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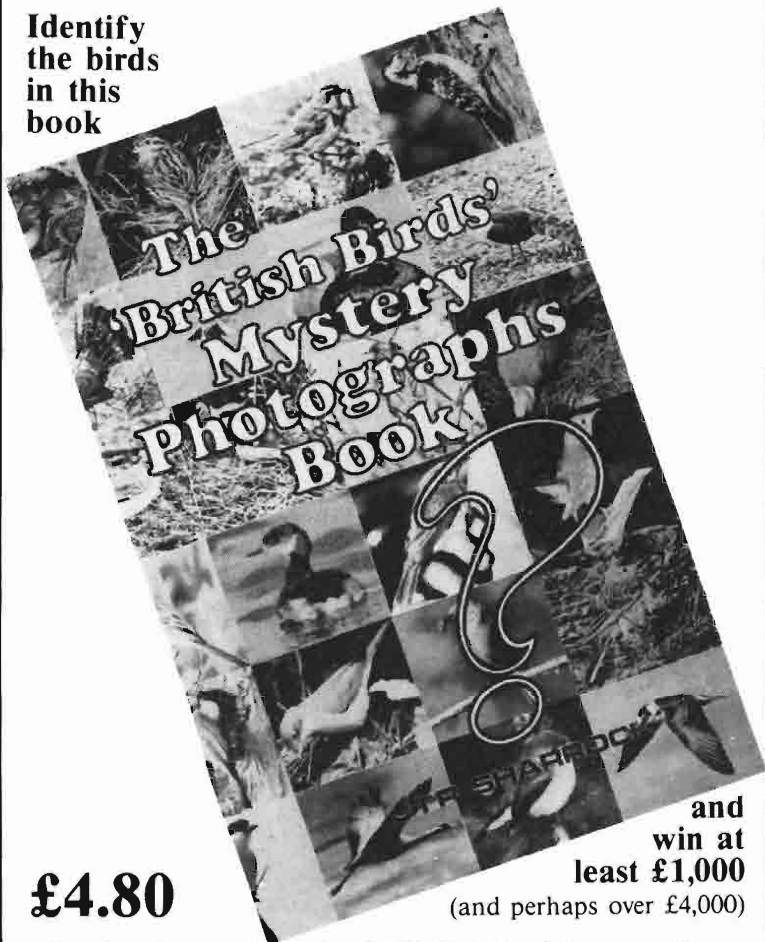
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THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB



Volume 12 No. 8

Winter 1983

Edited by V. M. Thom, assisted by R. W. Furness and I. R. Taylor

Editorial

Happy retirement, Alastair and Daphne!

There have been many changes at 21 Regent Terrace since Alastair Peirse-Duncombe became Secretary/Treasurer in March 1969. The staff has grown from three to six, the club has gradually taken over all the basement rooms, and book-shop sales have expanded from a mere £4,300 in 1968-69 to over £125,000 in 1982-3. Alastair has ably directed—and cheerfully undertaken much of—the ever-increasing day to day workload at number 21, and has regularly toured the Branches. But it has surely been at Annual Conferences that members have been most aware of and appreciative of the truly military efficiency with which he organised every task. We suspect there can be few organisations comparable to the SOC with as high a reputation for the smooth-running of their conferences.

Sadly, illness kept Alastair in the background at the 1983 conference, the last before his retiral at the end of the year. We are glad to report, however, that he is making a good recovery and was, in fact, well enough to attend the AGM and receive his retirement presentations—a silver tray suitably inscribed, and a cheque. On that occasion the President, Ivan Draper, paid tribute not only to “the Major”, for all he has done for the club, but also to Daphne, whose help and hospitality have always been so willingly given. On behalf of all SOC members we wish Alastair and Daphne a long and happy retirement in their “rural roost” in the Borders.

Another retirement Our attention was recently drawn to the fact that George Dick of Dunfermline had just given up wildfowl counting, reluctantly, at the age of 89! A club member until 4 years ago, George must surely be among the long-service record-holders for duck-counting. Maybe the regular monthly outing increases longevity?

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RESULTS

We are pleased to be able to report that the response to the competition was much better this year. The "top ten", all transparencies, were shown during the Friday evening slide presentation at the Conference, with Don Smith commenting on their respective merits. It is hoped that the winning photos: (1) Oystercatchers at the nest by P. J. Newman, Kilmacolm, (2) Herons at the nest by A. D. Johnson, Hayling Island, and (3) Fulmar in flight by Fiona Burton, Edinburgh—and also several of the other entries—will appear on these pages in due course.

The status of the Chough in Scotland

J. M. WARNES

To many birdwatchers the Chough must be among the least familiar of Scotland's regular breeding species. Both the current size and distribution of the small remaining population and possible reasons for its progressive decline are discussed here.

In 1982, a Chough survey was organised by the RSPB, BTO and IWC. The main aim was to assess the present distribution and numbers of Choughs in Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Scotland and Brittany (Bullock *et al* 1983). This paper summarises the history of the Chough in Scotland and discusses the results of the 1982 Scottish survey.

Population history in Scotland

Most early records have been collated in a thorough account by Baxter and Rintoul (1953). It appears that Choughs were widely distributed on coasts and in both lowland and highland Scotland at the beginning of the 19th Century. Inland they had all died out by the 1830's but on the coasts the decline was later. In the 16th Century, Choughs bred on the Berwickshire coast but by 1867 only a single pair remained, disappearing soon after this (Buchanan 1882). Thereafter, Choughs were seen commonly only on the western coasts and islands.

On the west coast too Choughs declined, although they were once common on most of the Inner Hebrides, some of the

Outer Hebrides and on the nearby mainland. They had disappeared from many small islands by 1871 but bred on Eigg in 1886. Only one pair remained on Iona by 1890 but they could be found on Skye until 1918. The last reliable record from the Outer Hebrides was in 1902 on South Uist. The 'probable' breeding record from the Outer Hebrides (Sharrock 1976) has not been substantiated (Bullock pers. comm.). In south-west Scotland, Choughs bred well into the present century. In Ayrshire there are records between 1922 and 1929, and in Wigtownshire in the late 1930's. In recent years, however, the Chough has been mainly confined to Argyllshire.

Islay has probably always been the major stronghold of the Chough in Scotland. From the descriptions by Gray (1871) and others, it appears that the Chough did not decline on Islay to the same extent as elsewhere, if at all. The only suggestion of a decline comes from the islanders who told Harvie-Brown and Buckley (1892) that Choughs were not so common as they used to be, although 'still found all round the coasts'.

Choughs still nest on Colonsay, but their past history there is unknown. Gray (1871) suggested that Islay was first colonised from Colonsay where Choughs were 'very numerous' but in 1976 only 2 pairs were present and in 1980 the Brathay Exploration Group saw just one pair. There are several records of Choughs breeding on the west coast of Kintyre in the mid 19th Century and they were 'very numerous' on Gigha and Cara in 1793 (Harvie-Brown and Buckley 1892). Several were shot on Davaar Island, where they bred until the 1890's (Colville 1980), and they nested on the Mull of Kintyre until about 1920. Numbers on Kintyre have been slowly increasing again since the 1950's, but the Chough has not firmly re-established itself there as a breeding bird.

The history of the Chough in Scotland is fragmented but it does indicate a contraction of range and a decrease in numbers during the 18th and 19th centuries, probably starting in the inland and eastern parts of the country. By the turn of the present century, Islay was probably the only remaining place where Choughs were relatively common.

Prior to 1982 there had never been a complete survey of the Chough in Scotland. In a partial survey in 1963, Rolfe (1966) estimated the Scottish population to consist of 70 individuals, confined entirely to Argyll. Of these he considered only 11 pairs were breeding. Sharrock (1976) records Choughs as breeding on Islay, Jura and Colonsay, with probable breeding on Kintyre and at two other undisclosed sites in Scotland.

Since the late 1960's C. G. Booth has been recording observations of Choughs on Islay and, in May 1976, carried out a

survey of coastal breeding pairs with C. J. Taylor; they estimated the population to be 135-140 birds (Booth and Taylor unpubl.) Two further surveys were carried out, in 1980 and 1981, together with an estimate of breeding pairs in 1981 (Warnes 1982). From these the population was estimated to be 160-180 birds in winter 1980-spring 1981 with 58 breeding pairs confirmed and a further three pairs possibly breeding.

Survey methods

Two surveys on Islay were undertaken in 1982, the first by Brathay Exploration Group's Islay expedition on 3-4 April. Set routes were walked around coastal and inland areas of the island. Sightings were recorded with full details of numbers, time, flight direction, behaviour and habitat information on field maps and recording sheets. Observations were co-ordinated to minimise double sightings of birds whilst giving adequate coverage of suitable habitats. Observations were made between 1000 and 1600 hrs BST. Some areas where

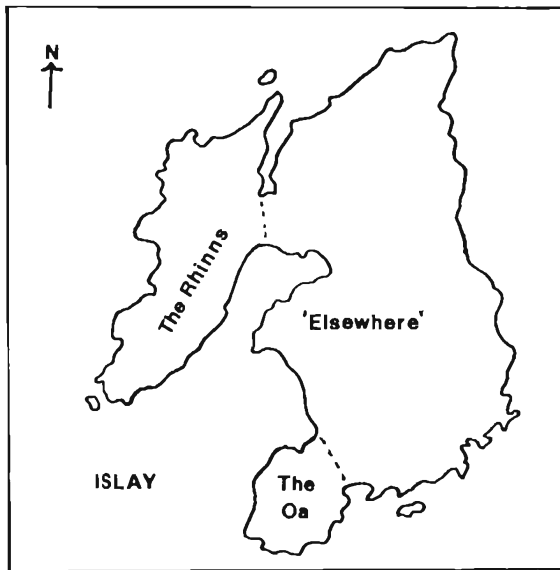


Figure 1. The Isle of Islay showing the three areas surveyed for Choughs in 1982

Choughs had never been previously recorded were omitted from this survey but were visited later in the summer.

In the second survey, carried out during April, May and June, both coastal and inland pairs were located and breeding status recorded as 'definite' or 'possible'. Evidence accepted as a reliable indication of breeding was: birds carrying nest material to a site; single birds visiting a site in late April and May, when males feed incubating females; pairs visiting sites later in the season to feed young; or the noise of chicks calling from nests. All known sites from the breeding census in 1981 (Warnes 1982) were visited, together with other possible areas.

Over the rest of Scotland, most areas where Choughs were known to occur, or where sightings have been made in recent years (with the exception of the two undisclosed sites from Sharrock 1976), were covered by a number of volunteers.

Results

Islay The island was divided into three areas (Figure 1) and the number of pairs and non-breeding birds in each area recorded. In Table 1 the results of the 1982 census are compared with those for 1981. The total number of Choughs on Islay in 1982 was between 141 and 175 individuals, including 53 definite breeding pairs and a further eight possible breeding pairs (total 61 pairs). At three nests there was a third bird present, the 'helper' known to assist in at least some of the stages of rearing young (Warnes 1982). These helpers are also included in Table 1. The Rhinns and Oa had the highest numbers of breeding pairs with the remainder scattered over the island, mainly in buildings (Warnes 1983).

Table 1. The numbers of breeding and non-breeding Choughs on the Isle of Islay, Argyll in 1981 and 1982

| | | Breeding pairs | Non-breeding birds | Total no. of birds |
|-----------|------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Rhinns | 1981 | 32-33 (+2 helpers) | 17-27 | 83-95 |
| | 1982 | 26-30 (+1 helper) | 16-30 | 69-91 |
| Oa | 1981 | 15-17 (+3 helpers) | 22-26 | 56-64 |
| | 1982 | 17-19 (+2 helpers) | 16-20 | 52-60 |
| Elsewhere | 1981 | 11 | 0 | 22 |
| | 1982 | 10-12 | 0 | 20-24 |
| Totals | 1981 | 58-61 (+5 helpers) | 39-54 | 160-180 |
| | 1982 | 53-61 (+3 helpers) | 32-50 | 141-175 |

There seems to have been a slight decrease in the population size on Islay, and also in the number of breeding pairs, from 1981 to 1982. Whether the decrease was the result of severe frosts in winter 1981-2 is not known. Generally, however, the population has increased since 1976 (Table 2) even

allowing for the 10-12 inland breeding pairs located in 1981 and 1982 which were not investigated in 1976.

Table 2. Chough population estimates on Islay 1976-82

| | Total population | Number of breeding pairs |
|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1976 | 135-140 | 39-41 |
| 1981 | 160-180 | 58-61 |
| 1982 | 141-175 | 53-61 |

Kintyre In 1982 there was no confirmed breeding in either of the two areas recently frequented by Choughs. In one area seven birds were seen in February and again in May, but a cave with two old nests inside was not occupied, and throughout June only one Chough was seen there. In the other recently occupied area on Kintyre, one pair was seen in May and four birds in mid-July. A maximum of two pairs may therefore have bred on Kintyre in 1982, with a non-breeding flock of about seven birds. Flocks of up to 21 birds have been recorded in winter in recent years (E. Maguire, B. Zonfrillo). The area is difficult to search and any future attempts to survey Kintyre may be more successful if carried out from the sea.

Colonsay and Oronsay In 1982 one pair of Choughs bred on Colonsay and successfully reared three young. There was no further evidence of Choughs on either island.

