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# SCOTTISH BIRDS



THE JOURNAL OF THE  
SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Volume 9 No. 8

Winter 1977

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## CONTENTS OF VOLUME 9, NUMBER 8, WINTER 1977

	<i>Page</i>
Editorial ... ..	365
Fair Isle Bird Observatory Appeal (Andrew T. Macmillan) ...	366
Current ornithological research in Scotland (I. H. J. Lyster)	366
Ornithology in the Highlands and Islands (W. R. P. Bourne)	378
Short Notes	
Little Shearwater in Argyllshire (Keith Verrall) ...	380
Sparrowhawk taking Sedge Warbler from a ringer's hand (E. S. da Prato) ... ..	381
Laughing Gull in Argyllshire (Keith Verrall) ... ..	381
Gymnastic Rook (Iain C. Munro) ... ..	382
Reviews	
The Birds of Berwick-upon-Tweed and District by Frank Brady (Henry Douglas-Home) ... ..	382
The Wandering Tattler by Elizabeth Forster (Ian D. Pennie)	387
Fair Isle Bird Observatory : Report for 1976 ed. G. Waterston (S. R. D. Prato) ... ..	387
Current literature ... ..	387
Letters	
Wildlife potential in the Cairngorms region (R. J. Wheeler; Adam Watson) ... ..	388
Branch and Group News ... ..	403
Current Notes ... ..	403

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**Editor D. J. Bates**

**Business Editor Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe**

## LOCAL RECORDERS

- Shetland (except Fair Isle)** R. J. Tulloch, Lussetter House, Mid Yell, Shetland.
- Fair Isle** R. A. Broad, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.
- Orkney** D. Lea, Easter Sower, Orphir, Orkney, KW17 2RE.
- Outer Hebrides** W. A. J. Cunningham, Aros, 10 Barony Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.
- Caithness** Mrs P. M. Collett, Sandyquoy, East Gills, Scrabster, Caithness. KW14 7UH.
- Sutherland** Dr I. D. Pennie, 5 Badcall, Scourie, Sutherland.
- Ross-shire (except Black Isle), Inverness-shire (mainland more than 18 miles from Inverness)** R. H. Dennis, Landberg, North Kessock, Inverness IV1 1XD.
- Ross-shire (Black Isle only), Inverness-shire (within 18 miles of Inverness)** M. I. Harvey, Clach Bhan, Loaneckheim, Kiltarlity, Inverness-shire.
- Nairnshire, Morayshire, Banffshire** N. Elkins, 10 Oakbank Place, Elgin, Morayshire.
- Aberdeenshire, North Kincardineshire** Dr A. G. Knox, Zoology Department, Aberdeen University, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen, AB9 2TN, and W. Murray, Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB4 0AA.
- South Kincardineshire, Angus** N. K. Atkinson, 140 Linefield Road, Panbride, Carnoustie, Angus, DD7 6DT, and G. M. Crighton, 23 Church Street, Brechin, Angus.
- Perthshire** R. L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Kintillo, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.
- Kinross-shire** Mrs B. H. Gray, Vane Farm, Kinross.
- Isle of May** J. M. S. Arnott, East Redford House, Redford Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0AS.
- Fife** D. W. Oliver, East Cottage, Balass, Cupar, Fife.
- Clackmannanshire, East Stirlingshire** Dr C. J. Henty, 3 The Broich, Alva, Clackmannanshire.
- West Lothian, Forth islands (except May), Midlothian** R. W. J. Smith, 33 Hunter Terrace, Loanhead, Midlothian.
- East Lothian, Berwickshire** K. S. Macgregor, 16 Merchiston Avenue, Edinburgh, EH10 4NY.
- Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire** A. J. Smith, Glenview, Selkirk, TD7 4LX.
- Argyllshire, Inner Hebrides, Skye** M. J. P. Gregory, Duiletter, Kilmory Road, Lochgilphead, Argyllshire, PA31 8NL.
- Dunbartonshire, West Stirlingshire, Renfrewshire** I. P. Gibson, Arcadia, The Glen, Howwood, Renfrewshire.
- Lanarkshire** H. Galbraith, 96 Neilsten Road, Paisley, Renfrewshire.
- Ayrshire, Arran, Bute** R. H. Hogg, Schoolhouse, Crosshill, Maybole, Ayrshire.
- Dumfriesshire** R. T. Smith, Applegarthtown, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.
- Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtownshire** A. D. Watson, Barone, Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.



# SCOTTISH BIRDS

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB



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Volume 9 No. 8

Winter 1977

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Edited by D. J. Bates

## Editorial

**Scottish Bird Reports** Owing to the late submission of some local recorders' reports and the increasing demands on the compiler's time by Peregrine thieves *et al.*, we very much regret the delay of the 1976 Scottish Bird Report until the next issue at least, and possibly even later.

The Scottish Bird Report synthesizes a vast and growing amount of observation. Its sheer size is remarkable, perhaps unique, and the envy of many outside Scotland. The information contained is of permanent value which increases over the years, but its popular interest quickly diminishes. Its size is now limited by cost, whilst the number of records submitted increases steeply each year. This means not only a straightforward increase in work for recorders and compiler but a disproportionately greater task of selection. In fact, it has probably now passed the stage where it could still be handled by one spare-time compiler.

Arrangements are therefore being made for several hands to compile the 1977 report from the local recorders' summaries. In addition, we have marshalled a network of assistants to be in reserve in most areas to take over from a recorder in a crisis and prevent any delay. Any members who feel they have both the time and experience to help as emergency recorders or as report compilers, or both, are invited to contact the editor.

We therefore beg you to send your records promptly as usual, hoping that the new system will produce a report before 1977 has quite faded from the reader's memory. Please consult the new list of recorders and notices to contributors in the advertising pages of this issue. It should be particularly noted that Norman Atkinson's (South Kincardineshire, Angus) address has changed, that the Clyde area is now split into three, and that Dumfriesshire has only one recorder. We welcome Hector Galbraith as recorder for Lanarkshire and R. H. (Angus) Hogg as recorder for Ayrshire, Arran and Bute. Derek Skilling's name drops out of the Dumfriesshire duo, so this is the place to formally thank him for his work as recorder

since 1971, but we are fortunate in retaining his anonymous assistance as emergency recorder for the area.

**Richard Richardson** It was with great sadness that we heard of the death on 9th October of Richard A. Richardson of Cley, Norfolk, who was closely associated with Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust. A first rate artist who generously offered his work to FIBOT and the SOC, some of his last drawings appear in these pages. A full obituary notice will appear in the next issue.

## Fair Isle Bird Observatory Appeal

Did you see George Waterston on television on 23rd October? Fair Isle Bird Observatory has always been very close to the SOC. Many of us have happy enduring memories of that marvellous island and the people who live there.

When the new observatory was built it fully met the fire regulations. It was hardly completed before the rules were changed. Now the trustees face a bill for £7,000 for extensive modifications and fire detectors, made worse by the inflation in the years it has taken the authorities to visit the island and say what they want done.

The Highlands and Islands Development Board helped build the observatory, and we hope they will meet a third of the cost of the fire precautions. That still leaves a lot to be raised.

I commend George's appeal to you. Fair Isle is a success. The observatory has played a part in keeping the island alive when others have been evacuated. And it is a prime place in British ornithology. Your gift, large or small, will be valuable. If you believe in Fair Isle please help. Write today to the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh.

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN,  
*President, Scottish Ornithologists' Club*

## Current ornithological research in Scotland

I. H. J. LYSTER

### Introduction

In the first review of current ornithological research in Scotland, published in 1973 (7: 228-242), the intention was expressed that the survey would be updated from time to time. Accordingly a questionnaire was again circulated to as many as possible of those individuals and organizations thought to

be either engaged in some form of ornithological research, or who might know of someone else who was. As before, the term "research" was given a broad interpretation covering everything from checklists to full time scientific studies. The last day set for the return of completed questionnaires was 30th September 1976.

The response was again good and I would like to thank all those who completed and returned the forms. Obviously some researchers will have been missed; would they, or anyone wishing to amend an entry, please write to me now? Information is already being gathered for the next review and it is particularly important that names and addresses are available when the time comes to send out forms.

Unfortunately, for lack of space, this review has had to be drastically condensed. In general only items of field ornithology have been included; entries have been lumped together wherever possible; cross-indexing, names of co-workers and sponsoring bodies have been dropped; and addresses limited to those of people under whose name an entry appears. The lumping of entries has generally been done by species or type of study but to avoid wasteful duplication certain large and/or complex entries have been put in the Miscellaneous section at the end.

Finally, many people have asked for assistance or information. The response to such requests after the last review was, on the whole, disappointing. If you can help, please do so now while the request is still fresh in your mind! The requests are not made lightly and your assistance could prove of vital importance to a project.

### **Projects listed by species or groups**

The species sequence followed here is basically that used in the Scottish Bird Report although allowance should be made for species being lumped together under one general heading. Under each heading the research projects are listed alphabetically by researchers' names.

#### **SEABIRDS, GENERAL**

**Bourne, Dr W. R. P.** Distribution and ecology of seabirds around Scotland.

**Broad, R. A.** Monitoring Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Guillemots and Puffins on Fair Isle; breeding biology of Black Guillemot.

**Coomber, R. F.** Migrant seabirds between Mull, Coll and Tiree in late summer-autumn.

**Furness, R. W.** Population monitoring on Foula, Shetland, and development of monitoring techniques.

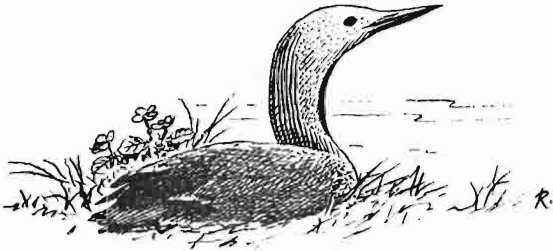
**Gibson, Dr J. A.** Ongoing survey of breeding colonies in the Clyde faunal area. Help needed, particularly additions to his already published lists.

**Hammond, N.** North Solway coast and Orkney islands of Westray, Eday and Rousay; census of major cliff colonies, distribution within these

- colonies, inter-colony movements, auk census techniques.
- Hardey, J.** Monitoring and ringing Kittiwakes and auks in Grampian region; additional ringers welcome.
- Lea, D.** Survey of birds wintering in Scapa Flow and other shallow sea areas in Orkney. Bi-annual mapping of gulls, terns and skua territories on North Hill, Papa Westray.
- Ramsay, A. D. K. and Swann, R. L.** Study of selected seabirds of the Isle of Canna; also the problems of counting shearwaters and auks.

#### DIVERS AND GREBES

- Dennis, R. H.** Surveillance of Black-throated Divers and Slavonian Grebes in the Highland region, particularly in relation to human disturbance.
- Harvey, M. I.** Population and breeding success of Slavonian Grebes in Inverness-shire north of the Great Glen. Pre-1970 records wanted.
- Merrie, T. D.** Breeding biology and spatial distribution of Red- and Black-throated Divers in S. Argyll and Rannoch Moor; other Highland or Island sites also examined. Observers wanted in Shetland, Outer Isles and Sutherland.



RED-THROATED DIVER by R. A. Richardson

#### PETRELS

- Booth, C. J., Lea, D. and Ramsay, A. D. K.** Breeding distribution and numbers of small petrels in Orkney.
- Dunnet, Prof. G. M.** Population study of Fulmars at Eynhallow, Orkney, and Sands of Forvie NNR, Aberdeen.
- Love, J. A.** Storm and Leach's Petrels on North Rona and Storm Petrels on the Summer Isles.
- Mainwood, A. R.** Breeding distribution, biology and population estimate of the Storm Petrel on the Summer Isles.

#### GANNET

- Gibson, Dr J. A.** Annual census of Ailsa Craig colony, also all aspects of biology, based on a 35-year study of this colony.
- Nelson, Dr J. B.** Breeding and behaviour of the Gannet on the Bass Rock and Ailsa Craig. Help wanted for spot-checks on other colonies.

#### HERONS

- Mitchell, J.** Annual monitoring of population and breeding success of Herons in the Loch Lomond area.
- Owen, D.** Information wanted on the Edinburgh Zoo's free-flying colony of Night Herons.

#### WILDFOWL, GENERAL

- Allison, A.** National Duck Production Survey: national census figures are published but local populations can be monitored if large samples are sent in. Duck wings wanted with data.
- Currie, A.** Populations of Skye and Western Isles, particularly Eiders and

wintering and migrant flocks. Counts welcomed; details wanted of any special studies planned or published.

**Halliday, J. B.** Job Creation Project : migrant wildfowl on Upper Clyde estuary.

**Pounder, B.** Detailed study of wintering diving ducks, E. Scotland, and wildfowl concentrations on reservoirs in Tayside. Counts of diving ducks plus full data wanted.

**Wildfowl Trust.** Help wanted with counts at southern end of Mull. Contact R. F. Coomber.

#### DUCKS

**Bignal, Dr E.** Social and population studies of Shelduck on Loch Lomond. Notes on colour-ringed birds in Loch Lomond area (only) wanted.

**Collett, Mrs P.** Distribution and status of Common Scoter in Caithness.

**Evans, Dr P. and Patterson, Dr I. J.** Shelduck at Aberlady Bay, E. Lothian, and Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire, respectively.

