

# SCOTTISH BIRDS



THE JOURNAL OF THE  
SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Volume 7 No. 7

AUTUMN 1973

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SCOTTISH BIRD REPORT 1972

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Vol. 7 No. 7

Autumn 1973

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Edited by Tom Delaney assisted by D. G. Andrew and B. G. Grattage

## Editorial

**Scottish Bird Report.** We must apologise to readers for the very late appearance of the 1972 Scottish Bird Report. The delays that led up to this started with late receipt by local recorders of notes from observers; this led to late (and in some cases very late) submission of local summaries to Roy Dennis, As a result he was unable to begin the task of compilation until well into the busy spring/summer period. Finally, when the text was ready for type-setting, it was the printers' busy spell. Thus each stage took much longer than it should have, and the delays built up cumulatively.

It is unsatisfactory that the report should be so late; although the value of the data for reference is unaffected, nevertheless the interest and immediacy of the report are reduced, and reading it can be confusing when recollection is overlaid by all the occurrences of an intervening year. In addition these delays disrupt the *Scottish Birds* production schedule.

We therefore ask all contributors to make a special effort to send their final notes for 1973 to the local recorders now. If this is done it should be possible to avoid the delays that have occurred this year and to enable those who have to process the material to complete their tasks in good time.

**New Editor/Bookshop Manager.** In the last number we explained the background leading to Council's decision to establish the new staff post of Editor/Bookshop Manager. Many readers will know that an appointment has now been made; Sqn. Ldr. Harry Greig took up the post in October 1973, and we wish him every success in this new job. He comes originally from Stonehaven, though his career in the Royal Air Force has kept him mainly in exile in England and overseas. A keen birdwatcher for many years, he was Secretary of the Cyprus Ornithological Society while stationed there and editor of their Bulletin and Annual Report.

The work of running the Bookshop, which has been handled since the beginning by Mrs Irene Waterston, has now been taken over by Sqn. Ldr. Greig, with the part-time assistance

of Mrs Winkworth, and Mrs Waterston, who is now working part-time also, is devoting her time to updating the Club Library.

The work of editing *Scottish Birds* is being handed over gradually, and it is intended that the new editor will take over fully as from the spring number.

With the new appointment Council also decided to establish an Editorial Committee for *Scottish Birds*. The Committee will be available to act as referees on papers, to comment on other material submitted for publication, to scrutinize records of species that are unusual in Scotland but do not appear on the *British Birds* Rarities Committee list, and advise on policy in general. This arrangement is a formalization and extension of existing practice rather than an entirely new development. The Chairman of the Committee is Andrew T. Macmillan and members are R. H. Dennis, D. G. Andrew and the retiring editor.

**End of an era.** In December Irene and George Waterston moved out of their flat at the Club's headquarters at Regent Terrace. They had lived there since 1958, and during those 15 years had been at the heart of ornithology and bird protection in Scotland. Their personal kindness and help to members, colleagues and visitors of all kinds to Regent Terrace are well known and were greatly appreciated by all who came into contact with them.

Now, though maintaining their associations with the Club as President and Deputy Secretary, respectively, George and Irene have decided to move to live in their cottage at Keith Bridge. Their off-duty presence at Regent Terrace will be missed, and we are sure that all readers would like to wish them well in their country home.

**Boundaries for local bird reports.** In Scotland the traditional system of dividing the country for natural history studies is by faunal areas (based on watersheds) and divisions thereof (based on counties or parts of counties). From time to time this arrangement is criticized, and the question is raised of suitable boundaries for a report, paper or other publication on the birds of a given area.

The Research Committee was asked by Council to consider this subject, and their report was submitted to Council at its September meeting.

Because of its general interest to and guidance for authors of such papers, Council decided that an abstract of the Research Committee's report should be published, and it appears in this number.

**Behaviour of birdwatchers.** A recent letter from the Director of the RSPB to the Club Secretary asks that members should be reminded of a few basics of birdwatching behaviour: not to trespass, not to harass tired migrants, not to put ducks or waders to flight so as to get better views and, above all, not to visit the breeding sites of rare birds.

The encouragement of popular interest in birds has been a fundamental in the strategy for their conservation, but in some parts of Britain the resultant and ever growing army of birdwatchers represents a significant pressure on the birds. It is important, therefore, that birdwatchers should always observe responsible standards of behaviour in the field. Wilful disturbance by the over zealous "twitcher", photographer, scientist or ringer might be described as the "unpleasant and unacceptable face" of ornithology; we trust that members of the SOC require no prompting on this topic.

**Current literature.** Recent material of Scottish interest includes:

Wintering seaducks off the east coast of Scotland. H. Milne & L. H. Campbell, 1973. *Bird Study* 20: 153-172. Study of distribution and numbers.

Birds of the Shiant Islands, Outer Hebrides. M. de L. Brooke, 1973. *Bird Study* 20: 197-206.

Fulmars at land in summer and autumn. H. E. M. Dott, 1973. *Bird Study* 20: 221-225.

Continuing dangers to Peregrines from dieldrin. J. A. Bogan and J. Mitchell, 1973. *Brit. Birds* 66: 437-439. Review of two cases in Stirlingshire.

The Puffin population of the Shiant islands. M. de L. Brooke, 1972. *Bird Study* 19: 1-6.

The Puffin on St Kilda. J. J. M. Flegg, 1972. *Bird Study* 19: 7-17.

The Loch of Strathbeg. W. R. P. Bourne, C. H. Gimingham, N. C. Morgan & R. H. Britton, 1973. *Nature* 242: (March 9) 93-95.

## Scottish Bird Report 1972

Compiled by ROY H. DENNIS

(Plates 25-28)

This is the fifth in the new series of annual reports on the birds of Scotland; the previous ones were published in *Scot. Birds* 5: 302-356, 6:62-128, 6: 347-402 and 7: 107-163. It is a concise, factual account of data collected during the year on all the species known to have occurred in Scotland in 1972. It follows the pattern established in its predecessors, and new readers should note that no attempt is made to define the ordinary status of most species; reference should be made to Baxter & Rintoul *The Birds of Scotland* 1953.

As before, we stress that observer cover in the various regions of Scotland ranges from good to very thin, and care should be taken in comparing numbers and regional distribution, especially of migrants. Generally speaking, the northern isles, the North Sea coast, central Scotland and the Clyde/Solway area are better covered than elsewhere, but there are pockets of good cover in most regions. For some areas more information is published and greater detail given in local reports such as the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report, the Isle of May report (in *Scot. Birds*) and the Shetland Bird Report. Although much local information cannot be published here, the collection of records by the local recorders provides a most useful fund of data for reference on regional ornithology.

In the species list 289 species are mentioned; at least ten of these are species that have escaped or been released from captivity, while a few more are of doubtful origin. Nevertheless we feel it is useful to document such sightings; they are distinguished by the symbol † in the list.

The only species to be added to the Scottish list in 1972 made certain of its full acceptance by arriving *en masse*—17 Bearded Tits were recorded in the last two months of the year in five counties from Aberdeen to Kirkcudbrightshire. One new species has been added to the Scottish list in each of the previous four years; they were, in chronological order: Caspian Tern, Evening Grosbeak, Stilt Sandpiper and Spotted Sandpiper. A Black Stork in Orkney was only the second Scottish record: other rarities included two Black-browed Albatrosses (Fife and Shetland), five White Storks, a Steller's Eider, a Red Kite, two White-rumped Sandpipers, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a Wilson's Phalarope, one Mediterranean, one Ross's, one Bonaparte's and two Sabine's Gulls, a Red-rumped Swallow, a Lanceolated Warbler (first since 1961), a Pechora Pipit, two Citrine Wagtails and three Two-barred Crossbills.

Climatically 1972 was in many ways similar to 1971, with no severe weather at either end of the year but with a rather cold and late spring. A few summer visitors arrived early, but the bulk of them were delayed and slow to build up; the breeding season was inclement for small birds, but some species extended the breeding season well into the autumn, e.g. young House Martins still in the nest in October. Kingfisher, Jay and Green Woodpecker increased their range, while there was some indication that Little Owls had spread. Nuthatches feature in this report for the first time since 1969. It would be useful if observers would follow up any reports of Little Owls or Nuthatches, as there may be more than the records indicate: the last breeding record of Nuthatch in Scotland was in 1927.

A pair of Goldeneyes hatched nine ducklings from a nest-box in East Inverness-shire; Ospreys were present at 12 known sites, six pairs were successful and reared a total of 14 young; Spotted Crakes were rather scarce, but there were at least eight pairs of Wood Sandpipers, three pairs of Black-tailed Godwits and two pairs of Temminck's Stints. The Snowy Owls in Fetlar hatched four young, but none survived; there were more sightings of the species in other areas. About six pairs of nesting Fieldfares were known, but proof of successful breeding was lacking in most cases; good numbers of breeding Redwings were located and a male Shorelark in suitable breeding habitat was possibly the forerunner of another new breeding species from Scandinavia.

The migration pattern was also rather similar to that of last year, with the regular Continental drift migrants being scarce at both seasons. Wader numbers were also rather low, though in autumn unusual numbers were observed at inland reservoirs—a result of the very low water levels caused by the drought. Semi-rare passerines such as Red-breasted Flycatchers and Richard's Pipits were also scarce, and numbers of Waxwings and Great Grey Shrikes were low. A strong irruption of Continental Crossbills started in mid June, and there was an invasion of Mealy Redpolls later in the autumn.

It would seem to be of some value if a brief summary could be given in the report each year of environmental changes that might affect birds. For example, what will happen to the huge flock of Scaup wintering off Seafield when the new Edinburgh sewage scheme comes into operation? We do not intend to go deeply into such topics (though they merit research) but only to provide a historical summary of major projects in good bird areas and a record of changes that might alter bird numbers or distribution.

1972 was notable for a great increase in North Sea oil operations; two huge shore-based projects were started in the

Moray Firth area for building oil-production platforms, one at Nigg in the Cromarty Firth (started February 1972) the other at Ardersier/Whiteness Head on the Inverness/Nairn border (started June 1972). Both involved reclamation on the shore and in the intertidal zone; the Nigg yard is on the edge of Nigg Bay, which is famous for wintering ducks and waders, while Whiteness Head has a ternery and is a principal wintering area for Knots and Bar-tailed Godwits in the Moray Firth. There was an increase in the numbers of oil-rigs operating in the North Sea, and the start of major service operations in the northern isles. There was a serious oiling incident in the Cromarty Firth in March, when a large flock of roosting Pink-footed Geese were oiled in Nigg Bay. On shore, bird numbers and distribution reflect the increasing afforestation in upland areas, and there is some evidence of the bad effects of increasing numbers of tourists on bird breeding success, notably at coastal sites and at some freshwater lochs.

All records given here of species that come within the scope of the *British Birds* Rarities Committee have been accepted by the committee unless noted as still subject to a decision. We appeal to observers to submit descriptions of rare or unusual species to the local recorder as soon as possible, preferably on an unusual-record form, obtainable free from the local recorder. We are not prepared to publish in this report records of species that, though not on the Rarities Committee list, are rare in Scotland or would represent new species for the faunal areas unless adequate supporting evidence is given.

With such a volume of material moving from observer to recorder to compiler to printer, there is the risk of transcription errors; we will be glad to be informed of anything to be corrected next year. We would apologise to anyone who finds his records attributed to someone else; this can happen, because at times, mainly for the sake of brevity, I have named one observer (or the recorder) when several were involved. This leads to a request that all observers should give their surname and all initials when submitting records to the local recorders; with so many observers contributing, the key to their initials is doubly difficult to prepare if only a first initial is given. This year I have numbered the different regions, and the bracketed numbers after an observer's name in the key to observer's initials indicate which observer is involved with a record in the species list.

To keep the report within a reasonable number of pages we have been terse; as in the past, we have abbreviated months, counties and other words and have omitted most qualifications such as 'near' and 'about'. References in the form (6: 322) are to pages of *Scottish Birds*. The sequence of species, English

names and scientific nomenclature follow the BTO's guide *A Species List of British and Irish Birds* (1971). An asterisk indicates that all known records are given.

We appeal to all observers to send their 1973 records to the local recorders promptly at the end of the year; it would be especially helpful if records for the first ten months could be sent to recorders now. Please continue to spread the word that we are keen to receive records from visitors to Scotland and others who are not Club members.

The sketches that illustrate the text were drawn by: W. R. Brackenridge (King Eider, Kingfisher); John Busby (Shag, Bartailed Godwit, Arctic Skua, Barn Owl, Jay, Blackbird); and Donald Watson (Pintail, Smew, Barnacle Goose, Merlin, Dunlin, Goldcrest).

The photographs are by Malte Andersson, D. B. McGinn, Dennis Coutts and J. F. Young.

I would like to thank them and everyone else who has contributed to the 1972 report. My special thanks go to the local recorders for their considerable efforts in collecting and collating the records.

### Local Recorders in 1972

1. **Shetland (except Fair Isle)** R. J. Tulloch, Reafirth, Mid Yell, Shetland.
2. **Fair Isle** R. A. Broad, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.
3. **Orkney** E. Balfour, Isbister House, Rendall, Orkney.
4. **Outer Hebrides (except St Kilda)** W. A. J. Cunningham, Aros, 10 Barony Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis (see Changes below).
5. **St Kilda** Dr I. D. Pennie, Varkasaig, Scourie, Sutherland.
6. **Caithness** Mrs P. M. Collett, Sandyquoy, East Gills, Scrabster, Caithness KW14 7UH.
7. **Sutherland, Ross-shire (except Black Isle)** D. MacDonald, Elmbank, Dornoch, Sutherland.
8. **Inverness-shire (within 18 miles of Inverness) Ross-shire (Black Isle only)** Dr Maeve Rusk, Arniston, 51 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.
9. **Inverness-shire (mainland more than 18 miles from Inverness)** R. H. Dennis, Old Manse, Rothiemurchus, Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 1QP.
10. **Nairnshire, Morayshire, Banffshire** J. Edelsten, 14 South High Street, Portsoy, Banffshire AB4 2NT.
11. **Aberdeenshire, North Kincardineshire** W. Murray, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire AB4 0AA, and A. G. Knox, Zoology Department, Aberdeen University, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB4 0AA.
12. **South Kincardineshire, Angus** G. M. Crighton, 23 Church Street, Brechin, Angus.
13. **Perthshire** Miss V. M. Thom, 19 Braeside Gardens, Perth.
14. **Kinross-shire** Miss B. H. Moore, Vane Farm, Kinross.
15. **Isle of May** Miss N. J. Gordon, Nature Conservancy, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS.
16. **Fife, Clackmannanshire, East Stirlingshire** D. W. Oliver, East Cottage, Balass, Cupar, Fife.

17. **West Lothian.** Prof. T. C. Smout, 19 South Gillsland Road, Edinburgh EH10 5DE (see Changes below).
18. **Forth Islands (except May), Midlothian.** R. W. J. Smith, 33 Hunter Terrace, Loanhead, Midlothian.
19. **East Lothian, Berwickshire.** K. S. Macgregor, 16 Merchiston Avenue, Edinburgh EH10 4NY.
20. **Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire.** A. J. Smith, Glenview, Selkirk TD7 4LX.
21. **Argyllshire, Inner Hebrides, Skye.** M. J. P. Gregory, Duiletter, Kilmory Road, Lochgilphead, Argyllshire PA31 8NL.
22. **Dunbartonshire, West Stirlingshire, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, Arran.** R. W. Forrester, 29 Crandleyhill Road, Prestwick, Ayrshire KA9 2BE.
23. **Dumfriesshire.** D. Skilling, 86 Auchenkeld Avenue, Heathhall, Dumfries, and R. T. Smith, Applegarthtown, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.
24. **Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtonshire.** A. D. Watson, Barone, Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.

### Changes of Local Recorders for 1973

Peter Cunningham had to give up the recordership of the Outer Hebrides because of pressure of work; we would like to thank him very much for all the good work he has put in for the Scottish Bird Report over the last five years. Records for the Outer Hebrides should be sent to the SOC, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT until further notice. For similar reasons Chris Smout had to resign the recordership of West Lothian; we are very grateful to him for his work in collecting records for the area. For the future it was decided to amalgamate West with Midlothian, and records should go now to R. W. J. Smith.

### Key to observers' initials

More than 600 observers contributed records for 1972 to the local recorders and we are extremely grateful to them. Not all contributors are mentioned in this key, since, in many cases, records were summarised before submission to me, and owing to editing, not all those listed here are mentioned in the main part of the report. Where an observer may have submitted only one or two records, e.g. a rarity, to avoid multiplication of initials his (or her) full name is given with the record in the species list.

Mrs D. E. Abbey  
L. Adams  
A. F. Airey  
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J. Beal (JBI)  
M. A. S. Beaman  
J. M. Beattie  
J. Bell (12)

H. Boase  
D. G. Boddington  
C. G. Booth  
C. J. Booth  
Dr W. R. P. Bourne  
T. Boyd  
W. R. Brackenridge  
A. Brebner (7)  
D. M. Bremner  
T. J. R. Britton  
R. A. Broad  
K. Brockie  
W. Brotherston  
Miss E. Brown (EBr)  
I. A. G. Brown  
K. Bruce (23)



- D. M. Bryant  
 A. G. S. Bryson  
 H. J. Burton  
 J. L. Burton  
 N. E. Buxton  
 Royal Soc. for Protec-  
 tion of Birds (RSPB)  
 R. G. Caldwell  
 R. Calligan  
 E. D. Cameron  
 L. H. Campbell  
 Mrs V. E. Carrick  
 Dr M. E. Castle  
 G. Chabrzyk (15)  
 P. N. J. Clark  
 T. M. Clegg  
 O. T. Clement  
 D. L. Clugston  
 L. Cole  
 A. F. C. M. Collett  
 Mrs P. M. Collett  
 D. C. Cooke  
 D. Cottree (20)  
 D. Coull (24)  
 D. Coutts (1)  
 J. M. Cowan  
 E. G. Cowieson  
 M. Cox  
 G. M. Crighton  
 G. Critchley  
 Rev. J. M. Crook  
 (JMCK)  
 I. G. Cumming  
 W. A. J. Cunningham  
 Miss M. E. Cunnings-  
 hame (16)  
 J. Currie (JCu)  
 D. P. Cyrus  
 Eskdale & Liddesdale  
 Bird Club (ELBC)  
 T. P. Daniels  
 I. M. Darling  
 N. Darroch  
 I. R. Deans  
 T. Delaney (18)  
 R. H. Dennis  
 T. J. Dick  
 R. C. Dickson  
 Miss S. M. Dixon  
 T. Dobson (20)  
 M. Donaldson  
 Miss J. Donnan  
 H. E. M. Dott  
 T. Dougal (TDo)  
 Dr I. T. Draper  
 Mrs M. M. Draper  
 M. Drummond  
 K. A. Dummigan  
 Sir A. B. Duncan  
 W. Dunlop  
 Mrs M. H. Dunn
- Prof G. M. Dunnet  
 R. Duthie  
 J. Edelsten  
 W. Ellis  
 Sir R. Erskine-Hill  
 Prof D. S. Falconer  
 Dr E. C. Fellowes  
 I. J. Ferguson-Lees  
 J. J. M. Flegg  
 I. Ford  
 B. C. Forrester  
 R. W. Forrester  
 A. Forsyth  
 L. Fortune  
 G. Frame  
 I. S. Fraser  
 M. W. Fraser  
 G. H. French  
 R. Furness  
 H. Galbraith  
 I. K. Gauld  
 E. C. Gerrard  
 C. A. Gervaise  
 I. P. Gibson  
 D. Glass  
 A. G. Gordon  
 Miss N. J. Gordon  
 A. N. Graham  
 D. R. Grant  
 Lt.-Col J. P. Grant  
 Mrs J. A. R. Grant  
 M. J. P. Gregory  
 A. Grieve  
 Miss P. Grundy  
 J. Gunn (6)  
 J. Guthrie  
 North Solway Ringing  
 Group (NSRG)  
 Tay Ringing Group  
 (TRG)  
 Mrs M. Hall (7)  
 K. C. C. Halliday  
 Dr K. C. R. Halliday  
 Mrs H. S. C. Halliday  
 Mrs E. Hamilton  
 F. D. Hamilton  
 Mrs A. R. Harding  
 E. M. Harvey  
 M. I. Harvey  
 C. G. Headlam  
 D. A. Henshilwood  
 C. J. Henty  
 T. Hodd  
 R. H. Hogg  
 J. G. Holbourn  
 P. Hope-Jones  
 I. Hopkins  
 Miss J. E. Howie  
 D. C. Hulme  
 R. A. Hume  
 E. N. Hunter
- F. Hunter  
 J. B. Hutcheson  
 M. Hutcheson  
 A. Inkster  
 D. L. Irving  
 S. Jackson  
 P. R. James  
 G. C. Jamieson  
 R. A. Jeffrey  
 Dr D. Jenkins  
 A. W. G. John  
 R. Johnson (1)  
 L. Johnston  
 M. Jones  
 R. Jones  
 Miss B. C. Kinloch  
 P. K. Kinnear  
 J. Kirk  
 A. G. Knox  
 Mrs S. Laing (13)  
 H. A. Lang  
 D. R. Langston  
 P. G. Lansdown  
 P. A. Lassey  
 J. Law  
 S. Laybourne  
 I. Leach  
 R. Leavett  
 C. B. Lindsay  
 Mrs L. D. G. Linehan  
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 J. A. Love  
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 W. McCubbin  
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 D. MacDonald  
 M. A. MacDonald  
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 Duncan  
 D. W. McGarvie  
 D. B. McGinn  
 K. S. Macgregor  
 R. K. McGregor  
 R. MacIntyre  
 A. MacIver  
 K. MacKenzie  
 P. Mackie  
 I. M. McLean  
 A. C. MacLeod  
 A. T. Macmillan  
 R. L. MacMillan  
 E. McQuade  
 E. J. Maguire  
 A. R. Mainwood  
 R. Mann  
 J. Manson (16)  
 M. Marquiss  
 Dr B. Marshall  
 W. Matheson (4)  
 A. Mathieson  
 I. Mathieson

- P. J. Mawby  
 E. Maxwell  
 A. R. Mead (1)  
 E. R. Meek  
 K. R. Melhuish  
 Dr J. Meikle (20)  
 J. K. R. Melrose  
 T. D. H. Merrie  
 R. H. Miller  
 Dr H. Milne-Redhead  
 J. Mitchell (22)  
 Miss B. H. Moore  
 G. Morgan  
 Mrs J. Morrison (9)  
 W. M. Morrison  
 J. Moss (18)  
 M. A. Muir  
 J. H. B. Munro  
 R. D. Murray  
 W. Murray  
 J. A. S. Newman  
 J. A. Newnham  
 M. Nicoll  
 J. Niles  
 R. Nisbet  
 T. Nisbet  
 Mrs A. Noltie  
 D. J. Norden  
 P. J. O'Brien  
 A. Ockendon  
 M. A. Ogilvie  
 D. W. Ogilvie (DWog)  
 D. W. Oliver (DWO)  
 J. M. A. Osbourne  
 J. R. D. Osbourne  
 J. R. P. Osbourne  
 E. C. Parker  
 J. Parrott (11)  
 Mrs M. Paterson  
 T. Paterson  
 A. D. Peirse-Duncombe  
 Dr I. D. Pennie  
 A. Petersen  
 T. Pickup (14)  
 N. Picozzi  
 Miss M. Piper (13)  
 C. Placido  
 R. K. Pollock  
 C. Port (7)  
 J. Potter  
 B. Pounder  
 A. Pringle (APr)  
 Mrs I. Rainier  
 A. D. K. Ramsay  
 R. M. Ramage  
 C. P. Rawcliffe  
 A. Reese  
 L. Renouf  
 W. K. Richmond  
 Dr R. Richter (10)  
 G. Riddle  
 A. B. Ritchie  
 E. L. Roberts  
 I. S. Robertson  
 Mrs S. Robertson  
 C. S. Roselaar  
 P. D. Round  
 J. Rowbottom (JRo)  
 R. Roxburgh  
 Dr M. Rusk  
 G. L. Sandeman  
 I. Sandison  
 Q. M. Service  
 Mrs P. Scott-Plummer  
 A. R. Seymour  
 Mrs A. F. W. Sharp  
 J. T. R. Sharrock  
 G. Shaw (GSh)  
 R. Shaw  
 P. Shaw  
 D. C. Shenton  
 J. H. Simpson  
 J. I. Simpson  
 M. Sinclair  
 W. A. Sinclair  
 D. Skilling (DSk)  
 J. Skilling (JSk)  
 G. Skilling  
 A. J. Smith (20)  
 Mrs E. M. Smith  
 H. D. Smith  
 J. C. Smith  
 J. J. Smith  
 Mrs P. Smith (7)  
 R. T. Smith  
 R. W. J. Smith  
 Prof T. C. Smout  
 A. J. Souter  
 E. F. B. Spragge  
 J. Spriggs (1)  
 D. Stalker  
 G. Stephen  
 D. Stewart (5)  
 A. G. Stewart  
 B. J. Stewart  
 I. F. Stewart  
 N. L. Storie  
 R. W. Summers  
 I. S. Suttie  
 R. L. Swann  
 RAF Kinloss Ornith.  
 Soc. RAFKOS  
 J. C. Tait  
 Dr T. V. Tattersal  
 Miss V. M. Thom  
 D. S. Thomson  
 D. Thorogood (DTh)  
 J. Thorogood (JTh)  
 R. B. Tozer  
 M. Traill-Clouston  
 Mrs K. Traquair  
 R. J. Tulloch  
 L. A. Urquhart  
 P. A. Vandome  
 Mrs U. R. Vivers  
 Dr L. L. J. Vick  
 Dr W. C. Wakefield  
 Mrs A. Walker  
 C. Walker  
 C. Waller (23)  
 D. I. M. Wallace  
 G. Waterston  
 A. D. Watson  
 A. J. Watson  
 Mrs M. Watson  
 I. Wattret  
 T. Weir  
 D. S. Whitaker  
 G. T. White  
 A. R. Whitfield (1)  
 Mrs J. A. Whyte  
 R. T. Willett  
 E. J. Williams  
 K. Williamson (22)  
 D. P. Willis (DW)  
 J. M. Wilson  
 W. Wilson  
 R. Wilson  
 P. Wormell  
 K. Wrench  
 T. Wright (23)  
 W. Wyper (22)  
 Dr E. I. Young  
 J. F. Young  
 J. G. Young  
 L. Young  
 R. F. Yule  
 B. Zonfrillo

## Species List

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*. In survey of breeding success in N Scotland 58-59 prs were checked, of which 10 prs reared 13 young. The rest failed, mainly owing to flooding after prolonged drought. Main data from Inv (15-16 prs checked, 4 prs successful reared 7 young), Ross (13 prs, 2 prs successful reared 2 young) and Suth (23 prs, 1 pr reared 1 young) (RHD *et al.*). Elsewhere: Ayr pr reared 1 young at second attempt (WRB, JN); Galloway pr inland July (ELR).

Shet, 2 Weisdale 3 Feb (DC), 1 Gremista 13 Feb (BM), 2 Weisdale 1 Apr (RJ), singles Quendale 23 Apr and 3 May (DC); W Ross, 15 L Gairloch 28 Jan, first back on breeding loch 20 Mar (ENH); Arg, 6 Tarbert-Islay crossing 12 Mar (MASB). Autumn records: 2 Echnaloch Bay, Ork, Oct (Eb), 22 Red Point, W Ross, 18 Oct (ENH); 4 E Burghead 1 Oct, 6 Findhorn, Moray, 15 Oct (RHD); 7S Girdleness, Kinc, 2 Oct (DIMW); 3 West Haven, Angus, 17 Sep (TMC); increase in winter records Clyde/Ayr coast (WRB, RHH *et al.*).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*. Winter counts: 5 Dunnet Bay, Caith, 5 Jan (PMC); 5 L Eriboll, Suth 19 Feb (RHD); more than usual E Loth, 6+ Tynninghame 13 Feb; Arg, counts from ferry Tarbert to Islay 50 on 14 Jan, 60+ on 12 Mar, 20 on 21 May (DMB, MASB); 1 L Leven, Kinross, 9-29 Feb (AG, BHM).

Spring records: fewer in Shet, max 26 Quendale 23 Apr (RJT *et al.*); 10 Balnakeil Bay, Suth, 24 Apr (AG). Usual summer records mainly N and W coasts; 2 Gullane, E Loth, 13-27 May; ad L of Cliff, Unst, Shet, 7 July-3 Aug (L. Cole *et al.*). Autumn: singles Fair Isle 21 and 26 Sep (RAB); first Fife Ness 3 Sep (DWO); 1 Kingoodie, Perth, 6 Dec (EJM); 1 Gourrock, Renf, 29-31 Dec (HG, IPG, RAS).

\***White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*. 1 Buckie, Banff, 5 Mar-20 May (DBMcG *et al.*); subject to acceptance by Rarities Committee.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*. 62 breeding prs monitored in Highlands and northern isles; of these 28-29 prs reared 42 young, the rest failed. (RHD *et al.*). Data indicated poor season in Shet where only 2 young reared from 14 prs at Fetlar (ISR) and 6 young from 14 prs at Whaisay (JHS); good season in Ork, 21 young from 17 prs (EB *et al.*) and in W Ross, 8 young from 9 prs (ENH *et al.*). Reasonable success reported Caith, but data patchy in Suth and Inv (RHD *et al.*). 1 pr reared 2 young Handa, Suth. Elsewhere: 3 prs at Arran (MHDu); 1 pr Isle of Bute (IH); Renf pr unsuccessful (HG, IPG).

Peak counts: Moray, 15 Findhorn 6 Jan (RHD), 26 on 5 Mar (RAFKOS), 46 Spey Bay 24 Nov (JMB); Angus, 86 Lunan Bay 25 Apr (GMC). 42 West Haven 29 Oct (TMC); Fife, 44 Fife Ness-Largo Bay 13 Jan (AG); Arg, Tarbert-Islay 55+ on 12 Mar (MASB). Migrants: Fair Isle, scattered records 5 Apr-14 Aug (RAB); Shet, summer plumage from 25 Feb, last Fetlar 17 Sep (RJT *et al.*); Suth, breeding pr displaying Kylesku 19 Feb (RHD). Inland: 1 Kilconquhar Loch, Fife, 12 Apr-3 June (PGTB, DWO); 1 Marl Loch, Aberlady, E Loth, 16 Apr (AM, LLJV); 1 Castle Loch, Dumf, 29 Oct-20 Dec (NEA, JD).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*. Poor breeding season Fife, single prs Kilconquhar and Morton Lochs but no young (DWO); 7+ prs L Leven, Kinross (AA); Midl, pr reared 2 young Duddingston Loch, 2 prs failed Gladhouse Reservoir, 3-4 prs Threipmuir Reservoir (RWJS *et al.*); Ayr, down to 3 prs L Martnaham (WRB); Lan, pr successful at Biggar, first time for years (RE-H).

Migration and peak counts: Shet, singles Lerwick 13 Feb (NLS), Busta Voe 8 Mar (W. Johnson), Spiggie 28 May-8 June (DC *et al.*), Fetlar 1 June (RSPB); E Ross, 1 North Kessock 6 Nov (EBT); Inv, 2 L Linnhe 24

Sep (JASN); Moray, 1 Spynie Loch 16 Apr (CAG), 2E Burghead 15 Oct (RHD); Angus, 55 Lunan Bay 23 Aug (GMC); Perth 3 on 12 Mar (RC, EJM, DST); Fife, 21 St Andrews 14 Oct (JARG); Midl, 20 Musselburgh Jan-Apr, peak 40 on 11 Mar, last 2 on 28 May, 82 on 13 Aug, 150 on 27 Aug, 131 on 25 Sep, 80 on 12 Oct, 90 on 27 Dec (RF, DLC, GLS, LLJV), 130 Leith Docks 10 Dec (RWJS) probably same flock; E Loth, 10 Gullane 12 Aug (LLJV); Kirk, 20 L Ken 14 Oct is large count (LAU).

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps griseigena*. Another record year, especially E Loth, Jan-25 Apr and 21 July to Dec, plus 3 summer records. Winter-spring: E Loth, counts of 1-5 regular Jan-16 Apr off Gosford, Aberlady and Gullane, peak numbers 20 Aberlady-Gullane 20 Feb, 37 Gosford 12 Apr (LLJV *et al.*); Midl, singles Seafield 19 Jan (AWGJ), Granton 2 Feb (GLS), 2 Musselburgh 11 Mar (LLJV); Fife, 1 Tentsmuir 9 Jan (JARG, BP), 3 Largo Bay 13 Jan, 1 on 24 Mar (AG); Moray, 1 Findhorn 6 Jan (RHD); Suth, 1 L Eriboll 19 Feb (RHD); Shet, 1 Clickhimin 18 Feb-23 Mar (DC *et al.*); Skye, 1 Pabay 7-25 Apr (ECG).

Summer: 1 Merryton, Lan, 29 May (DS); 1 Aberlady, E Loth, 7 June (DTH); 1 Glimpsholm, Ork, 2 July (DW). 1 dead Elliott, Angus, 9 May (NKA).