Mull and the Treshnish Isles No Choughs were reported from Mull or from several of the Treshnish Isles in 1982 despite coverage of likely areas (Bar Mór, Lunga, Fladda and Cairn na Burgh Beg were not visited). It is possible, but unlikely, that pairs were missed along the south coast of Mull where the cliffs are inaccessible.

Jura This island is difficult to search because of rough terrain, indented coastline and lack of tracks; hence coverage of the island was not thorough and information collected in 1981 is therefore included in the estimate of numbers. In 1982, there was no confirmed breeding although the sightings indicate that 6-8 pairs could have bred with a minimum of 7 non-breeders, making a total of 23 birds. Later, in September a flock of 17 was seen on the Paps of Jura.

There are records of two pairs breeding in north Jura in recent years and a pair was seen in this area in 1982. A pair was also seen on the north side of Loch Tarbert and another on the west side of the Paps during the breeding season. All other sightings were made from the sea on the west coast, with the exception of four birds seen on Eilean Bhrìde in the south-east, near an islet which had a cave used by breeding birds until the roof collapsed some years ago (R. Mitchell pers. comm.)

From the 1982 survey of Scotland it is evident that Islay is still the main stronghold of the Chough (Table 3). The total Scottish population is estimated currently to be between 171 and 211 birds, with over 80% occurring on Islay (141-175 birds). Compared with an estimated total of 70 individuals in 1963 (Rolfe 1966), the population would appear to have increased significantly.

Table 3. The population of the Chough in Scotland in 1982

| | Islay | Jura | Colonsay | Kintyre | Total no. of birds |
|------------------|---------|--------|----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Breeding pairs | 53-61 | 6-8 | 1 | 1-2 | 122-144 |
| Helpers | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Non-breeders | 32-50 | max. 7 | 0 | max 7 | 46-64 |
| Total population | 141-175 | 19-23 | 2 | 9-11 | 171-211 |

The 1963 survey was, however, incomplete and the results cannot properly be used as a basis for estimating any change in Chough numbers. On Islay, and possibly on Jura, numbers appear to have increased in recent years but elsewhere the Chough seems either to be decreasing (Colonsay) or fluctuating (Kintyre).

Discussion

The decline of the Chough in Scotland during the 18th and 19th centuries has been attributed to many factors, none of which offers a wholly satisfactory explanation. Competition with Jackdaws seems unlikely, but dietary and breeding studies where these species occur together are needed to verify this; a study on South Stack, Anglesey (Bullock 1980) suggests there is no competition between them. Peregrines undoubtedly take Choughs occasionally but are unlikely to have been the cause of decline in Chough numbers, as they were declining simultaneously, due to persecution. In the 19th Century, Choughs were shot as vermin and many eggs were taken for collections. This may well have accelerated the decline, and even seriously reduced numbers in some areas. Successive cold winters have been suggested as a possible cause of decline during 1820-80 (Rolfe 1966) but the prolonged frosts of the 1981-2 winter did not seem severely to reduce the Islay Chough population. There was, however, little snow cover in 1981-2 and the intense cold occurred only in two short periods, unlike earlier hard winters (1947-8 and 1962-3). In mid-Wales, where there was extensive snow cover, the number of breeding pairs fell between 1981 and 1982 (Bullock *et al* 1983), probably due to increased winter mortality, and this may also have been the case on Kintyre. Thus periods of successive long, hard winters may have been the cause of the Chough decline in some areas.

Habitat destruction associated with agricultural improvements is another possible reason for falling Chough numbers. Choughs rely mainly on permanent and unimproved pastures, with large numbers of soil invertebrates (Warnes 1982). The agricultural improvements of the 18th Century involved much deep ploughing, fertilising and land reclamation including boulder removal (Millman 1975). These activities would have reduced the numbers of soil invertebrates available to Choughs. Land improvement proceeded rapidly in the lowlands and on the east coast, but more slowly in the south-west, which retained much pasture land for dairy cattle. Since the Highlands and Islands were not suitable for large arable and stock farms, improvements were scattered and untilled areas would continue to provide ideal Chough feeding habitats, particularly in grassland around rocky outcrops. Over much of Scotland, however, ploughed land and improved pastures probably held a reduced diversity and number of invertebrates compared with older pastures (Warren and Goldsmith 1974), and would be less attractive to Choughs. This reduction in feeding potential, together with harsher winters on the east coasts and inland, would have been detrimental to the Chough populations in these areas. Also in many areas cattle began to be wintered inside, so depriving Choughs of the invertebrates and undigested grain in cow-pats which are so important to them in winter (Warnes 1982).



CHOUGH *A. Dowell*

In the western Highlands, cattle numbers fell by 8% between 1911 and 1947 but on Islay numbers were maintained, despite a reduction in the human population of 68% during the same period, and cattle continued to be wintered outside; between 1911 and 1981 the cattle population on Islay nearly doubled.

Permanent pastures and hill-grazings have been retained, on the whole unimproved, except where there are dairy herds and this continued land-use, together with mild winters and many suitable nest-sites, probably accounts for a still flourishing Chough population on the island.

Radical landuse changes would therefore seem to be the most likely cause of the decline in Chough numbers in Scotland in the 19th Century, possibly accelerated locally by shooting and periods of successive cold winters. The decline closely follows the wave of agricultural improvements which had least effect in the west and the islands. Here, persecution by gamekeepers, egg-collectors and 'sportsmen' may have had a serious effect.

The foregoing discussion gives probable reasons for the decline of the Chough in Scotland in the past. The 1982 survey results indicate that this decline has been arrested and that numbers may once again be increasing in some areas. On Islay, where the increase is most marked, permanent pastures are not generally being improved and the growing numbers of empty buildings now provide suitable nest-sites for an expanding population. If the increase in numbers continues on Islay, and Choughs firmly re-establish themselves on Jura and Kintyre, there may be movement of birds into some of their previously occupied haunts.

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Summary

Results of a complete census of the Chough populations in Scotland in 1982 are given and compared with a previous complete census on Islay in 1981. In 1982, the total Scottish population was estimated as 171-211, 80% of which occurred on Islay. The results are discussed in the light of the historical decline of the Chough in Scotland and it is suggested that agricultural improvements of permanent pastures have been the major causes of the population decline, together with the effects of cold winters and human persecution. Numbers on Islay appear to be increasing and it is hoped that the population will further expand.

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J. M. Warnes, Kindrochid, Sanaig,
Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay

The phenomenal migrant fall of October 1982

PETE ELLIS

The weather during migration periods often brings bonuses for the birdwatcher, but seldom on the scale experienced in October 1982. This brief account summarises the main features of what was surely the most exceptional fall of migrants yet recorded in east Scotland.

A major east coast fall of migrants must be one of the most spectacular sights in British birding. In October 1982 a series of falls occurred, peaking with a massive influx on the 11th. I shall always remember arriving the following morning at St Abbs Head to see a swarm of at least 1,000 Goldcrests moving through the tops of the sycamores in wave after wave. An unusual bird caught my eye as it flitted about in the branches. I got my binoculars on it as it landed only to find myself looking at two Pallas's Warblers on the same twig. Such sights, enjoyed by birders on many parts of the east coast, resulted from an unusual combination of weather conditions.

Weather

During the early part of the autumn an area of high pressure brought clear weather to western Russia, and would have facilitated the westward movement of several Siberian species. This anticyclone extended to Scandinavia in early October and probably stimulated a large south-west oriented movement of small passerines, particularly Goldcrests. At the same time an area of low pressure moved from the Atlantic into the North Sea and brought an easterly airstream to the British Isles. This depression became centred over the Firth of Forth on 11th October (Fig.). It is likely that migrants had set out while

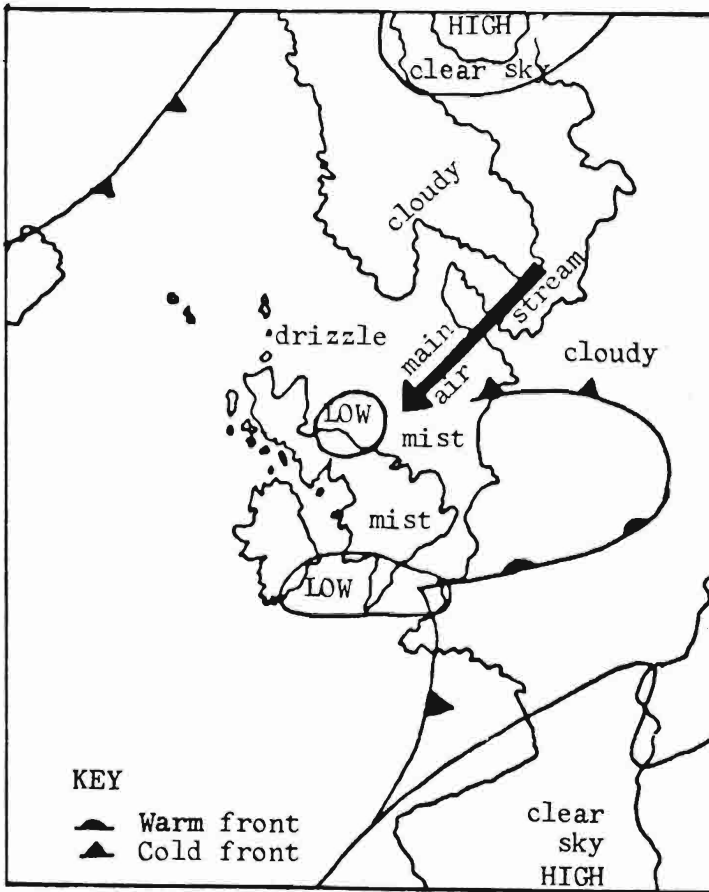


Fig. Summary of weather situation 0600 hrs. GMT, 11 October 1982

conditions were good over Scandinavia and the low countries, and were drifted west across the North Sea by the easterly winds under the disorienting effects of overcast skies. The thick cloud, mist and rain brought by the depression and associated fronts caused thousands of exhausted birds to seek refuge as soon as they reached land. Because a second depression was centred over the south of England, with clearer weather in between, there was a marked separation between the areas affected by the largest falls. The biggest arrivals of migrants occurred in south east Scotland and north east England with smaller numbers to the north and south and a further large fall on the north Norfolk coast. The winds remained easterly and the weather generally poor on the 12th and 13th when further arrivals took place. After this conditions began to improve and the numbers of tired migrants in coastal areas gradually dwindled.

Main species

On the Isle of May the concentrating effect of the small island and the attraction of the lighthouse no doubt compounded the situation. The small band of birdwatchers lucky enough to be present was somewhat overwhelmed by around 22,000 migrants. The problems of counting and identifying such numbers must have been decidedly daunting. Further north on Fair Isle a fall of similar species also occurred, but although the numbers were large they were not on anything like the scale seen further south (Table 1). Some of the birds trapped at observatories were of very low weight, their fat fuel resources exhausted by their ordeal.

Table 1. Numbers of selected species recorded on 11th October 1982

| Species | Isle of May | Fair Isle |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Dunnock | 50 | 25 |
| Robin | 4,000 | 60 |
| Redstart | 50 | 10 |
| Fieldfare | 4,000 | 500 |
| Redwing | 800 | 1,250 |
| Blackcap | 600 | 150 |
| Yellow-browed Warbler | — | 2 |
| Chiffchaff | 200 | 80 |
| Goldcrest | 15,000 | 200 |
| Pallas's Warbler | 2 | 10 |
| Brambling | 400 | 500 |
| Siskin | 30 | 5 |

Goldcrests arrived in large numbers almost everywhere south of Shetland with the Isle of May holding an astounding 15,000 or so on 11th October (Table 2). As in several other

areas, some were so weak they could be picked up off the ground and, sensibly, ringing was stopped as soon as this was appreciated. It always amazes me that these tiny birds can cross the North Sea at all, even during good weather conditions. The bad weather that produces such good birdwatching, by stopping migration in its tracks, must take a tremendous toll. Who knows how many Goldcrests ended up in the sea during these falls.

Table 2. Highest reported counts of Goldcrests over the period of the largest falls in October 1982

| | 10 Oct | 11 Oct | 12 Oct | 13 Oct |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Fair Isle | 35 | 200 | 100 | 50 |
| Holm Orkney | 40 | — | — | — |
| Noss Farm (Caithness) | — | 30 | — | — |
| Ninian Field (North Sea) | — | 200 | — | — |
| Drums (Aberdeenshire) | — | 90 | 70 | 60 |
| Montrose | — | — | 1,000 | — |
| Isle of May | 500 | 15,000 | 5,000 | 2,000 |
| Barns Ness | 190 | — | 150 | 100 |
| St Abbs Head | — | 2,000 | 1,500 | — |
| Burnmouth | — | 350 | 200 | — |

Robins were another major component of this movement most showing the yellowish tinge to the breast found in the continental race *rubecula*. Other typical October migrants represented in large numbers were Blackcaps, Scandinavian thrushes, Bramblings and Chiffchaffs. Many of the latter showed the pale plumage of the northern and eastern races *abietinus* and *tristis*.