**Jones, P. Hope.** Moulting flocks of Eider. Distribution and diurnal rhythm of wintering Long-tailed Ducks in selected areas of Scapa Flow.

**Gorman, Dr M. L.** Social behaviour of Eider at Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire.

**Milne, Dr H.** Detailed study of Eider at Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire; assistance wanted with marking on winter grounds in Tay estuary.

**Mitchell, J.** Annual monitoring of Common Scoters on Loch Lomond.

#### GEESE AND SWANS

**Brown, G. C.** Census and breeding success of Greylag Geese in South Uist, and swans in N. and S. Uist and Benbecula.

**Highland Ringing Group.** Summering Greylag; also study of moulting flock of Canada Geese on Beaully Firth.

**Ogilvie, M. A.** Annual autumn census of Greylag and Pinkfeet. Monitoring Greenland White-fronted and Barnacle Geese on Islay.

**Owen, Dr M.** Barnacle Geese, mainly at Caerlaverock, Dumfries. Notes on ringed birds and family status wanted.

**Patton, D. L. H.** Improving grassland by grazing geese. References to microclimates within cages, or on geese on Islay, wanted.

**R.A.F. Kinloss.** Survey of Greylag Geese in Forres area.

**Thomson, Dr I. D. L.** Establishment of colonies of Greylag and Barnacle Geese in the Achray Forest area, Perthshire.

#### RAPTORS, GENERAL

**Brown, H.** Raptor census in Wester Ross. No assistance required.

**Hardey, J.** Raptor ringing and Peregrine ecology in Grampian region.

**Stark, D. M.** Status and distribution of raptors in Caithness.

**Village, A.** Effect of habitat on wildlife, S. Scotland. Reports of wing-tagged owls (mainly Short-eared) and Kestrels wanted.

#### EAGLES AND HAWKS

**Balharry, R.** Breeding success and general ecology of the Golden Eagle in Wester Ross and Inverness-shire.

**Ball, M. E.** Reintroduction of the White-tailed Eagle to Rhum.

**Bates, G. G.** Ecology and distribution of the Golden Eagle in N. Sutherland. Wanted, data on current sightings and on situation before the grouse and hare population crashes of the 1930s-40s.

**Brown, G. C.** Feeding habits of Golden Eagle on North Uist.

**Dennis, R. H.** Monitoring of spread and breeding success of Osprey.

**Gregory, M. J. P.** Distribution and breeding success of Golden Eagles.

**Newton, Dr I.** Population ecology of Sparrowhawks, and effects of afforestation on Buzzards, in southern Scotland.

**Picozzi, N.** Aspects of social behaviour of Hen Harriers in Orkney.

**Ritchie, A.** Annual census of Golden Eagles in Angus.

- Watson, Dr A.** Monitoring of breeding stocks and breeding success of Golden Eagles in Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and Angus.  
**Watson, A. Donald.** All aspects of the behaviour and distribution of Hen Harriers, especially in the Galloway area.



HEN HARRIER by A. D. Watson

#### FALCONS

- Mitchell, J.** Annual census of Peregrines in L. Lomond and Trossachs.  
**McMillan, R. L.** Population study of Merlins in north Perthshire.  
**Murray, J. B.** Distribution of Kestrels within City of Edinburgh. Reports of nests, sightings etc., wanted.  
**Riddle, G.** Distribution and breeding of Kestrels in 12 sample areas in Ayrshire. Details of mortality and urban breeding wanted.  
**Ritchie, A.** Annual census (since 1966) of Peregrine in Angus.  
**Watson, Dr A.** Monitoring of breeding stocks and success of Peregrines in Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and Angus.  
**Weir, D. N.** Peregrine limiting factors in N.E. Scotland; some assistance, financial especially, and reports of colour marked birds and new nest sites welcomed.  
**Williams, E. J.** Breeding biology etc of Kestrels on Mainland, Orkney.

#### GAME BIRDS

- Moss, Dr R.** Capercaillie in N.E. Scotland. 50p reward for heads!  
**Watson, Dr A.** Population regulation, behaviour and nutrition of Red Grouse.

#### WADERS

- Atkinson, N. K.** Ecology of Purple Sandpiper and Turnstone, chiefly Fife-Kincardine. Winter counts and data on colour-ringed birds wanted.  
**Brown, G. C.** Census and breeding of waders on machair of South Uist.  
**Clarke, H.** Ringing Dunlin at Garmouth, Morayshire, late summer. Biometric data wanted on Dunlin caught anywhere during July and August.  
**Currie, A.** Waders of Skye and Western Isles, particularly wintering and migrant flocks. Counts welcomed. Details wanted of any special studies.  
**Cuthbert, Dr M. F.** Monitoring of Lapwing numbers around Evie, Orkney; data on numbers in Orkney wanted; also ideas on how to tackle this study.  
**Da Prato, Mrs E. S.** Effect of waders on invertebrates in the mixed (i.e. rock and sand) shores of E. Lothian. Study area, Yellowcraig.  
**Heppleston, Dr P. B.** Biology of Curlew in agricultural habitats.  
**Joffe, M. T.** Numbers, ecology and behaviour of Redshank on the Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire.  
**Knox, A.** Roof-nesting Oystercatchers. Details of sites and success wanted.

- Malnwood, A. R.** Breeding of Ringed Plover in east Sutherland.  
**Nethersole-Thompson, D.** Population study of Greenshank in Sutherland. Gathering material for a book on waders; notes wanted, particularly on waders in Argyll and the Hebrides.  
**Parr, R.** Breeding of Golden Plover at Kerloch, Kincardineshire.  
**Vines, Miss G.** Dispersion and territorial behaviour of inland and coastal breeding Oystercatchers (Aberdeenshire).

#### SKUAS, GULLS AND TERNS

- Anderson, A.** Ringing Kittiwakes between Ogster and Whinnyfold, Aberdeenshire.  
**Atkinson, N. K.** Breeding biology of Little Terns at St Cyrus, Kincardineshire, also Fife and Angus. Help needed to monitor other colonies.  
**Booth, C. J.** Colour ringing pulli Common Gulls, Orkney.  
**Duncan, N.** Recruitment of Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls: Isle of May, west coast of Argyll and Lancashire. Records wanted of colour-ringed Lesser Black-backed Gulls breeding away from Isle of May.  
**Furness, B. L. and R. W.** Biology of Arctic Skua and Kittiwake in relation to predation by Great Skua (Foula, Shetland). Biological and historical study of Great Skua.  
**Ramsay, A. D. K.** Breeding of Great Skuas on Hoy, Orkney.  
**Richardson, M. G.** Monitoring of Ramna Geo (Burra Isle, Shetland) Kittiwake colony.  
**Smith, A. J. M.** Life history of Sandwich Tern, chiefly at Sands of Forvie, Aberdeenshire. Unpublished information, and details of the colony at Aberlady Bay, E. Lothian, wanted.  
**Stark, D. M.** Status of Great and Arctic Skuas in Caithness.

#### AUKS

- Harris, Dr M. P.** Puffin ecology and populations, chiefly St Kilda and the Isle of May. Please report sightings of colour-ringed Puffins.  
**Sage, B.** Breeding census of Guillemots at 6 colonies at Hermaness, Shetland. Long-term monitoring planned.  
**Slater, Dr P. J. B.** Factors influencing the numbers of Guillemots on cliffs, Copinsay, Orkney. Short-term fieldworkers wanted.

#### OTHER NON-PASSERINES

- Drummond, I. H.** General behaviour study of Swifts.  
**Macdonald, D.** Predation in a Collared Dove colony, S.E. Sutherland.  
**Mackintosh, Dr G. M.** Damage to root crops by Wood pigeons, N. Scotland.  
**Rae, R.** Long-eared Owls, Grampian region, monitoring of breeding success.

#### PASSERINES, GENERAL

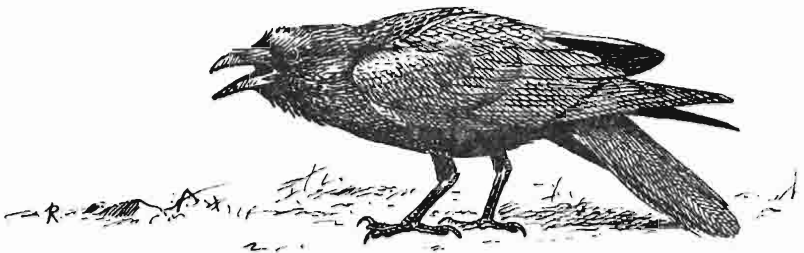
- Hardey, J.** Ringing roosting thrushes and finches, Banff and Aberdeen.  
**Moss, Dr D.** Populations and conversion of open hill-ground to forest (Ae Forest, Dumfriesshire, Clatteringshaws Forest, Kirkcudbrightshire).  
**Swann, R. L.** Population structure and movements of 'resident' birds in a Highland glen, chiefly Glenurquhart.

#### SWALLOWS AND MARTINS

- Bryant, Dr D. M.** Ecology of aerial feeding birds.  
**Clark, H. and McGinn, D. B.** Breeding statistics of Swallows around Bathgate, West Lothian, and in Roxburghshire.  
**McMillan, R. L.** Dispersal from roosts in the inner Tay basin.  
**Rae, R.** Ringing Sand Martins at colonies in Aberdeenshire.

#### CORVIDS

- Booth, C. G.** Status of Chough on Islay; records wanted of all sightings of Choughs on Islay.



RAVEN by R. A. Richardson

**Booth, C. J.** Breeding biology of the Raven in Orkney.  
**Newton, Dr I.** Effects of afforestation on Ravens in southern Scotland and northern England.

**Spray, C. J.** Effect on food supply on territorial behaviour, range and nest density of Carrion Crows, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire. Please report any wing-tagged crows.

**Stark, D. M.** Rooks in Caithness.

#### TITS

**Milsom, T. P.** Interspecific competition between Crested and Coal Tits in Glentanar and Rothiemurchus.

#### THRUSHES, CHATS AND WARBLERS

**Durman, R.** Breeding biology of Ring Ouzels, Pentland Hills, Midlothian. Assistance appreciated.

**Gray, D. B.** General biology of the Whinchat in south Ayrshire.

**Langslow, Dr D. R.** Population dynamics of the Stonechat, Edinburgh area. Reports of colour-ringed birds welcomed.

**Macdonald, D.** South-east Sutherland: effect of weather on wintering Stonechats; breeding cycle of Whitethroats.

**Phillips, J. S.** Census of Stonechats in Scotland. Returns wanted for Bute, Hebrides, Angus, Fife, Lothians and Dumfries.

#### WAGTAILS

**McMillan, R. L.** Communal roosts of Pied Wagtails in Tayside.

**Mainwood, A. R.** Ringing study of a reed-bed roost at Dingwall.

#### BUNTINGS AND FINCHES

**Gray, D. B.** Winter roosts of Yellowhammers in south Ayrshire.

**Highland Ringing Group.** A study of wintering Siskins.

**Knox, Dr A.** Crossbill biology (mainly N.E. Scotland) and taxonomy.

**Milsom, T. P.** Feeding and habitat selection of Snow Buntings (Cairngorms).

**Rae, R.** Monitoring Scottish Crossbills in upper Deeside.

**Slater, Dr P. J. B.** Chaffinch song dialects in Orkney.

#### GENERAL CHECK-LISTS AND CENSUSES

**Bain, D. J.** Birds of Threipmuir and Harlaw Reservoir systems, Midlothian.

**Booth, C. G.** Birds of Islay and Jura, past and present. Records welcomed.

**Cunningham, W. A. J.** Preparing a book on the birds of the Western Isles.

**Gibson, Dr J. A.** 1. Geographical bibliography of Scottish ornithology 1901-1975. Out-of-the-way records wanted, also assistance to check listings. 2. Atlas of vertebrates, excluding marine fish, from Clyde faunal area, 1800-1975. Assistance wanted. 3. Vertebrate faunas of Renfrewshire, Kintyre and Isle of Arran.



**Kindrogan Field Centre.** Lists of birds recorded during courses, also census of a local mixed conifer-broadleaf wood.

**Knox, A.** Status and distribution of birds in N.E. Scotland; also the use of automatic data-handling methods for local records.

**McGinn, D. B.** Analysis and checklist of birds of Ale Moor Loch, Roxburghshire. Records for period 1969-76 welcomed.

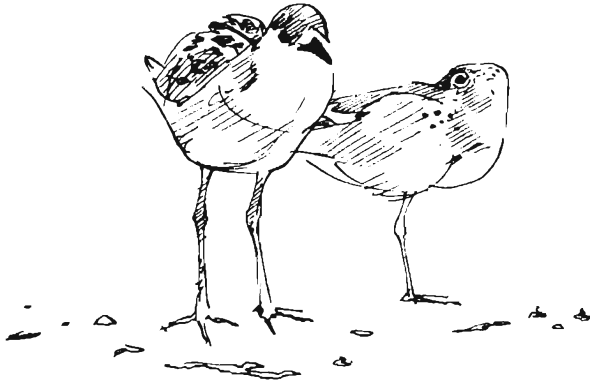
**Morrison, C. M.** Birds of Tweeddale District. Contact wanted with anyone with information on the birds of this area.

