 on 12 Oct (IG); Dumf, odd birds various places mid Oct (NSRG).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. No reported changes in breeding status; but good breeding season Dumf and Kirk, with substantial autumn/winter numbers (30 Kirkconnell Flow Sep-Oct) (NSRG, JGY). Spring migrants: Fife, 2 Kingsbarns, 1 Fife Ness 23 Apr, 1 there 7 May (DWO); Fair Isle, mainly 7-8 Apr (7, 8) and 25-26 Apr (25, 6) (RHD); Shet, 1-3 Fetlar 8 dates 24 Apr-24 May (ARM). Autumn: Shet, several Skerries and Fetlar 13-24 Oct (ARM, ISR); Fair Isle, 13 Oct-11 Nov, rather scarce, peaks 23 Oct (15), 3 Nov (50), 5-6 Nov (20) (RHD); Ork, 1 N Ronaldsay 2-3 Nov (EJW); Aber, 1 Collieston 8 Nov (MJHC); Midl, 1 Cramond Island 15 Nov (TCS).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Breeding density increased in parts of Dumf

(JGY); very common and still spreading Caith (DMS); bred Lochs, Lewis, (IMcL), and seems to be increasing as breeding species O Heb, where first bred 1965 (WAJC). Upland breeding late Kirk (JSt, ADW).

L Leven, Kinross, winter flock 300 through Jan, rather few Feb, up to 140 by late Mar, 165 on 2 Apr, then dispersed to breed; build-up from late June, over 1000 late July-mid Aug, steadily declining to under 100 by year end (AA, JHS). First Speyside, E Inv, 8 Mar (DNW). Spring passage: Fair Isle, Apr-May, peaks 13 Apr (15), 19 Apr (27), 5 May (10); return there from 22 June (6), 25-26 June (20), mainly to mid Sep (RHD). Autumn: 35 over Inverness down Great Glen 7 July (WMM); post-breeding flocks Priestside, Dumf, by 7 July, increased to 600 Caerlaverock by 30 Aug, and by 17 Sep notable flight over Drumburn, Kirk, of 2700-3000 (KB, HO, JGY); 700 Cramond, W Loth, 27 Sep, record for area (TCS), but E Loth coastal numbers down if anything (KSMcG); possibly several thousand Grange of Cree, Wigtown Bay, 16 Nov (CABC). Still 14 inland Yetholm, Rox, 30 Nov, 2 on 13 Dec (RSB).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. Recently increased Shet, one or two new areas colonised (RJT); did not breed Eday, Ork, area devastated by fire (see 5 : 322) (EB).

Spring: 11 Apr, 21 Caerlaverock, Dumf (WA); 14 Apr, 1 Unst, Shet (MS); 18 Apr, start of Fair Isle passage (but mainly from 10 May, with 8 on 15 May) (RHD); 19 Apr, 2 Stornoway, O Heb (WAJC); 24 Apr, 100 flew N at Scalloway, Shet (RD), and first Fetlar next day (ARM). Quite a few passed low over Dalry, Kirk, just after midnight 14 May in thick mist (ADW); and 2 had been over Selkirk late on 9 May (AJS); also recorded 3 places Aber 8-11 May (RSBy, MAMcD).

Leaving Shet by mid Aug (few after 13 Sep) (RJT); Fair Isle passage from 24 July, mainly 2-20 Aug, last 26 Sep, peaks Aug 2nd-3rd (7), 5th (9) (RHD). Early autumn bird Largo Bay, Fife, 3 July (DWO); small numbers Aber from 20 July (NE, JAL), Kinross from 27 July (JHS), but 71 Findhorn, Moray, 31 July (BE). Marked passage Dumf most nights 17 Aug-20 Sep (WA, JKRM, DSK). Last dates: 1 Arisaig, S Inv, 4 Oct (DNW); 1 Isle of May 11-12 Oct (JGY).

***Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. A few summered and 1 pr probably bred Shet (RJT); 5 at S Scotland site 4 Apr, 3 in May, but not possible to check later and, as drier than usual, breeding may not have been attempted (anon). Winter: N Fife, up to 20 on Eden "in spring" but winter counts not quoted, peak later months was only 47 on 26 Oct (DWO, CST); E Stir, 1 Skinflats 2 Feb, 7th and 13 Dec (DF, MH); W Loth, 1 Cramond 1 Mar (TCS); Midl, 1-2 wintered both ends of year Seafield (KSMcG, MFMM, THJ); Ayr, 1 Barassie 23 Mar, 7 Apr (WRB). See also E Loth autumn records.

Spring passage 15 Apr-20 May, mainly 27 Apr-17 May (1 in June): Endrick mouth, L Lomond, 22 on 27 Apr, 1 on 2 May (TMC, RJWS); E Loth, 1 Aberlady 7 May, 2 on 17th (KSMcG, MFMM); E Stir, 3 Skinflats 14 May, 2 on 16th, 1 on 17th (DF, MH); Kinross, 1 L Leven 13 June (CRGC, JHS); Angus, 2 Montrose 15 Apr (GMC); Shet, 1 Fetlar 4th and 20 May (ARM), 1 Westsandwick 4 May (RJT), 1 Hillwell 4 May (DC), 2 L Asta 16 May (RD).

Autumn passage 20 July-20 Oct: Shet, 3 Fetlar 11 Aug (ARM); Fair Isle, 1 on 7-10 Aug (RHD); O Heb, 1 Flannans 22 July, 2 on 6 Aug, 1 on 16th (RWP), 1 Stornoway 26 July (TDR); E Inv, 4 Beaully Firth 4 Aug, 1 on 7 Aug and 14 Sep (MIH); Aber, 1 Auchlossan Loch 5 Aug (RSBy), 1 Slains Pool 15 Sep, 7 on 18th, 1 on 21st (JAL, WM, BP, AR), 2 Cruden Bay 5 Sep (MW); Angus, 1 Montrose Basin 14 Sep, 3 on 16 Sep, 1 on 5 Oct, 3 on 9th (GMC); Perth, 2 Kingoodie 18 Sep and 20 Oct (HBo); Kinross, 1 L Leven 23 July (CRGC, JHS); E Stir, 12 Skinflats 26-27 July, 4 on 17 Aug, 11 on 19th and 23-24 Aug, 7 on 1 Sep (DF, MH); E Loth, 2 Barns Ness 7 Sep (CNLC), 2 Aberlady 13 Sep and 5 Oct, 1 frequently

20 Sep-31 Dec, most continuous stay there yet (RF, DJ, KSMcG); Endrick mouth, 1 on 24 Sep (JMi); Renf, 4 Barr Loch 24 July, 1 on 13 Sep (RGC), 1 on 15-17 Sep, 2 on 20th, 4 on 21st (IG, RAJ); Ayr, 12 Hunterston 7 Aug (JLB); Kirk, 7 Nith estuary 20 July, increased to 50 by 3 Aug, peak 72 on 6 Aug (JGY), also Carsethorn (same birds?) from 9 Aug, 58 on 24th (Jdn, JKRM); Nith birds also noted Dumf shore (JGY); 3 Wigtown Merse 5 Aug (RCD, JFG).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. Two wintered as far N as Unst, Shet (MS). Spring singles to 6 June Shet (ARM), and 4 autumn records 2-28 Aug (DC, ISR, JHSi). Little information on migration, but Priestside, Dumf, flock peaked in late Oct as usual, at about 3000, the largest Solway concentration (JGY). Inland: 1 Cowden Loch, Comrie, N Perth, 25 Apr (VMT); 1 Endrick mouth 5 Apr (TDHM, JMi), and 2 there in W Stir 3-4 May (RGC, JMi).

***Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. Singles unless stated. Winter: Lan, wintered Merryton Farm, Hamilton, to 7 Apr, back 19 July (DS); Rox, Bowmont, Yetholm, 11 Jan-1 Feb, return 30 Nov (RSB), Northfield Farm 22 Feb (DRG); E Loth, Tynningame to 2 Mar, and Nov-Dec (TB, RWJS); S Fife, near Kilconquhar 23 Feb (DWO, GO).

Spring 22 Apr-4 June: Ber, St Abbs 3 May (RKMCG); Isle of May, 22 Apr (DJF), 3-8 May (1-2 daily), 29 May (JP); N Perth, Cowden Loch, Comrie, 22 Apr (RMR); N Suth, Balnakeil 11 May (DCH); Fair Isle, 23rd and 26 Apr, 4-5 May (4), 6 May (6), 1-2 to 15 May, 4 June (RHD); Shet, Fetlar 24 Apr, 6-7 May, 8 May (2) (ARM), Skerries 5th, 6th and 8 May (ISR).

Autumn 28 July-14 Sep (also 13 July, 10th and 18 Oct): Shet, Fetlar 9-12 Aug (2 on 11th), 16 Aug (ARM), Yell 16 Aug (DC), Mainland 27 Aug (PKK); Fair Isle, 28 July, 31 July-2 Aug (5, 3, 4), 13 Aug (3) and 11 other dates Aug, also 14 Sep (RHD); Ork, a few Isbister Oyce and L of Brockan 5-13 Aug (EB); E Inv/N Perth boundary, L an Duin, E of A9, early Sep (RMcC); Aber, Ythan 12 Aug (JAL); Angus, Montrose 11-12 Aug, 17 Aug (2) (GMC, MN), West Haven 13 Aug (TMCl), Lintrathen 20th (2) and 24 Aug (2), 4 Sep (GMC); E Stir, Skinflats 30 Aug, 11 Sep (MH); S Fife, Largo Bay 13 July (2) (DWO), Kilconquhar 12 Aug (DBMcG, HDS); Isle of May, 14th and 17 Aug (JH); Midl, Gladhouse 13 Aug, Cobbinshaw 18 Oct (EMS, RWJS); E Loth, Tynningame 10 Aug-7 Sep (RWJS), Aberlady 16-17 Aug, 13 Sep, 10 Oct (TB, MJE, JADH, DJ, RWJS); Rox, 2 Yetholm 31 Aug-7 Sep (RSB); Peeb, 1 Biggar 21 Aug (RSH); Endrick mouth 12 Sep (TW); Renf, Barr Loch 17 Aug-7 Sep (IG, RAJ); Lan, Quothquhan 30 Aug (RE-H); Dumf, Glencaple 8-17 Aug (WA, JGY), 3 Caerlaverock 4-12 Sep (JGY), Keir 5-10 Sep (JFY); Kirk, Islesteps 14 Aug (JGY); Wig, Mull of Galloway 17 Aug (JCS).

***Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. No reports of breeding in 1969. No birds at main E Inv breeding site (5: 323), but singles at two other localities, 26 May and 24 June (TAL, NP); Perth sites and perhaps some of Suth sites not checked.

Singles spring 27 Apr-1 June: Arg, L Ba 30 May, 1 June (WML-H); Caith, L Thulachan 18 May (DMS), first for county; Fair Isle, Apr 27th, 29th, May 3rd, 4th, 6th, 9th, 24th-25th (2), 26th, 28th (3), 31st (RHD); Shet, Skerries 11-12 May (ISR, RJT), Scalloway 26 May (DC). Autumn 27 July-12 Oct: Shet, Fetlar 5-7 Aug (ARM); Fair Isle 16-17 Aug (RHD); Aber, Slains Loch, Newburgh, 20 Sep (WM); N Fife, Eden estuary 30 Sep, 12 Oct (AGG, DWO); Midl, Gladhouse 8-13 Aug (DGA, EMS, RWJS); Renf, R Cart, Inchinnan, 27 July (DLC), Paisley Moss 29 Sep-1 Oct (IG); Lan, Bothwell Br 9 Aug (DS).

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*. No reported changes in breeding status. Spring arrival: 12 Apr, Glencorse, Midl (ADKR); 14 Apr, Cleish, Kinross (JK); 17 Apr, Yetholm, Rox (RSB); 19 Apr, Scour Water, Dumf (ARH), but not widespread in county till 1 May (JGY); 20 Apr,

Selkirk (AJS), L Leven, Kinross (AA, JHS); 21 Apr, 2 Gladhouse, Midl (DGA, EMS, RWJS), 3 Brechin, Angus (GMC); 22 Apr, 2 Dee estuary, Kirk (ADW), Comrie, N Perth (RMR), Foula, Shet (JGH); 23 Apr, St Abbs, Ber (RKMCG), Little L Shildaig, W Ross (ENH). Passage: Fair Isle, 3-31 May, peaks 3-6 May (5, 10, 25 record day's total, 10) and 8-10 May (12), a few to 16 June (RHD); Shet, probably more than usual 25 Apr-27 May, mainly 4-15 May, up to 6 Mainland 4 May, 5 Fetlar 15 May (DC, PKK, ARM, ISR, MS).

Autumn: Shet, a few 30 July-17 Aug Whalsay and Fetlar (ARM, JHSi); Fair Isle, small passage 31 July-20 Aug (9 on 17 Aug), singles 27 Aug, 16 Sep (RHD); further S, peak numbers round 13 July, Fife (DWO), and return passage on shore Dumf noted July, and very marked by 8 Aug (WA, JGY). Last dates: 5 Oct, Gladhouse, Midl (DGA, EMS, RWJS); 12 Oct, 2 Aberlady, E Loth (THJ); 16 Oct, Spey Mouth, Moray (JMB); 17 Oct, Kinnaird Park, Angus (JD); very late bird 16 Nov R Cart, Inchinnan, Renf (IG).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*. Still increasing Shet, especially N isles (RJT); increasing R Mudale, N Suth, 5 prs May-June (EGH); thought to be increasing in wet upland areas Dumf (JGY). Breeding birds arrived: Spey-side, E Inv, 21 Mar (HB, DNW); Kinross, late Mar (JHS); Midl uplands, Gladhouse, 23 Mar (DGA, EMS, RWJS).

Over 50, more than usual, muddy lagoons L Ken, Kirk, 4 Apr (ADW); spring peak Kingoodie, N Perth, 1000 on 14 Apr (HBo). Autumn passage: Fair Isle, from 26 June, mainly from 24 July, 80 on 18 Aug (RHD); Shet, arrivals Skerries on 27 July (ISR); W Ross, 25 Shildaig Bay 13 July, largest flock in area yet (ENH). Iceland immigrants to Nith, Dumf, 1200 by 27 Aug, 2000 Carsethorn-Drumburn mid Dec (JGY). Of several hundred trapped and measured Fife in midwinter most were certainly Iceland race *T. t. robusta* (TRG). Up to 6 inland Yetholm, Rox, Dec (cf. 5: 324) (RSB).

One trapped Earlsferry, Fife, 14 July 1969, dead Scheveningen, Zuid-Holland, 2 Jan 1970; Glen Clova, Angus, 1969 chick killed Finistere, France, 15 Nov (TRG).

***Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*. Singles unless stated. Winter: E Loth, Tynninghame 26 Jan (TB, EMS, RWJS); Ayr, Barassie 26 Jan (LAU), 2 Mar (KCRH, HSCH), Doonfoot 4 Jan-27 Apr, 25th and 27 Dec (AGS, WRB). Spring from 18 Apr: Kirk, Dee estuary 22 Apr (ADW); Dumf, 6 Caerlaverock 18 Apr (JGY); Aber, Balmedie 11 May (MAMCD); late ones, Hamilton, Lan, 22 June (KCRH, HSCH), and Sanday, Ork, 25 June (JMBu).

Autumn 20 July-23 Nov, mainly Sep: Shet, Whalsay 6 Aug (JHSi), Haaf Gruney 16 Aug (DC, RJT); Ork, Shapinsay 2-9 Sep (MAMCD), N Ronaldsay 14 Oct (EJW); Caith, 3 L of Mey 7 Sep, 2 on 14th (PJ); Moray, 2 Findhorn 24 Aug (BE); Aber, Forvie Aug 17th (4), Sep 9th, 12th (8), 15th (2), 18th (5), 24th (3) (TJ-F, DEBL, WMM, WM, AR); Angus, Montrose Aug 27th, Sep 7th, 14th, 19th, 21st (3), Oct 26th (GMC), Barnhill 7 Nov (JKRM); E Stir, Skinflats 7 dates 13 Aug-23 Nov (MH); Fife, Eden estuary 6th, 25th, 27 Sep, 12 Oct (AGG, GO, RWS), Fife Ness 18 Sep (DWO); Midl, Gladhouse 3 Aug (EMS, RWJS); E Loth, Tynninghame 10 Aug, 28 Sep (TB, EMS, RWJS), Aberlady 10 Oct, 8 Nov (KSMCG, MFMM); Endrick mouth 19 Sep (TW); Renf, Barr Loch 20 July-7 Sep, 2 on 3-4 Sep (IG, RAJ); Ayr, Doonfoot 15 Oct (AGS); Dumf, Annan 14 Sep (RTS), 8 Stanhope, 2 Caerlaverock, 2 Glencaple 19-21 Sep (JGY); Wig, 2 Luce estuary 5 Sep, 12 Wigtown Merse 14 Sep, 15 on 12 Oct (RCD), 5 L Ryan 19 Oct (JFG).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. No reported changes in breeding status. Most broods in Altnahara area, N Suth, 14 days later than average (EGH). Winter: Wig, 3 Luce Bay 1968/69 (RCD); Ayr, Doonfoot 22 Feb-27 Apr and Dec (WRB); N Fife, Boarhills 9 Jan (RAC); last L Linnhe 13 Dec

(JASN); E Inv, 4 Longman Bay 15 Dec (WMM); W Ross, wintered Torridon (JAW).

Spring return: 1 Apr, Badachro, W Ross (ENH), mainly from 8 Apr Torridon (JAW); 6 Apr, Speyside, E Inv (JPO); 7 Apr, 5 Uig, O Heb (IMCL). Passage: Fair Isle, 1-2 on 11 days 30 Apr-30 May (RHD); Shet, noted several places 4-7 May (DC, PKK, ISR).

Autumn movements 26 July-22 Oct, small numbers, but 12 Findhorn, Moray, 30 July (BE), 7 Glencaple, 14 Caerlaverock, Dumf, 30 Aug (JGY), 10 Pittanton estuary, Luce Bay, Wig, 14 Sep (ADW).

***Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*. 1 Strand Loch, Gott, 4-6 May (6:42) (DC, RD), 2nd Scottish record and first for Shet faunal area.

Knot *Calidris canutus*. Only Shet spring passage was flock 200 Virkie for 2 hrs 14 May (DC). Autumn: Shet, 1 Fetlar 20 July (ARM), first numbers 260 Virkie 29 July (WH), many parties then; Fair Isle, very strong passage, especially ads in summer plumage, July 21st (1), 23rd (14), 27th (15), 29th (90), up to 20-30 to Aug 7th, 8th (48), 9th (record total 100), 10th-12th (80, 70, 25), 18th (28), then fewer, last 3 Oct (RHD); E Inv, first 25 Inverness 7 Aug (MIH); banff, 460 on 10 Aug (JE); Aber, 50 Ythan 20 July, 350 on 5 Aug (JAL). Counts: Caith, more Oct-Nov than 1968 (PMcM); E Ross, 5000 Udale Bay 18 Jan (CGH); E Stir, Skinflats maximum 3000 on 14 Dec (MH); W Loth, very scarce before Christmas on Almond estuary, peak 500 on 20 Dec where usually thousands from Oct (TCS); Midl, 2000 Musselburgh 29 Nov, 28 Dec (JB, EMS, RWJS); Kirk, winter flock Carsethorn-Drumburn-Southernness less than former years, never over 6000 (JGY). Inland: Dunb, 1 Endrick mouth 3 May (MFMM), 1 on 14 Sep (DS); Midl, 1 Gladhouse on 23 Aug, 2 on 30-31 Aug (EMS, RWJS); Kinross, 1 L Leven 29 July, 2 on 6 Aug (AA, JHS).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. Fife Ness peak late Mar (DWO); Fair Isle passage 4-18 May (RHD), and Fetlar, Shet, last on 19 May (ARM); still 11 Southernness, Kirk, 15 May (JGY); left Isle of May 27 May (NJG). Return: 7 Scar Rocks, Wig, 12 July (JGY); Isle of May 14 July (NJG); Fair Isle from 18 July onwards, scarcer than usual, maximum 34 (RHD); but Caith numbers more than 1968 (PMcM). Peak counts: 150 N Ronaldsay, Ork, 25 Oct (EJW); 121 Banff 12 Dec (JE). One inland, wholly exceptional, R Cart, Inchinnan, Renf, 3 Nov after gales and heavy rain (IG).

***Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*. Singles unless stated. Fair number, autumn only, dates 13 July, 27 July-1 Aug, 16-20 Aug, 28 Aug-30 Sep, a few to 18 Oct: Shet, Skerries 31 Aug (ISR), Fetlar 5-10 Sep (ARM); Fair Isle, 29-31 Aug, small numbers 18 days Sep, 3 on 18th and 24th, 4 on 25th-26th, one 11-15 Oct (RHD); Ork, 7 Birsay Bay 15 Sep (EJWi); O Heb, Lewis 31 Aug (AFJ); Aber, Ythan/Forvie 29-30 July (9, 23), 31 Aug, 21 Sep (2) (LHC, WM, BP, AR); Angus, 2 West Haven 27 July (TMCl), Montrose 13 July, 9 Sep (3) (GMC), Elliot 13 Sep (MN), N Esk mouth 2 Sep, 16 Sep (3), 7 Oct (GMC); E Stir, maximum Grangemouth Docks 6 on 6 Sep (AHG, DCS), Grangemouth sewage works (said to be in W Loth) Sep 12th, 24th, 26th (2) (DF); Fife, Eden estuary Sep 21st (2), 27th (GO, RSW), Fife Ness 16-20 Aug, 2 on 17th (MEG, PAL, PHS), 18 Sep (2) (DWO); Midl, Musselburgh Sep 13th, 18th (8) (JB), 6 Gladhouse 14 Sep, 9 on 21st (DGA, EMS, RWJS), Cobbinshaw 18 Oct (EMS, RWJS); E Loth, Aberlady Aug 1st, 28th, Sep 13th, 27th (2) (FDH, DJ, KSMcG, EMS, RWJS, JDRV), Barns Ness 21 Sep (3) (KSMcG), Tynninghame Aug 30th, Sep 7th (2), 14th (23), 28th (5), Oct 12th (MFMM, RWJS); Dunb, Endrick mouth 19 Sep (TW); Renf, 5 Lochgoin 14 Sep, 5 Dunwan Dam 21 Sep (LAU), 2 Barr Loch 15-17 Sep, 4 on 18th, 1 on 24th (KCRH, HSCH, IG, RAJ).

***White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*. 1 N Ronaldsay 31 Oct (DBW), 5th Scottish record and first for Ork.

***Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*. 1 Paisley Moss and R Cart 12-19 Oct (RGC, IG, RAJ), first for Renf.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. Improved breeding season Dumf, two new localities (WD), but unsuccessful at sea level Caerlaverock (JGY); bred Endrick mouth, L Lomond, for first time in several years (JMi). Spring: N Perth, last real flock Kingoodie 200 on 1 Apr (HBo); Fair Isle, main passage 26 Apr-31 May, 10 on 16 May (RHD); Shet, arrival from 30 Apr (RJT). Autumn: Shet, gathering on shore from early July, many gone by mid Aug (RJT); Fair Isle, mainly 27 June-27 Sep, especially 15 July-end Aug, peak 19-20 Aug (45, 40) (RHD); Ork, passage from about 6 Aug (EB); Midl, Gladhouse passage began with 25 on 20 July (DGA, EMS, RWJS); Dumf, protracted migration to Nith estuary, flocks 50-60 by 14 Aug, build-up to 4000 by 12 Nov (JGY); Caith numbers at year end less than 1968 (PMcM).

Of 2000 just arrived Eden estuary, N Fife, 25 Sep, 25 measured were Northern *C. a. alpina* (the usual immigrant race); similar influx of this race to E Fife beaches 12 Oct (TRG).

***Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris testacea*. None spring. Heavy autumn passage 6 Aug-12 Oct, mainly 16 Aug-28 Sep; Ork, 5 Isbister Oyce 7 Sep, 8 on 10th (EB), 1 Shapinsay 3-9 Sep (MAMcD); Caith, 1 L of Mey 14 Sep (PJ); E Ross, 4 Tain 28 Aug (CJMCK-G); 3 Nairn end of Old Findhorn Bar 31 Aug (JE, DBMcG), first for county; Aber, Ythan/Forvie 20 on 16 Aug, 1 on 31st, 3 on 15 Sep, 35 on 18th were only counts (LHC, JAL, WM, BP); Angus, 3 Montrose 27 Aug, 6 on 9 Sep, 9 on 14th, 3 on 21st, 2 on 9 Oct (GMC); Fife, 24 Eden estuary 24 Aug, 11 on 5 Sep, 1 on 6th, 6 on 21st, 2 on 25th, 7 on 27th (GO, RWS, CST), 1 Fife Ness 3rd, 9th, 18 Sep, 2 on 12 Oct (PGTB, DWO); E Stir, 6 Skinflats 30 Aug, 12 on 31st, 1 on 3 Sep, 15 on 13th, 5 Grangemouth Docks 6 Sep, 2 on 7th (DF, MH), and 65 Grangemouth sewage works (said to be W Loth) 12 Sep, 10 on 19th, 12 on 21st and 24th, 18 on 26th (DF); Midl, 9 Musselburgh 31 Aug, 2 on 6 Sep, 1 on 13th, 20 on 18th (JB), 1 Gladhouse 30-31 Aug (EMS, RWJS); E Loth, 2 Aberlady 23 Aug, 25 on 28th, 1 on 13 Sep (DJ, KSMcG), 2 Tynninghame 24 Aug, 100 on 30th, 7 on 7 Sep, 2 on 14th, 3 on 18th, 1 on 28th (TB, TD, EMS, RWJS), 9 Barns Ness 7 Sep (KSMcG); 1 Heb, 1 L Gruinart, Islay, 17 Aug (AHG); N Arg, 1 Rhunahaorine Pt, Kintyre, 9 Sep (DRG); Dunb, 2 Endrick mouth 12 Sep (TW); Renf, 20 Langbank 28 Aug (DLC); Ayr, singles Prestwick 6 Aug (AGS), Barassie 6-7 Sep (RGC, IG, RAJ); Dumf, 7 Glencaple 2-17 Sep (JMMcG, JGY), 3 Browhouses 7 Sep (RTS), 2 Caerlaverock 8 Sep (JGY); Wig, 1 Wigtown Bay 14 Sep, 1 Luce Bay 27 Sep (RCD).

Sanderling *Crocethia alba*. Spring departure: Aber, 54 Ythan 1 Mar, 50 Br of Don 13 Apr (MAMcD); S Inv, 2 Corpach 8 May (JASN); Caith, 25 Dunnet 29 May (JARG); O Heb, 1 Stornoway 25 May (RMcI); Shet, 1 Fetlar 6 May (ARM). No summer records.