Scarce migrants and rarities

Many birders with the patience to search methodically through the vast numbers of common migrants were rewarded by the sight of scarce and rare species. Over the main period Fair Isle and Shetland produced the bulk of these, despite the smaller numbers of common species there. The rare Pallas's Warbler with its bright green and yellow plumage and intricate pattern of yellow head stripes, wing bars and rump patch is one of the most attractive of all the warblers to reach our shores. No less than 53 Pallas's Warblers were reported in Scotland—which is quite remarkable when it is considered that there were only 17 previous Scottish records and no more than five had been recorded in any one year. This species' origin in southern Siberia is sometimes suggested as one of the reasons why it is normally so much rarer than the similar but less well marked Yellow-browed Warbler, which breeds further north in Siberia. The falls of October 1982 were remarkable for the reversal in the relative numbers of these two

Table 3. Distribution of Pallas's and Yellow-browed Warblers in Scotland during the falls of October 1982

| Area | Pallas's Warbler | Yellow-browed Warbler |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Shetland | 17 | 6 |
| Fair Isle | 12 | 2 |
| Orkney | 5 | 1 |
| Caithness | 3 | 1 |
| Aberdeenshire | 6 | 2 |
| Fife Ness | 2 | — |
| Isle of May | 2 | 1 |
| Berwickshire | 6 | 1 |
| Total | 53 | 14 |
| Total recorded in 1981 | 2 | 50 |

species seen in Scotland (Table 3). The Siberian contingent was further represented by a number of other species, particularly warblers, with Lanceolated, Radde's and Dusky Warblers reported. Some Scandinavian species normally recorded only in small numbers in Scotland arrived in exceptional numbers, Rough-legged Buzzards and Great Grey Shrikes being particularly plentiful (Table 4). No doubt several rarities went undetected amongst the large numbers of common birds at the sites that birdwatchers did check, but how many were lurking in small patches of bushes which birders never even visited?

Table 4. Some of the rarities and scarce migrants recorded in Scotland during the falls of October 1982

| | Total reported |
|---|----------------|
| Rough-legged Buzzard | 14 |
| *Rufous Turtle Dove | 1 |
| *Richard's Pipit | 3 |
| *Stonechat (races <i>maura/stejnegeri</i>) | 5 |
| Grey-cheeked Thrush | 1 |
| *Black-throated Thrush | 1 |
| *Lanceolated Warbler | 1 |
| *Pallas's Warbler | 53 |
| *Yellow-browed Warbler | 14 |
| *Radde's Warbler | 3 |
| *Dusky Warbler | 1 |
| Great Grey Shrike | 28 |
| Parrot Crossbill | 15 |
| *birds of Siberian origin. | |

All in all, October 1982 produced some remarkable records. The day I spent on the coast on 12th October ended with an amazing tally of numbers and variety of species, including no less than seven Pallas's Warblers, a Dusky Warbler and two Rough-legged Buzzards. This without doubt was one of the most memorable day's birding I have ever spent.

Some of the records of rarities referred to in this text are subject to confirmation by the Rarities Committee.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all those county recorders, observatory wardens and birders without whose records this summary could not have been written.

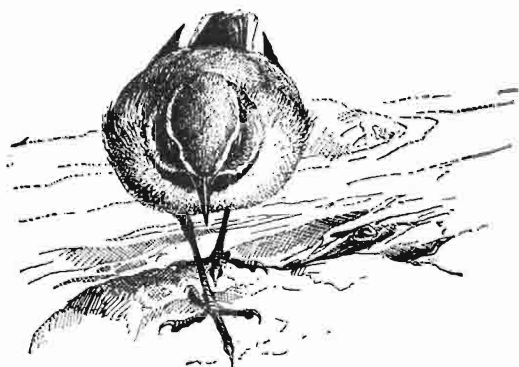
Summary

Between 10th and 13th October 1982 an unusual combination of weather conditions produced a spectacular fall of migrants on the east coast, from Shetland to Berwick. These included unprecedented numbers of Goldcrests and also unusually many birds of Siberian origin, among them at least 53 Pallas's Warblers, only 17 of which had previously been recorded in Scotland.

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♂ GREY WAGTAIL K. Brockie

Birdwatching in the Moorfoots

R. W. J. SMITH

As you leave Edinburgh by car heading south by east you climb slowly but steadily. Hardwoods are gradually left behind and the hedges disappear, to be replaced by drystone dykes. At 800 feet the scenery opens out with wide views over fields and moors to the Pentland and Moorfoot Hills. The foothills and tops of the Moorfoots cover an area of some 15 miles (from the A703 Peebles Road to the A68 Lauder Road) by perhaps half that in breadth. Although the rough grazing of the moorlands is being inexorably eaten up by drainage and the plough the sense of space is not affected. It is this feeling of freedom that is the main attraction for the city dweller and bird-watcher.

Spring is an exciting time of year with Curlew and Lapwing in full song. Redshank and Snipe are still fairly common, although they are in retreat due to the drainage of field pools. Golden Plover is now scarce as a breeding bird below 1000 ft and you must get over 1500 ft to the wet peaty tops to see many. The shattered peat hags and bogs of Jeffries Carse above Portmore is one typical plover habitat; a few pairs of Dunlin nest in the same bleak terrain. In spring look too for flocks of Northern Golden Plover, full plumaged by April, mainly in the Middleton area but a hundred or so may be seen about Gladhouse. Dotterel are recorded irregularly, and there is even a rumour of a pair having bred!

Probably the most exciting spectacle of the area is provided by the geese as they arrive to roost at Gladhouse. Join us as we stand on the road to the east of the reservoir. The wind has died away and the sky has cleared. Two thousand geese arrive from the east in long wavering Vs.

A grand clamour of another 2000 joins them from the north. Several other goose-watchers decide to go home, well satisfied with the performance. Then a low murmuring is heard far over the eastern moor, gradually strengthening till the excited voices of Pinkfeet are obvious. Against the darkening sky a long V appears, then more and more, until suddenly they are above us, wave upon wave, and we are drowned in a tumult of movement and sound. The skeins stretch for perhaps half-a-mile on each side of us. They come in high and lose height by side-slipping and tumbling for 1000 ft before flattening out and circling down to join the clamouring flocks on the water. In 5 minutes it is over. Were there perhaps 8500 birds? No matter—the exhilaration remains.

Most of the geese roost at Gladhouse though some may use Portmore or the small peaty pond at Fala Flow. At Gladhouse watch from the east road south of the boathouse, from the north road or from the unofficial car park at the SW corner. Go there an hour before dusk—or before dawn if you are energetic! A few Pinkfeet arrive in mid-September but October is the best month, with numbers building up to a peak of 10,000-14,000 then falling rapidly until few are left by mid-November. A few hundred Greylag may also be seen, and in recent Octobers small parties of Barnacles have appeared on their way to the Solway. During the day the Pinkfeet feed in the Middleton area, or near Gladhouse; look out for the odd Whitefront, Brent or Snow Goose among them.

As you travel through this rather bleak and relatively small upland area, with its occasional conifer windbreak and strip of turnips or barley, you may wonder how it has managed to acquire a bird-list of some 197 species. One factor is its position relative to the Firth of Forth and North Sea. Migrant waders arriving from Scandinavia head south from Tynninghame or Aberlady and are deflected south-west by the Lammermuirs and Moorfoots, or use the valley of the South Esk as a migration route. An obvious attraction for these birds is the group of four reservoirs: Gladhouse, Portmore, Rosebery and Edgelaw, in order of importance.

In autumn NE winds bring the less common waders, such as Ruff, Spotted Redshank and Green or Wood Sandpiper. When water levels are high at Gladhouse little is seen of these movements, but a good stretch of mud proves a great attraction. Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper may mingle with the Dunlin and the chance of a rare American wader lends a touch of the exotic. The final accolade was accorded by one enthusiast who, after the second record of Baird's Sandpiper, announced that "it was the best place in Scotland" for that species! There are in fact four records of three American waders, and a commendable total of 31 wader species for the reservoir. Sadly, changes in the water regime at Gladhouse reduce the chance of that total being increased. With the coming 'on stream' of the new Megget Reservoir, the water level at Gladhouse will not be allowed to fall more than 5 ft, the era of large shingle and mud flats will end, and the place will lose its interest for passage waders. It will also lose its interest for trespassing 'twitchers', which will be one small gain. Please keep outside the boundary fence of this Nature Reserve unless you have access permission. Most of the birds may be seen from the roads, particularly from the SW car-park. Shoveler, once regularly breeding. no longer nest but

there are several pairs of Great Crested Grebes and rarities such as Garganey occasionally turn up.

In 1982 Pomarine Skua and Sandwich Tern were recorded for the first time, both seen from the road, so keep a good look-out for two as yet unrecorded species—Long-tailed Skua and Little Tern! More likely, perhaps, is a Great Grey Shrike or one of the divers. Spring and autumn bring in hundreds of Fieldfares and Redwings and in some years several thousand Bramblings. This is a good time for the beginner who wants to see hawks. Find such a flock and wait and watch in the car. A sudden panic of birds will often draw attention to a Sparrowhawk or Merlin making a swift approach low over the ground. Gulls, Rooks, ducks or waders will similarly rise in confusion when a Peregrine comes over.

Portmore Reservoir, near the western end of our area, is well worth a visit. The *Vertebrate Fauna of the Forth* describes it as a "little gem" and it is indeed very picturesque. Leave your car at the main gate and take the 10 minute walk to the loch, where you keep to the east track. Portmore is best out-with the fishing season, with a selection of common duck and the chance of a rarer straggler, such as Smew or Slavonian Grebe. But even with dozens of fishermen present Ospreys and Black Terns have appeared, and in spring and summer Tree Pipit, a very local species in the Lothians, can be heard singing here. The track runs on over the hills to Eddleston and affords as good a chance as any in this area to see Buzzards.

The Moorfoot Hills themselves are rather featureless and the main ornithological interest is in the valleys. The easiest access route to the hills proper is by the valley called 'the Granites'—the B7007/B709 Innerleithen Road. From the car you may see breeding Wheatears, Whinchats, Ring Ouzels and at times Stonechats, and there are Oystercatchers, Common Sandpipers, Dippers and Grey Wagtails on the shingle and burns. This glen is as good as any in the area for raptor passage; with the right weather conditions one might see Osprey, Buzzard, Goshawk, Hen or even Marsh Harrier. The odd immature Golden Eagle occasionally appears and Peregrine is regular over the hills although there is no established breeding site. Ravens nested for many years but are now scarce. With persistence and luck you might even get the second sighting for the area of Gyr Falcon, Rough-legged Buzzard or Snowy Owl! On the somewhat desolate tops Merlin and Short-eared Owl may nest, and in winter there are a few Snow Buntings.

Returning to lower ground, look twice at any Partridge you see; many Redlegs were released a year or two back. They are probably not thriving but have bred and could still be

present. Look out too for Blackcock lekking below the quarries on the Granite road and on the moor between Gladhouse and Portmore.

Lastly, a word of warning. For about ten years our duck and other waterbirds suffered badly from the depredations of feral Mink. Peak numbers of wintering Mallard and breeding numbers of Tufties have dropped by 80% while Coot and Waterhen almost vanished. The gamekeepers have now been trapping these pests for two years, and 1982's Tufted broods (six) were the best for many years. The traps used are wire live-catching cages. If you see one anywhere please leave it alone. That will be your contribution to conservation!

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Short Notes

The Crested Tit on Deeside

The absence of breeding Crested Tits from Deeside, which has an abundance of apparently suitable habitat, has led to speculation as to why this area remains unoccupied. With the current renewed interest in the subject (Cook 1982), it seems appropriate to review past records from Deeside, provide some previously unpublished information and discuss the species' present status there.

The older records Neither McGillivray (1855) nor Sim (1903) mentioned Crested Tits on Deeside and Harvie-Brown (1906: 94) wrote "And I may add that of other places where authors have stated it to occur, there has not been any proof of a satisfying nature. I am not aware of a single authentic instance of it, for example, in Aberdeen or elsewhere in Dee yet..." Walter Stewart claimed to have seen "several" at Aboyne in January 1897, but the record does not appear to have been published until much later (Stewart 1925), and no details are given. Baxter and Rintoul (1953) include this record (page 133) along with one other for Deeside: "In 1939 Colonel J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus informed us that the Crested Tit had arrived in the Forest of Mar, having apparently travelled by the way of the Larig Ghrue" (page 132). This wording leaves doubt as to the nature and year of the observation and even the observer's identity. Baxter and Rintoul appear not to have received a later record quoted in Campbell (1958): "J. P. Grant saw Crested Tits in very tall spruces at the Linn of Dee in the autumn of 1950. It seems more likely that they had come up the river valley than directly over the Lairig Ghrue from Speyside". Unless some or all of the Crested Tits that occur from time to time in Deeside are of continental origin (and there are extremely few records of Continental Crested Tits anywhere in Britain (B.O.U. 1971)) it is unlikely that they would have arrived any way other than over the Cairngorms from Speyside. Tits certainly are found occasionally in the area; there was even a Willow Tit at just under 2000 feet between Braemar and Aviemore on 17 Sept 1919 (Gordon 1919). A. Mac Gregor (*Aberdeen Press and Journal*, 1955) wrote of the "Scottish Crested Tit" as a "newcomer to Deeside" stating that "once found only in the old pinewoods of the Spey, (it) now nests in the Mar forest on the upper

Dee". It was also said to "have now founded a small colony in Mar forest" (MacGregor 1955). Unless this account can be authenticated, it should be dismissed. Unfortunately, it has been repeated by Steven and Carlisle (1959, pages 82 & 110). Croke (1976: 38) wrote "... there are also local populations (of Crested Tits) in plantations in Moray, around Nairn and Banff, and even inland from Aberdeen". Again the basis for this is unknown but it may have been taken from Steven and Carlisle or be an (incorrect) interpretation of the more recent records described below.