**Rainier, Mrs I.** Local bird population fluctuations, Mid-Argyll.

**Robson, M. J. H.** Birds of the Borders : out-of-the-way records, shooting bags, vermin lists etc. wanted.

**R.A.F. Kinloss Bird Club.** Monthly census and sighting report, Forres area.

**Shetland Bird Club.** General information welcomed, especially breeding records of species scarce in Shetland; location and size of all gull and tern colonies. Assistance offered to visiting field workers.



RUFF and REDSHANK by John Eusby

## ECOLOGY

**Bryant, Dr D. M.** Ecology of shorebirds on the Forth estuary.

**Henty, Dr C. J.** Birds of high level scrub and woodland in the southern Highlands. Altitude and habitat selection in the birds of the Ochils. Visible migration in central and S.W. Scotland. Distribution and movement of birds in the Central Region. All records welcome, particularly unpublished or of the period 1934-68.

**Hepburn, I.** Avian ecology on the Monach Isles NNR, O. Hebrides; also machair bird communities in general; migration and other relevant records wanted.

**Heppleston, Dr P. B.** Utilization of agricultural land by Orkney birds.

**Knox, A.** Birds of the native Pinewoods : general study.

**Lea, D.** Population densities of birds breeding on RSPB moorland reserves in Orkney including C.B.C. on selected samples.

**Watson, Dr A.** Human impact on bird populations in the Cairngorms.

## PARASITOLOGY

**Marriott, Dr R. W.** Mapping bird (and mammal) fleas in Scotland, especially from seabirds, Rock Doves, House Martins, pipits and wagtails; specimens wanted, particularly nest material from remote islands.

**Harper, G. H.** House Martin fleas and relationship to nest site. Help needed in location and collection of nests from awkward sites.

**PESTICIDES, POLLUTION AND MORTALITY**

- Bogan, Dr J. A.** Effects of pesticides on breeding success of Golden Eagles, Sparrowhawks and Peregrines. All inquiries to Dr I. Newton.
- Bourne, Dr W. R. P.** Organochlorine levels in seabirds.
- Hamilton, G. A.** Organochlorine and mercury levels in Woodpigeons in E. Lothian. Wildlife Incident Investigation Service to investigate pesticide deaths. Correlation between pesticide use and residues. Wanted, bodies of raptors and other birds where unusual numbers have occurred.
- Macdonald, J. W.** Survey of causes of death in wild birds.
- Murton, Dr R. K.** Pollutant studies of selectively collected dead seabirds.
- Osborn, D.** Effects of PCBs on Puffin breeding success. Investigation of heavy metal residues in a number of seabirds.
- Riddle, G.** Raptor mortality in Ayrshire.
- Stead, A. C.** Leg and wing injuries in wild raptors.
- Ward, Dr P.** Comparison between waders on an unpolluted estuary (Moray Firth) and two polluted with heavy metals (Severn and the Wash).

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Brathay Exploration Group, Foula, Shetland:** monitoring interactions between seabird species; ringing, particularly skuas; annual census of breeding waders and passerines; prey of skuas and breeding success of Eiders and Red-throated Divers. Qualified ringers welcomed to assist for two weeks each breeding season.
- Drummond, I. H.** Play in birds.
- Edinburgh Ringing Group.** Lothians: census and ringing of Puffins and Kittiwakes on Craighleith, Fulmars and Kittiwakes on Inchkeith; breeding biology of Dippers on S. Esk and tributaries; breeding biology of warblers; summer-autumn Linnet roosts at Longniddry; reports of colour-ringed Dippers and Linnets welcomed.
- Kinnear, P. K.** Shetland: monitoring breeding of selected seabird colonies; seasonal distribution and winter census of wildfowl, also winter census of divers and grebes (past and present records welcome); counts of waders at selected shore sites (full counts of waders plus time of counts wanted for Pool of Virkie, also past information from this or other regular wader sites).
- Gray, T.** Environmental education with particular reference to birds. Schools were involved with the 1975 Rookery survey and could help with similar projects.
- Lossiemouth (R.A.F.) Ornithological Society.** Would welcome ideas on fieldwork in the Lossiemouth area.

**Nationally organized projects**

These generally long-term or on-going projects were fully dealt with in the previous survey (7: 239-240) but a number of references need to be updated. Full details of the projects can be obtained from the bodies concerned.

**BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY**

Ringing scheme; Molt inquiry; Common Birds Census; Nest Record Scheme; Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover inquiry; Register of Ornithological Sites, due to be completed at end of 1977, regional organizers listed in a supplement to the last three May editions of *BTO News*; birds of the estuaries inquiry (for local organizers see 7: 391-398).

**WILDFOWL TRUST**

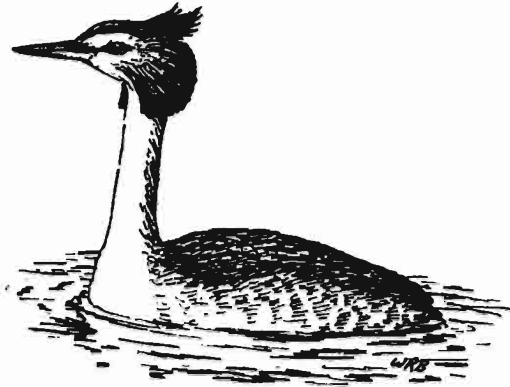
National wildfowl counts and international wildfowl census (a list of regional organizers can be found in 9: 173).

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS**

Beached birds survey; breeding populations of auks, Kittiwakes and Fulmars (liaison with Nature Conservancy Council and Seabird Group).

**SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB**

SOC policy on ornithological research, fieldwork and discussion groups is fully dealt with in 9: 140-43. Scottish Bird Report: a list of local recorders is given elsewhere in this issue.



GREAT CRESTED GREBE by W. R. Brackenridge

**Addresses**

- Allison, A., Loch Leven NNR, Benarty, The Vane, by Kinross.  
 Anderson, S., Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.  
 Atkinson, N. K., 140 Linefield Road, Carnoustie, Angus.  
 Bain, D. J., 8 Highlea Circle, Balerno, Midlothian, EH14 7HE  
 Balharry, R., Chief Warden, Achantoul, Aviemore.  
 Ball, M. E., NCC, 63 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1BB.  
 Bates, G. G., Ormie Lodge, Thurso, Caithness.  
 Bignal, Dr E., NCC, The Castle, Loch Lomond Park, Balloch G83 8LX.  
 Bogan, Dr J. A., Veterinary Pharmacology Dept., University of Glasgow, Veterinary School, Bearsden Road, Bearsden, Glasgow.  
 Booth, C. G., Cairn Cottage, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, Argyll.  
 Booth, C. J., Ronas, 34 High Street, Kirkwall, Orkney.  
 Bourne, Dr W. R. P., Zoology Department, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen.  
 Brathay Exploration Group, Brathay Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria.  
 British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire.  
 Broad, R. A., Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.  
 Brown, G. C., Warden, Loch Druidibeg NNR, Stillgarry, South Uist.  
 Brown, H., Ialtag, Kinlochewe, Ross-shire.  
 Bryant, Dr D. M., Department of Biology, University of Stirling, Stirling.  
 Clark, H., 51 Napier Avenue, Bathgate, West Lothian.  
 Collett, Mrs P., Sandyquoy, Scrabster, Caithness, KW14 7UH.  
 Coomber, R. F., Staffa Cottages, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.  
 Cunningham, W. A. J., 10 Barony Square, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.  
 Currie, A., Glaislelean, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ.  
 Cuthbert, Dr M. F., Vishabreck, Evie, Orkney KW17 2PQ.

- Da Prato, Mrs E. S., Forth River Purification Board, Colinton Dell House, West Mill Road, Edinburgh EH13 ONX.
- Dennis, R. H., Landberg, North Kessock, Inverness, IV1 1XD.
- Drummond, I. H., 8 Viewforth Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 4EU.
- Duncan, N., Zoology Dept., University of Durham, South Road, Durham.
- Dunnet, Prof. G. M., Zoology Dept., University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen.
- Durman, R., 21 Lovedale Road, Balerno, Midlothian.
- Edinburgh Ringing Group, Sec. Dr D. R. Langslow, Department of Biochemistry, University of Edinburgh, Kings Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh.
- Evans, Dr P., Zoology Dept., University of Durham, Science Site, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE.
- Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.
- Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.
- Furness, B. L. and R. W. Zoology Dept., University of Durham, Science Site, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE.
- Gibson, Dr J. A., Foremount House, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire.
- Gorman, Dr M. L., Zoology Dept., University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB9 2TN.
- Gray, D. B., 2 Schaw Avenue, Drongan, by Ayr KA6 7BG.
- Gray, T., 36 Sinclair Avenue, Glenrothes, Fife.
- Gregory, M. J. P., Dulleter, Kilmory Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SZ.
- Halliday, J. B., Biology Dept., Paisley College of Technology, Paisley.
- Hamilton, G. A., DAFS. Chemistry Section, East Craigs, Edinburgh EH12 8NJ.
- Hammond, N., 39 Outgang Road, Aspatria, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 3HS.
- Hardey, J., Kiloran, Ordiquhill, by Cornhill, Banff.
- Harper, G. H., 7 Epsom Court, Berry Lane, Rickmansworth, Herts., WD3 2HW.
- Harris, Dr M. P., ITE., Hill of Brathens, Banchory, Kincardineshire.
- Harvey, M. I., Clach Bhan, Looneckheim, Kiltarlity, Inverness.
- Henty, Dr C. J., 3 The Broich, Alva, Clackmannanshire.
- Heppburn, I., Countryside Planning Unit, Wye College, Wye, Ashford, Kent.
- Heppleston, Dr P. B., Fairleigh, Old Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney.
- Highland Ringing Group, Sec. D. W. McAllister, 32 Seaforth Place, Maryburgh, Ross.
- Joffe, M. T., Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.
- Jones, P. Hope, Ness, Houton, Orphir, Orkney.
- Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.
- Kinnear, P. K., 2 Mounthooly Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0BJ.
- Knox, Dr A., Zoology Dept., Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB9 2TN.
- Langslow, Dr D. R., 32 Campbell Road, Longniddry, East Lothian EH32 ONP.
- Lea, D., Easter Sower, Orphir, Orkney KW17 2RE.
- Lossiemouth RAF Ornithological Society, RAF, Lossiemouth, Moray.
- Love, J. A., 24 Park Road, Inverness.
- Macdonald, D., Elmbank, Dornoch, Sutherland IV25 3SN.
- Macdonad, J. W., MAFF, Veterinary Laboratory, Eskgrove, Lasswade, Midlothian EH18 1HU.
- McGinn, D. B., 19 Orchard Terrace, Hawick, Roxburghshire.
- Mackintosh, Dr G. M., Division of Agricultural Zoology, School of Agriculture, 581 King Street, Aberdeen AB9 1UD.
- McMillan, R. L., 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.
- Mainwood, A. R., 13 Ben Bhraggle Drive, Golsple, Sutherland.
- Marrlott, Dr R. W., 9 Auchlea Place, Mastrick, Abdeen AB2 6PD.
- Merrle, T. D., West Faerwood, Dollar, Clackmannanshire FK14 7PT.
- Milne, Dr H., Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB4 0AA.
- Milsom, T. P., c/o Department of Forestry, St Machar Drive, Old Aberdeen.
- Mitchell, J., NCC, 22 Muirpark Way, Drymen, by Glasgow G63 0DX.
- Morrison, C. M., Innis Righ, 20 Kingsmeadows Gardens, Peebles EH45 9HR.