Autumn/winter from 17 July: Fair Isle, passage 17 July-24 Sep, mainly 30 July-22 Aug and 11-18 Sep, with 20 on 17 Sep (RHD); Shet, 11 Fetlar 29 July (ARM), most reports 4 Aug-20 Oct (RJT); Ork, 120 N Ronaldsay 25 Sep, 130 on 24 Oct (EJW); O Heb, 1 Stornoway 27 July, 10 on 30 Aug (RMcI); Caith, Sep-Oct numbers well up, flocks of 30 quite frequent (PJ, PMcM, DMS); N Suth, 14 Balnakeil 20 July, 30 on 6 Aug (DCH); W Ross, up to 40 Red Pt Aug (ENH); Nairn, 9 Old Findhorn Bar 31 Aug, first for county (JE, DBMcG); Banff, 20 Portgordon 24 July (JMB); Aber, 2 Ythan 24 July, 15 Forvie 29th (JAL); E Stir, 7 Skinflats, where rare, 19 Aug, 4 Grangemouth Docks 13 Sep (DF, MH). Inland singles: Dunb, Endrick 24 Apr (DS); Midl, Gladhouse, 20 July, 3 Aug (EMS, RWJS).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. Again wintered Aberlady/Drem, E Loth, Jan-30 Mar, maximum 19, and also at end of year, maximum 13 on 28 Dec (DJ, KSMcG); 7 following plough W Fenton, E Loth, 30 Dec (DJ); still 3 Skinflats, E Stir, 20 Dec (DF, MH). Spring: N Fife, good numbers

Eden estuary, peak 5 on 4 Apr (DWO); N Kinc, 1 Girdle Ness 4 May (ADKR), first for N Kinc; Fair Isle, ♂ 5-8 May (RHD).

Autumn, 3 areas July (from 16th), mainly 10 Aug-16 Oct, last 9 Nov; listed are first and last records, details of passage, and flocks of 10 or more; Shet, four areas 11-26 Aug (DC, ARM, ISR, JHSi, RJT); Fair Isle, 1 on 23 July, others 5 Aug-27 Sep, 8 on 12 Aug (RHD); Moray, 10 Spey Mouth 13 Sep (DBMcG); E Stir, peak 15 Skinflats 22 Aug (DF, MH); Midl, very poor passage Gladhouse, 1-2 on 7 days 8 Aug-9 Nov (DGA, EMS, RWJS); Rox, 1 Ale Moor Reservoir 10 Aug (JADH), first for county; Renf, first 3 Barr Loch 23 July (ITD, MMD); Dumf, 2 Caerlaverock 16 July, 12 on 5 Sep, rose to 20 by 20 Sep, 40 by 22nd following rain from W, down to 20 on 26th, last 2 on 16 Oct (JGY).

***Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*. 1 Newburgh, Aber, 23-26 Mar (WM, AR), first for Dec. 1 Lossiemouth, Moray, 17 May (BT), first for Moray Basin.

***Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Three singles: Brough, Caith, 18 Sep (AB); Longman Bay 23 Nov (DBMcG, MR), first for E Inv; Gullane Bay, E Loth, 8 Nov (DCS). Also 4 unidentified phalaropes on sea Anstruther, S Fife, 13 Oct (NSRG).

***Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*. Breeding population (say 24-36 prs) only about half that of 1968; only one bird at southernmost site (2 prs 1968) and Shet breeding restricted to one island (MJE). Early bird Fetlar 11 May, 2 on 14th, few more till build-up in 2nd wk June, fewer prs than usual, first chicks 27 June, few birds left a month later, last on 11 Aug (ARM, RJT).

1 Caerlaverock, Dumf, 6-15 July (per ELR). Autumn: 1 Virkie, Shet, 28 Sep (DC, JND); 1 Eadale Sound, N Arg, also 28 Sep, during SW gales (JLB). See also under Grey Phalarope.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*. Still expanding territory Foula, Shet, 1100-1200 prs; first 26 Mar, many ashore by end Mar (JGH). First Fetlar and Unst 4 Apr (ARM, MS); Fair Isle 1 Apr (1), next 5th, 3 on 11th, 6 on 12th, 10 on 15th, 20 on 16th (RHD); Ork, continuing to increase and spread (EB); O Heb, at Gress 17 Apr (RMCl), 12 prs bred Lewis, 2 prs (1 with eggs) N Rona 14 June (WAJC); St Kilda, increase to about a dozen prs (9 nests) (*Birds* 3: 42); Caith, no success with nests (DMS); W Suth, 2 prs with eggs Handa (DMcD). Spring passage Rattray, Aber, 18-27 Apr (MW), but 1 at sea off Aberdeen 11 Mar (RSBy).

Autumn: Shet, numbers decreased Sep-Oct, late ones Fetlar 9 Nov (ARM), Hascosay 10 Dec (RJT), pr still defending territory and unfledged chick Foula last wk Oct, and very late one 20 Dec (JGH); Fair Isle, emigration from 9 Aug, noticeable passage over island to NW 15 Sep, down to 4 by 22 Sep, but influx 20 on 25th-26th, fluctuating to mid Oct, stragglers to 31st (RHD). On E coast: Aber, first 2 Newburgh 29 July, 11 there and 6 Buchan Ness 3 Aug (LHC, JAL, BP), passage Rattray 29 July-8 Oct, 1/hr N 22nd and 24 Aug, 1 on 2 Nov, 2 on 16th, 1 Br of Don 30 Nov (MW); Angus, peak 6 Usan 29 Aug (GMC); Fife, peak 8 from boat off Anstruther 10 Oct (NSRG); E Stir, 1 Skinflats 2 Nov (MH).

***Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Singles, 2 spring records 28 May-25 June, more autumn 18 Aug and 14 Sep-15 Nov: Shet, off Sumburgh 28 May (PKK), at Scalloway 17-25 June (DC, RD, RJT), Whalsay 16 Oct (2), 19th, 21st (2), 28th (JHSi), Skerries 8 Nov (ISR); Fair Isle, flew S 17 Sep (RHD); Ork, 2 Dennis Head 8th and 10 Oct (DBW); Aber, flew S Rattray Head 29 Sep (MW), ad Forvie 25 Oct (MJHC); E Stir, Skinflats 15 Nov (MH); E Loth, imm Tynninghame 14 Sep (RWJS); Arran, ad off NE 18 Aug (DCo).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Small new colony Caith (MW); pr bred for first recorded time Skerries, Shet (ISR); Fair Isle, 1 seen 10 Apr, arrived calling 19th, 8 on 26th, 25 on 28th, full strength early May,

population probably still increasing, some 180 prs with good breeding success (RHD); first back Fetlar 19 Apr (ARM). A few passing Rattray, Aber, 20 Apr-7 May (MW).

Dispersing Shet Aug-Sep (RJT); decrease Fair Isle from 16 Aug, 20 on 5 Sep down to 2 on 13th, last 19th, 2 on crossing 2 Oct (RHD); E Ross, light passage late Aug/early Sep Tarbat Ness, maximum 10/hr 27 Aug (CJMCK-G); Aber, up to 4 Ythan and elsewhere 3-26 Aug (LHC, JAL, BP), at Rattray Head 5 N and 11 S in an hour 22 Aug, 28 S in an hour 23 Aug, 13 N in a half-hour 24 Aug, 1 N on 2 Nov (MW); Angus, common Aug-Oct, maximum 30 Usan 28 Sep (GMC); Fife, from early Aug, but maximum only 4 Burntisland 21 Sep (JMC); E Stir, rather scarce and late Skinflats area, 5 Grangemouth 6 Sep (AHG, DCS), 1 on 15 Nov (MH); W Loth, 1 Dalmeny 16 Oct, 1-3 Cramond 24th and 28 Oct (DIMW); Midl, Musselburgh 15 Aug-4 Oct, 6 on 23 Aug (JB); E Loth, less than usual in autumn Aberlady (KSMcG).

***Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*. Ad spent short time in Arctic Skua colony Fair Isle 5 June until the others chased it off (RHD). Singles Shet, Unst 10 June (HDU), Selvoe 12 June (HGW), Whalsay 12 Aug (JHSi); 1 S at Fife Ness 18 Aug (MEG, PAL, PHS).

***Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea*. Imm Shet, at Ollaberry, Mainland, 6 Nov (SW), and at Basta Voe, Yell, on 8th (RJT). One seen from scallop boat between Ardnamurchan Pt, N Arg, and Coll about 30 Nov (LRI).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. One of Isles of Fleet, Kirk, with 41 nests, probably largest Solway colony (RHM). Breeding birds displaying in territory Fair Isle from 26 Mar (RHD).

Hundreds passing N at Rattray Head, Aber, 7-11 Feb (MW). Record count 800 Aberlady, E Loth, 18 Oct (DJ). Very large flocks ashore Fair Isle in strong weather 15-17 Nov (5000, 4000, 1000), 24-25 Nov (5000, 2000), 8-10 Dec (2000, 1000, 1000), 18th and 20 Dec (500) (RHD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. Increased breeding numbers Isles of Fleet, Kirk (RHM); increasing Isle of May, estimated 2000 prs (JP); breeding numbers and success rather low Fair Isle (RHD).

Winter: Dumf, only 2 (least for several years) wintered Glencale (JGY); E Loth, 1 Aberlady 10 Jan (MFMM); Midl, 1 Lochend 23 Nov, 21 Dec, British race (DGA); W Loth, 1 Cramond 15 Feb (TCS). Spring return: 1 Mar, Aberlady, E Loth (DJ), possibly a wintering bird; 9 Mar, Lewis, O Heb (WAJC); 16 Mar, 1 Burntisland and 1 Pittenweem, Fife (JMC, DWO); 20 Mar, 35 back Nith estuary, Dumf (JGY); 23 Mar, 1 Mid Yell and 1 Fetlar, quite early for Shet (ARM, RJT); 27 Mar, Dunnet, Caith (PMcM); but first 15 not at Fair Isle till 13 Apr (RHD). Autumn: flock 200 ads Thurso Bay, Caith, 20 July (DMS); Fair Isle numbers low by 20 Aug, last 20 Sep (RHD); last Gullane, E Loth, 11 Oct (KSMcG); 1 Kenmore, Perth, 26 Oct (TCS).

Scandinavian birds *L. f. fuscus*: 1 Fair Isle 30 Apr-5 May (RHD); 2 Whalsay, Shet, 12 Aug (JHSi); 2 West Ferry, Angus, 29 Sep (TMCI).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Still increasing Isle of May, estimated 15,000 prs (JP); big increase Tentsmuir, N Fife, to 50 prs and others scattered about (DWO); up from 2 to 7 prs L Leven, Kinross (AA, JHS). A few prs continue to breed on Inverness roofs (MR). Breeding seemed late Caith, where nested in cultivated fields Brough, having been displaced from cliffs by Fulmars (DMS).

Thousands moving N at Rattray Head, Aber, 7-11 Feb (MW); 50,000 gulls flying over Lochar estuary, Dumf, in Dec to roost on Blackshaw Bank were mainly this species (AFA). Late-summer increase L Leven, Kinross, slow to materialise, only 5000 against 10,000-20,000 other years (AA, JHS). Rather scarce Fair Isle in early months (maximum 100), but

very large numbers sheltered on island during storms 15-17 Nov (5000, 4000, 1000), 24 Nov (8000—even islanders remarked on this largest ever count), 8-10 Dec (4000, 2000, 2000), 18 Dec (1000), 20 Dec (1500); came from offshore fishing fleets and mostly ads of northern origin, noticeably bigger than local birds, some as big as Great Blackbacks and with dark grey mantles and very dusky heads (RHD). Probable Scandinavian bird *L. a. omissus* 19 Jan Br of Don, Aber (MAMcD). Still an albino Stornoway, O Heb (WAJC); albino on Carrick in Glasgow thought to be ♀, seen displaying to another Herring Gull 8 Apr, these being last 2 to leave the area, back 6 Oct (RGC); also 2 albinos Caith (DMS).

Common Gull *Larus canus*. No reported changes in breeding status. Hundreds passing N at Rattray Head, Aber, 7-11 Feb, and passing S on 9 May for 6 hrs from dawn, 2400/hr (MW); movement Inverness area 27 Feb-15 June (MR). Fair Isle passage from 15 Mar (20), 30 on 19th, scarcer till 18-25 Apr (20, 500, 100, 100, 300, 400, 300, 200), 150 on 6 May, 100 to 9th (RHD); unusually heavy passage Shet, 23-26 Apr, hundreds S over Mid Yell 24th (RJT), 600 Fetlar 25th (ARM), 1000 Whalsay 26th (JHSi), largest flock of gulls ever seen resting on Skerries in late Apr (ISR). Autumn passage Fair Isle from 26-27 July (700, 300), 31 July-3 Aug (2000, 450, 250, 250), 8th (250), 11th-14th (300, record 4000, 1000, 200), Sep maximum 180 on 12th, Oct 400 on 23rd-24th (RHD).

One of several dead St Andrews 31 Dec had been ringed as a chick near Kingisepp, Estonia, on 4 June 1968 (TRG).

***Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*.** Shet: usual scatter of mostly imms in first 4-5 months, odd imms summer; unprecedented arrival during persistent northerly gales in late autumn, headland flocks of gulls containing a high proportion of Glaucous—about 100, many of them ad, Fetlar 28 Nov (but to and fro movement between boats and bathing lochs made estimates difficult), and as many as 1 in 60 gulls seen from fishing boat 10 Nov was Glaucous (RJT). Fair Isle: 1-3 on 17 dates Jan-22 July; autumn ads 8th, 22nd, 27 Oct, juv 29th; unprecedented Nov invasion with other gulls in storm 15 Nov, when at least 50, next day 75 (more ads than imms), dropping thereafter, but over 300 (two-thirds ad) arrived 24 Nov with return of big gulls, down to 100 on 25th and maximum 10 thereafter until 8-10 Dec (50, 25, 20); easily largest numbers ever on Fair Isle, and preponderance of ads unusual (RHD). No reflection of these numbers elsewhere.

Summer (June-Aug) elsewhere: Ork, 1 Stronsay Great Blackback colony June (JMBu), ad Kirkwall 8 July (MAMcD); Angus, 1 West Haven 9th and 13 Aug (TMCI); E Loth, imm Whitekirk 20 June (JMo). Records other months: Ork (small numbers), O Heb (scarcer recently, 2), Caith (small numbers), SE Suth (2), E Inv (2), Aber (8), N Kinc (1), Angus (3), E Loth (6), Skye (1), Ayr (3), Wig (1 Stranraer 10 May) (RCD).

***Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*.** All sub-adults or imms unless stated. Shet: usual few imms early in year, especially Lerwick and Scalloway (where 1 on 9 June), more than usual Nov-Dec after persistent N gales in late autumn (RJT); Fair Isle, ad 16th and 24 Nov (RHD); O Heb, 1 Stornoway 19 Mar (WAJC), 1 Benbecula 8 July (DH); Caith, 1 Wick 30 Mar (RS), 1 Scrabster 27 Dec (DMS); E Inv, 1 Inverness 8 Feb, 28 Feb, 17 Mar (MIH), 1 Clachnaharry 1 Apr (JAL); Aber, 1 Br of Don 15-19 Jan (MAMcD), 1 at sea off Aberdeen 11 Mar (RSBy), ad Aberdeen 20 Mar, 1st-W next day (MJHC, WM), 2 Torry 3-4 May, 1 Br of Don 31 May (MAMcD); S Fife, 1 flying up Forth at Fife Ness 20 Sep (AGG); Midl, 1 inland Duddingston 29 Mar (DRA); 1 Ayr harbour 28th and 30 Nov (RGC, IG, RAJ).

***Little Gull *Larus minutus*.** Main area: N Perth/Angus, reported every month, peak Apr/May and Aug/Sept, peak Invergowrie Bay 27 Apr (114), 6 May (149), 9th (168), 11th (70) (HBo); Fife, 22 Feb-13 Oct, probably present all year, back Kilconquhar late July, 5 on 2 Aug, 150 on 15th,

369 on 20th, still large numbers 29 Aug but only 5 on 30th and odd ones later (PGTB, MEG, JADH, DWO, RBT), 24 Boarhills 10 July (GO), also St Andrews, Fife Ness, Largo Bay/Leven, maximum 17 Lundin Links 22 Sep (PGTB).

Elsewhere : Shet, imm Unst 10 June (HDu), 4 on 17th (PG), 1 Grutness 4 Nov (per RJT); Fair Isle, 1 N on 4 Apr, 1 flew over 3 Dec (RHD); Ork, ad Sandside Bay, Deerness, 20 Sep (EJWi); O Heb, ad Balranald 1 July (DH); N Kinc, ad Girdle Ness 18 Sep (RSBy), 1 Nigg Bay 25 Sep (HNR), 1 Aberdeen 3-4 Oct (MJHC, WMM); Isle of May, 1 on 19 Sep (AFL); Kinross, L Leven 1st-Y 5 May, 24-25 June (AA, JHS), imm 7 Aug (NC, KE); E Stir, 1 Skinflats 1 July (DF, MH); W Loth, 1 Dalmeny 15 Mar (TCS), first for county; Midl, 1st-Y Gladhouse 16 June (DGA); E Loth, imm Aberlady 16 Aug (JADH), ad 12 Oct (RMB), 1 Tynninghame 24 Aug (TB, EMS, RWJS); S Arg, imm at kipper factory Inverneil, L Fyne, 20-22 Aug (MC); Dumb, 1 R Leven 8 Feb (DJL); Renf, imm Portencross 28 July (JLB); Ayr, 3 Ayr harbour 31 Aug (CEP), imm Doonfoot 20-25 Aug, 18-19 Sep (WRB).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. Increases 2 small colonies Kirk (ADW); another good year Dumf (NSRG); over 7400 nests L Leven, Kinross, late May (AA, JHS); 3 small new colonies found Caith (DMS), and 1 N Suth (EGH). Arrival Speyside, E Inv, notably late, first 21 Mar (DNW). Numerous recoveries of Dumf chicks indicate random dispersal (NSRG); 1969 Rowbank, Renf, chick controlled Co Kerry 5 Jan 1970 (RAJ); year-old bird Dumbarton 22 June had been ringed as chick in Jutland (JMi). Spring passage Fair Isle 14-27 Mar (30 on 19-20 Mar) and 5 Apr; return from July, first juvs 14th (RHD).

***Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*.** Year-old bird Craigton Pt, E Ross, 3 Aug (6 : 43) (RAH, JTh), first for Moray Basin.

***Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*.** One flying round fishing boat between Fetter and Whalsay 22 Oct (JAI, LI, PSI), 2nd Scottish and Shet record.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Increase to 36 nests Meikle Ross, Kirk (DSk, JGY); colony of 10,000 prs found Bach-Ailean, Caith (PJ, DMS), ranking in first half-dozen or so in Scotland (*Bird Study* 10 : 149); continued increase Fair Isle (RHD); increased many places Shet, and little evidence of serious depredations by Great Skuas claimed by some commentators (RJT). First back Clett Rock, Caith, 20 Mar (KM); first Fair Isle 3 Mar, regularly from 18th, building from 5 May, decreasing from 22 July, last ashore 17 Aug, except 45 on 3 Sep (RHD). Autumn movements: Fair Isle, passage first wk Oct (RHD); Moray, 500 (30% juv) Findhorn 19 Oct (BE); Aber, northward movement Rattray Head 29 Oct into 38-40 knot NW wind, estimated 30,000/hr, birds appearing like white ribbon for quite a time (MW); E Loth, 1400 Tynninghame 2 Aug, 3000 moving NW up coast there in 2 hrs 16 Nov (TB, EMS, RWJS), 5000 (50% imm) moving up Forth at N Berwick in 3 hrs 2 Nov (RMB). Inland : Midl, imm Dalkeith 18 Mar (CNLC), 1 dead (oily) Roseberry Reservoir 6 Apr (RWJS).

***Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*.** Singles unless number noted. Spring (17) 3-31 May and 22 June, especially 3-11 May : Dumf, 3 Lochmaben 3 May (BPB), R Esk 5 May (ELoC); E Loth, Aberlady 4 May (GHo), 2 on 5th (KSMcG); Midl, Gladhouse 25 May (EMS, RWJS); E Stir, 3 Skinflats 4-11 May (MH, TDHM); N Fife, Lindores 6 May (WCu); Angus, Forfar Loch 6 May (GMC), Rescobie 11 May (PAH); Aber, Ythan 22 June (JF); E Inv, Insh 10 May (HB, JHo); Moray, Spey Mouth 31 May, 22 June (JMB).

Autumn (about 20) 27 July-26 Oct, mainly 9-31 Aug : Angus, Montrose Basin 10 Aug (GMC), Forfar Loch 13 Aug (HBo), Arbroath 11th and 20 Sep (MN); E Stir, Skinflats 23 Aug (3), 24th, 27th, 28th, 2 on 31 Aug (MH, TDHM); E Loth, 6 Aberlady 9 Aug (EMS, RWJS), juv Peffer Sands, Whitekirk, 27 July (TB, EMS, RWJS); Renf, Barr Loch 9th, 11th, 17 Aug (RGC, IG, RAJ), Castle Semple Loch 14 Sep, 25-26 Oct (AHG, JMcl, DJN).

***White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*. 1 N Berwick 27 June (6 : 44) (RMC), first for Forth and E Loth and 7th Scottish record (all since 1964).

***Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*. 2 Skinflats 6 Sep (6 : 45) (CST), first for E Stir and 5th Scottish record.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. Breeding status : Wig, 18 prs re-established Mochrum after 5 yrs absence (JGY), but Dunskey site deserted (ADW); Kirk, few bred Kirkconnell Merse compared with 1968 (JGY); Renf, largest colony (50 nests) reared no young (IG, RAJ); E Loth, 250 prs bred Aberlady, most since at least 1946 (KSMcG); Kinross, 68 nests L Leven against 85 in 1968, poor breeding season (AA, JHS); N Fife, after no chicks in 1968, Tentsmuir numbers greatly reduced, and few reared 1969 either (DWO); E Inv, 4 new inland colonies in Spey/L Erich area held 6 prs in all (DNW).

Arrival : 18 Apr, 3 'Comic' Rattray, Aber (MW); 23 Apr, 10 Kirkconnell Merse, Kirk (JGY), Fife Ness (DWO); 29 Apr, 2 R Ness, E Inv (MIH). Last dates : 21 Oct, still offshore Midl (DIMW); 22 Oct, 'Comic' Forvie, Aber (AK); 1 Nov, 1 Carsethorn, Kirk (JKRM); 2 Nov, 'Comic' Tynninghame, E Loth (RWJS); 3 Nov, 'Comic' Kirkcaldy, Fife (JMC); 9 Nov, 'Comic' Leith, Midl (DGA).

Arctic Tern *Sterna macrura*. As with Common Tern, breeding numbers greatly reduced and little success Tentsmuir, N Fife (DWO). Arrival : 23 Apr, 1 Spey Bay, Moray (JMB); 26 Apr, first 'Comics' Dunnet, Caith (DMS); 27 Apr, 2 Kirkconnell Merse, Kirk (JGY). Fair Isle passage from 17 May through June (RHD). At Stornoway, O Heb, colony from 25 May (RMcl). Last dates : 17 Oct, 1 Musselburgh, Midl (DIMW); 25 Oct, late 'Comic' at Fair Isle (RHD).

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*. Only 20-50 prs Inchmickery 19-20 June (cf. 5 : 333) (MJE, RWJS), but 50 prs breeding Fidra 14 June (RWJS), and 6 nests St Baldred's Boat, E Loth, 21 June (GLS). Pr tried to breed N Fife (DWO). Up to 3 prs mid June carrying fish and displaying at Arctic Tern colony Sanday (JMBu), first record for Ork. Pr off Ard an Runair, Balranald, May (DH), first for O Heb faunal area. Some days May, 50/hr moving N at Fife Ness (DWO); 2 Findhorn, Moray, 29 July (BE).

Little Tern *Sterna altifrons*. New colony 3 prs Rattray, Aber (MW). First Aberlady, E Loth, 26 Apr (KSMcG); then 2 Stornoway, O Heb, 11 May (RMcl); 2 Br of Don, Aber, 14 May (MAMcD); 1 Southernness, Kirk, 15 May (JGY); 4 Largo Bay, Fife, 18 May (PGTB). A very late bird was at Forvie, Aber, on 22 Oct (AK).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. Did not attempt breeding Tentsmuir, N Fife, this year after 500 prs failed 1968 (5 : 333) (DWO); fair numbers Caith in summer but still no colony found (DMS).

Exceptionally early one Whalsay, Shet, 17-18 Mar (JHSi). Other first dates (latish) : 7 Apr, first Fife Ness (many 9th) (GO), 3 Findhorn, Moray (DB); 16 Apr, N Berwick, E Loth (DYA); 18 Apr, 60 N at Rattray, Aber (MW); 20 Apr, Ackergill, Caith (JARG). Last : 1 Scrabster, Caith, 19 Oct (PMcM); 4 Gosford, E Loth, same day (KSMcG). Inland : 2 Endrick mouth, Dunb, 1 June (JMI, RSh).

Razorbill *Alca torda*. No reported changes in breeding status. First ashore Fair Isle 3 Mar, regularly from 21 Mar, continuously from 2 Apr, decrease from 12 July, few left 24th, last ashore 31st (RHD); and few seen after July dispersal Shet except at sea (RJT). Back at Dunnet Head, Caith, 5 Jan and again 19 Dec (CW). Some 40 Razorbills and Guillemots off Cramond/Dalmeny shore on 24 Oct (DIMW) and 20 Dec (TCS), more than for years. A few hundreds affected by W coast autumn seabird wreck (see Guillemot) (AGS); a few wrecked or oiled E Ross (MKMcD-D) and E Stir (MH) Feb/Mar; affected by oil Fife towards year end (DWO). A

chick ringed Hermaness, Shet, 5 July 1967 shot Faeroes 20 May 1969 (EF).

Little Auk *Plautus alle. One "freshly dead" Findhorn, Moray, 4 July (BE). Otherwise Jan-May, Sep-Dec. Numerous Shet 1968/69 and 1969/70, most gone 11-18 Feb (RJT), first Skerries 3 Sep (ISR), main arrival Oct-Nov (RJT); Fair Isle, 30 on crossing 15 Jan, 50 on 22 Jan, 20 on 4 Nov, 500 on 11 Nov, 100 on 20 Nov, 100 off island 6 Dec, Nov/Dec numbers much above usual and more at island end of crossing than usual (RHD). Elsewhere: Ork, 2 inland late Dec, slightly oiled (EB); O Heb, 2 Stornoway 9 Mar (WMA); Caith, singles dead 2 Jan, 2 Feb (DMS), 3 Thurso 16 Feb (GF); E Ross, 1 Avoch 17 Feb, 1 Invergordon 25 Feb (CGH); Aber, 8 dead 23 Feb-31 May Aberdeen-Br of Don (DB, MJHC, MAMcD); N Kinc, 1 Stonehaven 14 Feb, dead 15th (AR); S Kinc/Angus, 11 dead on shore (10 Angus) 14 Jan-26 Apr, 5 East Haven 26 Dec (MN); Perth, inland, 1 dead (oiled) Dunning 25 Feb (MMr), 1 alive and active Glen Farg 14 Dec (per JHS); Fife, a few early in year, 4 dead 8-23 Mar, 3 longer dead 4 Apr-3 May, Tentsmuir, St Andrews, Fife Ness, Kirkcaldy (RAC, JMC, DWO, GO), 1 dead Fife Ness 8 Dec (JARG); E Stir, 2 dead Skinflats Feb/Mar (MH); W Loth, 1 dead Dalmeny 15 Mar (TCS); Midl, 2 dead (oiled) Portobello 23 Mar, 1 on 12 Apr (MJE), 1 dead inland Inverleith 24 Nov (DMcG); Renf, 1 inland Castle Semple Loch 24 Nov (AGG).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*. Possible increase Isle of May, estimated 4000-5000 prs (NJG). Many ashore Fair Isle 22-28 Jan, 5th and 26-27 Feb, good numbers from 3 Mar, continuously from 20 Mar, breeding numbers still increasing, dispersal from 12 July, few left 28th, last ashore 4 Aug, but many on crossing 21 Oct, and back on ledges 8th, 12th, 26 Nov, 3rd, 24th-28th, 30 Dec (RHD); also visiting ledges Shet from Dec (RJT); first on Clett Rock, Caith, 4 Jan (KM), at Dunnet Head 19 Dec (CW). Bred L Hourn (AHDH), first breeding for W Inv.