The recent records The number of reports of Crested Tits on Deeside increased during the 1970s. The first was a flock of 13 seen by R. Rae at the Punch Bowl in Glen Quoich on 18 September 1973. Progressively smaller groups of birds were seen at or near this location over the next few weeks but no precise details are available. On 22 September four were seen at the head of the Fungle, near Aboyne (per N. Picozzi), and on 28th a similar number seen at the head of the Birse Burn (per A.G.K.) where, on 2nd October, I heard one bird calling. (Because of the real danger of confusion with Coal Tits, all records of birds which were only heard should be considered less satisfactory than sight records). A. C. B. Henderson found one in the Forest of Birse on 2 November 1973 and in January 1974 A. Watson Sr. saw three at the foot of the Fungle on 4th, Dr D. Jenkins saw one in his garden in Aboyne on 5th or 6th and J. J. C. Hardey heard between one and five birds calling in Drumtochty Forest, Kincardineshire on 30th January. Later that year, on 5 May, M. A. MacDonald heard two or three at Glen Tanar. These latter birds were not in suitable breeding habitat (contra Cook 1982: 100). The next report was nearly a year later, on 17 March 1975 in Glen Quoich (R. Rae), the only record for that year. There were none reported in 1976 but in 1977 we had the first records of birds in apparently suitable breeding habitat during the breeding season. A single bird was seen in an Aberdeenshire forest on 8 May (M. Marquiss) and on 11 and 12 May I saw one in an area of very old, although not very large, pines and larches in Glen Dye, Kincardineshire (not Aberdeenshire as stated in the *Scottish Bird Report* for 1977 and, subsequently, in Nethersole-Thompson and Watson 1981). The bird was calling and singing and on both days I thought I could hear another two birds in the distance. On the 18th I saw one bird, still singing, in the same area but I was unable to find any on subsequent visits. On each of the three days I saw it, I followed the bird for at least half an hour in different parts of the wood and on each occasion lost it as it flew off quickly towards the same area, lower down the course of a burn that flowed through the wood. In spring 1978 I visited the site to discover that the wood had been partly wind-blown during the winter and the rest had been clear-felled. Many of the trees were found, by counting annual rings, to have been about 160-180 years old. There have been no further Crested Tit records from Deeside to date.

Discussion Martin Cook has suggested that there must once have been breeding Crested Tits on Deeside but that they were wiped out by a natural catastrophe, since when the Cairngorms have been an obstacle preventing their recolonization (1982: 102). There are no historical records to indicate that Crested Tits have bred in the area at any time in the last 150 years (prior to which records are poor). Although the 1973 arrival in Deeside took place after a summer with high numbers in Strathspey (Nethersole-Thompson and Watson 1981), there is no reason to suspect that the occurrences in the 1970s were unique. The number of bird-watchers active in the North-East suddenly increased in the late 1960s and early 1970s, resulting in dramatic changes in the known status of many species of birds in the area (Knox 1977). This could partly explain the increase in the number of Crested Tit records in Deeside, al-

though none has been reported in 1978-1982 when observer coverage has been equally good.

It seems likely that there have been relatively frequent, but irregular, instances of birds dispersing from Speyside into Deeside and that at least one of these has led to a possible breeding attempt. The factors preventing these immigrants from becoming established remain a mystery but the temperature figures given by Cook suggesting that Deeside forests suffer colder winters than Speyside are misleading for two reasons. Firstly, he made an invalid comparison of daily mean temperatures for 1941-1970 at Braemar with those from a different period at Glenmore Lodge. Secondly, although the Braemar figures may represent temperatures in the woods of Mar or Ballochbuie, it is not appropriate to apply these data to Deeside as a whole. Two of the Caledonian Pine-woods, Ballochbuie and Glen Tanar, are at lower altitudes than Mar and further from the central Cairngorms massif and could therefore be expected to be less cold in winter. The weather data presented here for Braemar, Balmoral, Dinnet and Banchory show that the temperatures are indeed warmer at the lower stations although there is very little difference between Braemar and Balmoral (Tables 1-2). Even if temperature is the critical factor limiting Crested Tit distribution in eastern Scotland, average daily mean temperature may not be the correct parameter to consider. It could well be more appropriate to look at, for example, the data for each year separately as it only needs a single cold winter to bring about a severe reduction in numbers in parts of Speyside (Nethersole-Thompson and Watson 1981).

Table 1. Average daily mean air temperature (°) at Braemar and Balmoral. 1941-1970 average

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Braemar | 0.8 | 0.7 | 2.7 | 4.2 | 8.2 | 11.5 | 12.7 | 12.3 | 10.3 | 7.5 | 3.4 | 1.7 |
| Balmoral | 0.5 | 0.7 | 2.9 | 5.5 | 8.1 | 11.3 | 12.7 | 12.3 | 10.5 | 7.6 | 3.3 | 1.7 |

Table 2. Average daily mean air temperatures (°C) at Braemar, Balmoral, Dinnet and Banchory. Averaged from short-term records 1970-mid 1981

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Braemar | 0.7 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 4.9 | 8.4 | 11.4 | 13.0 | 12.7 | 10.2 | 7.4 | 3.6 | 2.6 |
| Balmoral | 1.2 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 4.9 | 8.2 | 11.2 | 12.7 | 12.6 | 10.1 | 7.4 | 3.6 | 2.7 |
| Dinnet | 2.6 | 2.5 | 4.0 | 6.2 | 9.4 | 11.5 | 13.5 | 14.0 | 11.6 | 7.6 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Banchory | 2.1 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 6.6 | 9.5 | 13.0 | 14.4 | 14.3 | 11.6 | 9.2 | 5.1 | 3.3 |

Note. These stations are the nearest ones for which published records are available to the Forest of Mar (above Braemar), Ballochbuie (between Braemar and Balmoral), Glen Tanar (Dinnet) and Glen Dye (Banchory). The weather stations are all in or near the valley bottom rather than in the glens. Data are not available for the whole period from Dinnet and Banchory, but the averages are believed to be sufficiently accurate for the purposes of this paper.

The real reasons preventing the spread of Crested Tits into Deeside forests continue to elude us. In the light of the records during the 1970s the Cairngorms cannot be considered a complete obstacle to their dispersal and other factors must be involved. The problem shows yet again the inadequacies of our assessment of bird habitats.

Acknowledgments I am grateful to all the observers of the recent

occurrences mentioned in the paper for permission to quote their observations, including many details previously unpublished. Dr Bruce Campbell kindly answered a query about the various editions of his leaflet on the Crested Tit. Nick Picozzi and Dr Adam Watson made helpful criticisms of the manuscript.

ALAN KNOX

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A Trio of Magpies

During the last ten years the lower Deeside suburbs of Aberdeen have been progressively colonised by Carrion Crows, and assemblies of up to a hundred can now be seen in spring. More recently these have been joined by Magpies. One pair first appeared in 1982 and successfully reared a brood of five young in a tree beside the garden of the first two authors, affording an unusually close view of their domestic arrangements. The young were thought to have left in the autumn, but in December it was noticed that there were still three birds occasionally visiting the nest together. By March there were only two, and it was suspected that the third, which could be recognised by a slight abnormality of its wing pattern, had sought a mate elsewhere. About a month later it reappeared—with a shorter tail, however, and began to visit the nest again, although since the leaves had come out it was no longer possible to see what happened there. It continued to attend the family when another five chicks fledged, so that eventually there were eight birds present.

It is not clear whether the extra adult is a member of last year's brood which has stayed with its parents an unusually long time, or whether the three old birds have formed a triangular relationship of the type found in some other orders such as the Charadriiformes. In any case it appears that the extra individual may have gone away and started a premature moult when the original pair began incubating, but then rejoined the family when the chicks hatched.

G. E. SIMPSON, J. D. SIMPSON and W. R. P. BOURNE

Franklin's Gull in Ayrshire

During the afternoon of 2 July 1980 I found an immature Franklin's Gull feeding with Black-headed Gulls on an area of mud at Bogside, Irvine, Ayrshire. On returning that evening with R. G. Caldow it was re-located and subsequently remained in the area until 6 July being seen

PLATE 28. "The Major" receiving his presentation from the President at the Club's 47th A.G.M. on 5th November, 1983 (p. 237).

Don A. Smith





PLATE 29. Although many still use the traditional caves for breeding in, the Choughs on Islay are increasingly making use of derelict buildings as nest sites (p. 238).

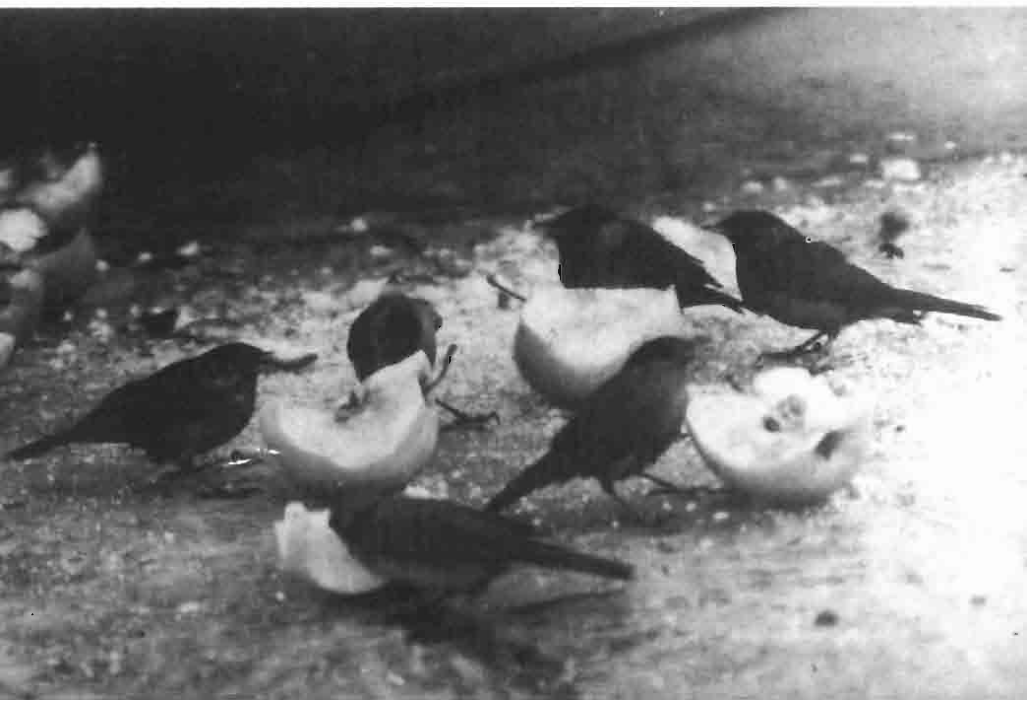
Martin B. Withers





PLATE 30. During the migrant rush in October 1982 (p. 246) many birds took advantage of North Sea installations as resting places. These tired Blackcaps were able also to "refuel" on fruit put out for them on the Ninian Southern platform.