- Moss, Dr D., Forestry and Natural Resources Dept., University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JU.
- Moss, Dr R., ITE, Blackhall, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB3 3PS.
- Murray, J. B., Post Office, Stoneyburn, nr Bathgate, West Lothian.
- Murton, Dr R. K., ITE, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE17 2LS.
- Nelson, Dr J. B., Zoology Dept., Aberdeen University, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB9 2TN.
- Nethersole-Thompson, D., Ivy Cottage, Culrain, Ardgay, Ross-shire IV24 3DW.
- Newton, Dr I., NCC, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS.
- Ogilvie, M. A., Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7ET.
- Osborn, D., ITE, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon.
- Owen, D., Scottish National Zoological Park, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 6TS.
- Owen, Dr M., Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT.
- Parr, R., The Setters, Finzean, by Banchory, Kincardineshire.
- Patterson, Dr I. J., Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.
- Patton, D. L. H., College Office, 12 Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll.
- Phillips, J. S., 73 Whitletts Road, Ayr KA8 0JD.
- Picozzi, N., ITE, Blackhall, Banchory, Kincardineshire.
- Pounder, B., 64 Forfar Road, Dundee.
- Rae, R., 8a Arnhall Drive, Westhills, Aberdeen.
- Rainier, Mrs I., Strone Cottage, by Lochgillphead, Argyll PA31 8PS.
- Ramsay, A. D. K., Wardens House, Berstane Road, Kirkwall, Orkney.
- Richardson, M. G., Banna Minn, Bridge End, Burra Isle, Shetland.
- Riddle, G., Rowan Tree Cottage, Culzean, Maybole, Ayrshire.
- Ritchie, A., Museum and Art Gallery, Albert Square, Dundee.
- Robson, M. J. H., Hawick Museum and Art Gallery, Wilton Lodge, Hawick TD9 7JL.
- Royal Air Force Kinloss Bird Club, RAF Kinloss, Forres, Morayshire.
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds.
- Sage, B., British Petroleum Co. Ltd., Britannic House, Moor Lane, London EC2Y 9BU.
- Shetland Bird Club, c/o R. J. Tulloch, Lussetter House, Mid Yell, Shetland.
- Slater, Dr P. J. B., School of Biology, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QG.
- Smith, A. J. M., 68 Woodend Place, Aberdeen AB2 6AN.
- Spray, C. J., Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB4 0AA.
- Stark, D. M., 2 Harland Rd., Castletown, Thurso KW14 8UB.
- Stead, A. C., Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1QH.
- Swann, R. L., Glenurquhart Secondary School, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire.
- Tay Ringing Group, Sec. D. W. Oliver, East Cottage, Balass, Cupar, Fife.
- Thomson, Dr I. D. L., 1 Cross Street, Callander, Perthshire.
- Village, A., c/o Forestry and Natural Resources Dept., University of Edinburgh, Kings Buildings, Edinburgh.
- Vines, Miss G., Culterty Field Station, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB4 0AA.
- Ward, Dr P., Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon.
- Watson, Dr A., ITE, Blackhall, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB3 3PS.
- Watson, A. Donald, Barone, 54 Main Street, Dalry, by Castle Douglas DG7 3UW.
- Weir, Hon. D. N., Creag Dhu Lodge, by Newtonmore, Inverness-shire.
- Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BT.
- Williams, E. J., Fairholm, Finstown, Orkney.

*I. H. J. Lyster, Royal Scottish Museum,  
Edinburgh EH1 1JF.*

## Ornithology in the Highlands and Islands

W. R. P. BOURNE

Scotland like her ancient ally is traditionally divided into three parts, the Lowlands, the Highlands and the Islands. Ecologically the Lowlands are little more than an extension of England, but the Highlands and Islands are the most interesting part of Britain, consisting of a complex mosaic of isolated fragments of different habitats, including not only the islands of the sea, but a variety of island or oasis sites inland, including mountain-tops, woods, marshes, lakes and estuaries. These were heavily over-populated some centuries ago with consequent severe damage to their vegetation and wildlife, but over the last couple of hundred years most of the people have departed for the Lowlands and foreign parts, and their further use remains a matter of dispute. Meanwhile various forms of ancient and modern abuse continue. Naturalists need to know more about them to permit the formulation of clearer policies for conservation in the future, to match those for exploitation being put forward by other people.

The current approach, developed by such people as Pennant, Johnson and Boswell, Charles St John and E. T. Booth, is to make a lightning tour during the summer, collect some casual notes and specimens (now replaced by observations of rare birds) and then to retire hastily to the south and write them up. Most of these people tended to visit a limited number of favoured places such as the Cairngorm plateau, Fair Isle and North Rona, with the result that they have been nearly trodden flat and the sort of observation which can be made there is now a glut on the market, while the rest of the area is neglected. Some recent national surveys such as Operation Seafarer and the Ornithological Atlas helped to spread the load a little, and the BTO Sites Register was intended to document in more detail some of the interesting places discovered, but frankly the cover in the less frequented parts of Scotland was far from perfect.

This problem was shown up particularly clearly during work for the recent Nature Conservancy Council reviews of the natural environment of Shetland, Orkney and the Outer Hebrides. There was a repetitious profusion of information about a few sites (which seldom included either a clear description or much quantitative information about their birds), while little or nothing was recorded about the rest of the area, such as the Mainland of Shetland, the northern islands of Orkney, the Long

Island, and most of the Inner Hebrides. In most cases where individual island lists existed they had not been brought up to date for many years, while it is most unusual to find a proper description of any site on the mainland outside the central Grampians. The general attitude is typified in one review by a telly-pundit disparaging "yet another boring list of the birds of one of the innumerable Scottish islands". In consequence the north of Scotland remains ornithologically one of the least adequately explored parts of Europe, so that for example during Operation Seafarer we were startled to find that the second largest seabird colony in Britain on Westray did not appear to have been recorded, and people are continually discovering new breeding species.

There is now an increasingly urgent need for more accurate information about these northern sites because they are exposed to the risk of rapid changes of land-use through subsidised reclamation, drainage, pasture-improvement, afforestation and now industrial development associated with the arrival of the North Sea oil industry. With the improvement of communications and affluence and therefore the amount of spare time and mobility of the population, and an influx of visitors from all over the world, they are now also increasingly disturbed by people, while some old bad habits, such as overgrazing, muirburn and the indiscriminate destruction of "vermin" still proliferate unchecked. Some of these problems have received attention from professional biologists, but their studies are normally of restricted scope, seldom involve a consideration of the entire local scene of the type in which the old naturalists excelled, and they are often at best politically naive if not frankly irresponsible. It seems time more thoughtful public consideration was given to the problems arising.

In the first place, it seems time that our information about the north of Scotland was brought up to date. It should be a prime objective to ensure that there is a good modern account available for every important site. The Australian Seabird Group have recently been working through their innumerable unexplored offshore islands in this way, publishing the results in the *Australian Bird Bander* in a brief systematic format, including the location of the site and means of access, a description, and a list of recorded information, the whole taking up less than two pages. It should not be impossible to arrange this in Scotland as well, dealing with different entities, whether they be islands, mountains, woodlands, lakes, or other fragments of habitat, either individually or collectively as seems appropriate. Some of the data is doubtless already available among the records of national inquiries, but it seems unlikely

to receive individual scrutiny there and this depends on local initiative.

Secondly, it seems time more people were prepared to make use of this information. We are still paying the penalty for the inertia of a previous generation of naturalists who while lamenting the fate of the Great Auk sat and watched all our birds of prey being wiped out without lifting even a little finger to save them. As recently as 1871 Robert Gray wrote of the White-tailed Eagle: "Being a much commoner bird in Scotland than the [Golden Eagle], the Sea Eagle has never been at any time in the same danger of extinction. Even in 1867 and 1868 there were numerous eyries in places which have been occupied from time immemorial. Between Loch Brittle and Copnahow Head, in Skye, for example, nine or ten eyries might have been seen, while in several of the smaller groups of isles in the Minch and the Gulf of the Hebrides at least a dozen more could be cited . . ." (*Birds of the West of Scotland*). He then goes on to chronicle the start of the slaughter. Within little more than a generation they were all gone, and it was a century before anyone decided to do anything active about it. We are lucky that two families took it upon themselves to save the Great Skua. If we wish to pass on to posterity what still remains, it seems time we took more active steps to compile a proper inventory and consider how to defend it, instead of sitting back to see if someone else will take the lead.

Dr W. R. P. Bourne, 3 Contlaw Place,  
Milltimber, Aberdeen.

## Short Notes

### Little Shearwater in Argyllshire

While seawatching at Frenchman's Rocks, Islay, Argyllshire, on 30th June 1974, in good light and a southwest wind, force three, I saw a small shearwater approaching from the north. As there had been over 100 Manx Shearwaters passing in the previous hour and a half on the same flight path, I noticed at once its small size, darker upperparts and more extensive white on the lower sides of its face. The flight was fast but not so swift as the auks that were passing, though the wing beat was much the same but interspersed with short glides, and it banked only slightly and not so steeply as a Manx Shearwater.

**Description** Upperparts very dark, black or almost so. Underparts, wing linings and sides of face white; under tail-coverts area looked dark but not so dark as upperparts.



This is the first Scottish record of a Little Shearwater.

KEITH VERRALL

[Now an almost annual vagrant from the southern North Atlantic to southwest Ireland in autumn, with sporadic occurrences elsewhere in the British Isles, the date of this one is unusual.—Ed.]

### **Sparrowhawk taking Sedge Warbler from a ringer's hand**

Hunting Sparrowhawks often seem to totally disregard their surroundings when in pursuit of prey and there are many records of birds flying into or narrowly avoiding obstacles such as motor vehicles, fences and windows. I experienced a striking example of this single-minded behaviour on 21st August 1977 when ringing and photographing warblers near Cousland, Midlothian. As I was working on my own I had set up a system which allowed me to photograph birds without assistance. A sheet of background material is fastened to the side of a car and the camera mounted on a tripod. To take a photograph the bird is held in the space between the lens and the vehicle with the left hand and the camera operated with the right. I placed the Sedge Warbler between the car and camera, holding it by the legs in the usual photographic grip. Suddenly the bird screeched and it was snatched from my fingers. I looked up to see the unfortunate warbler in the talons of a male Sparrowhawk which alighted on the roof of a derelict shed and proceeded to pluck its prey. When disturbed it flew off, still holding the warbler. The distance between the camera lens and the vehicle was about ten in. (25 cm) yet the hawk's wing did not touch the camera. It must have located its prey by sight as the warbler did not call until a moment before impact. The speed and height of the attack suggest that the hawk was hunting along a nearby hedge when it saw the warbler. This would mean that it saw its prey from about 15-20 yards (13-18 m), a distance it would cover in seconds. It may, therefore, never have been aware that its target was connected to a human being.

E. S. DA PRATO

### **Laughing Gull in Argyllshire**

On 21st April 1974 near Loch Skerrols, Islay, Argyllshire, I noticed a smallish, dark winged gull flying towards me which I knew could only be a Laughing or a Franklin's Gull. When I was unable to see any conspicuous white mirrors at its wing tips I was sure I was looking at a Laughing Gull. Its flight looked less buoyant than a Black-headed Gull and it was a

heavier built bird with a jizz more like that of a Common Gull. Its black hood was much darker and did not seem to extend much further than a Black-headed Gull's, and its bill looked longer. Other conspicuous features were broad, white trailing edges to the slate grey wings, and the white eyebrows above and below which stood out much more than those of a Black-headed Gull. Altogether it looked a most handsome bird.

**Description** Hood black to nape and throat; upper and lower eyebrows white; neck, rump, tail and underparts white; back slate grey. Outermost primaries black above, the others merging with the slate grey of the coverts and secondaries, the latter being broadly tipped white, forming a conspicuous trailing edge above and below and petering out along the primaries; outermost primaries black below, fading through grey to almost white on its axillaries. Bill deep red.

KEITH VERRALL

[This was the first record for Scotland and the seventh for the British Isles of this North American species. It closely coincided with one in Essex on 5th May. Another was at Fair Isle in September 1975. The previous records were scattered throughout the year in the southern counties from Cork to Essex.—Ed.]

### Gymnastic Rook

I casually glanced out of the car on the evening of 21st March 1977 at a pair of Rooks on a power line near Burleigh Castle, Kinross-shire, and was just in time to see that one was swinging pendulum fashion under the wire. It hung for a second or two with wings closed, looked up at the other bird, cawed once and then with two strong beats of its left wing swung itself forward on top of the wire, shook its head and flew off with the other bird.

IAIN C. MUNRO

## Reviews

**The Birds of Berwick-upon-Tweed and District.** Written and published by Frank Brady. Berwick-upon-Tweed, 1975. 26 pp., 10 figures, map. 21½ x 15½ cm. 45p.

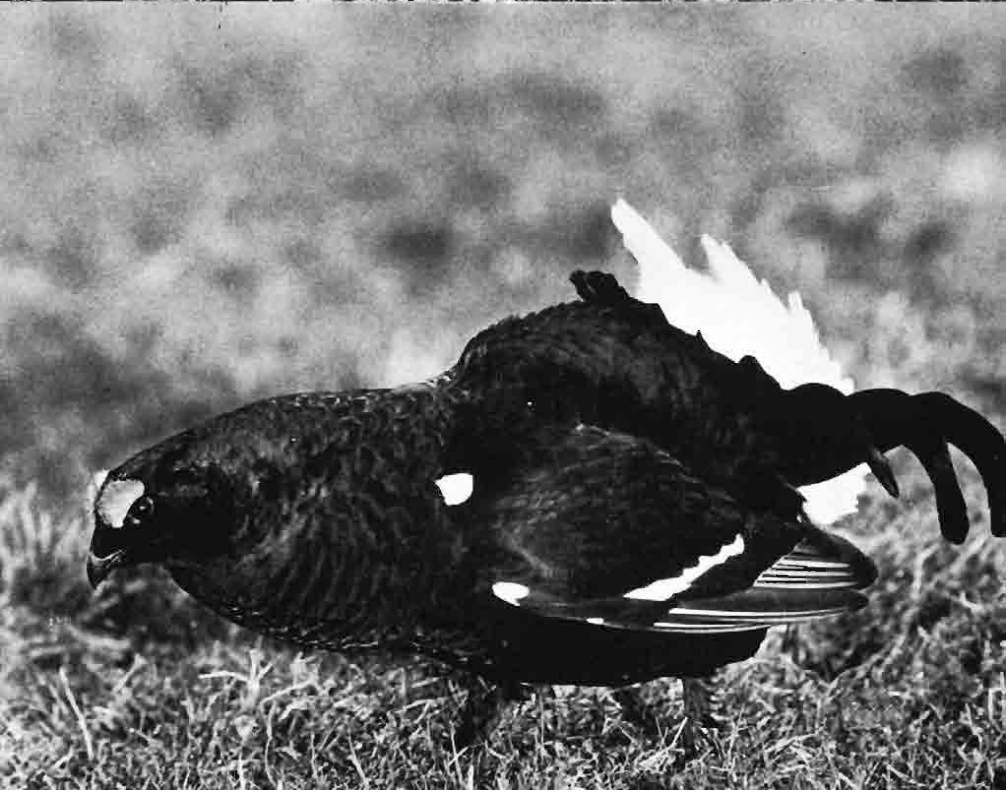
This booklet lists 220 birds which the author has encountered from St Abb's Head and the Lammermuirs to the Farne Islands and the Cheviot. Apart from his introduction, each bird is confined to a sentence or two. This is a good guide to this corner of the Borders but it deserves a better map than the rough sketch on the cover. There is some additional information from my personal experience about Gadwall, Pochard, Little Owl, House Martin, Pied Flycatcher and Hawfinch which the author might like to include in a future printing.