Autumn: Shet, singles Scatsta 8 Oct (WHJ), Benstom 26 Oct (JSp); Ork, 1 No. 3 Barrier 25 Aug (I. Lorrimer); Suth, 1 Embo 23 Oct (RHD); Angus, 1 Boddin 28 Sep (GMC); Kinross, 1 L Leven 14 Sep (AA); Fife, 1 Morton Lochs 10 Sep (DMB); Midl, singles Musselburgh from 22 Sep, 3 on 15 Oct, 2 on 16 Nov, last 19 Nov (LLJV); E Loth, Gosford, Gullane and Aberlady, first 2 on 21 July (PW), max counts 16 Gosford 6 Aug (DLC), 22 on 22 Aug (FDH), 23 on 9 Sep (RHH), 11 Aberlady-Gullane 15 Sep (RHH), 11 on 1 Oct (JB), 12 on 15 Oct (LLJV).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*. Census put Scot population at 48-51 prs in Caith, Inv and Moray (RHD, MIH *et al.*); breeding success better than 1971 but still poor, 27-28 prs in main haunt, Inv, reared 10-11 young, 12-13 prs in N Inv (including 3 new localities) reared 13-15 young, 1 pr SE Inv, but both layings failed (RHD, MIH); Moray, 6 prs on territory, 2 young reared; Caith, further decrease 2-3 prs on one loch, but no young seen (RHD *et al.*). First seen L Ruthven 21 Feb (MR), and Moray loch 26 Mar (JMB); Perth, 1 L of Lowes 9-28 Apr (MD); Central Lowlands, ad paired with Black-necked Grebe (7: 307-308).

Winter-spring: Fair Isle, singles 14-19 Mar, 31 Mar-5 Apr (RAB); Shet, regular to 12 Apr, max 22 Tresta 15 Mar (BM); Ork, max 5 Burray 9 Apr (CJB); Suth, latest 2 Balnakeil Bay 24 Apr (AG); N Arg, 1 Salachan 1 Apr (JR); Kinross, 1 L Leven 1 Mar (GC); Fife, peaks 7 Tentsmuir 27 Feb (DWO), 7 Largo Bay 24 Mar (AG); Midl, singles Musselburgh 30 Jan-11 Mar, 2 on 6 Feb; E Loth, Gosford Jan-12 Apr, max 15+ on 9 Jan, 20+ on 7 Feb and 5 Mar, 14 on 12 Apr (LLJV *et al.*), Aberlady-Gullane Jan-12 Mar, max 12 on 20 Feb (LLJV); 1 Heb, 7 Pabay, Skye, 6 Feb, first on 21 Feb, few to 12 Apr, (ECG), 8 L Inndaal, Islay, 4 Jan (CGB).

Autumn: Shet, 10 16 Sep, max 10 Tresta 24 Sep (PKK); Ork, 3 Echnaloch Bay 1 Oct (EB); Inv, 1 L Insh 20 Oct (RL); Fife, 1 Cameron Reservoir 3-13 Sep (PGTB, JARG); E Loth, first Aberlady-Gullane 5 Aug (DJN), max 10 on 10 Oct and 10 Dec (DLC, DCS), max Gosford 16 on 17 Dec (LLJV).

**\*Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*. At E of 2 established colonies in Central Lowlands first seen (2) on 17 Mar, 5 on 24 Mar, 23 ads on 11 July, 5 prs and three broods of young (2, 2 and 1) on 3 Aug, last 3 on 15 Oct; 25-26 at other site at end Mar, 16 on 9 Apr, 10 ads and 9 young in July; only one record, 26 Mar, at minor site between 2 main colonies, but pr at nearby loch (new site) on 28 May; only single at Central Highlands site 4 June-23 July (anon).

Winter-spring: Stir, 1 L Walston 20 Feb (TDHM); Midl, 2 Leith 18 Jan-

2 Feb (GLS); E Loth, 9 Aberlady-Gullane 3 Jan (RHH), 2 Gosford 2 Jan (LLJV), 1 Tynninghame 29-30 Jan (DTh, EMS), flock Aberlady 19 Feb (GCJ), 3 on 11 Mar, 9 on 4 Apr (RHH, GCJ); Wig, 16 L Ryan 19 Feb (KBa). Autumn: Midl, 1 Musselburgh 8 Aug (HEMD, RKMCG), 2 on 16 Sep (OT); Peeb, 1 Portmore 19 Aug-1 Sep (RWJS, LLJV); E Loth, singles Aberlady 12 Aug and 23 Sep (LLJV), Gosford 15 Aug (DRL); Wig, 4 L Ryan 28 Oct (DCI), 3 on 31 Dec (JKRM, ADW).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Fife, good numbers and many chicks despite low water levels (DWO); Inv, higher numbers Spey Valley, arrived early, first brood of 3 chicks seen Aviemore 8 May (RHD). Counts and migrants: Shet, 1 Foula 11 Apr-4 May (JGH); Caith, 1 Scrabster Loch 15 Mar (SL); Angus, 8 Monikie Jan-Apr (BP); Midl, max 10 Musselburgh 6-25 Feb and 16 Dec (AWGJ, LLJV); E Loth more than usual on sea; Selk, 19 Lindean Reservoir 17 Sep (RHH).

**\*Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophrys*. Adult at Gannet colony Hermaness, Unst, Shet, 21 July-4 Aug (M. Andersson, L. Cole); ad Fife Ness 8 Aug (P. A. Lassey). There were unconfirmed reports from Hermaness in 1971, no reports in 1970, Bass Rock bird present 1967-69 and Orkney sighting 1969.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*. Fair Isle, numbers in census area similar to 1971, first egg 14 May, first chick seen 1 July (RAB); Suth, c2400 prs Handa (AG); E Ross colonies, 49 birds Munloch 18 Dec, 18 sites Rosemarkie 24 Feb, 7 Fairy Glen 24 Feb (MR); St Kilda, first egg 12 May (DSt); Kinross, from 23 Mar (AG), max 8 on 1-30 July, ad feeding chick 9 Aug is first breeding record this site (AA, GC); Isle of May, 50 prs is slight increase; similar increase Firth of Forth islands; Bute, at least 1 pr nested Inch Marnock (new site), bred 5 different sites Arran (MHDu); Ayr, 10 prs Portencross, 30 prs S of Dunure (WRB), 24 prs S of Ballantrae (RWF). Blue-phase birds: Fair Isle 19-20 Aug, 20 Sep, 27 Oct (4) (RAB); Hoy, Ork, 24 June (CJB); Whiten Head, Suth, 5 May (ACMcL); Rockfield, Ross, 6 May (DW); 3 Handa, Suth (AG); North Rona 6 July (JAL), where also adult Fulmar brooding young Puffin and dead Fulmar chick (JAL). Other records: 700W in 1 hour Faraid Head, Suth, 15 Apr (RHD); 3W Kiltarlity, Inv, 26 May (MIH); 200+ Isle of May 28 Dec—a record count (NKA, MN); 1 L Morlich, Inv, 13 June (K. Harrison).

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*. 500 off Rackwick, Hoy, Ork, 24 June (CJB); 5000 off north cliffs Canna, I Heb, 25 Aug (RLS).

Migration: Fair Isle records 30 Mar (crossing), 29 May-15 Aug (RAB); Suth, 327W 0700-0800 hrs Faraid Head 15 Apr (RHD), seen off Handa 30 Apr-10 Sep, max 350N in 1½ hrs 27 May (AG); Kinc, 40N in 1 hr Cove Bay 30 June (CSR); Angus, 4 Mar-1 Oct, max 150 Usan 28 May (GMC), 103 Arbroath 13 Aug (MN); Isle of May 14 July-15 Oct, max 110 on 1 Aug (HG, IG), 140 on 20 Aug (NKA); Midl, max 11 Musselburgh 27 June (JPB, LLJV); E Loth, max 68S and 5N Barns Ness 8 July (RDM); Wig, 83W Mull of Galloway 29 July (DTh, JTh), 89 Corsewall Point 2 Sep (RCD). Stragglers: 2 L Maree, W Ross, 18 May (ENH), 1 Kinlochewe 23 Sep (EBr, JAW); 1 Inverkip, Renf, 31 May (BCK).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*. Rather scarce all areas: Fair Isle, scarce, only seen 12 days 7 Aug-9 Oct, max 4 on one day, except 30 on 21 Sep (RAB); Shet, few reports 1 Sep-26 Oct, max only 5 Summerville 29 Sep (DC); Ork, max 42 North Ronaldsay 7 Sep (EJW), 5 Hoy 10 Nov (EJW); Caith, 1 freshly dead Dunnet Bay 4 Sep (PMC); Suth, 1-3 Handa 9 Aug-28 Sep (AG), 16W in 2 hours Strathy Point 1 Oct (DWh); Kinc, 8S in ¾ hr Girdleness 7 Oct, last one S Girdleness 22 Nov (AGK); Angus, 8 sightings 12 Aug-1 Oct, max 7 West Haven 12 Aug (TMC); Fife Ness, 7 records 28 Aug-1 Oct (DWO *et al.*); Isle of May, scattered records 1 Aug-15 Oct, max 4 on 25 Sep (AMcD, RKMCG).

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Shet, 600+ caught at Fetlar colony June included one ringed Skokholm, Wales, 22 July 1969 (RSPB); Fair Isle, noted ashore 20 June-28 Aug, on crossing 30 May-5 Sep, max 30 (RAB); bred Stroma, Caith, in 1971; Suth, Handa 1N on 8 Aug, 7 on 9th and 1 on 10th Aug (AG); 1 Kilmartin, Arg, 28 Nov, released 29th (per (MJPG).

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. Good numbers ringed North Rona by JAL, ARM, RAFKOS; JAL ringed 267 at North Rona in 1971 and retrapped two which had been ringed at the island in summer 1958. One at Fair Isle 17 July (RAB).

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*. Wig, 430 prs Scar Rocks 7 July (500 pairs in 1971) (JGY); Fair Isle, 10-30 birds ashore several days in first fortnight of July at Sheep Rock and Da Fless.

Counts: Suth, 700 ads W in 1 hr Faraid Head 15 Apr (RHD), max 220 off Handa 6 Sep (AG), big E passage Strathy Point 30 Sep (DWb); Nairn, 300 offshore including juveniles 24 Dec (RHD); Moray, 1000 including juveniles off Burghead 17 Nov (RHD); Inv/E Ross 7 juveniles Longman 4 Oct (JMck), 11 Avoch 13 Oct (MKMcD-D); Angus 1000 off West Haven 19 Aug (TMC); Renf, 11 Port Glasgow 23 July (DS). Stragglers: juvenile Lentrán, Inv, 1 Sep (RHD), 2 dead L Linnhe 4-6 June (JCu); 1 on pond Tealing, Angus, 29 Oct (ABR); immature flying inland Langholm, Dumf, 28 May (ELOC).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Forth, 245 nests Lamb, many big young 17 June (RWJS); Wig, decrease at Piltanton estuary to 59 nests (84 last year) (RCD). Counts and migration: Fair Isle, autumn passage 18 Aug-18 Sep, peaks 50 on 26 Aug, 60 on 29th, 40 on 1st, 4th, 8th and 12th Sep, 20 on 10 Oct; 150 Beaully Firth, Ross/Inv, 12 Nov (EBt); Aber, 100+ Collieston 5 Sep (RAH); Angus, 200 West Ferry 1 Mar (TMC); Perth, numbers low, max 200+ Invergowrie Bay 10 Dec (RC, EJM); Kinross, peak L Leven 60 on 11 Mar (AG); Fife, 40 Cameron Reservoir Feb (JARG); Midl, max 23 Gladhouse Reservoir 29 Jan (RWJS); Dumb, max 88 Endrick mouth 14 Oct (CP, JM); Renf, 135 Erskine-Woodhall 5 Mar (HG, IPG).



**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Fair Isle, nest-building from 24 Feb, c/3 on 8 Apr, young fledged from 12 June, one albino fledged (RAB); Suth, good season Handa—410 prs (AG); Angus, 43 prs Arbroath-Auchmithie (NKA); Isle of May continued increase to c. 1000 pairs (NJG); Forth, 225 nests on Lamb, 99 Craigleith and 7 Fidra (RWJS); Wig, only 7 prs Scar Rocks (23 prs last year) (JGY).

Counts: Inv, 140 L Linnhe peak 24 Dec (JASN); Moray, 26E Burghead 15 Oct (RHD); Aber, 70N in 1 hr Collieston 5 Sep (RAH); Ayr/Renf, 87 Gourock-Largs 15 Jan (HG, IPG), 30 Doonfoot-Heads of Ayr 14 Dec (WRB) are high counts for Clyde (RWF).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. Ork, no evidence of successful breeding; Caith, bred E Dunnet Head (D. Saunders); W Ross, failed to breed Horse Island, Ullapool (ACMcL); E Ross, 34 nests Munlochy 8 June (27 in 1971) (DCH); Angus, 27 nests Montrose 12 May (NKA); Kinross, new colony E Brackley (RQB); Stir, 31 occupied nests Endrick mouth (JM, CP).

Counts and migration: Fair Isle, low numbers autumn passage 22 July-29 Sep, peaks 8 on 16 Sep and 9 on 19th (RAB); Inv, peak 63 Corpach 15 Jan (JASN); Midl, max Gladhouse Reservoir 16 on 27 Oct (GLS, RWJS), 14 Threipmuir 24 Aug (HEMD); Kirk, high numbers, 26 lower L Ken 8 Oct (RHH).

\***Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*. 1 River Annan, Dumf, 17 Dec (D. J. Hall, Mrs V. L. Jamieson).

\***Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*. Singles: Castle Milk, Lockerbie, Dumf, 7 Mar (IM); Moffat, Dumf, 1 Nov (IM); Goodie Water, Perth/Stir, 30 Oct (JM, CP).

\***White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*. Singles: E Loth, Aberlady 8-9 May (DJ, AM, DJN); Rox, Jedburgh 15-24 May (AJS); Banff, Mulben, Keith 4-5 June (V. Murray *et al.*); Suth, Loch Eriboll 13 May (J. Elliott); Ork, Rousay 6-7 June (died) (EB *et al.*). Two others reported but details not forthcoming.

\***Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*. 1 Sandwick, Ork, 7-12 June (Mr & Mrs G. Wylie. One previous Scottish record: E Loth, May 1946).

\***Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorordia*. Aber, 2 Ythan estuary 7-15 June. one to 7 Aug (JAL, FMcL); Angus, 1 Montrose Basin 6 Aug (GMC); Clack, 1 Tullibody Island 19-20 Aug (TP).

†**Flamingo** sp. Kirk, 1971 bird possibly present Carsluith throughout 1972, seen early months, 16 Oct, 10 Nov (HAL, TVT *et al.*).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*. Poor breeding season reported L Leven, Kinross (AA) and Midl reservoirs (RWJS). Peak counts and migration: Caith, 240 L Watten Nov, lower than usual (PMC); Inv/Ross, 699 Beaully Firth 16 Jan, 480 on 19 Nov (EBt, MIH), 255 Longman Bay 5 Mar, 358 on 15 Oct (MR); Aber, 920 L of Skene 22 Jan (RSBy); Perth, 1260 Kingoodie Bay 12 Nov (RC, EJM); Kinross, L Leven autumn peak 2200 (AA); Fife, 1150 Kilconquhar 13 Feb, 3150 mid Nov—record number (DWO); Midl, Moorfoot reservoir 900 Jan down to 320 on 26 Feb, 130 on 30 July, 500 on 3 Sep, 830 on 11th, max 1000 early Oct (JB, RWJS); Ayr, 791 Troon 5 Jan (HG, IPG); Renf, 650 Lochgoin 15 Oct (HG), 500 Barr Loch Oct-Nov (WRB), 440 moulting ♂♂ Longhugh Point June (IPG); 622 Isle of Bute Dec (IH).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*. Poor breeding season Midl, 5 newly hatched ducklings Gladhouse on 5 Aug (RWJS); poor season Dumf. Peak counts and migration: Fair Isle, small numbers Mar-July, max 5 on 10 May, passage 23 Aug-10 Oct, max 18 on 27 Sep (RAB); St Kilda, 2 on 26 Apr (DSt); Caith, 200-300 L of Mey Aug-Sep (PMC, SL); Suth, 8 Handa 7 Sep (AG), 260 Kyle of Sutherland 21 Oct (RHD); E Ross, 300 Munlochy 3rd and 13 Sep (RHD, MKMcD-D); Inv, 331 S Beaully Firth 16 Jan, 441 on 12 Dec (MIH); Kinross, 1200 L Leven 15-20 Sep, down to 600 mid Oct (AA *et al.*); Fife, 1000 Eden estuary 13 Feb (AG); Midl, Moorfoot Reservoir 50 on 30 July, 100 on 19 Aug, 320 on 1 Sep, 400 on 21 Oct, 150 on 30 Dec (JB, RWJS); Renf, 256 Barr Loch 11 Oct (IPG).

Single drakes of the N American Green-winged Teal *A. c. carolinensis* were seen at Spiggie, 23 Feb-23 Mar (DC, BM), Papa Stour 10 Mar (RJT), Scatness 11 Oct (BM, LW), all Shet.

\***Garganey** *Anas querquedula*. About 12 records in spring from 16 Mar, two summer records, one in autumn. Dunb, pr Endrick mouth 16 Mar (RO, WKR); Renf, ♂ Langbank 12 Apr (IPG); Ayr, pr Irvine 13 May (WCW); Aberdeen pr 22-25 Apr (RLS); Shet, ♂ Garths Loch 7 May (DC), 2 Strand

Loch 10-12 May (DC, BM, RJ), singles Sinna Water 21 May (RJ), Fetlar 1 June (RSPB). Summer singles: Fetlar, Shet, 22 July (RSPB); ♀ Rosslynlea Reservoir, Midl, 28 July (RWJS). ♂ Meikle Loch, Aber, 24 Sep (MAMcD).

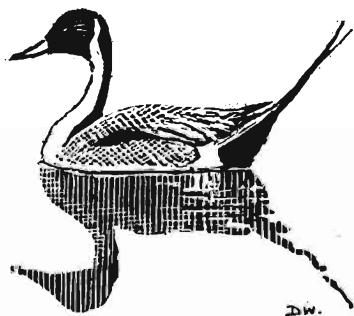
**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*. Very poor breeding season reported L Leven, Kinross (AA); 1-3 prs bred Perth (per EJM); 3 prs Balranald, O Heb (RSPB). Counts: Kinross, 54 L Leven 3 July, 26 on 20 Sep, last 2 on 12 Nov (AA); Fife, 21 Cameron Reservoir 23 Jan (JM), Kilconquhar 9 Apr-15 Oct, max 164 on 15 Oct (DWO).

Records outside usual areas: Shet, pr Fetlar 31 Oct-5 Nov (ISR); Suth, 2 L Ospisdale 11 Mar (DMcD); Ross, pr Little L Shieldaig 1 Oct (ENH); Moray, 1 Fochabers 15 Jan (JMB); E Loth, pr Tynninghame 30 Apr (RWJS); Rox, 2 Acreknowe 14 Apr (TDo); scatter of records Ayr, Renf and Dunb.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*. Increase in breeding numbers Ork (EB). Migration: Fair Isle, 19 Jan-14 May, peak 6 on 8 May, 17 Aug-Dec, peak 22 on 20 Sep (RAB); Shet, pr Sandwater 19 June, arrivals from 27 Sep (RJT); O Heb, first arrivals, 100 Stornoway 27 Sep (IMMcL); Moray, 25 Speymouth 16 Sep (JMB); Ber, 348N in 2½ hrs Eyemouth 24 Sep (TDo); Inv, absent L Linnhe 18 Apr-15 Sep (JASN).

Peak counts: Caith, 470 L Watten Nov (SL); E Ross, 2150+ Nigg Bay 16 Jan (DCH), 7500 Edderton-Tain Bay 16 Oct (CGH); Inv, 739 Beaully Firth 5 Mar, 1210 on 19 Nov (MIH), 2570 Longman Bay 15 Oct (MR), 1200 Castle Stuart Bay 7 Oct (RHD), 598 Whiteness Head 16 Jan, 750 on 22 Nov (RHD); 510 L Flemington 3 Jan (RHD), 111 L Linnhe 28 Oct (JASN); Moray, 513 Findhorn 16 Jan (RAFKOS); Aber, 5-600 Strathbeg 29 Jan (RSBy); Perth, 870 Tibbermore 14 Feb (RMcM); Kinross, 60 L Leven 24 Sep, 263 on 28 Oct, 500 on 28 Nov (GC); Fife, 2500 Eden estuary 13 Feb (J. Manson); Renf, 639 Barr Loch 11 Oct, 1000 on 10 Nov, 1200+ on 29 Dec (WRB, IPG); Wig, 3700 L Ryan 15 Oct (RCD), 2000 Wigtown Merse 22 Oct (RCD); Kirk, numbers low L Ken-180 on 23 Jan, 125 on 16 Nov (ADW).

\***American Wigeon** *Anas americana*. At least 1 ♂ Auchlossan, Aber, 15-23 Apr (NP *et al.*), possibly from 1 Apr.



**Pintail** *Anas acuta*. 1 pr bred L Ken, Kirk, ♀ and brood 31 May (ADW); ♀ and 4 ducklings Tentsmuir, Fife, 30 June (DWO); nest reported Westfield, Caith (P. T. Castell); few prs bred Ork (EB). Summer records: pr Whitton Loch, Rox, 23 June (RSB); ♂ Achanalt, Ross, 22 May (RHD).

Migration: Fair Isle pr 6-20 Mar, pr 23 Apr, ♂ 15 Sep (RAB) Shet, 4 Fetlar 9-26 Mar (ISR), pr Spiggie 26 Apr, singles Fetlar 4 June, Walls 9 June, Virkie 26 Aug, Clickhimin 22 Oct (DC, RSPB, JSp); I Heb, 4 Gruinart, Islay, 19 Mar, pr Ardnave 23 Mar (P. Hope-Jones).



Peak counts: Kirk/Wig numbers apparently low, 230 Carsethorn-Drumburn 16 Jan (JGY), 273 Wigtown Merse and 281 Luce Bay 16 Jan (RCD); Renf. 164 Longhaugh Point 30 Jan. 167 on 19 Nov (HG, IPG); Fife, 56 Eden estuary 11 Feb (AG); Midl, 8 Moorfoot Reservoir 17 Sep (GLS, RWJS); E Loth, 7 Aberlady 9 Sep (RKMCG); Stir, 125 Skinflats 18 Nov, 147 on 16 Dec (JM); Kinross, peak L Leven 73 on 19 Oct (AA, GC); Aber, 5 Auchlossan 12 Mar (RSBy), 5 Cotehill 10 Sep (GMD); Inv, 141 Longman Bay 13 Feb, 61 on 18 Dec (MR, ELY), 25 Beaully Firth 13 Feb, 24 on 17 Dec (MIH).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*. Small numbers bred Ork (EB); few prs Insh Marshes, Inv; 6-10 pairs Balranald, O Heb (RSPB); ♀ with brood Machrihanish, Arg (C. J. Mead); prs several sites Caith (PMC); Perth, 4 prs bred at one loch (EJM). Migration: Fair Isle, ♂ 14 Mar, pr 3-4 May, 1 on 9-14 Aug (RAB); Shet, 1-2 Strand Loch 3-31 May (DC), others at Hillwell to 11 Aug; E Ross pr L Eye 13 Nov (CGH); Inv, pr Longman Bay 10 Dec (RHD), 1 Castle Stuart Bay 5 Mar (CRC), 18 L Insh 10 Oct (RL); Moray, 1 Fochabers 22 Oct (JMB); Aber, 5 Ythan 8 Mar (NEB); 2 Isle of May 6 May (CWB); 2 Colonsay, I Heb, 31 May (TDHM).

Peak counts: Kinr, L Leven 620+ late Sep, down to 450 late Oct (AA); Fife, present Kilconquhar 3 Apr-15 Oct, peak 348 on 17 Sep (DWO); Perth, 60 on loch 27 Mar (EJM); Rox, 44 Hoselaw 16 Jan, 55 on 5 Nov (E. R. Meek); Lan, 83 Possilmarsh 15 Oct (TPD); Renf, 34 Barr Loch 11 Oct (IPG); Kirk, exceptional numbers L Ken, 200+ on 16 Nov (ABD).

†\***Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*. Perth, pr 16 Mar (EJM, DST); 45 on 12 Nov, 40+ on 17 Dec (per VMT) suggests good breeding season; Midl, ♂ Blackford Pond 16 Sep (LLJV).

†**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*. ♀ Thurso river, Caith, 17-22 Dec (PMC, (AFMC, SL et al.).

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*. No record of breeding. Summer records: Fair Isle ♀ 27 May-12 June (RAB); Shet, pr Hillwell 22 July (RJT), pr Clickhimin 27 June (DIMW); Suth, ♂ L Shin 12 May (RHD), ♂ L Eriboll 16 May (DCH); 4 ♂♂ off Inverness 15 May-21 June (JMCK, RHD, MR); Eanff, ♂ L Builg 14 May (JE); Moray 1 Spey Bay 20 May (DBMCG); Fife, pair Kilconquhar 7 May (KB, RW); 1 summered Musselburgh, Midl, 2 Leith 26 June (GJ). Counts: Shet, 40 Hillwell 7 Nov (DC) and 40 Asta Nov (BM) more than usual; Ork, 170 Harray Loch Nov and Dec (EB); Ross, 300 Edderton 11 Dec (RHD); 35 Inverness 3 Nov-Dec (JMCK); Moray, 84 Burghead 6 Feb (RHD), 40 Findhorn 24 Dec (RAFKOS); Aber, 30 River Don 4 Dec (RLS); Fife, 5000 Largo Bay-Methil Jan (AG); Midl, 18000 Seafield Jan (AWGJ), 5 Musselburgh 8 Aug, 19 on 28 Sep, 7000 on 25 Nov, 20000+ mid Dec (RKMCG, RWJS, LLJV); I Heb, 1100 wintered Islay (CGB); Renf, 232 West Ferry 26 Feb (HG, IPG); Dunb, 220 Ardoch 20 Feb (AGG); Kirk, 331 Carsethorn 16 Jan (per JGY).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*. E Loth, 1-2 prs hatched young Aberlady—first breeding record (DJN); Kirk, possible increase in breeders (ADW); Midl, good season Moorfoot Reservoir, 60 young from c20 broods (JB, RWJS); Inv, 27 young hatched L Laide, half survived (MIH).

Peak counts: Shet, 131 Tingwall 15 Mar (BM), 154 Clickhimin 24 Dec (DC); Ork, up to 1400 Harray Loch Nov/Dec (EB); Caith, 300 L Watten Nov (PRJ); Inv, 143 Clachnaharry 17 Dec (MIH); Aber, 200 Don estuary 9 Sep (BJS); Angus, 480 West Ferry 1 Feb (BP); Perth 300 Feb (RMCM); Midl, 400 Moorfoot Reservoir Aug, 320 on 1 Sep (JB, RWJS); Edinburgh lochs 500 on 12 Feb, 430 on 18 Dec (DRA, LLJV); Peeb, 165 Portmore Loch 16 Jan (JB); Renf, 215 West Ferry 13 Feb, 170 on 19 Nov (HG, IPG), 172 Barr Loch 24 Aug (HG); Ayr, 130 L Martnaham 29 Mar (WRB).

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*. 5 prs bred Perth (EJM); bred Duns Dish, Rossie Moor, Angus (per GMC); bred Wig (HM-R).

Migration: 2 St Kilda 5 May (DSt); 5W Faraid Head, Suth, 13 May (RHD); E Loth, pr Aberlady 20 Apr (MWF).

Peak counts: Shet, 44 Brow Loch 13 Mar (BM); 34 L Olginay Oct (PRJ); E Ross, 35 Bayfield Loch 28 Mar (RHD); Inv, 40 L Ashie moulting flock 4 July, 100 on 20 July (JEH, MR, EY), 43 L Morlich 16 Oct (RHD); Perth, 70 Carsebreck 13 Feb (EJM, RMcM); Kinross, autumn influx L Leven from 10 Aug, 100-200 Sep-Nov, 400 on 4 Dec, 700 on 17 Dec (GC); Midl, 7500 Duddingston mid Jan, iced out by Feb; 15 on 17 Sep, 1500 on 15 Oct, 6000 on 12 Nov, 8000 on 12 Dec (DRA), white-headed ♂ Leith 29 Jan (LC), Duddingston 27 Oct, oiled in Dec (LLJV); Renf, 750 Barr Loch 12 Oct (WRB); 20 Clachan, Arg, 4 Mar (TDHM); 31 Soulseat Loch, Wig, 23 July (D&JTh).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*. Bred E Inv, 9 ducklings hatched from nest-box 28 May, 6-7 of them reared, 2 other ♀♀ present all summer but did not breed (probably young birds reared in 1970) (RHD). Summering records from L Leven (AA); 5 L Ken, Kirk, 31 May (ADW); ♀ L Tummel, Perth, 31 Aug (J M Pinder) and elsewhere.

Peak counts and migration: Fair Isle, singles 9-12 Jan, 30 Apr (RAB); 87 Tingwall, Shet, 15 Feb (BM); Caith, 100 L Heilen 12 Mar (SL); Inverness, 328 on 14 Feb (RHD); 61 L Linnhe 2 Apr, last 26 Apr (JASN); Moray, 180 Burghead 6 Jan, 250 on 6 Feb (RHD), 163 Spey Bay 19 Mar (JMB); 100 Banff 13 Feb (AFWS); Angus, 427 West Ferry 6 Jan (BP); Kinross, 170 L Leven 15 Feb, 63 on 16 Mar (AG); Fife, 800 Methil 18 Feb (AG), 52 Kilconquhar 12 Mar, 1030 on 9 Apr, 950 on 20 Apr, 100 on 2 May, 50 on 5 May (DWO); Midl, 2000 Edinburgh Jan-Mar, 70 Moorfoot Reservoir 25 Mar, last 20 May (JB, RWJS); Renf, 360 Woodhall 26 Jan (IPG); Dunb, 250 Cardross 29 Jan (IPG); Ayr, 220 Doonfoot 28 Feb (WRB); Wig, 107 L Ryan 16 Jan (RCD).

Autumn arrivals: Fair Isle very few from 21 Oct (RAB); Shet from 20 Oct (RJT); Inv, L Linnhe from 22 Oct (JASN), max 72 on 22 Dec (RHD); Kinross, 10 L Leven 20 Sep, 70+ mid Nov, 120 on 19 Dec (AA); Midl, first at Moorfoot Reservoir 23 Sep, 55 on 26 Nov (JB, RWJS); 4 Rutherford, Rox, 22 Sep (J Farr).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*. Winter and spring: Caith, 50 Dunnet Bay 16 Apr (PMC); Suth, 80 Balnakeil 19 Feb (RHD), 30 on 24 Apr (AG), 1000 Dornoch-Embo 1 May (DMcD); Moray, 850 Findhorn 6 Jan, 1500 Burghead 6 Jan, 1600 on 6 Feb, 300 on 16 Mar (RHD); 350 Spey Bay 5 Apr (JMB); Aber, 60 Ythan 16 Jan, last 5 on 11 May (JAL, BPL); Angus, max 9 Lunan Bay 18 Apr (GMC); Fife, 200 Tentsmuir Jan-Mar, 110 on 23 Apr (DWO, BP), 127 Methil 23 Jan (DNB); Midl, 213 Musselburgh 9 Jan, 110 on 23 Apr, last pr on 7 May (LLJV); I Heb, 20 west of Jura 8 Apr (RLMcM); Ayr, 12 Irvine 3 Jan (AGS).

Summer records: Fair Isle, ♀ 14-19 May, ♂ 28 May (RAB); Shet, pr Sandwater Loch 26-28 May, six singles in June (RJT). Autumn arrivals: 1 Oct, 5 Burghead, Moray, 15 on 15 Oct (RHD); Fair Isle, from 11 Oct, max 13 on 26 Oct (RAB); Shet, from 18 Oct (RJT); Caith, first 3 Thurso 18 Oct (SL), 200 Castlehill 24 Dec (PMC, AFCMC); Suth, 2000 Embo 12 and 25 Dec (RHD, DMcD); O Heb, first 15 Oct Stornoway (RMcI); E Ross, 5 Chanonry Ness 20 Oct (JMCK); Inv, 65 Whiteness 24 Dec, ♀ Fort William 22 Dec (RHD); Moray, 1200 Findhorn 15 Oct, 3000 on 24 Dec (highest count ever) (RHD); Aber, first 2 Ythan 17 Oct (JAL), 105 Blackdog 12 Nov (RLS); 10 Fife Ness 21 Oct (JB); 6 Musselburgh, Midl 15 Oct, 100 on 5 Nov (DRL, LLJV). Inland: Renf, singles Barr Loch 12 Nov (WCW), Castle Semple Loch 19 Nov (RGC), L Martnaham 27 Dec (WRB); 1 Cobbinshaw, Midl, 14 Nov (GLS).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*. Counts: 200 Dornoch, Suth, 12 Dec (RHD); Moray, 84 Findhorn 12 Jan (RAFKOS), 100 on 24 Dec (RHD); Fife, 1500 Largo Bay 16 Feb (DWO). Other records: Shet, very few, max 5 Dales Voe 15 Mar (DC, BM); Suth, 5 Eddrachillis Bay 9 Sep (IDP); 1 pr St Kilda 16 Apr (DSt); 4 Isle of May 16 Oct (JMSA); singles Musselburgh, Midl, 13 Feb, 3 Nov, 18 Nov (2) and 16 Dec (LLJV); Ayr, 5 Prestwick 2 Nov (AGS), 2 on 2-6 Dec (BCF); 1 Ardmore Point, Dunb, 19 Nov (SMDA, SJ). Inland: 1 L Leven, Kinross, 27 Aug (GC, RB); L Ken, Kirk, 16 Jan (IA).

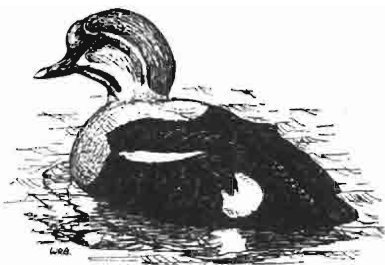
**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*. Possibly bred Shet, where several prs on freshwater lochs from 26 Apr, max 4 prs on Yell (RJT); Caith, 10-13 prs on breeding lochs, but no young seen (JTRS *et al.*); central Ross, ♀ with 4 ducklings; 3 prs on N Perth loch 27 May (RHD); 3 prs summered L Lomond (JM *et al.*); ♀ L Luichart, Ross, 9 May (DCH); ♂ Handa, Suth, 27-28 May (AG); ♀ Fair Isle 6-8 July (RAB).