Sam M. D. Alexander



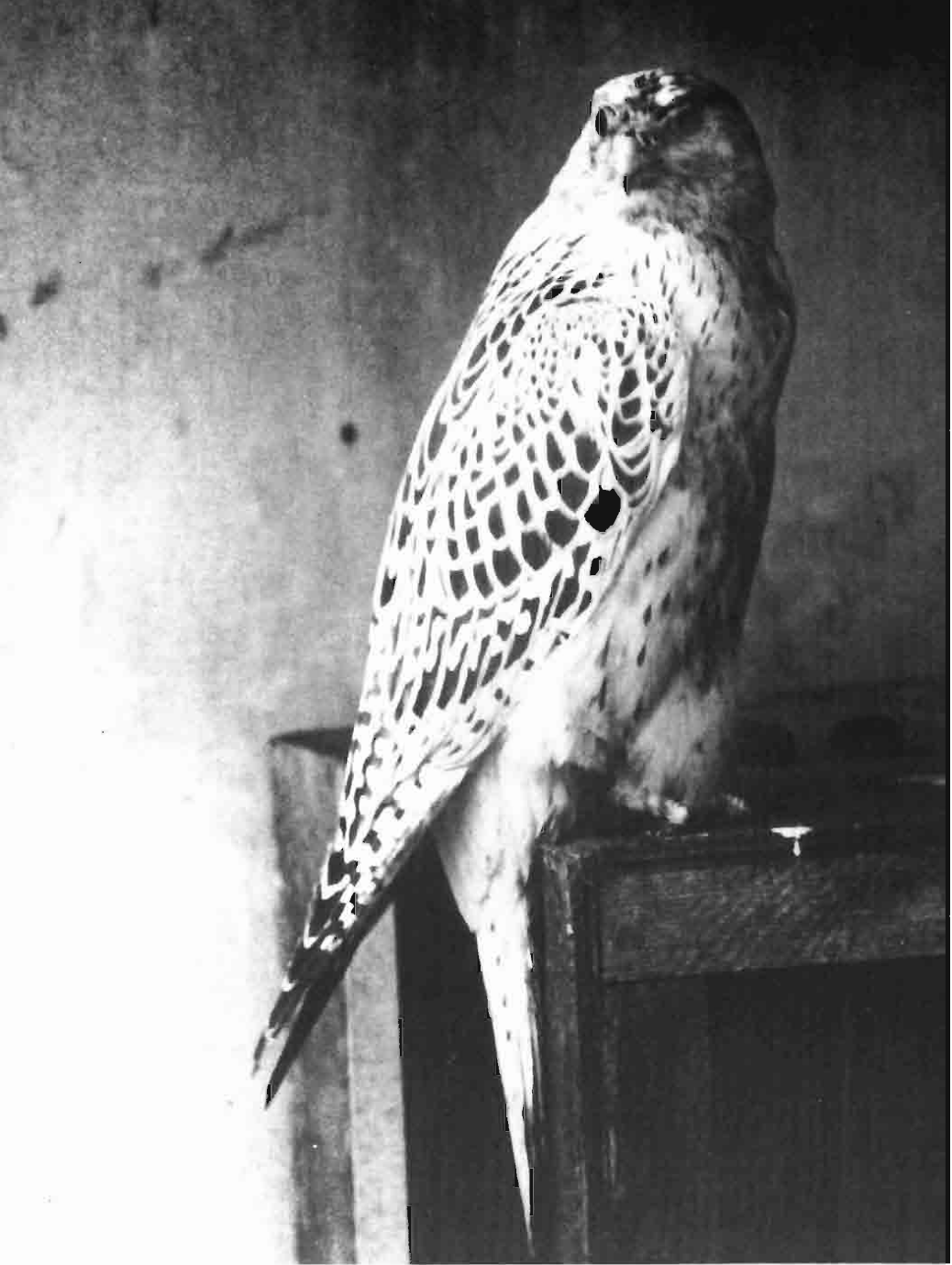


PLATE 31. This female Gyr Falcon landed, exhausted, on BP's Kingsnorth UK drilling rig on 3rd November, 1982 and was taken to Culterty for recuperation. It was released on 15th November but, sadly, was found dead near Rhyndie in April 1983.

Sam M. D. Alexander

by many people. During its stay it frequented the muddy estuaries of both the rivers Garnock and Irvine, most often feeding with Black-headed Gulls. At high water it was occasionally to be found roosting with other gulls on nearby playing fields. The gull was in active moult and was considered to be in first-summer plumage moulting into second-winter plumage. It was noticeably smaller than the Black-headed Gull, being shorter in both body and leg length.

This constitutes the first Scottish record and the sixth for Britain of this highly migratory gull which breeds on the prairies of North America and winters on the Pacific coasts of Central and South America.

D. L. CLUGSTON

Descriptions of Franklin's Gull can be found in *Brit. Birds* 64: 310-313, and Sharrock, J. T. F. & Grant P. J. 1982. *Birds new to Britain and Ireland* Poyser, Calton, pp 166-169.—Eds.

Golden Eagle Alarm Calls

At 0610 hrs on 1 June 1983, in a wood in Deeside, Aberdeenshire, in thick mist, I heard high-pitched calls which at first seemed reminiscent of the alarm call of a hen Red Grouse. A Golden Eagle soon appeared and landed in a tree about 50 m away. It was being mobbed by a crow, and later by two crows, which repeatedly dived through the trees at the eagle and called noisily. The eagle kept up the same high-pitched call that I had heard earlier, a continuous clucking and squawking, almost poultrylike in quality and sometimes resembling bottles being knocked together. I wrote down "goak-goak..." and "cluick-cluick..." These calls were frequently continuous for 10-15 sec. bouts throughout most of the c. 5 min. that the bird was near me. During this time the eagle did not appear to see me and so the alarm was at the crows, not at me. These calls may be those recorded in BWP, Vol. 2, p. 241 as "like loud call of domestic hen" by a sitting hen eagle, but were uttered in alarm and by an eagle perched in the middle of a pine tree. I could not see whether the bird was an adult, but the wood often holds an occupied eagle eyrie.

DAVID JENKINS

Song-fighting Mistle Thrush

During recent years when engaged in bird census in mature pine woods I have several times thought Mistle Thrushes to be ventriloquial when singing out of sight in the canopy. On 9 May 1983, I watched one singing continuously in flight above a tall wood in Glen Tanar, Aberdeenshire, while covering a semi-circle with diameter about 300 m. Circular flights early in the year are mentioned in *The Handbook*, and the species is known to sing on the wing; but song-fighting throughout the breeding season could be regular, perhaps especially when the birds are nesting in tall woods with dense canopies.

DAVID JENKINS

Redwings in a Highland Glen

A regular feature of the bird life of a highland glen is the vast flocks of Redwings which descend to feast on the autumn berry crop, mainly rowan, elder and bird cherry. Since 1976 large numbers of Redwings have been caught in autumn at feeding sites around Drumnadrochit, Glenurquhart, Inverness-shire. The aim of this note is to describe these movements and to compare them with those at coastal bird observatories, as discussed by da Prato *et al* (1980). Much of the published information on Redwing movements is based on data from coastal areas. It would appear, however, that Redwings normally overfly coastal areas in northern Scotland, deliberately heading for the inland glens, and that large numbers land on the coast only under adverse weather conditions.

Table 1. Numbers of Redwings caught in Glenurquhart 1976-1982 in seven day periods

| | October | | | | | November | | |
|------|-----------|-----|-------|-------|-------|----------|------|------------|
| | Sep. 26-2 | 3-9 | 10-17 | 18-24 | 25-31 | 1-7 | 8-14 | 15 onwards |
| 1976 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 228 | 141 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 1977 | 0 | 15 | 32 | 43 | 63 | 26 | 7 | 0 |
| 1978 | 0 | 0 | 192 | - | 0 | 2 | 1 | 20 |
| 1979 | 0 | 2 | 181 | 215 | 18 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1980 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 30 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1981 | 13 | 87 | 22 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1982 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 360 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Redwings arrive in the glens in late September, reach a peak in October, and have mostly gone by mid-November; this pattern is similar to that observed in coastal areas. Table 1 shows how the timing and volume of passage varies from year to year at Drumnadrochit (ringing effort in terms of time, sites, and number of nets used was fairly constant from 1976-82). Although peak passage tends to be between 10th and 24th October there is much annual variation, largely due to weather conditions. Depressions with westerly winds tend to hold up migration, whilst anticyclonic activity and easterly winds encourage onward movement. The weather also affects Redwing numbers but the size of the berry crop has an even greater effect (Table 2). Years with a heavy berry crop result in large numbers of birds being seen and caught in the glen, whereas in poor berry years many fewer are present.

Table 2. Annual totals of Redwings caught in Glenurquhart and state of Rowan berry crops

| | No. caught | Rowan Crop | | No. caught | Rowan Crop |
|------|------------|------------|------|------------|------------|
| 1976 | 393 | Heavy | 1980 | 39 | Poor |
| 1977 | 186 | Poor | 1981 | 127 | Moderate |
| 1978 | 219 | Moderate | 1982 | 398 | Heavy |
| 1979 | 418 | Heavy | | | |

Adults predominate in these movements (Table 3), and only 36.8% of those caught are first year birds (about 1% cannot be aged properly). Da Prato *et al* expressed surprise at the high percentage of adults at Fair Isle. They expected more young birds, arguing that these are more likely to be forced to land by adverse weather conditions. However, as Table 3 shows, Fair Isle does have more young birds than Glenurquhart, and this difference is significant ($\chi^2=4.8$ $p<0.05$).

Table 3. Age ratio of Redwings at Glenurquhart and Fair Isle

| | % adults | % first year | Sample size |
|--------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| Glenurquhart | 62.2 | 36.8 | 1762 |
| Fair Isle* | 58.1 | 41.9 | 776 |

*figures taken from da Prato *et al.* 1980.

Another feature of these movements is that the birds pass through very quickly, with most individuals remaining in the area for less than 24 hours. This assertion is supported by the very low retrap rate from day to day, with only 5 birds of the 1780 handled being caught again on a subsequent day. Also, the birds appear to reach their winter quarters fairly quickly, as witnessed by the capture in Gironde, France on 15 November 1976 of a bird ringed only 3 weeks earlier in Drumnadrochit. There is no evidence that the birds use the same migration route each year. Indeed the recovery in October 1981 at Spurn Point, Humberside, of a bird ringed at Drumnadrochit in October 1979 supports the theory that the route used is variable.

Redwings arriving in Scotland are most likely to originate from Iceland or northern continental Europe. Icelandic Redwings (*T.i.coburni*) can be separated on plumage characteristics (Witherby *et al.* 1943), and only 3 of the 1780 birds caught have been of the Icelandic race. The Drumnadrochit birds are therefore presumed to be largely of more easterly origin; the capture of one ringed as a nestling in the province of Kymi in eastern Finland supports this view. Of the five recoveries to date from continental wintering areas, four were in southwest France/north Spain and one in Portugal; all were between November and February. Only small numbers of Redwings winter locally (usually under 30) and in some years none do. Spring migration takes place in April and early May but numbers are small, rarely exceeding 100, and the birds mostly occur along the moorland edge.

It appears that highland glens provide important refuelling stops for Redwings after their long North Sea crossing. Although many berries are available rowans are most favoured; these are in plentiful supply in the glens in October, whereas in coastal areas they have often already been devoured by the resident birds. The Redwing passage in the glens lasts as long as the rowan berries do and numbers drop rapidly once the crop is exhausted. Other berries are eaten, especially bird cherry early on and elder later, but these are of secondary importance, being used mainly in years of a poor rowan crop. In such years it is suspected (from calls heard at night) that many birds overfly the area, presumably going on to make refuelling stops further south. The pattern of Redwing movements in Glenurquhart, and presumably typical of many highland glens, appears to be one of brief stops for rapid refuelling before the birds continue on their southwestward migration. The movements seen at coastal areas are similar to those found inland, but involve a larger proportion of young birds and more rapid onward passage as weather conditions improve, probably because the available food supplies are smaller there.

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R. L. SWANN

Reviews

Fair Isle, a Photographic History, by George Waterston and Jean Jones; Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1983; 96 pages; 131 monochrome photographs and maps; Hardback £10, Softback £4.95.

George had endless plans and ambitions for Fair Isle: many were fulfilled, but sadly he did not live to see the publication of his album of photographs. He would have been delighted with it! The more I turn the pages, the more I like it, and appreciation is not necessarily dependent on familiarity with the scenes and characters. The text is brief—a short biography of George Waterston and three pages of introduction to the island, while the photographs span over a century of human activity. The earliest is a remarkable record of the wrecked *Lessing* taken in 1868, and the long series on island life and work in the early years of this century is quite fascinating. In later photographs it is remarkable how often that eminently photogenic character George Stout of Field appears! ("Fieldv"—one of George's favourites.) The standard of reproduction is extremely high and there are few errors of any significance. Congratulations to Jean Jones and the publishers.

IAN DURANCE PENNIE

Bird Migration by C. Mead; Newnes Books, Feltham, 1983; 224 pp; 36 col & 30 plain photos; many maps & diagrams; £9.95

Mead's *Bird Migration* packs a lot of up to date information into its text, maps and numerous diagrams. Besides the traditional topics of background history, descriptions of migratory movements and mechanisms of orientation and navigation, this book covers the mechanics and energy of flight and the way that migration is fitted into the life history cycles of breeding and moult, finishing with evolution and ways of studying migration. Mead's scope is world wide and few really good examples are not mentioned somewhere.

The publishers assert that this book is suitable for interested laymen; in fact it is too technical. Even the serious amateur might have difficulty in interpreting some of the diagrams whilst the photographs and maps are very poorly placed in relation to the text—this shows signs of being written hurriedly, with some poor phrasing and failure to use good examples to explain generalisations. Careful arguments sit next to statements like "nature abhors a vacuum", suggesting that the readership was not kept in view consistently. A third of the bibliography is foreign language or difficult to get. The volume of information is too little to be comprehensive whilst too much for a newcomer to grasp the main points easily. Only the most knowledgeable birdwatcher would fail to find much new and interesting material, but I think they would have to be already interested in migration and often need to persevere in digesting the chapters.

CLIFF HENTY

Birds of Ayrshire by Angus Hogg. Glasgow University Press 1983; 81 pp incl. bibliog.; 17 figs; line drgs; £2 (Softback)

The many changes in the Ayrshire populations of both birds and bird-watchers have created a need for a replacement for Richards' 17 year old checklist. This need has now been ably met by a small group of local ornithologists (their names are rather coyly tucked away in the introduction). Within the new checklist, each bird's name is followed by a short group of letters which give an "instant" indication of its current status in the county. This is followed by a more detailed note

which, while concise, is admirably free of confusing abbreviations. While the text is mainly concerned with the period 1966-1982, earlier records are introduced where these throw useful light on population changes. The appearance of the book is enhanced by many drawings by W. R. Brackenridge, A. Dowell, B. C. Forrester and A. J. Kilgour.

Visitors to Ayrshire may wish that a more detailed map of the county had been provided, as a number of the sites mentioned in the text may be difficult to locate. Apart from this quibble, Angus Hogg and his group are to be congratulated on producing a book which will find a valued place on many bookshelves.