HENRY DOUGLAS-HOME



PLATES 33-36. A selection of photographs by Brian S. Turner. *Above* Kingfisher (plate 33). *Over* Heron (plate 34); Buzzard (plate 35a); lekking Blackcock (plate 35b); male Redpoll feeding female on nest (plate 36a); Sedge Warbler at unusual nest site in spruce (plate 36b).







**The Wandering Tattler.** By Elizabeth Forster. London, Hutchinson, 1976. Pp. 192; 32 black and white photographs. 22 x 14 cm. £3.95.

Elizabeth Forster's interest in birds began almost simultaneously with doubling up her BBC job with knitwear designing for several women's magazines. Inevitably something had to go and at 55 she packed in her BBC job and since then has knitted her way all over the world, visiting and birdwatching in all the countries she had always wished to see, and either selling her knitwear or designs or else collecting new ideas for patterns from baskets, folk weaving, mosaics and similar sources of traditional art wherever she goes. By choice Miss Forster travels alone making *ad hoc* arrangements—ideal and enviable but increasingly difficult in these times when package tours provide the only hope for most of us to travel abroad. The result is a delightful book describing her travels to Fiji, Cambodia, Trinidad, Brazil and India. On occasions her accounts of the personalities and idiosyncracies of her fellow travellers tend to dominate her writing and become rather tedious. On the other hand the description of her Brazilian river guide with whom she travelled alone in a canoe—the pipe-smoking German who habitually carried as a mark of recognition a copy of *Der Spiegel* (which he had never read)—is superb and most amusing. The photographs are an excellent accompaniment to a good travel book in which the experiences of their senior may well be the envy of many younger people instead of the reverse as seems to be almost universal today.

IAN D. PENNIE

**Fair Isle Bird Observatory: Report for 1976.** Edited by G. Waterston. Edinburgh, Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, 1977. 68 pp, 9 monochrome photographs, 10 drawings, 2 maps, 21½ x 14 cm. £1.00.

Autumn 1976 saw many Eurasian migrants reach Britain and, as usual, Fair Isle saw some of the best of them. Besides record numbers of Redwings and Blackcaps several Siberian rarities were seen, including the first Pallas's Reed Bunting recorded in Britain. Among the notable events are some surprises for mainland ornithologists—the Jackdaw ringed in 1976 pushed the Observatory ringing total for the species to two and kept it on a par with Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, also ringed for the second time in 1976. Perhaps autumn rarities on Fair Isle have received too much attention. The Treasurer reports a drop in income largely due to low bookings in spring and summer. This is unfortunate as the island has so much to offer at any season. In 1976 rarities were recorded in every month from April to November, including another British first, the American Kestrel, in late May.

A feature of all Fair Isle Reports is that space is devoted to the lives of the human as well as the feathered inhabitants. The school roll is now higher than at any time since the Trust took over and the average age of the island's population is one of the lowest in Shetland—surely good signs for the future. Transport has improved with a scheduled plane service from Sumburgh. It is unfortunate that so many trivial errors have escaped editorial notice but they do not alter the fact that this Report is a mine of information for birdwatchers and island enthusiasts alike.

S. R. D. DA PRATO.

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

Storm Petrel breeding distribution in Orkney. D. Lea. (Unpublished report in SOC library of 1976 survey.)

Summary of information on the first six months of operation of the bird control unit of RAF Kinloss 1976. (Unpublished report in SOC library).

- Oystercatchers' nest of goose droppings. K. Verrall, 1977. *British Birds* 70 : 164-5. (Record from Islay.)
- The Breeding bird community of farmland on Rhum, Inner Hebrides. K. Williamson, 1975. *Western Naturalist* 4 : 29-41. (Vol. 4 actually appeared in 1977.)
- Summary notes on the vertebrate fauna of Loch Libo and neighbourhood. J. A. Gibson, 1975. *Western Naturalist* 4 : 65-70.
- Notes on the birds of mid-Argyll. I. Rainier, 1975. *Western Naturalist* 4 : 95-113.
- Additional notes on the birds of the Island of Arran. J. A. Gibson, 1975. *Western Naturalist* 4 : 120-6.
- Factors determining the number and size of eggs laid by the Herring Gull. J. Parsons, 1976. *Condor* 78 : 481-492. (Isle of May study).
- Our changing seabirds. C. Mead, 1977. *BTO News* 86 : 1-2. (Report of 'The Changing Seabird Populations of the North Atlantic' conference in Aberdeen.)
- Bobolink in Shetland. T. A. Walsh, 1977. *British Birds* 70 : 222-3.
- Wintering wader populations and counting methods on the rocky shores of East Lothian. E. S. & S. R. D. da Prato, 1977. (Unpublished report in SOC library.)
- Birds of Rhum. J. A. Love. (Undated NCC report in SOC library.)
- Terns in southeast Scotland. F. Sprage, 1977. *Scottish Wildlife* 13 : 13-16.
- Predation on nesting Collared Doves. D. Macdonald, 1977. *Bird Study* 24 : 126. (Study in Sutherland.)
- Pheasants swimming. D. G. Andrew, 1977. *British Birds* 70 : 266. (Letter on East Lothian record.)
- The function of mobbing. W. R. P. Bourne, 1977. *British Birds* 70 : 266-7. (Letter on incident in Grampian.)
- Status of the Linnet in Shetland. A. T. Macmillan, 1977. *British Birds* 70 : 269.
- Half a pair of Black-browed Albatrosses. W. R. P. Bourne, 1977. *British Birds* 70 : 301-3. (Letter discussing Bass Rock and Hermaness records).
- The distance at which sitting birds can be seen at sea. T. J. Dixon, 1977. *Ibis* 119 : 372-5. (Observations around Scotland).
- Ayrshire Bird Report 1976. W. R. Brackenridge *et al.* 1977. (Copy in SOC library).

## Letters

### Wildlife potential in the Cairngorms region

I read Dr Adam Watson's article (9: 245-262) with considerable interest and some concern, and would like the opportunity to comment on some of the issues raised.

Dr Watson appears to be promoting the wider recreational use of the Cairngorms at the expense of existing forms of land use. To pursue this, and the conservation objectives which he rightly gives top priority, it would be necessary to bring all this land into public ownership. I imagine that to achieve this government would have to be convinced of the recreational



and heritage value of such a proposal, as well as its scientific merit. In over-emphasising the recreational aspects to gain support for such a plan, severe and possibly fatal constraints might be placed on the scientific and conservation objectives. It would be naive to believe that the public given a greater degree of access to this area would suddenly become aware of their responsibility to the countryside and it is in any case well understood that the problems of people pressure are far from academic ones.

If the real purpose of the change in land use is to create a greater diversity of habitat and to scientifically examine over a long period the degree of diversification resulting from the reduction of the Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* population, then this must be stated unequivocally and the red herring, politically attractive though it may be, of increased recreational use should be dropped. In pursuing a policy of total or near total Red Deer reduction, the managing authority would still have to decide what steps were necessary to control fire and cull other species of flora and fauna in pursuit of their objectives. The zoning of the area, unless there is a total removal of Red Deer, could also prove most expensive. If government is unconvinced by the research and conservation arguments, then the area should surely continue to be managed by the present owners, many of whom already maintain a considerable degree of co-operation, not incidentally mentioned in the article, with the Nature Conservancy Council and other conservation bodies, to ensure that the objectives relating to the conservation and management of Red Deer are fully implemented. In this respect consideration should be given to maintaining the deer population slightly below rather than above the carrying capacity of the land.

Although it is the overall philosophy that worries me most, there are a number of points of detail that I feel cannot go unchallenged. I wonder if Dr Watson can quantify his allegation that damaging fires are lighted by gamekeepers and stalkers rather than the outcome of careless visitors, accidental fires, or fires caused by natural agencies? Controlled burning programmes are extremely difficult to maintain and a conservation organisation will find it no less difficult than those presently carrying out controlled burning programmes as part of the approved management of Red Deer and grouse. I am surprised that Dr Watson, who is rightly acknowledged as a highly competent field naturalist, believes that stalkers would normally take stags that arrive at the gun having been disturbed by hikers or others in another area. The animal to be stalked is selected at some considerable distance and the art

and enjoyment of the stalk is to make a hidden approach to within range of the animal selected. It would be quite impossible to pursue this sport if there were a high level of use by others during the stalking period.

I think Dr Watson is to be complimented on bringing together some ideas for the development and conservation of the area and I am quite certain that there will be considerable debate on the proposals. In view of the enormous area of land involved with its already acknowledged wildlife, aesthetic, sporting and food production values, I should have thought it more prudent for an area already under national control to be fenced to exclude Red Deer as a means of scientifically monitoring changes before attempting to achieve this, at enormous public expense, over the whole Cairngorm range.

R. J. WHEATER

\* \* \*

I am glad that Mr Wheeler has shown interest in my paper, but his criticisms are due at least in part to misunderstandings which I would like to take this opportunity to clear up.

1. Recreational use is no red herring, and I did not over-emphasise recreational value to gain support for better conservation of scientific values. So many thousands appreciate the Cairngorms region for recreation that this clearly ought to be the main use for the area. This need not conflict with scientific values, provided that we control access facilities such as new roads. Indeed, a firmer conservation policy is just as necessary for safeguarding the landscapes, wilderness and wildlife that draw thousands to the area, as it is for safeguarding scientific values.

2. I did not say the public would be "given a greater degree of access" if a national conservation body owned the Cairngorms. Substantially more access can be given only if new roads or ski lifts continue to be made as in the past. The firmer conservation policy I advocated would not allow this in the best areas for wildlife and wilderness.

3. Zoning need not be expensive; it merely entails varying planning controls and other controls to suit each zone, a principle already well established in local government planning.

4. Keeping deer "slightly below rather than above the carrying capacity of the land" is a vague phrase. To save the Old Caledonian forest, deer stocks will have to be greatly cut, or large areas fenced. Slight reductions are not enough.

5. It is a fact, verifiable by anybody travelling through the Cairngorms region, that many fires burn large areas at a time. Stalkers and gamekeepers start nearly all these fires.

6. Mr Wheater is surprised that I believe "that stalkers would normally take stags that arrive at the gun having been disturbed by hikers or others in another area". I have seen about 350 stags shot. Most were stalked at leisure. Several of these were missed because of disturbance by hikers in the course of the stalk, but several were killed that appeared on the move without having been stalked at leisure.

7. I did not advocate excluding Red Deer over the whole Cairngorm range. However, Mr Wheater's suggestion of fencing an area already under national control is insufficient. Some of the best forest remnants occur elsewhere, and will die unless large areas there are fenced or deer greatly reduced.

My central point was that traditional land uses in the Cairngorms benefit a few local people but conflict with the conservation of nationally outstanding wildlife, scenery and wilderness. The best part of the Cairngorms is special and occupies a small fraction of the Highlands, whereas traditional land uses go on all over the rest of the Highlands. The Cairngorms should therefore be treated differently from other, less special places.

ADAM WATSON

## The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The programme and information about the thirtieth annual conference of the club, to be held at the Marine Hotel, North Berwick from 20th-22nd January 1978, were published in *Scottish Birds* 9: 359-361.

The lectures to be given on the Saturday morning are :

"Birds and Islands" by Professor George Dunnet.

"Darwin's Finches" by Dr Mike Harris, and

"The problems of being an island bird" by Dr Martyn Gorman.

Members are reminded that bookings should be made to the club secretary **before 23rd December 1977**, preferably on the booking sheet circulated with the autumn number of the journal.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club will take place in the Marine Hotel, North Berwick, East Lothian, on Saturday 21 January 1978 at 5.30 p.m.

Business :

- (1) Apologies for absence.
- (2) Approval of minutes of 40th Annual General Meeting of the Club held at Stirling University on 29 January 1977.
- (3) Matters arising from minutes.