Species hardest hit (90% of birds found) in W coast wreck in late Sep and Oct (after severe gales 22nd and 27-28 Sep) with approaching 10,000 found dead from inner Solway Firth to L Linnhe, heaviest mortality on Ayr coast, ringing recoveries *U. a. albonis*, mainly from SW Welsh breeding colonies (AGS). Associated inland records: Perth, 1 Pitlochry 28 Sep (DWO), 1 L Dochart 30 Sep (RMR), and several others reported in these areas at the time; W Stir/Dunb, 3 Endrick mouth 22 Sep (after 104 mph gale) stayed for 2 wks, 1 Croftamie, Dunb, same day a few miles away (JMi, TW), includes first for W Stir; Dumf, windblown birds Moffat and Langholm 24-30 Dec (ELOC, ED). Unusual numbers Luce Bay, Wig, Nov (RHM, AGS, JGY); 40 Razorbills and Guillemots off Dalmeny, W Loth, 24 Oct (DIMW) and 20 Dec (TCS) was more than for years.

Bad oiling Fair Isle early Mar, 25 dead or dying on 1st, another 25 by 2nd, all very thin, in winter plumage and evidently not local birds (RHD); at Tentsmuir, N Fife, 20 oiled in 2 mls 29 Mar, thick black oil coming in, and many died in oil in last wks of year (DWO).

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia. One decomposing L Caolisport, Knapdale, 11 Oct (RKMCG), first for Arg faunal area and N Arg, and 3rd Scottish record.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*. Bred again (4:573) Meikle Ross, Kirk, nest and 2 eggs seen (HO, DSK, JGY); pr bred Portsoy, first recent breeding record for Banff (JE, DBMcG). Display Fair Isle from 26 Mar, rather low breeding success (RHD). S of breeding range on E coast: 1 dead (oiled) Burntisland, Fife, 9 Mar (JMC); 1 off Inchkeith 15 June (EMS, RWJS); 1 Isle of May 19 Aug (AFL).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. More than usual round Mull of Galloway, Wig, in July, where no recent breeding records (DAB, WMB); noted with holes in new areas Inchkeith 15 June (EMS, RWJS); still increasing Isle of May (NJG). First ashore Fair Isle 4-7 Apr, more 10-11 Apr, continuously from 14 Apr (full numbers 15th), decrease 16 July, few left 17 Aug though last still bringing fish to young 26 Aug, last ashore 28th

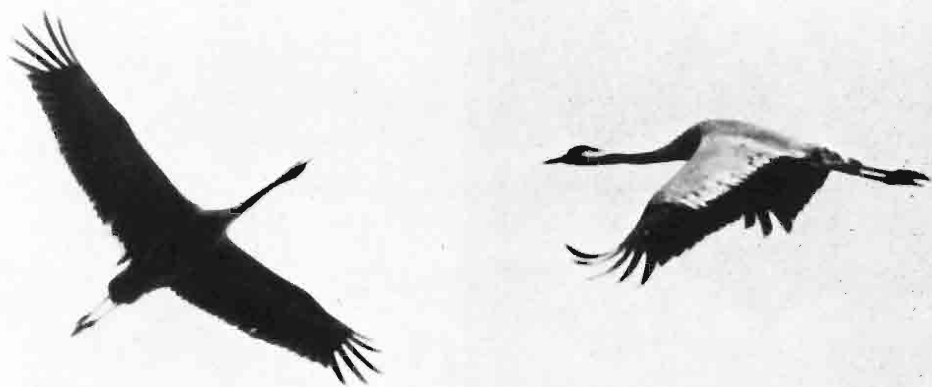


PLATE 5. (a) Crane, two flight shots, Shetland, 30 May-4 June 1969; about 9 others were recorded in Scotland in 1969, more than in any previous year.

Photograph by R. J. Tulloch

(b) Marsh Sandpiper (with Black-headed Gull), Shetland, 4-6 May 1969, only the second Scottish record (*Scot. Birds* 6: 42).

Photograph by Dennis Coultis





PLATE 6. (a) King Eider, drake with pair of common Eider, Ronas Voe 18 April-7 May 1969, an almost annual visitor to Shetland in recent years.

Photograph by Dennis Coutts

(b) Ortolan Bunting, Skerries, May 1969, one of exceptional numbers in Shetland and Fair Isle early in the month.

Photograph by R. J. Tulloch





PLATE 7. (a) Pomarine Skua, Scalloway, Shetland, a bird which was present 17-25 June 1969.

(b) Red-footed Falcon, first-year male on Yell, Shetland, 30 May to about 9 June 1969 (*Scot. Birds* (6): 39).

Photographs by R. J. Tullach





PLATE 8. Long-eared Owl, one of up to nine which roosted regularly in gardens in Scalloway, Shetland, during the winter months of 1969 and previously.

Photograph by R. J. Tulloch

(RHD). 1 Chanonry Pt 2 Aug (RAH), first for E Ross.

Wreck, probably mid Mar, Tentsmuir, Fife, 25 in 2 mls in early Apr had been dead some time, quite a few unopened (DWO).

***Pallas's Sandgrouse** *Syrhaptes paradoxus*. 1 Foula, Shet, 26-31 May (MG, JGH), one of several 1969 reports of this now exceedingly rare immigrant to Britain (*Brit. Birds* 62 : 453).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*. No reported changes in breeding status.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*. Spring and summer numbers and autumn flocks a little down on recent years Fair Isle, maxima 17 in Jan, 20 on 22 Apr, 14 thereafter, 34 on 30 Sep (RHD).

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. No reported changes in breeding status. Unusually large flocks Caith in Dec, 400 Scrabster 14th (DG); Kinross, "flocks of 500-1000 with roosts of over 10,000" (AA, JHS). Spring passage Fair Isle mainly 9 Apr-28 June, peak 16 on 25 Apr (RHD). A few found Fife apparently poisoned, unable to stand, during year (DWO).

***Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*. No report on Ber breeding population. Records (singles unless noted) 4 May to about 4 Oct, mainly 19 May-20 June, 5 Aug-4 Oct, commonest Shet/Fair Isle: Dumf, Dunscore 27 May (ARH); Dunb, Tarbet 7 June (JNS); I Heb, Port Ellen, Islay, with Collared Doves 2 June (SHG); Selk, injured one near Ettrickbridge 25 June (DMI), first for county; E Loth, Aberlady 15 July (MJE); E Stir, Falkirk with Collared Doves 29 May (MH); Isle of Mav, 10 May (AMcD), 24-26 May (RAJ), 20 June (JP); Fife Ness 10 May (DWO); Angus, Montrose 19 May (JD), Usan 1 June (GMC), Barry 9 Aug (TMCl); N Kinc, Greg Ness 18 Sep (RSBy), first for division; Aber, Rattray Head 19 June (MW); E Inv, Boat of Garten June (HB, TLE); W Suth, Sandwood 8 June (DCH); Caith, 2 Wick 7 Sep (IW); Ork, N Ronaldsay most days 25 Sep-4 Oct (EJW); Fair Isle, passage 4 May-28 June, mainly 1-2, but 3, 4, 3 on 28, 30, 31 May, 8 on 6 June, 3 on 7th, 6 on 9th, 3 on 10-13 June, autumn 5-24 Aug, singles 8 days, 2 on 17-18 Aug (RHD); Shet, Foula 26 May, 3 on 27th, 1 to 31st, 3 on 7 June (JGH), Skerries 29 May (ISR), Scalloway 2 on 20 June, 1 on 25th (DLC), Helendale 20 July (DC), Fetlar 12 Aug, 18-20 Aug, 6 Sep (ARM), Skerries 13th, 17th, 21 Sep (ISR), Helendale 23rd and 25 Sep, 2 Oct (DC).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. Still spreading, though little increase in some areas: Wig, increased, flock 80 near Mull of Galloway 17 Aug (JCS), well established Newton Stewart-Minnigaff (CABC), first breeding Kirk, where still very scarce in upland parts (just odd birds in spring) (ADW); Dumf, bred Thornhill (JM), numerous Dumfries (JGY), probably extended to Sanquhar (WD); general and common where there are trees in Clyde and west (MFMM), 32 at farm Iona in Aug (AMcD), though not yet recorded breeding N Arg; E Loth, probably still increasing (KSMcG); Midl, 2 Kirknewton 24 June, new locality (DBK); E Stir, noted Falkirk 29 May (MH), first record for division; Perth, breeding season records 6 localities (VMT); Angus, still increasing (GMC); Aber, increase Rattray (breeding not proved) (MW), noted July Braemar for first time (per JF); Banff, spread to Sandend (JE); Inv, bred or probably did so in S Inv at Arisaig, Corpach and Fort William, and in E Inv at Fort Augustus, Laggan Br, Kingussie, Kincaig, Boat of Garten, Nethybridge and Dalwhinnie (DNW), commonest Corpach/Fort William where 55 at distillery outfall Lochy Br 21 Nov (JASN), and bird recovered there from Cheshire (DNW); E Ross, increase Muir of Ord (DCH); W Ross, increase Gairloch (ENH), and noted Polglass (1), Poolewe (4), Torridon (2), Dornie Br (2), Laide (1) (DJB, JADH, DCH, DRS, JAW); N Suth, up to 5 Altnahara May-June appeared to be nesting (there is no breeding record) (EGH); Caith, increasing slowly (DMS); Ork, probably still increasing and spreading a little (EB); Shet, residents still mainly confined to Lerwick and Scalloway (RJT).

Migrants: Isle of May, 4 between 11th and 24 May (JP); St Kilda, up to 16 at once (*Birds* 3: 42); Fair Isle, passage from 12 May, singles 3 days, then 2 on 22 May, 5 on 26th, further peaks 6 on 7-8 June, 8 on 14th, up to 3-4 in summer (not breeding), last regularly seen 4 on 6 Aug, 1 on 7th, straggler 19th (RHD); Shet, increasingly frequent Foula in summer, maximum 5 on 7 June (JGH).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. Best numbers for years in Moorfoots, Midl, and brown ♀ seen Gladhouse from 11 May (WB, EMS, RWJS); very scarce N Suth this year May-June (EGH); more than usual heard Shet, where few breed (RJT).

Arrival: 18 Apr, Strathtay, Perth (THE); 25 Apr, Glenesk, Angus (GMC), Fort William, S Inv (JASN); 26 Apr, Corstorphine Hill, Edinburgh (CS), Stornoway, O Heb (RMcI); 27 Apr, Yetholm, Rox (RSB), Selkirk (AJS); 30 Apr, Keir, Dumf (JFY), Kinross (JHS); 1 May, Gairloch, W Ross (ENH); but not till 3 May New Galloway, Kirk (ADW); 4 May, Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO), Newburgh, Aber (WM); and Shet from 9 May (RJT). Passage Fair Isle 3 May-24 June, mainly 6-17 May and 26-30 May, 5 on 7 May, 6 on 8th, 4 on 28th; autumn Aug 1st (1), 13th (2) and 16th (1) (RHD). Last dates: W Ross, Poolewe 14 Sep, Gairloch 16 Sep (ENH).

***Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*. All reports given, as distribution not well defined: Kirk, absent from some known sites, pr Shambellie all summer did not breed for first time in recent years, rather fewer than usual Oct-Dec (DCo, ADW); Dumf, widespread, 24 chicks ringed (NSRG); Ayr, 2 prs W Kilbride (JLB); Lan, 5 in one tree Hamilton 16 Nov (KCRH, HSCH); Glasgow, Possil Marsh (DJN); Dumbarton (DJL); bred Endrick mouth (HSCH, JMi); I Heb, Island House, Islay (DJS); Midl, bred Rosslyn (per JM0), noted Crighton Castle, Middleton, and Pathhead (ABC); Fife, noted Crail, St Monance, Colinsburgh (DWO); Kinross, 1 Levenburgh 11 Oct (JFo); Perth, breeding season reports Crieff (BP), Blair Atholl (KW), four 10-km squares in SW of county (TDHM), and Dec at Br of Earn (EJM) and Almondbank (VMT); Angus, 1 Brechin 29 Sep (AGR), 1 Montrose 14 Oct (JD); Aber, pr Newburgh summer, and others reported (WM), 1 wintered Crimond 1968/69 (MW); E Inv, odd records two Inverness areas (MIH); E Ross, not as scarce as suggested by few 1968 records (5: 336), at least 4 breeding prs Dingwall/Evanton, and others reported there and on Nigg Hill (CGH), also Udale Bay (per MKMcD-D).

***Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*. Bred for 3rd yr Fetlar, first egg probably 10 May, 6 laid, 4 hatched, 1 died in nest and 2 later; ads and chick still on island 30 Dec, with 3 others (believed to be 2 imm ♀♀, possibly from previous broods, and another ad ♂), seen every month (RJT). Elsewhere Shet: Unst, ♂ 20-29 Apr, two 3-5 May, one 11 May, probable ♀ 30 May (MS); Yell, 1 Aywick 15 Feb (DT); Mainland, 1 Ronas Hill 27 Mar (per ANi), imm ♀ and ad ♂ there 21 June (DC). Also ♂ Fair Isle 20 May (GJB, SB), ♀ 1 June (KdG, RHD).

***Little Owl** *Athene noctua*. One in deep valley near Tarbet, Mull of Galloway, Wig, 25 Aug (JCS). One, occasionally 2, Moffat, Dumf, 24 July-14 Aug (per ED); 1 near Canonbie 17 Dec (ELOC); 1 Caerlaverock and Glencaple 24-30 Dec (JGY). One seen several times Nov at Kirk Yetholm, Rox, confirms 1968 sound identification (5: 336) (RSB). Bred again Borthwick, Midl (see 5: 287) (ISW per WB).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*. Widespread but no changes noted. Breeding Altnahara, N Suth, where possibly rare (EGH). Vagrant Ness, Lewis, O Heb, in Nov (ASM).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*. No reported changes in breeding status. Up to 9 roosted regularly in Scalloway, Shet, Jan-Mar, dispersing to hill territories Apr and returning to garden roosts from July; other Shet records, Yell (RJT), Skerries 23-24 Oct (ISR), Whalsay 19th, 21 Oct (JHSi). Fair Isle, 5 singles 4 Apr-11 May; a very few autumn/winter, 4

on 29 Nov (RHD). Four recoveries (2 in 1969) of 1st-Y birds ringed Speyside, E Inv, were only 1-20 mls from where hatched (DNW).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. Breeding numbers less than previous years Wig (RCD); breeding fairly plentifully Kirk but down on 1968 in some areas (ADW), and scarcity noted in lowland areas in autumn/winter (JKRM, HMR); very poor breeding season Dumf and fewer winter records on lower ground (NSRG); much less frequent Midl than recent years (RWJS). First spring record Strathspey 10 Apr (JR). Shet, 10 spring records 23 Apr-1 June, including one 10 mls off Sumburgh Head 13 May (PKK, JKl, ARM, MS), 1 Fetlar 3 Sep, and various others 20-25 Oct, including 10 Skerries 24 Oct (DC, ARM, ISR). Singles Fair Isle 9 May, 3 June, some 15 autumn 2 Oct-30 Dec, especially 19-30 Oct, with 5 on 23rd (RHD).

***Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*. One heard in long-established Kirk haunt New Galloway 29 June (KBr, ADW), but no comment from Ayr, and no breeding records (though doubtless bred). Singles: ♂ Fair Isle 12 June (RHD); Fetlar, Shet, 9 Aug (per ARM); ♀ Canonbie, Dumf, 18 Aug (ELOC).

Swift *Apus apus*. Numbers up in Thurso, Caith (cf. 5: 337) (PMcM). Arrival: 26 Apr, 1 Arbroath, Angus (MN); 27 Apr, 1 Gladhouse, Midl (EMS); 28 Apr, 1 L Leven, Kinross (JHS); 2 May, first Shet (RJT); 3 May, 3 Lochmaben, Dumf (RTS); 4 May, Yetholm, Rox (RSB). Generally late: first Kirk 14 May Dalry (ADW) and Kirkcudbright (LF); not widespread Dumf till 12 May (JGY); first Kilconquhar, Fife, 7 May were very late, slow to consolidate owing to cold wet weather (DWO); small numbers L Leven till 12 May (30), 14th (100), building-up to 16th (500) and several days 100-250 (AA, JHS); first Perth 7 May (EJ), main arrival 13-14 May (VMT); first Fair Isle 9 May, passage 23 May-30 June, especially 26 May-1 June, 8th and 27 June (RHD), with passage Shet also 28-31 May (RJT).

Several large feeding movements L Leven June of 300-500, and over 1000 on 18th, 22nd, 23rd; migrants there mainly 18 July-6 Aug, peaks a little below 1968, 50-250 usual, over 500 on 18th and 26 July (AA, JHS). Fair numbers Shet 17-26 July (23 Fetlar 24th) to 21 Sep (ARM, RJT), late one Whalsay 18 Oct (JHSi). Summer movements Fair Isle all July, but mainly after 14 July (20), with 40 on 23rd, 13 on 31st, last 14 Sep (RHD). Other movements: 63 S at Noss Head, Caith, 23 June (RS); 45 Rendall, Ork, 23 July (EB); usual large flocks over high ground and Lochmaben lochs, Dumf, July-mid Aug (NSRG). Other last dates: 21 Sep, St Abbs, Ber, and Barns Ness, E Loth (KSMcG); 28 Sep, Usan, Angus (GMC); see also dates to 18 Oct above.

***Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*. Slow improvement continues Dumf, seen 6 localities June, 3 nests (NSRG); 1 Newton Stewart, Kirk, late May possibly bred (IHA); 3 Ettrickbridge, Selk, and other sightings Ettrick and Tweed indicate a return to area (AJS). Other records: Dunb/W Stir, Milngavie 24 Feb-5 Mar (RE, RGN, DJN); Arran, Brodick 6 Sep (WWW); 1 Heb, R Sorn, Islay, 2 Apr (RO); Midl, Water of Leith bird (5: 337) last seen 19 Jan (TB, MJE); Isle of May, 2 Sep (ADW), first since 1954; N Perth, Kindrogan, Strathardle, 21 July (per RSB); Angus, R Lunan 3 Sep, first in county for several years (SS).

***Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*. Five in N Isles: Ork, 1 freshly dead Sanday 25 May (WG, IHJL), 1 Skail, Westray, 29-30 May (MAS); Fair Isle, three 7-9 July (GJB, RHD), and same 3 birds Weisdale, Shet, 9-12 July (6: 46) (DC).

***Roller** *Coracias garrulus*. Three singles: Skail Forest, Caith, 19-24 June (JG, PJ, PMcM, DMS); Peterhead, Aber, 28 June-8 July (6: 47) (CJF, FCF, DEBL); New Galloway, Kirk, 10-14 Aug (6: 47) (AMC, JCI).

***Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*. Eight spring (22 Apr-13 June, especially about

4 May), one autumn (12-20 Sep): N Arg, L Sunart 13 June (ICA); Ber, Duns early May (JCo per AC); S Kinc, Johnshaven 12-16 Sep (EMcB), 19-20 Sep (WBA); N Kinc, picked up weak 22 Apr (died 25th) Stonehaven (WBA); Aber, Torry 4 May (MAMcD, ADKR); Banff 13 May (AFWS); Ork, Burray 4 May (per EB); Shet, Sumburgh 4-11 May (DC), Whalsay 18-20 May (JHSi).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*. None Yetholm, Rox, where decline began 3 yrs ago (RSB); in Selk nested Yarrow (RF) but numbers much reduced in county (AJS); noted Tynninghame, E Loth, Jan-Feb, but no sign of increase (EMS, RWJS). Various records upper Forth and Perth (TDHM, VMT), and odd birds Lan (DJN), Midl (including first Gladhouse since 1963) (RWJS), S Fife (2 juvs Burntisland (cf. 1968) 7-11 Aug) (TMC). Furthest N were: N Arg, 2 Kilberry, Tarbert, June (MC); Angus (first recorded 1968), 1 Glamis 20 Apr (CMM).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*. More frequently noted Dalry-New Galloway, Kirk, than 1968 (LAU, ADW, JGY); numbers down, only 2 sightings, Yetholm, Rox (RSB); still no recent W Loth records (TCS), and only 1 report Midl (RWJS), but holding its own E Loth (KSMcG); virtually absent over much of E Fife (recorded only 3 places) (DWO); increasing Gairloch area, W Ross (ENH).

Most of the following records reflect the strong invasion of Northern birds *D. m. major* in autumn 1968: Isle of May, Northern ♀ trapped 17 May (DJL, JHBM); O Heb, 1 Stornoway 29 Apr (TDR); Caith, odd birds and parties of 2-3 all over county Jan-Mar, last 3 Wick 28 May, no evidence of attempted breeding (DMS); Ork, a few wintered and were noted at Binscarth (1), Woodwick (2), Rousay (1) and Stromness (1) until late Apr (EB); Fair Isle, 2 ♀♀ 28 May, 3 on 31st (RHD); Shet, singles Whalsay 15 May (JHSi), Kergord 30 May (JKi) and 3-5 June (DU).

***Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*. A spate of summer records produced the first three Scottish breeding records (see also 1: 120). At least 5 territorial prs Speyside, E Inv, first noted 30 May, nests of 3 prs found, all successful (BL-E, DNW). Two calling L Tulla, N Arg, end of May-2 June (TW); 1 calling in very suitable new locality Strachan, N Kinc, 20 May-6 June (NP), first record for division; 1 singing in small glen some miles SE of Inverness with Scandinavian-type habitat 16 June (DLC, RJHR); in E Ross 2 ♂♂ calling Lochluichart 22 May (CAEK), and ♂ seen and heard daily 29 May-9 June, another answering on 8 June, Muir of Ord (DCH).

Exceptional spring numbers 3-8 May, a few to 6 June: Ber, 7 St Abbs 3 May (RKMCG); E Loth, 1 Barns Ness 3rd and 5 May (RKMCG, EMS, RWJS); Isle of May, 3-11 May (3, 5, 2, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1) (JP); Fife Ness, 4 on 4 May, present to 7th (2), 8th (1) (PGTB, DWO); Angus, 2 Arbroath 8 May (MN), 1 dead Usan 27 May (GMC); Aber, 2 Torry and 1 Newburgh 4 May, 2 Forvie 7th (MAMcD, WM, NP, ADKR); N Suth, 1 Strathmore 15 May (DCH), first for division; Ork, singles Toab 5 May (EJWi), Rousay 7 May and Sanday 7 May (KMa, DMcK); Fair Isle, massive arrival of 45 on afternoon of 3 May (previous best since 1948 was 12), then 4th (25), 5th (15), 6th (10), many found dead rather than leaving island, stragglers 9th, 1 on 21 May, 26th-28th, 2 on 30th, 1 on 31st, 1 on 6 June (RHD); Shet, Whalsay 4 on 4 May, 5 on 5th, 1 on 6th and 8th (JHSi), Sumburgh 1 on 4 May (DC), Skerries 12 on 5 May, 10 on 6th, 1 on 7th, 4 on 8th (ISR), Fetlar 1 on 6-7 May (ARM).

Autumn quieter 19 Aug-27 Sep: Shet, 1 Fetlar 19 Aug (ARM); Fair Isle, singles 4th, 14th-15th, 17-18 Sep, 2 on 19th (RHD); Fife Ness, 2 on 18 Sep (DWO); Isle of May, 17-20 Sep (1, 3, 1, 2) (AFL), late one 26-27 Sep (GLAP); E Loth, 1 Barns Ness 18 Sep (TD); N Arg, 1 L Awe 28 Aug (THJ).

***Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*. Singles Fair Isle 3 June (GJB) and 30 Sep (RHD); 1 Whalsay, Shet, 14th and 18 Oct (JHSi).

***Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*. The Fair Isle ringed bird from 11 Nov 1968 (5 : 338) heard singing from 23 Jan, last seen 5 Mar; other singles there 20 Mar, 7-13 Apr, 7th and 28 Oct (RHD); singles Whalsay, Shet, 21st and 24 Apr, 2 May (JHSi).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. No reported changes in breeding status. Arrival of migrants Fair Isle from 26 Feb, peaks Mar 2nd (75), 4th (40), 20th-27th (50, 80, 500, 400, 300, 200, 200, 250), further increases 1st and 5 Apr, 3 May; autumn movement 14 Sep through Oct, numbers low after 3rd wk Nov (RHD). Other numbers: Aber, 1000/hr S at Br of Don 2 Feb in cold weather movement (MAMcD); Dumf, 300 on passage Sanguhar 17 Apr (AB, WWi); E Stir, large movement Skinflats 29 Nov, up to 1500 (DF).

***Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*. 1 Fair Isle 28 May (RHD); 2 Skerries, Shet, 19 Oct, 1 on 25th, 2 on 26th, 1 on 27th (ISR); 1 Isle of May 25 Oct (BM, BU).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. More plentiful than usual on Kirk hill farms (ARu); Yetholm, Rox, breeding numbers only a quarter of 1968's (RSB); E Fife numbers reduced, very much so on some farms (DWO); decrease at several Kinross sites, but good breeding season (JHS).

Arrival: 9 Apr, isolated record Fife Ness (DBMcG), 16 days before next in county; 13 Apr, Kirkcudbright (LF); 17 Apr, Yetholm and Kelso, Rox (RSB); 18 Apr, L Leven, Kinross (JHS); 19 Apr, Southernness, Kirk (JT); 20 Apr, Rait, Perth (IMcLa), Rescobie, Angus (JD); 23 Apr, Keir, Dumf (JFY); 24 Apr, main arrival Perth 24th-25th (VMT), Fair Isle (RHD); 25 Apr, N Berwick, E Loth (DYA), Cupar (DWO) and Lundin Links, Fife (PGTB); 26 Apr, Strachan, N Kinc (NP), Fort William, S Inv (JC), Stornoway, O Heb (RMcL). Better numbers: Dumf, large arrival 1 May (JGY); Fife, general movement 29 Apr halted by cold weather in early May (DWO); Kinross, light passage L Leven (maximum only 150-200 hirundines) a few days in mid May (AA, JHS); E Inv, none Speyside till 11 May (HB); Fair Isle passage to 27 June, mainly from 21 May, 22nd (25), 24th (50), 25th-26th (75), 28th-29th (50), 30th (80) (RHD); Shet, from 30 Apr (ARM), mainly 26-29 May, up to 50 a day, 100 Virkie 29 May (RJT).