Peak counts: Suth, 3000+ Dornoch 30 Sep, 5000+ on 15 Oct (DMcD), 7000 on 12 Dec (RHD); Moray, 1200 Burghead and 2000 Findhorn 6 Jan, 5000 Findhorn 15 Oct, 3000 on 24 Dec (RHD); 17 Isle of May 7 Aug (HG, IPG); Midl, 100 Musselburgh 9 Jan (LLJV); 150 summered off Aberlady, E Loth (RHH); 163N in 2½ hrs Eyemouth, Ber, 24 Sep (TDo).

**\*Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri*. ♂ Vorrán Island, S Uist, O Heb, May-Aug (R. Jones, J. O'Sullivan *et al.*), Dremisdale 22 Nov (Mrs M. E. Lacey), present into 1973, 7th record for Scotland. Third year in succession that this rare species has been recorded in Scotland; compare recent increase in King Eider sightings.

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*. Fair Isle, first egg 13 May, ducklings on sea 9 June, but late ♀ incubating 21 July (RAB); possible increase to 100 prs Isle of May (NJG); only 2 broods (1+4) recorded L Eil, W Inv (JCu, JASN); 10 prs nested Handa, Suth, 5 prs reared 17 young (AG); 1000+ ducklings off Tentsmuir, Fife, 25 June (BP); c50 prs bred Fidra, Forth (RWJS).

Peak counts: 785 full grown Fair Isle 7 Aug (RAB); Inv, 90+ L Eil 13-18 Oct (JCu, JASN); Suth, 2000 (c55% ♂♂) L Fleet bar 12 Dec (RHD); Aber, 1600 Aberdeen 12 Mar, 960 Bridge of Don 15 Oct (RLS); Angus, c21000 Tay estuary 24 Sep (NKA); Fife, 5000 Tentsmuir Point 9 Apr (DWO), 8000 on 14 Apr (BP), 11000 Largo Bay 24 May (AG); 2750 Seafield, Midl, 19 Jan (AWGJ); 1000 Bonahaven, Islay, 3 Jan (CGB); 500 Dipple, Ayr, 30 July (WD); 680 L Ryan, Wig, 27 Aug (RCD).



**\*King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*. Shet, ♂ Trondra 8 Mar-13 June (DC, BM *et al.*), ♂ Ronas Voe 14 Mar-8 May (BM, RJT *et al.*); Ayr ♂ River Irvine estuary 22 Dec 1971 present to 15 Apr (IMD, KCCH, AGS *et al.*);

Arg, ♂ Clachan, Kintyre, 18-24 Dec (N. Duncan). The Shet records almost certainly refer to further sightings of the two ♂♂ seen in previous years; the Ayr and Argyll sightings might refer to further sightings of the ♂ seen in SW Scotland in recent years.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*. Peak counts: Suth, 126 Brora 16 July, 200 Coull Links 12 Dec (RHD); Ross, 50+ L Gairloch 10 June (ENH); Inv, 200 Beaully Firth 18 Nov (RHD), 450 L Linnhe 12 Aug (JR); Fife, 170 Tentsmuir 12 Nov (RMC), 200+S Fife Ness 3 Sep (DWO); W Loth, 200 off Dalmeny 4 Nov (TCS); Midl, 155 Musselburgh 28 Sep (JB); Angus, 630 Kinnaber 25 Aug (DIMW); 73 Gourrock-Largs, Renf/Ayr, 15 Jan (HG, IPG). Migrants: 1 Isle of May 26 May (DRG); pr L Leven, Kinross, 14 May, singles 27 May, 22-26 Oct (GC).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*. Bred River Nevis, W Inv (JR); increase in summer records W Ross, W Suth, e.g. 4 prs Gruinard river, W Ross, 7 May (ENH); also in SW Scotland where 3 prs bred Bogton Loch, Ayr (DWMcG) and ♀ + brood Inchconnachan, L Lomond, Dunb (JM).

Peak counts: numbers further increased in E and Borders; Inv, 452 Beaully Firth 4 Jan (MIH); Aber, 30 L of Skene 25 Nov (JP); Kinross, 42 L Leven 1 Jan, 90 on 31 Jan, 160 on 8 Feb, 120 on 21 Feb, 30 in Mar, last 2 on 20 May (AG); Fife, peak Morton Lochs 47 on 12 Mar (DWO), 19 Cameron Reservoir 12 Feb (JARG); Midl, 50 Cobbinshaw Reservoir 18 Mar, 70 on 28 Dec (RWJS, GLS); 48 Gladhouse 6 Feb-5 Mar, last 25 Mar (7), first 23 July, 15 on 16 Aug, 76 on 17 Dec (AWGJ), small numbers Gullane and Tynninghame; Rox, 19 Yetholm Loch 5 Feb (RSB), 20 Fruid Reservoir, Peeb, 19 Aug (JB); 16 Barr Loch, Renf, 9 Dec (RGC); 60 Lochmaben lochs, Dumf, 12 Mar (RTS); 40 L Ken, Kirk, 5 Nov (DRW).

Migrants: Fair Isle, singles 16-19 Jan, 6-14 Mar, 19 Mar, 26 Mar-1 Apr, 13 Apr (RAB); Shet, 6 Scalloway 3 Jan (RJ), some to 2 May, 1 Sand-water 29 Oct; Caith, 7 L Meadie 20 Mar (PMC).



\***Smew** *Mergus albellus*. Most records in five years; about 26 individuals in winter/spring to 26 Mar, 1 Aug record and about 10 individuals from 24 Sep. Shet, ♀ Lochend 15 Feb-15 Mar (DC, BM), ♀ Cullivoe, Yell, 12-19 Mar (RJT), ♀ Sullom Voe 26 Mar (WHJ), ♀ Benston 21-22 Oct, 11-18 Nov (IS, PKK, BM); Moray, ♂ Spynie 16 Jan (Apr); Aber, 2 ♀♀ Strathbeg 6 Feb, ♀ 12 Feb (AGK), ♂ 20 Feb-5 Mar (RSBy, JE, AGK), ♀ Ythan 11 Mar (NEB, LNC, JAL); Angus, ♀ Monikie 16 Jan (BP), ♀ Montrose Basin 10 Aug (GMC); Perth, ♀ L Macanrie 11 Nov (VEC); Kinross, ♀ L Leven 1 Jan-12 Mar (AA, AG); Fife, ♂ Cameron Reservoir 19 Feb-12 Mar, ♂ Kilconquhar 20 Feb and 12 Mar (JARG,

DWO); Clack, ♀ Craigrie Pond 13 Feb (TP); Midl, pr Musselburgh 30 Jan-27 Feb, ♂ to 19 Mar, ♀ Threipmuir 18 Mar (LLJV); Peeb, ♀ Portmore 7 Feb-11 Mar (JB, GLS); Rox, pr River Tweed, Kelso, 13 Feb (DCo), ♂ Hoselaw Loch 13 Feb (DCo), pr Hoselaw 19 Feb (RSB), ♂ Rutherford 5 Dec (TDO), ♂ Hoselaw 30 Dec (ERM); Selk, pr Faldonside Jan-6 Feb (per AJS), ♂ on 10 Dec, ♂ Lindean Reservoir 17 Dec (TDo *et al.*); Ayr, singles Prestwick 9 Jan (RWF), Dipple Shore 24 Sep (DB, GR); Renf, Castle Semple Loch 25 Nov (HG), White Loch 17 Dec (HG, RAJ), Aird Meadows 24 Dec (EMcQ); Dumf, ♂ Lochmaben 29 Jan (CW), pr 13 Feb-7 Mar (NEA, RTS).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*. Shet, 12 prs Virkie late Mar, pr bred Hillwell (per RJT); Suth, 2 prs bred Handa, arrived 27 Mar (AG); 35 juvs Invergowrie Bay, Perth, 5 July (RC, EJM); Kinross, very poor season L Leven, 18 prs but only 9 young flew from 6 broods (AA); Fife, 130+ prs bred Tentsmuir (DWO); 1 pr bred Isle of May (NJG); c20 prs bred Longhaugh, Renf, with 100+ young (HG, IPG).

Peak counts: Caith, 23 Sandside Bay 23 Apr (PMC); Inv, 113 Longman 13 Feb, 6 on 15 Oct, 73 on 22 Oct, 103 on 23 Dec (JMCK, MR); 110 Beaully Firth 5 Mar (MIH); Moray, 121 Findhorn 12 Mar (RAFKOS); Perth, 260 Invergowrie 16 May (RC, EJM, MAM); Fife, 1000 Eden estuary 13 Feb (JM); W Loth, 1400 Avonmouth 5 Mar (JB); Dunb, 1000 Pillar Bank 4 Jan, 2045 on 4 Feb (IPG); Renf, 502 Longhaugh Point 6 Mar, 1142 on 4 July (HG, IPG); 68 Irvine, Ayr 30 Jan.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*. Flock 223 moulting adults at Badanloch, Suth, 16 July (RHD) probably comprised failed and non-breeding members of Caith/Suth population; W Ross, 15 prs bred Summer Isles (ACMcL), 21 L Maree feral flock 7 Mar, later 7 ads and 6 young 17 June (ENH); Inv, small feral flock L Laggan had good breeding success.

Winter-spring: Kirk, 600 New Galloway 2 Feb, main departure 14 Apr (ADW); 1700+ Isle of Bute Mar (IH); Ayr, 700+ Mochrum Loch 25 Mar (WRB); Rox, 904 Hoselaw Loch 19 Mar (RSB); Fife, max 1900 Kilconquhar 12 Mar, 350 on 16 Apr (DWO); Kinross, 1500 L Leven in Jan, down to 400 Feb, 1500 on 20 Feb, 1000 in Mar, last 23 Apr (AA, AG, WW); Moray, 759 Findhorn 2 Apr (RAFKOS); Inv, big passage N 9-22 Apr, peak 400+ on 9th (RSPB); Suth, passage N at Handa 9-24 Apr, max 555 on 19th (AG); Ross, 1000 Fearn 28 Mar, 2000 L Eye 14 Apr (RHD), 340 L Broom 13 Apr (SL); 41 St Kilda 1 May (DST).

Autumn: national count on 4-5 Nov, gave 65000 in Scotland, 29750 in Perth, 9790 in Aber, 5300 in Angus/Kinc, 2300 Kinross, 2340 in Kirk; higher than usual numbers in Nairn, Moray and SE Scotland; breeding success poor, with only 15.1% young in sample of 1400, mean brood size 1.8 (MAO *et al.*). Light passage Fair Isle and Shet, first 7 at Fair Isle 18 Sep (RAB); 23S Kiltarlity, Inv, 20 Sep, many on 14-16 Oct (MIH), main passage S over Spey Valley 18-24 Oct, 1000 over Insh 24th (RHD, RL); Aber, 8 Meikle Loch 10 Sept (GMD); Angus, 46 on 21 Sep (GMC); arrival Perth from 11 Oct (VMT); Kinross, 4 L Leven 3 Oct, 150 on 12th, 800 on 13th, 1700 on 22nd, 2300 on 5 Nov, 3500+ on 10 Dec (AA, GC, WW); Fife, 4 Eden estuary 27 Aug (PNJC); Midl, 5 Gladhouse 24 Sep, 1500 on 22 Oct (WB, LY); first 15 Lochmaben, Dumf, 12 Oct (RTS); Rox, 300 Hoselaw Loch 4 Sep (LDGL), 2300 on 5 Nov (ERM).

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*. Only reports of European race. *A.a. albifrons* were: 2 Kinmount, Annan, Dumf, 16 Jan (RTS), singles L Leven, Kinross, 31 Mar-15 Apr (AA, GC), Strathbeg, Aber, 29 Oct (MM). Other reports unspecified unless marked G for Greenland race *A.a. flavirostris*. Shet, single G Spiggie 2 Jan (DC), Mid Yell 23 Jan (RJT); Ork, 50 L of Banks 13 Mar (CJB); Caith, 200 G Broubster 13 Feb and 12 Mar, 130 L Calder 12 Mar (PRJ); Perth, small flock Tibbermore 5 Mar-19 Apr, peak 17 on 29 Mar (EJM, RMcM); singles E counties

Jan-Mar including first sighting at Tynninghame, E Loth, 1 on 16 Jan (RWJS); 72G Endrick mouth, Dumb, 12 Mar (CP); 37 Isle of Bute 22 Mar (IH); Wig, 100G wintered Moor of Genoch, last 20 Apr (RCD); Kirk, 300G wintered L Ken, departures 14, 23 and 24 Apr (ADW), 200 Orchardton Jan (DCU).

Autumn: 8 L Calder, Caith, 8 Oct (PRJ), 60 Thurso 9 Oct (PMC, AFCMC); 50 Little L Shieldaig, Ross, 15 Oct (ENH); first Moor of Genoch, Wig, 62 on 18 Oct (RCD). Counts: 365 L Ken, Kirk, 16 Nov (ADW); 2600G Islay 12 Nov (MAO); 60 L of Tankerness, Ork, 29 Oct (CJB); numbers low L Eye, E Ross, 26 on 4 Nov (CGH), 32 on 11 Dec (RHD).

\***Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*. 18 Castle Douglas, Kirk, 19 Feb (AJW); 16 Endrick mouth, Dumb, 4-8 Jan (EAM, RS); Aber, 4 Esslemont 1 Apr (T. Hodd), singles Whiteness Head, Inv, 16 Jan (RHD); Fair Isle 13-15 Feb (GJB) and Cullivoe, Yell, Shet, 12-18 Mar (RJT). Autumn: Aber, 2 Auchmacoy 15 Oct (MAMcD), 6 Slains and 6 Strathbeg 17 Oct (JE, PM, WM); Kinross, 4 Vane Farm 21 Oct (KB, TP), 6 on 23 Oct (GC, BHM), 2 on 28 Oct (KB, TP).

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Kinross, 3000 L Leven in Jan, 300 in early Feb, 1000 later in month increased to 4100 late Feb/early Mar, 2500 on 30 Apr down to 400 on 2 May, last 60 on 17 May; Midl, 5000 Gladhouse/Fala on 20 Feb, 9400 on 19 Mar, down to 3700 on 22 Apr—departure slightly late. Serious oiling incident in Cromarty Firth on 21 Mar; about half the flock of 2000 at Nigg Bay were oiled, and about 500 very badly oiled birds were counted on Nigg Hill on 23 Mar. Numbers similar on 28 Mar, but even the worst affected birds were able to fly, though in distressed condition. Some 30+ of flock of 340 at Cromarty, Black Isle, badly oiled 2 Apr, and 2 oiled birds Vane Farm, Kinross, early April probably from this incident; 70 badly oiled birds still at Nigg on 26 Apr; and one at Jemimaville 27 Sep; (RHD, CGH *et al.*).

Summering or late birds at Fair Isle 8 June (RAB); Butt of Lewis, O Heb, 30 May (WAJC); North Rona 30 June-5 July (JAL, ARM); Fidra, Forth, 17 June (RWJS); small number summered L Leven (AA, GC).

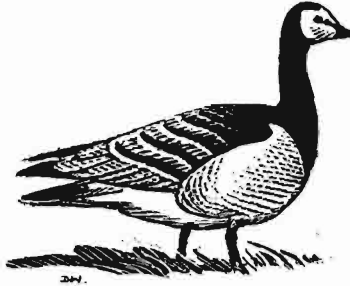
Autumn: national count on 4-5 Nov gave 68000 in Scotland; peak areas being Perth 16980, Angus/Kinc 10090, Fife 7680 and Midl 6960; breeding success poor with 11.4% young in sample of 1500, mean brood size 1.6 (MAO *et al.*). Immigration on 9 Sep, when first sightings from: Suth, 9 Handa (AG); 17S L Knockie, Inv (MIH); 150 L Leven, Kinross (AA, GC); 17 Gladhouse/Fala, Midl (WB); 12 Gullane, E Loth (AMt). 129 Solway, Dumf, 10 Sep (JGY) and first Angus and Fife 11 Sep. At L Leven, numbers increased to 700 on 14 Sep, 5000 on 2-4 Oct, 9000 on 13 Oct down to 7000+ on 22 Oct, 4650 on 5 Nov, 2000+ on 10 Dec (AA, GC, WW); 73 Cameron Reservoir, Fife, 20 Sep, 2500 on 15 Oct, 6740 on 4 Nov (JARG). Heavy passage noted several areas 2 Oct.

†**Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*. Blue-phase at Mulindry, Islay, 1 Heb, 26 Feb (TCS); there are usually more sightings in Scotland, although mainly presumed escapes.

†**Ross's Goose** *Anser rossii*. 1 L Leven, Kinross, found dead early Jan (had arrived for winter 23 Sep 1971) was old regular (AA, AG), 1 with Pinkfeet at Blackford, Perth, 2 Nov (MAO).

\***Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*. P=pale-breasted *B.b.hrota*; D=dark-breasted *B.b. bernicla*; others unspecified. Shet, 1 Skerries 24 Feb, 1P Virkie 15 Oct, 1D there on 25 Dec (AWH); Inv, 2 Beaulie Firth 22 Apr (MKMcD-D); Banff, 1 Buckie 19 Mar-15 Apr (DBMcG); Aber, 9D Don estuary 31 Jan (MAMcD). 1D Strathbeg 6 Feb (AGK, RS), 1 Ythan 4 Aug (NEB, JAL), 1 Strathbeg 11 Nov (PDR); Angus, 7D West Haven 21 Oct

(TMC); Perth, 1P Tibbermore 8 Feb (RLMcM), 1 on 17 Nov (EJM); Fife, 2P Eden estuary 19 Jan (EJM, IMcK); Isle of May 1 on 11 Oct (NKA, PK); Midl, 2 Musselburgh 19-23 Jan (JB, GLS, LLJV), 1 Gladhouse 29 Oct (LY); E Loth, 12 Gosford Bay 5 Feb (AMt), singles Aberlady 5 Feb (GLS, RGC), Tynninghame 30 Jan and 5 Feb (RWJS), 2 Gullane 20 Feb (JAN); Skye, 3P Pabay 13 Apr, 1 on 27 Oct (ECG); 1 Islay 1 Mar (CGB); Dunb, 2 Cardross 22 Oct (DS); Dumf, 1P Annan 16 Jan (RTS); Wig, 2P L Ryan 15 Oct (RCD), 3D on 28-29 Oct (DLI).



**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*. Counts: I Heb, 17100 Islay 19 Mar, 17300 on 12 Nov (MAO *et al.*); O Heb, 150 Stornoway 9 Jan (RMCl); Suth, 155 Eilean Hoan 19 Feb and 15 Apr (RHD), up to 70 Handa 9 Mar-30 Apr (AG); 270 St Kilda 1 May (DSt), 1000N Balranald, North Uist, 23 Apr, and 5000 on 1 May (RSPB).

Summer records: 1 with Canada Geese Beaully Firth, Inv, 4 June (RHD, MIH); 1 Lochend, Shet, 3 May-10 June (RJT); 1 Lundin Links, Fife, 13 Aug (tame) (RDB); 5 Endrick mouth, Dunb, 2 July (JM, DS). Autumn immigration from 29 Sep, 3 at Fair Isle (RAB); 4 Doonfoot, Ayr, 30 Sep (RTW); small numbers from many areas; peak numbers outside usual areas, 50 Strathbeg, Aber, 14 Oct (ADKR); 15 Blackford, Perth, 3-25 Nov (MAO, VMT *et al.*); 9 Gladhouse, Midl, 22 Oct (LY); 22 Irvine, Ayr, 8 Oct (RMR); 19 Endrick mouth 12 Oct (TW).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*. Beaully Firth moulting flock of Yorkshire/English birds: 256 on 4 June, 508 on 14 July, 520 on 24 July (RHD, MIH)—noticeable increase on previous peaks of 1971 (378), 1970 (232), 1969 (c300), 1968 (c250). 72 Conon islands, E Ross, 4 June (RHD, MIH) moulted Beaully Firth, but 7 including leucistic one) moulted at Munloch Bay, E Ross, 8 July-3 Sep (RHD *et al.*). 9 Dubh lochs (ND23) 6 and 9 July (J. A. Miller, JTRS) and 1 L Scarmclate 15 July (RHD) appear to be new for Caith.

Migrants: few sightings in S and E, peaks 17 West Haven, Angus, 21 Aug (TMC); 8 L Leven, Kinross, 17-30 Sep, 7 on 21-22 Oct (GC); 3 Isle of May 18 Oct (JMSA, EH); 30 Gladhouse, Midl, 15 Aug, 17 on 19th, 8 on 31 Aug (RWJS, LLJV); 57 L Lomond, Dunb, 17 Sep (JM, RS, TW).

SW feral population: no counts Wig, but 40 + one gosling Rowbank Reservoir, Renf, 13 July (RHH); Perth counts include 20 Loch of Lowes 10 Apr (MD), 45 Perth 23 Sep (R. K. Butler).

Other migrants: I Heb, 1 large Canada Islay 18 Mar (PH-J), 1 medium-sized Canada with Greenland Whitefronts 18 Mar (CGB); 3 small Canadas with Barnacles 26 Mar (TCS); 1 medium-large 12 Nov (MAO).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*. 6 St Kilda 22 Apr, 8 on 1 May (DSt). Counts: 230 Strathbeg, Aber, 24 Aug (RAH); 195 Montrose Basin, Angus, 26 June (BP); 47 Endrick mouth, Dunb, 15 Oct (CP); 45 summered River Ayr (WRB); numbers rather low L Ken, Kirk, 18 on 23 Jan (ADW).

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*. Winter-spring counts: 62 Yetholm, Rox, 12 Mar (RSB); 133 Alva, Clack, 22 Jan (CJH); 73 L Ore, Fife, 16 Jan (JM), 130 Kingskettle 15 Jan (DWO); 76 Auchlossan, Aber, 5 Feb (RSBy); 55 Insh, Inv, 7 Apr (RHD); 44 L Scarmclate, Caith, 26 Feb (SL). Spring departure: last 4 New Galloway 16 Apr (ADW); 30N Penicuik, Midl, 11 Apr (CW), 24 over Edinburgh 18 Apr (GJ); last pair Kiltarlity, Inv, 2 May (MIH); 12 St Kilda 25 Apr, 5 on 1 May (DSt); 1 Heb, 17 Pabay 13 Apr (ECG).

Summering records: Shet (2), Suth (3), W Ross (2), O Heb (4), St Kilda (2), E Inv (3), Moray (1), Kinross (1), Clack (2).

Autumn migration: Shet, 3 L Spiggie 10 Sep, build-up late Oct to max 144 mid Nov (FH *et al.*); Fair Isle, small passage from 11 Oct, max 14 on 8 Nov (RAB); Ork, first 10 L of Ayre 15 Sep (EB); 2 Longman, Inv, 27 Sep (JMCK); 36+ L Eye, Ross, 29 Sep (EBT); O Heb, first 3 Oct (WAJC); first L Insh, Inv, 18 Oct, 4 on 22nd, 88 (17 juv) on 19 Dec (RL). Counts: Caith, 190 L Heilen Oct (DG), 150 L of Wester 15 Dec (PMC); E Ross, 135 (28 juv) Delny 3 Nov (CGH), 350 L Eye 11 Dec, 150 Delny 11 Dec (RHD); Aber, 700 Strathbeg 17 Oct (JE), 120 L Davan 15 and 21 Oct (RLS); L Leven, Kinross, first 12 Oct, 63 by 17 Oct, peak 90+ on 5 Nov (AA, GC); 120 Alva, Clack, 17 Dec (CJH); E Loth, 39 Drem 17 Dec (AMt, LLJV); Renf, 168 (20% juv) Inchinnan 17 Nov (IPG, GTW), 113 Stanely Reservoir 26 Nov (DLC) probably same as Inchinnan, 142 Barr Loch 20 Oct (WRB); Kirk, 35 L Ken 16 Nov (LAU, ADW).

**\*Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus bewickii*. Winter-spring to 12 Mar; Shet, 1 L Spiggie 19 Jan-end Feb (yellow ring on right leg—probably ringed Slimbridge), then 7 to 12 Mar, 2 Sandwater 13 Mar, 2 Whalsay 10 Mar (DC *et al.*); Aber, 3 Strathbeg 5 Mar (JE); E Loth, 7 wintered Drem to 11 Mar (LLJV *et al.*); singles Lindean, Selk, 8 Jan (J. Malone); Rutherford, Rox, 9 Feb (JMe); Drumburn, Kirk, 16 Jan (JGY).

Autumn: Midl, 11 (2 juv) Musselburgh 19 Nov (LLJV); E Loth, 5 Drem 10-31 Dec (LLJV); Wig, 1 L Connell 4 Nov (RCD), 4 L Ryan 31 Dec (L. Knowles); I Heb, 1 L Ardnave, Islay, 20 Oct (WMcC); Perth, 8 Kingoodie 19 Nov (EJM), 4 Killichonan 2 Dec (ECP).

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*. Better year in W Inv/N Arg, where 10 out of 12 prs successful reared 10 young (JCu, JR *et al.*); 9 prs reared 10 young from sample of 15 prs that laid eggs S Arg (AGG, MJPB); poor season Speyside, at least two desertions as well as deliberate interference (RHD, DNW); no success Rhum, 1 Heb (PW) or Caith (PMC). Peripheral pairs apparently more successful than last year; more sightings immature birds in Borders. Increased evidence of poisoned baits being used to kill eagles in Highlands (RHD, DNW).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*. Breeding reports mostly encouraging: increase Caith, probably 6 nests in county (PMC *et al.*); probably 2 prs bred Ork (EB); plentiful NW Ross (ACMcL); good year Arran (MHD), Ayre (WCW, WRB, BCF); pr reared 1 young Gifford, E Loth (CBL); 2 young fledged S Rox (W. Ellis), but much persecuted Kirk (ADW). Migrants: Shet, 1 Kergord 29 Jan-30 Mar (DC *et al.*), 1 Scalloway 31 Dec (DC); Aber, 1 Torry 21 Aug (RSBy), 1 Forvie 12 Sep (EJ); Kinross, singles Vane Farm 8 Sep and 25 Oct (GC); Fife, 1 Kirkcaldy 12 Sep (PAL); Midl, 1 Duddingston 27 Aug (DRA); E Loth, 1 Barns Ness 29 Apr (LLJV).

**\*Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*. W Ross, 1 Gruinard Bay-Aultbea 27 Feb-20 Mar (PS, ENH)—one there 19-22 Oct 1971 (7: 126); Fife, 2 Tentsmuir from 10 Dec (PNJC, DWO); Midl, 1 Moorfoots 5 Nov (WB).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*. Continued increase in breeding population reported from: Caith, 9 prs bred (PMC); NW Suth, pr reared 2 young Scourie (IDP); W Ross, Inv, Midl, E Loth, Rox, Selk, Arran, Bute, Central and S Ayre (and elsewhere); pr reared young Cana, 1 Heb (RLS).



Migrants: Fair Isle, 1-2 on 14 days 11 Apr-14 May, scarce autumn 7-10 Aug, 21 Oct-3 Dec (RAB); Shet, singles Kergord 29 Jan-6 Feb, 29 Oct-16 Dec (DC, BM), Skerries 23 May (BM), Yell 12 Nov (RJT); Ork, 1 Eday 11 May, 1 Binscarth Nov-Dec (EJW); O Heb, 1 Uig, Lewis, 12 July (IMMcL); Aber, 1 Torry 25 Apr (RSBy); singles Isle of May 5 and 9 Sep.

†**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*. Fair Isle, ringed bird present to 5 Jan (GJB); increase in records from Aber, Inv, Perth, Arg, Dumf and Kirk; breeding possible or even probable but no nests reported. The situation is confused by continuing release and/or escape of birds, and observers are requested to send in all records so that any increase and possible future successful re-introduction can be documented.

\***Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*. 1 Lagganbridge, Inv, 9 Jan-5 Feb (RHD, DNW et al.).

\***Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*. Singles: Rendall, Ork, 30 Apr (EB); Fair Isle 8 and 25 May (GJB); Inv, Fort Augustus 25 May (G. R. Hopkins, JTRS) and Balmacaan 7 Aug (MIH).

\***Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. Singles: ♀ Fetlar, Shet, 9-12 May (RSPB); ♀ Fair Isle 9 May (RAB); ♀ Findhorn, Moray, 28 May (RAFKOS); ♀ Glen Dye, Kinc, 22 May (NP); Balgavies Loch, Angus, 17 June (JIS); ♂ Moor of Genoch, Wig, 21-24 Sep (RCD).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*. Breeding reports: Ork, average population, widespread polygamy, rather low breeding success, with cold wet weather at hatching time (EB); Suth, young fledged Dornoch 15 June is early (DMcD), increase in records W and N Suth; good season Arran (MHD); pr reared 1 young Isle of Bute (IH); Kirk, slight increase but poor breeding season, with bad weather May and June and persecution (ADW); Renf, poor year, only 1 pr known to breed (HG, IPG).

Winter roosts: lower numbers than in recent years, Kirk (ADW); 5-7 Insh roost, Inv, mid Oct (RL). Migrants: ♂ Fair Isle 26 Mar (RAB); ♀ Fetlar, Shet, 15 Oct (T. Garriock).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*. Another successful season; at least 12 sites were occupied for all or part of the summer; 6 prs reared a total of 14 young. L Garten, Inv, ♂ arrived 31 Mar, ♀ on 8 Apr, first egg 20 Apr, 2 young reared from 3 eggs, all departed about 16 Aug; eyrie No 2, ♀ arrived 8 Apr and incubated an infertile egg, joined by ♂ in late May and through June; No 3, first bird 3 Apr, pair 11th, 2 young reared; No 4, pair from about 1 Apr, 3 young reared, departed early Sep; No 5 (Loch of Lowes, Perth), ♂ arrived 8 Apr, ♀ 10th, 3 young reared, departed 10 Sep, ♂ seen to be carrying foreign ring; No 6, old eyrie visited by single bird on 13 Apr—no other sightings; No 7, pr present 9 Apr, but unsuccessful, building frustration eyrie 17 June; No 8, eyrie destroyed in winter gale, pr present all summer but unsuccessful or non-breeders; No 9, new eyrie, pr present all summer from 15 Apr, probably young pr; No 10, new eyrie found 21 Apr, 2 young reared; No 11, new eyrie found 30 May, pr present all summer, did not breed, probably young pr; No 12, new eyrie found 24 July when 2 young seen making first flights; No 13, pr present all summer, built two eyries.

Many sightings throughout summer in other areas from Perth north to Suth; intruding birds at used eyries; possibility of unlocated eyries. Migrants: rather fewer, singles Fair Isle 30 Apr (RAB); Shet, Esha Ness 29 Apr (D. Hawick), Yell 11 May (RJT); Tentsmuir, Fife, 22 May (DWO); Rutherford, Rox, 14 May (per AJS); Isle of Rhum, 1 Heb, 17 July (PW).

\***Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*. 1 Strathnaver, Suth, 12 Sep (DWh).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*. Breeding reports better in N, but some disturbing reports of persecution. Shet, 2 prs reared 2 young each, which is better than last year (RJT); Fair Isle, 2 prs present, but no reports of nesting; Ork, attempted most sites, but only moderate success (EB);

Caith, improvement with 5 known eyries, with flying young at two (PMC); Suth, good year in NW (IDP); O Heb, no improvement (WAJC); Inv, some good reports, but also evidence of destroyed nests and lost young (RHD, DNW); 2 out of 3 prs successful in W reared 7 young (JCu, JR); Perth, at least 3 successful out of 7 sites visited (RLMcM); S Arg, of 8 prs checked 3 prs reared a total of 6 young (MPJG); Trossachs, numbers slightly down (JM); pr robbed Isle of Bute after 3 successful seasons (IH); 3 prs bred Arran (MHD); noticeable human interference at eyries in Borders, SW Scotland.

Singles outside usual areas: ♂ St Kilda 15 May (DSt); Aberdeen 14 Mar (AGK), Culterty 15 June (GMD); Kinross, singles Vane Farm 15 Apr, 23 Aug, 3 Sep (GC, RB); Isle of May 9 Apr (NKA, MN); Alva, Clack, 24 Sep (CJH); Dalmeny, W Loth, 22 Nov (RDM); E Loth, Aberlady 6 May, 2 Sep (DCS), Tynninghame 24 Aug (LLJV); one "resident" high-rise flats in centre of Dundee Oct-Dec (ABR) (7: 309).

\***Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus*. Inv, 1 over L Insh 10 May (NP, DNW) (7: 310); Shet, single "white" birds seen Scousburgh 14-19 Dec, Walls 15 Dec (per DC); Greenland bird Ulsta, Yell, 22 Dec (RJT).



**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*. Possibly a better year. Shet, for first recorded time 2 prs (not one) bred Fetlar (RSPB); Ork, reasonably good season (EB); slight increase in SW Scotland. Migration: Fair Isle, 8 Apr-23 May (singles on 9 dates), 17 Aug-5 Nov, mainly first fortnight Sep, but max only 3 on one day (RAB); ♀ St Kilda 24 Apr (DSt); singles Isle of May 10 May, 26 May, 29 Dec.

\***Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*. Shet, young ♂ Fetlar 28 June (ISR, SR), ♀ Whalsay 3-6 May (R. Anderson, JHS).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*. Mixed reports of breeding season; good in Arran (MHD); quite high numbers Fife (DWO) and in Kirk, 4 nests (3 successful) within 100 yards of each other (ECF); W Ross, increase Torridon but decrease Gairloch (ENH, JAW); many nests robbed Dalmellington, Ayr, by young boys (DMcG, AGS).