- (4) Report of council for session 40.
- (5) Approval of accounts for session 40.
- (6) Appointment of Auditor.
- (7) Election of new Members of Council. The Council recommends the following elections :  
Dr I. T. Draper and Dr D. R. Langslow to replace J. H. Ballantyne and H. Robb who are due to retire by rotation.
- (8) Consideration of a revised Constitution of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. Enclosed with this winter number of the journal is a new draft Constitution and explanatory notes. It is proposed that the draft, which has been approved by Council, be adopted as the Club's Constitution.
- (9) Subscriptions (paragraph 3(e) of Constitution). Consideration of the following resolution recommended by Council :  
"That from 1st July 1978 in place of the rates of subscription approved at a special general meeting of the club on 9 April 1974 and shown in brackets below (see *Scottish Birds* 8: 39) shall be substituted the following increased rates of subscription :
- |                              |       |            |
|------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Annual subscriptions         |       |            |
| Ordinary membership          | £5    | (£3)       |
| Family membership            | £7.50 | (£4.50)    |
| Junior membership            | £2    | (£1)       |
| Reduced rates for pensioners |       |            |
| —ordinary membership         | £3    | (£2)       |
| —family membership           | £4.50 | (£3)       |
| Life subscriptions           |       |            |
| Ordinary membership          | £100  | (£75)      |
| Family membership            | £150  | (£112.50)" |
- (10) Any other competent business.

## Report of Council

This report deals with the year to 30 June 1977 and a few events since then.

**Membership** At 30 June 1977 the club had 2946 members, a net gain of 128 during the year; 406 members were enrolled, including 82 juniors and 23 children nominated as family members. In the table below, family members are counted as two people, and nominated children, for whom no subscription is paid, are shown separately; 211 members took advantage of reduced subscription rates for pensioners.

Year to 30 June	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Honorary	5	4	4	4	4	1
Life	14	14	18	22	29	29
Ordinary	2054	2230	2312	2175	2406	2536
Junior	298	312	317	252	299	282
Nominated children	—	—	—	63	80	98
	2371	2560	2651	2516	2818	2946
Change	+185	+189	+91	—135	+302	+128

During the year all branches were asked to consider ways of recruiting new members. No apology is needed for re-emphasising the importance of this to the financial health of the club. The drop-out of members this year from death, resignation and all other causes was less than usual—as low as 7% for adult members. In view of this the net increase in membership was modest, and continued effort is needed to enrol new members. The special value of covenants has often been mentioned, and there was a welcome increase from 629 to 659, covering 768 members and bringing the club a tax repayment of £1166.

**Deaths** Council records with deep regret the death of three honorary members—Duncan Anderson, Seton Gordon and Sir Landsborough Thomson; also of Lt-Col W. M. Logan Home and Kenneth Williamson, distinguished members of long standing, and Miss Elsie Macdonald who acted as caretaker secretary during the war. Obituaries have appeared in *Scottish Birds*.

**Honorary member:** Irene Waterston Mrs Waterston, who joined the staff in 1959, retired on 4 August 1977. Many members contributed to present her with a silver-mounted crystal decanter and a substantial cheque, and council elected her an honorary member in recognition of long and devoted service to the club. An appreciation of her considerable contribution to the growth of the club and the bookshop appeared in *Scottish Birds* 9: 326.

**Finance** The revenue account shows a small surplus of £211 for the year. This is a considerable improvement on last year's record deficit of £2385, but it was only achieved by including the surplus from the raffle, after deducting the balance of dry rot costs, and gains on repayment of some of the club's investments at maturity. Increases in salary and other costs were partly offset by savings on *Scottish Birds* and from new members' subscriptions, but the improvement was mostly due to a £3000 increase in the bookshop surplus. The club has done well to hold subscription rates unchanged through four years of severe inflation, but its finances will need strengthening in 1978-79, and proposals for increased subscriptions will be put to the forthcoming annual general meeting.

**Future Development** The management committee, and later council in accepting its report, discussed the future of the club at great length. It was agreed that the SOC's distinctive club atmosphere should be preserved; that it should maintain close ties with other natural history bodies in Scotland rather than compete with them; and that steady growth rather than mass membership should be sought. There should be more publicity about the club and its activities, and the development of local groups should be encouraged. Branch committees should take a more active part in the organisation of the winter programme. To attract new members and retain the interest of existing ones, branches were urged to give greater emphasis to the social aspect of the club; to arrange more local activities for their members, including the provision of a second series of meetings for active workers between the monthly winter lectures; and to ensure that meetings catered for beginners as well as more experienced birdwatchers. *Scottish Birds* should retain its role as an outlet for worthwhile material but be made more interesting and attractive on the lines already proposed by the editorial committee.

**Branches** The Wigtown group was given full branch status during the year, and the New Galloway group, formed in 1976, provided an interesting and varied programme for its members; both are to be congratulated on the rapid increase in their membership. Where there is local enthusiasm council favours setting up more groups of the club; any member who would like to organise a new group should get in touch with the club secretary.

The usual varied programme was provided at branches during the winter; summer and winter excursions were arranged, and the Dumfries and Stirling branches organised weekend excursions. Council is again most grateful to all speakers and to those members who gave their time to organise these weekends and lead excursions.

**Annual conference** The 29th annual conference and 40th annual general meeting were held at Stirling University. The Saturday morning, with lectures on birds of prey, attracted a larger audience than in recent years, and about 360 members and guests attended at some time during the weekend. Roy Dennis opened the conference with a general talk on 'Birds of prey in Scotland', and was followed by Richard Baiharry on 'The conservation of the Golden Eagle'; after coffee Dr Ian Newton spoke on 'Factors affecting Sparrowhawk populations' and Richard Porter on 'Migration of raptors in Europe and the Middle East'. Informative short talks on current work in Scotland were given by Dr Malcolm Castle on the Scottish results of the 1975 BTO National Survey of Rookeries, Norman Atkinson on 'Little Terns' and John Love on 'The return of the Sea Eagle to Rhum'. Finally, to round off a conference with a raptorial theme, the club was greatly indebted to the BBC for lending its recent film 'The shadow of the falcon' in which Roy Dennis played the supporting role to the Peregrines.

Members again expressed their dislike of a January conference—indeed snow fell on the Sunday morning and some members were prevented from reaching Stirling by heavy falls—and residents would have preferred the more congenial atmosphere of a hotel. Stirling has provided excellent facilities for lectures and exhibits, and the club is grateful for the help given by the university staff during the past three conferences. However, arrangements have been made for the next two conferences to be in January and October 1978 at the Marine Hotel, North Berwick, which proved less expensive than expected; unfortunately it was not possible to get a booking for October 1977.

**'Scottish Birds'** Four issues, with 188 pages of text and plates, were published on schedule during the year, in line with the reduction in the size of each issue planned to counter increasing costs of production and postage. The policy of seeking shorter papers and making *Scottish Birds* as interesting as possible for both the general reader and expert has continued. Economic reality means that long and discursive or artificially scientific contributions of limited interest are a luxury that cannot be justified. The 1975 Scottish Bird Report was published in the winter issue, but difficulties still beset recorders and compiler in working to a tight schedule, and the editorial committee is looking for ways to ease their burden. In the long term the report may well be separated from the quarterly issues of the journal, but this would cost more and involves production problems. The committee also arranged a survey of club members to test the merits of an extra charge for the Scottish Bird Report and the Index. At the time of writing, council is considering its recommendations, but the high proportion of members interested in the report would make a separate charge administratively costly.

**Research and fieldwork** As usual many members have been involved in surveys organised by other national ornithological bodies including the final year of the Ornithological Sites Register (BTO); Wildfowl and Goose Counts (Wildfowl Trust); Common Bird Census and Golden Plover Enquiry (BTO) and Beached Birds Survey (RSPB). Scottish results of the BTO's 1975 National Survey of Rookeries have been published (SB 9: 327). The results of the Crow Hybrid-Zone Enquiry have still to be published, and the Redwing Breeding Survey continues. No new surveys were started during the year.

In April-June 1978 the International Waterfowl Research Bureau plan a European Census of Mute Swans, to be organised in Britain by Malcolm Ogilvie for the BTO and Wildfowl Trust. It is important that Scotland should play its part in this demonstration of international cooperation, and council has adopted this as an official club enquiry.

The Stirling branch proposed that an annual working weekend should be established to undertake some specific project, such as a survey of a particular area, which would also give practice in survey techniques to newcomers. The branch arranged a weekend in May, when the bird population of the R. Devon was recorded. Council congratulates the branch on starting this new venture, and is particularly grateful to all those responsible for the organisation and success of the weekend; it hopes that other branches will take up the idea and plan similar weekends.

**Endowment fund** During the year grants of £175 were approved by council. David Lea was given £50 to continue his survey of Storm Petrel sites in Orkney; and Andrew Ramsay received £50 towards boat and equipment expenses of his survey of Black Guillemots on Orkney. Bob Swann and others were given a further £50 for boat hire and other costs in their continuing studies of Manx Shearwaters and Shags on Canna; and £25 was given to John Innes, an SOC member on the 1977 Cambridge Ornithological Expedition to East Africa, towards the costs of work on endangered species in Tanzania. Reports on these surveys and the expedition will be submitted for publication in *Scottish Birds* or deposited in the reference library.

**Scottish Centre** The balance of the cost of eliminating the dry rot at 21 Regent Terrace was raised during the year. Council thanks all those who helped in many ways to raise over £3000 in such difficult times.

As usual advice and information about birdwatching in Scotland was given to many visitors from home and overseas who called at the Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection, in addition to postal enquirers. Meetings of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, the Scottish Committee of the RSPB, the Isle of May Bird Observatory and Field Station committee, as well as the SOC council and committees, were held in the centre during the year; branch and informal discussion groups also took place regularly during the winter.

**Bookshop** Sales of books continued to increase and reached a total of almost £39,000, 38% up on last year. A display of books was again taken to the annual conference of the British Trust for Ornithology, for which council records its thanks to the trust; and a display was also taken to an international seabird conference at Aberdeen University, organised by the British Ornithologists' Union, and of which the SOC was one of the sponsoring organisations.

**Library** A run of back numbers of the *Condor* was purchased with the balance of a grant given earlier by the Royal Society, and several journals were bound. Further binding in 1978 should use up the balance of funds set aside for library binding. Council gratefully acknowledges gifts of books, journals and reprints, and is encouraged to note that greater use was made of the reference library during the year.

**Club representatives** Council records its gratitude to Dr Roger Bailey and Frank Hamilton, SOC representatives on the Duck Working Group of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau and the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation respectively. From 1966 to the time of his death, Sir Landsborough Thomson also had represented the club on the British Section of the ICBP.

**Secretarial staff** As already recorded, Mrs Irene Waterston retired in August 1977 after 18 years on the staff. Mrs Jo Bainton left after only a short period, but Mrs Christine Dunsire rejoined the part-time staff, and

Mrs Dorothy Ridley, a club member, was welcomed to the full-time staff in January.

**Acknowledgments** Council records its gratitude for the work done by so many members during the year to ensure that the club and its branches continued to thrive and expand. The very willing help given, and the time spent on committees, at meetings and on excursions, is most gratefully appreciated by the SOC and its members. Finally, council acknowledges the dedicated work of the staff that ensures the smooth running of the club.

For the council,

ANDREW T. MACMILLAN, President.

### Revenue account for the year ended 30th June 1977

	Year to 30/6/77	Year to 30/6/76
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions received for year ... ..	£7474	£7014
Income tax recovered on covenanted subscriptions	1166	1186
Dividends and interest received (gross) ... ..	302	300
Surplus on Bookshop (sales £38,994) ... ..	9779	6769
Sale of "Scottish Birds" ... ..	440	443
Sundry sales less sundry purchases ... ..	161	88
Donations, including surplus in Dry Rot Fund ...	356	15
Gain on redemption of investments ... ..	352	—
Annual conference ... ..	—	26
Transfer from Life Membership Fund ... ..	—	75
	<u>£20030</u>	<u>£15916</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Branch expenses including lectures ... ..	£787	£645
Travel expenses of Council members and of delegates to conferences ... ..	543	326
Secretarial and Editorial expenses ... ..	12942	11150
Office expenses ... ..	1607	1643
Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection :		
Club's share of running expenses ... ..	981	942
Cost of books purchased for Library ... ..	155	128
Honorarium and expenses of Compiler of 1976 Scottish Bird Report ... ..	£138	
Less contribution from "Scottish Birds" Appeal Fund ... ..	£138	
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Cost of publishing "Scottish Birds" (less advertising revenue £963) ... ..	2662	3394
Net cost of annual conference ... ..	69	—
Subscriptions paid ... ..	73	73
	<u>£19819</u>	<u>£18301</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure ... ..	211	(2385)
	<u>£20030</u>	<u>£15916</u>



**Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1977**

	Year to 30/6/77	Year to 30/6/76
<b>GENERAL FUNDS OF THE CLUB</b>		
Accumulated surplus from previous year ... ..	£1060	£3445
Add surplus for year (1976 deficit) ... ..	211	(2385)
	<u>1271</u>	<u>1060</u>
<i>(Note: £1000 earmarked for House Fabric Fund)</i>		
Life membership fund ... ..	1612	1612
"Scottish Birds" Appeal Fund ... ..	1601	1542
Earmarked for library binding ... ..	85	156
Balance of Royal Society grant to library ...	—	182
	<u>£4569</u>	<u>£4552</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
Cash in hand and bank ... ..	335	(383)
Cash in Edinburgh Building Society ... ..	209	94
Bookshop stock ... ..	7559	7225
Tie, badge and car sticker stock ... ..	64	156
Debts due to club ... ..	1627	1226
Dry Rot expenditure still to be recovered ...	—	808
Investments at cost as below ... ..	1798	2406
	<u>11592</u>	<u>11532</u>
<b>Less</b>		
Subscriptions paid in advance ... ..	£27	21
Debts due by club ... ..	6490	6745
Due to Endowment Fund ... ..	506	214
	<u>7023</u>	<u>6980</u>
<b>Total net assets</b> ... ..	<u>£4569</u>	<u>£4552</u>