Autumn: Shet, small passage mainly 16-30 Sep (RJT); Fair Isle, mainly 18-29 Sep, 10 on 18th, 16 on 19th (RHD); E Ross, 300 in 15 mins Tarbat Ness 29 Aug (CJMCK-G); Kinross, L Leven movement from about 20 Aug (100 hirundines), 22nd (500), 24th (200) (AA, JHS); Dumf, large movement 19-28 Sep, at least 3000 Caerlaverock parish (JGY). Numbers stayed late in Fife, 50 Swallows and House Martins St Andrews 2 Nov (DWO). Other Nov records: 1st, Castlehill, Caith (DMS), Garlieston, Wig (IHA); 2nd, L Mhor, E Inv (MR); 8th, Kingoodie, Perth (HBo); 9th, East Haven, Angus (JKRM). A late brood near Dingwall, E Ross, fledged about 22 Sep (CGH).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*. In Kirk, Clatteringshaws Dam colony increased (ARu, ADW), that at W Shambellie much reduced (DCo); more than usual Yetholm, Rox, following second wave of birds in late June (RSB); still breeding Melville St, central Edinburgh, pr feeding young 9 Sep (JB, ATM); in Banff, absent 2 cliff sites Portsoy but Knock colony increased (JE); pr nested Finstown, Ork, where not regular (EB).

Arrival: 20 Apr, 2 Kinnaird Lake, Angus (JD); 21 Apr, 20 Kelso, Rox (RSB); 23 Apr, Luffness, E Loth (DJ), 2 St Andrews, Fife (DWO), Crieff, Perth (IMcLa); 25 Apr, Keir, Dumf (JM); 28 Apr, L Leven, Kinross (JHS). More recorded from 3 May, including: Isle of May from 4 May (JP); Kinross, similar passage to Swallow in mid May (JHS); first in various places Caith 4 May, many all over county by 5th, down to normal level 7th (DMS); first O Heb 3 May Stornoway, 14 there on 26 May (TDR); Fair Isle passage 3 May-2 July, peaks of 20-60 on May 5th, 12th, 15th, 26th,

27th, 29th, June 1st, 2nd, 14th, 20th and July 2nd (RHD); considerable passage Shet from 4 May, gap 13-26 May, then good movement to 31st, 70 Fetlar 27th, 80 Skerries 29th (ARM, ISR, RJT).

Autumn : L Leven passage 20-24 Aug as for Swallow, but also some House Martins alone, including 26 Aug (80), 5 Sep (55) and 12 Sep (33) (AA, JHS); up to 500 Yetholm, Rox, 5 Sep (RSB); large numbers in hirundine movement on Nith estuary, Dumf, 19-28 Sep, 150 seen to roost in grass on merse on 22nd (JGY). Late departure from Fife : good numbers 'St Andrews 2 Nov, as for Swallow (DWO); 1 Lundin Links 9 Nov (PGTB), 5 St Andrews 10 Nov (JMMcF).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Breeding numbers reduced Kinross (JHS); greatly so in E Fife (DWO); very scarce Caith (DMS).

Arrival : 4 Apr (late first date), 2 Edinburgh (MAMcD); no more till 8 Apr, Moor of Genoch, Wig (RCD), 4 L Marlee, Perth (HBo); 9 Apr, Morton Lochs (RWS), but no others Fife until 24th (DWO); 10 Apr, 100 Lochmaben, Dumf (RTS), 1 Montrose, Angus (GMC). Widespread Dumf 20 Apr (JGY), when first Lochy Br, Inv (JASN); but first records Rox, Kinross, Aber and Moray not till 23-26 Apr (RSB, JMB, AR, JHS); first Spey, E Inv, 11 May (HB); scattered Shet reports 4 May-10 June (RJT); Fair Isle 13 May and 24 May-25 June, 8 on 26 May, 5 on 27th, record 28 on 28th, 8 on 29th, 6 on 1 June and 5 on 13th (RHD). Second wave Yetholm, Rox, mid July (RSB).

A few Fair Isle 28 Aug-21 Sep (RHD); at least 2000 hawking over mud Caerlaverock, Dumf, 20 Sep as they moved across Solway (JGY). Last dates : 3 Oct, Isle of May (RAJ); 6 Oct, Elliot, Angus (MN).

One trapped Lac de Guiers, Senegal, 3 Mar had been ringed as a juv in Kirk in 1966 (GHG), and another there on 16 Mar had been ringed as an ad at Glasgow on 5 June 1966 (RAJ).

***Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*. Recorded (7) 24 May-5 July : 1 Heb, 1st-Y ♂ Tiree 27 May (JEG); E Stir, pr Airth, ♀ 3rd and 5 June, ♂ on 4th (WAn, AD, TDHM), cf. 1968 pr (5 : 339); Isle of May, ♀ 14 June (AMcD); Angus, ♂ Kinnell 27 May (JD); Fair Isle, tired ♀ 24 May (RHD); Shet, 1st-Y ♂ Fetlar 25 June-5 July (ARM).

Raven *Corvus corax*. Seems to be increasing Caith (DMS); 2 Forres 9 May, first time there (BE); 2 over Grangemouth, E Stir, 20 Mar (TDHM); 1 Aberlady (first there), E Loth, 29 Dec (ROM). No noticeable spring influxes Fair Isle (RHD); 1 Isle of May 1 Sep (PJM).

Crow *Corvus corone*. Hooded Crows *C. c. cornix* much scarcer E Loth in late 1960s than previously (RWJS); odd ones noted E Loth, S Fife, Isle of May, including 3 there 10 May (AMcD); birds with some grey still fairly frequent Kirk but no pure Hoodies (ADW); proportion of Hooded or mainly Hooded still increasing Speyside, E Inv, and hybrids of widely different colour fledge from same nests (DNW).

40 Carrion Crows *C. c. corone* 9 Mar was unusual number at Gladhouse, Midl (EMS, RWJS); 21 Carrion on Isle of May on 10 May (AMcD); 1 Carrion resident Fair Isle and probably bred with a Hoodie, also 3 migrant Carrion 26 Apr and 6 on 2 June, hybrid 25 May-26 Sep and another 3 Aug (RHD).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. No reported status changes. Fair Isle migrants : peak 5 on 25 Apr, 6 on 28th, odd birds other times (RHD). As in 1968, Rooks were a feature of Dumf high ground and saltmarshes in July, also foraging on high-tide wrack Feb (JGY); at New Luce, Wig, in Aug parties were feeding on moorland (RCD), a regular late-summer habit in Kirk (ADW). Of 516 trapped Feb-Mar Lockerbie, Dumf, 16% were 1st-W (NSRG, RTS). Pr bred successfully at second attempt 100 yds from Helensburgh rookery on chimney pot, owing to the fortunate chance that the occupant of the house was ill in bed (MDA).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. No reported changes in breeding status.

Migrants: Isle of May, 1 on 10 May (AMcD); Fair Isle, singles 30 Mar, 27 May, autumn flock 23 Oct (5) increased to 12 on 24th, 14 on 26th, dropping from 13 to 9 in early Nov, but rest staying on (RHD); Fetlar, Shet, 3 migrants 29 Oct, 7 on 30th, 2 on 31st (ARM).

Magpie *Pica pica*. Increasing in forested upland areas Kirk (ADW); and also E Ross, chiefly up Strathardle at head of Alness River (CGH). Odd ones noted Mid Coull, Angus, 18 Sep (GMC), Rafford, Moray, 23 May (BE).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*. Spreading to new areas Kirk as conifers grow (ARu); as many as 120-150 prs estimated Forest of Ae, Dumf (HO, JGY); often seen Tentsmuir, N Fife (DWO), and a few prs in S Kinross (JHS), but fairly common Perth and Angus. Odd records: N Kinc, 2 Banchory 10 Oct (NP), 2 Strachan 5 Nov (WM); Aber, 3 Glen Taner 17 Sep, where known since 1957 but numbers small (NP); E Ross, 1 dead Strathpeffer 2 July (DCH).

***Chough** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. Again no reports on small breeding populations.

Great Tit *Parus major*. Scarce Caith, where usually regular though sparse in larger woods (DMS). Low winter numbers Dalry, Kirk, at garden food (5: 340) continued, but numerous at nearby beechmast (ADW).

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*. No reported changes in breeding status. Three migrants Binscarth, Ork, 14 May (TMCI).

Coal Tit *Parus ater*. Though present Stornoway Woods, O Heb, breeding not confirmed in 1969 (WAJC); otherwise little comment on breeding status.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus*. Outside Speyside stronghold, numbers slightly down on 1968 at Heathmount, Tain, E Ross (CJMCK-G).

***Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*. No report on Ber population; 3 prs in territory Yetholm, Rox, but breeding not proved (RSB).

***Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*. Not recorded outside Clyde/Solway range; 7 prs at Fountain Glen alone, indicating its strength in Dumf, where it favours wet birch woodland (NSRG); clearly good breeding season Kirk, 8-10 nests Kirkconnell Flow, also usual Ken valley places, and probably equally common in suitable habitat Wig (HD, ADW, JGY).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*. Good numbers noted Kirk (CABC, ADW); quite good numbers E Loth (KSMcG); apparently in good numbers Midl (RWJS); but Kinross flocks only 1-10 (10-20 in 1968) suggesting poor breeding season there (JHS). Up to 8 daily Isle of May 26-31 Oct (IFS); party 5 at Binscarth and at Stenady, Finstown, 28-29 Oct, reported as British race, 2nd Ork record (EJWi); also 5 Kyle of Tongue, N Suth, 6 Oct (DG); and 15 Reay, Caith, for a few days round 25 Dec (JFa).

***Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*. One at window ledge 25 Feb at same Kirk locality as 1966 (4: 450) (ABG); also at Kirkconnell Flow, not far distant, 3 Feb at two places and 6 Apr at one, possibly all same bird, not found again despite intensive search (JGY).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*. Numbers apparently below average E Loth (DYA, KSMcG), but increasing steadily Fife (DWO); otherwise no comment on this quite common species.

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes. Numbers lower than most recent years Fair Isle, probably caused by severe winter (RHD); but no other suggestion of anything but good numbers.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*. One 23-24 June in suitable breeding habitat Hoy, Ork (DRS), where has not nested for 30 yrs (5: 100). 3 Tynninghame, E Loth, Nov were first for that locality (RWJS). One of 1968 Black-bellied birds *C. c. cinclus* (5: 341) stayed Fair Isle to 10 Feb (RHD).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. Probably increasing Kirk with

spread of forest (ADW), and may be increasing slightly E Fife (DWO). Small numbers of migrants Fair Isle (maximum 4) 26 Feb-27 Mar, fewer 18 Apr-17 May (RHD). Autumn flocks: Perth, 80 Dunkeld 23 Aug (SEH); Kinross, parties 10-20 feeding on blaeberrries Aug-Sep (JHS); Kirk, usual flocks on hills and in young forest July onwards, when gardens mainly deserted (ADW); Dumf, large flocks, up to 300 Shieldhill, feature of mid Oct (HO).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. Nest with 6 eggs in fir tree Shet Mainland 28 May, well-feathered young in it later (DC); young fledged from nest found on 14 June with 6 eggs in small sycamore tree Unst (MS); pr reared 3 young on Ork Mainland 8 mls from 1967 site (5:31) in heather in side of ditch, beginning to fly 1 Aug (EB); at least 3rd, 4th and 5th Scottish breeding records, all from N Isles. At Slains, Newburgh, Aber, 1 summered Apr-Aug, not singing nor in breeding habitat (WM, IJP).

Spring, mainly 22 Apr-15 May but earlier in SW: Dumf, notable movement on wide front 17 Mar and 12-17 Apr (JM, JFY, JGY); Rox, 3000 at communal roost Yetholm 20 Apr, left 25 Apr (RSB); Midl, big numbers (300) Temple 21 Apr (DGA); migrants Fife Ness 23 Apr-8 May (25), last 10th (DWO); Isle of May, high spring numbers 22 Apr (200) (DJF), 3 May (100), 4 May (150), 8 May (100) (JP); odd ones Angus (JD), N Kinc (AR), 8-11 May; E Inv, Spey passage 8 Mar through Apr (DNW); Fair Isle passage 22 Apr (50)-22 May, peaks Apr 24th-27th (200, 1200, 300, 300) 29th (400), up to 300 to 9 May (400), decreasing to 250 on 10th May, 160 on 15th (RHD); Shet, movement from 22 Apr, Foula 25-26 Apr (800) (JGH), Fetlar 25 Apr (800), 4 May (400), 8 May (800), 10 May (1000) (ARM), Whalsay 25 Apr (1000), 4 May (350), 13 May (100) (JHSi), Skerries (not watched Apr) 5 May (600), 10 May (1000) (ISR). Last dates (June): 1 St Abbs, Ber, 1st (RWJS); last Isle of May on 11th (JP); stragglers Fair Isle to 9th (RHD); 1 Dales Voe, Shet, 20th (DLC).

Autumn early birds: Fair Isle first 2 Aug, maximum 4 on 19th, maximum 11 in Sep (RHD); Isle of May, 1 on 17 Aug (JH); E Inv, 2 Rothiemurchus 4 Sep (NP, DNW); Fife, first 18 Sep (DWO); Rox, first 15 Sep (RSB).

Main arrival, especially 22-26 Oct: Shet, scarcely any till 12 Oct, considerable passage to end of Oct, peaks 500 Fetlar 23rd (ARM), 700 Skerries 23rd (ISR), 300 Unst 23rd (MS), 100 Whalsay 25th (JHSi); Fair Isle, very few in first half Oct, peaks 20th (150), 22nd (500), 23rd (600), 100-300 to 31st, decrease Nov from 200 first wk to 100 on 8th, but late passage Dec 21st (50), 22nd (75), 29th (150), 30th-31st (200) (RHD); Ork, estimated fall of 20,000 N Ronaldsay 22 Oct (EJW); E Inv, mainly 3rd wk Oct Speyside (DNW); S Inv, peak Corpach 24-26 Oct (JC, JASN); Kinross, mainly 25-26 Oct (250, 500) (JHS); Midl, first Moorfoot movement (80) 26 Oct (EMS, RWJS); Wig, few before late Oct, 400 Whithorn 28th (AFA). But maximum only 30 during 18-31 Oct Isle of May (NJG), and very few Fife Ness (DWO, ASm); few Rox till 22 Nov (RSB); absent Dumf from first flocks of Redwing (not paralleled for at least 7 yrs) and no large flocks till 500 Caerlaverock 17 Nov; 5000 passed SSW there in 2 hrs 17 Dec in blizzard, the largest movement ever seen by the observer (JGY).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. More than usual bred Caith (DMS); many first broods lost Fife in cold, wet early-spring (DWO). Some Speyside, E Inv, passage last wk Mar (DNW); Fair Isle 24 Feb-30 May, mainly 15-30 Mar (25 on 16th) and 22 Apr-13 May, peaks 22-23 Apr (100), 24th (250), 3-4 May (150) (RHD); Shet, a few 12-17 Feb and Mar, mainly from 22 Apr, peaks Fetlar 25 Apr (200), 5 May (80), and similarly other islands (ARM, RJT).

Autumn: Shet, mainly from 6 Oct, 100 Fetlar 13th (ARM), 300 Skerries 13th, 19th, 23rd (ISR); Fair Isle, 14 Sep-4 Dec, mainly 18-27 Sep (20 on 19th, 21st) and 13 Oct-3 Nov, peaks Oct 13th (150), 19th (200), 23rd-25th (500, 200, 100) (RHD); E Inv, passage Speyside heaviest 3rd wk Oct

(DNW); Aber, many arrived Rattray Head 19-20 Oct (MW).

Redwing *Turdus musicus*. Probably breeding in many more places than reported, and well established N Scotland; 6 breeding prs located in area where 15 in 1968 (5 : 342), but less searching done (anon); breeding confirmed NW Ross and W Suth in 1969 (per CGH); in N Suth singing 25 May-8 June at central site where nested 1967 and seen 1968, second bird singing in area 8-11 June, singing Strathnaver 9 June where pr later feeding at least 3 newly fledged young, and at least 2 newly fledged young being fed some miles away at L Naver 14 June; also ad Strathbrora, SE Suth, 8 June (EGH); E Ross, birds singing and taking food regularly to wooded hillside some miles W of Dingwall 1 June (HOB), and breeding confirmed at a second site (per CGH)—though previous breeding records have not been ascribed to E Ross, those published in *Brit. Birds* 52 : 315; 53 : 358 and *Scot. Birds* 1 : 454; 2 : 441 also refer to that division (DMcD); E Inv, at least 3 nests (and young) at new locality in a glen some miles W of L Ness (per MR), young fledged near Fort Augustus from nest that had 4 eggs on 7 May (LMcN), nest, fledged young and anxious adults late May Glen Quoich (Glen Garry) where ad roosted all spring on window ledge (LMcN), only 3 singing birds Speyside, one breeding successfully in known breeding locality (DNW); Moray, pr seen early May and one flushed off eggs Elgin (DSm).

Spring, mainly 22-26 Apr: Isle of May, last 3 May (JP); trickle Fife Ness, maximum 6 on 23 Apr (DWO); first Spey, E Inv, 16 Mar, passage through Apr (DNW); small passage Fair Isle 16 Mar-6 May, mainly 22-25 Apr (30, 40, 75, 50) (RHD); slight passage Shet from 22 Apr, 20 Whalsay 25 Apr (JHSi), 20 Fetlar 26 Apr (ARM), 20 Foula 26 Apr (JGH).

Autumn, very heavy movements about 12th, 19th and 23 Oct: Shet, large passage from about 3 Oct, Fetlar Oct 6th (70), 12th (600), 13th (1300), 23rd (2000) (ARM), Skerries Oct 12th (1500), 18th (400), 24th (600) (ISR), Unst Oct 12th (100), 23rd (200) (MS). Whalsay Oct 19th (1000) (JHSi), Foula immense Oct movement of 10,000-15,000 (JGH); Fair Isle, a few from 19 Sep, passage from 2 Oct, mainly from 6th, far more than in recent years, Oct 10th-31st (50, 600, 6000, 6000 many new, 200, 1000, 500, 500, 500, 6000, 1000, 500, 3000, 9000, 3000, 1000, 500, 500, 500, 500, 400, 300), 200 in 1st wk Nov, then fewer (RHD); Ork, a few from 3 Oct N Ronaldsay, fairly large fall 13 Oct, another 3000 on 22 Oct, estimated 20,000 on 23rd, migration on huge scale (EJW, DBW); O Heb, 1 Uig 3 Sep (EC, EK), first flock Lewis 12 Oct (WAJC); Caith, heard nightly 15-18 Oct, small parties most places by 19th, noticeable increase by 1100 hrs in fine weather, thousands arriving, county swarming with Redwings moving S by mid afternoon, most gone 20th but new ones arriving, movement noticeable S to Aviemore on 23rd and in Fife 24th, also noted from 18 Oct Sule Skerry and as far W as Cape Wrath, trapped Caith birds were Scandinavian and in good condition (DMS); heavy autumn migration in Oct also noted E Ross (CGH), W Ross (ENH), E Inv (MIH); Aber, 1000 in 3 hrs in from sea Rattray 18 Oct (JD), many arrived 19-20 Oct (MW); N Perth, marked movement 950 S in 1½ hrs Dunblane 25 Oct (DIMW); exceptional numbers Airlie, Angus, Oct (DAT); Kinross, first 12 on 6 Oct, 160 W on 12th, mainly 24-26 Oct (500, 500, 150), largest movement in 3 autumns, numbers high to mid Nov (AA, JHS); Fife, massive, protracted arrival, heavy passage over St Andrews 11 Oct (foggy night with E winds), 400/hr arriving Fife Ness 12th, heavy passage rest of Oct (DWO, ASm); Midl, big movement over Gladhouse at dusk 11 Oct, and continued Edinburgh and Aberlady, E Loth, on 12th (DGA); Rox, arrived 20 Sep Yetholm but mainly (800) 12 Oct (RSB); Dumf, arriving 13 Oct with flocks of 70-150 up to 30 Oct, when widely distributed (JKRM, Dsk, JS, JGY); Kirk and Wig, large arrivals from 13 Oct, far bigger flocks than last few years (IHA, ADW).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*. Probably at least 2 prs Hoy, Ork, where

breeding is only occasional (EB); no other status changes reported.

Only one Mar record, 2 Moorfoots, Midl, 30th (WB). Other arrivals (very late): 5 Apr, Moffat (LF), but no more in Dumf until 15th; 7 Apr, 1 Rowbank, Renf (HGC); 9 Apr, 3 Glen Clova, Angus (GMC); 12 Apr, first Speyside, E Inv (DNW); 15 Apr, Scaur Glen, Dumf (ARRH); 20 Apr, 3 Megget, Selk (AJS). No Apr dates in some counties, but passage last wk Apr and early May: Dumf, widespread 12 localities by 27 Apr (NSRG); Ber, 1 St Abbs 23 Apr (RKMcG); 1 Fife Ness 23 Apr (DWO); Fair Isle, 21 Apr-4 June, mainly 24 Apr-12 May, peak 35 on 24 Apr, record 300 arrived 3 May, dropping to 75 by 7-8 May (RHD); Shet, fair numbers, peaks Fetlar 25 Apr (20), 4 May (150), few after 11th (ARM), Whalsay 24 Apr (20), 5 May (20) (JHSi), Skerries 5-6 May (100, 120), 10 May (150) (ISR); elsewhere odd migrants 3-7 May in Ber (DIMW), E Loth (RWJS), Aber (MAMcD, NP), Ork (EB), with 60 Isle of May 4-6 May (JP), and 9 Fife Ness from 3 May after E winds (DWO).

Scarce autumn: Shet, a few, mainly 17-25 Oct (RJT); Fair Isle, 3 on 18 Sep, small numbers 5-26 Oct (15 on 19th, 30 on 23rd), 1 on 3 Nov (RHD); odd migrants noted 19-25 Oct in Ork (EJW), Aber (MAMcD), Angus (MN), Ber (DIMW); apart from Fair Isle, only Nov record was a late bird at Fife Ness on 28th (JARG).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. No reported changes in breeding status. Spring: Fife, good passage 4-10 May (DWO); Fair Isle, scarce, peaks only 35-40 on 7 Apr, 25 Apr, 3 May (RHD); Shet, some arrived Fetlar around 22 Apr (ARM). Autumn: Shet, first arrivals Skerries 12 Oct, 400 on 13th (ISR); Fair Isle, from 10 Oct, mainly 13 Oct-9 Nov, peaks Oct 13th (300), 15th (300), 18th (300), 19th-21st (1000), 22nd-27th (500, 3000, 2000, 1000, 500, 500), and late movement Dec 20th-21st (100), 22nd (150), 31st (100) (RHD); Ork, considerable movement N Ronaldsay Oct 13th (33), 23rd (200), 24th (300) (EJW); Aber, 100 in from sea in 3 hrs 18 Oct Rattray (JD), arrivals 19th-20th (MW); Fife, a few from 12 Oct, main arrival towards end of Oct (later than usual) and numbers below usual (DWO); very light autumn passage, no more than 200 a day, Isle of May (NJG). Earlier, distinct SW passage 14-20 Aug Dumf with 1st-W ♂♂ much in evidence; also 17-30 Dec, when ad ♂♂ more obvious (NSRG), 300 counted from car Dumfries-Glencaple 27 Dec (JGY).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Fewer than usual E Loth (KSMcG); no other comments on status. Arrivals, generally late: 15 Mar (isolated record), ♂ Southerness, Kirk (WA); 23 Mar, Virkie, 3 wks before next Shet record (WH); 29 Mar, Fife Ness (DWO); 30 Mar, Moffat, Dumf (WM); 4 Apr, St Abbs, Ber (CNW), 3 Moorfoots, Midl (WB), widespread Kirk by 1st wk Apr (ADW); 5 Apr, Isle of May (MJE), 2 Arbroath, Angus (MN), Spey, E Inv (DNW); 6 Apr, Thornhill, Dumf (JFY), Stornoway, O Heb (RMCI). Later records: Dumf, not widespread until 20 Apr (JGY); Isle of May, 200 on 4 May (JP); 10 Fife Ness by 9 Apr (GO) but slow to consolidate owing to cold spells (DWO); Perth, first 18 Apr (THE) but main arrival from 26 Apr (VMT); Banff, passage 20 Boyndie airfield 6 May (JE); Ork, fairly numerous early May, 200 in one area of S Ronaldsay 5th (EJWi); Fair Isle, 9 Apr (6), 11th (20), fewer 12-17 Apr, then 18th-22nd (15, 25, 30, 50, 150), 200 on 26th, further increases to 3 May, Greenland birds 19-21 May (RHD).

Autumn: Fair Isle, 16 Aug-25 Oct, migrants of NW origin on 6th, 9th, 11th, 25-26 Sep (RHD); Ork, 50 N Ronaldsay 10 Sep, 40 on 19th (DBW); Angus, 23 Arbroath 18 Sep (MN); Isle of May, good numbers, up to 100 a day, Sep (NJG); Wig, 150 Mull of Galloway area 17 Aug (JCS). Last dates: 27 Oct, 2 Caerlaverock, Dumf (DSk, JGY); 1 Nov, Skarfskerry, Caith (AB); 2 Nov, Maryculter, N Kinc (NE); 16 Nov, Aberlady, E Loth (WMK).

***Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*. ♂ 2nd-4th and 15 July, Hill

of Many Stanes, Clyth (DHa, RWJS, DMS, MW), first for N Coast and Caith.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. Breeding numbers increased in hill country W of New Galloway, Kirk (ARu). Caith winter numbers continued high Jan-Mar, but scarce Oct-Dec (cf. 5 : 343) (DMS). Migrants : Fair Isle, single ♂ 24th and 28 Mar, 2nd and 4-5 Apr, one 18 Oct (RHD); Isle of May, 9 Oct (RAJ), 20-21 Oct (BU).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. Continues to increase and extend into new forests Dumf (JGY); seems to be increasing Altnahara area, N Suth, or moving into newly forested areas (EGH); feeding young Barra, O Heb, where rare and local (per WAJC); possibly breeding Hoy (1 with food 24 June), Ork, where no recent proof (5 : 101) (DRS); but fewer than usual Rox, keeping more to high ground (RSB); and breeding numbers below normal E Loth (KSMcG).

Arrival : 27 Apr, Yetholm, Rox (RSB); 29 Apr, 1 Fair Isle (RHD); 30 Apr, Scour Glen, Dumf (JMcC); 2 May, start of Fair Isle passage (RHD); 3 May, Isle of May (JP), 3 Girdle Ness, N Kinc (ADKR), start of Shet passage (RJT); 4 May, quite a few Kirk (ADW), Gladhouse, Midl (DGA), fall of 10 Fife Ness (DWO), 2 Arbroath (MN). Otherwise : Dumf, not widespread till 7-10 May (JGY); Isle of May, 3 May-8 June, 40 on 9 May (JP); Aber, 11 Forvie 7 May (NP); Ork, fair numbers early May, up to 40 S Ronaldsay (EJWi); Fair Isle, passage 2 May-9 June, mainly to 30 May, with May 2nd-9th (6, 130, 90, 75, 50, 50, 35) (RHD); Shet, passage mainly 3-12 May, maxima Fetlar 5th (30), 10th (30), Whalsay 5th (20), 7th (20), Skerries 5th (50), and some 29-31 May (ARM, ISR, JHSi, RJT).