Migration: Fair Isle, 7-26 Apr, 8-23 May, max 2 on one day, almost daily 25 July-13 Oct, max 3 on 10 days; Shet, scarcer than usual; Isle of May winter record 1-2 on 23-29 Dec (NKA); Handa, Suth, singles 28 Mar, 19-24 Apr, 11 Aug-end Sep, max 3 (AG).

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*. Caith, Kinross, Renf, Arran, Borders and SW Scot report bad year. Singles Handa, Suth, 3 May and 11 July (AG); 1 Barassie, Ayr, 4 Sep (BCF).

**Ptarmigan** *Lagopus mutus*. Mixed reports: Caith, bred Morven (per CGH); Suth, good numbers in N (IDP); W Ross, poor breeding season

Applecross (DCH); Inv, 2-3 prs on Bheinn Bha'ach Ard, 2500 ft (MIH), 59 Cairngorm 31 Aug (DAH); Banff, poor season and none seen Ben Rinnes (JE); fewer than usual Skeeters of Clova 28 June (AMcD); Bute, 6 wintered Corrie, Arran, to 31 Mar (MHD).

**Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*. Good year S Rox (W. Ellis); Arg, spreading to Garasdale (TDHM); Inv, lek near L Garten increased recent years, max 27 ♂♂ 29 Nov (RHD), 3 ♂♂ plantations L Ashie 26 Mar (MR).

**Capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus*. Pair bred Torrinch, L Lomond, Dunb, first since 1962 (JM et al.); Fife, ♂ Tentsmuir 29 Jan (PGTB), 10 Nov (EFBS) is first ♂ reported there (DWO); 30-40 Learney Hill, Aber, 22 Jan (RSBy); ♀ Rumster Forest, Caith, end Sep (J. Matheson).

†**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*. Common Buckie area, Banff, where hundreds released, but species not definitely known (possibility of Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* or hybrids). Singles reported Murthly, Perth, 23 June (D. Prestwell); Yetholm, Rox (RSB); Southernness, Kirk (per ADW).

**Partridge** *Perdix perdix*. Mixed reports. Caith, possible increase; Perth, 40 in one covey Tibbermore 17 Nov (EJM); Kinross and Kirk, poor breeding season; Midl, Rox and Selkirk good numbers; E Loth, small broods; Ayr, small increase.

\***Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. No definite breeding records; reported 9 May-25 Sep, 1 shot mid Oct. Fair Isle, singles 10 days 9 May-26 July, singles 6-25 Sep, but 2 on 14th, 15th and 17th, 4 together on 18 Sep (RAB); Shet, 1 Walls 26 May (H. Westarp), 1 Hillswick 8 June (R. Sutton), up to 4 Fetlar 20th-end July, probably bred (RSPB), 1-2 Unst 26 June-13 July (MS et al.); E Ross, 1 Redfield 27 June (MKMcD-D); Moray, 1 Alves 1-3 Aug (ISS); Angus, singing 3 localities (per GMC), 1 shot Bridgefoot mid Oct (ABR); Fife, 1-3 Leuchars from 29 June (PNJC); singles Gladhouse, Midl, 30 July (IF), Quoithquan, Lan, 2 July (RE-H), Linwood, Renf, 5 Aug (GTW).

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*. Breeding reports poor, with second nests in S Rox in Aug (W. Ellis).

†**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*. Good numbers Kirk-Wig (ADW); ♂ Kirkliston, W Loth (RDM).

†**Reeves's Pheasant** *Symaticus reevesi*. Inv, numbers still living in Kinveachy pine forest, e.g. 3 ♂♂ 7 Apr (RHD); ♂ near Doune, Perth, 24 Sep (CJH).

\***Crane** *Grus grus*. Ork, singles South Ronaldsay 25 Mar (A. Budge), North Ronaldsay mid May (dead), 27-31 Dec (EJW, KW); Caith, 1 Auckingill 22 Mar-8 Apr (AFCMC, PMC et al.); Shet, Unst 6-24 May (per RJT), Dunrossness 10-14 Aug (DC, RHD et al.); the Ork and Unst records are subject to acceptance by the Rare Birds Committee.

†**Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo*. 1 Aberlady Bay, E Loth, 20 May (GLS, DJN et al.).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*. Bred Westfield, Caith, first record for county (P. T. Castell); bred Barr Loch, Renf (RAJ) and probably bred various other localities, e.g. Trabboch Loch and Maybole, Ayr (WRB), Arran (MHD). Dead juvenile Boat of Garten 1 Sep (RHD).

Migration and counts: Fair Isle, scattered records 19 Jan-30 May and 26 Sep-20 Dec, 2 on 31 July, one to 2 Aug is unusual; Shet, last Foula 22 Mar, first autumn Fetlar 9 Oct (RSPB); Ork, 1 Kirkwall 23 Sep (CJB); Inv, 3 Lenran 18 Nov (MIH); Perth, 10 Invergowrie Bay 5 Nov (EJM); Fife, 6 Kilconquhar Loch 12 Mar (DWO); many winter sightings from Moray Firth south.

\***Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*. 1 calling NW Ross 1 June-18 July (ACMcL); Inv, 1 Insh Marshes 3 June (T. Ennis) only record for Spey

Valley, Shet, singles Unst 13 May-27 June (MS) and Tingwall 23 June-1 July (DC, BM *et al.*); 1 trapped Fair Isle 31 Aug (RAB); 1 Findhorn Bay, Moray, 1 Oct (RAFKOS).

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*. Apparently a better season in some areas, and records from several areas in S and E Scotland. Suth, bred Coldbackie after several years absence (DCH); definite increase Ayrshire (WRB, BCF, AGS) but absent 2 regular localities Arran (MHD). Arrivals and migration: singles Fair Isle 20 Apr, 8 and 29 May, 5 June, no longer breeds (RAB); calling Pabay, Skye, 23 Apr (ECG) and Newhall, Rox 28 April (J. Baxter); first Scourie, Suth, 1 May (IDP); and Fetlar, Shet, 2 May (RSPB); 1 Heb, c20 calling Colonsay 27 May-1 June (TDHM). Last record Fair Isle 28-29 Sep (RAB).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*. Migrants: singles Fair Isle 20 Apr, 26 May, 20 Nov, 30 Nov-3 Dec; Isle of May 14 Apr, 27 Dec (NKA, MN). Count of 52 River Tarff, Kirk, 25 Sep (ADW). Bred, 2 nests, L Macaterick, Ayr, 950 ft a.s.l. (JN).

**Coot** *Fulica atra*. Pair bred L Asta, Shet (AI); bred Ballygrant, Islay, 1 Heb (CGB). Migration and counts: Fair Isle, one 19-23 Jan, 2 on 6-7 Feb, one 21-25 Feb (RAB); Shet, 7 Tingwall 9 Mar, 7 Spiggie 13 Mar (BM); Ork, 80 wintered L of Bosquoy (EB); Fife, 395 L Ore 16 Jan, 502 on 13 Feb, 264 on 12 Mar (JMa), 870 Kilconquhar 17 Sep (JARG); Renf, 952 Barr Loch 11 Oct (IPG); 360 Portmore, Peeb, Oct-Dec (RWJS); 1 Rhum, 1 Heb, 2-9 Oct (PW)—new for island.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*. Return to breeding territories: Rutherford, Rox, 27 Jan; L Leven, Kinross, 7 Feb, 32 on 25 Feb (GC, BHM); Fair Isle, 9 Feb, 2 on 14th, 50 by 6 Mar (RAB); 45 Isla Bridge, Perth, 13 Feb (SLg); 26 prs bred Handa, Suth, 22 prs successful (AG); c12 pairs bred Isle of May, down from usual 15-20 prs (NJG).

Peak counts: Suth, 1000 L Fleet 12 Dec (RHD); E Ross, 1200+ Nigg Bay 16 Jan (DCH), 650 Udale Bay 6 Aug (ARM); Inv, 468 Beaully Firth 19 Nov (MIH), 866 Longman Bay 14 Oct (MR), 1200 Whiteness Head 28 Aug, 1600 on 20 Sep and 1120 on 22 Nov (RHD); Midl, 3000 Musselburgh 16 Jan and 13 Feb, 1700 on 5 Mar, 700 on 18 July, 1400 on 31 July and 26 Aug (JB, AWGJ), 1600 on 22 Sep, 1300 on 19 Nov (LLJV), 3000 on 10 Dec (RF); 1045 Isle of Bute Feb (IH); Renf, 1800 Erskine 13 Feb (HG, IPG); Dunb, 1400 Ardmore 19 Nov (SMDA), 4331 Inner Clyde 10 Dec (per IPG); Ayr, 2200+ Hunterston 19 Sep (IPG).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*. Mixed breeding reports: 'good season' Ayr (WRB); decrease Renf (IPG); good year Borders (AJS); good numbers and breeding success E Loth (KSMcG); poor year Kinross (BHM); decrease on last year Torridon, W Ross (JAW); 3 prs bred, only one young reared, Handa, Suth (AG); breeding not proved Fair Isle (RAB).

Passage: Fair Isle, 15 on 19 Jan, arrivals from 15 Feb, 44 on 28th, 130 on 7 Mar, autumn 24 June-17 Nov, peaks 73 on 28 June, 70 on 28 Oct (RAB); Caith, influx last week Feb, 200 L Heilen 5 Mar (PMC); Inv, arrivals Spey Valley 23 Feb when 150 Dulnain Bridge and 90W Aviemore, 70SW Aviemore 21 July (RHD). Counts: 500 Charleston, E Ross 25 Sep (EBt); 1 Heb, 1500 Bridgend, Islay 22 Feb (CGB); Renf, 4000+ Glasgow airport 22 Nov, 7300 on 6 Dec (IPG); 3200 Langbank 13 Feb, 2550 Barr Loch 2 Jan (HG, IPG); Ayr, 1500 Prestwick 1 Dec (BCF); Wig, 3000 Luce Bay 23 Sep (RCD).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*. Increase in inland nesting SW Scotland; 5 prs L Doon, Ayr (DMcG, JN); 1 pr Queensidemuir, Renf, 1100 ft a.s.l. (HG); Midl, 4 prs bred Musselburgh; Fife, only 3 prs east shore, Tentsmuir is substantial decrease (KB, DWO); census Angus/S Kinc gave 43 breeding prs, 12 of them inland (NKA); 5 prs bred Handa, Suth, 5 young reared (AG).

Peak counts and passage: Fair Isle, 31 July-Oct, max 32 on 17 Aug is low (RAB); 50-60 wintered Dunnet Bay, Caith (PMC); Inv, 52 Longman 3 Dec (JMCK); 200 Tentsmuir, Fife, 2 Aug (BP); 70 Musselburgh, Midl, 13 Feb, 120 on 27 Aug and 22 Sep (RF, LLJV); E Loth, 250 Aberlady 27 May, 400 Tynninghame 14 and 28 May (DJN, RWJS); Ayr, 100+ Hunterston 19 Sep (IPG), 150 Troon 12 Aug (WRB).

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*. Scarce in early part of year, but high numbers in autumn, 1 Murkle, Caith, 22-29 Jan (PMC, SL); max 4 Musselburgh, Midl, 12 Mar (RF); 2 Piltanton estuary, Wig, 13 May (RCD); 5-10 summered Aberlady, E Loth, (DJN).

Autumn passage: Shet, singles Fetlar 17 Aug (RSPB), Whalsay 3 Sep (JHS), 1-2 Virkie 13 Sep-12 Oct (DC *et al.*); 1 Fair Isle 15 Oct (RAB); Ork, 1 Sandwick 17 Sep (CJB), 3 Mill Sands 1 Oct (EB); 1 Isle of May 26 Sep (AMcD, RKMCG); usual E coast records; peaks: Suth, 8 Dornoch 1 Oct (DMcD); E Ross, 14 at Inver 24 Oct (CGH); Inv, 4 Lentrán 1 Oct (MIH); 10 Whiteness 22 Nov (RHD); Moray, 21 Findhorn 1 Oct (RAFKOS), 6 on 24 Oct (RHD), 7 Lossiemouth 12 Sep (CAG); Angus, 20 Montrose Basin 26 Sep (GMC); Perth, 28 Invergowrie 16 Oct, still 21 on 25 Nov, but 4 on 10 Dec (RC, EJM); Fife, 50 Tayport 18 Nov (TRG), 70 Tentsmuir 17 Dec (DWO); Clack, 5 Alloa 28 Sep (TP); Midl, 10 Musselburgh 22 Sep (RF); E Loth, 75-100 Aberlady mid Sep-Dec; very good numbers Clyde area; Ayr, 17 Irvine 8 Oct (WRB, RMR, GTW), 5 Barassie 15 Oct (RWF); Dunb, 8 Ardmore 7 Oct (SMDA); Renf, 4 West Ferry 21-27 Sep, 22 Oct (ANG, HG, IPG); 23 Wigtown Merse 22 Oct (RCD). Inland: 1 Paisley Moss, Renf, 30 Oct (IPG); Midl, 2 Threipmuir 4 Nov (LLJV), 1 Gladhouse 29 Sep-1 Oct (GLS, RWJS).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*. Winter-spring counts: 300+ Beaully Firth, Inv, 27 Mar (MIH); Perth, 130 Tibbermore 13 Feb, 1000+ on 27 Mar, 120 on 19 Apr (EJM, MAM); W Loth, 700 Kinneil Kerse 22 Feb (TDHM); Midl, 500 Musselburgh 30 Jan (RF, LLJV), 440 'northern's' Harperrig 17 Apr (JB); 1700 Doonfoot, Ayr 18 Feb (BCF); 700 L Ryan, Wig, 26 Feb (MI). Passage: Fair Isle, spring peak 47 on 21-26 Apr, autumn from 5 Aug, 70 on 2 Oct (RAB); Caith, large numbers from 11 Sep (PMC); Handa, Suth, peaks 9 on 21 Apr, 11 on 22 Sep (AG); 31 Isle of May 31 July (HG, IPG); I Heb, Pabay, Skye, peaks 21 on 12 Feb, 52 on 9 Sep (ECG).

Autumn counts: 500 Buckie, Banff (DBMcG); Aber, 2 Ythan 4 Aug, 1100 by 29 Aug, 2250 on 17 Sep (NEB, JAL); Perth, 720 Kingoodie 24 Sep (EJM); Fife, 500 Kelty 1 Aug (DWO); Midl, 150 Gladhouse 30 Aug, up to 800 by 27 Oct (GLS, RWJS); Ayr, 3500 Irvine 13 Oct, 1000 Prestwick 1 Dec (BCF); Renf, 1100 Longhaugh Point 19 Nov (HG, IPG); Wig, 2000 Luce Bay 23 Sep (RCD).

**Dotterel** *Eudromias morinellus*. Rather little information on breeding numbers or success; first 4 reported Cairngorms, Inv, 10 May (JCr); 6 on W Cairngorms 11 May (RL); 16 (8 juveniles) on Cairngorm plateau 26 July, good success for area of high tourist activity (RHD). Migrants: 2 Fife Ness 5 May (DWO); O Heb, 1 Balranald 9 May (R. Jones) is new for area; 1 Fair Isle 15 May (GJB).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*. Usual summer records including 3 display-flying Oronsay, I Heb, 28 May (TDHM). Passage: 6 Fair Isle 21 June, influx from 9 July, peak 77 on 9 Aug (RAB); 27 North Rona 26 June (JAL, ARM); Suth, absent Handa 18 May-28 July (AG).

Counts: Caith, 100 Reay 5 Mar (PMC); Inv, 26 Beaully Firth 16 Jan (MIH); Banff, 200 Buckpool 20 Apr (DBMcG), 256 Burghead 13 Sep (RHD); Angus, 853 on whole coast first week Jan (NKA); Isle of May, max 438 on 2 Oct (IPG); Midl, 300 Musselburgh 17 Mar, 14 May, 210 on 26 Aug (JB, RF, LLJV); 261 Gourock-Largs, Renf/Ayr 15 Jan (HG, IPG). E Loth, regular albino present Aberlady to 13 May but did not return (KSMcG).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*. Suth, 21 prs bred Handa, good success (AG). Counts: 130 Letham Grange, Angus, 3 Apr (NKA); 100 Gladhouse, Midl, 22-28 July (RWJS); 300 New Cumnock, Ayr, 26 Aug (WRB); 350+ L Ken, Kirk, 8 Oct (RHH). Passage: Fair Isle, peaks 11 on 7 May, from end Aug, 35 on 26 Sep, 25 on 10 Nov (RAB); 60 L of Mey, Caith, 15 Sep (PMC, SL).

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*. Usual scatter of winter records; peaks: 7 Seamill, Ayr, 5 Jan (JLB), 5 Paisley Moss, Renf, 10 Apr (IPG). Spring passage: 1 Handa, Suth, 1 Apr (AG), 4 Canna, 1 Heb, 19 Mar (RLS); 2 Fetlar, Shet, 15 Apr (RSPB); singles Fair Isle and St Kilda 26 Apr (RAB, DSt), last Threipmuir, Midl, 27 Apr (JAN). Autumn-winter from 31 Aug in E Loth (DLC); from 3 Sep at Fair Isle, where more than usual, 14 Sep-mid Oct, max 7 on 27 Sep (RAB); Aber peaks, 6 Corby Loch 20 Oct (RLS), 8+ on 24 Oct (JP); 6 Isle of May 29 Sep (AMcD); 4 Gladhouse, Midl, 21 Oct (RWJS, LLJV); 9 Paisley Moss, Renf, 31 Oct, 8 on 27 Dec (IPG).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*. Bred Rumster, Caith (PMC); chick ringed Kiltarlity, Inv, 11 July was recovered Co Kerry, Eire, 26 Dec (MIH). Another year of low numbers on passage; Fair Isle, scarce spring, also 15 Oct-24 Nov, peak 40+ on 20 Nov (RAB); 1 Sullom, Shet, 12 May (BM) is late; 1 St Kilda 7 May (DSt).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*. Back on territory, Advie, Moray, 10 Feb (H. Marshall); Renf, 22 Feb (IPG); Kiltarlity, Inv, 12 Mar (MIH); pr nested Fair Isle—second ever record (RAB). Migration: Fair Isle, from 7 Mar, peaks 150 on 20 Apr, 94 on 24 Apr, autumn from 27 June (50), 20-30 on 25-29 Aug (RAB). Counts: 700 L o' the Lowes, Ayr, 26 Aug (WRB); 900 Aberlady, E Loth, 23 Aug (DJN); 1000 L Leven, Kinross, Aug (AA); 600 Beaully Firth, Inv, 24 Sep (MIH); 200 Barrogil, Caith, 13 Feb (AFCMC, PMC).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*. Breeding records: good numbers in Shet (RJT); Ork, present 2 areas June, but breeding not proved (EB); 3 prs bred St Kilda (DSt); 2-3 prs Scottish mainland site, but only 1 pr proved nesting, 4 June (RHD, CGH); pr holding territory in another area (JTRS). Winter: 1 Ardnave, Islay, 22 Mar (PH-J).

Arrivals: 15 Apr, Fair Isle (RAB); 16 Apr, 2 Tynninghame, E Loth (RWJS) and 2 Spey Bay, Moray (RHD). Fair Isle, peaks 12 on 29 Apr and 21 May (RAB); Suth, Handa, 1 May-11 June, max 13 (AG), 7 Stoer Bay 21 May (SMD); Inv, 11 Glenelg 30 Apr (DCH); Arg, 7 Tayinloan 2 May (TDHM).

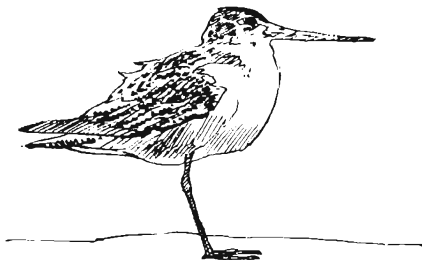
Autumn: Fair Isle, max 6 on 29 Aug, last 21 Sep (RAB); last Shet 16 Sep (RJT); Moray, 13 Spey Bay 3 Aug (FWW), 16 on 13 Aug (JMB); Aber, 11 Don estuary 31 July (PS); Angus, 14 West Haven 31 July (TMC); Perth, 3SW Menteith 15 July (ITD); 21 Fife Ness 31 July (JARG); Isle of May, 22 July-26 Sep; Midl, Musselburgh from 27 July, peaks 10 on 8 Aug, 16 on 13th, 8 on 22 Aug (HEMD); E Loth, max 58 Aberlady 22 July (DJN, GLS); Ber, 11 Eyemouth 27 Aug (TDo); Ayr, 5 Prestwick 27 Aug (RMR); many records of smaller numbers up to 8 Oct.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. At least 1 pr bred Shet (per RJT); pr attempted to breed but failed SE Scotland; pr reared 2 young SW Scotland (anon). Winter flocks: Fife, 31 Eden estuary 13 Feb, 83 on 18 Mar (AG), 132 on 17 Apr (EJM); 171 inner Solway Firth 19 Mar (JGY). A scatter of records up W coast and in northern isles, probably Icelandic migrants: 18 Machrihanish, Arg, 28-30 Apr (ARM), singles Endrick mouth, Dumb, 30 Apr (DS) and Erskine, Renf, 2 May (IPG); 2 St Kilda 27 Apr (DSt); 4 Birsay, Ork, 5-6 May (EB); 22 Hillwell, Shet, 23-30 Apr (DC, BM); Fair Isle, 1 on 27-29 Apr, 3 on 3 May, one 4 May (RAB).

Summer records include: 1 L Loyal, Suth, first week May (DWh); 1 Spey Bay, Moray, 7 June (RHD); singles Auchlossan, Aber, 26-30 Apr

(RSBy, NP); more on E coast, max 135 Eden estuary, Fife, 12 June (BP); 9 Tynninghame E Loth, 30 June (GLS, DTh).

Autumn passage and peak counts: more records from July; Ork, 3 North Ronaldsay 4 Sep (EJW); Caith, 3 L of Mey 27-31 Aug (PMC, SL); Moray, 4 Findhorn 17 Aug (RSPB); Aber, 4 Ythan 17 Sep (NEB, JAL); Kinross, 12 L Leven 20 Sep (AA); Fife, 79 Eden estuary 25 Sep (DWO), 16 Longannet 23 Sep (DMB); Clack, 11 Alloa 12 Aug (TP); 2 Isle of May 20 Sep (AJW); Renf, Erskine 3 Sep-19 Nov, max 13 on 11 Sep (HG, IPG, ANG); 10 Barr Loch 11 Oct (RGC, IPG).



**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*. Peak counts: E Ross, 700 Udale Bay 13 Feb (CGH), 70 on 19 July (EB), 400 on 6 Aug (ARM); Inv, 1000 Whiteness Head 3 Jan, 5 on 6 June, 2000 on 8 Aug, 1200 on 20 Sep, 1800 on 12 Nov, 1000+ on 24 Dec (RHD); 1000 Nairn 24 Dec, probably from Whiteness Head (RHD); Angus, 500 West Ferry 19 Feb (TMC); Fife, 300 summered Tentsmuir (DWO); Midl, 850 Musselburgh 13 Feb; E Loth, 600 Aberlady 21 Aug, 800-1000 in winter (DJN).

Migrants: Shet, 1 Skerries 29 May (BM), from 11 Sep, 22 on 22 Sep (per RJT); Fair Isle, 2 on 29 Jan, few in spring, 14 Aug-30 Sep (RAB); Perth, 200 Invergowrie Bay 6 Mar, last 2 on 28 Apr, 29 on 28 Aug, 149 on 3 Nov, 200+ on 4 Dec (EJM, RC). Inland: Midl, singles Crosswood 7 July (GLS), Gladhouse 8 Aug (RWJS); Rox, 2 Rutherford 26 Aug-5 Sep (Mr Farr); 2 Endrick mouth 29 May (JM, CP); Renf, 1 Auchendores Reservoir 22 Oct (HG).

\***Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. Winter records: E Loth, 1 Tynninghame Jan-24 Apr (GLS, RWJS, LLJV); Rox, 2 St Boswells Jan (PS-P); Lan, 2 Merryton 22 Jan (KCRH, HSCH), 1+ to Mar (DS); Dumf, 2 Gretna 20 Feb (MJ); Fife, 1 Shell Bay 1 Mar (PGTB). Spring passage: scarce from 9 Apr; Fair Isle, singles 9th, 22nd, 29-30 Apr, 18 May (RAB); Stir, 1 Skinflats 15 May (MH).

Autumn passage from 1 July; Fair Isle 7 Aug-22 Sep, 3 singles, but 3 on 13 Aug, 2 on 14th (RAB); Shet, 3 Fetlar 7 Aug, 1 on 1 Sep (RSPB), 1 Strand Loch 29 Aug (DC); Inv, 1 Balmacaan 7 Aug (MIH); Moray, 1 Findhorn 22 Aug (JMB); Angus, singles Arbroath 25 July (NKA), West Haven 29 July (TMC), Kinnaber 23 Aug (GMC); Fife, 5 singles 8 July-10 Sep (DWO *et al.*); Clack, singles Black Devon mouth late Aug (CJH), Alloa 29 Sep (TP); Isle of May 1 July (GB); Midl/Peeb, Portmore 5 Aug, 15 Aug-11 Sep, 3 Gladhouse 15-16 Aug, 1 on 19th (GLS *et al.*); Clubbiedean 12 Oct-18 Nov (IB-P, GLS), 1 Threipmuir 8 Sep (RD); E Loth, Tynninghame 28 July-31 Dec (RWJS *et al.*); Rox, 2 Easterharesbyres Moss 11 Sep (LDGL); Lan, Merryton 29 Oct (KCCH, JJS), Hamilton 5-9 Oct (KCRH, HSCH); Ayr, L Doon 17 Aug (JN); Irvine 3 Sep (IMD); Kirk, L Whinnyeon 25 July (D & JTh), Kirkgunzeon mid July-mid Sep (ECF).

\***Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. Better year for breeders in some areas, but scarce on passage. Suth, pair at original site; Caith, 1 pr with young, 1 pr at nearby site (JTRS); Ross, 3 prs at new site (JTRS); E Inv, 3 on 8 June, pr with young 22 June and 11 July, plus another adult (RHD). Unconfirmed reports from at least one other area.

Migrants: singles Fair Isle 27-28 May, 7-9 June, 11 July; Shet, Strand Loch 4 Aug (RJ), Foula 14 Aug; O Heb, North Uist 29 June (R. Jones); Inv, Longman 16 Sep (JMCK); Angus, Kinnaber 15 Aug (GMC), West Haven 19 Aug (TMC); E Loth, Tynninghame 8 Aug (GLS); Kirk, Kirkgunzeon 28 July (ECF).

**Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*. Arrivals from 2 Apr Gairloch, W Ross (ENH), 3 Apr L Garten, Inv (JEH); more 9-10th, most third week Apr. Bred Fetlar, Shet, for first recorded time (ISR); pr bred Vane Farm, Kinross (GC).

Passage: Fair Isle, 4 May-14 June, peak 7 on 10 May (RAB); 1-2 Handa, Suth, from 4 May (AG); 1 North Rona 30 June (JAL, ARM); 9 Aberlady, E Loth, 1 May (DJN). Autumn: Fair Isle, few records July-21 Sep (RAB); Angus, last Montrose Basin 24 Sep (GMC); Fife, 20 Cameron Reservoir in Aug (DWO); 1 Isle of May 2 Oct (HG); Midl, last 2 Gladhouse 23 Sep (RWJS); Lan, 1 Merryton 1 Oct (KCRH, HSCH).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*. Peak counts high, and many inland at reservoirs because of low water levels. Renf. 6380 Woodhall-Erskine 13 Feb, 4400 on 9 Apr, 7500 on 22 Oct (HG, IPG, ANG); Ayr, 600 Bogside 10 Sep (WRB); Midl, 800 Musselburgh 22 Sep (RF); W Loth, 1300 Almond estuary 19 Aug (TCS); Perth, 1400 Invergowrie 2 Mar, 100 on 28 Apr, 960 on 30 July, 1344 on 7 Aug, 2000 on 21 Sep, 3000<sup>±</sup> early Oct, 750 on 10 Dec (EJM); Aber, 991 Ythan 9 Apr (DCC, NEB); Moray, 1500 on 6 Sep (RHD); Inv, 700 Longman 23 Sep and 14 Oct (MR), 810 Beauly Firth 24 Sep (MIH), 201 L Linnhe 18 Apr (JASN); Fair Isle passage Mar-21 May, peak 18 on 11 Apr, from 21 June, up to 45 early Sep (RAB).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*. Winter and spring records: Invergowrie, Perth, 23 Apr (RC, EJM); E Loth, Aberlady, 29 Mar, Tynninghame 22 Feb and 18 Apr (GLS, RWJS, JAN); Ayr, Doonfoot Jan-Feb (WRB), Blairbowie 12 Apr (RHH); Cock Inn, Wig, 4 Jan (RCD).

#### Summary of autumn records from 12 Aug

	Aug		Sept		Oct	Nov
	12-14	15-31	1-14	15-30		
North (Inv and North, including islands)	1	4	10	7		
East (Moray-Stir)		13	10	9	2	8
Southeast (Lothians)	1	3	2	1	1	
Southwest (Arg, Islay, Clyde, Wig)		4	6	2	4	2

Noteworthy records include: 6 Loch of Mey, Caith, 15 Sep (SL); 1 L Garten, Inv, 29 Aug was well inland (RSPB); 6 Invergowrie, Perth, 1-2 Nov (EJM); 4 Alloa, Clack, 25-26 Aug (TP); count of 21 in inner Solway Firth 10 Sep (JGY *et al.*), but information incomplete, and Dumf totals not in above table.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*. About 25 records of wintering birds N to Moray Firth, but mostly in SW, where up to 11 at Woodhall, Renf, and 13 on 17 Feb (ANG, HG, IPG). 9N Glentrool, Kirk, 9 Mar (GSh), but mostly arrived breeding grounds late Mar/early Apr, Badnabay, Suth, 27 Mar (IDP); Torridon, W Ross, 5 Apr (SL). Spring migrants: Fair Isle, 19 Apr, 3rd and 9 June (RAB); Shet, Yell 17 Apr, Fetlar 30 Apr, Spiggie 8 June (BM, RJT).





PLATE 25 (a) Black-browed Albatross, Hermaness, Unst, July 1972

*Photograph by Malle Andersson*

(b) White-billed Diver, Buckie, Banff, March 1972.

(This record is subject to acceptance by the Rarities Committee).

*Photograph by D. B. McGinn*

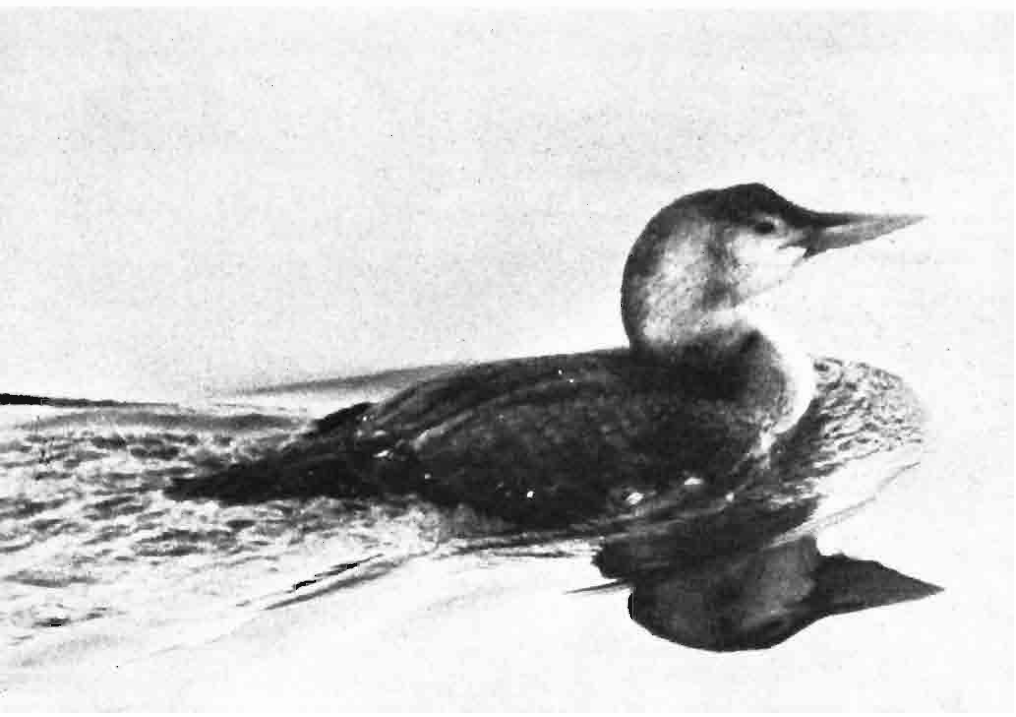




PLATE 26 Commonplace and rare. *Above* Dunlin. *Below* White-rumped Sandpiper.  
The seventh and eighth Scottish records of the latter species occurred in 1972.  
*Photographs by Dennis Coultts*





PLATE 27 (a) Two-barred Crossbill, second summer ♂, Kergord, Shetland, July 1972.  
(b) Arctic (left) and Mealy Redpolls, Fair Isle, September 1972.

*Photographs by Dennis Coultts*





PLATE 28. Hen Harrier, Galloway 1972.

*Photograph by J. F. Young*

Autumn migration: Shet, from 13 Aug, last Spiggie 8 Oct (FH); Fair Isle, 1-2 on 11 days 1-30 Aug (RAB); Ork, late one Stenness Loch 12 Dec (EJW); E Ross, 10 Munloch Bay 3 Sep (RHD); Angus, 8 Montrose Basin 20 Aug (GMC); Perth, 12 Port Allen 6 Sep, 18 on 7th (EJM, MAM); Kinross, L Leven from 15 Aug, max 4 on 4 Sep, stragglers to 21 Nov (AA); Fife, 27 Eden estuary 29 Aug (DWO), 10 Cameron Reservoir 4 Sep (DWO), 10 Morton Lochs 10 Sep (JARG); Isle of May, 1 on 2 July, 3 on 5th (GB, IRD); Midl, 5 Harlaw Reservoir 12 Aug (PV); E Loth, 11 Tynninghame 17 Sep; Renf, 17 Woodhall 24 Sep, 12 to end of year (ANG, HG, IPG); 8 Turnberry, Ayr, 27 Aug (RHH); Wig, first returned 5 July Luce estuary (RCD).