	Market value	At cost	At cost
<b>Investments as at 30th June 1977</b>			
Safeguard Industrial Investments Ltd.—			
875 Ord. shares of 25p each ... ..	£516	£508	£508
£950—6½% Treasury Loan 1976 ... ..	—	—	946
£1300 British Electricity 3% Guar. Stock 1974/77	—	—	952
£1280—10½% Treasury Stock 1979 ... ..	1296	1290	—
	<u>£1812</u>	<u>£1798</u>	<u>£2406</u>

## Endowment Fund

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

### Revenue account for the year ended 30th June 1977

		Year to 30/6/77	Year to 30/6/76
<b>INCOME</b>			
Interest and Dividends received (gross) ... ..		£509	£456
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Grants as detailed in Report of Council ... ..		175	200
Excess of Income for the year ... ..		<u>£334</u>	<u>£256</u>

### Balance sheet as at 30th June 1977

Endowment Fund as at 30 June 1976 ... ..		£3412	£3309
Add Legacy received during year ... ..		—	100
Donation received during year ... ..		—	3
		<u>3412</u>	<u>3412</u>
Add Accumulated revenue as at 30 June 1976 ...		1307	1051
Excess of income for year ... ..		334	256
Grant refunded to 30 June 1976 ... ..		50	—
Grant made in 1976 refunded ... ..		34	50
		<u>£5137</u>	<u>£4769</u>
<b>Made up of :</b>			
Investments at cost as below ... ..		£3010	£3011
Edinburgh Building Society :			
Capital Account ... ..		842	842
General Account ... ..		979	852
Due by Club's general funds ... ..		506	214
		<u>5337</u>	<u>4919</u>
Less grants allocated but not yet paid ... ..		200	150
		<u>£5137</u>	<u>£4769</u>

	Market value	At cost	At cost
<b>Investments as at 30th June 1977</b>			
1952 Units of Equities Investment Fund for Charities ... ..	£2580	£1000	£1000
£1140 5% Exchequer Stock 1976/78 ... ..	1108	1000	1000
£440 8½% Conver. Unsecured Loan Stock 1993/98 British Printing Corporation ... ..	222	440	441
500 St Andrew Trust Ltd. Ord. 25p ... ..	515	570	570
	<u>£4425</u>	<u>£3010</u>	<u>£3011</u>

## House Fabric Fund

### Summary of accounts for year to 30th June 1977

	Year to 30/6/77	Year to 30/6/76
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Balance as at 30th June 1976 ... ..	£121	£103
Year's rent from Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe ...	312	312
Year's rent from British Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled ... ..	210	175
Grant from S.O.C. Revenue Account ... ..	—	200
Miscellaneous interest ... ..	7	9
	<u>£650</u>	<u>£799</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Repairs and maintenance ... ..	—	172
Property burdens ... ..	£573	
Less contribution from sub-tenant ... ..	129	416
	<u>93</u>	<u>90</u>
Insurance ... ..	537	678
Contribution to rates still due from sub-tenant ...	—	120
On deposit with Edinburgh Building Society ...	£179	1
Less Prepayment by British Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled for rent and rates up to 31 July 1977 ... ..	66	113
	<u>£650</u>	<u>£799</u>

EDINBURGH, 31st October 1977.—I have audited the foregoing Revenue Accounts for the year to 30th June 1977, and the Balance Sheets as at that date. I have accepted as correct subscriptions and other receipts shown as received in the Books and the value placed on the Bookshop Stock. Subject to this I certify that in my opinion the foregoing accounts are correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

(Signed) ROBERT CAVEN,  
Chartered Accountant.

### COUNCIL AND OFFICIALS OF THE CLUB FOR SESSION 41

**Hon. Presidents** David A. Bannerman, O.B.E., LL.D., Sc.D., F.R.S.E.; Sir Charles G. Connell, W.S., LL.D., F.R.S.E.; Sir Arthur B. Duncan; W. J. Eggeling, C.B.E., BSc., F.R.S.E.; George Waterston, O.B.E., LL.D., F.R.S.E.

**President** Andrew T. Macmillan, C.A.

**Vice-President** Miss Valerie M. Thom.

**Hon. Treasurer** Maxwell K. Hamilton, C.A.

**Hon. Treasurer House Fabric Fund** D. G. Andrew, W.S.

**Secretary, Treasurer and Business Editor** Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe.

**Editor and Bookshop Manager** D. J. Bates.

**Membership Secretary** Mrs R. D. Smillie.

**Librarian** W. G. Harper.

**Council** A. Anderson, J. H. Ballantyne, J. Edelsten, Miss N. J. Gordon, Dr J. J. D. Greenwood, T. Irving, J. K. R. Melrose, J. Mitchell, H. Robb, Hon. D. N. Weir, **Young Members coopted** I. P. Gibson, M. W. Fraser.

**Branch Representatives to Council** A. Anderson (Aberdeen); J. K. R. Melrose (Ayr); R. T. Smith (Dumfries); P. N. J. Clark (Dundee); J. M. S. Arnott (Edinburgh); D. L. Clugston (Glasgow); R. H. Dennis (Inverness); I. G. Cumming (St Andrews); R. J. Young (Stirling).

### BRANCH AND GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

**Aberdeen** Chairman, A. Duncan; Vice-Chairman, B. Stewart; Secretary, Miss F. J. Greig; Committee, S. M. D. Alexander, G. Rebecca, P. Shaw.

**Ayr** Chairman, J. K. R. Melrose; Vice-Chairman, R. H. Hogg; Secretary, J. Miller; Committee, J. Burton, Dr R. Hissett, Mrs E. M. Hissett, D. A. Smith.

**Dumfries** Chairman, J. Skilling; Vice-Chairman, R. T. Smith; Secretary, Dr N. E. Armstrong; Committee, Dr E. C. Fellowes, A. G. Gibson, T. Irving, Miss A. MacDonald.

**Dundee** Chairman, P. J. N. Clark; Vice-Chairman, D. B. Thomson; Secretary, Mrs A. Noltie; Committee, B. M. Lynch, B. Pounder, J. Rogers, Dr K. M. Watson.

**Edinburgh** Chairman, J. M. S. Arnott; Vice-Chairman, L. W. G. Alexander; Secretary, Mrs M. Adams; Committee, I. V. Balfour-Paul, S. R. da Prato, J. B. Murray, Mrs A. D. Peirse-Duncombe.

**Glasgow** Chairman, D. L. Clugston; Vice-Chairman, D. N. Brooks; Secretary, D. C. Shenton; Committee, J. Anderson, Mrs F. Dunlop, H. Galbraith, R. M. C. Lambie.

**Inverness** Chairman, R. H. Dennis; Vice-Chairman, Rev J. M. Crook; Secretary, Miss E. M. Campbell; Committee, M. I. Harvey, J. K. Lindsay, J. A. Love, D. W. McAllister.

**New Galloway** Chairman, Mrs H. S. C. Halliday; Vice-Chairman, A. D. Watson; Secretary, Dr G. A. Fleming; Committee, C. Bryson, Miss J. E. Howie, D. U. Mearns, Lady Anne Sinclair.

**St Andrews** Chairman, I. G. Cumming; Vice-Chairman, J. S. Wiffen; Secretary, Miss M. M. Spires; Committee, Dr R. W. Byrne, Mrs J. A. R. Grant, Miss D. E. Rowling.

**Stirling** Chairman, R. J. Young; Vice-Chairman, H. Robb; Secretary, A. B. Mitchell; Committee, C. E. Barth, Miss E. M. Laphorn, A. D. McNeill, D. Thorogood.

**Thurso** Chairman, Mrs P. M. Collett; Secretary, S. Laybourn.

**Wigtown** Chairman, Dr P. G. Hopkins; Secretary, G. Sheppard; Committee, D. L. Irving, G. Shaw.

### COMMITTEES

**Management** M. K. Hamilton (Chairman), D. G. Andrew, J. M. S. Arnott, Dr I. T. Draper, A. T. Macmillan, H. Robb, Miss V. M. Thom.

**Library** Dr George Waterston (Chairman), Ritchie Seath (Hon. Librarian), D. L. Clugston, Dr J. J. D. Greenwood, W. G. Harper (Librarian), A. T. Macmillan, Dr I. D. Pennie.

**Editorial** A. T. Macmillan (Chairman), D. L. Clugston, R. H. Dennis, F. D. Hamilton.

**Research** A. T. Macmillan (Chairman), R. H. Dennis, Dr I. Newton.

### CLUB REPRESENTATION

British Section, International Council for Bird Preservation : F. D. Hamilton.

International Wildfowl Research Bureau, Duck Working Group : Dr R. S. Bailey.

### HONORARY MEMBERS

P. W. G. Gunn, Mrs Irene Waterston.

## NOTICES

### NEW BRANCH SECRETARIES

The following new Secretaries were elected at their Branch AGM :

**Dumfries** Dr N. E. Armstrong, Deil's Dike, Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire DG11 1RM (tel. 038 781 514).

**Glasgow** D. C. Shenton, 7 Avon Avenue, Carluke, Lanarkshire ML8 5DD (tel. Carluke 71822).

### AYR, DUNDEE AND GLASGOW BRANCHES—A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of Dundee and Glasgow branches will in future take place during the April meeting. Next AGMS are

**Ayr** 5th April 1978, West of Scotland Agricultural College, Auchencruive, 7.30 p.m.

**Dundee** Thursday 6th April 1978, University Chaplaincy Centre, 7.30 p.m.

**Glasgow** Monday 3rd April 1978 in the Art Gallery & Museum at 7.15 p.m.

### WINTER EXCURSIONS

#### AYR BRANCH

**Saturday 28th January 1978** BARASSIE and TROON. Leader J. Miller. Meet Wellington Square, Ayr 1.30 p.m. or Barassie Gasworks 2 p.m.

**Saturday 25th February** CAERLAVEROCK. Leader J. K. R. Melrose. Meet Wellington Square, Ayr 9 a.m. sharp.

**Sunday 19th March** BARR LOCH, LOCHWINNOCH. Leader P. Bowyer. Meet Wellington Square, Ayr 1.30 p.m. or Lochwinnoch reserve car park 2.30 p.m.

**Note** : All excursions will be in private cars. Further details from J. Miller, 7 Kirkhill Crescent, Prestwick (tel. 0292 78835). Send s.a.e. if writing.

#### INVERNESS BRANCH

**Saturday 11th February 1978** CULBIN BAR. Leader Malcolm Harvey.

**Sunday 9th April** GLEN AFFRIC. Leader Roy Dennis.

Both excursions meet at Cathedral car park, Inverness at 9 a.m. (lunch and tea).

Names to, and further information from, Mrs J. Morrison, 83 Dochfour Drive, Inverness IV1 5ED (tel. 0463 32666). Send s.a.e. if writing.

### WEEKEND EXCURSION TO DUMFRIES

The annual weekend excursion to the Solway goose grounds has been arranged with the County Hotel, Dumfries, from Friday, 24th to Sunday 26th February 1978.

Accommodation : inclusive terms £17.50 (including service charge and V.A.T.) as follows : bed on Friday 24th; breakfast, packed lunch, dinner and bed on Saturday 25th; breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday 26th. Dinner on Friday night is £4.00 extra per person (including service charge and V.A.T.). A limited number of rooms with private bathrooms are available for the additional charge of £1.50 per night.

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 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.

### ENDOWMENT FUND

Members are reminded that the Club's Endowment Fund was established for the advancement of ornithology in Scotland. Any legacy or donation will be gratefully received and should be sent to the Club Secretary.

The Fund is administered by the Council of the Club which is empowered to make grants from the accumulated free income. Applications for a grant should normally be submitted to the Club Secretary by 31st December each year, so that they can be considered at a Council Meeting usually held in March. Applications received after 31st January will not be considered for a grant given in the financial year ending on 30th June following.

### LETTER FROM MRS IRENE WATERSTON

Dear Members,

As it would be virtually impossible for me to thank you all individually for your most kind and generous contributions towards a retirement present from the club. I felt that the only way to express my gratitude is to publish this composite 'thank-you' letter.

The choice of the beautiful silver-mounted crystal decanter with the dates of my 18 years service to the club, firstly as secretary and latterly as librarian, together with an engraved reproduction of the club's symbol of the Crested Tit, will always remind me and George of the wonderful support and friendship which we have so much appreciated over the years. And in addition there was a most generous cheque which will enable me to purchase a washing machine for the kitchen.

Thank you all most sincerely.

In addition, I also wish to thank the Council for the honour they have bestowed on me by electing me as an Honorary Member.

IRENE WATERSTON.