R. HISSETT

The Birds of the Balearics by David A. Bannerman and W. Mary Bannerman; Croom Helm, Beckenham, 1983; 230 pages; 12 coloured plates; many line drawings; £29.50.

It would have been very pleasant to accord a fitting tribute to this, the last work of one of Scotland's most notable ornithologists and authors. However, I feel the publisher must take the blame for what is a most disappointing book. The aims of the book are not well defined, and I wonder if it is really necessary to have a species description for each bird when field guides are available. The quality of reproduction of some of the black and white work is dreadful, although the coloured plates are excellent. Information on status appears poor and outdated—it is hard to believe that so little could be written on Marmora's Warbler. Many species appear to be omitted or poorly summarised, e.g. Spoonbill, Cattle Egret, Marsh Sandpiper, and Subalpine Warbler—surely the Grupo Ornithologia Balear has received more recent records from visiting bird-watchers. Historically, the status section is well served up to the early 1970's, and Bannerman's knowledge of migration and Mediterranean birds contributes much to the overall value of the book. However, with the taxonomic list going off the rails at Warblers, and a price tag which seems a bit high, I fear the publisher in his effort to rush into print, must ask himself if this is not a missed opportunity to record properly the end of a glorious era.

ANGUS HOGG

Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa: the Birds of the Western Palearctic, Volume III: Waders to Gulls, edited by Stanley Cramp et al.; Oxford University Press, 1983; 913 pp; 105 colour plates, many drawings, diagrams and maps; £49.50.

The seven volumes of BWP will undoubtedly be the standard work of reference for many decades to come. This volume follows the format established in volumes one and two, and deals with the popular and much studied groups, the waders, skuas and gulls. The standard of presentation is extremely high, with excellent plates and line drawings. The thoroughness of the coverage of European literature on each species is quite remarkable, with over 3000 references cited, including many in journals otherwise unlikely to come to the attention of British ornithologists (such as *Fauna Tadzhikskoy SSR*, *Trudy Bynro Kol'tsevaniya* and *Beitr. Naturk. Forsch. Sudw. Dtl.*). This extremely careful and complete review of the literature makes BWP outstandingly useful to both professional and amateur ornithologist. I found several items of unfamiliar information in the section on my favourite bird the Great Skua, while it was a joy to read in detail about the Sabine's Gull, a species in which I recently developed an interest but had, until now, been unable to find much information. I am sure wader enthusiasts will revel in the detailed sections on species such as Terek Sandpiper and Broad-billed Sandpiper, for which previous English-language accounts have been sparse and superficial.

Many people will no doubt be put off attempting to collect the seven volume series by the high, and ever-increasing, price. In my opinion, volume 3 is good value for money as an account of the biology of Western Palearctic waders, and will no doubt be bought on its own by wader enthusiasts, as well as by those intending to invest in the series. I would level two criticisms. In a laudable attempt to obtain as up-to-date an account as possible, several sections, particularly those on behaviour, are based largely on unpublished observations by research students, rather than on older published material. These naturally carry less conviction than publications by established authorities. It seems strange, for example, to refer to P. G. H. Evans pers. comm. when stating that male and female Kittiwakes defend the nest site, when this is discussed in detail in several papers by J. C. Coulson. My main concern about BWP is that many statements are presented as facts about a species, though in the original publications these may have been presented with certain qualifications. Studies based on years of detailed research are not readily distinguished from short notes resulting from casual observations. While BWP is undoubtedly an outstanding achievement, I hope ornithologists will refer to the original references it cites, where data are put in context.

R. W. FURNESS

Flight of the Storm Petrel by R. M. Lockley; David & Charles, 1983; 176 pp; 80 line drgs & maps; £7.95.

A rather anecdotal survey of the world's small storm-petrels. The author, now in his 80th year, has reflected on, and largely reproduced, his earlier work with Storm, Madeiran and Leach's Petrels and added some new accounts of several species encountered on his travels in the southern hemisphere. This is neither a scientific treatise nor an exposition of new biological data on the group as a whole. Information is spread widely throughout the text in variable quantities and would have been better summarised or tabulated in most cases. Treatment of each species is annoyingly unmethodical and occasionally misleading—for example Storm Petrels on the Isle of May were not responding to tape lures from their nest holes, as is stated. However despite the numerous digressions and reminiscences, birdwatchers in general will enjoy reading about this most interesting and unknowable group of species.

B. ZONFRILLO

Seabirds: an illustrated guide by Robin Harrison; Croom Helm, London, 1983; 448 pages; 88 plates, 31 figures, 312 maps. £15.95.

This is basically a massive twitcher's manual the size of a small handbook based upon seven years' wandering round the world with a sketchbook chatting to the natives; the author does not appear to read much. It is presented in the fashionable manner, combining maximum convenience to the publisher with maximum bother to the reader, as three repetitive sections of annotated illustrations, systematic descriptions, and maps, and is almost entirely concerned with identification. In general the text is thorough and orthodox but in common with the illustrations lacks most of those important little details to which Roger Peterson used to point with arrows. A few of the less fortunate recent taxonomic innovations have also been accepted uncritically, although the forms concerned are usually dealt with adequately under other headings. It is approximately twice as heavy, complicated, accurate, costly and useful as its nearest rival, and should do much to help raise standards of identification.

W. R. P. BOURNE

Estimating Numbers of Terrestrial Birds edited by C. J. Ralph and J. M. Scott. Studies in Avian Biology No. 6, Cooper Ornithological Society, 1981; 640 pages; numerous black-and-white diagrams; £15.20 (available from SOC Bird Bookshop, Edinburgh).

This is a report on an international symposium which attracted 82 main papers, dealing largely with the methodologies (and problems thereof) currently employed in counting terrestrial birds, particularly passerines. The proceedings are divided into 14 sections of which 10 are academic in nature; the remainder introduce and summarize the aims and achievements of the symposium, not the least of which was to produce an estimated 1550 references. For the European fieldworker and analyst familiar with the major references the only new universally-applicable findings are in the sections dealing with observer variability, sampling design and data analysis, although some stimulating ideas are also to be found amongst the "overviews" and in the appendices on the needs for standardized terminology, methodologies and a manual of counting methods.

For a book which is a major contribution towards improved accuracy in bird counting the proceedings are affordable at £15.20 in softback, but since they deal purely with methodology and largely with non-Palaearctic species, they will probably appeal only to serious students of songbird counting (to whom they must be recommended) and not to British birders in general.

TOM W. DOUGALL

The Shelduck : a study in behavioural ecology by I. J. Patterson; C.U.P., 1982; 276 pages; 18 drawings; 6 plain photos; many tables & graphs. £27.50.

This book is about Shelduck societies, considered as both behavioural and ecological units. It describes social behaviour in non-breeding flocks and the territorial system, passes through the social interactions of prospecting for nest-sites to a description of the behaviour and ecology of breeding, and finishes by considering recruitment to and limitation of Shelduck populations. It is largely concerned with the functional significance of the observed behaviour, that is with the selective forces that have moulded behaviour during evolution.

Unfortunately, most studies of Shelduck have been performed at large breeding concentrations. Pienkowski and Evans have recently shown that these are not self-sustaining but depend for their continued existence on immigration from populations breeding in more dispersed conditions. They have pointed out that this implies that Shelduck observed in the concentrations are likely to behave in ways that are appropriate under dispersed conditions (in which their ancestors lived) but are inappropriate in concentrated populations. Thus questions of evolution and function may not be answerable from studies of such concentrations. It is regrettable that Patterson has not fully integrated this and other results of Pienkowski and Evans into his book.

J. J. D. GREFNWOOD

The Wildfowl of Britain and Europe by Malcolm Ogilvie, illustrated by N. W. Cusa and Peter Scott; Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1982; 84 pp; 50 colour plates; £6.95.

This book is divided into two sections—a general introduction to wildfowl, which gives a very basic insight into their characteristics and biology, and a series of plates with short notes on the distribution, num-

bers and identification of individual species. The plates are taken directly from *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* (BWP) but their high quality is marred by the frequent errors (noted on 14 of the 50 plates) between caption numbers on the plates and the reference in the species descriptions, and the limited amount of information in the text. Distribution maps would also have been helpful. Other than the reference to the BWP there is unfortunately no bibliography. One must conclude that the publishers are trying to boost their earnings from the BWP by attempting to enter a wider market. The price of the book may encourage its sale but I would recommend the intending purchaser to examine other books on wildfowl on the market at the present time which provide more detail before considering this book for their library.

ALLAN W. BROWN

Also received

Ornithologische Beringungsstationen in Europa by Hans Bub; Dachverbandes Deutscher Avifaunisten, Germany, 1983; 190 pp; 85 monochrome photos; DM 20 (S). German text with English summaries.

Perspectives in Ornithology by A. H. Brush & G. A. Clark, Jr (eds); Cambridge University Press, 1983; 560 pp; line drgs, tables & graphs; £20.

The 'British Birds' Mystery Photographs Book by J. T. R. Sharrock; British Birds Ltd., 1983; 32 pp; 40 plain photos; £4.80 (S).

The Birds of Runde and the neighbouring islands by R. Engvik; Sunnmorsposten, Norway, 1983; 100 pp; 80 col & 37 plain photos; NOK 69 (S). Norwegian, English and German text.

Birds of Prey of Britain and Europe by I. Wallace. Illustrated by I. Willis; Oxford University Press, 1983; 86 pp; incl 33 pp col plates; £6.95.

Bliki, Timarit um Flugá; Icelandic Museum of Natural History, No. 1, May 1983; 55 pp; 15 plain plates; maps; this new bird journal will appear at least once a year; Icelandic text with English summaries.

PAPERS OF SCOTTISH INTEREST, mainly on the status and distribution of birds, are listed here. Some are published and others are unpublished. Some biological studies are excluded, as are references from the widely available journals **British Birds**, **Bird Study**, **Ringing and Migration**, and **Ibis**. Most items listed are available for reference in the Waterston Library. The librarian welcomes copies of work on any aspect of ornithology.

Red-throated Divers breeding on Uist in 1982. (3 pp). D. J. R. Counsell 1983. *Army Bird Watching Society Bulletin* no. 1/83.

Seasonal changes in the hunting behaviour of Kestrels. A. Village, 1983. *Ardea* 71: 117-124. This is a study in south Scotland.

Modelling annual changes in numbers of breeding Fulmars at a colony in Orkney, J. C. Ollason & G. M. Dunnet 1983. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 52: 185-198.

Hebridean Naturalist no. 7 (75 pp). J. A. Crummy (ed) 1983. Journal of the Western Isles Natural History Society, includes 'A seabird survey of the Western Isles in 1977', notes on colonies of Cormorants and of Rock Doves, and 'Birds of the Outer Hebrides in 1982'. £2.25 post free from SOC Bird Bookshop.

Seabird Report for 1977 to 1981. vol. 6. (134 pp). P. G. H. Evans & T. R. Birkhead (eds) 1982. Includes eight papers on Scottish seabirds (listed separately below) and an obituary of George Waterston.

The birds of Boreray, St Kilda. N. Duncan, K. Taylor, S. Wanless & V. Wood 1982. *Seabird Report* 6: 18-25.

Breeding Great and Arctic Skuas in Scotland in 1974-75. M. J. Everett 1982. *Seabird Report* 6: 50-58.

- Leach's Petrels present on Ramna Stacks, Shetland. J. A. Fowler 1982. *Seabird Report* 6 : 93.
- Population, breeding biology and diets of seabirds on Foula in 1980. R. W. Furness 1982. *Seabird Report* 6 : 5-12.
- Methods used to census skua colonies. R. W. Furness 1982. *Seabird Report* 6 : 44-47.
- Breeding seabird populations in the coastal regions of Yell Sound [Shetland]. D. A. Hill & J. A. Fowler 1982. *Seabird Report* 6 : 13-17.
- Seabird attendance at the Isle of May, Fife, 1-6 April 1979. M. Sharp 1982. *Seabird Report* 6 : 39-43.
- Shiant Razorbills: Movements, first year survival, and age of first return. D. J. Steventon 1982. *Seabird Report* : 6 : 105-109. A study based on 6000 Razorbills ringed on the Shiant Islands, Outer Hebrides.
- Breeding Terns in Britain and Ireland, 1975-79. G. J. Thomas 1982. *Seabird Report* 6 : 59-69. Includes separate counts for Scotland and its main colonies.
- Clyde Bird Report for 1981* no. 7. (75 pp). I. P. Gibson (ed) 1983. Includes an article by E. J. Maguire on autumn migration in Sanda in 1981 and on Storm Petrels at Sanda. £1.35 post free from Renfrew District Council Museums Service, High Street, Paisley PA1 2BA.