Autumn : Shet, 10 Skerries 17 Aug (RJT), maximum about 18 Sep when 7 Skerries, 4 Whalsay, last Whalsay 24 Oct (ISR, JHSi, RJT); Fair Isle, 6 Aug-20 Oct, small numbers, but 20 on 13th and 18 Aug, 12 on 16 Sep, 30 on 19th, 12 on 21st (RHD); almost complete absence of autumn records Fife Ness (DWO); noted Isle of May 5 Aug-18 Oct (BU); marked passage W Wig Aug-Sep, especially numerous Mull of Galloway (50 on 17 Aug) (JCS), many Kirkmaidens-Stranraer 11 Aug (HD).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Not as plentiful as some years Kirk/Wig (ADW); numbers down Rox (RSB); fewer than usual in summer E Loth (KSMcG); strikingly scarce compared with other years Spey, E Inv (DNW); scarcer than usual in most birch and alder areas Altnahara, N Suth (EGH). In areas where breeding rare, pr apparently nesting between Dalmellington and L Doon, Ayr (WRB), and, in Islay, in June, nest with young Kildalton, pr at Ballygrant (DJS).

Arrival : 22 Apr (exceptionally late first date), Isle of May (DJF); 23 Apr, ♂ Fife Ness (DWO), Shet (RJT). Records mainly from 3 May : Dumf, not noted till 18 May (JM); Fife Ness, 2 on 3rd, 10 on 4 May, others to 10th (DWO); Isle of May, passage to 7 June (JP); Angus, 2 Arbroath 6 May (MN); N Kinc, 4 Girdle Ness 3 May (ADKR); E Inv, common Speyside by 11 May (DNW); Ork, fair numbers 3-7 May (EB); Fair Isle, 3 May-23 June, mainly 3-31 May, peaks May 3rd-7th (75, 50, 40, 40, 40), 26th (12), 28th (15), 29th (40) (RHD); Shet, passage to 10 June, peaks 4-5 May and 27-29 May, Fetlar May 5th (25), 27th and 29th (30), Skerries 5th (50), 29th (20), Whalsay 4th (20) (ARM, ISR, JHSi, RJT).

Autumn (peak 17-21 Sep) : Shet, passage less defined 12 Sep-8 Nov (Fetlar) (ARM, RJT), 7 Whalsay 18 Sep (JHSi), 18 Skerries 19 Sep (ISR); Fair Isle, one 14 Aug, mainly 12-30 Sep, especially 17th-21st (up to 20), last 24 Oct (RHD); Aber, 16 on one wall Cruden Bay 17 Sep (NP); Angus, 7 Arbroath 18 Sep (MN); Fife Ness, peak 30 on 17 Sep (DWO); Isle of May 14 Aug-28 Oct (JH, IFS), 200 on 18 Sep (AFL); Dumf, last Caerlaverock 25 Oct (JGY).

***Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Recorded 10 Apr-12 June (especially 20 Apr-4 May) and 13 Aug-26 Oct, also several winter records to 23

Mar and on 3 Dec; Kirk, ♂ Southernness 26 Jan-16 Mar (KBr, JT); ♂ Ayr harbour 26 Oct (DLC); Ber, 1 St Abbs 23 Apr, 3 May (RKMCG); E Loth, 1 Tynninghame 4 May (CS), 1 Barns Ness 19 Oct (RWJS); ♂ Fife Ness 21 Sep (DWO); Angus, ♀ Auchmithie 2 Jan, ♀ Arbroath 16 Mar, 2 ♀♀ Auchmithie 23 Mar (AN, MN); Aber, 1 Torry 17 Sep (ADKR), 1 Forvie 18 Sep (DEBL), 1 Collieston 5 Oct (DPW), ♂ Rattray 23 Oct (MW); Banff, ♀ Troup Head 25 Apr (JF); Ork, 1 Skail, Deerness, 4 May (EJWi); Fair Isle, 1-2 on 15 days 10 Apr-12 June, 1-2 on 14 days 13 Aug-14 Sep, singles 3 Oct, 3 Dec (RHD); Shet, 1 Whalsay 20 Apr, 2 on 24th, 1 on 25 Apr, 1 on 29 Oct (JHSi), ♂ Fetlar 25 Apr, ♀ 28 Apr-3 May (ARM), S Shet Mainland 3 on 4 May (PKK), 1 Foula 5 May (JGH), 1 Sumburgh 10 May, 2 ♀♀ 26 May (JW).

***Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*. Isle of May, 1 trapped 15 May (AMcD).

***Bluethroat** *Cyanosylvia svecica*. No return to E Inv breeding site. Spring 4 May-9 June: S Fife, ♀ Kilconquhar 4 May (DWO), tired ♂ Red-spotted *C. s. svecica* Fife Ness 7-9 May (PGTB, PS, DWO); Aber, 1 White-spotted *C. s. cyanecula* Balmedie 9 May (WM), first of this race for Dee; Ork, 1 Red-spotted Stenness 27 May (EJWi); Fair Isle, 1-2 on 17 days 3 May-9 June (RHD); Shet, ♀ Skerries 5 May (ISR), ♂ White-spotted there 29 May (RJT), 1 Unst 28 May (DC).

Autumn 17-29 Sep and 2 on 18-21 Oct: Shet, Skerries 2 daily 17-22 Sep, 4 on 23rd, 3 on 24th-25th (ISR), 1 Fetlar 18-25 Sep (ARM), 1 Whalsay 21 Oct (JHSi); Fair Isle, 1-4 on 10 days 18-29 Sep (especially 18th-19th, 21st-25th), 1 on 18 Oct (RHD); Aber, 1 Forvie 21 Sep (JF); Angus, ♀ Arbroath 19 Sep (MN); Fife Ness, ♂ 17 Sep (DWO); Isle of May, 4 birds (1-3 daily) 14-19 Sep (especially 17th-19th) (AFL).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. No reported changes in breeding status. Spring: Fife Ness, 30 on 23 Apr (all Continental), a few there 4 May (DWO); Aber, 3 Sands of Forvie from 7 May (NP); Fair Isle, 1 on 16 Mar, a few 5-20 Apr, 5 on 21st, 150 daily 22nd-26th, 100 on 27th, 70 on 29th, 75 on 3-4 May, many to 12th, few for rest of May, stragglers June (RHD); Shet, passage from 21 Apr to 15/20 May, peaks Fetlar 22 Apr (100), 25th-26th (150), 4 May (60) (ARM), Whalsay 22 Apr (60), 23rd (80), 25th (100) (JHSi), Skerries 5 May (60) (ISR), Foula 25-26 Apr (50) (JGH).

Autumn: Shet, trickle 17-26 Sep, small movement 18-21 Oct (RJT); Fair Isle, 17 Sep-11 Dec, peaks 18-19 Sep (11, 25) and 23 Oct (10) (RHD); E Ross, numbers Evanton 18th and 21 Sep (CGH); Aber, last 5 Sands of Forvie 17 Sep (NP). Earlier, dispersal noted Glencaple, Dumf, when 16 trapped 20 July-8 Aug (JGY).

***River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis*. One trapped Fair Isle 16 Sep (RHD), 2nd British record (see *Brit. Birds* 55: 137).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. Generally increasing, and recorded for first time in Kinross, S Kinc, and O Heb other than St Kilda. Very plentiful in young forest Kirk (ADW); but decreased in one Dumf census area, though hitherto widespread and increasing (JGY); general increase Ayr (WRB); 3 heard June, Islay, more than usual for area (DJS); general increase reported by several observers in west (MFMM). N of Forth, mainly E coast, scattered spring/summer records: Fife, 1 reeling, but situation confused by a dozen migrants (DWO); Kinross, 2-3 reeling L Leven (AA, CRGC, JFo); Perth, 3 sites (VMT); Angus, 6 sites (GMC); S Kinc, just on border at Kinnaber 26 Apr (GMC); N Kinc, Strachan (1 day) (NP), Maryculter (12 June-1 July) (RIM); Aber, 1 Torry 3-7 May (MAMcD); Banff, 1 singing (DB); Moray, singing 4 places (JMB, BE, ISS); E Inv, Insh (NP), near Inverness (WAS); E Ross, 5 singing (3 areas) May (CGH, DCH, CAEK); SE Suth, 1 singing Dornoch (DMB); W Ross, 1 L Maree (HOB); W Suth, 1 singing Scourie 4 Aug (DPW); Caith, 1 Reay

for a few days about 12 June (JG); O Heb, 1 singing Stornoway 19-28 May (WAJC, IMcL).

Arrival: 21-22 Apr (quite early), 1 Isle of May (DJF); 23 Apr, 1 St Abbs, Ber (RKMCG); 24 Apr, first Fair Isle (RHD); 26 Apr, Moor of Genoch, Wig (RCD), 1 Yetholm, Rox (RSB), 1 S Kinc as above (GMC); 1 May, first Dumf, where 23 reeling by 27th (NSRG), E Ross (CGH); first records many areas N to Ork and Shet 3-7 May. Migration notes: Isle of May, 1-3 on 11 days 2nd-8th and 23-28 May (JP); Fife, good fall 4 May, 3 Fife Ness, 2 Kingsbarns, others elsewhere, up to 12 in all (PGTB, DWO); Fair Isle, 24 Apr-30 May, 1-2 on 16 days, 4 on 4 May (RHD). Autumn: Shet, singles Skerries 19th and 22-23 Sep (ISR); Fair Isle, singles 15th and 22 Aug (RHD); E Loth, last Aberlady 20 Aug (KSMcG).

***Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Recorded (singles unless stated) 26-29 May, 26-27 June, 15 Aug-30 Sep, 20 Oct. Spring: Fair Isle, 26-28 May, 26-27 June (RHD); Shet, Fetlar 28 May (ARM, ARMe), Ker-gord 28 May (DC), Whalsay 28-29 May (JHSi). Autumn: Shet, Foula mid Aug (JGH), Skerries 14th and 16 Sep (ISR), Fetlar 19-20 Sep (ARM); Fair Isle, good passage Aug 15th-20th (5, 5, 3, 6, 3, 4), singles 21st, 25th, 29th-30th, Sep 3rd, 5th, 16th, 18th, 2 on 20th, 1 to 30th (RHD); Isle of May, 2 on 18 Sep (AFL), late bird 20 Oct (BU).

***Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*. Fair Isle, 3 on 26 May, 1 on 28th, 1 on 3-9 June, with another on 9th, new one 11th, 2 on 12th, another new one 13th, at least 9 in all, the most in any year (RHD). 1 Fetlar 27 May (ARM, PZ) is first acceptable record for rest of Shet.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Decrease in 4 Dumf census areas (NSRG); possibly less common than usual E Loth (KSMcG); Fife breeding numbers slightly reduced at most sites (DWO); SE Suth numbers less than 20% of normal (DMcD); very scarce Caith this summer (DMS); small numbers bred Ork, probably fewer than recent years (EB).

Arrival: 29 Apr (very late), first Kilconquhar, Fife, where only 2 by 3 May owing to cold, wet weather (DWO); 3 May, Keir, Dumf (JFY), Isle of May (JP); 4 May, 1 Yetholm, Rox (RSB), Balquhiddy, Perth (VMT), 1 Montrose, Angus (GMC), Fair Isle (RHD); 5 May, St Abbs, Ber (RKMCG), 2 Skerries, Shet (ISR). Otherwise: widespread Dumf by 17 May (NSRG), and many Rox same date (RSB); Isle of May, 3 May-4 June (JP); Fair Isle, scattered records 4 May-25 June, mainly end of May (4 on 24th, 28th, 10 on 30th) (RHD), when a few also at Foula, Whalsay and Fetlar (JGH, ARM, JHSi).

Autumn: Fair Isle, 1-2 on 9 days 1-20 Aug, 1 on 1 Sep and 8-9 Oct (RHD); Angus, last Montrose 19 Sep (GMC); Isle of May, 6 Aug (GKT) to 20 Sep (AFL); Wig, 10 Mull of Galloway area 17 Aug (JCS).

***Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*. 1 Skerries 17 Aug (6: 49) (ARMe, RJT), first for Shet other than Fair Isle, where no fewer than 5 recorded 14-17 Aug, 1 trapped 14th, 2 more trapped 15th, 1 trapped 16th and another still there, 3 seen (1 unringed) 17th (6: 48) (NJC, RHD, JAG, AJP, PJBS).

***Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*. One trapped Fair Isle (3rd record) 14 June, retrapped (singing) 20th (RHD).

***Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*. Spring (5), 28 May-15 June: Fair Isle, different ones 28 May, 30 May, 5 June (RHD); Shet, 1 Fetlar 31 May-3 June (ARM), 1 Spiggie 15 June (TH).

Autumn 3 Aug-15 Sep: Shet, 1 Fetlar 13 Aug (ARM), 2 Foula mid Aug (JGH), 1 Skerries 15 Sep (ISR); Fair Isle, 4 3rd (1), 5th (2), 6th (1), 12th-20th (1, 3, 2, 5, 7, 1, 5, 4, 2), 31st (1) (RHD).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. Fewer than 1968 Dumf (NSRG); more than 1968 Yetholm, Rox (RSB); at least 9 singing Angus and 1 S Kinc May-

June (GMC); 4 summer records E Inv (MR, DNW); 1 singing N Suth 15 June (EGH).

Arrival very late: 27 Apr, Dunglass, E Loth (KSMcG); 2 May, Thornhill, Dumf (JM), Isle of May (JP); 3 May, 1 Fife Ness (DWO), 1 S Ronaldsay, Ork (EJWi), first Fair Isle (RHD) and Shet (RJT). Widespread Dumf 17 May (NSRG). Migration: Isle of May, 2 May-21 June (JP); Fife, more 4 May, 3 Fife Ness, 2 Kingsbarns (DWO); Fair Isle, 3 May-17 June, mainly 24 May-8 June (7 on 26 May, 10 on 1 June, 8 on 2nd), also 2 in July (RHD); Shet, 3 May-10 June, peak about 26 May (RJT).

Autumn: Shet, 11 Sep-4 Nov, small influx 17-26 Sep, some movement early Oct and 18-23 Oct (MS, RJT); Fair Isle, movement 12-28 Sep (16 on 17th, 20 on 18th), 6-31 Oct (8 on 6th, 18th, 12 on 19th, 23rd), and 6-14 Nov (6 on 11th) (RHD); Ork, 25 Sep-18 Oct (EJWi, EJW); Fife, from 17 Sep (DWO); Isle of May, 15 Sep-29 Oct (AFL, IFS); odd passage birds Nov, last 1 Torry, Aber, 24th (per NP).

Jan-Mar: 1 Aberlady, E Loth, for 2½ months to 5 Mar (DTP); 1 wintered Butterstone, Dunkeld (per MHa), ♂ Crieff 19 Jan (per VMT), ♀ Perth 21 Mar (JSA), all Perth; 1 Oathlaw, Angus, 5 Jan-12 Feb (EL), 1 Broughty Ferry 13-31 Jan (ANo), ♂ there 14 Feb-23 Mar (DE-S, SJP); 1 Tullos, Aber, 25 Mar (HNR).

Dec: ♂ dead in house Cardross, Dunb, 1st wk, presumably came down chimney (AGG); ♂ ate chewed pineapple and chased off sparrows in Anstruther, Fife, garden at least 15th-21st (ASm, PS); 1 Bucksburn, Aber, 12th (per AAn); pr Portsoy, Banff, 11th-31st (JE), and ♂ Craigellachie 17th-29th (AP); pr Elgin, Moray, 26th-31st (FFET).

***Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*. Records 1 Aug-12 Oct, singles unless noted otherwise: Shet, Whalsay, Aug 11th, 14th, Sep 11th, 14th, 18th, 6 on 19th (JHSi), Fetlar 13 Aug, 13 Sep, 14th (2), 17th (ARM), Brae 19 Aug (DC), Skerries (about 8) 27 Aug-9 Sep (1), 10th-16th (2), 17th (3) to 19th, 1 on 5 Oct (ISR), Helendale 23 Sep (DC); Fair Isle, very strong passage 1 Aug-12 Oct, 1-3 on 30 days, peak 9-16 Sep (6, 12, 9, 9, 4, record day with 14, 9, 4); Ork, 2 N Ronaldsay 11 Sep, 3 on 16th (DBW); Fife Ness, 2 on 18 Aug, 1 on 29th, 17 Sep (MEG, JADH, DWO); Isle of May, Aug 14th, 18th (stayed to 12 Sep), 22nd, Sep 6th (2), 9th, 14th, 16th, 18th, Oct 12th (JH, AFL, ADW, JGY); Ber, St Abbs 15 Sep (TB, EMS, RWJS).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. Pr fledged young Kinloss (BE), second breeding Moray (see 5: 346); singing Banavie 7 June (JASN), first record S Inv; unusual number of Spey records, singing late June Kingussie and Rothiemurchus, feeding young Kinraig (PE, DNW), second breeding record E Inv (see 5: 346).

Arrival: 23 Apr, Brechin, Angus (GMC); 27 Apr, Keir, Dumf (JFY); 4 May, Torry and Newburgh, Aber (MAMcD, WM). Not widespread Dumf till 17 May (NSRG); at least 26 singing Angus by 21 June (GMC). Spring migration: Isle of May, 10 May-3 June (AMcD, JP); Fife, very few (DWO); Fair Isle, small numbers 23 May-24 June, 10 on 28 May, 6 on 1-2 June (RHD); Shet, 5 May-3 June, mainly 24-30 May, 10 Fetlar 27 May (ARM, RJT).

Autumn: Shet, trickle from 13 Aug, minor influx from 17 Sep, last Whalsay 11 Oct (JHSi, RJT); Fair Isle, 3 Aug-22 Oct, mainly 10 Aug-20 Sep, peaks 13 Aug (18), 15-19 Aug (15), 14-16 Sep (40, 20, 30), 19 Sep (25) (RHD); E Inv, almost daily (up to 3) Rothiemurchus last wk Aug and 1st wk Sep, suggesting passage (DNW); Fife Ness, from 18 Aug, peak 10 on 17 Sep (DWO); Isle of May, 5 Aug-20 Oct, peaks 14 Aug (15), 18-20 Sep (50, 100, 75) (JH, AFL).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. Widespread (but not universal) scarcity (noted also in England): Wig/Kirk, distinctly scarcer than usual, and did not nest in recorder's garden for first time in 17 yrs (RCD, ADW); marked decrease Dumf census areas (JM, JFY, JGY); general shortage in west

(MFMM), where absent from many Ayr localities (WRB), and almost entirely absent from Endrick, W Stir/Dunb (JMI); fewer around Selkirk (AJS); E Loth breeding numbers at least halved (KSMcG); decidedly less common than usual E Stir (TDHM); Kinross numbers greatly reduced, no breeding at L Leven site which had 10 prs 1968 (JHS); virtually disappeared as common breeding bird E Fife (DWO); scarcer E Inv (MR); numbers a mere fraction of normal SE Suth (DMcD), none heard or seen all over Ross/Suth by one active observer (DCH), though others reported a few. But many more than usual (after second wave of birds in July) at Yetholm, Rox (RSB); more noticeable Kinloss, Moray, than previous years, with singing males where not present 1968 (BE); and numbers seemed constant in Caith (DMS).

Arrival: 25 Apr, 1 Ballinluig, Perth (THE); 29 Apr, 1 Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO); 1 May, Caerlaverock, Dumf (JGY). Very protracted arrival Dumf, not widespread till 17 May (JGY). Migration: Isle of May, 2 May-15 June (JP); Fair Isle, 3 May-18 June, mainly late May/early June, peaks 26 May (15), 28 May (20) (RHD); Shet, a few in early May to 6th, small movement from 25 May, a few in June (RJT).

Autumn: Shet, 27 Aug-2 Oct, mostly 18-26 Sep in 1s and 2s (ISR, JHSi, RJT); Fair Isle, 3 singles July, 3-20 Aug (5 on 15th), 17-29 Sep (3 on 18th-19th) (RHD); Fife Ness, 5 on 18 Aug (MEG, PAL, PHS) and 17 Sep (DWO, ASm); Isle of May, 29 Aug-27 Sep (GLAP, ADW); Wig, 50 in Mull of Galloway area 17 Aug (JCS). Last one 3 Oct Arbroath, Angus (MN).

***Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*. No breeding record. Singing ♂ held territory Yetholm, Rox, 17 May-20 July, same area as 1968, but no sign of ♀ (RSB, AJS).

Spring 3 May-20 June: Ber, 1 St Abbs 3-4 May (TB, RKMCG, EMS, RWJS); Isle of May, 4 May-3 June (JP); Fife Ness, 1 on 3 May and 8-10 May (DWO); N Suth, 1 singing Altnahara 27-28 May (EGH), first record for division; Fair Isle, 13 May (1), 22 May-6 June, maxima 24-25 May (4, 6), 20 June (1) (RHD); Shet, small movement late May, 5 Fetlar 26th, 2-3 to 31st, similarly Whalsay (also 1 on 17 May) and Skerries, 1 Foula 25th (JGH, ARM, ISR, RJT).

Autumn 13 Aug-11 Oct: Shet, 1-2 most days 17 Sep-6 Oct Skerries, with 4 on 18 Sep and 3 on 20th (ISR), singles Whalsay 18 Sep, 21 Sep, 11 Oct (JHSi); Fair Isle, 13-19 Aug (maximum 3), 9-24 Sep (maximum 4), 2 on 6 Oct (RHD); Aber, singles Forvie 16 Aug, 17-18 Sep, 27 Sep (TJ-F, DEBL, NP); Fife Ness, 1 on 18 Sep (DWO); Isle of May, first 2 on 14 Aug (JH), last 2 on 22 Sep (AFL); Wig, 1 Mull of Galloway 17 Aug (JCS).

***Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*. ♀ Fair Isle 13 June (RHD).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Caith numbers considerably down (DMS), but no other reported status changes.

Arrival: 13 Apr, Yetholm, Rox (RSB), Crieff, Perth (EH); 15 Apr, Keir, Dumf (JFY); 16 Apr, Moor of Genoch, Wig (RCD); 17 Apr, Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO); 18 Apr, L Ken, Kirk (ADW), Banff (JE); 19 Apr, Selk (AJS), 2 L Leven, Kinross (JHS), Muir of Ord, E Ross (DCH); 20 Apr, large arrivals Dumf by this date (JGY), Tynninghame, E Loth (KSMcG), Stornoway, O Heb (IMcL). Build-up and migration: Kirk, many by 25 Apr (ADW); Dumf, widespread by 1 May (JGY); Rox, main body Yetholm arrived end Apr (RSB); Midl, big arrival 27 Apr (EMS, RWJS); Isle of May, 23 Apr (DJF), next 4 May, peak 70 on 14 May, odd records June-July (JP); Fife, general by 25 Apr after slow start, masses Kilconquhar 3 May (DWO); Perth, main arrival from 23 Apr (VMT); E Inv, Spey arrival last wk Apr (HB); Ork, considerable numbers in early May rush, 400 S Ronaldsay 5th, many elsewhere (EB, EJWi); Fair Isle, 23 Apr (6), small numbers till record spring fall of 400 on 3 May, 300 on 4th-5th, 250 on 6th, 200 on 7th-8th, fewer till 26 May (30) and 28-30 May (35, 40, 25),

stragglers to 24 June (RHD); Shet, first 25 Apr, large passage from 1 May, large arrival 4th (100 Fetlar, 100 Skerries), another small influx about 27 May (JGH, ARM, ISR, RJT).

Autumn: Shet, numbers generally small, from 10 Aug (30 Skerries 17th), peak around 18 Sep (ISR, RJT); Fair Isle, 6 Aug-11 Oct, mainly 13 Aug-25 Sep, peaks 13-19 Aug (120, 40, 60, 50, 70, 40), 14-16 Sep (80, 50, 50) (RHD); Kinross, light passage mid July through Aug, a few Sep (JHS); Fife Ness, 30 on 18 Aug (MEG, PAL, PHS); Isle of May, from 5 Aug, up to 80 daily 13-16 Aug, up to 75 daily 18-20 Sep (NJG, JGY); Dumf, usual marked passage Applegarthtown Aug-Sep (RTS); Wig, trickle S in Mull of Galloway area 11 Aug (HD), 200 Willow/Chiffs 17th, 250 on 25th (JCS).

***Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*. One trapped Fair Isle 29 Aug, first there since 1961 (RHD).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. No reported changes in breeding status, but one singing Arisaig in summer is first S Inv record (per DNW). Possibly outwith regular areas were birds singing in summer Almondell, W Loth (2), a county for which there are few records (JB), Cullen, Banff (2 late Apr) (JE), L Hope and Strathmore, N Suth, June (HOB, DCH).

Arrival: 18 Mar (early), 1 Pollokshields, Glasgow (DLC); no more till 4 Apr, St Abbs, Ber (CNW), first Shet (RJT); 5 Apr, Gatehouse, Kirk (ADW); 6 Apr, first Fair Isle (RHD); 8 Apr, Edinburgh (Corstorphine Hill) (AM); 9 Apr, 1 Pressmennan (KSMcG) and 1 E Linton (NJG), E Loth; 11 Apr, 1 Morton Lochs, Fife (Willow/Chiff) (GO), 1 Boat of Garten, E Inv (RJF), 1 Stornoway, O Heb (TDR). Otherwise: Dumf, not till 20 Apr (JFY) and not widely reported till mid May (NSRG); Isle of May, 2 May (10)-15 June (JP); E Inv, most in Speyside not till late May (DNW); Fair Isle, singles Apr 6th, 7th, 9th, 25th, 4 on 26th, others 1 May-7 June, maxima 6 on 3 May, 4 on 29th (RHD); Shet, small passage from 4 Apr, main influx about 22 Apr-4 May, a few to 31st (RJT).

Autumn: Shet, a few late Sep-23 Oct (RJT); Fair Isle, sparse 10 Aug-27 Sep and one 12 Oct, peaks 13 Aug (8), 14 Sep (6), 19 Sep (5) (RHD); Ork, 1-2 N Ronaldsay 26 Sep-5 Oct (EJW), 2 Finstown 21 Oct (EB); Kinc, 1 Milton Ness 7 Oct (GMC).

One winter record, Dalry, Kirk, 4 Dec (FD, ADW). One trapped Fair Isle 2 Aug after summering on cliffs had been ringed Isle of May on 22 May (RHD).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Noticeably absent from recently established Dumf territory (NSRG); possibly unusually widespread E Inv 1969 (DNW).

Arrival: 3 May, Elie, Fife (DWO), a few Shet 3-4 May (RJT), a few Ork early May (EB); 4 May, ♂ Newburgh, Aber (WM); 8 May, Glenarlie, Dumf (JM), first Fair Isle (RHD); 9 May, 1 L Leven, Kinross (JHS); 11 May, Brechin, Angus (GMC), Banchory, N Kinc (NP); 12 May, Gatehouse, Kirk (RBT). Otherwise: E Inv, first 13 May Rothiemurchus, common Kingussie/Boat of Garten by 20th (HB, DNW); O Heb, Stornoway 23 May (IMcL); Fair Isle, 5 singles 8 May-3 June (RHD); Shet, further records 27-30 May (DC, ARM, RJT).

Autumn: Shet, a few 14-27 Aug (DC, ARM); Fair Isle, 13-31 Aug (7 on 13th), 1-2 on 4 days 14 Sep-2 Oct (RHD); O Heb, 1 Flannans 15 Aug (RWP); Isle of May, 14-16 Aug (2) (JH), 31 Aug-2 Sep (1) (ADW).

***Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*. 1 Skerries, Shet, 19-26 Sep (ISR); 1 trapped Fair Isle 21 Sep (RHD).

***Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*. Only 7 birds, 3-22 Oct: Shet, 1 Lerwick 3rd (DC), 1 Skerries 6th (ISR); Fair Isle, 2 on 5th (RHD); Ork, 1 trapped N Ronaldsay 6th, 1 seen 22nd (EJW); Aber, 1 Torry 12th (MAMcD).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. No reported changes in breeding status. Spring: small passage Fair Isle 4-30 Apr, stragglers May (RHD); Shet, 1-2 may have wintered, with Kergord records from 21 Feb (DC, PKK, RJT), a few from 6 Apr, mainly 22 Apr-5 May, and stragglers to 28th (RJT). Autumn: Shet, small numbers, mainly 16-26 Sep, 18-25 Oct (RJT); Fair Isle, 8 Sep-21 Oct, especially 17-21 Sep (14 on 17th, 7 on 21st) and 10 Oct (9) (RHD); Aber, a few on coast 17-21 Sep (JF, NP); S Kinc, 25 in one bush St Cyrus 20 Oct (JF); Fife Ness, poor passage, both seasons (DWO); Isle of May, mainly mid Sep, 75 on 18th (AFL).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. No reported changes in breeding status. Arrival: 1 May, Penpont, Dumf (JMcC); 4 May, a few Tynninghame, E Loth (RWJS), first Shet (RJT); 5 May, Kirkwall, Ork (EJWi), first Fair Isle (RHD); first noted Rox, Midl, Isle of May, Kinross, Perth and Angus 14-18 May. Main arrival Dumf 17-27 May (NSRG); main arrival Yetholm, Rox, 24 May (RSB); not widespread Kinross till early June (JHS); first Stornoway, O Heb, 23 May (WMa) and fall N Uist 27th (DH). Migration: Isle of May, 15 May-15 June (JP); Fair Isle, 5 May-28 June, mainly 9 May (8)-2 June, peaks 14 May (12), 28 May (20), 1 June (10) (RHD); Shet, small passage (up to 4 in many places) 4-15 May, much larger passage 26-31 May, 50 Fetlar 27 May, 50 Skerries 29th (ARM, ISR, RJT).

Autumn: Shet, few, but up to 5 a day Whalsay, Fetlar, Skerries 17-22 Sep (ARM, ISR, JHSi, RJT); Fair Isle, scarce, 13-27 Sep (maximum 4) (RHD); Isle of May, 18 Aug-28 Sep, 30 on 19 Sep (JH, AFL, PJM); Wig, 30 Mull of Galloway area 17 Aug (JCS); also odd birds 17-29 Sep in Ork, Aber, Perth, Fife, E Loth and Ber. Last one Kinnaird Park, Angus, 2 Oct (JD).

Pied Flycatcher *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. Pr Lochnaw 9 June, few Wig summer records (AMR); Dunb/W Stir, 4 nests in boxes on E shore L Lomond, pr Inchcailloch 13 July, ♂♂ inspecting nest sites Ardlui and Inverrannan 17 May (WJIC, MFMM); only 1 ♂ Duns Castle, Ber, where 2 prs bred 1968 (AC); bred again (see 5: 349) Aberlour, Banff (DB); bred L Arkaig (RAH), first time in S Inv; unusually widespread Speyside, E Inv (HB), ♂♂ quite common Kingussie-Boat of Garten (DNW), bred Fort Augustus (RAH); ♂ carrying food Dundonnell 21 June, pr feeding young in nest Coulin, Torridon, 1 July (ENH), first breeding W Ross.

Arrival: 23 Apr, 4 Scaur Water, Dumf (ARH); 25 Apr, first Shet (RJT); 27 Apr, Penicuik (where bred), Midl (TD); 1 May, Thornhill, Dumf (JM). Records more widely spread from 3-4 May: Dumf, not widely noted till 20 May (NSRG); Ber/E Loth, several each St Abbs, Barns Ness, Tynninghame 3-5 May (RKMCG, RWJS); Isle of May, 3 May (3)-24 May (2) (RAJ, JP); 3 Fife Ness 4 May, 1-2 till 10th (DWO); Angus, 10 Usan 7 May (GMC); Aber, 3 Newburgh 4 May (WM); Moray, ♂ Kinloss 7 May (BE); E Inv, Spey arrivals 20 May (HB); all over Caith 4-11 May (DMS); Ork, 8 (3 localities) 5 May, 4 (2 localities) 8 May (EB, EJWi); Fair Isle, 3-26 May, peaks 3rd (25), 6th (25), 1 on 5 June (RHD); Shet, a few from 25 Apr, mainly 3-13 May (40 Fetlar 5th, 30 Whalsay 4th-5th, 20 Skerries 4th-5th) (DC, ARM, ISR, JHSi, RJT).

Autumn: Shet, 1-2 about 11 Aug, small numbers 15-18 Sep, 4 Oct (RJT); Fair Isle, 2-3 Aug (1), 13-18 Aug (up to 4), sparse passage 11 Sep-20 Oct, 6 on 16-19 Sep and 21 Sep (RHD); Ork, a few N Ronaldsay 25 Sep-21 Oct (EJW); apparent passage Speyside, E Inv, last wk Aug/1st wk Sep (DNW); Fife Ness, peak 25 on 17 Sep (DWO); Isle of May, 13 Aug-22 Oct (JH, BU), 50 on 18 Sep (AFL); migrants noted 17-20 Sep in Aber, Angus, E Loth, Ber and Kirk.

***Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa parva*. One spring, 29 May; about 10 autumn, 15-20 Sep, 4-6 Oct: Shet, 1 Skerries 16 Sep (ISR), 1 Fetlar 6 Oct (ARM); Fair Isle, ♀ trapped 29 May, singles Sep 15th, 16th, 17th (2), 18th, 20th (RHD); Aber, 1 Forvie 18-20 Sep (WM); Isle of May, 1 on 19 Sep (AFL); Wig, 1 Mull of Galloway 4 Oct (DAB, WMB).

Dunnoch/Hedge Sparrow *Prunella modularis*. No reported changes in breeding status. Passage: Aber, 4 Forvie and 2 Cruden Bay 17 Sep (NP); Fair Isle, a few to 5 Apr, 5 on 6th, 1 on 7th, strong passage 21 Apr-28 May, peaks 23-27 Apr (30, 150, 75, 40, 40), 8-9 May (25), 24 May (8), autumn 17 Sep-13 Nov, 14 on 21 Sep, stragglers to 1 Dec (RHD); Shet, fair passage from 23 Apr, second wave 30 Apr, more about 4-11 May, odd ones to 17th, small autumn movement 17-26 Sep, and from 13 Oct, 1 Fetlar 8 Nov (ARM, RJT).

***Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Singles (4) 19 Aug-3 Nov: Fair Isle, 19 Aug, an early date (GJB) and 15-25 Oct (RHD); Ork, N Ronaldsay 1-3 Nov (EJW); Isle of May, 18-26 Oct (BU).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. No reported changes in breeding status, but spectacular spring numbers. Arrival (very late): 26 Apr, L Leven, Kinross (JHS), 2 Skibo, SE Suth (DMcD); 27 Apr, 1 Portmore, Peeb (EMS, RWJS); no others in Apr; 1 May, 2 Glenesk, Angus (GMC). Very large movement thereafter: E Loth, 6 Aberlady 3 May (KSMcG); Isle of May, 20 on 4 May, 50 on 10th, passage to 1 June (AMcD, JP); Fife Ness, 20 on 4 May, some till 10th (DWO); Angus, 50 passing Arbroath in 2s and 3s on 4 May (MN); Aber, 30 Torry 4 May (ADKR), 2 Forvie 7th, 10 Balmiedie 8th (NP); E Inv, widespread by 11 May (DNW); Ork, unprecedented numbers early May, 300 on small part of S Ronaldsay on 5th and many elsewhere (EB, EJWi); Fair Isle, 2 on 2 May, amazing avalanche during afternoon of 3 May when 1500 arrived, dropping 4-9 May (1000, 250, 400, 200, 200, 150), down to 50 by 15th, 100 on 16th, 50 on 17th, 10-35 to 1 June, stragglers to 12 June, 1 on 28th, odd birds July (RHD); Shet, very large movement began 2 May, everywhere till 11th, 500 Fetlar 4th, 350 Whalsay 4th, thousands Sumburgh area 4th, 250 Skerries 5th, still a few towards end of May (DC, ARM, JHSi, ISR, RJT); first records 3-5 May also in Kirk, Rox and E Ross.

Autumn: Shet, a few 17-26 Sep (RJT); Fair Isle, stragglers to mid Aug, passage 14-27 Sep (12 on 18th, 25 on 19th, 20 on 20th) (RHD); E Inv, strong suggestion of passage in first half Sep (DNW); Isle of May, 27 Aug-23 Sep, up to 40 daily 17-20 Sep (AFL, PJM, GLAP); Wig, 20 Mull of Galloway area 17 Aug (JCS).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. No reported changes in breeding status. Flocks 20-30 common L Leven, Kinross, to mid Mar, then moved to breeding grounds, flocks 50-80 regular Sep, then 10-20 to year end (AA, JHS); return to Gladhouse, Midl, 16 Mar (DGA, EMS, RWJS); to Speyside, E Inv, 18 Mar (but scarce till 1st wk Apr) (HB, DNW); to Shet on 10 Apr Fetlar, 15 Apr Yell, but main arrival second half Apr (ARM, RJT); Fair Isle, first 18 Mar, numbers from 29 Mar, build-up Apr and early May, autumn movement from 24 Aug, few after 20 Nov, last 5 Dec (RHD). The Isle of May had 1000 on 12 Sep (AFL); and 180/hr moving S at Burntisland, Fife, on 21 Sep were in an unexpected area (JMC).

***Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*. 1 Fair Isle 22 Sep (RHD).

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. No reported changes in breeding status. Autumn movement noted Fair Isle from 24 Aug (RHD). Inland: 1 Cobbinshaw, Midl, 18 Oct (EMS, RWJS).

A bird tentatively identified as a **Water Pipit** *A. s. spinoletta* at Aberlady, E Loth, on 31 Mar and 2 Apr (6:50) (MAMcD, RKMCG) would be the 2nd Scottish record.

Pied/White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*. No reported changes in breeding status of Pied Wagtail *M. a. yarrelli*. At least 2 prs White Wagtails *M. a. alba* bred Shet (RJT); ♂ of pr breeding Rothiemurchus, E Inv, was either White or White x Pied (DJ, IN, NP, DNW). 2-3 White on Handa 6-9 May (MJE) are first of race in W Suth.

Spring passage: Fair Isle, a few Pied 23 Mar-24 Apr, White 6 Apr-28 May, mainly 22 Apr-19 May, 6 on 23 Apr, 10 on 5 May, 8 on 6th (RHD);

elsewhere scattered records generally fit this pattern. Autumn: Fair Isle, 17 Aug-30 Sep (last 20 Oct), peaks 9-14 on 4 dates 22 Aug-8 Sep, 25 on 10th and 12 Sep (RHD); Inverness passage 13 Aug-16 Nov (MR); Moray, 500 Kinloss 24 Aug (BE); Rox, roost Yetholm early Sep, 150 on 12th, left by Oct (RSB); marked passage Dumf 1-20 Oct, flocks 150-200 (NSRG); usual autumn passage Kirk late Aug/early Sep (ADW).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. Good year with widespread breeding Kirk (ADW); still below pre-1963 numbers on high ground Midl (RWJS); increasing Gairloch area, W Ross (ENH); 1 Strathnaver, N Suth, 11 June was observer's first there since 1962/63 winter (EGH); 2 prs bred Stornoway, O Heb (cf. 5 : 350) (WAJC).

Spring passage: Aber, 1 Balmedie 8 May (NP); Fair Isle, singles 27 Apr, 7-10 May, 22-23 June (RHD). Autumn: Shet, singles Skerries 25th and 31 Oct, 1 Nov (ISR); Fair Isle, 1 on 17 Oct (RHD); Ork, 1 N Ronaldsay 19 Oct (EJW); Fife Ness, ♂ 12 Oct (DWO).

'Yellow' Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. Yellow *M. f. flavissima*. Pr bred Melrose in area where present also 1968 (AJS, VT), first breeding in Tweed and Rox. Paisley Moss, Renf, breeding area has disappeared in an extension of the airport runway (IG). Possibly bred E Stir, near Skinflats, 2 seen 9 May-14 Sep, and family party of 6 on 24 Aug (DF). Migrants Fair Isle, ♂ 3-6 May, 2 on 9th, 1 on 10th, 2 on 25th, 4 on 29th, 1 on 16 June (RHD).

Grey-headed *M. f. thunbergi*. Some 14 noted, 3-30 May: Ber, ♂ St Abbs 3 May (RKMCG); E Loth, ♂ Tynningame 4 May (TB, EMS, RWJS); Aber, 2 Balmedie 8-9 May, one fairly typical of race, other most probably this race (which, like most races except *feldegg*, can be variable) with black crown but dark grey nape merging into black (*feldegg* has sharp cut-off) (CHF, WM, NP); Fair Isle, 3 ♂♂ 3-5 May, 2 on 6th, singles 9th, 21st-22nd, 30th (RHD); Shet, ♂ Fetlar 26-29 May (ARM), ♂ Sumburgh 28 May (DC), 2 ♂♂ (in 8 birds) Skerries 29 May (ISR).

Blue-headed *M. f. flava*. Isle of May, 1 on 6 May (JP); Fair Isle, small passage 7 May-5 June, 4 on 26 May, autumn singles probably all this race 5-11 Aug and 8 days 2-21 Sep (RHD); Shet, ♂ Sumburgh 4 May (DC), 1 Foula 25 May (JGH), 1 Fetlar 27 May (ARM), autumn as Fair Isle, 1 Fetlar 8-9 Oct, a few Skerries 12-17 Oct (ARM, ISR).

Black-headed *M. f. feldegg*. Male, accepted by Rarities Committee as showing characteristics of this race, Skerries 8-11 May (ISR).

Race unspecified or dubious. Spring: Ber, ♀ St Abbs 5 May (RKMCG); E Loth, 4 Tynningame 4 May (TB, EMS, RWJS); Fife Ness, ♂ 10 May (GO, HDS); Kinross, ♂ L Leven 8 May, joined by ♀ on 9th (JHS); Angus, 11 near Arbroath 1-11 May (MN), 1 Glen Prosen 21st (GMC); Shet, passage 1-29 May, including one resembling Spanish race *M. f. iberiae* on Skerries 29 May (RJT). Autumn: Ork, 1 N Ronaldsay 17 Sep (DBW); Fife Ness, ♂ and ♀ 21 Sep (DWO); E Loth, 1 Aberlady 5 Oct (RF); Dumf, 1 Gretna 28 Aug (RTS); Kirk, 1 on Nith 6 Sep (RTS).

***Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*. 1 Fair Isle 14th and 16 Sep, first there since 1964 (RHD).

Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus*. Some 15 reports of rather over 60 birds, Jan-early May; largest count 11 Speyside, E Inv, mid Feb (NP, DNW); after March recorded Crieff, N Perth (1 on 19 Apr) (JBU), Speyside (small numbers 3 Apr-5 May) (HB, DNW), and Inverness (4 on 8 Apr) (MIH, WMM).

Few in latter months, about 10 reports and some 80 birds; first were 7 Dingwall, 19 Munloch and 30 Avoch, all E Ross and apparently all 29 Oct (PSL); only other flock was party of 12 Aviemore/Boat of Garten, E Inv, Nov-Dec (DNW).

***Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*. Recorded (singles unless stated) to 16 May and from 14 Sep. Spring (about 25): Kirk, Cairn Edward Forest

2 Mar (JPe), Gatehouse Station in Mar (CP); Dunb, Helensburgh 19 Mar (RJWS); W Loth, Torphichen 19 Jan (LMcP, SMMcP); Isle of May, 2 on 5 May, 1 stayed to 20th (JP); Fife, Thornton 6 Feb (DWO, ASm); Perth, Pitlochry 5 Jan (HBr), Glenshee 5 Apr (DF); N Kinc, Strachan 22 Jan (per NP); Aber, Mar Lodge 29 Mar (JF); W Ross, winter Glen Torridon to 23 Mar, L Coultrie 2 Mar (JAW); Caith, Yarrow 16 May (JARG); Ork, Kirkwall 5 May (EB); Fair Isle 1-2 on 14 days 21 Apr-6 May (RHD); Shet, Fetlar 21-22 Apr (ARM), Foula 21-22 Apr, 25 Apr (JGH), Sumburgh 26 Apr (PKK).

Autumn (about 20) : Shet, Whalsay 13 Oct (JHSi); Fair Isle, 25th and 29 Sep, 14-16 Oct (RHD); Ork, N Ronaldsay 13th and 19 Oct (EJW); Caith, Latheron 14 Sep (DMS); Banff, Ben Rinnes 17 Sep (PC); Aber, Potarch 25 Nov (JF), Torry 29 Nov (ADKR); Perth, Stanley 26 Sep, 8 Nov (IRJ), Aberfoyle 21-27 Dec (WKR); Isle of May, 2 on 12 Oct (NSRG, JGY); Ber, Duns 30 Nov (JCo); Selk, Yarrow 18 Oct (RF); Lan, Cathkin Braes 29 Nov (AG, RL); Dumfries 23 Nov (JKRM); Kirk, New Abbey early Dec (BST).

***Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*. 1 Shiel Br, Acharacle, 1 June (6 : 53) (RED), first for Argyll faunal area and N Arg.

***Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*. 1 Briewick, Shet, 29 May (MS).

***Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*. Passage (singles unless stated) 23 Apr, 9 May, 24 May-13 June, and 13 Aug-27 Sep. Spring : Aber, ♀ Forvie 9 May (TJ-F); SE Suth, early one Colaboll, Lairg, 23 Apr (WCW); N Suth, ♂ Tongue 28 May (ANS), first for division; Fair Isle, another strong spring passage 24 May-9 June, peaks 26 May (5), 30 May (10), 1-2 June (7), late one 13 June (RHD); Shet, small passage late May, 2 ♀♀ 25 May, ♂ 31st Lerwick (DC), 2 Fetlar 25 May, then 27-29 May (1, 2, 1) (ARM), Whalsay 27-30 May (1, 4, 2, 1) (JHSi), Skerries 3 ♀♀ 29 May (ISR), 1 on 1 June (PKK), Unst on May 27th (2), 29th, 31st (MS).

Autumn : Shet, Helendale 23 Sep (DC); Fair Isle, ♂ 13-16 Aug, juv 15-18 Aug, another juv 19th, 1-2 on 9 days 18-27 Sep (RHD); Fife Ness, imm 18 Aug (DWO); Isle of May, imm 14-15 Aug (JH) and 18-22 Sep (AFL).

***Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Smaller numbers than usual bred Fair Isle; passage there 25 Mar-2 May, 10 Oct-2 Nov, 1000 on 23 Oct (RHD). Hundreds at lighthouse Rattray, Aber, 19 Oct (MW). Still 10,000 roosting at Gladhouse, Midl, as late as 16 June (DGA).

***Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*. Ad Fair Isle 15-30 June (RHD, TR); 1 frequented centre of Kirkwall, Ork, through late June and July (TH), subject to acceptance by Rarities Committee, but no description yet submitted.

***Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*. ♂ Fair Isle 24 Aug proved to be escaped cage bird when examined in hand (breeds western N America, winters Mexico) (RHD).

***Evening Grosbeak** *Hesperiphona vespertina*. ♂ St Kilda 26 Mar (*Brit. Birds* 62 : 207), possibly an escape, with feathers missing from top of head and relatively tame (NP), not on British List, subject to acceptance by BOU.

***Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. No reports on status from southern breeding areas. Elsewhere : Kirk, ♂ Dalry 7-8 July (ADW); Midl, 1 Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 4 Feb (RF), 2 Duddingston 20 Mar-12 May (DRA, JAA, DGA), 1 Redside Br, Arniston, 7 June, apparently gathering food for young (RWJS); Perth, 1 Kingoodie 31 May (per HBo), 2 Pitlochry 23 May (THE); Angus, 1 Kinnaird Park 29 Apr, 9 Sep (JD); St Kilda, tired migrant (*Birds* 3 : 42), first record; Ork, 1 Binscarth wood in second half Dec (EB); Fair Isle, ♀ 23 Apr (RHD); Shet, 1 Unst 26 May (AJH per MS).

***Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*. No reported changes in breeding status. Fair Isle migrants, 1 on 5 days 12-28 Apr, up to 3 on 9 days 20-29 Oct, 1 on

24 Nov and 30-31 Dec (RHD); Shet, 9 Virkie 6 Jan-9 Feb (WH), 1 Scalloway 19 Jan (TI), 1 Lerwick 16 Feb (PKK), 1 Unst 12 Oct (MS), 2-3 Whalsay 18-20 Oct (JHSi), 1 Fetlar 19th, 26th, 30 Oct (ARM), and Skerries 22-27 Oct (1, 9, 9, 6, 6, 3), 3 Nov (3) (ISR).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. Galloway numbers above average, good breeding season (ADW), and marked increase Newton Stewart in last 2 yrs, with large flocks Blairmount Park (CABC); large numbers and widespread breeding Dumf, several nests near busy streets in Dumfries (EBd, HO), autumn/winter flocks largest for 10 yrs Upper Nithsdale (up to 240 Sanquhar), increase thought partly owing to profuse weed growth on now unscythed railway embankments (WD, GMcM, JGY); summer reports Islay (DJS) where previously only in winter (MFMM); Rox, numbers down Yetholm, but 80 Hoselaw Loch in Oct (RSB); E Loth, small parties Tynninghame, N Berwick (up to 25) and Aberlady (up to 7) (DYA, DJ, RWJS); Midl, winter numbers good (RWJS); fairly common in small numbers N of river in upper Forth (TDHM); Kinross, 9 near L Leven 20 Oct and 20 Dec are largest numbers seen by recorder (JHS); Angus, breeding not uncommonly (GMC); N Kinc, 5 Nigg 25 Jan (AR), 1 Strachan 12 May (RH), 1-2 prs bred Banchory, 3 juvs and ad 22 Aug, 1 on 22 Dec (NP); Aber, 2 Balgownie 2 Mar (DB); Moray, 1 Fochabers 19 Feb (JMB), 19 Kinloss 21 Feb (THJ), 1 there 4 July, 30 Dec (BE); E Inv, small numbers Jan-Mar Kingussie/Boat of Garten, 50 Rothiemurchus mid Mar (JPG), a few in summer Laggan Br/Boat of Garten and small numbers there autumn/winter (DNW), 1 Longman Bay 8 Feb, 5 on 16th (MIH); E Ross, 6 imms Tarbat Ness 29 Aug (CJMCK-G); SE Suth, 21 Dornoch 23 Feb, 1 there 26 Mar (DMcD).

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*. Little comment on breeding status. Recorded certainly or probably breeding at sites all along Great Glen, including L Arkaig and Kinlochleven (DNW), presumably including first breeding S Inv (but see Scot. Nat. 1954: 93). Some wintered 1968/69 Speyside (and common at end of year) but others returned about last wk Mar (DNW). Flock up to 250 Glencaple, Dumf, Oct-Dec roosting in *Phragmites* (JMCG, JGY); 30-40 L Ken 26 Dec, best Kirk count (JKRM); 1 Bowmore 15 Feb, observer's first in Islay (MFMM).

Spring migrants 21 Apr-2 June and 18 June: Kinross, 2 L Leven 23-24 Apr (JHS); Isle of May, 1 on 26 May (RAJ); Ork, 4 Binscarth 5 May (EJWi); Fair Isle, small passage 22 Apr-20 May, 6 on 23 Apr, 7 on 24th, 8 on 12 May, 1 on 15-18 June (RHD); Shet, singles Mainland 21 Apr (DC) and 26 Apr (PKK), 2 Foula 26 Apr (JGH), 1 Skerries 7 May, 5 on 8th, 7 on 9th-10th, 2 on 11th (ISR), 2 Fetlar 19 May, 1 on 1 June (ARM), 1 Unst 26 May, 3 on 28th, 2 on 2 June (MS).

Autumn, mainly 6-28 Oct: Shet, 1 Fetlar 6 Oct, up to 5 on 18-27 Oct (ARM), 4 Lerwick 12 Oct (DC), 2 Skerries 13-17 Oct (ISR), 3 Whalsay 16 Oct, 8 on 18th, 12 on 19th, 2 on 20th, 4 on 23rd (JHSi); Fair Isle, 6 on 16 Sep, passage 6-24 Oct, peaks 13th (13), 20th (9), 23rd (10) (RHD); Ork, a few 13-23 Oct (EJWi, EJW); Aber, 1 Rattray 28 Oct (MW); Fife Ness, 3 on 17 Sep, 2 on 21st, 2 on 11 Oct (PGTB, DWO); Isle of May, 1 on 12 Oct, 7 on 13th (JGY); Kinross, 1 L Leven from 19 Sep, maximum 10 on 26 Oct (JHS).

Linnets *Carduelis cannabina*. Summer reports more plentiful this year Caith (DMS); but no other reported changes in breeding status. Flocks: 300 Yetholm, Rox, 6 Sep (RSB); 250 L Leven, Kinross, 15 Nov (JHS); 175 near Blairgowrie, Perth, 11 Jan (VMT); and also 13 on Inchmickery in the Forth 21 Sep (JPK).

Shet, 1 Skerries 29 May (ISR), 1 Unst 2 June (RJT); Fair Isle, 1-3 on 17 days 25 Apr-3 July, also 3-8 Aug (1), 16-17 Aug (2), movement 29 Sep-28 Oct, 8 on 5 Oct, 4 on 26th and 28th, late singles 14th and 25 Nov (RHD).

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*. One singing N Campsies, E Stir, 15 June

(ITD, MMD); 8 Glen Clova, Angus, 13 June, 10 from 27 July to 2 Aug (AN, MN); not in Speyside, E Inv, nesting habitat till 12 Apr (DNW); fairly common but probably decreased round L Naver, N Suth (EGH); evidence of decrease in some places Shet (RJT).

The number of coastal winter flocks in Wig/Kirk suggests a local increase in wintering birds (CABC, RCD, ADW); Dumf, 25 Caerlaverock 20 Sep rose to 57 by 17 Nov, when 175 at Kenneth Bank (JGY); though regular on Clyde coast, 20 Castle Semple, Renf, 10 Mar are interesting (DLC); small parties in winter noted also Selk, E Loth, Midl, Kinross; and up to 75 on shore in upper Forth (MH, TDHM); 12 Caenlochan 2 Sep, unusual area, Aber/Angus/Perth (JG-R, DAR); large flocks wintered Speyside, E Inv, Kingussie and elsewhere, possibly overlooked before (DNW); 500 Dornoch, SE Suth, 30 Nov (DMcD); more noticeable than usual Caith Oct-Dec (DMS); high winter maximum 63 Fair Isle 27 Jan, spring peak 40 on 21 Apr, autumn maxima 140 on 26 Sep, 100 on 18 Oct, 22 in Dec (RHD).

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*. Lesser Redpoll *C. f. disruptis* still increasing E Loth (KSMcG); noticeable increase Altnahara and Strathnaver, N Suth (EGH).