## Branch and Group News

### NEW GALLOWAY

The New Galloway Group got off to a flying start, thanks to an opening address by Alastair Peirse-Duncombe followed by a delightful slide show of Birds of Galloway by Brian Turner. This high standard was kept up by the talks from Joanna Martin, Donald Watson, Jim Young, John Davies (Conservator, Forestry Commission) and Russell Nisbet, with the result that membership rapidly increased to over 50.

There were three field excursions, to Loch Ken, Caerlaverock Wildfowl Trust Reserve and the Nith in February, and a coach outing to Aberlady in April, when a possible record was set up by the coach getting lost several times on the way home.

HELEN S. C. HALLIDAY

## Current Notes

*These notes include unchecked reports and are not intended as a permanent record, nor will they be indexed. Please send items of interest to local recorders or direct to the editor at the end of January, April, July and October.*

We have late spring reports of 5 **Surf Scoters** off Islay (Arg), 2 **Temminck's Stints** at Fair Isle, **Avocet** on Mull (Arg), **Marsh Warbler** on Out Skerries (Shet), **Icterine Warblers** on Whalsay (Shet), Skerries and Fair Isle, and **Lesser Grey Shrike** on Skerries; and summer records of **Great Northern Diver** inland in Lochaber (Inv), **White-billed Diver** again at Tongue (Suth), 2 **Marsh Harriers** at Drem (E Loth), **Long-tailed Skua** at Whalsay, **Ross's Gull** in the Borgeie (Suth), **Roller** and **Golden Oriole** on Yell (Shet) and **Rose-coloured Starling** on Islay. In Shetland **Glaucous** and **Herring Gull** hybridized again and 2 pairs of **Snow Buntings** summered.

Seabird movements in late Jul-early Aug brought **albatross** (sp.) and **Great Shearwater** to Collieston (Aber), over 600 **Storm** and 5 **Leach's Petrels** to Ayr, **Long-tailed Skuas** to Udale Bay (E Ross) and Eigg (I Heb) and **Sabine's Gull** to Islay. An influx of eastern migrants from mid Aug brought **Hobby** to the Tummel (Perth), 2 **Cranes** to Strathbeg (Aber) for a month, several **Black Terns** and **Wrynecks**, **White's Thrush** to L Garten (Inv), **Nightingales** to Fair Isle and St Abb's Head (Ber), **Thrush Nightingales** to Fair Isle and the Isle of May, **Aquatic Warblers** to St Abbs and Fair Isle, **Booted Warbler** to Fair Isle, few **Barred Warblers** to Fair Isle but several to the SE, **Ruppell's Warbler** to Sumburgh (Shet) for a month (the first British record except the Hastings rarities), **Greenish Warblers** to the May and St Abbs, **Arctic Warbler** to Fair Isle, several **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Rosefinches** to Fair Isle, N Ronaldsay (Ork) and the May, and **Two-barred Crossbill** and **Ortolan Bunting** to Fair Isle. Three **Golden Orioles** at Strachur (Arg) on 5 Sep were a big surprise.

Late Aug-Sep seabirds included **Cory's Shearwater** off Skerries, 4,800 **Manx Shearwaters** in 2 hours at Turnberry (Ayr), 4 **Balearic Shearwaters** *Puffinus p. mauretanicus* in the North Sea, **Great Shearwaters** at Turnberry and Collieston, many **Sooty Shearwaters** off W and E coasts with 500 feeding off the May, **Storm Petrels** off the Clyde and Islay (26), a few **Leach's** there and off Skerries, **Sabine's Gulls** at Fair Isle and Oban (Arg), 132 **Great Skuas**, 120 **Pomarine** and 96 **Arctic** off Cruden Bay (Aber) on 26 Aug, and **Long-tailed Skuas** off Islay (2) and Aberdeenshire (2). A **Mediterranean Gull** was off Port Seton (E Loth) and there were good numbers of the 3 regular skuas all autumn. In this period **American Lesser Golden Plovers** *Pluvialis d. dominica* visited Grangemouth (Stir) and Musselburgh (Midl), **Dotterel** Fair Isle, **Temminck's Stint** Irvine (Ayr), **Pectoral Sandpiper** Meikle **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** Fair Isle, Musselburgh

and 2 at Crail (Fife) and **Grey Phalaropes** Whalsay, Fair Isle (2), Islay (3) and Aberlady (E Loth). A **Surf Scoter** was at Gullane (E Loth) and 2 in Rhum (I Heb) and **King Eiders** at Drums (Aber) and Woodhall (Clyde).

Arrivals from mid Sep included many from NE Europe—35 **Brent Geese** at L Garten attacked by a **Peregrine**, 23 at Stornoway (O Heb), **Barnacle Geese** on the E coast, some with yellow Spitsbergen/Caerlav-erock rings, 2 **Goshawks** in Aberdeenshire, **Honey Buzzard** and **Osprey** in Ayrshire, **Marsh Harrier** at Strathbeg, **Hobbies** at Strathbeg and Islay, 2 **Quail** at St Abbs, **Spotted Crakes** at New Cumnock (Ayr) and Strathbeg, 2 **Corncrakes** on Fair Isle, **Dotterel** on the May, **Great Snipe** at Fair Isle and probably St Abbs, **Bonaparte's Gull** at Musselburgh, **Wrynecks** on Fair Isle, 3 **Shore Larks** at Musselburgh, **Short-toed Lark** on Fair Isle, moderate numbers of **Fieldfares**, **Song Thrushes**, **Redwings** and **Ring Ouzels**, **Bluethroats** on Fair Isle (3) and the May, 5 **Reed Warblers** in Aberdeenshire, **Lanceolated** and **Melodious Warbler** on Fair Isle, suspected **Booted Warbler** on Whalsay, 6 **Barred Warblers** on Fair Isle, **Greenish Warbler** at St Abbs, **Arctic Warbler** on Fair Isle, **Yellow-browed Warblers** in Shetland (2), Fair Isle (7+), the May (4) and St Abbs, **Firecrest** at Forvie (Aber), **Red-breasted Flycatchers** in Shetland (4), Isle of May (3) and St Abbs, **Richard's Pipits** on Skerries, Fair Isle (2) and the May, **Red-throated Pipit** on Skerries, **Pechora Pipit** and **Citrine Wagtail** on Fair Isle, **Rosefinches** in Shetland (2+) and Fair Isle (2), **Yellow-breasted Buntings** in Shetland (2), Fair Isle (4) and the May, **Ortolans** on Skerries and Fair Isle (2), **Little Buntings** on Skerries and Fair Isle (2) and the May, **Lapland Buntings** on Fair Isle (20 on several days) and 3 on the May.

A fall of mainly Scandinavian migrants, greatest at St Abbs, followed rain and E wind on 7 Oct. Main species were **Redwings** (thousands at Coldingham, Ber), **Ring Ouzels**, **Eastern Stonechat** *maura/stegnieri* on Fair Isle, **Redstarts**, **Robins**, several **Bluethroats** and **Reed** and **Yellow-browed Warbler** on Fair Isle, **Blackcaps** (200+ on Fair Isle), **Goldcrests** (200+ at St Abbs), **Red-breasted Flycatchers** (on 6th) at Barns Ness (E Loth) and St Abbs, **Richard's Pipit** at Barns Ness, several **Great Grey Shrikes**, **Mealy Redpoll** *Acanthis f. flammea* at Foveran (Aber), **Bramblings** (400 on Fair Isle), **Little Buntings** at Fair Isle and Barns Ness, and **Lapland Buntings** at Fair Isle (max 10), Strathbeg (8) and St Abbs (3). The rest of October was quieter but an elusive **American Bittern** emerged at New Galloway (Kirk), **Crane** at Patna (Ayr), 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Irvine (Ayr), several **Shore Larks** at Rattray and the Don (Aber), Musselburgh and the Tyne (E Loth), **Siberian Lesser Whitethroat** *blythi* at Drums, **Richard's Pipit** at Meikle (Aber), parties of up to 50 **Siskins** in the SE, and **Little Buntings** on the May and St Abbs brought the autumn total to 8. Late migrants in late Oct were **Great Shearwater** at St Abbs, 2 **Black Terns** in Caithness, **Hoopoe** at Ledaig (Arg), **Golden Oriole** on the Tyne, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at St Abbs, and **Rosefinch** and 30 **Crossbills** on Fair Isle. With a massive influx of **Fieldfares**, **Redwings** and **Blackbirds** came a **Black-throated Thrush** at Hillwell (Shet) on 6 Nov and **Rose-coloured Starling** in Mid Yell.

First dates of winter migrants—**Goldeneye** Ballantrae (Ayr) 12 Aug, **Whooper Swan** Fair Isle 18 Sep, **Jack Snipe** Fair Isle 9 Sep, **Little Auk** Fraserburgh 26 Aug, **Fieldfare** Isle of May 4 Sep, **Redwing** Fair Isle 28 Aug, **Brambling** St Abbs 17 Sep, **Snow Bunting** Fair Isle 8 Sep. Last dates of summer migrants—**Whimbrel** St Abbs 23 Oct, **Commie Tern** Roseheart (Aber) 30 Oct, **Cuckoo** Fair Isle 8 Oct, **Swift** North Berwick (E Loth) 22 Oct, Fair Isle 23rd, Fraserburgh 30 Oct, **Swallow** North Berwick 29 Oct, **House Martin** North Berwick 10 Nov, **Whinchat** Fair Isle 21 Oct, **Redstart** Fair Isle 26 Oct, **Willow Warbler** St Abbs 19 Oct, **Yellow Wagtail** Fair Isle 14 Oct.



# Wildfowl Counts in Scotland

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For more than 20 years the task of organising the winter Wildfowl Counts in Scotland was undertaken by a succession of dedicated SOC members; first by Miss Rintoul and Miss Baxter, then by Miss Betty Garden and finally by Miss Valerie Thom. When Miss Thom resigned in 1971, no overall Scottish Organiser could be found to continue the work centrally, and so a number of Regional Organisers were appointed who deal direct with the Wildfowl Trust in Slimbridge. The Club agreed to be responsible for appointing Regional Organisers when necessary in future, and a copy of the counts for all parts of Scotland is maintained in the Club's Reference Library in Edinburgh.

A list of the Regional Organisers is given below, and anyone who is interested in helping with the counts is asked to write to their nearest Organiser.

**Shetland** P. Kinnear, 2 Mounthooly Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 OBJ

**Orkney** D. Lea, Easter Sower, Orphir, Orkney, KW17 2RE.

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### Papers, longer articles and short notes

1. The high cost of production and distribution means that it is of the utmost importance that contributions are concise, interesting and readable to justify their publication. They should be typed on one side of the sheet only, in duplicate, with double spacing and wide margins.

2. Authors are urged to consult recent issues of *Scottish Birds* for style of presentation, in particular of headings, tables and references. Headings should not be in capitals nor underlined. Tables and figures must be designed to fit the page. Tables should be used sparingly and be self explanatory, and, like figure captions, typed on a separate sheet.

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4. English names of species (but not group names) of birds, other animals and plants, except domestic forms, have initial capitals for each word, except after a hyphen. English names and sequence of birds follow *A Species List of British and Irish Birds* (BTO Guide 13, 1971). Scientific names are generally unnecessary for species in this list but they are required (underlined, with no brackets) for subspecies, species not in the *BTO Species List*, and for other animals and plants, except domestic forms, where these receive significant mention.

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1. Records should be sent to the appropriate local recorders, a list of whom is published regularly, but in cases of difficulty they can be forwarded by the editor.

2. These records should be well spaced and in species order, as in previous reports which follow *A Species List of British and Irish Birds* (BTO Guide 13, 1971). Observers should consult previous reports for the sort of information required. To avoid duplication of records by the recorders, names of other observers present should be given where appropriate.

3. Notes for the year should be sent promptly, generally in early January, but some recorders prefer more frequent records and regular contributors are asked to consult local recorders about this. Reports of occasional visits to areas outwith the observer's regular territory, such as holiday lists, should usually be sent to recorders as soon as possible. Records of rarities, including species only locally rare, should be sent to recorders without delay. The editor invites short notes on rarities for publication, with any illustrations, up to the third Scottish record or after a long gap since the previous occurrence.

4. The editor will be glad to receive, either directly or via the local recorders, records of special interest for publication in *Current Notes*. Please send them at the end of January, April, July and October for publication in the issues following.

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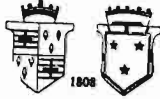
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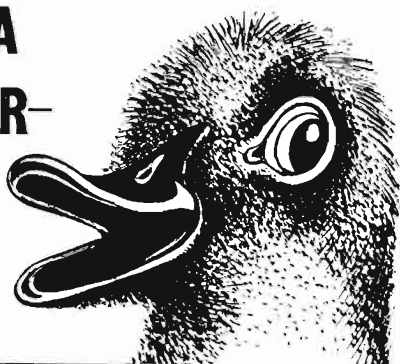
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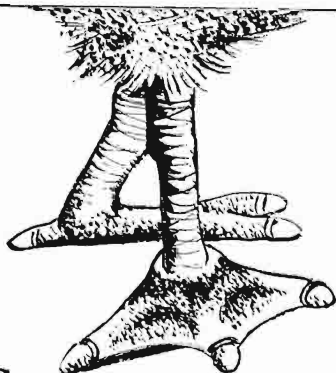
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