NOTICES

Eiders and Mussels The problem of Eiders eating "cultivated" mussels at West Coast mussel farms is currently being investigated by Aberdeen University. In order to trace Eider movements a number of ducks have been marked with coloured tags (yellow, white or green) on their wings. Anyone sighting a tagged bird is asked to report the location, date and colour of tag to **Colin A. Galbraith, 4 Achagoil, Minard, Inveraray, Argyll.**

Gull movements As part of a study of the movements of Black-headed and Common Gulls in North East England birds have been marked with either wing tags (bearing an identifying letter and number) or coloured leg rings. Anyone sighting a gull marked in this way is asked to note the following details: (1) colour(s) of tags or rings (2) number engraved on tag (3) date & place (4) age of bird (adult or immature), and to forward this information to **Gabriela MacKinnon, University of Durham, Dept. of Zoology, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE.**

Hebridean Natural Environment Project An attempt is currently being made to build up a complete data-bank for the Outer Hebrides as part of a resource centre available for use by educational groups and interested individuals. Material will be collected from a wide diversity of scientific publications and will be constantly updated. Members interested in either contributing to or making use of this data-bank are invited to contact **Dr F. R. Rennie, Hebrides Study Centre, Glen House Mill, Shawbost, Isle of Lewis.**

Conference The British Trust for Ornithology is to hold a "Birds of Prey" Birdwatchers' Conference at the Swanwick Conference Centre, Derbyshire, from 17-19 February 1984. Eight of the twelve speakers are SOC members and many of the lectures cover work carried out in Scotland. Further information can be obtained from the BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NR.

Winter Atlas

Two years of fieldwork have been completed for the BTO/IWC Winter Atlas and this winter is the third and final one. The fieldwork is based on the 10 km squares of the National Grid and records are wanted from 12th November 1983 to 29th February 1984. The recording is very simple: observers should note how many of each species they see (or hear) and how long they spend in the field. These counts will be used to give a relative abundance figure for each species in each square, and the final maps will therefore show where each species is commoner and where it is scarcer. The aim is to get at least one card, preferably from a count of at least six hours, from each 10 km square in Britain and Ireland. After two winters, just over 80% have reached this target, with a further 10% having received visits of at least one hour. This is a considerable achievement but there remains a lot to do; about 300 squares have not been visited at all and about 400 more for less than six hours.

We do not just want counts from squares that have not yet been covered; repeat visits are also valuable. As will have been obvious, the first two winters of the survey have been very different, one very cold and the other very mild. The response to the survey during these years has been good enough to show any differences in bird distribution between them. (Preliminary indications are that the differences for many species are fairly minor.) There are also enough data to give indications of any changes during the course of a single winter, e.g. the Redwing changes during 1981/82 illustrated on the front of last winter's Instructions leaflet, which showed that there were fewer birds after Christmas than before, although the spatial distribution remained much the same. Such supplementary maps would not be possible without regular counts from the same squares throughout the winter. (One visit to a square every 2 or 3 weeks is very adequate for this.) Therefore nobody need feel left out.

Total coverage has not been evenly spread. Nearly everywhere has a few blank squares but the main areas needing more visits are north-west Scotland and parts of Ireland and we shall be making a special effort to cover as many of these as possible this winter. We hope that many people will be able to get to some as yet uncovered squares. A map of these and a full list were published in the supplement to the September issue of BTO News, which is available from local organisers, the BTO or the SOC office. However, in order to ensure the most efficient use of everybody's time, do please contact the local organiser before you visit an area, for an up-to-date report. Also, and this is very important, please tell him/her immediately afterwards what you were able to do, so that records can be updated.

There is a lot to do but with your help we can complete the job. With the final result we shall certainly know a vast amount more about birds in winter than we do now.

PETER LACK

LETTER

Dear Editor,—

Brazil and Spray (*Scot. Birds* 12: 226) say that evidence from Scotland suggests that the clutch size figures given in Vol. 1 of *Birds of the Western Palaearctic* for the Whooper Swan in Iceland are too low. This is indeed likely to be so if

those who collected the data summarised in B.W.P. were unaware of the common Icelandic practice of taking a few eggs from the nests of ducks, geese and swans, either to eat or to rear the young. A great many clutch records from Iceland are faulty for this reason.

R. S. R. FITTER



PALLAS'S WARBLER *B. Zonfrillo*

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club

REPORT OF COUNCIL

For Year to 30 June 1983

General The past year has been one of change; in particular change in the financial position of the club, the editor of *Scottish Birds*, and the staff at 21 Regent Terrace. Full details of these and other matters which have been dealt with by your council and its committees are reported below. March 1986 will mark the jubilee of the foundation of our club and council has already formed a golden jubilee committee to consider and plan ways of commemorating this anniversary.

Membership On 30 June 1983 the club had 2765 members. This shows a net decrease of 171 from last year, or 6% in a year when subscriptions were increased. A loss of around 10% is more usual in such a year and a smaller than average loss is an encouraging sign for the future. 316 new members joined, 11 fewer than last year; 258 were adults, 46 juniors and 12 nominated for family membership. 7 existing members transferred to life membership and two were elected to honorary membership. 322 paid the reduced rate for pensioners. In the table, family members are counted as two people; nominated children pay no subscription.

| Year to 30 June | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Honorary | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Life | 49 | 51 | 58 | 62 | 84 | 91 |
| Ordinary | 2572 | 2357 | 2387 | 2555 | 2570 | 2420 |
| Junior | 271 | 211 | 208 | 211 | 195 | 181 |
| Nominated children | 87 | 82 | 74 | 80 | 82 | 66 |
| | <u>2980</u> | <u>2702</u> | <u>2732</u> | <u>2914</u> | <u>2936</u> | <u>2765</u> |
| | +34 | -278 | +30 | +182 | +22 | -171 |

Covenants The revenue from covenants naturally increased with the higher subscription rates, and emphasises their considerable value to club funds. The number of covenants increased from 717 to 822 representing 933 members.

Honorary members Council conferred honorary membership on two members; Sandy Anderson for his long service to the club in the Aberdeen area, and Mrs Ruby Smillie on her retirement as membership secretary for over 20 years.

Finance This has been an encouraging year with income exceeding expenditure by £9000. Income from subscriptions and covenants was up, and the bookshop produced a greater surplus than had been anticipated. The annual raffle brought in more than last year and, although the sale of *Scottish Birds* was less, the actual cost of production was reduced although this year no index was published.

George Waterston Memorial Fund During the year council made a grant of £750 from this fund to the Isle of May Bird Observatory Committee towards the cost of repairing traps on the island. The hides donated to the RSPB and SWT were both formally opened by Mrs Irene Waterston at functions arranged by those organisations. Members have already visited them and commented on the pleasure these new hides have given to them and other visiting birdwatchers. A report was published in *Scottish Birds* 12: 139.

Branches The usual full series of lectures took place at our 13 branches during the winter, and both winter and summer excursions were arranged locally. Council once again records its appreciation to the speakers who gave their time to lecture, and to those members who led excursions in many parts of the country. We much appreciate the time they spend helping other club members, and in particular those who have recently joined or are new to birdwatching. Their contribution goes a long way to foster the spirit of friendliness which characterises SOC activities.

Annual conference The 35th annual conference, and 46th annual general meeting, was once again held at the Marine Hotel, North Berwick. It was again fully subscribed with over 300 members and friends attending at some time during the weekend. An account was published in *Scottish Birds* 12: 169.

Scottish Birds and the Scottish Bird Report At the 1982 annual general meeting it was announced that Miss Valerie Thom had agreed to take over as editor of *Scottish Birds*, a post which she had held in a temporary capacity as chairman of the editorial committee since the summer of that year. This committee was enlarged during the year when Mr Donald Smith agreed to become its photographic advisor and Dr Iain Taylor agreed to become a member. Mr Stan da Prato is to edit the Index to Volume 12, and suitable arrangements have been made for material to reach him in the Falkland Islands where he is at present in a temporary teaching job. During the year four issues of the journal were published with 140 pages of text and 16 plates.

Problems with preparation of the 1981 Scottish Bird Report delayed publication until March 1983. Its editor has put forward proposals to council regarding the future editing of the report in an endeavour to avoid this delay. He would edit the SBR with three assistants, and these four, together with two or three others, would constitute a re-formed Scottish Bird Records Committee as there is now a need for Scottish records to be examined in Scotland. Approval of these proposals has been given in principle, but details are still being considered by council.

Research and fieldwork Various research projects have been supported by members during the year, including the final summer of the Wader Breeding Survey organised in Scotland by Hector Galbraith and Bob Furness, and the BTO/Wildfowl Trust 1983 Mute Swan Survey for which the Scottish organisers are Allan and Lyndesay Brown. Support was also given during the second year of the three year Winter Atlas Survey organised by the BTO, and to its Common Bird Census and Nest Record Scheme. The RSPB beached bird survey and the Wildfowl Trust's goose and winter wildfowl counts continue to receive help. Lists of Scottish local organisers for the principal surveys and counts, and the SOC Local Recorders for the SBR, are published in *Scottish Birds*. Council records its appreciation to all these members for their dedication and hard work, and in particular to those who take on the work involved in organising a national survey.

Conservation (i) Members learned that the application to develop skiing facilities in the Cairngorms had been turned down by the Secretary of State for Scotland. (ii) A letter was sent to the Minister responsible for the Department of the Environment expressing concern that the appointment of the new inspector under the 1982 Wildlife and Countryside Act should in any way be linked with the British Field Sports Society. A reply had been received which did not entirely satisfy your council, and the matter had been reported to the 1982 annual general meeting. Members had supported council's action, and agreed that the situation should be reviewed when the inspector had been in office for a year. (iii) Letters had also been sent to the Shetland Islands Council. One expressed concern at the proposed mink farm on the island of Trondra, and another on aspects of consultation between the SIC and conservation organisations. This was with particular regard to the award of grants made under the Shetland Islands 10 Year Plan for Agriculture for schemes which might conflict with conservation interests. (iv) A letter had been sent to the Lothian Regional Council expressing concern at the extension of fishing, with the consequent disturbance to roosting geese, in the West Water Reservoir, Peeblesshire, which comes under that Region's jurisdiction. While all three letters had been acknowledged, no decisions had been reached or conveyed to us.

Endowment Fund From the interest in this fund, which was increased substantially by the Gunn bequest reported last year, almost £2000 was given in grants to assist ornithological research. Applications for grants are considered by the research committee, which then makes recommendations to council. The number of applications has been increasing, and during the year Hector Galbraith, John Love and Mick Marquiss accepted an invitation to join the committee and assist with this task. The council records its appreciation to Dr Iain Taylor and his research committee for their work in preparing recommendations for grant, which are put to council for a decision at its meeting in March. Short reports are required from all recipients of a grant; those for 1982 were published in *Scottish Birds* 12:195.

This year 17 applications were received and 11 grants, totalling £1920, were awarded. The largest sum, £500, was given to the Wader Study Group towards the costs of an important survey to establish a baseline for wader populations in the Western Isles, prior to implementation of the

Integrated Development Plan for the islands. The grants awarded for specific projects were : £200 to Ron Summers for further work on winter wader populations in Orkney; £200 to Chris Spray for work on Mute Swan movements in east Scotland; £150 to Graham Rebecca for his continuing study of Merlins in Grampian Region; £75 to Brian Etheridge towards his work on breeding waders in a specific area of the Outer Hebrides, which complements the work of the WSG; £75 to Bob Swann and Andrew Ramsay for their long-term seabird studies on Canna; £50 to Bob Swann for a Buzzard survey in Glenurquhart; £50 to Iain Gibson for his study of Yellow Wagtails in the Clyde area; £50 to Mike Nicoll for continuing Heron studies in east Scotland; and £40 to Sandy Payne for work on the breeding success of Golden Eagles in Grampian and east Tayside. The Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Group received a grant of £200 towards its summer study of this species; when the Group's 1983 expedition had to be postponed, authority was given for the grant to be retained for use in 1984, failing which it would be refunded. The other grants given were £250 towards the BTO's Winter Atlas costs (which it is understood will be spent in Scotland), and £80 to the Wader Breeding Survey, a club-supported project now in its final year of field-work.

Waterston Library Sums received from the sale of books bequeathed to the club but already in the library, together with the allocation from general funds, enabled the programme of binding current and back numbers of journals to continue, as well as the purchase of important new books. Council records its gratitude to donors of books and journals, which are either taken into the library or sold in the interest of maintaining the Waterston Library collection and its high reputation as a source of ornithological reference.

Bookshop Sales of £125,000 showed an increase of 40% over last year. This was largely due to the publication of three high priced good selling books. We are indebted to the Wild Bird Society of Japan for granting us the European selling rights of the English edition of *Birds of Japan* for the first year of its publication. Once again a selection of books was taken to the BTO annual conference at Swanwick, and council acknowledges this invitation with gratitude. A large number of overseas visitors, and customers, called into the bookshop during the year; its reputation for service is much appreciated judging by letters and comments received. Special credit must be paid to the members of the bookshop staff who, under considerable pressure and shortage of staff during the summer of 1982, managed to maintain the output of extra sales and this service to customers.

Scottish Centre 21 Regent Terrace continued to attract birdwatchers visiting Scotland; several touring groups were welcomed during the year in addition to the usual postal enquiries. Meetings of council and its committees were held in the building, as were those of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust and the Isle of May Bird Observatory and Field Station committees. The Edinburgh branch held its Discussion Group and Library Evening meetings in the Centre during the winter.

Club representation Three members continued to represent the club on outside committees, for which council records its thanks. Bede Pounder is a member of the Duck Working Group of the International Wildfowl Research Bureau, and Frank Hamilton and Dr Derek Langslow are members of the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation.