**Knot *Calidris canutus*.** Winter counts: 1500+ Barassie, Ayr, 5 Jan (HG, IPG); 2400 Musselburgh, Midl, 28 Mar (RF); Angus, 11235 for whole coast first week Jan (NKA); 6000 Whiteness Head, Inv, 16 Jan (RHD); E Ross, 500 Udale Bay 13 Feb (CGH). Spring passage: Fair Isle, one 15 Apr, 1-5 on 10-16 May (RAB); Shet, 1 Hillwell and 2 Virkie 24 May (DC), 1 Fetlar 8 June (RSPB); 1 Balnakeil, Suth, 18 May (DB). 50-80 summered Aberlady, E Loth, (DJN).

Autumn passage and counts: Fair Isle, 12 July-18 Sep, scarce (RAB); 42 ads Bonar Bridge, Suth, 8 Aug (RHD); Inv, 2000 Longman 11 Nov (MR), 3500 Whiteness Head 22 Nov, 5000 on 24 Dec (RHD); 3000 Nairn 24 Dec (RHD); 90 Ythan, Aber, 24 July (JAL); 1800 Musselburgh, Midl, 21 Dec (RF); 4000 Aberlady, E Loth, Nov-Dec (KSMcG); 4000+ Wigtown Merse, 22 Oct (RCD). Inland: 1 Alemoor Reservoir 9 Sep, apparently first for Rox (AJS); Midl, 1 Gladhouse 5-9 Aug (GLS, RWJS), 2 Harperrigg 12 Sep (GLS); 15 Endrick mouth, Dunb, 22 July (CP).

One ringed Southernness, Kirk, 14 Feb 1971 killed Broughton Island, off Baffinland, Canada, 11 June 1972.

**Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*.** Winter counts: 42 Southernness, Kirk, 16 Jan (RTS *et al.*); 110 Troon, Ayr, 5 Mar (RGC); 18 Blackwaterfoot, Arran, 23 Jan (MHD); 33 Inchmickery, Forth, 23 Apr (RWJS); 200 Fife Ness 16 Apr, last 30 on 13 May (DWO); 80 Girdleness, Kinc, 15 Jan (RLS); 300 Portessie, Banff, 19 Mar (DBMcG); Angus coast, 326 in Jan (NKA). Fair Isle, spring peak 40 on 29 Apr, 20 to 14 May, last 22 May (RAB); 1 Endrick mouth, Dunb, 17 Jan—second record for area (JM).

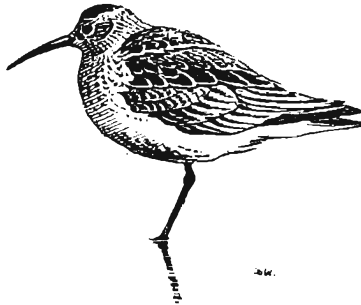
Isle of May, return from 2 July (7) (GB), max 264 on 2 Oct (GB *et al.*); 4 Scar Rocks, Wig, 7 July (JGY); one Chanonry Ness, E Ross, 8 July (RHD); Fair Isle, 10 on 12 July, increasing to 40 in Aug (RAB).

**\*Little Stint *Calidris minuta*.** No spring records; average autumn numbers, about 60 birds 22 July-4 Nov. Shet, Virkie 13-14 Aug (DC, FH), Hillwell 10-13 Sep (DC); Ork, North Ronaldsay 3 Sep (EJW); Moray, 8 Lossiemouth 12 Sep (CAG); Aber, 2 Ythan 22 July (AGK), 1-2 Don estuary, 15 Sep-14 Oct (RHD, AGK *et al.*); Angus, Kinnaber 22 July (NKA), Montrose Basin 26 Aug (GMC), West Haven 30 July, 6 Aug, 17 Aug, 2 on 24 and 29 Sep (TMC); Perth, Kingoodie 22 July (NKA, EJM); Kinross, L Leven 3 Oct, 2 on 4-6 Oct, 9 Oct (AA, AG); Fife, 12+ Eden estuary 8-9 Aug (JARG), 4+ on 10 Sep (DMB), 2 on 25 Sep (KB, DWO), Fife Ness 12 Aug (JARG), 12 Sep (PGTB), 17 Sep (DWO); Stir, Skinflats 1 Oct (RHH); Midl, 4 Musselburgh 23 Aug (DLC), 5 Sep (RKMCG), Gladhouse 30 Aug-5 Sep (RWJS); E Loth, 2 Aberlady 30 Aug (DJN), 1 Dunbar 25 Sep (KCCH); I Heb, Islay 7 Oct (DMB); Renf, Erskine 21-28 Sep (IPG); Ayr, Troon 4 Nov (RGC); Dumf, Waterfoot, Annan 10 Sep (RTS).

**\*Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*.** 2 prs at N Scotland site, but successful breeding not proved (anon); singles Caith 20 June (IJF-L); Perth, Rannoch Moor 10 May (JJMF).

**\*White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*.** Musselburgh, Midl, 16-25 Sep (RKMCG, ADKR, RWJS *et al.*); Fair Isle, trapped 28 Nov-2 Dec (RAB, GJB)—7th and 8th Scottish records.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*. Bred Dornoch Point, Suth—first time for at least 10 years (DMcD). Winter counts—spring passage: 5100 Erskine, Renf, 13 Feb (HG, IPG, ANG); 1500 Barassie, Ayr, 13 Feb (WRB); 3000 Musselburgh, Midl, 16 Jan, 13 Feb (LLJV); 3200 Almond estuary, W Loth, 13 Feb (TCS); 2500 Invergowrie, Perth, 30 Jan, 1200 on 26 Feb, 900 on 20 Mar, 93 on 24 Mar (RC, EJM); 800 Findhorn, Moray, 5 Mar (RAFKOS); 650 Lentrán, Inv, 13 Feb (MIH); 70 L Shin, Suth, 12 May (RHD).



Autumn: Fair Isle 11 July-15 Sep, max 22 on 2 Aug (RAB); Inv, 1000+ Whiteness Head 22 Nov (RHD); 1000 Nairn 24 Dec (RHD); Perth, 500+ Invergowrie 25 July, departed overnight, 280 on 24 Sep, 1045 on 22 Oct, 2200 on 19 Nov (RC, EJM); Kinross, unusual numbers L Leven 7 Sep-6 Dec, max 134 on 3 Oct (AA, GC); large numbers Midl reservoirs owing to low water levels—23 Gladhouse 23 July, peak 46 on 7 Oct, some to Dec, 40 Cobbinshaw 5 Oct (JB, GLS); 40 Alemoor Reservoir, Rox, 1 Oct (TDO); 3500 Erskine, Renf, 31 Oct (ANG, HG, IPG).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*. 5 spring records in north: Handa, Suth, 18 May (AG); Glimps Holm, Ork, 14 May (MT-C), Westray 20 May (EJW); 2 Hillwell, Shet, 19-20 May (RJ, BM). Good numbers autumn passage from 24 July.

#### Summary of autumn records

	July	Aug		Sept		Oct	Nov
		1-14	15-31	1-14	15-30		
North (Fair Isle, O Heb, Suth)			2	4		1	
East (Moray-Stir)	1	1		50	25	10	4
Southeast (Lothians)	8	2	7	20	2	2	
Southwest (Clyde- Solway)		1	6	13	2	2	

Peak counts and noteworthy records: 15 Findhorn, Moray, 6 Sep (RHD); 8 Montrose Basin, Angus, 11 Sep (GMC); 6 Invergowrie, Perth, 27 Sep (EJM); Kinross, singles L Leven 11 Sep-9 Oct, 2 on 6 Oct (AA, BHM); 10 Eden estuary, Fife, 22 Sep (KB); 8 Musselburgh, Midl, 24 July (LLJV, RF), 5 Gladhouse 4 Sep, 1 on 11th (RWJS); 11 Erskine, Renf, 7 Sep (HG, IPG); 4 Gadloch, Lan, 27 Aug, 2 on 29th (WW, BZ); 1 L Ken, Kirk, 8 Oct, (RHH), 1 Carsethorn 2 Dec (TN).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*. Possibly more late spring migrants: E Loth, 14 Aberlady 26 May, last 5 on 3 June, 4 Gullane 7 June (DTH); I Heb, Coll 4 June (JB), 3 Eigg 7 June (AMCl); 3 Invergowrie, Perth, 3 June; 250 West Haven, Angus, 14 May (TMC); ad inland L Ashie, Inv, 17 May (RHD); Suth, 8 Dornoch 17 May (DB), 10 Balnakeil 17 May (DCH); Fair

Isle, 20 May-18 June, 3 on 26th (RAB); Shet, 9 Sumburgh 7 June (BM), few to 3 Virkie 27 June (DC).

Autumn passage and counts: Fair Isle, 23 July-30 Sep, max 10 on 1 Aug (RAB); 39 Balnakeil, Suth, 24 July (DCH); 50 Speybay, Moray, 24 July (JMB); 51 L Leven, Kinross, 25 Oct is exceptional (GC, BHM); Aberlady, E Loth, from 2 July, peaks 38 on 21 July, 61 on 25 July (DJN); 100+ Laggan Bay, Islay, 23 July (GJL); 15 Troon, Ayr, 15 July (PMcK), 55 Ayr 23 July (WRB).

**\*Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*. 1 trapped Fair Isle 17-19 Sep (RAB, ERM *et al.*)—second for Fair Isle (previous being 18 Sep 1958) and 7th Scottish record.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*. Usual numbers north and east, but fewer in west. Winter max E Loth, 40 Aberlady 18 Mar (GLS), last 2 on 6 May; Fife, Jan-May, 6 Eden estuary 17 Apr (EJM); Invergowrie, Perth, few 28 Mar-1 Apr; ♂ Unst, Shet, 6 May (RJT).

Autumn passage from late July, mainly second half Aug. Peak counts: Shet, 26 July-10 Oct, max 10 Hillwell 7 Aug (DC); Fair Isle, 1 Aug-1 Oct, max 8 on 14 Aug; Ork, 6 Isbister Oyce 27 Aug (EB); Caith, 3 L of Mey 15 Sep (PMC, SL); Aber, 12 Ythan 1 Aug (AGK), 30+ Meikle Loch 16 Aug (WM, RLS); Perth, 15 Aug-7 Sep, 8 Port Allen 6 Aug (EJM *et al.*); Fife, 9 Eden estuary 6 Sep (DWO); Clack, Alloa 11 Aug-4 Sep, 6+ on 12 Aug (TP), Skinflats 16 Aug-24 Sep, 10 on 19-25 Aug (J. Moss, HEMD); Midl, Gladhouse 24 July-5 Nov, 6 on 8 Aug (RWJS, LLJV); E Loth, Aberlady 25 Aug-end of year, 14 on 28 Oct; Renf, Erskine 15 Aug-10 Oct (HG, IPG); Lan, Gadloch 27 Aug-15 Nov, 5 on 24 Sep (BZ).

**\*Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Five records: North Berwick, E Loth, 28 Jan (DEA); Musselburgh, Midl, 27 July-27 Aug (DLC, RKMCG *et al.*); Fetlar, Shet, 9 Sep (RJT); Peterhead, Aber, 12 Nov (DCC); Ythan, Aber, 19 Nov (GMD, WM *et al.*).

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*. Breeding reports mixed: Shet, first 14 May, mainly late May, breeding numbers little higher than 1971 (RJT), last Fetlar 7 Aug, 1 Foula 28-29 July; 1 pr Ork, and reported 4-5 places O Heb, but no confirmation of breeding; pr St Kilda 24 June, bred successfully, 3 young seen 24 July—new breeding species for island (DSt); 1 Buddon, Angus, 27 Aug (MN, NKA).

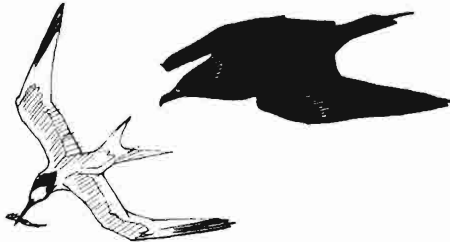
**\*Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*. One Kirkgunzeon, Kirk 25 Aug-3 Sep (ECF, BST *et al.*)—5th Scottish record (7: 313 and plate 23).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*. Continued increase: Shet, first Foula 26 Mar (early), last 5 Nov, numbers high (per RJT); Fair Isle, first 29 Mar, but slow to arrive in numbers, only 6 by 26 Apr, 13+ prs bred, c/2 on 16 May (RAB); Caith, holding territory Drum Holliston and Dunnet Head; Suth, 4 prs reared 4 young Handa, plus 6 non-breeders (AG); St Kilda, 8 prs bred, c/2 on 11 May (DSt); North Rona, 3+ prs bred (JAL, ARM).

Early records and possible wintering birds: Shet, 4 offshore at boats 21 Jan, 2 on 25 Feb (RJT); singles Whiteness Head, Inv, 16 Jan (RHD), Findhorn Bay, Moray, 6 Jan (RHD). Musselburgh, Midl, 12 Feb (JAN). 1 Fife Ness 4-5 May (EJM); 1 Coll, 1 Heb, 10 Apr (E. G. Cowieson). Usual summer/autumn records round coasts: last Fair Isle 6 Nov (RAB); 4 Collieston, Aber, 5 Sep (RAH); Girdleness, Kinc, 25 Nov (RLS); Whiteness Head, Inv, 1 Dec (RHD).

**\*Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Spring-summer: Shet, Vee Skerries 10 June (J. Henry); 3 Handa, Suth, 27 May (AG). Return passage: Shet, Fetlar 27 Aug (A. R. Mead); Fair Isle, 30 July (GJB); more than usual Moray Firth (RHD); Suth, L Fleet 12 Dec (RHD); Inv, 4 Whiteness Head 24 Dec (RHD); Moray, 2 Burchhead 1 Oct, one 15 Oct,

one 17 Nov (RHD); Aber, Cruden Bay 8 Oct (ADKR); Angus, West Haven 30 July, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 26th, 31 Aug, 2 on 9 Sep, 15th, 21st, 27 Sep, 2 on 2 Oct (TMC); Fife, 2 Shell Bay 21 Aug (GC); Fife Ness 7 Sep (PGTB), Eden estuary 8 Oct (DWO); E Loth, exceptional flock 15 Tynninghame 20 Oct (GLS).



**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Arrival of breeders: Fair Isle 14 Apr, 6 on 23rd, 20 on 5 May, 40 on 11th; Foula 17 Apr, Whalsay 20 Apr (JGH, JHS); Caith, inland population estimated c30 prs (PMC); Suth, 1 pr nested Handa reared 1 young, present 25 Apr-9 Sep (AG); 10+ prs breeding Jura, 1 Heb (A. F. Airey); 1 Fife Ness 4 May (EJM); few E Loth 14 May-3 June (KSMcG).

Usual summer/autumn records down E coast; numbers considered low in Forth and Clyde. Last ashore Fair Isle 13 Sep, one off shore 12 Oct (RAB); 9 Lentrán, Inv, 5 Aug (MIH); 10-15 Collieston, Aber, 5 Sep (RAH), last Ythan 8 Oct (PDR); Angus, max 55 Arbroath 4 Aug (MN); 6 Invergowrie, Perth, 15 Aug (NKA, RC, EJM); Fife, 16 Fife Ness 8 Aug (PAL), last Shell Bay 4 Nov (PGTB); Isle of May last 2 on 16 Oct (JMSA); Aberlady, E Loth, 16 July-22 Oct, max 7 on 4 Aug (DJN *et al.*); 8 Eyemouth, Ber, 24 Sep (TDo).

\***Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*. Shet, 1 caught on fishing boat off shore 1 May (per JHS), 1 Whiteness 27 May (IS); Fair Isle, 8 July and 4 Oct (RAB), 1 on crossing 29 Aug (DPC); Ork, North Ronaldsay 7 Sep (EJW), O Heb, 2 Butt of Lewis 25 Aug (DGB); Angus, West Haven 29 Oct (TMC); Fife, Tentsmuir 28 July (TP); E Loth, Tynninghame 4 Oct (GLS).

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*. 1 pr bred Tentsmuir, Fife, 1 egg 22 May, but robbed—new record for locality (DWO); pr bred Craigleith, Forth (RWJS); 2 prs bred L Thom, Renf (DLC, HG, IPG); single prs nested L Moan, Kirk—new site (GSh), Scar Rocks, Wig (JGY); 70 prs bred Handa, Suth (AG). Max counts Fair Isle: 1000-2000 on 23-24 Jan, 700 on 13 June, 1000 on 7 Aug, end Oct, 9-10 Nov, 21-23 Nov, first week Dec (RAB, GJB); Inv, Longman peaks 338 on 16 Jan, 520 on 23 Sep, 439 on 23 Dec (JMck, MR); 112 Garten inland roost 31 Dec (RHD).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*. 2500+ prs nested Isle of May, c1600 birds culled (NC); 1-2 prs bred Tentsmuir, Fife; 250+ prs bred Craigleith (RWJS); 1 pr attempted to nest Endrick mouth, Dunb (JM).

Arrival: 5 Musselburgh, Midl, 5 Mar (LLJV); 1 Newburgh, Fife, 4 Mar (ARS, DWO); 2 West Ferry, Angus, 1 Mar (TMC); E Ross, 2 North Kessock 21 Mar, 60+ by 26 Apr (MKMcD-D); Handa, Suth, 9 Mar (RHD, AG); Fair Isle, first 25 Mar, present 30 Mar-6 Sep, last 18 Sep (RAB).

Scandinavian birds *L.f. fuscus*. 2 Prail, Angus, 18 Apr (GMC), singles West Ferry 31 Jan, 10 Feb, 19 Feb (2), 18 Nov (TMC); E Loth, Gullane Point 2nd and 30 Dec (BCK, LLJV).



**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*. Increase noted throughout country—nesting inland and various towns. Control at Isle of May, where c15000 culled from population of 15500± pairs (NC); 165 nests Inchmickery, Forth, but none bred after cull in May; partial cull also at Fidra (RSPB). Increase Horse Island, Ayr (WRB); 7 prs bred L Thom, Renf (DLC); 10 prs L Moan, Kirk, 1 pr at new site L Middle (GSh).

Rough-weather peaks at Fair Isle, 1500-2000 on 23-24 Jan, 2000+ on 19-20 Nov, 5000+ on 23-25 Nov (RAB). Counts: 4000 Longman, Inv, 11 Nov (MR), 96 Garten inland roost 31 Dec (RHD); 16000 Dighty Burn, Angus, Sep (NKA).

Albino adult Rhiconich, Suth, 11 Mar-Aug (RHD, RHH); Inverness albino (present each year since autumn 1957) 16 Jan, 4 Aug-31 Dec (JMck, RHD, MR); partial white-winged immature Conon islands, E Ross, 13 Oct (RHD). Glasgow albino seen from 12 Sep (RGC); melanistic bird Culzean, Ayr, 22 Dec (WRB).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*. Pr with young Longformacus, Ber, 25 June is extension of range (KSMcG); also 2-3 prs possibly breeding Auchencorth Moss, Midl (IF); Inv, breeders arrived Loch nan Faoileag 2 Apr, poor breeding season, new tree-nesting colony Loch nan Bonnach (MIH). Migration and peak counts: Fair Isle, spring peak 165 on 24 Apr, autumn from 24 July, but numbers low, max 500 on 13-14 Aug (RAB); Shet, 2500 Fetlar 9 Aug (RSPB); E Ross, 5000 L Eye 20 Dec (CGH); Peeb, 15000 Portmore Loch 9 Jan (JB); Ayr, 3000 Doonfoot 16 Aug, increase to 5000 in Dec (WRB).

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*. Numbers lower than usual in north, but possibly more stragglers further S and in summer. Winter peaks and summer records: Shet, max in autumn 2-3 together (RJT); Fair Isle, 3 on 31 Mar, 3 different birds in May, singles on 20 June, 7 and 21 July, autumn 18 Oct-26 Nov, max 10 on 9 Nov, 6 on 12 Nov (RAB); Ork, 4 Birsay Nov and Dec (EB); Caith, 4 different birds Thurso area Jan-Mar (PMC, SL); Suth, ad Embo 1 Jan-14 May, 16 Nov-31 Dec (DMcD), 1 Tongue last week May (DWh); Inv, Longman 26 June (JMck); Angus, 3 Arbroath 18 Aug (GMC), 1 West Ferry 31 Aug (TMC); Midl, last Musselburgh 23 May; Ayr, 6-16 June (BCF).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*. About 50 individuals recorded: Shet, 12 reports of imms Jan-Apr, 1 ad Scalloway 29 Jan (NLS), 1 at sea 18 Aug, 1 Scalloway 13 Sep (RD); Fair Isle, 14-15 Jan, 24 Apr, 14 May, 22-24 May, 4-19 June, 29 June, 24 Sep (RAB); Ork, Birsay Nov-Dec (EJW); Caith, 2 Scrabster 2-31 Jan, 3 on 13 Feb, 2 on 14 Mar, ad on 19 Apr, imm 26-29 Apr, imm Westfield 20 Feb (PMC, SL); Suth, imm Durness 22 Aug (D. S. Melville *et al.*); W Ross, ad Greenstone Point 29 Feb (ACMcL); Inverness 8-17 Jan, 2 on 13th (JMck, RHD), 26 Dec (JMck); Moray, Burghead 6 Jan (RHD); Banff, Buckie 16 Apr (DBMcG); Aber, ad Don 16 Jan, imm 4-27 Mar (RLS, MAMcD); Kinc, Girdleness 4 Mar, ad 12-17 Mar (DCC, PDR, RLS); Angus, Buddon 4 Mar (TMC), Arbroath 25 July (NKA); Midl, Newhaven ad 27 Feb-5 Mar, 6-20 Apr, imm 21 Apr (TD, GJ); Ber, Eyemouth 30 Jan (TDo); Arg, Tarbert 10 Oct (H. Insley); Renf, Paisley Moss 20 Nov-1 Dec (HG, GTW); Ayr, 29 Jan, 24 Feb (JLB, WRB).

\***Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*. Ad flew past Girdleness, Kinc, 1 Oct (PDR).

\***Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia*. Imm Luthrie, Cupar, Fife, 26-27 Feb (PNJC, AG, DWO).

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*. Recorded all months Angus and Fife; Angus mainly Mar-Oct, peaks West Haven 143 on 28 July, 160 on 19 July and 4 Aug, 173 on 5 Aug, 230 on 6th, 148 on 7th, 150 on 10th, 30 on 17th;

70 Buddon 15 June, 62 Barnhill 4 Mar (TMC, GMC *et al.*); Fife, 11 St Monance 18 Feb (AG); 8 Kilconquhar 22-30 May; 3 July-8 Oct, peaks: 21 July (19), 26th (338), 3 Aug (78), 9th (207), 10th (290), 11th (150), 15th (104), 21st (30); 18 Fife Ness 9 Sep; 65 Kingsbarns 15 Aug, 35 Crail 31 Aug (PGTB, JARG, DWO).

Elsewhere, singles unless stated: Shet, 2-3 Scalloway 19-26 Jan (DC, BM *et al.*); Fair Isle, 12 Aug (GJB); Ork, Westray 15 May, North Ronaldsay 4 Sep (EJW); Suth, Handa 2 June (AG); Moray, Spey Bay 7 June (RHD); Aber, Bridge of Don 18 Jan (MAMcD), Foveran 13 July (AGK), Meikle Loch 16 Aug (RLS), 3 on 17 Aug (RH), Findon Ness 27 Aug (RAH); Kinc, Girdleness 1 Oct (PDR); Perth, Invergowrie 2 on 27 Feb, 7 on 26 Feb, 10 on 11 Mar (NKA, EJM, MAM), Drummond Pond, 5 Nov (RMcM); Midl, 7 Musselburgh 11 Mar (LLJV), 26 Mar (RKMCG), Gladhouse 30 Aug (RWJS); E Loth, Aberlady 5 Feb (GLS), 13 May (RHH, DJN); Ber, Eyemouth 28-29 Oct (TDo); Ayr, Doonfoot 7-25 Aug (WRB, TJD, IL), Bailantrae 23 July (BCF); Bute, Arran 16 July (DCC).

**Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*.** Arrival of breeders: Inv, Aviemore 28 Feb (RHD), L Garten pre-breeding roost peaked 6000+ on 13 Apr (RF), L Laide 40+ on 25 Mar, 260 on 2 May, last on 26 July (MIH); possible increase Caith (PMC), but poor breeding season Fife owing to drought (TRG), and decrease L Moan, Kirk (GSh). Counts: 17000 Langbank, Renf, 29 Aug (IPG), 32890 inner Clyde 24 Sep (per IPG); 6000 Dighty Burn, Angus, Sep (NKA); 1500 Kessock, Inv, 14 Feb (RHD).

\***Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*.** Ad Noddsdale Water, Largs, Ayr, 10 Sep (J. E. Dale); first-winter bird Fife Ness 8 Oct (DLC) (7: 314).

\***Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*.** Ad Scalloway, Shet, 22 Jan (7: 315) (AI, RJ, NLS *et al.*)—3rd Scottish record.

**Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.** No increase in Forth population and possibly even slight decrease in contrast to increase of recent years; c.3450 prs Isle of May; 391 nests Inchkeith, 186 nests Fidra and 121 on Lamb (RWJS); decrease Scar Rocks, Wig, 132 prs (220 in 1971) (JGY), but new colony 17-20 prs N of Cruggelton Castle (RHM); c9000 prs bred Handa, Suth (AG); Caith, 150 at Clett Rock 19 Mar, 170 nests 3 June (50 down on 1969), most departed 12 Aug (KRM); Fair Isle, ashore second week Feb, eggs from 29 May (RAB).

Evidence of cross-Scotland migration: 100 Caol, Inv, 2 Apr (JASN), 800 on 5th, 300 on 7th, false-starting to NE (MTD), 25+ on 15th (JR); Renf, 46E over Erskine Bridge 4 Mar, 16 on 5th, 13 on 18th, 50 on 26th (HG, IPG). Other counts: 600W/hr Faraid Head, Suth, 15 Apr (RHD); 1000 Tarbat Ness, E Ross, 4 June (RHD); 2000 (90% ads) Kinnaber, Angus, 1 Oct (DIMW); 1 L Leven, Kinross, 20 Mar (AG).

\***Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*.** Singles unless stated: 4 in spring, 21 May-30 June; Kirk, Carsethorn 26-30 June (TN *et al.*); Stir, Balmaha 22 May (JP); Forth, Fidra 17 June (RWJS); Midl, Threipmuir 21 May (DSF).

Autumn, 20 records, 3 July-24 Sep: Aber, Meikle L 16 Aug (RLS), 3 on 18th Aug (RH, WM), Strathbeg 24 Aug (D. S. Melville *et al.*); Angus, Kinnaber 10 Aug (GMC), West Ferry 12 Aug, 18th (2), 31 Aug, 24 Sep (TMC), 6 Lunan Bay 13 Aug (GS); Duns Dish 23-29 Aug (GMC); Fife, Eden estuary 29 Aug (DWO); Stir, Skinflats 25 Aug (HEMD); Midl, Musselburgh 3-6 July (JB, GLS).

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.** Breeding status: 1 pr bred successfully Fair Isle—only second record there (RAB); 150 prs Fort George, Inv, and 500 prs Speymouth, Moray (RHD); Fife, main colony Tentsmuir washed out by high tides (DWO); Forth, 80 prs failed Fidra, but increase Inchmickery, 450+ prs on 26 June (RSPB); E Loth, Aberlady numbers maintained; but decrease Horse Island, Ayr (WRB).

Arrivals: 10 Apr, 2 West Haven, Angus (TMC); 15 Apr, 3 Kingoodie,

Perth (EJM), mainly late Apr-early May. Departures: last 2 Kingoodie 27 Sep (EJM); West Haven, Angus, 22 Oct (TMC); late "comic" terns Whalsay, Shet, 28 Oct (JHS), Isle of May 30 Oct (NJG).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*. Breeding status: poor season Fife (TRG); 20 prs failed Fidra, Forth (RWJS); 150-200 prs Eilein Hoan, Suth, 19 June (RHD). Arrivals: 10 Apr, West Haven, Angus (TMC); 11 Apr, 2 Machrie Bay, Islay (RLMcM); 18 Apr, Dirleton, E Loth (MWF). But mainly late: Doonfoot, Ayr, 14 May (WRB); first Lewis, O Heb, 3 May (IMMcL); first Handa, Suth, 19 May (AG). Late records: 6 West Haven, Angus, 8 Oct (TMC), imm Fair Isle 30 Oct (RAB).

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*. Rather few records: Fife, first Fife Ness 6 May (DWO), 1 pr bred Tentsmuir but failed (DWO), last 2 Elie 9 Sep (PAL); Angus, 16 sightings 30 Apr-24 Sep, max 19 Arbroath 14 Aug (MN); Forth, 100 prs bred Inchmickery after Herring Gull cull (RSPB).

**Little Tern** *Sterna albigrons*. Breeding status: Caith, 1-2 prs Wester Burn beach (SL); Suth, 10 prs Brora 26 May (DB), 2 prs unsuccessful Dornoch (DMcD); Inv, 2 prs Whiteness 6 June, but breeding not proved (RHD); Angus, 106+ prs bred St Cyrus and reared 20-30 young (JD); 20 prs Tentsmuir, Fife—high tide caused failure (PNJC); E Loth, 10+ prs on coast but failed or robbed (KSMcG *et al.*); I Heb, 2 prs Coll 4-12 June (JB); Ayr, only 3 prs Ballantrae 24 May (AGS); Wig, 3 prs bred successfully new site (RCD).

Arrivals and departures: 30 Apr, Tynninghame, E Loth (TB); 1 May, 11 St Cyrus, Angus, 70-80 on 2nd, 180-190 on 13th (JD); 2 May, 6 Usan, Angus (GMC); last 11 West Haven, Angus, 22 Aug (TMC); last Musselburgh, Midl, 27 Aug (RF).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*. Breeding status: data incomplete; bred Rousay and North Ronaldsay, Ork (EB); 30 prs Morrich More, E Ross, 4 June (RHD); 211 nests Inchmickery 26 June (RWJS).

Arrivals, departures and passage: 31 Mar, 2 Newton on Ayr (RMR), singles Dunure, Ayr (JKRM), and 4 Ythan, Aber (JAL); mostly end of first week Apr; 11 Findhorn, Moray, 2 Apr (RAFKOS); 2 Haroldswick, Unst, Shet, 29 June (MS); Inv, 1000 Whiteness Head (immigrants) 28 Aug, 500 Fort George 2 Sep (RHD), 400 Lentrane 5 Aug (MIH); E Ross, 20 Chanonry Ness 3 Oct (EBt); 913 Arbroath, Angus, 14 Aug (MN); 500 Eden estuary, Fife, 9 Aug (JARG), last 6 Fife Ness 2 Oct (AG); recorded Isle of May 9 May-30 Oct.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*. Fair Isle, ashore second week Mar, first eggs 3 May, last 6 ashore 1 Aug (RAB); Caith, 40 on Clett Rock 19 Mar, most gone 9 July (KRM); Suth, 6000 prs Handa, first eggs 3 May, average success, all departed by 14 Aug (AG); E Ross, no change Castle Craig (CGH); Isle of May, 600 prs, probable increase (NJG); Forth, 5-6 prs Inchkeith 26 June, 1 pr Fidra 17 June, 6 nests Lamb 17 June, 36 prs Craighleith 10 June (RWJS); Wig, 27 prs Scar Rocks 7 July (JGY), 4 prs N of Cruggelton Castle (RHM). Perth, 1 Kingoodie 4 Feb (HB); 10 Chanonry Ness, E Ross, 19 Feb (MKMcD-D), 7 Kessock 14 Feb (RHD, MIH); Inv, 4 Loch Eil head 22 July (RHD).

**Little Auk** *Plautus alle*. 120 Skerries-Whalsay, Shet, 23 Jan (BM), last on 14 Mar (RJT); Fair Isle, 3 Jan, 3 on 6 Feb (GJB); Caith, singles, some dead/dying, Dunnet Bay 26 Feb (GHF), 24 Mar (D. Graham); Banff, Strathlene 23 Apr (DBMcG); Aber, Ythan 14 Feb (NEB); Angus, Boddin 7 Jan, 2 Carbigheugh Bay 18 Jan (NKA); Fife, Elie 13 Feb (PGTB), Fife Ness 12 Mar (DWO). Autumn: early one Lamlash, Arran, 26 Oct (MHD); first Shet 28 Oct Skerries (PKK), otherwise scarce, although hundreds on Fair Isle crossing 22 Nov.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*. Breeding status: slow increase Isle of May and Forth islands; but apparent decrease Wig; 25-30000 prs Handa, Suth,

first eggs 3 May, all departed by 14 Aug (AG); Fair Isle, ashore some days Jan-Feb, reg Mar, first egg 22 Apr, very few remained into first week Aug, hundreds back on ledges 26-29 Oct and 18-22 Nov (RAB); Caith, 5% bridled in 300 Duncansby Head 1 June (PMC), 200 ashore Clett Rock 26 Nov (KRM); Suth, 1500W per hr, 100E per hr Faraid Head, 15 April (RHD).

**Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle*. Nest with 1 egg North Rona 26 June (ARM). Possibly more records in south: Moray, 10 Burghhead 6 Jan, 3 on 16 Apr, 9 on 15 Oct (RHD); Banff, 3 Strathlene 13 Feb (JE), singles Girdleness, Kinc, 2 Oct (DIMW); West Haven, Angus 2 Dec (TMC); Isle of May 29 Dec (NKA); E Loth, Aberlady 8-14 May (DJN, GJ, GLS), 7 Oct (KCCCH *et al.*); Dunb, Ardmore 6 Aug (DS), 2 Woodhall, Renf, 24 July (IPG).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*. Breeding status: Fair Isle, ashore from 1 Apr, many after 6th, few to 22 Sep (RAB); Ork, lighthouse keepers suggest decrease Sule Skerry (EB); Caith, very few Duncansby Head (PMC); Angus, ashore from 25 Mar (AN); Isle of May, continued increase, 3000-3500 prs (NJG); Forth, 350 Inchkeith, 25 June, 350 Craigleith 10 June (RWJS); breeding proved Mull of Galloway, 5 adults, one carrying food to burrow 26 July (D & JTh).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*. Breeding status: Clack, fewer than 1971 (TDHM); Borders, apparently decreasing (AJS). Migrants: singles Fair Isle 20-23 Apr, 18 May-20 June.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*. Handa, 2 prs nested and reared 4 young, flock 19 in Aug-Sep (AG); Fair Isle, peaks 30 in May, 55 in Nov (RAB).

**Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*. Bred Halligarth, Unst, Shet (BM). Migrants: Fair Isle, stragglers from 11 Jan, 14 on 30 Apr, 31 on 1 May, peaked at 40 on 12 May, high numbers to 17 May, some to 12 June (RAB); singles Handa, Suth, 7-8 May (AG), North Rona 2-3 July (JAL, ARM).

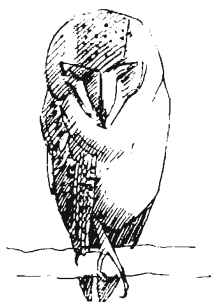
**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*. No reports of breeding, though some records of summering birds. Shet, more than a dozen records 14 May-18 June, singles except 2 Unst 23 May (per RJT); Fair Isle, 11 May-13 June, up to 4 stragglers to 12 July (RAB); Ork, Westray 21 May, 2 Papa Westray 10 July (EJW); Caith, West Canisbay 1 July; Suth, Dornoch 2 July (DMcD), Dalhalvaig 13 July (JTRS); O Heb, Barra 14 July (WAJC); Aber, Torry 9 May, Insch 21 May (MAMcD, RLS), New Aberdeen 1 July (J. H. Wood), Craighill 2 July (C. J. Roselaar); Kinc, Girdleness 21 May (AGK); Angus, Kinnaird 14 May (GMC), 2 Panbride 20 May, 1 on 29 July (TMC), Ferryden 18 June (GMC), West Haven 21 June (TMC); Fife Ness 5 May (DWO); Riccarton, Midl, 6 June (CPR); Coldingham, Ber, 17 June (LLJV); 2 Islay, 1 Heb, 22 May. Autumn: Shet, Fetlar 23 Aug (RSPB); Fair Isle, 27 Aug, 21-28 Sep, 1 Oct (RAB); North Uist, O Heb, 19 Sep (WAJC).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*. Breeding status: Caith, 104 Wick Docks 18 Feb (RHD); W Ross, 25+ Ullapool (ACMcL), 12+ Torridon (JAW), new colony 30 Strath Gairloch (ENH), late fledging Dornoch, Suth, 17 Oct (DMcD); 328 Covesea, Moray (was first Scottish site) 6 Feb (RHD); 350 Wormiston, Fife, Jan-Mar (TRG).

Migration: Fair Isle, from 25 Apr, peaks 12 on 25 May, 12 on 18-20 June, singles in autumn 9 Aug, 1 Sep, 8 Oct (RAB); recorded Handa, Suth, 20 Apr-29 June, 2 on 3rd and 31 May (AG); North Rona, singles 30 June-1 July, 2 on 2 July (JAL, ARM); Isle of May, 1-3 on 6 days 1-21 May, singles 13 Aug, 21 Sep (NJG).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*. Arrivals: 10 Apr, Moor of Genoch, Wig (RCD); 11-13 Apr, Dalry, Kirk (J. Guthrie); 18 Apr, Moorfoots, Midl (WB); 19 Apr, Corpach, Inv (JASN) and Gairloch, W Ross (ENH); mostly late Apr-first week May. Fewer in N Suth (IDP); juvenile Vementry, Shet, 25 June (IS). Fair Isle, passage 7 May-13 June, mostly 7-28 May, 1-4

daily, max 8 on 19 May (RAB); 1 died Fetlar, Shet, 17 May had been ringed Holland 25 July 1971 (RSPB). Last records: Fair Isle 29-31 July, Tresta, Shet, 5 Aug (IS).



**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*. Kirk, fieldwork showed higher density than originally thought, 9 occupied sites in 1 km square (ECF), but poor breeding success owing to bad weather and 2 cases of human disturbance Glen Trool, Kirk (GSh); more sightings Clyde and E Loth; 3+ breeding sites Arran (MHD); probable increase in sightings and breeding records up east side to E Ross. Singles Bridgend, Islay, 1 Heb, 19 Mar (PH-J); Benbecula, O Heb, 20 Aug, Lewis 26 Aug (DGB); also 1 Vane Farm, Kinross, 15 Mar was new for RSPB reserve (AG).

\***Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*. Shet, up to 5 Fetlar Jan- Apr, pr laid 4 eggs in 1967 site, first egg 20 May, 4 hatched late June, but all died in first week, young ♀ joined pr from 5 Aug, 6 on 18 Oct-31 Dec (RSPB, RJT); sightings elsewhere in Shetland rather confused, but Unst, 11 Jan, 10 May (2), 12-14 May, 13-17 June, Yell 12 Feb, 14 May, Mainland pr early Apr, North Roe 6 May, another 10 May, Ronas Hill 13 Aug (RJT *et al.*); Fair Isle, imm ♂ 26-27 Apr, ♀ 16 May, ad ♂ 9-15 June, trapped but not a Fetlar-reared bird (RAB, ERM *et al.*); Ork, Eday 11 May, possibly same bird Papa Westray same week (EB); O Heb, pr 18 May, possibly up to 5 ads later, still 2 in Dec (WAJC); St Kilda 17 Apr (DSt); Suth, Ben Hutig 13 Apr (J. R. Best).

\***Little Owl** *Athene noctua*. No information from usual area Midl; 1 Kilbarchan, Renf, 14 May (M. Cook); young bird found dead on A9 N of Perth 14 May (JJMF).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*. Kirk, 100% rearing success from known nests Glentool (GSh); decrease Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG); increase Gairloch, W Ross (ENH); 1 Gruinart, Islay, 1 Heb, 21 Mar (PH-J).

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*. Breeding status: Shet, one nest but destroyed in heather fire; increase to 3 prs Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG); more discovered Kirk. Stragglers Fair Isle Feb-Nov, including summer (RAB); similar Shet; 1 Handa, Suth, 24 Sep (AG); 20 Binscarth roost, Ork, Nov-Dec (EB).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*. Breeding status: Ork, fairly high numbers (EB); scarce Inv; good year Angus; 8 prs Glen Trool, Kirk (GSh), but high chick mortality. Casual records Fair Isle 29 Jan-15 Oct, 3 on 9 Sep (RAB); W Ross, 1 Torridon 8 May, first seen there (JAW); E Loth, marked autumn passage, 4 Aberlady 15 Oct (JAN, DRL).

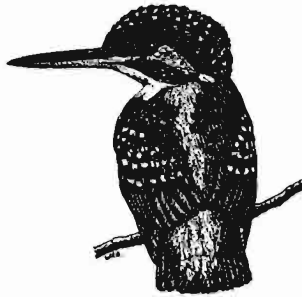
\***Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*. Scarce, only records from SW; Bute, heard 4 localities Arran, at least 2 young reared (MHD); 1 Isle of

Bute 15-16 July (IH); Renf, Bonnington Moor 26 Sep (WJIC); Ayr, Coynton 14 May (RMR), several S Ayr (WRB); Kirk, Carsphairn 1 May (A. Forsyth), 4 Bannan Forest 20 July (LAU, ADW), not heard Glen Trool (GSh).

**Swift** *Apus apus*. Arrivals: 27 Apr, Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG); 1 May, Dunure, Ayr (JKRM), Bellshill, Lan (KCRS, HSCH), Hawick, Rox (TDo), Aberlady, E Loth (DTh) Stirling (DMB); 2 May, 20 Kilconquhar, Fife, 100 on 4th, 200 on 5th (DWO); rather late in north, first Spey Bay, Moray, 13 May (JMB); Inverness 20 May (MR); Thurso, Caith, 22 May (PMC). Breeding numbers low in Caith (PMC) and Spey Valley, Inv (RHD).

Migration: Fair Isle, from 22 May, small numbers in June, summer peak 40 on 16 July, last 28 Aug (RAB); Shet, recorded 3 June-6 Sep (RJT); Handa, Suth, 2 on 30 June, 1 on 8 Aug (AG); 162 Aberlady, E Loth, 30 June. Main departures by late Aug, few into Sep; stragglers Fair Isle 11 Oct (RAB); 2 St Andrews, Fife, 22 Oct (IGC); Isle of Bute 29 Oct (IH); Airthrey, Stir, 30 Oct (CJH).

\***Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*. Three records: Buckie, Banff, 27 May (DLC); Fair Isle 6 June (RAB, ERM, R. J. Sandison); Scalloway, Shet, 9 June (RJ), the last subject to acceptance by the Rarities Committee.



**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*. Definite improvement: Kirk, definite increase (ADW); Dumf, some 20 records, including 3 breeding prs (RTS); Ayr, continued increase, breeding proved one area (WRB); Renf/Lan, bred White Cart River, but young died (DLC, RGC, AMcI); broods reared Selkirk (4 young) 10 Aug (C. Smith) and Broughton, Peeb (JMe); various other sightings in Borders, Lothians and Clyde.

Singles outside this area: Islay 16 Nov (CGB); River Orchy, Arg, 7 Oct (W. Emerson); L Leven, Kinross, 13 Apr and 14 Oct (per BHM); Bridge of Earn, Perth, 3 Dec (per VMT); Angus, 2 Brechin 30 Oct (CM), Muirdrum 6 Nov (MP), Montrose Basin 26 Nov (GMC).

\***Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*. 1 Gloop, Yell, Shet (Mr Dalziel per RJT) 25 May.

\***Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*. 4 in spring, 2 in autumn. Fair Isle, 3-10 May (RAB); Shet, Foula 9 May (J. Gear), Whalsay 27 Sep (JHS); Perth, Fealar 8 Apr (J. Teacher), Strathyre 17 Oct (G. Reynolds); Inv, Glenfeshie 7 June (HJB).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*. Breeding status: pushing north, and numbers increasing in south except in Borders, where declining (AJS); bred successfully Overtoun, Dunb (RMcG); various records in Clyde, 1 at Erskine, Renf, being first for several years; slight increase Midl, 1 at

Blackford Hill being first since 1969, records from 5 or 6 other localities (RWJS); continued increase Fife and Clack, max 6 Earlsall Moor 10 Dec (DWO); notable increase Angus, bred Glen Prosen (GMC); Aber/Kinc, 1 Crathes 2 Apr (NP), Banchory 7 Apr, 2 on 24 Oct (NP), 1 Bieldside 13-14 Apr (B. W. Bache).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*. Breeding status: numbers good Ayr (WRB); 4 prs Inchcailloch, L Lomond (KW et al.); probably bred Arran (MHD); increase in Inverewe, W Ross (PS). Influx in autumn of northern race: Fair Isle, 14-15 Sep, 16th (2), small numbers 24 Sep-6 Oct, max 4 on 26 Sep, all imm except ad 2 Oct (RAB); Shet, North Roe 27 Aug, influx 13 Sep, 1 Dunrossness to Dec (RJT); Ork, Deerness 18 Oct, few Kirkwall late Nov-Dec (EB); Mainland records possibly connected with influx: Thurso, Caith, 17 Nov-31 Dec (PMC, JMW); Collieston, Aber, Aug (JAL, WM), Old Aberdeen Nov-Dec (PDR); one in off sea Cambo, Fife, 24 July (JARG), 1 Fife Ness 25 Sep (DWO).

**\*Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*. Scarce on passage, and no breeding records. Summer: 1 singing L Knockie, Inv, 9 June (RHD, DNW). Migration: Fair Isle, almost daily 5-24 May, singles except 7 on 7th, 3 on 6-11th (RAB); Shet, Fetlar 3rd and 6 May (RSPB), 10 Skerries 10 May (RJT), 2 Foula 19 May, few 18-23 May (JGH); Aber, Rattray 7 May (MAMcD, RLS); Isle of May 5-7 May, 2 on 8-9th, 1 on 11 May (CWB, JHBW). Autumn: Fair Isle, 27 Aug, 30th (2), 31st, 2 on 13 Sep (RAB); Shet, singles Mainland 31 Aug (DC), Fetlar 14 Sep (ISR); Auchterless, Aber, 13 Sep (M. H. Murray).

**\*Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*. 1 Out Skerries, Shet, 25-28 May BM et al.); Fair Isle, southern form 29 Sep-27 Oct (GJB, RAB, ERM).

**\*Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*. Singles Fair Isle 27 Mar and 6 Apr (GJB).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*. Migration: Fair Isle, spring influxes 200-300 on 6 Mar, 500 on 12-14th, 300 on 19th, autumn passage from 10 Sep, 300S on 6 Oct (RAB); Aber, 4000S in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr Aberdeen 30 Jan (MAMcD, RLS); 370 Moor of Genoch, Wig, 21 Oct (RCD).

**\*Shore Lark** *Eromophila alpestris*. Ad ♂ in song in Highlands 10 July (P. Coe, P. Gepp)—first ever summer record. Winter: 6 Tynninghame, E Loth, 6-7 Jan (GLS, RWJS); 1 Buddon, Angus, 4 Feb (TMC).

Spring passage: Fair Isle, 2 on 29 Apr-1 May, singles 5-8 May, 11th (2), 13-14th and 20 May (RAB); Shet, singles Skerries 8 May, Noss 25 May (RJT); Ork, 2 Papa Westray 18 May (EB, DJ). Autumn: Fair Isle 6 Oct (RAB); Moray, 2 Lossiemouth 26 Nov (R. Suddaby); Isle of May 2-3 Oct (DLC, IPG et al.); E Loth, 3 Tynninghame 20 Oct, 6 on 22nd, 3 on 23rd (GLS, EMS, RKMCG). 2 Aberlady 27 Oct (IAGB), 1 Dirleton 29 Oct (DEA); Ber, 10 Fast Castle 10 Nov (P. G. Kelly).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. Breeding season rather late as in 1971; numbers back to normal Banff study area (DBMcG); Fife, good first broods (TRG); 3 prs bred Isle of May; 1 pr attempted to breed Fair Isle (RAB); numbers down in Rox (AJS), Renf (HG, IPG), Central and S Ayr (WRB) and Glentworth, Kirk (GSh); unchanged N Ayr (WCW).

Arrivals and migration: 3 Apr, first L of Lowes, Perth (MD); 8 Apr, Earlstoun Loch (AJW) and Hensol (Sir N. Henderson) Kirk; 9 Apr, Ardwell, Wig (RCD), Kildonan, Arran (MHD) and Foulis, Ross (CGH); 10 Apr, 2 Balcavies Loch, Angus (GMC) and 2 Torthorwald, Dumf (TW). Most late Apr in south, early May in north. Fair Isle, 3 May-13 July, peaks of 20 on 12th, 24-25 May, 45 on 3 June, 50 on 6th (RAB); Shet, peak passage 6-15 May, 20-30 May (RJT). 500 Guardbridge, Fife, late Aug at roost (TRG); Isle of May, 60 on 21 Aug, 50 on 10 Sep, last 29 Oct (per NJG); 50+ New Machar, Aber, 30 Oct (T. Hodd). Last records: 1 Nov singles Stonehaven, Kinc (DWOg) and Pabay, Skye (ECG); 3 Nov, 2 Lundin Links, Fife (PGTB); 5 Nov, 2 Crail, Fife (DWO) and 1 Aberlady, E Loth (BCK); 8 Nov Dunure, Ayr (JKRM).

\***Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*. One Sumburgh Head, Shet, 29 May (S. J. Broyd)—5th Scottish record.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*. Breeding status: 2 prs nested Unst, Shet (MS); brood fledged 11 Sep Thurso, Caith (PMC); poor breeding season Fife (TRG); ad feeding late young in nest Edinburgh 6 Oct (RBT); fewer Rox (AJS); Renf, considerable increase (HG, IPG); average numbers, very good breeding season Ayr (WRB); young still in nest Garlieston, Wig, 20 Oct (RHM).

Arrivals and passage: 15 Apr, 1 Gladhouse, Midl (LLJV); 16 Apr, singles Lockerbie, Dumf (WA), Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG) and Arg (IR); 21 Apr, 2 Elie, Fife (JCS); 22 Apr, 1 Ardwell, Wig (RCD); 29 Apr, singles Vane Farm, Kinross (GC), Monikie, Angus (TMC) and Rutherford, Rox. Numbers late arriving and not in north until first week May; first Inv, Fort George 1 May (MR), late arriving Spey valley, first 6 Carrbridge 16 May (RHD). 50 Kilconquhar, Fife, 5 May (DWO). Fair Isle, passage 6 May-21 June, peaks 20 on 26 May, 30 on 30th, 40 on 6-7 June (RAB); Shet, 8-12 May, more from 20th, max 75 Mainland 9 June (RJT); Handa, Suth, singles 11th and 23 May, 2 on 6 June (AG). Last Isle of May 30 Oct (IFS); Newburgh, Aber, 4 Nov (JAL); 3 North Berwick, E Loth, 8-10 Nov (DEA).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*. Breeding status: good season, many young reared Fife (TRG); decrease reported E Loth, Midl, Renf and Ayr; feeding young Islay, 1 Heb, 14 Sep (CGB). Arrivals and passage: first ones early—19 Mar, Caerlaverock, Dumf (ECF); 22 Mar, Langholm, Dumf (ELOC); 26 Mar, Hawick, Rox (TDo); 31 Mar, Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO), 4 there 9 Apr, but very slow return, and still only a few in late Apr (DWO); Midl, first Duddingston 2 Apr (DRA); first Gladhouse 9 Apr, big numbers on 22nd (RWJS); first in north, 2 Marnoch, Banff, 9 Apr (JE); late Inv, 30 L Insh 28 Apr (RHD); one River Lochy 30 Apr (JCu). Fair Isle, passage 20 Apr, mainly from 6 May, max 5 on 6 May (RAB). Autumn: 1 Fair Isle 30 Aug, 2 on 1-2 Sep (RAB); 700+E Kingoodie, Perth, 8 Aug (EJM). Last records: 9 Sep, West Haven, Angus (TMC); 10 Sep, Hawick, Rox (TDo); 14 Sep, Islay (CGB); 22 Sep Kilconquhar, Fife (PGTB).

\***Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*. 11-12 records 30 May-11 July, and 26 Sep. Shet. ♂ West Burrafrith 9 June (per DC), 1 Tingwall 13 June, pr on 14th-15th (DC *et al.*), ♂ Helendale-Seafeld 27-30 June (DC, PKK, BM), ad ♂ Kergord 5-11 July (DC, IS); Caith, 1 (possibly 2) Dirlot 30 June (SL), ♂ Langwell 2 July (PMC, JTRS); Suth, ♂ Strathnaver 30 May (DWh), ♂ in song Altnaharra 5 June (Mrs A. Nixon); W Stir, ♂ in song Inchcailloch, L Lomond, 6 June (KW *et al.*). Autumn: first-year ♂ Fair Isle 26 Sep, died 27th (RAB). Best recent year, with 11-12 birds, compared with 9 in 1968, 7 in 1969, 2 in 1970 and 9-10 in 1971.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*. Breeding records: Fair Isle, eggs noted 5 Apr, 1 pr reared 2 young (RAB); Suth, pr reared 3 young Handa (AG); Ross, pr built nest Glascarnoch Dam 2 Apr (EBt); Galloway, no obvious change (ADW), but no evidence of breeding in usual areas Renf (HG); numbers lower E Inv (RHD); apparent increase in illegal use of poisoned carrion and baits in Highlands probably affecting numbers.

Migrants: singles Yetholm, Rox, 13 Mar (RSB); Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, 3 Sep (LLJV); Isle of May 7-9 May (CWB); 14 Fair Isle 6 Apr (RAB).

**Crow** *Corvus corone*. Carrion Crow *C. c. corone*. Migration: more than usual in northern isles; Shet, 12 sightings late Feb-mid June (RJT); Fair Isle, singles 5 days 26 Mar-4 Apr, 17-19th, 20th (12), 30 Apr, 14 on 1 May, stragglers to 8 June (RAB); one Rhum, 1 Heb. Dec (PW). Counts: 130 Invergowie, Perth, 23 Apr, 207 on 30 July (PJO'B, EJM); 85 Beith roost, Ayr, 11 Apr (WCW); two large roosts, each 300+ birds, Ken Valley, Kirk (ADW, LAU).

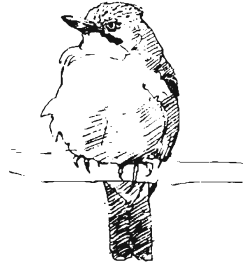


**Hooded Crow** *C. c. cornix*. Roost flock 175 Abernethy, E Inv, 31 Dec is lower than in recent years (RHD); more seen Fife, 5 sightings Jan-Apr, Aug-Nov (DWO); singles Isle of May 5 and 20 Apr (per NJG); singles River Dee, Kirk, 19 Mar (LF), Port William, Wig, 3 Dec (TVT). 19 out of flock of 25 at Fair Isle flew off N 29 Oct (RAB).

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*. O Heb, 190 prs Stornoway is slight increase (WAJC). Migration: 1 Handa, Suth, 17 Apr (AG); Fair Isle, one 1 Jan, 2 on 13-29 Feb, scattered records 6 Mar-3 May, max 8 on 3 May, one 26 Nov-28 Dec, 2 on 12-14 Dec (RAB).

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*. Noticeable spring influx in northern isles: Fair Isle, one 22 Feb, 5 on 6 Mar, scattered records to 1 June, max 15 on 14 Mar (RAB); Shet, large influx—100 Veensgarth 12 Mar (DC), also recorded Whalsay, Unst and Foula at this time, gone by 15 Mar, 2 Fetlar 16 May, small parties Whalsay and Skerries (RJT); Scandinavian type birds reported Shet and Fair Isle; one North Rona 30 June (JAL, ARM). Albino Dunscore, Dumf, Sep (JFY).

**Magpie** *Pica pica*. Increase in afforested ground, Kirk (ADW); nest Braes, Skye, I Heb, 29 May; a few more reports Angus; singles Garmouth, Moray, 11 Mar (JMB), Mey, Caith, 11 Aug (Mr Cameron).



**Jay** *Garrulus garrulus*. Indications of increase and spread throughout Scottish range: still increasing Kirk (ADW); 1 Dunragit, W Wig 28 Mar (RCD); Ayr, 3 Culzean 29 Oct-31 Dec (DB, GR), 2 Rozelle 26 Nov-31 Dec (MEC, WRB, IL); Dunb, 1 Milngavie 22 Apr (TPD); 2 sightings Rox; possible increase Fife; Aber, singles Ballater 11 Jan (D. Welch), Torphins 22 June (RSBy); at least 2 L Linnhe area, W Inv/Arg (per JR).

**Chough** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. Continued improvement in numbers Islay, I Heb (CGB); pr recorded Arg sea coast (per MJPG).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*. Inv, unsuccessful season, late summer only 1 out of 16 trapped birds being 1 Y at Kiltarlity (MIH). Migrants: 1 Handa, Suth, 24 Sep (AG); 4 Holburn Head, Caith, 27 Jan (AFCMC, PMC), 2 Forss 6 Feb (KRM).

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*. Poor breeding season Inv, high mortality among nestlings in early June, owing to wet weather, Kiltarlity (MIH), also Spey valley (RHD); Suth, nest 6 eggs L Hope 31 May (DCH).

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*. O Heb, only 1 sighting Stornoway 21 Mar (IMMcL); Inv, 1 migrant Whiteness Head 16 Jan showed characters of Continental race (RHD).

**Crested Tit** *Parus cristatus*. Population in good numbers throughout range; 2 on bird table at Lossiemouth, Moray (CAG); seen Glen Cannich, Inv (B. Cooper).

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*. Increase at Gattonside, Rox (A. Walker); pr and 3 young Coldingham, Ber, 17 June (LLJV); 2 Gosford, E Loth, 22 Sep (GLS) were outside usual area.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*. Good numbers in Galloway; spreading Stinchar valley, Ayr (per WRB), increase to 3 prs Dalmellington (DWMcG); Lan, bred Carstairs, several miles outside usual range (RE-H), 5 Newmains 30 Sep (IL).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*. Population remains high throughout mainland, although fewer Roslin Glen, Midl (JAN) and slightly fewer E Loth (AMt). Highest counts: 40 Thurso, Caith, 22 Nov (JMW); 20 Gruinard, W Ross, 3 Dec (PS); 25 Sherriffmuir, Perth, 21 Nov (CJH); 48 Insh, Inv, 23 Aug (DAH). Migrants: 11 Isle of May 30 Sep (DLC, IG).

\***Nuthatch** *Sitta europea*. Singles heard Blackcraig Forest, Strathardle, Perth, 9 May (JJMF) and Invervar, Glen Lyon, Perth, 2 Sep (J. M. Pinder). Details have recently been received of singles seen at Invergowrie, late May 1970 and 23 Jan 1971 (D. Turner *et al.*) in the same county (7: 316).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*. W Ross, bred successfully Inverewe (PS); fewer E Loth (AMt, KSMcG); 15 Carrington, Midl, 11 June (JAN). Migrants: 1 Bass Rock, Forth, 9 July KCCH *et al.*; 1 Kergord, 26 Nov-end Dec (JSp *et al.*) was of the northern race *C.f. familiaris*.

**Wren Troglodytes troglodytes**. Breeding status: increase Vane Farm, Kinross (AG); population high throughout Highlands (RHD); 7 prs holding territory Handa, Suth (AG); 29+ territories Fair Isle (RAB).

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*. Breeding status: population one-third of 1971 level in N Ayr (WCW); decrease W Suth (SMD); bred Black Isle, E Ross, first ever known (MKMcD-D); 1 Hoy, Ork, 9 Sep (CJB).

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*. Large autumn movements in England were paralleled by unprecedented influx of birds into Scotland from 5 Nov, about 17 birds recorded in five counties—there are no previous Scottish records. Aber, 2♂♂ and 1♀ L of Strathbeg 5 Nov (GMD, GTS, QMS), 2 on 12 Nov (JAL, MAMcD, WM) still present Mar 1973 (RHD); Fife, ♂ trapped Guardbridge 5 Nov released Kilconquhar and present there until at least 10th (PNJC, DWO), 2 Morton Lochs 9 Dec (L. Collins), ♀ Earlsall 10 Dec (DWO); Angus, 1 Buddon 25 Nov (TMC), 2 Montrose Basin 26 Nov (GMC), 3 Dec (TMC); E Loth, 5 Aberlady 24 Nov (I. A. G. Brown); Kirk, pr Auchenreoch Loch 31 Dec (G. Blackwell, M. Jones).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*. Ork, pr Kirkwall but probably failed to breed (EB); increase Gairloch, W Ross (ENH). Counts: 98 Fearnan, Perth, early Sep (HEMD); 40 Edgelaw, Midl, 11 Sep; 50 Portmore, Peeb, 23 Sep (JAN, RWJS); Ayr, 23 juvs dead in crow trap 4 Aug (ADW). Migrants: Fair Isle, sporadic 19 Feb-7 June, singles except 6-15 Mar, when max 8 on 10th, 6 on 12th (RAB); Shet, 2 Lerwick 30 Jan (NLS), 2 Nesting 14 Mar (BM), 3 Whalsay 3-5 Mar, one 3 Oct (JHS).

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*. Pr bred Banff, at least 2 young seen out of nest 29 July (A. Payne); ad carrying food N Perth (JJMF). Circumstantial records of breeding: Shet, probably bred at usual site (per RJT); Aber, empty nest late May and pair summered (MAMcD), agitated pair in Scots pine at another area 15 May (D. B. Leslie), one there 9 June (JRDM); Perth, pr apparently holding territory Dunkeld early summer (IMcL), 1 Glen Artney 9 July (DRM).

Spring passage generally late and delayed: Fife, 200N/hr Cupar 24 Mar (DWO); Midl, 4000 Middleton 9 Apr, 1000 on 16 Apr (RW), 700 Roslin 15 Apr (LLJV); 200 Fala 22 Apr (WB); 1000+ Lockerbie, Dumf, 10 Apr (RTS); 80 Glen Esk, Angus, 29 Apr (GMC); Fair Isle, influx 29 on 11 Apr, 80 on 29 Apr, 200 on 30th, steady passage first 2 weeks May, 50-200 most days, 400 on 10th, fewer than 10 from 17 May, last one 3

June (RAB); Shet, big influx 30 Apr, when 2000 Skerries, 1500 Fetlar, 1500 Whalsay, 800 Foula, 100 Unst, smaller passage from 8 May, max 200 Foula 11 May (per RJT *et al.*). Other late records: 6 Handa, Suth 7 May (AG); Inv, 25 Nethybridge 5 May (RHD), 1 Battan Forest 28 May (B. Joslin), 1 Dalnacardoch 18 May (JTRS); 17 Troup Head, Banff, 8 May (JE); 14 Rattray, Aber, 7 May (RLS); 26 St Kilda 1 May (DSt); 5 Dunblane, Perth, 7 May (RMcM); last Isle of May 30 June (NJG).

Autumn migration: Fair Isle, stragglers from 11 Aug, regular from 18 Sep, but first real influx 750 on 13 Oct, rather scarce until 3500 on 28th, 2500 on 19 Oct, then lower numbers, last peak 550 on 6 Nov (RAB); W Ross, 12 Kinlochewe 3 Sep (EBr); Inv, 2 Kiltarlity 17 Sep (MIH); Perth, 500 Port Allen 31 Oct, 2000+ on 11 Nov (RMcM); first Fife 3 Sep (DWO); Isle of May first 29 Aug, max 500 on 15 Oct (per NJG); 1250SW in 3 hrs Moorfoots, Midl, 21 Oct (RWJS); huge numbers E Loth 15 Nov (AMt), and c10000-20000 Gullane-Dirleton coast 9 Dec (LLJV, DRL); Peeb, 4 Eddleston 27 Aug (W. N. Taylor); small flock Arran, Bute, 20 Aug (MHD); 2100+ Inchinnon, Renf, 30 Oct (IPG); 30 Auchencairn, Kirk, 17 Aug (I. Armstrong), 1500 Dalry 23 Oct (LAU).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*. Return to Highland breeding areas, Kiltarlity, Inv, 17 Feb, 5 on 1 Mar (MIH). Spring passage: Fair Isle mainly 6 Mar-29 May, but max only 10 on 7 Mar and 8 May (RAB); Shet, peaks 10 Whalsay 2 Mar (JHS), 50 Skerries 30 Apr (RJT); 20 Fife Ness 15 Apr, more 7 May (DWO); scarce Isle of May, max 6 on 8 Apr (NJG).

Autumn passage: Fair Isle, 15 Aug-8 Sep, more from 20 Sep, max 25 on 1 Oct, 200 on 2nd, 40 on 6 Oct (RAB); 300 Ness islands, Inv, 22 Oct (JMCK); large numbers in off sea at Aberdeen 13-14 Oct (RLS); 200 Isle of May 1 Oct; Renf, passage from 27 Sep, heaviest 13 Oct (IPG); Rhum, 1 Heb, more abundant 2nd-3rd week Oct than in recent years (PW).

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*. Breeding status: situation rather unclear owing to lack of recorded data. Observers are requested to send in full details of located nests/broods and singing ♂♂, so that colonization can be documented.

#### Summary of breeding records

Area	Singing ♂♂ Possible/probable breeding	Proved breeding
Caith		2
Suth	3+	
E Ross		1 (B/4)
W Ross	12+	5
N Inv	10+	3
E Inv	4	1 (B/5)
Perth	1	
Stir	1	
	31+	12

Spring passage: rather scarce Fair Isle, main movements 25 Mar-20 May, max 30 on 9 May, stragglers to 19 June (RAB); Shet, 50 Whalsay 2 Mar, small numbers to early May (RJT); Suth, delayed Icelandic birds, 10 Altnacealgach 14 Apr, 40 Durness 15 Apr (RHD); Isle of May 6 on 10 Apr, last 31 May (per NJG).

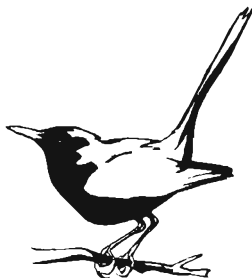
Autumn passage: Fair Isle, from 19 Sep, peaks 400 on 2 Oct, 2000 on 7th, 9500+ on 13th, 600 on 21st, 800 on 28th, 1500 on 29th, stragglers after 8 Nov except 56 on 21 Nov (RAB); Shet, from 24 Sep, peak 28 Oct,

when 1500 Fetlar, 300 Skerries, 200 Whalsay (per RJT); large numbers over Thurso, Caith, 13 Oct (PRJ); Inv, 2 Kiltarlity 25 Sep, influx 6 Oct, 900+ on 9th, most gone 13th (MIH), few Speyside from 29 Sep, mainly 4-18 Oct, peaks 500 Kingussie 9th, 1500 Insh 10th (RHD, RL); Kinc, 300S/hr Girdleness 7 Oct (AGK, AP), large influx 14 Oct (ADKR, RLS); Isle of May first 16 Aug, max 2000 on 15 Oct (per NJG); 50 Fife Ness 2 Oct (PNJC); 600 Roslin Glen, Midl, 7 Oct (JAN); Renf, main passage from 3 Oct, fewer than usual, peaks 3rd, 11th, 13th (heavy) and 14 Oct (IPG); heavy passage Hamilton, Lan, 13 Oct; Kirk, first Dalry 26 Sep, most 18 Oct (ADW, LAU).