Flocks: smaller winter numbers Midl (RWJS); maximum flock 50 Kinross (JHS); up to 50 Gairloch, W Ross, Aug (ENH); 200 Glen Lethnot, Angus, 29 Sep (GMC); 150 Kinloss, Moray, 21 Feb, apparently Mealy Redpolls *C. f. flammea*, in birchwoods where Lessers breed in summer (BE). Others with Mealy characteristics marked M below; also 1 Aberlady, E Loth, 10 Jan (MFMM).

Migrants: Isle of May, 1 (probably M) 26 May (RAJ), 2 Lessers 20 May, 1 on 1 June (JP), a few 27 Sep-22 Oct (NJG, GLAP), 12 race unspecified 29 Oct (IFS); Fair Isle, 5 May (1), 20 May (2), 3 June (M), 4-7 June (Lesser), 25 Sep (2M), small numbers 4-25 Oct mostly Greenland *C. f. rostrata* but a Lesser 18-19 Oct, last 1 on 20 Nov, 2 on 25th (RHD); Shet, Skerries (mainly Lesser), 6 on 8 Oct, 1 on 17th, 2 on 5-6 Nov (ISR), 20 (probably M) Unst 15-21 Oct, 2 on 11 Dec (MS), and 1 Mid Yell during Dec (RJT).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. Very common, probably increasing, Kirk (ADW); still increasing, but within present range, E Fife (DWO); increasing Gairloch, W Ross (ENH). Parties up to 30 feeding in heather above treeline to 2000 ft, E Inv, especially Cairngorms, Feb-Apr and Oct-Dec (DNW).

Fair Isle, ♀ 23-24 Mar, ♂ 24-29 Apr, another ♂ 2 May, 3 ♂ 3rd, 2 on 4th, 1 to 8th (RHD); Shet, a few wintered Lerwick and Scalloway, odd reports Feb/Mar, 2 on 23 Apr Lerwick and Helendale (DC, PKK, RJT), ♀ Virkie 16 May (WH), ♂ Fetlar 11-14 May and 28 Nov-5 Dec, with ♀ 29 Nov (TT).

***Scarlet Grosbeak** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Spring: ad ♂ Foula 31 May (JGH), subject to acceptance by Rarities Committee. Autumn: Shet, 2 Skerries 26-27 Aug, 1 to 1 Sep, ♀/imm 17-18 Sep (ISR), 1 Fetlar 18-20 Sep (ARM); Fair Isle, ♀/imm 13 Aug (earliest ever by 11 days) (KA, RHD), others Sep 16th (2), 17th (1), 19th (2), 21st-26th (1), Oct 11th (1) (RHD); Isle of May, 1 on 16-17 Sep (AFL), subject to acceptance by Rarities Committee.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. Small parties noted Forest of Ae, Dumf, July, when breeding began, family parties Sep/Oct, mixed flocks 40-80 regularly Nov, nests harder to find than 1968 (owing to clearance of windblown timber), two Dec nests failed with onset of very wet conditions (parental care has now been noted every month except June); also present Castle O'er, where probably bred; spruce crop in SW Scotland exceptionally good (HO). Pr Aug Glenmachrie, Lorn, N Arg, also nest nearby where they may have bred (there is no breeding record for the

Argyll faunal area (AMcD). Both Scottish and Continental forms common throughout 1969 in Speyside, E Inv, though only Scottish proved to breed (DNW).

No signs of immigration in N, but 1 flew over Fair Isle 19 July (RHD), and skeletal remains found end Aug in Shapinsay, Ork (MAMcD).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. No reported changes in breeding status. Oct-Dec numbers Caith caused local comment (DMS); but autumn numbers small Isle of May (NJG); comparatively few in autumn N Ronaldsay, Ork, maxima 10 on 25 Sep, 11 caught 13 Oct (EJW); Fair Isle, a few winter, passage 4 Apr-22 May, peaks Apr 13th (10), 22nd-26th (30, 50, 75, 30, 30), 3 May (20), stragglers to 4 June, odd birds 25 July-3 Aug, passage 12 Sep-18 Nov, mainly Oct/early Nov, 40 on 13-15 Oct, 60 on 19th-20th, 40 on 28th-29th, 50 on 1 Nov, 1 on 16-17 Dec (RHD); Shet, a few parties wintered, passage 22 Apr-17 May (parties up to 30), autumn mainly from 18 Sep, still some Dec (RJT).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. Male singing in glen some miles W of L Ness, E Inv, 31 May-30 June, evidently unmated (MIH); 1 calling Elibank, Peeb, to at least 10 June (TDo, AJS).

Spring maxima, movements and late dates: Ber, 2 St Abbs 5 May (RKMCG); Peeb, 1000 Portmore 9 Mar, 500 on 6 Apr (EMS, RWJS); E Loth, ♀ Bass Rock 31 May (RWJS); Isle of May, 40 on 3 May, 60 more on 5th, last on 13th (JP); Fife, last Kingsbarns 3 May (DWO); Aber, 1 Torry 4-5 May (MAMcD); flocks up to 300 various places near Inverness to early Apr (MIH, JAL); O Heb, still a number Druidibeg 16 May (IN); Ork, fair numbers early May, 100 Binscarth 5th, 200 Finstown 9th (EJWi); Fair Isle, strong passage 10 Apr-29 May, mainly late Apr/early May, peaks 24-25 Apr (150, 80), 2-3 May (35, 500), 5 May (300), stragglers to 20 June (RHD); Shet, passage concurrent with Chaffinch (22 Apr-17 May) on similar scale, but up to 80 Whalsay, Skerries and Mainland early May (ISR, JHSi, RJT), 80 Foula 25 Apr (JGH).

Autumn arrival and numbers: Shet, fairly large flocks mid Oct, 150 Fetlar 13th (ARM), 500 Whalsay 19th (JHSi), 70 Skerries 24th (ISR); Fair Isle, 1-6 on 16-20 Sep, passage 2 Oct-18 Nov, peaks Oct 13th (150), 19th (200), 20th (300), 22nd-25th (200), odd birds 11-26 Dec (RHD); Ork, 300 Finstown 20-21 Oct (EJWi); O Heb, flock Stornoway 12 Oct (WAJC); W Ross, 1 Kishorn 4 Aug (DCa); E Inv, Speyside passage mainly Oct (HB, DNW); Aber, 6 Rattray 20 Oct (MW); Perth, large flocks Glenalmond 28 Oct (WHR); Clack, 45 Dollar 23 Nov-7 Dec (TDHM); Kinross, from 29 Sep (JHS); first Fife Ness 12 Oct (DWO), 2 on 19th exhausted (DIMW), up to 150 Crail late Dec (JARG); Isle of May, from 18 Sep (AFL), peaks 50 on 12th and 21 Oct (NJG); first E Loth 12-20 Oct, and maximum only 10 (DYA, DJ, MFMM); first Midl 17 Oct (RW); not noted Rox till Dec (RSB); usual numbers Kirk (JKRM), but only small numbers Wig (ADW); Dumf, first Moffat 13 Oct, small flocks 100-250 regular in county Nov (NSRG), and in snowstorm 17 Dec flocks of over 1000 Lochmaben (JKRM) and Glencaple (JGY), flocks 200-300 widely reported to year end (NSRG).

Hybrid Brambling x Chaffinch 25-26 May Fair Isle probably an escape as 2 of small accompanying party of Bramblings also showed signs of having been caged (RHD).

***Slate-coloured Junco** *Junco hyemalis*. 1 Skerries 7 May (6: 53) (ISR), 3rd Scottish and Shet record.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*. Breeding suspected Yetholm, Rox, new locality (RSB, WSM, AJS); becoming even scarcer Ork, confined almost entirely to a few of N isles (EB); decreasing Shet (RJT). Numbers: roost up to 200 early in year Kilconquhar, Fife (TRG); notable Dumf flock 102 Kinmount 2 Feb (RTS); up to 300 in Carlingwark, Kirk, roost 8 Feb (ADW); over 100 Mull of Galloway 14 Sep (ADW). Fair Isle had

singles 26 Apr, 18th-19th and 30 Oct, 1 Nov, 25-31 Dec (RHD).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. In Ork only a few known to breed (EB); 1 in song Altnahara, N Suth, 9 June, first seen there in 10 yrs (EGH). Shet, 1 Aywick 24 Mar (JN), 1 Fetlar 9 Apr, 1st and 29 May (ARM), 1 Skerries 21 Oct, 2-3 daily 24-31 Oct, 1 on 8 Nov (ISR), 2 Whalsay 23rd and 25 Oct (JHSi), 1 Lerwick 26 Oct (DC); Fair Isle, singles 26 Jan, 11-13 May, 31 May-7 June, 14 June, 10th and 13 Oct, 4 on 19th, 2 on 20th-21st, 1 on 23rd and 31st to 6 Nov, when 2 (RHD); Isle of May, 2 on 20 Oct (BU).

***Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps*. Presumed and proven escapes, 4 May-11 June (6), and 3-19 Sep (1): Kinross, ♀ L Leven 4-6 May (AA, JHS); ♂ Aberdeen 25 May (MJHC); E Inv, ♂ (behaving like escape) Lewiston 17-20 May (ASM); Fair Isle, cage birds, ♀ 4-5 June, ♀ trapped 3-19 Sep (RHD); Shet, ♂ Sound, near Lerwick, 11 June (PKK), also one 4 June (JAR).

***Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*. Singles Fair Isle 14-19 Sep and 20-25 Sep, both trapped (RHD); 2 Whalsay, Shet, 1 Oct (JHSi).

***Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*. Ad ♂ Mull of Galloway 17 Aug (JCS), first for Solway and Wig.

***Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*. Spring 2 May-9 June, especially 3-13 May: Isle of May, 1 on 8 June (JP); Aber, 1 Torry 3 May (MAMcD); Fair Isle, unprecedented arrival of 32 on 3 May (twice previous best day), then 4-11 May (32, 18, 23, 3, 8, 22, 30, 4), 1-2 to 18 May, 1 on 23 May and 7-9 June (RHD); Shet, unusually pronounced passage, Foula 3 in early May (RI), Whalsay May 2nd (3), 3rd (10), 4th (6), 6th (4), 9th (12), 12th-13th (3) (JHSi), Fetlar 3 on 3 May, 13 (mostly ad ♂♂) 4th, up to 5 to 10th, singles 12th, 13th, 15th (ARM), Yell 3 on 4 May (RJT), Mainland 4 on 4 May, 1 on 8th (DC), Skerries 6 on 5-6 May, 3 on 7th-11th but 5 on 8th (ISR).

Autumn (only 4): Shet, 1 Fetlar 13 Sep (ARM); Fair Isle, 2 on 9 Sep, 1 to 13th (RHD); Isle of May, 1 on 18 Sep (AFL).

***Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*. 1 Fair Isle 8-9 June (GJB, RJ).

***Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. 1 Skerries, Shet, 23-26 Oct, 2nd bird 24th (probably to 26th) (ISR); 1 Fair Isle 16-21 Oct (RHD).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Appears to have increased E Loth (KSMcG). Peak 240 in *Phragmites* roost Glencaple, Dumf, 17 Nov-3 Dec 'JGY).

Spring: Isle of May, 20 on 3rd and 7 May, 10 on 9th (JP); Fair Isle, 1 on 17 Mar, 2 on 30th, passage 5 Apr-23 May, mainly 25 Apr-23 May, peaks 25 Apr (11), 3-6 May (80, 90, 80, 70), declining thereafter, 1 on 27-28 June (RHD); Shet, mainly 25 Apr-17 May with odd later birds, maxima Fetlar 6 May (15) and 15th (10) (ARM), Skerries 5-6 May (ISR), Whalsay 3-6 May (10) and 9th (40) (JHSi). Autumn: Shet, slight passage on 19 Aug (4) (DC), but most Sep-Oct, as Whalsay 15-18 Sep and various places 11-21 Oct (11 on 20th Skerries) (ISR, JHSi, RJT); Fair Isle, scattered records 18 Sep-29 Oct (6 on 20 Oct) (RHD); Fife Ness, a few from 17 Sep (DWO).

***Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*. ♂ Foula heard and seen 19 June-22 July (JGH). Elsewhere recorded to 2 June and from 31 Aug: E Loth, up to 7 Aberlady Jan (MJE, DJ, KSMcG), up to 2 mid Nov onwards (DJ, ROM); Isle of May, imm 13-14 Sep (RKMCG), imm 29 Oct (BU); Angus, 1 Barnhill 20 Dec (JKRM); Aber, 9 Ythan 8 Mar (MJHC); Ork, 1 N Ronaldsay 10 Oct (EJW); Fair Isle, Apr 3rd-4th (1), 22nd (2), 23rd (1), May 1st (1), 2nd (2), 3rd (2), singles 6th, 8th, 9th, 30th, scattered records 31 Aug-26 Oct, singles 16 days, 2-3 on 3 days, 7 on 10 Sep, 9 on 11th, 7 on 13th, 6 on 16th (RHD); Shet, Fetlar, ♂ on 14 Apr, ♀ on 30th, 2 on 1 May, ♂ on 2 June (ARM), Whalsay 2 on 3 May (JHSi), Fetlar, singles 10th and 30 Sep, 2 Oct (ARM), Virkie 1 on 28 Sep (JND).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Very few Cairngorms summer records, only 2 singing ♂♂ on Speyside slopes (DNW); elsewhere at least 3 singing ♂♂ mid June (anon).

Distinctly scarcer than usual spring Shet (maximum 35), and year-end numbers below average (RJT); very small autumn passage Isle of May (NJG); thereafter only very few in Midl (RWJS) and E Loth (KSMcG); but Nov/Dec numbers seemed larger than usual Caith (DMS).

Spring departure: 100 Brims, Caith, 9 Apr (PMcM); up to 48 Fair Isle Jan, fewer later, last one 15-16 May (RHD). Autumn, first noted 10-13 Sep in various places: Shet, 2 Fetlar 10 Sep, small parties up to 60 later (ARM); Fair Isle, passage from 10 Sep, peaks 35-45 Sep 16th, 19th, 27th, 29th, 100 or so Oct 1st, 6th, 13th, 20th, Nov 5th, 8th, and 75 on 10 Dec (RHD); Ork, counts N Ronaldsay 25 Sep (30), 1 Oct (100), 8 Oct (250), 10 Oct (200) (EJW); E Inv, first Spey 16 Oct (DNW); Moray, 2 Spey Mouth 13 Sep (JMB); 2 Banff 13 Sep (JE); Fife Ness, ♂ on 12 Sep (DWO, ASm); Isle of May, first 11 Sep (RKMcG).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. No reported changes in breeding status. Appears to be replacing Greenfinch as common gleaner of E Fife stubble (DWO). Isle of May (2-3 most yrs), 1 on 9th and 12 May (AMcD), 1 on 29-30 Oct (IFS).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. Evidently increasing Kirk (ADW); I Heb, seen June at Port Ellen, Islay (DJS), a record corresponding to recent expansion in Lewis (MFMM); Kinross, 100 Powmill 15 Sep (AA, JHS); Angus, 100 Boysack Mill, Inverkeilor, 1 Feb, exceptional for area (JD); S Inv, summer record Corpach, unusual (JC, JASN); small colony Eday, Ork, continues (EB).

Isle of May, a few 12-29 May (JP), 16 on 29 Oct (IFS); Fair Isle, 22-24 May (2, 2, 9), 27th (13), 2 June (8), 7th (7), down to 4 by 13th, 3 on 17th, 2 to 5 July, did not nest, 1 from 7 Aug joined by second 30 Aug, third 1 Sep-3 Nov, 1 wintered (RHD); Shet, 24 arrived Foula 25 May, 1 on 6 June (JGH), singles Unst 2 June, 29 Nov, 10-11 Dec (MS), Strand, Lerwick, 9 Oct (DC).

1968 additions and corrections (also 1955, 1966)

This section consists of significant records which have come to light for past years; corrections of errors, whether the fault of observers, local recorders, editor or printer (and none is perfect); and further information on matters previously left in suspense, such as the acceptance or rejection of particular records.

Trivial errors may be corrected, in the interests of integrity, but trivial omissions will usually be ignored. It is of little importance if a few such records are lost each year, for we see at best only a sample of the birds present at any time. There were some minor discrepancies between the 1968 Scottish Bird Report and the 1968 Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report; where our information was wrong it is corrected below, and we understand that the other discrepancies are being picked up in the 1969 Fair Isle Report.

1968 rarities. No decision has been given yet by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee on the White-billed Diver (5 : 308), nor the Orkney Scarlet Grosbeak (5 : 354), which has only recently been submitted to the committee. The other rarities on which decisions were awaited have all been accepted—Blue-winged Teal (5 : 311), Black Kite (5 : 318), Richard's Pipit (5 : 349), Woodchat Shrike (5 : 352) and Scarlet Grosbeaks on Whalsay (5 : 354).

Corrections and additions to 1968 report

Black-necked Grebe (5 : 309). In 1968, at the more E of the two colonies, 1 was seen 7 Mar, rising to 3 on 23rd and 16 by 6 Apr; at least 6 prs bred with considerable success; 15, mostly juvs, still there 16 Sep, 7 on 26 Oct

and 1 to 15 Nov (anon). Up to 3 seen mid June and may have bred at site between other two, where they bred in 1969 (anon).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*. One shot in poor light in error Lochmaben, Dumf, Oct 1968 (per JGY).

Smew (5 : 314). In line 2, for "24 Dec" read "26 Dec".

Grey Lag Goose (5 : 315). In line 12, for "28 NW at Butt of Lewis" read "28 from NW at Barvas, Lewis".

Pink-footed Goose (5 : 316). The first at Strathbeg (line 12) were on 29 Sep (day of the great arrival), not on the 23rd.

Sparrowhawk (5 : 318). There were 4, not 5, spring birds on Fair Isle (line 10).

Black-tailed Godwit (5 : 322). Owing to access difficulties, breeding at the S Scotland colony was not proved in 1968, though probable; a pr was in territory at the usual site on 8 June (anon).

Great Black-backed Gull (5 : 327). In line 5, for "31 June" read "30 June".

Glaucous Gull (5 : 327). In line 6, for "21st-24th" read "21st-23rd". On p. 328, line 3, the Kyleakin bird was first noted on 22nd not 24 Apr.

Kittiwake (5 : 328). The movement at Rattray Head (line 8) was on 2nd not 5 Aug.

Little Tern (5 : 333). *Hebridean Memories* (1923, ch. 24) records previous nesting on S Uist, 20 prs in 1922 (SG).

Guillemot (5 : 334). Cellar Head is not the only colony on the O Heb mainland other than Barra Head; there are small ones at Sheshader Pt, Tolsta Head and the Butt of Lewis (NE).

Puffin (5 : 334). The first ashore at Fair Isle was on 28th not 29 Mar (line 4).

Turtle Dove (5 : 335). The Fair Isle spring peak of 4 (line 13) was reached also on 1-2 June.

Collared Dove (5 : 335). Fair Isle records of 17 on 5-6 May, 10 on 7 May and 6 on 14 May (line 26), should all be read as the same dates in June.

Swift (5 : 337). In line 14, for "(23)" read "(33)".

Raven (5 : 340). Though present all summer, Ravens have not in fact been proved to breed in upper Deeside (line 6) in recent years (AWa).

Crested Tit (5 : 341). The bird over Glen Cia-aig (line 4) was seen about 1 Aug.

Fieldfare (5 : 342). In line 18, for "9 Sept" read "5 Sept".

Marsh Warbler (5 : 345). Add: 1 trapped Isle of May 25 May 1968 (JP); 1 seen Sanday, Ork, 22 Sep 1968 (EB); both evidently this species, but descriptions do not exclude similar Blyth's Reed Warbler.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*. One Aberlady, E Loth, 31 Mar and 7 Apr 1968, tentatively identified as this race (6 : 50) (MGW), would be first Scottish record.

Great Grey Shrike (5 : 351). In line 17, for "24-25 Apr" read "25-26 Apr".

Redpoll (5 : 353). In line 7, for "25 Apr" read "20 Apr".

Chaffinch (5 : 354). In line 5, omit closing bracket after "10".

Black-headed Bunting (5 : 355). The trapped bird was on Fair Isle.

Ortolan Bunting (5 : 355). In line 2, delete ", 21st (1)".

Reed Bunting (5 : 355). In line 8, after "20 on 6th," add "30 on 11th-13th,".

Old records (1955, 1966)

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*. The 1966 Shet record has now been withdrawn (5 : 467).

Crane *Grus grus*. One at Ingsay, Birsay, Ork, 17 May 1955 (EB), not previously published in any ornithological journal.

Isle of May Bird Observatory and Field Station Report for 1969

Prepared for the Observatory Committee by

NANCY J. GORDON, *Honorary Secretary*

The Observatory was manned for a total of 185 days between 3rd April and 1st November 1969. The number of observer-nights was 765. There were two big gaps in coverage of the spring migration, but autumn was well covered, and the Observatory was manned throughout the summer.

Spring migration was heavier than usual, with good spells in late April, early, middle and late May. The main autumn movement was in mid September, notable for the number and variety of both common and rare species, and the number of raptors involved. New species recorded were a *Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* on 18th September, and an adult ♀ Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* 5th-12th May which was trapped. Also added to the ringing list were a Quail and a Golden Plover. Other unusual records included a Golden Oriole, a Kingfisher, a Scarlet Grosbeak and a Richard's Pipit.

Spring

Observers were on the island 3rd-8th and 19th-24th April and 2nd May onwards.

April. The appalling weather of March probably contributed to the delay of the 1969 migration and breeding activities, and the first observers found many dead Lapwings on the island. The first migrants recorded were 20 Meadow Pipits, a few Blackbirds and the first Wheatear on 5th April, a warm hazy day. Fog closed in on 7th April for several days, too thick for many migrants even to find the island, though 200 Meadow Pipits, a Woodcock, a Hooded Crow and a Short-eared Owl passed through on the 8th. After a gap of 11 days, observers crossing on 19th April saw 2 Sandwich Terns. The first spell of cyclonic weather started on 20th April, easterly winds increasing in strength, bringing 4 Wheatears, 6 Bramblings and a Ring Ouzel overnight, and more Wheatears, a Black Redstart and a Grasshopper Warbler next day (21st). The trickle of Turdidae on this day was augmented next night, to 160 Fieldfares, 20 Song Thrushes, 20 Redwings, 4 Ring Ouzels and 12 Blackbirds, accompanied by 50 Robins. On the afternoon of 22nd April the spring's first 2 Redstarts, 2 Chaffinches, a Green Sandpiper and a Reed Bunting came in. The wind remained east with fog and rain, bringing 30 more Robins that night, 2 Redstarts, 5 Linnets and the first Willow Warbler next day (23rd).

*Subject to confirmation by the Rarities Committee

May-June. Easterly winds throughout May and early June, and plenty of murky or wet days, brought some good migration to the east coast observatories, especially during 2nd, 3rd and 4th May. Observers reaching the island in drizzle on 2nd May found a good mixture of migrants already present—thrushes, warblers (including a Grasshopper Warbler) and Wheatears. More birds arrived in similar weather on the 3rd: 100 Fieldfares, 40 Song Thrushes, 20 Ring Ouzels, 2 Redwings, 60 Wheatears, the spring's first 2 Whinchats, 3 Wrynecks, the first Swallow, 2 Redstarts, the first Sedge Warbler, 4 Blackcaps, 40 Chiffchaffs, the first 3 Pied Flycatchers, 40 Bramblings, 20 Reed Buntings, 2 Whitethroats, 10 Robins, 100 Meadow Pipits and a Green Sandpiper. Next day (4th) in dense fog, numbers of Turdidae increased (now 60 Ring Ouzels), also Wheatears to 200 and Wrynecks to 5; new arrivals were 2 Kestrels, 2 more Green Sandpipers, 2 Grasshopper Warblers, 3 Willow Warblers, the first Wren, Whitethroat and House Martin, 6 Redpolls and, best of all, the island's first Red-footed Falcon, which was trapped. The 4th also saw the beginning of a record movement of Tree Pipits, echoed elsewhere on the east coast, especially in Shetland. On the May, between 20 and 30 were recorded each day from 4th to 12th May. Many migrants departed on 5th May, but new arrivals included a Black Redstart, 2 Great Grey Shrikes, 60 Bramblings and 12 House Martins. Despite a short spell of northwest wind on 6th May, migrants continued to arrive—a Corncrake, a Yellow Wagtail, a Blue-headed Wagtail, 3 Swallows, more Whinchats, another Black Redstart and Grasshopper Warbler. A further increase on the 7th of similar content included another Corncrake, a Whimbrel, the first Cuckoo and more Tree Pipits. House Martins, Swallows, Skylarks and Meadow Pipits reached their highest spring totals around this date. As elsewhere in the country, Whitethroat numbers were very low, only one or two seen with each influx of migrants. Fog on 8th and 9th May kept many earlier migrants on the island, but more Robins, Song Thrushes and Fieldfares arrived on the 8th, another Cuckoo on the 9th. The first Garden Warbler, a Goldcrest, a Turtle Dove, 21 Carrion Crows, a Jackdaw and 3 Hooded Crows came in on the 10th after the fog had lifted, but many migrants left the island. On the 11th the first 2 Swifts of the season were seen, and a Collared Dove paid a brief visit. Some Sedge Warblers, Wheatears, Tree Pipits and 5 Tree Sparrows arrived on the 12th, but the Red-footed Falcon departed after her week-long stay. More fog, rain and SW wind on 13th-14th May brought a big influx of Willow Warblers (up to 70) and Wheatears (up to 100). Three Cuckoos and a White Wagtail were seen on the 13th; and 2 Black Redstarts, the first Sand Martin, a Garden Warbler and a Lesser Whitethroat on the 14th. Further falls of Willow Warblers on the 15th were ac-

accompanied by the first two Spotted Flycatchers and a Nightingale. On the 17th a Great Spotted Woodpecker was trapped. There was little movement over the next few days (2 Lesser Redpolls on 20th, a few Wheatears and Whinchats on 21st and 22nd), although east winds continued to blow. However, more overcast conditions from 23rd to 27th May brought a fresh influx of migrants. The movement started with 2 Collared Doves, a late Grasshopper Warbler, 4 Redstarts, a few other warblers and thrushes; then on 24th further arrivals included a Quail, Turtle Dove, a Black Redstart, a White Wagtail, the last 2 Pied Flycatchers, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 2 Garden Warblers, a Blackcap, 3 Sedge Warblers and 2 Redpolls. More warblers arrived on 25th and 26th May, with the last Ring Ouzel, a Chiffchaff and a Siskin on the 26th. There was some passage of Swallows (up to 50), House Martins (up to 30) and Tree Pipits (up to 9) during the last week of May. Visibility improved on the 27th and more Blackcaps (10), Garden Warblers (8) and Willow Warblers (20) came in, and stayed during the bad weather of the 28th. A Green Sandpiper on the 29th and a Collared Dove on the 31st were the only other arrivals for the month.