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*. 1 pr bred Mainland, Shet, first ever record (per RJT); at least 1 pr bred Hoy, Ork, (per EB); 1 pr bred Renf.

Spring arrivals: 18 Mar, L Harrow, Kirk (LAU); 23 Mar, Glentroot, Kirk (GSh); 24 Mar, 2 Moorfoots, Midl (WB); 26 Mar, 4 Glen Lethnot, Angus (DH), Ousdale Burn, Caith (SL, PMC); 28 Mar, 2 Slochd, Inv (RHD); mostly first week Apr. Passage: Fair Isle, 26 Mar-23 June, max 13 on 7 May, 20 on 8th and 14 on 19th (RAB); Shet, scarce, max 8 Skerries 30 Apr (per RJT); 1 Troup Head, Banff, 8 May (JE); 1 Rattray, Aber, 7 May (RLS); Isle of May from 8 Apr.

Autumn: Fair Isle, singles 8 days 30 Sep-8 Oct, but 18 on 2 Oct is low peak (RAB); Shet, 1 Whalsay 30 Sep (JHS); last Glen Nevis, Inv, 15 Oct (JCu); 1 Cruden Bay, Aber, 7 Oct (JP, PDR); scarce Fife Ness, 1 on 3 Sep, 2 on 3 Oct (AG, DWO).



**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*. Passage numbers generally low: Fair Isle, spring peak 100 on 9 Mar, autumn from 9 Sep, peaks only 50 on 2nd and 21 Oct, 350 on 28 Oct, 300 on 21 Nov (RAB); Shet, peaks 100 Whalsay 2 Mar (JHS), 300 Fetlar 28 Oct (ISR); Aber, influx 13-14 Oct (RLS); 400+ Crawton, Kinc, 26 Nov (DWOg); Fife Ness, scarce, few on 2 Oct (PNJC); Inv, 100+ Broadford, Skye, 14 Oct (ECG); more abundant both winters Rhum, I Heb (PW).

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Spring: 18 Mar, 2 Lochinvar Loch, Kirk (I. Leach), Aberlady, E Loth (GCJ) and Lewis, O Heb (W. Matheson); 19 Mar, Caerlaverock and Langholm, Dumf (ELOC, ECF, JGY), Moorfoots, Midl (WB) and Islay, I Heb (D. Lea, PH-J); 20 Mar, Prestwick, Ayr (BCF); first in N mainland 22 Mar Glenspean, Inv (JR), 25 Mar, Fasnakyle, Inv (MIH) and Inshriach, Inv (RSPB). Many in late Mar, but most in mid Apr.

Passage: Fair Isle, from 26 Mar, rather few to 20 on 12 Apr, 60 on 26th (RAB), Greenland birds 30 Apr (3)-14 June, mainly 13-20 May, max 10 on 30 May and 17 Aug-19 Oct, last 2 on 28 Oct (RAB); Shet, last Fetlar 25 Oct (ISR), last Spey Dam, Inv, 31 Oct (JR); Greenland

bird Auchmacoy, Aber, 24 Sep (MAMcD); last Crawton, Kinc, 3 Nov (DWOg); poor autumn Fife Ness, last 12 Oct (JARG); Isle of May, 18 July-15 Oct, max 20 on 8 Sep (per NJG); last Musselburgh, Midl, 5 Dec (GLS).

**Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.** Breeding status: increase and good breeding season noted Caith, Suth. W Inv, Fife, Midl, E Loth, Bute, Ayr, Dunb and Galloway; 2 prs Handa, Suth, reared 2 broods each (AG); young on wing NW Suth 23 Apr (IDP) and Glenelg, W Inv, 30 Apr (DCH); bred Cobbinshaw, Midl, for first time, and again at Holyrood Park.

Passage: Fair Isle, 7-17 Mar, singles except 8th (3), 9th (5), 14th (3), ♂ 6 Nov (RAB); Shet, singles Whalsay 6th, 7th and 8 Mar, 10 May (JHS); Kinross, ♂ Vane Farm 17 Oct, 5 Nov (GC); impressive autumn passage Fife Ness, 50+ on 24 Sep, 20 on 25th (KB, DWO); Isle of May, one 18 May (JGY, DRG), 1 Oct, 2 on 2 Oct (DLC *et al.*); more wintering birds Caith (DG).

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.** Breeding status: decrease reported Suth, E Loth, Rox, Renf (much reduced), Ayr, but good breeding season Arran. Arrivals: 26 Apr, Glen Quaich, Perth (EMH); 1 May, Fife Ness (DWO); mostly end first week of May throughout mainland. Passage: Isle of May, 2-27 May, max 10 on 7th (per NJG); singles Handa, Suth, 27th and 30-31 May (AG); Fair Isle, 6-31 May but scarce, max 25 on 18-19th, stragglers to 11 June (RAB); Shet, small passage 7-11 May, max 10 Skerries on 8th, more from 18th, max 50 Skerries, 21 May, 24 Fetlar 19 May (RJT); 1 North Rona 25 June-1 July (JAL, ARM). Autumn passage: rather scarce; Fair Isle, 14 Aug-9 Oct, peak only 10 on 20 Sep (RAB); scarce Shet, 13 Sep-3 Oct (RJT); Isle of May, 15 Aug-2 Oct, scarce, max 5 on 31 Aug and 4 Sep (NJG); 6 Fife Ness 24 Sep (KB).

**Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.** Breeding status: low numbers Soey Valley, Lochaber, Inv, Kinross, Midl, E Loth, Rox, Arran, average Kirk, but increase Ayr where 18 prs Dalmellington (DWMcG), also bred Brisbane Glen, Renf (HG).

Arrivals: 15 Apr, L of Lowes, Perth (MD); 16 Apr, Yetholm, Rox (RSB); 19 Apr, Blackshiels, Midl (EH); 23 Apr, Strathglass, Inv (MIH); mostly on breeding ground from first days of May. Passage: Isle of May, 26 Apr-30 May, max 12 on 18th (NJG); Fair Isle, 29 Apr-30 May, max 40 on 18 May, 100 on 19th, 25 on 20th (RAB); Shet 7-13 May, mainly later in month max 25 Skerries 21 May (RJT). Autumn: Fair Isle, scarce, 2 Sep-11 Oct, max 20 on 2 Oct (RAB); Isle of May, 30 Aug-16 Oct, max 10 on 2 Oct (NJG); last Mainland, Shet, 29 Oct (RJT).

**\*Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*.** Recorded 27 Mar-12 June and 9 Aug-3 Dec (about 35 in spring, 7 in autumn). Shet, up to 6 Fetlar 11-13 Apr (G. Walton), 2 Mainland 11 Apr (AO), Whalsay 16 Apr (JHS), Fetlar 6 May (RJT), Unst 12 June (MS); Fair Isle, 2 on 27 Mar, singles 28th and 31 Mar, 9 days 2-13 Apr, 1 or 2 most days 5-18 May, 4 on 8th (RAB); Moray, ♀ Covesea 16 Apr (RHD, CGH); Angus, Usan 14 May (GMC); Isle of May, 9-10 Apr (NKA, MN), 2 on 3 May (JHBM). Autumn: Fair Isle, 24-25 Aug, 1 Sep (RAB); Shet, Tresta 3 Dec (RJ); Aber, Rattray Head 21 Oct (JP, PDR); Isle of May, 9 Aug (HG, IPG), 2 Oct (DLC, BZ); Midl, ♀ Leith 2 Oct (GLS).

**\*Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*.** Singles Fair Isle (trapped) 7-9 June, 1 July (RAB).

**\*Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*.** Recorded 8 May-3 June and 8 Sep-2 Oct (about 24 in spring, about 11 in autumn). Shet, 2 Fetlar 19 May (RSPB), Sumburgh 18 May, 2 on 19th, one 20th (BM), Skerries 21-22 May (RJT, BM), Noss 25 May (RJT), 1 on F.R.S. Explorer W of Shet 26 May; Fair Isle, singles 8-11th and 14-15 May, 4 on 19th, singles 22nd, 26th, 4 on 27-28th, one 29th, 3 June (RAB); Westray, Ork, 23 May (EJW); ♂ Girdleness, Kinc, 21 May (AGK, AP, RS); 2 Isle of May 18 May (DRG, JGY).

Autumn: Shet, Grutness 25 Sep (AO); Fair Isle, singles 8th and 25 Sep, 27th (2), 28th (4), 29th (2), one 2 Oct (RAB); 1 trapped Fife Ness 24 Sep (TRG); Isle of May 28 Sep (AMcD, RKMCG, JHBM).

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. Spring migration: Fair Isle, 8 Mar-27 May, peaks 25 on 11 Apr, 35 on 12th, 25 on 30 Apr (RAB); Shet, scarce 11 Apr-27 May, max 10 Fetlar 30 Apr (RJT); Autumn: Fair Isle, Sep-Dec, scarce, mainly 1-19 Oct, when max 15 on 2nd (RAB); 4 Handa, Suth, 25-27 Sep (AG); 36 Isle of May 2 Oct (NJG).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*. Breeding status: generally good numbers throughout mainland. Arrivals: 19 Apr, 2 Moor of Genoch, Wig (RCD); 25 Apr, Glentroot, Kirk (GSh) and Newbattle, Midl (EH); 28 Apr, Kingoodie, Perth (EJM); 30 Apr, Balmacara, W Ross (DCH); mostly first week in May.

Migration: Fair Isle, 26 Apr, 29 Apr, daily 6-15 May, max 4 on 7th and 12th, 5 on 10th, stragglers to 27 May (RAB); 1 Grutness, Shet, 19-20 May (BM); Isle of May, 2 on 7 May, 1 on 8th, 2 on 9th (CWB). Autumn: singles Shet 27 Aug (AO), Fair Isle 27 Sep (RAB).

\***Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata*. 1 trapped Fair Isle 19 Sep, probably present to 21 Sep (RAB, Mrs V. McFarland et al.)—first since autumn 1961, 12th Scottish record.

\***Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Fair Isle, 3 on 26 May, 27-28th (2), 29th (4), 30th (2), singles 9-10 June, 24 July, 29 Sep-3 Oct (RAB); Shet, singles Foula 12 and 14 May (JGH), Fetlar 14 May, 1 June (song) (RSPB). Whalsay 3rd, 6-7 June (JHS). Reed/Marsh Warbler Skerries 2 Oct (DAH).

\***Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*. Singles Whalsay, Shet, 7 June (JHS), Fair Isle (trapped) 14-19 Sep (RAB).

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Breeding status: noticeable decrease Dornoch, Suth (DMcD) and Kilconquhar, Fife (DWO). Arrivals: 29 Apr, L of Lowes, Perth (MD); 30 Apr, Connel, Arg (EGC); 1 May, 11 Duddingston, Midl (LLJV) and first Fife Ness (DWO, HDS); most from end of first week May.

Migration: Isle of May, 7-30 May, max 6 on 7 May (NJG); Fair Isle, 7 May-10 June, max 4 on 10th and 27 May, 10 on 25 May (RAB); Shet, scarce 12 May-8 June, none autumn (RJT); 1 Handa, Suth, 30 Aug (AG); Fair Isle, singles 13 July, 3-4 Sep, 4 Oct (RAB); last Insh Marshes, Inv, 28 Sep (RL); singles Isle of May 10 Aug-2 Oct (NJG).

\***Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*. 4 at Fair Isle, 1 trapped 12 Aug, 3 trapped 14 Aug, all immatures, at least 1 present to 23 Aug (RAB, RHD, ERM et al.). (cf. influx mid Aug 1969); high numbers recorded England autumn 1972.

\***Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*. Singles trapped Fair Isle 29 Aug and 19-23 Sep (RAB et al.)—5th and 6th Scottish records.

\***Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*. Recorded 26 May-19 June and 15 Aug-19 Sep (12 in spring, 6 in autumn). Fair Isle, 4 on 26 May, 27th (2, one new), 28-29th (3), one 3-4 June, 10th (2), one 14-19th June, singles 29 Aug-4 Sep, 19 Sep (RAB); Shet, Fetlar 27-29 May (RSPB), Unst 15 Aug (BM); Ork, singles Copinsay 26-27th and 28 Aug (A. Reese); Isle of May 14 Sep (RLS, AJW).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*. Breeding status: good season Kirk, W Stir, Dunb, Lan, Renf and Ayr; fewer Roslin Glen, Midl, 29 Apr (JAN); pr Thrumster, Caith, 22 June (JTRS).

Arrivals and migration: Isle of May 30 Apr-28 May, max 3 on 7 May (NJG); Fair Isle, 11 Apr-7 June, max 9 on 19 May, 6 on 29-30 May (RAB); main arrivals late Apr-early May. Autumn: Shet, max 35 Skerries 2 Oct, 15 Fetlar 5 Oct, last Mainland 25 Nov (JSp, RJT et al.); Fair Isle, 14 Aug-26 Nov, mainly 16 Sep-31 Oct, max 75 on 2 Oct, 3rd (30), 28th

(14) (RAB); 9 Cruden Bay, Aber, 5 Oct (DIMW); 1-3 Fife Ness 1-8 Oct (AG, DLC, PNJC); Isle of May, 30 Aug-28 Oct, max 30 on 2 Oct (DLC).

Winter records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
North (Inv/North)	2			5+	4
Central (Moray-Fife, Arg-Dunb)	2	3	3	1	5
South (Forth-Clyde to Borders)	2	3	1	2	3

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*. Recorded 13 Aug-18 Oct, singles unless stated: Shet, Unst 16 Aug (BM), Whalsay 20 Aug (JHS), Sumburgh 30 Aug (DC), Skerries 31 Aug, over 40 reports 7-27 Sep, last Unst 11 Oct (per RJT); Fair Isle, 1-2 on 6 days 13-21 Aug, 1-4 daily from 26 Aug-5 Oct, peaks 6 on 13th and 18 Sep, 7 on 19th and 24 Sep, 2 on 12 Oct, singles 16 and 18 Oct (RAB *et al.*); Ork, Kirkwall 31 Aug, Stenness 3 Sep (CJB), Copinsay 29 Aug (A. Reese); Suth, Tongue 21 Sep (DWh); Aber, Newburgh 7 Oct (JP, PDR); Fife Ness 2-4 Sep (2), 2 Oct (TRG); Isle of May, 29-31 Aug (GLS), 9-10 Sep, 13th, 14th (3), 16th, 18-19th (AJW *et al.*), 27 Sep (AMcD).

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*. No comment most areas: pr bred Erskine, Renf (IPG); singing birds Buckie, Banff, 21 May (DBMcG); Olrig, Caith, 11 July (JTRS).

Spring arrivals: 7 May, Fife Ness (DWO, EJM), and 2 Usan, Angus (TMC); 11 May, Garroch Glen, Kirk (LAU); Fair Isle, 18 May-24 June, max 30 on 26 May (RAB); Shet, 18 May (Foula)-12 June; Isle of May 19-24 May, 2 on 20th and 24th (NJG). Autumn: scarce; Fair Isle, 9 Aug-21 Oct, peaks only 12 on 30 Aug, 10 on 20 Sep, 40 on 2 Oct (RAB); last Lerwick, Shet, 28 Oct (BM); Isle of May, 27 Aug-15 Oct, max 15 on 2 Oct (NJG).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*. Breeding status: increase Rox, big increase and back to pre-1969 level N and W Renf (HG, IPG), also Ayr (WRB), good year Arran, W Stir, Wig coast (GSh), but numbers still low Kirk (ADW) and still has not returned to breed Vane Farm, Kinross (GC).

Arrivals: 10 Apr, early record Arran, Bute (GM, LR); 4 May, Fife Ness (DWO); 12 Isle of May 6 May (per NJG); but mainland mostly from 10 May; Fair Isle, 8 May-13 June, max 10 on 19th and 26 May (RAB); Shet from 3 May, max 9 Skerries 25 May (RJT). Autumn: Fair Isle, singles 14 Aug, 16th, 27-28th and 30 Sep, 1-4 Oct (RAB); Shet, from 9 Sep, few 1-4 Oct, last 29 Oct (RJT); Isle of May, singles 27 Aug-15 Oct, 2 on 2 Oct (per NJG).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*. Summer status: 2-3 singing ♂♂ St Abbs/Eyemouth, Ber, June (RWJS, RKMCG); pr Humble, E Loth, June (AMcD); ♂ Yetholm, Rox, 21 May (RSB); ♂ Kirkfieldbank, Lan, 14 May (J. Beal).

Spring migration: Isle of May, 2-12 May, 15 on 7th (per NJG); Fife Ness, 1 May, 2 on 7th (DWO, EJM); Angus, 7 May, 2 Arbroath, singles Elliott, Dunninald, 2 Usan (GMC, TMC, MN); Kinc, 2 Girdleness 12 May, one 9th (RLS); Aber, 7 May, 4 Balmedie, 3 Rattray and 1 Inverugie, 2 Balmedie 9th (MAMcD, RLS); Fair Isle, 30 Apr-30 May, up to 6 several days, max 9 on 6 May, stragglers to 3 July (RAB); Shet, 4 May-3 June, max 20 Skerries 21 May (RJT).

Autumn: Fair Isle, 19 Aug-20 Oct, max 4, Siberian type bird trapped 2 Oct, present to 8 Nov (RAB); Shet, about 30 reports 11 Aug-31 Oct (RJT); 1 Copinsay, Ork, 29-30 Aug (A. Reese); Fife Ness, singles 3rd and 24 Sep (DWO); Isle of May, 14 Sep-2 Oct, max 3 on 18 Sep.

\***Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*. ♂ trapped Fair Isle 26 June, present to 5 July (RAB, DPC, ERM).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Arrivals: 8 Apr, River Ken, Kirk (OTC); 9 Apr, Wigtown (RCD) and Doonfoot, Ayr (RWF, RTW); 11 Apr, Unst, Shet (BM); 12 Apr 2 Fair Isle (RAB); most arrivals mainland from 14-15 Apr, many Galloway 16 Apr (ADW), abundant Midl 22nd (JAN). Fair Isle, 20 Apr-11 June, peaks 8 May (13), 18th (50), 19th (120), 26th (40); Isle of May 16 Apr, max 40 on 7 May.

Autumn: Fair Isle, rather scarce, 13 Aug-9 Oct, peaks 30 on 26 Aug, 40 on 27th, 45 on 29th, 15 on 16 Sep (RAB); last Muir of Ord, E Ross, 12 Sep (DCH); last Vane Farm, Kinross, 14 Sep (GC, BHM); last 2 Fife Ness 2 Oct (AG); Isle of May, 6 Aug-9 Oct, max 20 on 14 Sep; last Dirleton, E Loth, 1 Oct (JB).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*. Breeding status: pr bred Carrbridge, Inv (S. P. W. Corbett); prs bred Achvarasdale and Forss, Caith (SL); more singing birds than usual in Caith, Suth, Ross, Inv and Banff; nested Kelso, Rox (PS-P); good numbers Dunb and Dumf.

Wintering birds and arrivals: singles unless stated; 31 Jan West Kilbride, Ayr (JLB); Jan Stornoway, O Heb (W. Matheson); Dumfries 2nd and 25 Feb (TN, DS), Langholm, Dumf, 28 Feb (ELOC); 23 Mar, Endrick mouth, Dunb (TW); 30 Mar, Glendaruel, Arg (JBH); 31 Mar, New Luce, Wig (RCD); mainly 2nd and 3rd weeks Apr, e.g. 6 Stirling 15 Apr (DMB). Passage: Fair Isle, 27 Mar, 11 Apr (3)-17 June, mainly early May when max 8 on 18 May (RAB); 1 Handa, Suth, 8 Apr (AG).

Autumn: scarce; Fair Isle, 28 Aug-21 Oct, mainly 13 Sep-10 Oct, up to 6 in last week Sep, 12 on 2 Oct (RAB); Shet, last 3 Kergord 11 Dec (RJ); 3 northernns Balmedie, Aber, 4 Oct (DIMW); 1 Insh Marshes 28 Sep (RHD); 1 Heb, singles Rhum 11 Oct and 14 Dec (dead) first since 1957 (PW); last Dirleton, E Loth, 1 Oct (JB).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Breeding status: fewer W Ross (ENH); few W Inv (JCu); 4+ prs bred Renf (HG). Arrivals: 18 Apr, Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG); 22 Apr, Foulis, E Ross (CGH); 27 Apr, L of Lowes, Perth (MD); 8 May, Glenlee, Kirk (ADW), Banavie, W Inv (JCu), Strathpeffer, E Ross (DCH); mostly mid May. Spring passage poor; Fair Isle, 4 singles 18 May-3 June (RAB); Shet, 2 Fetlar 19 May (ISR), 1 Mainland 27 May, ♂ in song Kergord June-6 July (RJT *et al.*).

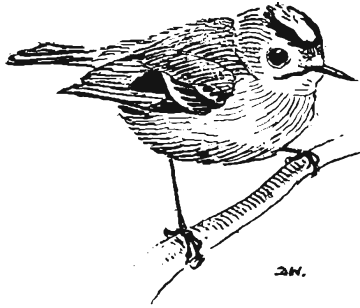
Autumn: Fair Isle, 13 Aug-29 Sep, mainly late Aug-early Sep, peaks 27th (3), 28-29th (5) and 30 Aug (3) (RAB); Shet, Fetlar singles 15-30 Aug (RSPB), Unst, 14 Aug, 15th (2), 16-17th (BM), 24 Sep (MS), Sumburgh 30 Aug, 19 Sep (DC), Lerwick 21 Sep (PKK); singles Montrose and West Ferry, Angus, 10 Aug (TMC, GS); Fife Ness 2 Oct (PNJC).

**\*Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*. 6 records: 1 trapped Stennes, Ork, 3 Sep (CJB); 1 trapped Fair Isle 24-29 Sep (RAB *et al.*); Shet, singles Grutness 27 Sep, Spiggie and Bigton 29 Sep (RE-H), Whalsay 2 Oct (JHS).

**\*Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*. About 25-30 birds 26 Sep-19 Nov: Shet, singles Sumburgh 26 and 29 Sep (DC, BM, RE-H), Skerries 29 Sep (DAH), Whalsay 2 Oct (JHS), Helendale 4 Oct (PKK), Grutness 19 Nov (BM); Fair Isle, amazing arrival of 12 on 27 Sep, 28th (8), 29th (6), 2 Oct (5), up to 4 on 3-5th, singles to 8th, one 12-14 Oct (RAB); singles Isle of May 28 Sep (JHBM, AMcD, RKMCG), 2 Oct (DLC, IPG), and Fife Ness 1 Oct (AG, DWO).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*. Breeding status: young successfully reared at Kergord—first breeding record for Shet (DC, BM); 2 prs bred Binscarth, Ork, and at least 1 pr Hoy plantations. Scarce on spring passage: Fair Isle, 18 Mar-20 May, peaks 15 on 25 Mar, 26th (20), 11 Apr (12); singles Handa, Suth, 2-4th and 14-18 Apr, 2nd and 11 May (AG); 2 Fife Ness 2 May (DWO).





Autumn passage rather light: Shet peaks 80 Whalsay 3 Oct, 15 Skerries 2 Oct (JHS); Fair Isle, 3 Sep-2 Nov, peaks 35 on 27 Sep, 2 Oct (50), 5-6th (30), (RAB); Isle of May, max 150 on 2 Oct, 200 on 18 Oct (per NJG); Fife Ness, 6 on 10 Sep, 3 on 25th, 12 on 2 Oct (KB, PNJC); 100 Muirshiel Park, Renf, 6 Oct (IPG).

\***Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*. 1 in spring, at least 6 in autumn-winter. St Abb's Head, Ber, 14 Apr (B. Banson *et al.*); 2 Isle of May 1 Oct, 4 on 2nd, 3 on 3rd, 1 on 4th (DLC, BZ *et al.*); Shet, Sumburgh 2-3 Oct (DC, RE-H, PKK); Thurso, Caith, 7 Dec present into 1973 (PMC, SL *et al.*). At least 7 individuals compared with 6 in last 4 years.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*. Breeding status: fewer Renf (HG, IPG); numbers low E Loth; but increase several places Midl and Caith (RWJS, PMC); 2 prs bred Binscath Wood, Ork (EB). Arrivals: 5 May, Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG); 6 May, Balmedie, Aber (RLS); 7 May, 2 Penpont, Dumf (ARH); 8 May Hermitage, Midl (LLJV); mostly end second week May; later in north, 3 Garten, Inv, 20 May (RSPB). Spring passage: Fair Isle 7 May-3 July, mainly 18 May-12 June, peaks 8 on 20th and 26 May, 10 on 3 June (RAB); Shet, 18 May-9 June, max 5 Skerries 25 May (RJT); Isle of May, 9-30 May. Autumn: Shet, 3 Skerries 2 Oct (DAH); Fair Isle, singles 14 and 25 Sep, 1-2 between 2nd and 7 Oct (RAB); Isle of May, 2 Sep-1 Oct (NJG); 13 West Haven, Angus, 17 Sep (TMC); 4 Tynninghame, E Loth, 10 Sep (LLJV).

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Breeding status: improved numbers breeding Glentroot and Glenkens, Kirk (GSh, ADW, LAU); increase to 10 prs Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG); situation not so good Borders and Lothians; only 3 prs L Lomond (KW *et al.*); bred Killiecrankie, Perth, young on 22 June (EJM); none reported nesting Highland area, although few singles reported Inv, Ross and Suth.

Arrivals: 28 Apr, Penpont, Dumf (ARH); 2 May, Dalmellington, Ayr (DWMcG); 7 May, Usan and Duniwald, Angus (GMC, TMC). Passage: Fair Isle, 12 May-10 June, peaks 18 May (12), 19th (50), 15-20 daily to 22 May (RAB); Shet, few from 8 May when 2 Whalsay (JHS), influx from 19 May, max 20 Skerries 21 May (RJT), last Sumburgh 9 June (BM); 2 Isle of May 15 May (NJG).

Autumn: Fair Isle, 13 Aug-6 Oct, mainly 26 Aug-3 Sep when max 30 on 28 Aug, 60 on 29th (RAB); singles, Handa, Suth 18 Sep (AG), Rhum, I Heb, 11 Oct (PW); Fife Ness, 27 Aug-24 Sep, max 6 on 2 Sep and 24 Sep (KB, DWO); Isle of May 13 Aug-12 Oct, max 20 on 18 Sep (NJG).

\***Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*. Scarce, only 5 records, all singles: Shet, Foula 18-20 Aug (Brathay), Skerries 28 Sep and 2 Oct (DAH); Aber, Balmedie 2 Oct (DIMW); E Loth, Aberlady 23 Oct (S. Masterton, C. G. Pearson).

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*. Migration: Fair Isle, scarce 6 Mar-8 May, max 5 on 12 and 19 May, stragglers to 20 May, one 27-28 Sep, 1-6 on 2-6 Oct, singles 16th and 28 Oct, 22 Nov (RAB); Shet, very scarce, Skerries 9 Apr (RJT), 2 Helendale 11-14 Apr (DC), few 2-10 May, few Fetlar-Skerries 2-8 Oct (per RJT); Handa, Suth, singles 29 Aug, 14-30 Sep, 3 on 24 Sep (AG).

\***Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One Whiteness Head, Inv/Nairn, 16 Jan (RHD); singles Fair Isle 27-29 Sep, 2 Oct, 1 Nov (RAB) and Weyland Bay, Ork, 15 Oct (W. Hewison).

\***Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*. 1 Musselburgh, Midl, 15 Sep (GLS, RWJS, Miss O. Thompson).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*. Breeding comments: pr bred Isle of May (NJG); mainly 4-egg clutches Glentroot, Kirk, but 15-20% with 5 eggs (GSh); fledged young Fair Isle 3 June (RAB). Migration: Fair Isle, from 12 Mar, mainly 23-26 Mar, 50 on 26th (RAB); very heavy passage Fife Ness 27-30 Aug, 3 Sep and 400+ on 24-25 Sep (KB, DWO); Isle of May, peaks 500 on 2 Apr, 200 on 3rd and 18 Sep (NJG); 100 Mull of Galloway, Wig, 14 Oct (RCD).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*. Arrivals: 8 Apr, Dalry, Kirk (AJW); 10 Apr, Balgavies, Angus (MN); 23 Apr, Strathglass, Inv (MIH); mostly in first week May. Migration: Fair Isle, 30 Apr (4), 6-31 May, peaks 18 on 12th, 25 on 19th, stragglers to 14 June. Autumn: scarce; singles 20-25 Aug, 26th (2), 27-29th, 6 Sep, 8-9 Oct (RAB); 4 West Haven, Angus, 16 Sep (TMC); 3 Isle of May 8-9 Aug (HG, IPG).

\***Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi*. 1 Whalsay 3 Oct (JHS, J. L. Simpson)—first Scottish record outside Fair Isle.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*. Ad feeding young Cuckoo Monreith, Wig (GSh); leucistic juvenile reared Isle of May; singles Invergowie, Perth, 31 Jan, 27 Feb, 19 Nov and 9-10 Dec (NKA, EJM, BML); 1 inland Balgray Reservoir 16 Oct (RAJ).

**Water Pipit** *A.s. spinoletta*. Ayr, Doonfoot 4 Apr, 3 on 5th-8th, 2 on 9th, one to 11th (WRB, RHH, IL *et al.*); E Loth, 2 Beilburn, West Barns, 7 Apr (GLS, LLJV); Midl, 1 Harlaw Reservoir 27-28 Dec (IAGB, G. Jamieson).

**Pied/White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*. Pied Wagtail *M.a. yarelli*: 2 prs bred Handa, Suth (AG); probable increase Ork (EB); Fair Isle, pr nested, 4 young flew 24 June, second brood of 2+ young, first definite nesting record for island (RAB); Shet, several pairs nested, which is very unusual (RJT).

**White Wagtail** *M.a. alba*: pr bred Machrie River, Arran, 11 July (BCK); mixed prs nested Islay (CGB, TDHM) and Caith (JTRS); ♂ holding territory Creetown, Kirk, 10-11 June (D. V. Mardle).

**Pied Wagtail migration**: return of breeders Aviemore, Inv, from 13 Mar (RHD), Caith 20 Mar (PMC); Fair Isle, 19 Mar—peak of 5 on 27 May (RAB), 1-2 on 8-23 Sep, one 10 Nov (RAB); Dingwall, Ross, roost 500-600 on 24 Aug, 345 ringed (ARM), 1 colour-ringed bird, Dingwall 18 Aug, had been ringed Reading, Berks, 1 Dec 1969 (ARM); 68 Speymouth, Moray, 21 Sep (JMB); 65 West Haven, Angus, 22 Aug (TMC); 120+ Bridge of Earn, Perth, end Sep-Oct (EJM); albino in flock of 100+ Dalry, Kirk, 14 Aug (FD).

**White Wagtail migration**: Fair Isle, 2 on 24 Mar, 8 Apr-27 May, peaks 6 on 30 Apr, 8th, 10th and 12 May; autumn 12 Aug-4 Oct, peaks 12 Aug (12), 17th (13), 27-28th (60) (RAB); Caith, 12 Reay 23 Apr (PMC), late one Thurso 17 Nov (JMW); Handa, Suth, 20 Apr-2 May, max 5 on 2nd (AG); 10 Loch Eye, Ross, 9 Sep (RHD); 100+ Endrick Mouth, Dunb, 6 May (CP).

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. Breeding comments: increase Garlies-ton, Wig (RHM); possible increase central and S Ayr (WRB) and Inv (RHD), but 50% decrease N Ayr (WCW). Migrants: singles unless stated: Fair Isle, 26 Mar, 31 May-11 June (RAB); Virkie, Shet, 15 May (FH); Kinross, 1 Vane Farm 16 June, 2 Sep, 18 Sep (5), 28 Sep (GC); Fife Ness 2 Sep (DWO); Isle of May 18 Aug (NKA, RWJS); 4 Aberlady, E Loth, 30 Aug (GCJ); count 23 Roslin Sewage Farm, Midl, 16 Aug (LLJV).

\***Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*. Single first-year birds Inverness 3 Sep (RHD, MKMcD-D, MR *et al.*) and Fair Isle trapped 7-13 Sep (GJB, RAB, ERM *et al.*); the Inverness one is the first mainland record (7: 316).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*. Yellow *M.f. flavissima*. Breeding records: Stir, ad and 3 juvs Skinflats 26 Aug (HEMD); Rox, pr with young Teviothead, plus extra ♂ (RWJS), pr probably bred Yetholm (DCo); Lan, prs at Carstairs ND, JBe), Pettinain (RE-H) and 2 prs Strathaven (DLC); Renf, ♂ Paisley Moss June but no proof of breeding (IPG), similar situation 2 areas N Ayr (WRB). Several records SE Scot 1 May-5 Oct, max 4 Aberlady, E Loth, 3 Sep (RHH, LLJV). Migration: singles Girdleness, Kinc, 6 May (AGK); St Kilda, O Heb, 2 June (DSt); Fair Isle, ♂ 30 Apr, singles 14th and 18 May, 10 June (fewer than usual), *flavas* to 7 June (RAB); few Shet 8-15 May (per RJT).

Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f. flava*. Scarce, singles Fair Isle 19 May, 4th and 6 June, 16-21 Sep (RAB); Unst, Shet, 7 May; Westray, Ork, 21 May (EJW).

Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f. thunbergi*. Singles Fair Isle 13-15th and 28-29 May (RAB); Shet, Skerries 21 May, Fetlar 1-4 June (RJT), 2 Unst 8 May (J. Gooders).

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*. Rather scarce in winter, Jan-18 Mar, max 30 in 1 flock, stragglers to 27 May; rather low numbers in autumn, first 30 Sep, mainly from late Nov, max 50 in flock.

Winter-spring: recorded in small numbers Inv/south Jan-Feb; max counts and late dates: 6 Locharbriggs, Dumf, 10 Feb (KBr); 6 Auchincruive, Ayr, 21 Mar (WRB); last 3 Selkirk 2 Apr; 30 Edinburgh 8 Jan (GF), last 18 Mar; 10 St Andrews, Fife, 2-3 Feb (MHEC); 10 Dundee, Angus, 31 Jan (NKA), one 4 Apr (DMS); 13 Aberdeen 8 Feb (RLS); 8 Tulloch, E Inv, 15 Feb-15 Mar, 8 Inverness 22 Feb (RHD); singles Thurso, Caith, 14 Mar (PMC); St Ola, Ork, 24 Jan; Geosetter, Shet, 27 May (AO).

Autumn migration: first dates and peaks: Shet, very few from 2 Nov; Fair Isle, only one 11-12 Nov (RAB); 15-20 Toftwood, Ork, 21 Nov (E. R. Bullard); Ross/Suth from 14 Nov, max 24 Brora 16 Dec (C. Port); E Ross/Inv, from 20 Nov, max 24 Munloch 27 Nov (MKMcD-D); Moray/Banff, from 11 Nov, 36 Fochabers 2 Dec (JMB); Aber, from 30 Sep (10) (RLS), flocks up to 50 later (AGK); Perth, 8 Invergowrie 14 Nov (RC, EJM); Fife, from 23 Nov; Midl, 2 Loanhead 20 Oct (GF); E Loth, 12 Gullane 6 Nov, small parties through Nov (AMt); 14 Selkirk 9 Nov (per AJS); Dumf, from 21 Nov, max 5 Glencaple 27 Nov (PRN); 6 Gatehouse, Kirk, 20 Nov (TVT); all round rather scarce in 1972.

\***Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*. Rather low in numbers; about 22 recorded Jan-30 Apr, and 22 in autumn 3 Sep-Dec. Winter-spring (singles unless stated): Kirk/Wig, L Ken 6 Jan-7 Apr (ADW *et al.*), Glentool Apr (GSh), Fleet Forest Feb (J. Carson), Glassoch 10-13 Apr (D. Gladstone); Dumf, Eskdalemuir early 72 (ELOC); Ayr, Mochrum Loch 13 Jan (AGS); Arg, Ardrishaig 23 Mar (M. Campbell); Rox, Hawick 6 Feb (TDo), Rhymer's Glen 12 Apr (LDGL); Midl, Newlandrig 20 Feb-19 Mar JB, AWGJ; Perth, Tummel Bridge 19 Mar-3 Apr (GW *et al.*), Port of Menteith 9 Apr (VEC); Angus, Lunan Bay, 26 Mar (JIS); Inv, Morlich

9 Jan (RHD); Moray, Advie 15 Feb (H. Marshall); Suth, L Badna Scallaig 9 Mar-14 Apr (ENH, SL, JAW); Caith, Westfield 5 Mar (PMC); Fair Isle, 1 Apr (RAB); Shet, Yell 12 Apr (RJT), 2 Skerries 30 Apr (RJT), Whalsay 30 Apr (JHS).

Autumn: Shet, Whalsay 6th and 8 Oct (JHS); Fair Isle, 28 Oct (RAB); Ork, Swona early Nov (EB); Suth, early one Rogart 3-16 Sep (A. G. S. Bryson, DMcD); Inv, 2 Rothiemurchus 2 Dec (JPG); Banff, Keith 20 Oct (R. Rae), Knock 17 Dec (E. Kellock); Aber, 2 Ballochbuie 19 Nov (J. Chapman), Crathes 9 Dec (A. Watson); Angus, West Haven 5 Nov, Montrose 3 Dec (TMC); Perth, Tummel Bridge 10 Nov (RHD); Isle of May 2 Oct (DLC, HG, BZ); Rox, Gattonside 25 Dec (AJS); Ayr, Dalmellington 18 Nov (DWMcG); Dumb, Endrick mouth 29-30 Oct (DNB, TPD); Dumf, Lockerbie 21 Oct (RTS), Lochmaben 15 Nov (JDSM); Kirk, Craignair 20 Nov-Dec (ECF).

\***Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*. Suth, ad Kinbrace 21 June (Mr and Mrs J. Loates); imm trapped Fair Isle 26 Sep-5 Oct (GJB, RAB, ERM).

\***Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*. Fair Isle, imm trapped 18-30 Sep (RAB *et al.*).

\***Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*. Spring: Fair Isle, ♂ 19 May, 26th (2), 27th, 2-3 June, 5th-7th, 11th, 12th, 18 June (RAB); Shet, Foula 24 May (JGH) Skerries 30 May (BM), Whalsay 26-27 May, 3rd and 8 June (JHS), Hascosay 12 June (RJT), Fetlar 4 June (2), 9th, 11th (RSPB). Autumn: singles Fair Isle 3 Sep (RAB); Skerries 3-8 Sep (DAH).

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Fair Isle, influxes 6-9 Mar, 1 Apr, 11 Apr, 12 Oct, 21st (1000+), 25-29 Oct (500+ on 28th) (RAB); Suth, 400 Handa 25 July, 250 on 13 Aug (AG); 30000 Dundee, Angus, 14 Feb (TMC); heavy passage Longniddry, E Loth, 22 Oct (AMT).

†**Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*. Fair Isle, ad 8-10 July (RAB); Suth, ad Faraid Head 9-14 July; (G. Bundy, M. Davies, A. J. Greenland), Scourie 31 Aug-28 Sep (B. Harrup, IDP *et al.*); Kirk, ad Palnackie 13-18 Sep (Mrs H. B. Halliday).

\***Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Breeding record: family party Dumf summer (ECF). Mainland sightings: Perth, 2 Scone 16 Apr (EC), ♂ Invergowrie 29 Jan-16 May (NKA, EJM); W Loth, ♂ Kirkliston 11 Jan (per ADP-D); Midl, 1 Crichton Castle 20 May (ISF); 1 Castle Douglas, Kirk, 27 June (JDW).

Migrants: Fair Isle, ♀ (trapped) 12 Apr (RAB); Shet, ♂ Lerwick 4 Apr, died 18 Apr (DC), ♀ dead Unst 5 May (J. Priest); O Heb, ♂ St Kilda 18 May-early June (DSt).

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*. Counts: 100 Freswick, Caith, 13 Dec (PMC); 400 Lindean, Selk, 24 Dec (RHH). Migration: Fair Isle, about 7 singles 25 Mar-11 May, autumn 12 Oct-14 Dec, mainly singles, but 7 on 31 Oct, 12 on 4 Nov, 8th (8) (RAB); Shet, 4 Whalsay 1-2 Nov (JHS), 3 Skerries 3 Nov (PKK), 8 Weisdale 11 Nov (IS), some others, last Fetlar 3 Dec (ISR); 9 Isle of May 24 Dec (NKA).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*. Good numbers; increase reported Midl, Rox, Arran; 100+ Doonfoot, Ayr, 17 Sep, over 50% juvs (WRB); 50 North Berwick, E Loth, 22 Sep (DEA); records N to Caith, 2 Thurso 12 Jan-9 Feb (PMC); 1-2 Stornoway, O Heb, 12 Dec (WAJC); 1 South Ronaldsay, Ork, 10 May (per EB).

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*. Breeding status: increases reported Kirk, Arran, Midl, Kinross, Caith; young already fledged Dalry, Kirk, 31 May (ADW). Counts: 100+ Bannan forest, Kirk, 12 Mar (ADW); 58 Lockerbie, Dumf, 28 Mar (RTS); 50 Earlshall, Fife, 10 Dec (DWO); 20 Vane Farm, Kinross, 2 Mar (BHM); 50 Kellie Moor, Angus, 18 Dec (MN). Feeding on peanuts noted in various areas.

Migration: Fair Isle, 29 Apr-31 May, 1-3 on many days, scarce autumn, 2-3 on 2-10 Oct, singles 29 Oct-5 Nov, 19-20 Nov, 2-3 Dec (RAB); Shet, 9-13 May, max 20 Ronas Voe 10-11 May (BM), one Fetlar 6-18 June had been ringed in Italy (ISR), 4 Unst 3 July (L. Cole), 2 Fetlar 2 Oct, 3 Kergord 8 Oct, 17th (2) (DC, IS); 2 St Kilda 13 May (DSt).

**Linnet *Acanthis cannabina*.** Counts: 175 Gailes, Ayr, 23 Aug (RTW); 150+ Tibbermore, Perth 17 Nov (EJM). Migration: Fair Isle, 4 Apr-12 July, mostly Apr-May, max 6 on 13 Apr, singles 12-13 Oct, 5 Nov (RAB); Shet, 3 Seafield 14-23 Apr (DC *et al.*); few 8-24 May, max 4 Skerries 23 May (RM), 2 Tingwall 12 Dec (RD); Isle of May, 31 on 9 Apr, 20 on 8 Oct (NJG).

**Twite *Acanthis flavirostris*.** Breeding status: probable increase Wig (GSh), fledged young at new site Monreith. Counts: Caith, 200 Duncansby 18 Feb (RHD); 200+ Red Point, W Ross, 4 Sep (ENH); 300 Lentrane, Inv, 12 Nov (MIH); 217 Lower Clova, Angus, 4 Jan (NKA); 80 Skinflats, Stir, 16 Dec (J. Moss); up to 13 Isle of May 23-29 Dec (NKA); E Loth, max 20 on 14 Nov, 2 Dec (AMt. LLJV); 140+ Pabay, Skye, 25 Aug (ECG); 150 Turnberry, Ayr, 16 Dec (RHH).

**Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*.** Continued increase noted Caith, Suth (1 pr bred Handa plantation) (AG) and Aber; count of 150 Insh Marshes, Inv, mid Oct (RL).

Large autumn invasion of Mealy Redpolls *A. f. flammea*: Fair Isle, few (1-3) between 10-25 May, autumn 8 Sep-20 Dec, peaks 24 Sep (8) increased to 27th (40), 28th (50), fewer 3-17 Oct, 18-19th (46), 21st (50), 27th (40), 28th (80), down to 6 on 29 Oct, small numbers into Dec, 116 trapped (RAB, ERM); Shet, few 10-20 May, late Sep-Nov (RJT); Inv, 2-3 Insh 25 Oct (RL), 2 Ardersier 15 Nov (RHD); Caith, 3 Thurso 17 Nov, 2 Castletown 3 Dec (PMC); Aber, 7 Balmedie 4 Oct (DIMW); 1 Fife Ness 22 Oct (AGG); Isle of May, one 11 Oct, increased to peaks 15th (15), 21st (65), 22nd (50+), 23rd (40), 24th (6), further peak of 15 on 4 Nov (per NJG).

Redpoll spp: 60-80 Aberlady, E Loth, increased to 320 on 29 Aug, 300-400 through Sep-Oct (per KSMcG), some of these and other autumn flocks probably part of the Mealy Redpoll irruption. Greenland Redpoll *A. f. rostrata*: 6 Harray, Ork, 10 Dec (EJW); one Fair Isle 14 Dec (RAB). Lesser Redpoll *A. f. cabaret/disruptis*: 1 Fair Isle 2-6 Oct (RAB).

\***Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*.** Birds examined in the hand and showing the characters of Arctic Redpoll: Fair Isle, 24-28 Sep, 19-26 Oct (RAB, ERM *et al.*); North Ronaldsay, Ork, 12 Oct (J. M. B. King).

**Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.** Counts: 60-80 Dalmeny, W Loth, 30 Dec (RDM); 12 Inverewe, W Ross, 26 Jan (PS). Migrants of northern race *P. p. pyrrhula*: Fair Isle, 28 Jan, 11-13 Apr, 6 May, 10-14 May (RAB); Shet, a few wintered to 18 Apr, few 8-21 May and late Oct-30 Nov (per RJT); 2 Finstown, Ork, Jan-Feb (EJW).

\***Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*.** 4 in spring, at least 33 in autumn, continued the increase of recent years. Spring singles: West Haven, Angus, 30 Apr (TMC)—first for Angus; ♂ Isle of May 31 May (JHBM); ♀ Unst, Shet, 29 May (RJT); ♀ Fair Isle 19-21 June (RAB).

Autumn migration 23 Aug-5 Oct, singles unless stated: Shet, Fetlar 29 Aug-2 Sep, 2 on 4-6 Sep (ISR *et al.*); Skerries 8 Sep, 10th, 11-12th (2), 13th (DAH); Whalsay 5 Sep, 12 Sep (BM, JHS); 2 Sumburgh 10 Sep, Grutness 4 Oct (DC); Fair Isle, at least 17 individuals, 7 trapped, seen daily 23 Aug-14 Sep, 3 on 23rd, increased to 6 on 26-27th, 3 daily until 5 on 2 Sep, 3rd (4), singles to 14th, but 3 on 9th, 1-3 on 16-19th, 1-2 daily 25 Sep-1 Oct (RAB, ERM *et al.*); Rousay, Ork, 5 Oct (D. & M. Swann); Isle of May, 4 individuals, 28 Aug-6 Sep (GLS), 6-14th, 9-12th, 18-19 Sep, (AJW, RLS *et al.*).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*. Good numbers of Scottish Crossbills in Spey valley in early part of year, e.g. 20 Garten 2 Apr, flying young from 7 May (RHD). Very strong irruption of Continental birds starting mid June. Peak counts and main passage dates: Fair Isle, one 19-20 June another 21st, 22nd (4), 25th (8), 28th (10), daily 1-26 July, peaks 3rd (27), 6th and 9th (50), 21st (54 flew over), 31st (9), 2 on 19 Aug, one to 24th, ♂ 9-16 Oct, 2 on 17th, one to 22nd, one 28th (RAB *et al.*); Shet, 9 Bressay 17 June, many from 19th, several hundreds through islands in July, most gone by 25th, last 12 Oct (RJT *et al.*); Ork, 20+ Sule Skerry 17 June (S. Craigie), 20 Rendall 18-19 June (CJB), 30 Kirkwall 6 July (D. Glue), flocks elsewhere in July (EB); Caith, 60 Sandside 11 June (SL, JTRS), 20 Castle of Mey 29 June (IJF-L, JTRS); Suth, 20 Forsinard 15 July (JTRS), 10 Merkland 24 June (IDP); O Heb, 20 North Rona 28 June, 50+ on 4-10 July (JAL, ARM, RAFKOS), 4 Shiants 30 June, 8 Stornoway 2 July (WAJC), St Kilda 6 early July, 3 on 2 Aug (DSt); Ross, 25 Glen Glass 16 July (RHD); Inv, 26 Rothiemurchus 26 June, 18 L Ashie 20 July, 150 Glen More 22nd July, 50 Rothiemurchus 4 Aug, 4 Sep, 75 on 5 Sep, 120 on 9th (RHD). E coast records: Angus, 40 Glen Doll 2 Oct (GMC), 30 Lintrathen 12 Nov (JIS, BR); Isle of May, singles 16th and 23 July (GCh, LA); Midl, 21S Gladhouse 9 July (RWJS); Peeb, 10 Portmore 3 Dec; Ber, 12 St Abbs Head 10 July (RKMCG); Sel, 30-40 Bowhill 12 Nov (AJS); Renf, 5 Muirshiel late June, 13 Inverkip 25 Dec (HG); 7 Arran 17-30 July (MHD); Dumf, 20-40 Canonbie Aug-Dec (ELOC); Kirk, 10SW Dalry 1 July (LAU), 12-15 on 15 July (J. H. Wood).

\***Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera*. 3 records: Shet, single ♂♂ Kergord 6-13 July (PKK, IS, DC *et al.*), Whalsay 19 July (JHS); Fair Isle 8-9 July (RAB, DPC, ERM *et al.*)—first records since 1968.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*. Migration: Fair Isle, 9 Mar-17 May, small numbers, max 15 on 12 Apr, autumn very small numbers 24 Sep-16 Oct, 28 Oct-9 Nov, max 12 on 8th and 11 Oct (RAB); Shet, 5 Foula 17 Mar (JGH), 2 ♂♂ singing Kergord summer, scarce autumn, max 30 Kergord Dec (IS); singles Handa, Suth, 5th and 25 Apr, 13th and 25 Sep (AG). Counts: 300-400 Torphins, Aber, 22 Jan, hard-weather movement 31 Jan (RSBy).

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*. Winter counts and spring migration: very scarce in north, max 15 Coignafearn, Inv, 27 Jan (RHD, DNW); 50 Huntly, Aber, 29 Mar (MAMcD), very large flock (1000-2000) Glen Callater 16 May (PC); 150 West Ferry, Angus, 31 Jan (TMC); 200 Portmore, Peeb, 4-9 Jan (RWJS); 300+ Carmichael, Lan, 8 Apr (RE-H); generally scarce most areas; Fair Isle, passage 27 Mar-24 May, mainly 29 Apr (150), 30th (175) and 5 May (50) (RAB); Shet, 30 Apr-18 May, max 200 Whalsay, 150 Fetlar, 80 Foula (RJT).

Late records: pr (sub-song) Durness, Suth, 13 May (RHD), singing ♂ Langwell, Caith, June (JTRS); ♂ Lewis, O Heb, 30 May (WAJC).

Autumn: from 13 Sep at Fair Isle, peaks 2 Oct (110), 11th (80), which are low; Shet, max 80 Helendale 12 Oct (BM); Ork, 50 Finstown 9 Dec (CJB); first Isle of May 24 Sep, max 40 on 6-10 Oct (per NJG); 70+ Castlehill, Ayr, 27 Dec (WRB); 300-500 Lochfoot, Kirk, 3 Nov (TN), 700-800 Balcary, Kirk, 20 Dec (LAU).

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*. Continued decreases noted Ork, Caith, Suth and Ross. Counts: 40 L Eye, Ross, 14 Apr (RHD); 150 Arbrogath cliffs, Angus, 1 Jan (NKA); 200 Kilconquhar, Fife, 20 Apr (DWO); 32 Libberton, Lan (HSCH, KCRH); 1 Rhum, 1 Heb, 13 Apr (PW).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*. Migration: Fair Isle 14 Mar-14 May, scattered records, max 3 on 10 Apr, 1-3 most days 28 Oct-6 Nov, 11-12 Nov (RAB); Shet, ♂ Kergord 13-18 May (IS), 1 Skerries 30 May (BM), 4 Strand 10 Dec (RD, AI, RJ); Suth, singles Handa 12-13th and 20 Apr, 3 on 24 Sep (AG).

†**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*. ♂ Fair Isle 4 July (RAB *et al.*).

†**Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps*. 8 records of ♂♂ 8 May-29 Aug; Shet, Foula 22-28 May, 2 on 30 May (JGH), Fetlar 27-28 June (RSPB); Fair Isle 26-31 July (RAB); Suth, Scourie 13 May (SMD); I Heb, Rhum 29 June-20 July (PW); Bute, Arran 8-10 May (MHD); Kirk, Kenedoon 29 Aug (LAU, ADW, AJW).

\***Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*. 4 records: Fair Isle 30 Aug (RAB, J. A. Ginnever, ERM), 9-11 Sep (RAB, J. Hickerton, A. Reynolds); Shet, Skerries 7-8 Sep (DAH), Whalsay 2 Oct (JHS).

\***Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*. Scarce for second year running; Fair Isle, one 6-10 May, 4 on 19-20th, 2 on 21st, one 22-23 May (RAB); Shet. 2 Skerries 21-27 May, 1 Sumburgh 19-20 May (BM); 1 Isle of May 19 May (DRG, JGY).

\***Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*. 4 records: 3 spring, 1 autumn. Isle of May 12 May (CWB *et al.*); Fair Isle, ♂ 26-29 May (died), ♂ 8-10 June (RAB); Shet, ♂ Foula 11 Oct (JGH).

\***Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. 3 autumn records at Fair Isle, 2-7 Oct (trapped), 7-9 Oct, 21-26 Oct (GJB, RAB, ERM *et al.*).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Breeding status: increase reported Coigach, W Ross (ACMcL) and Galloway, breeds in young forest to 1000ft a.s.l. Glentroot (GSH); decrease N Ayr; 2 prs nested Unst, Shet (MS).

Migration: Fair Isle, 17 Feb-11 June, mainly 27 Mar-24 May, peaks of 20 on 30 Apr, 30 on 10th and 14 May, autumn 24 Sep-6 Dec, mainly 2-15 Oct, max 14 on 8 Oct (RAB); Shet, max 10 Skerries 30 Apr, 50 Whalsay and 20 Skerries 6-11 May (JHS, RJT); 30 Fife Ness 25 Sep (DWO).

\***Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*. Winter-spring: 1 Ythan, Aber, 11-12 Apr (AJW); ? Ullapool, W Ross, 10-11 Mar (ACMcL); ♂ Sheigra, Suth, 2 June (Mrs O. L. Lancaster).

Autumn: Fair Isle, 1-4 on most days 14 Sep-8 Oct, max 6 on 28 Sep, singles 4 days to 5 Nov (RAB); Shet, singles Skerries 29-30 Sep, 2 Oct (DAH), Fetlar 4 Oct (ISR), Sumburgh 8 Oct (DC, RJ), Whalsay 28 Oct (JHS); Suth, Handa 24 Sep (AG); Inv/Nairn, Whiteness Head 24 Dec (RHD); Kinc, Girdleness 7 Oct (AGK, AP); Isle of May 1-3 on 10 days 21 Sep-14 Oct; Midl, Musselburgh 15 Sep (GLS).

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*. At least 2 prs reared young in Cairngorms, and 1 other ♂ present (RSPB); ♀ freshly dead near Morven, Caith, 14 May (AFMC, PMC, JG); summer record Foula, Shet, 7 July (JGH).

Winter counts: fewer than usual Caith, flocks 30-50 instead of 100-150 (PMC); 400 Coignafearn, Inv, 27 Jan (RHD, DNW) was only big flock seen Inv; 40 Glen Clova, Angus, 5 Jan (MN); Perth, 60+ near Blair Atholl 3 Mar, late 2 Glen Turret 20 May (PMcM); 60 Tynninghame, E Loth, 8 Jan (RHH); several small flocks (10-20) south to Borders.

Passage: Fair Isle, monthly max 70 on 12 Jan, 180 late Feb, 120 on 12 Mar, 20 on 4 Apr, last 19 May, autumn first 2 on 9 Sep, increased to 25 by end Sep, 50 early Oct but scarce until 400 on 3 Nov, 1000+ on 5th, 8-11th, 30 by 20th, 200 on 21st, later peaks 75 on 2 Dec, 200 on 3rd (RAB); Shet, last 11 May, first 7 Sep, flocks from 12 Oct (RJT); 200 Speymouth, Moray, 18 Nov (JMB); 350 Strathbeg/Ratray, Aber, 11 Nov (AGK, PDR); Midl, first Musselburgh 29 Oct, 42 on 2 Dec (DRL, LLJV); very few E Loth; 60+ The Cobbler, Arg (A. MacIver).

†**Blue Grosbeak** *Guiraca caerulea*. ♂ at bird table Kiltarlity, Inv, 10-11 Mar (MIH, Mrs J. Reed).

†**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris*. ♂ captured Voe, Shet, 28 May (DC *et al.*).

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Fair Isle, better breeding season than usual—big flocks of juveniles (RAB). Migrants/wanderers: 5 Handa, Suth, 18 July (AG); 1 Isle of May 11 May.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*. Breeding records: pr nested Fair Isle—2 flying young seen July (RAB); 1 pr nested Papa Westray, Ork, as well as usual small colony Eday (EB); very high numbers Fife, e.g. c50 prs Kilconquhar (DWO); Midl, marked decrease Roslin Glen (JAN) and decrease Loanhead, Gladhouse, Roseberry (RWJS); increase Kirk, with 4 new nesting sites.

Counts: 40+ Tibbermore, Perth, 17 Feb (EJM); 200 Kilconquhar, Fife, winter (DWO); 100 Stirling 7 Jan (DMB); 150 Cousland, Midl, 2 Jan (RBT).

## Additions and corrections to 1970 and 1971 reports

### 1970 Additions

**Little Ringed Plover**. 1 Tynninghame, E Loth, 4 May (GLS).

**Water Pipit**. Additional dates: 30 Mar-18 Apr instead of 13-18 Apr (7:163).

### 1971 Additions

**Slavonian Grebe**. 1 North Ronaldsay, Ork, late June (R. Roscoe).

**Garganey**. 1 Balmedie, Aber, 12 May (RLS).

**Surf Scoter**. Last date of Murcar, Aber, bird was 4 Aug (AJW).

**Common Scoter**. ♀ with 1 young L Lomond, Dunb, was new breeding record for loch (SG).

**Canada Goose**. 2N Glen Quoich, Aber, 4 June (RLS).

**Chiffchaff**. 1 Aberdeen 6 Mar (RLS, AJW).

**Yellow Wagtail**. 1 Balmedie, Aber, 30 Apr (RLS, AJW).

### Corrections to 1971 report

My apologies to Mrs P. M. Collett for inadvertently omitting her name from the list of recorders.

In the Foreword to the report, concerning new additions to the British list, for "Ruddy Shelduck" *Tadorna feruginea*, read "Ruddy Duck" *Oxyura jamaicensis*, and lower down in the same paragraph "from the British breeding population" should be omitted.

**Great White Egret** (7: 118). Full details were sent to Dr Salim Ali, who has determined that it was an example of the subspecies *E.a. modesta* from southeast Asia and Australia and therefore almost certainly an escape.

**Scaup** (7: 120). Line 7, for "Renf, 318 Longhaugh Point" read "318 Ardoch, Dunb, to Longhaugh Point, Renf".

**Shelduck** (7: 122): Line 8, after "588 Erskine-Langbank" add "Renf, 14 Feb".

**Dowitcher** (7: 130). The date should be 12 Oct not 2 Oct.

**Green Sandpiper** (7: 132). Line 14, for "4-5 Paisley Moss, Renf, 15 Aug" read "1 Paisley Moss, Renf, 4-5 Aug".

**Redshank** (7: 137). Line 2, 5000+ on 19 Dec was not a peak count, the autumn peak was 5320 on 5 Oct.



- Dunlin** (7: 138). Line 2, 1087 on 21 Nov was not a peak count, there were 3185 on 19 Dec.
- Knot** (7: 137). Line 11 should read "3000 Musselburgh 21 Nov (RF)".
- Curlew Sandpiper** (7: 138). Line 15, for "2 Erskine 27 Aug" read "2 Erskine 22 Aug".
- Grasshopper Warbler** (7: 152). Line 3, for "E Ross" read "W Ross"; the date of the Munlochry bird was 30 Apr not 13 Apr.
- Blackcap** (7: 152). Last line, for "23 Dec, 7-14 Jan" read "23 Dec 1970-14 Jan".
- Yellow Wagtail** (7: 157). Line 5, for "8 July" read "8 Aug".
- Linnet** (7: 159). Line 2, for "300 Prestwick" read "500 Prestwick".

## Boundaries for local bird reports

A. T. MACMILLAN, R. H. DENNIS and I. NEWTON

In March 1973 the Council of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club asked the Research Committee to comment on a question about suitable boundaries for local bird reports (based on a proposal for a publication on the birds of the Aberdeen area). The Committee submitted its report at a meeting on 11th September 1973, and the Council decided that, as it was of general interest to authors of reports and papers on Scottish birds, the following abstract should be published. This is not intended to encourage the production of local reports where these do not arise naturally or fill a need, but rather to guide authors in the presentation of their material.

Before discussing boundaries we have some comments on the identification of localities. It is often important to identify the localities of individual records unambiguously, especially in works dealing with large areas (e.g. Scottish Bird Report). This should be done by using names likely to be found in a gazetteer (e.g. villages rather than farms or woods) and by naming the county, with further detail where necessary. If an area is described only in broad terms (e.g. upper Forth estuary) readers without a definition of it do not know exactly what is meant, and the value of the record is reduced, particularly for future comparisons.

Grid coordinates may be used to specify a locality exactly, or Atlas squares to conceal it, but these are not adequate substitutes for a place name unless the record is also mapped. A place name is more easily understood, even without a map.

For many purposes standardised geographical boundaries are not needed, and authors should then make their own choice based on the material in hand. What matters is to specify the area clearly, preferably with a map as well. The distribution of birds is likely to correlate more with natural features, such as habitat, altitude or weather, than with political boundaries.

Mapping is an excellent way to show distribution, whether in relation to natural features (ecological or topographical) or to map squares (as with the BTO Atlas); and local lists are of value in the preparation of distribution maps.

As well as reward and experience for the observers there is scientific and conservation value in recording rarities and keeping local lists. But obsession with first records for small areas tends to throw up boundary

problems (and also problems of keeping track of the literature). This kind of boundary problem is not important, and general convenience need not be sacrificed just to settle whether some vagrant was in North rather than South Kincardine, or what to do with old records from an area now transferred from Dunbartonshire to Lanarkshire.

Authors of distribution papers that cover large areas (e.g. on Waxwing irruptions or the spread of the Collared Dove) may wish to list records (instead of or as well as mapping them) and will then have to classify them in some way. It would be unhelpful, for instance, to give them alphabetically town by town, because a clearer picture may be drawn by some sort of geographical classification or sequence (e.g. from northeast to southwest). It has been usual in Scotland to classify such records on two levels—by faunal area (defined by watershed) and by division thereof (usually part of or a whole county), and it is up to anyone suggesting that some other course would be better to produce convincing arguments, keeping in mind the value of continuity. Listing by counties in alphabetical order (as often in England) is neither an improvement nor particularly meaningful. There are certainly problems in identifying exact boundaries between particular Scottish faunal areas, but in practice these cause little trouble. On the other hand, the concept of faunal areas based on the main river basins seems sound; it is a striking example of an attempt to record distribution in relation to natural rather than artificial divisions of the country, and it is well established in Scotland.

We are asked to say what should be done in Dee and elsewhere by authors of local avifaunas, implying that some standard approach might be recommended. We think this is not appropriate. Even the Vertebrate Fauna series was never completed, despite its momentum and the much smaller bulk of published material to be sifted by its authors. Today there are so many observers that any local publication is soon out of date, and a completely new interlocking series of local avifaunas is unlikely to be produced.

Scotland may be treated comprehensively (as in *The Birds of Scotland* or the BTO Atlas), and this is a good way to look at its birds. Local publications should be produced only for areas that have been well studied, or are especially interesting, and there is no reason why these areas should not be as big or small as the authors find convenient and the available material and public interest warrant. We have publications for such areas as Aberlady Bay and Shetland; and Speyside is the sort of area that is neither a county nor a faunal division but would make a natural and interesting basis for a bird book.

Natural boundaries (which should not change) are preferable to political ones (which do, and which may even disappear, as witness the current local government reforms). Occasional criticism of the Scottish system of faunal areas is usually based on lack of understanding, perhaps because things are different elsewhere. When looking at distribution, rather than specifying a locality, the system is certainly not outmoded, especially when so much of the literature is based on it. Furthermore, county boundaries often coincide with the faunal area ones, for the good reason that politicians also find that watersheds make convenient boundaries (since few people live on them).

The Vice-County system has never caught on with ornithologists and should be avoided, since it is unfamiliar to ornithological readers and there is little point in classifying records in yet another way. This system should probably be regarded as superseded by distribution mapping based on 10-km or other map squares, a method that lends itself to automatic processing and is being applied to other animal groups and to plants.

Our recommendations are therefore :

1. It is not appropriate to lay down which areas must be treated as units; each author of local material should choose his own according to the material in hand, but with due regard to the territorial claims of anyone already covering the area. He should publish a clear definition and if possible a map of his area, and identify localities unambiguously in his text. Where comparison with earlier reports is desirable this should be allowed for when selecting boundaries.

2. If there is a choice, topographical boundaries are usually better than political ones, being more permanent and relevant to the study of birds. Where records from a wide area are listed they should be classified geographically by faunal area and division or by county.

3. In summary, boundaries of various sorts (faunal area, county ecological, topographical, etc) are of value at different times, and it is for the author to use appropriate ones. But we see no value in trying to define a system of areas to be covered by individual local reports and avifaunas, since there is no plan to produce a comprehensive series.

## Enquiry

A number of Fulmars on the Aberdeenshire coast will be marked with conspicuous patches of dye in an effort to obtain information on the distribution of the species at sea. Anyone sighting dyed Fulmars is invited to send details of date, location and distance from shore, direction of flight, and position and colour of dye patches to M. A. Macdonald, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

## Corrections

In the Short Note on Nuthatches in Perthshire (*Scot. Birds* 7: 36) the reference in the footnote given as (*Scot. Birds* 3: 84) should read (*Scot. Birds* 3: 83).

In R. W. Furness's paper, Roost selection by Waders (*Scot. Birds* 7: 281-287), the description of roost 6 was omitted. On p. 282 insert "**Roost 6** is the sea wall of the lagoons at Musselburgh".

## THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

### WEEKEND EXCURSION TO DUMFRIES

The annual weekend excursion to the Solway goose grounds has been arranged with the County Hotel, Dumfries, from Friday 22nd February to Sunday 24th February 1974.

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Members may bring guests and should book direct with the Manager, County Hotel, Dumfries (tel. 5401), notifying him that they are attending the Club excursion. Members should also advise the Hotel in advance if they require Dinner on the Friday night.

Those not staying at the County Hotel are invited to attend an informal meeting at the Hotel on Friday evening at 8.30 p.m., when details of the weekend excursions will be announced. An informal programme of slides will be shown on the Saturday evening. Members or Guests who may have slides of interest are asked to bring them to the Hotel, and to contact the Club Secretary on the Friday evening to discuss their inclusion in the programme. A selection of books from the Bird Bookshop will be taken to the Hotel for sale during both evenings. It is advisable to bring warm clothing, gum boots if possible, and thermos flasks, for the excursions.

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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.

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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.

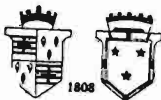
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