East winds blew every day for the first fortnight of June and a few late spring migrants were recorded: a Fieldfare on 1st June, also a Chiffchaff, a Whitethroat, 2 Garden Warblers, a Sedge Warbler and a Spotted Flycatcher. The last Fieldfare came in on the 4th, staying till 11th June. A few more migrants arrived on the 7th and 8th (a Redstart, a Whinchat, a Whitethroat, a Blackcap, a Chiffchaff and a Spotted Flycatcher). Also seen on the 8th was an Ortolan Bunting. There was some passage of Swallows and House Martins, and one or two Sand Martins during this first ten days of June. The last Blackcap and a Turtle Dove were seen on the 20th. The final and most notable records for June were the island's second Golden Oriole, a female, seen on 14th June by the entire SOC Excursion, and an Osprey on the 27th. There were no spring records of Stonechats, Yellowhammers or Snow Buntings.

Autumn

Observers were present from mid July until 8th August, 13th August to 30th September, 3rd October to 13th October, and 18th October to 1st November.

Late July and August. The only sign of movement in July was on the 26th, a day of intermittent rain, when a Green-shank, 3 Willow Warblers, 3 Swifts and a Great Skua were recorded. All was quiet for the first days of August, but after a change of weather a few migrants came in—a few thrushes, a Whinchat, Wheatears and Meadow Pipits on the 5th and 6th, accompanied by numbers of butterflies (small tortoiseshells, painted ladies and red admirals) and tiger moths. The only

Cuckoo of the autumn was seen on the 8th. There was a steady trickle of migrants from 13th to 16th August while east winds prevailed; warblers and flycatchers were the main species involved, and on the 14th a Barred Warbler, 15 Garden Warblers, 2 Wood Warblers, a Red-backed Shrike and a Green Sandpiper were recorded; again, butterflies abounded. A few more arrivals on 15th, 16th and 17th included more Wheatears and warblers, a few Redstarts and Whinchats, a Green-shank, and on the 17th another Barred Warbler, an early Fieldfare and a Green Sandpiper. Winds then became westerly for the next few days, and there was only small coastal movement of terns, Swallows, Meadow Pipits, Linnets and Willow/Chiffs. A return to east winds brought a third Barred Warbler overnight on 21st/22nd August, and a Whinchat on the 23rd. Some sea passage of Manx Shearwaters and Great Skuas was noted on the 24th and 25th when winds veered northwest. A Whimbrel was seen on the 26th, 2 *alba* Wagtails and 2 Tree Pipits on the 27th. A few migrants, including some Rock Pipit passage, were seen on 28th and 29th; and on the 30th a small movement of Swallows and Starlings. On the 31st a return to east winds with some mist brought a Wood Warbler, 10 Wheatears and a Goldcrest; 8 Little Terns and 2 Sandwich Terns were seen flying north.

September. The month began auspiciously with a Raven on the 1st, and a Kingfisher on the 2nd; some sea passage (terns, skuas, shearwaters) was also recorded during the first few days, also Swallows, Starlings and Meadow Pipits. Further movements did not occur until 6th September, in east winds and rain—2 Barred Warblers, a Sedge Warbler, 2 Garden Warblers, 20 Willow/Chiffs, 35 Wheatears, a Ring Ouzel, and passage of Meadow Pipits; 8 Scaup and 9 Velvet Scoters were seen offshore. The next few days were fairly birdless, with west winds, though 3 Whinchats and a Barred Warbler arrived on the 9th, and another Barred Warbler and a Whimbrel on 10th, when winds were again easterly. The next day's arrivals had a distinctly autumnal flavour—the first Snow Bunting, a Goldcrest, the beginning of a spell of Fieldfare and Golden Plover passage and 20 Wheatears. The 12th and 13th were quiet days of northerly winds, but passage of up to 50 Manx Shearwaters, 7 Sooty Shearwaters, several skuas, 50 terns, 1000 Meadow Pipits and 70 Swallows was noted. Also seen on the 13th was a Lapland Bunting. The 14th was a clear day with a cold northeast wind, and a number of migrants arrived—12 Pied Flycatchers, 4 Whinchats, a Barred Warbler, a Lesser Whitethroat, a Garden Warbler, 15 Willow Warblers and a Bluethroat; most of these departed next day. This brief lull was followed by four exciting days of the heaviest migration of 1969, when hundreds of birds of many species, including an unusually large number of raptors, poured into the island;

observing and ringing were efficiently carried out by five keen observers, who somehow also found time and surplus energy to catch and ring a useful assortment of waders at night. The weather on the 16th started clear with ENE winds, and the first two arrivals were a Scarlet Grosbeak and a Barred Warbler. By midday a bank of cloud appeared and was followed by mist and drizzle; 25 Redstarts, 8 Robins, 8 Garden Warblers and 2 Spotted Flycatchers came first, then a Tree Pipit and 5 Chaffinches. On the 17th birds were arriving all day in fog and drizzle—a Sparrowhawk, a Greenshank, a Wryneck, 100 Redstarts, 2 Bluethroats, 35 Robins, 10 Garden and 30 Willow Warblers, 6 Goldcrests, 10 Pied Flycatchers, 20 Tree Pipits, 2 *flava* Wagtails, 3 Ruffs, 15 Golden Plovers, a Whimbrel and the first Redwing of the autumn. The movement reached a peak on the 18th, highlighted by the raptors—the island's first *Spotted Eagle, 2 Sparrowhawks, an Osprey and a flock of more than 30 Kestrels; also another Bluethroat, 50 Garden Warblers, 200 Redstarts, 40 Pied Flycatchers, 10 Whitethroats, 10 Spotted Flycatchers, 6 Yellow Wagtails, 15 Blackcaps, 2 Wrynecks, a Red-backed Shrike, more Willow Warblers, 4 'Northern' Chiffchaffs, more Goldcrests, Tree Pipits, thrushes, Robins, an Ortolan Bunting, a Snow Bunting, a Brambling, 2 Reed Warblers and a Barred Warbler. Other records included 20 Common Scoters, 2 Wigeon and 9 Herons. Many migrants departed when the skies cleared on the 19th but a good hatch of flies in the sun detained some of them, and more Garden Warblers, Blackcaps and Spotted Flycatchers came in; a Merlin was also seen. From the 20th until the end of September westerly winds persisted, sometimes gale force, and few new migrants arrived. Some sea passage was noted, and movement of Swallows, Wheat-ears and Meadow Pipits; also a few Dunlin. Other records were a Wryneck on the 26th, a Lesser Redpoll on the 27th and a Snow Bunting on the 19th.

October. The first ten days of October were very quiet, with only one day of east winds—on 5th October, when about 500 Redwings, 1000 Song Thrushes, 2 Bramblings, a Short-eared Owl and a Fieldfare passed through; next day a Greenshank and a Grey Plover were recorded; and the first Stonechat of 1969 came on the 9th (accompanied by 10 Goldcrests and a Garden Warbler). East winds and some fog over 11th and 12th October brought a fresh influx of migrants—500 Redwings on the 11th and up to 4000 passing through on the 12th, with at least 300 Blackbirds, 40 Song Thrushes, 200 Starlings and 10 Fieldfares that day. Other species included 40 Goldcrests, a Siskin, a Grey Wagtail, a Jack Snipe and a Whimbrel on the 11th; and the year's only Mistle Thrush, 2 Redstarts, a late

*Subject to confirmation by the Rarities Committee

Barred Warbler, 3 Pied Flycatchers, 2 Great Grey Shrikes, a Greenfinch, 7 Siskins and 50 Bramblings on the 12th. After a few days' gap, observers returned to the island in east wind and mist on 18th October to find many thrushes on the island (Redwings passing through) and 30 Bramblings, also a late Whinchat and a Richard's Pipit, which stayed for a week (second record for the May). Similar weather and similar birds occurred on the 19th, with more Redwings, Blackbirds and Bramblings, a Lapland Bunting and a Woodcock. Thickening fog kept most of these migrants on the island next day, and they were joined by more Redwings, Goldcrests, Blackcaps, 3 Ring Ouzels, a Reed Warbler, a Stonechat, the year's only Yellowhammers (2), the last 2 Garden Warblers, 2 Chiffchaffs, 2 Redstarts, and a few Robins and Wrens. Most migrants moved on as the weather cleared on the 21st, but new arrivals included the last Wheatear, Pied Flycatcher, Swallow and House Martin of the season, several flocks of Skylarks and Meadow Pipits, 4 Redpolls and 2 Reed Buntings. There was a little more visible migration on the 22nd, with Skylarks and Bramblings moving south, and Redwings and a few Fieldfares coming in over the North Sea. During the next few days, of strong west winds, the only newcomers were a Woodcock, a Hooded Crow, and on the 25th a Shore Lark. A flock of Long-tailed Tits arrived on the 26th and stayed for several days—the entire flock of 8 was trapped and ringed. A Sparrowhawk and a Woodcock were seen on the afternoon of the 27th. A small influx on the 28th included 200 Blackbirds, 20 Fieldfares and 10 Redwings passing through, a late Redstart, a Reed Bunting and a Snow Bunting, and next day 16 Tree Sparrows, 12 Redpolls, 2 Blackcaps, a Greenfinch and 4 Brent Geese. Little more migration was seen before the last observers left the island on 1st November.

This autumn there were fewer migrant Dunnocks and Chaffinches than usual. No Long-eared Owls, Treecreepers, Waxwings or Crossbills were recorded during 1969.

Unusual occurrences

*Spotted Eagle. One, 18th September. First record.

Osprey. One each, 27th June and 18th September. Ninth year of occurrence.

Red-footed Falcon. One, 5th-12th May. First record.

Kestrel. 31 on 18th September. Largest movement on record.

Grey Plover. One, 6th October. Fifth and latest record.

Kingfisher. One, 2nd September. Fourth record and first for 16 years.

Golden Oriole. One, 14th June. Second record and first since 1913.

Raven. One, 1st September. Third record.

Redstart. 100 on 17th September; 200 on 18th September. Largest movement on record.

Nightingale. One, 15th May. Eleventh record.

*Subject to confirmation by the Rarities Committee

Spotted Flycatcher. 30 on 19th September. Largest number in one day.
Richard's Pipit. One, 18th-26th October. Second record.
Tree Pipit. Unusually high numbers: 4th-12th May, up to 50 daily;
17th-20th September, up to 40 daily.
Ortolan Bunting. One, 8th June. Latest spring record.

Breeding populations

During 1969 Jasper Parsons concluded his work on the gull populations, but Durham University's gull research programme will be continued for a further three years by Miss Margaret Emmerson. The gull colonies continue to expand, and the 1969 population was estimated to hold about 15,000 pairs of Herring Gulls and 2000 pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Four pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls reared at least 6 young. Eider Ducks were not counted, but there were more pairs nesting and better hatching success than in 1968 (the 1967 total was 58 pairs). Despite a very late start to nesting, Shag numbers increased from 800 pairs in 1968 to 880 pairs in 1969. A count of Kittiwakes resulted in a total of 3095 nests, nearly a thousand more than the 1966 total. Fulmars have increased slightly, 46 pairs breeding in 1969. A rough count of individual auks on the west cliffs in July revealed about 340 Razorbills and 9000 Guillemots. The Puffin nesting areas continue to spread, and there may be as many as 1500 occupied burrows in the colony now. More accurate estimates of the auk populations will be attempted in 1970. At least one pair of Shelducks bred. Oystercatcher numbers remained unchanged at about 12-15 pairs. One pair of Swallows and one pair of Blackbirds each reared broods and four pairs of Dunnocks nested.

Ringling and recoveries

3145 birds of 69 species were ringed—more species than in 1968, but less than half the total, because fewer gulls were ringed; yet it was the 4th highest total on record. Record ringling totals were Puffin (126), Purple Sandpiper (16), Tree Pipit (21), Ring Ouzel (21) and Redstart (191). High totals were Shag (610), Turnstone (18), Wryneck (9), Long-tailed Tit (8), Song Thrush (112), Redwing (66), Wheatear (37), Dunnock (49), Robin (167) and Blackcap (50). Only 16 Whitethroats were ringed, and no Kittiwakes, Guillemots or Razorbills. New species for the ringling list were Red-footed Falcon, Quail and Golden Plover; also ringed were 2 Sparrowhawks, a Nightingale and a Scarlet Grosbeak.

The total of 298 recoveries included 143 Shags, 125 Herring Gulls and 11 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Farne Island rings were found on a number of Shags in the breeding colony on the May.

The foreign recoveries and controls listed below include Shags for the first time :

			Ringed	Recovered	
Shag	Pull	21.	6.68	Bray Dunes, Nord, France	3. 5.69
Shag	Pull	5.	8.69	Lindesnes, Vest-Agder, Norway	26.11.69
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Pull	12.	7.67	Figueira da Foz, Beira Litoral, Portugal	1.12.68
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Ad	29.	6.67	Porto de Leixoes, Doura Litoral, Portugal	23. 8.69
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Ad	29.	6.67	Bassin d' Archachon, Gironde, France	—. 4.69
Herring Gull	Pull	5.	7.67	N. Frisian Is., Germany	1. 4.69
Herring Gull	Pull	7.	7.67	Pernis, Netherlands	21. 5.69
Herring Gull	Pull	25.	6.69	Langen, Osnabrück, Germany	9.11.69
Song Thrush	FG	5.	5.69	Heligoland	16. 6.69
Blackbird	Ad ♂	8.	4.62	Spikkestad, Drammen, Norway	6. 7.68
Blackbird	1st-Y ♀	21.	9.68	Ijhorst, Overijssel, Netherlands	5. 5.69
Blackbird	Ad ♀	29.	10.67	Tingvoll, Norway	5. 6.69
Blackbird	Ad ♂	8.	4.69	Drøbak, Akershers, Norway	7. 7.69
Blackbird	Ad ♀	31.	10.67	Corbulla, Sligo, Eire	18. 2.69
Blackbird	Ad ♀	31.	10.67	Ballina, Mayo, Eire	6. 1.69
Willow Warbler	FG	7.	9.68	Store Faerder, Oslo- fjord, Norway	29. 5.69

Other observations

Grey seals continue to frequent the island, and as many as 80 were counted in April 1969, three of them carrying Farne Island tags and one a Farne's brand mark. A swim-past of at least 800 common porpoises was observed from the east coast of the island on 5th April.

At the beginning of the season the rabbit population was as high as ever, but in August myxomatosis reached the island for the third time (previous epizootics 1955-1964). The decrease first affected rabbits at the north end of the island, then spread gradually southwards, exterminating all but a few by Christmas. The surviving rabbits appear healthy.

As mentioned in the last annual report, the erosion of soil and vegetation caused by gulls, Puffins and rabbits continues to increase and spread, and it is especially noticeable around Colm's Hole. A report on the animal communities associated with the kelp beds off the West Landing was received from D. J. Jones of Durham University; he found two species (an alga and an echinoid) which are not recorded south of the Isle of May.

The Committee is grateful to those observers who helped repair traps and carried out other tasks at the Low Light during the season; it also wishes to thank the Principal Keeper and his staff and the skippers of the *Breadwinner* for all their help and cooperation during the season.

Enquiries

Manx Shearwaters. During the next few years Manx Shearwaters will be colour-marked at Scottish colonies, each bird being dyed on the underside of one wing. Anyone seeing one of these birds should get in touch with Andrew D. K. Ramsay (4 Penicuik Road, Roslin, Midlothian), who would also like to hear from anyone who regularly observes shearwaters. The colour-marking is an attempt to locate their summer feeding grounds.

Atlas. M. J. P. Gregory, 4 High Bank Park, Lochgilphead, Argyll, is now acting as organiser for Argyll.

Wintering warblers. Unusual numbers of warblers, particularly Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs, were observed in the British Isles during the 1969/70 winter. A study is being made of the distribution, feeding habits and survival of these birds. Details of all observations of warblers in the months December to February (species, dates, numbers, location, habitat and, where possible, sex, duration of stay and foods taken) are needed by T. W. Gladwin, 99 Warren Way, Digswell, Welwyn Herts.

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

TWENTYTHIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE HOTEL DUNBLANE HYDRO, PERTSHIRE

30th October to 1st November 1970

Friday 30th October

- 5 to 7.30 p.m. Conference Office in the Hotel Dunblane Hydro open for members and guests to register and collect name cards and Annual Dinner tickets.
- 8 to 9 p.m. and 8 to 9 p.m.
- 6.15 p.m. Meeting of Council.
- 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. FILM AND SLIDE PROGRAMME in the Ballroom.
At 9.30 p.m. details of excursions on Saturday afternoon will be given.
- 10 p.m. Meeting of Local Recorders.
- 9.30 p.m. to midnight Lounges open for informal discussions and refreshments (late licence).

Saturday 31st October

- 8.45 to 9.15 a.m. Conference Office open for registration.
- 9.20 a.m. Official opening of the Conference in the Ballroom.
ADDRESS OF WELCOME by Mrs S. H. Maclachlan, J.P., Lady Provost of Dunblane.
- 9.30 a.m. LECTURE, "Long-range Migration" by Dr Gustaf Rudebeck, Zoological Institute, University of Lund, Sweden.
- 11 a.m. INTERVAL for coffee and biscuits.

- 11.30 a.m. LECTURE, "A History of Migration Studies" by Sir Landsborough Thomson, C.B., O.B.E., D.Sc., LL.D.
- 1 p.m. INTERVAL for lunch.
- 2 p.m. Excursions by private cars leaving the Conference Hotel car park. Details will be posted on the Conference notice board.
- 2.30 p.m. MEETING of members of the R.S.P.B. in the Ballroom, to which all members of the Club and their guests are invited.
- 6 p.m. 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB in the Ballroom.
BUSINESS :
(1) Apologies for absence.
(2) Approval of the Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Club held in Dunblane on 25th October 1969 (see *Scottish Birds* 5: 477).
(3) Matters arising from the Minutes.
(4) Report of Council for Session 33.
(5) Approval of Accounts for Session 33.
(6) Appointment of Auditor.
(7) Election of new Members of Council.
The Council recommends the election of Miss M. P. Macmillan and A. T. Macmillan as new Members of Council to replace Miss V. M. Thom and William Brotherston who are due to retire by rotation.
(8) Any other competent business.
- 7.30 for 8 p.m. ANNUAL DINNER in the Diningroom of the Hotel Dunblane Hydro (dress informal).

Sunday 1st November

- 9.30 a.m. LECTURE, "The Creation of a Wetland Habitat" by Dr Jeffery G. Harrison, M.A., F.Z.S. (Sci).
- 10.45 a.m. INTERVAL for coffee and biscuits.
- 11.15 a.m. FILMS. "High Arctic—Bathurst Island", and "Oisín"—film about birds in the Republic of Ireland.
- 1 p.m. INTERVAL for lunch.
- 2 p.m. EXCURSIONS (informal), leaving Conference Hotel car park.

Conference Office

Outwith the registration hours the Conference Office will also be open at intervals during the weekend for members to see the exhibits. A wide selection of new books from the S.O.C. Bird Bookshop will be displayed for purchase or orders. R.S.P.B. literature, Christmas cards, garden bird equipment, gramophone records and gifts will be on sale, and also a selection of B.T.O. literature and Christmas cards. A display of paintings by wildlife artists will be on sale in the Exhibition room.

Film and Slide Programme

The programme from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. on Friday evening is intended to give members and guests an opportunity of showing 2" x 2" slides or 16mm films. These must however be submitted beforehand to the Conference Film Committee and should be sent, by 19th October at the latest, to the Club Secretary, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT. The

slides should be titled and sent with brief notes on what will be said about them, to enable the Committee to make a selection and to form a good programme. It will not be possible to show material which has not been received by this date.

INFORMATION

- (1) **Hotel Reservations.** All reservations must be made direct. Owing to the shortage of single rooms, members are urged to make arrangements to share a room with a friend.
- (2) **Conference Post Card.** It is essential that members intending to be present should complete both parts of the enclosed printed post card and send it to the Club Secretary not later than 26th October. Because of limited seating accommodation, the Council regrets that members may invite only one guest each to the Annual Dinner, and unless a booking is made beforehand a place cannot be guaranteed for either members or guests.
- (3) **Registration.** Everyone attending the Conference must register on arrival (10s each) at the Conference Office (for opening times, see Programme). Members attending only the Annual General Meeting do not require to pay the registration fee, which covers morning coffee and incidental expenses.
- (4) **Annual Dinner.** Tickets for the Annual Dinner (price 33s inclusive of red or white wine or fruit cup, and of gratuities) should be purchased when registering. Members and guests staying in the Conference Hotel pay for the Annual Dinner in their inclusive hotel account, but must obtain a Dinner ticket from the Conference Office as all tickets will be collected at the Annual Dinner. No payment should be made in advance to the office in Edinburgh.
- (5) **Other Meals.** Dinner on Friday evening is served in the Conference Hotel from 6.30 to 9 p.m. Non-residents will be able to obtain lunch on Saturday and Sunday (13s 6d) by prior arrangement with the Hotel Reception Desk.
- (6) **Swimming Pool.** The indoor swimming pool in the Conference Hotel will be available during the weekend (residents—free; non-residents—5s).
- (7) **Excursions.** Members are asked to provide cars if possible and to fill their passenger seats; to avoid congestion in the car park the minimum number of cars will be used. Members wishing to go out on their own are particularly asked not to go out in advance of the led excursions to avoid disturbing the birds.
- (8) **Camping.** It is hoped to make arrangements for a suitable location in the Dunblane area for those who wish to camp during the weekend. Details of these arrangements may be had from the Club Secretary.

Hotels in Dunblane

- Hotel Dunblane Hydro** (tel. 2551). Special Conference charge £8.10.0d, inclusive of 10% service charge, bed and all meals (except tea on Saturday afternoon) from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch, after meal coffee, and the Annual Dinner (with wine or soft drinks). For less than a full day, bed and breakfast is 45/-, lunch 13/6d and dinner 21/6d, all with additional 10% service charge. Rooms with private bathroom have a supplementary charge of 10/- per person per day.
- Stirling Arms Hotel** (tel. 2156). Bed & Breakfast from 30/- to 35/-.
- Schiehallion Hotel**, Doune Road (tel. 3141). B & B from 25/- to 30/-.
- Neuk Private Hotel**, Doune Road (tel. 2150). B & B from 25/-.
- Ardleighton Hotel** (near Hotel Dunblane Hydro gates) (tel. 2273). B & B from 25/- to 30/-.

Hotels in Bridge of Allan

Allan Water Hotel (tel. 2293). Bed & Breakfast from 47/6d to 65/-.

Royal Hotel (tel. 2284). Bed & Breakfast from 52/6d.

Prices, except for the Conference Hotel, are provisional and should be confirmed.

RECORD PLAYER

The Club is in the process of building up a collection of bird-song records. These will be housed in the Reference Library, but at present there is no record player on which the recordings can be heard.

If any Member has a good quality record player which he would like to donate to the Club, will he please contact the Secretary.

BRANCH MEETINGS 1970/71

The Syllabus of Lectures for 1970/71 is being posted with this issue of 'Scottish Birds'. Will Members please note that the dates of the first Meetings of Branches for next winter will be as follows:

- September** 24th Dundee and Stirling
 29th Edinburgh and Inverness
 30th Ayr, Dumfries and St Andrews
October 5th Aberdeen and Glasgow

Members attending the Ayr Branch Meeting should note that it will be held in the Memorial Hall, Ayr Academy. The venue for all other Branches remains unchanged.

AYR BRANCH WINTER EXCURSIONS

Ayr Branch excursions next winter will take place on the first Saturday of each month from October to April, except in January 1971 when the excursion will take place on the second Saturday. All excursions will depart from outside the County Hotel, Wellington Square, Ayr, and details of the first three are given below. Details for the remaining months will be given in the next issue of 'Scottish Birds'. If further information is required please contact the Ayr Branch Secretary.

Saturday 3rd October 1970 GLENBUCK. Depart 1 p.m.

Saturday 7th November 1970 GALLOWAY. Depart 10 a.m.

Saturday 5th December 1970 FAIL LOCH, TARBOLTON. Depart 1 p.m.

DUNDEE BRANCH WINTER EXCURSIONS

Sunday 27th September 1970 FIFE NESS (Depart 9 a.m.).

Sunday 25th October EDEN ESTUARY.

Sunday 22nd November LINTRATHEN LOCH.

Sunday 20th December GLENCOVA.

All excursions leave City Square, Dundee, at 10 a.m. (except 27th September at 9 a.m.) by private cars. Those requiring transport should contact the Branch Secretary, Miss Jenny Stirling, 21 Johnston Avenue, Dundee DD3 8HE. Details for 1971 will be published in the next issue of 'Scottish Birds'.

THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

THE Scottish Ornithologists' Club was formed 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, Inverness, St Andrews, Stirling and elsewhere at which lectures by prominent ornithologists are given and films exhibited. Expeditions are organised in the summer to places of ornithological interest.

The aims of the Club are to (a) encourage and direct the study of Scottish ornithology; (b) co-ordinate the efforts of Scottish Ornithologists; (c) encourage ornithological research in Scotland; (d) hold meetings at which Lectures are given, films exhibited and discussions held, and (e) publish information regarding Scottish ornithology.

There are no entry fees for Membership. The Annual subscription is 40s, or 10s in the case of Members under twenty one years of age or University undergraduates who satisfy Council of their status as such at the time at which their subscriptions fall due. The Life subscription is £50. Joint Membership is available to married couples at an Annual subscription of 60s, or a Life subscription of £75. 'Scottish Birds' is issued free to Members but Joint Members will receive only one copy between them. Subscriptions are payable on 1st October annually.

'Scottish Birds' is the Journal of the Club. Published quarterly it includes papers, articles and short notes on all aspects of ornithology in Scotland. The Scottish Bird Report is published in the Journal.

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 of 'Scottish Birds', the Hon. Treasurer of the House Fabric Fund, and ten other Members of the Club elected at an Annual General Meeting. On the Council is also one Representative of each Branch Committee appointed annually by the Branch.

The Scottish Bird Records' Committee, appointed by Council, produces an annual Report on 'Ornithological Changes in Scotland'.

The Club tie in dark green, navy or maroon terylene and a brooch in silver and blue, both displaying the Club emblem, a Crested Tit, can be obtained by Members only from the Club Secretary or from Hon. Branch Secretaries.

The Club-room and Library at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT is available to Members during office hours (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.), and, by prior arrangement, in the evenings during the week in the winter months from 7 to 10 p.m. 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.

The Bird Bookshop is also at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh. It is managed by the Club and the profits help to maintain services to ornithologists at the Scottish Centre.

Application for Membership form, copy of the Club Constitution, and other literature are obtainable from the Club Secretary, Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe, Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT (Tel. 031-556 6042).

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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.

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THE SCOTTISH FIELD STUDIES ASSOCIATION

KINDROGAN provides comfortable accommodation, lecture rooms, laboratories and a library. Situated in Strathardle, 16 miles north of Blairgowrie and 9 miles north-east of Pitlochry, it affords excellent opportunities for all aspects of Field Studies in the Scottish Highlands.

The standard weekly charge is £13.10.0. Members of local Natural History groups or Scientific Societies may be eligible for bursaries valued at £3 made available by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

The programme for 1970 includes courses for adults in a variety of subjects including:—

Birds

Freshwater Ecology

Mountain Flowers

Nature into Art

Wild Flowers

Mammals

Mountain & Moorland Ecology

Rocks and Minerals

Surveying and Mapmaking

Soils and Land Use

Natural History of Roadside Verges

Natural History of the Highlands

Fungi

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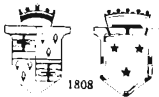
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