Staff This year has seen a comparatively large change in the staff. Miss Maureen Doran was welcomed in October 1982 as the new Bookshop Manager and Assistant Secretary. At the end of May 1983, Mrs Ruby Smillie retired after more than 20 years service to the club; reference to

this was made in *Scottish Birds* 12: 173 and in the autumn 1983 journal when notice about her honorary membership and retiral party was given. In this report council records its appreciation for all her work and dedication to many aspects of the club's affairs, with gratitude. We were very fortunate in the appointment of Miss Pat Webster as membership secretary in her place, bringing experience in this field from similar work with the Scottish Wildlife Trust for some years in the late 1970s. Mr Alasdair MacKay, who was on the part-time staff, left at the end of April 1983 with our good wishes for the future.

In the bookshop Mrs Hetty Harper retired in May 1983 after over eight years service. While wishing her well in 'retirement', council records its thanks to her for her service to the club, and to the bookshop and its customers in particular. During the summer of 1983, Mr Peter Bell, a club member, worked full-time from April until late August, and Mrs Betty Bellamy, also a club member, joined the part-time staff of the bookshop in May 1983. We welcome them both.

Acknowledgments The annual report of council always ends with a note of thanks to many members who give so much of their time to serve on committees of the club and its branches, lead excursions, arrange meetings, compile records, organize surveys, and help in many other ways to ensure the continued success of the club. This sincerely expressed appreciation to club members is linked with our thanks to all the members of staff who have served the club cheerfully and unstintingly over the past years. We offer our good wishes to those who have left and a warm welcome to those who have joined us.

For the Council,
IVAN T. DRAPER, President

THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Revenue Account for year ended 30 June 1983

| | Year to 30/6/83 | Year to 30/6/82 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Subscriptions, including transfer from Life | | |
| Membership Fund | £18096 | £12963 |
| Income Tax on Covenanted Subscriptions | 2234 | 1750 |
| Dividends and Interest (Gross) | 785 | 793 |
| Gross surplus on Bookshop (sales £125138)* | 30416 | 22036 |
| Advertising Revenue—"Scottish Birds" | 1341 | 1501 |
| Sale of "Scottish Birds" | 768 | 877 |
| Sundry Sales | 8 | 50 |
| Donations | 262 | 150 |
| Raffle | 802 | 667 |
| | <u>£54712</u> | <u>£40787</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Branch Expenses including lectures | £1878 | £1628 |
| Travel Expenses for council members and delegates to conferences | 579 | 896 |
| Secretarial and editorial expenses | 29436 | 27694 |
| Office Expenses | 3329 | 3071 |
| Scottish Centre for Ornithology & Bird Protection | 3435 | 3931 |
| Library books and binding | 200 | 251 |
| Publishing "Scottish Birds" | 5782 | 6226 |
| Publishing 1981 Scottish Bird Report | 737 | 760 |
| Expenses in production of 1981 SBR | £110 | |
| Less contribution from "Scottish Birds" Appeal Fund | £110 | |
| | <u>£110</u> | |

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Loss on conference | 110 | 117 |
| Subscriptions to other Societies | 100 | 85 |
| V.A.T. not reclaimable | 84 | 68 |
| | <u>45670</u> | <u>44727</u> |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | 9042 | (3940) |
| | <u>£54712</u> | <u>£40787</u> |

*This does not take account of salaries for bookshop staff, or other overheads.

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 1983

| | Year to 30/6/83 | Year to 30/6/82 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| FUNDS OF THE CLUB | | |
| Accumulated surplus from previous year | £7167 | £11107 |
| Add surplus for year | 9042 | (3940) |
| | <u>16209</u> | <u>7167</u> |
| Life Membership Fund | 6093 | 6019 |
| "Scottish Birds" Appeal Fund | 1134 | 1244 |
| Library Fund | 450 | 685 |
| George Waterston Memorial Fund | 1917 | 5052 |
| | <u>£25803</u> | <u>£20167</u> |
| REPRESENTED BY | | |
| Cash in hand and at Bank | £1879 | £1464 |
| Dunfermline Building Society shares | 4429 | 5861 |
| Bookshop Stock | 23368 | 21167 |
| Tie badge and car sticker stock | 466 | 545 |
| Debts due to Club | 7228 | 3891 |
| Investments at cost as below | 2506 | 2506 |
| | <u>39876</u> | <u>35434</u> |
| <i>Less</i> | | |
| Subscriptions paid in advance | £50 | 109 |
| Debts due by Club | 13153 | 14128 |
| Due to Endowment Funds | 370 | 1030 |
| Grant allocated from George Waterston Memorial Fund not yet taken up | 500 | — |
| | <u>14073</u> | <u>15267</u> |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | <u>£25803</u> | <u>£20167</u> |
| Investments as at 30 June 1983 | | |
| | Market value | At cost |
| Safeguard Industrial Investments : | | At cost |
| 875 shares of 25p each | £1164 | £508 |
| £2100 - 10% Exchequer Stock 1983 | 2100 | 1998 |
| | <u>£3264</u> | <u>£2506</u> |

Endowment Fund

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

Revenue Account for year ended 30 June 1983

| | | Year to 30/6/83 | Year to 30/6/82 |
|--|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Interest and Dividends received (gross) | £1647 | £1537 | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Grants as detailed in Report of Council | 1920 | 1665 | |
| Excess of expenditure for year | <u>£273</u> | <u>£128</u> | |

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 1983

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Endowment Fund as at 30/6/82 | £11711 | £6061 |
| Add Legacy received during year | 100 | 5650 |
| | <u>11811</u> | <u>11711</u> |
| Accumulated revenue as at 30/6/82 | 2564 | 2692 |
| General No. 2 Account | 9972 | 10055 |
| | <u>24347</u> | <u>24458</u> |
| Less Excess of Expenditure for year | 273 | 128 |
| | <u>£24074</u> | <u>£24330</u> |
| Made up of : | | |
| Investments at cost as below | £3063 | £3063 |
| Dunfermline Building Society Capital Account ... | 6907 | 6907 |
| General No. 1 Account | 4504 | 3677 |
| General No. 2 Account | 9520 | 9853 |
| Due by Club's general funds | 470 | 1030 |
| | <u>24464</u> | <u>24530</u> |
| Less Grants allocated but not yet paid | 390 | 200 |
| | <u>£24074</u> | <u>£24330</u> |

Investments as at 30 June 1983

| | Market value | At cost | At cost |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| £1220 - 9¼% Treasury Stock 1983 ... | £1220 | £1140 | £1140 |
| £352 - British Printing & Communication | | | |
| 7¼% Non Cumulative Preferences Shares £1 | 243 | 353 | 353 |
| 500 St Andrew Trust Ordinary 25p ... | 1225 | 570 | 570 |
| 1952 M & G Equity Investment for Charities | 4156 | 1000 | 1000 |
| | <u>£6844</u> | <u>£3063</u> | <u>£3063</u> |

EDINBURGH, 6th September, 1983.—I have audited the foregoing Revenue Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1983 and the Balance Sheets at that date. I have accepted as correct subscriptions and other receipts shown as received in the books, the value placed on the bookshop stock and the amounts due by debtors and to creditors. Subject to the foregoing, I certify that in my opinion the accounts are correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

(Signed) ROBERT CAVEN,
Chartered Accountant.

COUNCIL AND OFFICIALS OF THE CLUB FOR SESSION 47

Hon. Presidents Sir Charles G. Connell WS, LL D, FRSE; Sir Arthur B. Duncan; W. J. Eggeling, CBE, BSc, PhD, FRSE; Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards CBE, LL D, MA, D Sc, D Univ, FRS, FRSC, FRSE, F I Biol.

President Dr Ivan T. Draper

Vice-President John M. S. Arnott.

Law Agent D. G. Andrew WS.

Editor Miss V. M. Thom.

Hon. Treasurer and Librarian W. G. Harper.

Council (elected at AGM) R. A. Broad, A. W. Brown, Dr D. M. Bryant, D. L. Clugston, R. W. Forrester, Dr J. J. D. Greenwood, Dr R. Hissett, M. B. Ross, B. J. Stewart, Dr I. R. Taylor. **Young members** (elected by Council) I. Macleod and A. Wood.

Branch Representatives (elected by their Branch) B. J. Stewart (Aberdeen); Dr R. Hissett (Ayr); M. B. Ross (Borders); R. T. Smith (Dumfries); Dr K. M. Watson (Dundee); P. R. G. Marriott (Edinburgh); Dr J. T. Knowler (Glasgow); R. A. Broad (Inverness); P. K. Kinnear (St Andrews); C. E. Barth (Stirling).

STAFF

Secretary and Treasurer Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe (to 31.12.83) J. C. Davies (from 1.1.84).

Bookshop Manager, Assistant Secretary and Business Editor Miss M. R. Doran.

Membership Secretary Miss P. J. Webster.

Bookshop and Clerical Mrs D. J. Ridley, Mrs H. Paterson, Miss I. R. MacLenann.

BRANCH OFFICE-BEARERS

Aberdeen Chairman, S. M. D. Alexander; Vice-Chairman, L. Steele; Secretary, D. J. Bain; Committee, S. T. Buckland, A. Duncan, J. A. England, Miss M. C. Hartnoll, W. G. D. Henrickson.

Ayr Chairman, Dr R. Hissett; Vice-Chairman, —————; Secretary, B. C. Forrester; Committee, Mrs J. Burton, Mrs E. M. Hissett, Major N. A. D. McCance, G. Riddle.

Borders Chairman and Secretary, M. B. Ross; Vice-Chairman, A. J. Smith; Committee, A. Buckham, T. D. Dobson, R. D. Murray, Mrs E. Ross.

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SCOTTISH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

This re-formed committee will start operating from 1 January 1984, and will be responsible for checking all records of species that are rare in Scotland but are not on the BBRC rarities list. Roy Dennis will chair the committee, the other members of which are to be Roger Broad, Alan Brown (Longniddry), Pete Ellis, Angus Hogg, Brian Marshall and Bernard Zonfrillo. One of the first tasks of the committee will be to draw up a list of "Scottish semi-rarities" for the benefit of local recorders.

LOCAL RECORDER

Please note the following changes :

East Lothian A. Brown, 23 Kings Court, Longniddry, East Lothian. He would welcome records sent to him either monthly or quarterly.

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND SOUND ARCHIVE

A suggestion was made at the council meeting in March that the club should maintain a collection of photographs, tapes and slides in the

Waterston Library for use by members. This material would be properly catalogued and lists made available to branch secretaries. Any members of the club prepared to donate items suitable for the collection are asked to forward them to the secretary at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT. The collection would become an integral part of the Waterston Library.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

IMPORTANT NOTICE Change of venue Tuesday meetings from 7 February 1984 will be held in the Heriot-Watt building, Chambers Street (opposite the Royal Scottish Museum).

Trip to Majorca 28 April-12 May 1984. Details from Peter Marriott (031 556 4104). Approx. cost £322.

Recent Reports

These notes include unchecked reports and are not intended as a permanent record, nor will they be indexed. Please send reports to Pete Ellis, 17 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh via local recorders, at the end of March, June, September and December. The period July to September is covered here.

The wet spring was followed by a very dry summer and this variable weather affected the breeding success of several raptors. **Golden eagles** generally had a poor season although those in the west fared slightly better than eastern pairs. **Peregrines** in the north and east suffered from the bad spring weather but this had little effect on central and southern pairs, for which 1983 was unfortunately the worst year on record for nest robberies, with at least 46 nests believed robbed. **Merlins** showed a mixed picture of success but site occupation appeared to be particularly low in the north east.

Birders interested in scarce and rare migrants seem to be generally out of luck this year. Shetland remained consistent and followed one of its worst ever springs for grounded migrants with one of its worst ever autumns; however there were one or two bright spots to the autumn and some exceptional birds.

In August and September a series of deep depressions crossed the Atlantic and produced some notable bird movements.

A **great shearwater** was off Balranald on 31 July and large numbers of **sooty shearwaters** appeared from mid-August onwards, with 320 seen passing Papa Westray, and a flock of 2,300 in the Moray Firth in mid-September. Six **Manx shearwaters** were found blown inland in the Highlands and single **Balearic shearwaters** (*P. p. mauretanicus*) passed Turnberry on 3rd and 19th September. 34 **Leach's petrels** passed Turnberry on 5th September and one was off Barns Ness on 29th. During August, **pomarine skuas** were seen at many sea watching points, the largest number being 7 off Hound Point in the Firth of Forth, and 45 **long-tailed skuas** passed Papa Westray.

Pink-footed geese arrived early at Loch Ken, with 54 on 24th August. Unusual ducks included a **garganey** at Drem in August, a **blue-winged teal** on Unst in September, and a **ring-necked duck** in Shetland in September (when Sumburgh Head had a female **king eider**), and a female **smew** again summered on the Clyde. An **osprey** was found shot in East Lothian in

July and **hobbies** appeared at Aberlady in August and Barns Ness and the Eden Estuary in September. There was a **quail** on the Isle of May in September and **spotted crakes** at Morton Lochs and North Ronaldsay, whilst a fine adult **crane** summered in Orkney.

Waders, too, produced quite a lot of interest. A strong passage of **little stints** in mid-September saw 63 at Tynninghame, 50 at Virkie, 23 at Meikle Loch, 20 in Orkney and 18 at Stranraer; this contrasted sharply with the few reports of **curlew sandpipers**. Other notables were **lesser golden plovers** on South Uist in July and Fair Isle in August, a **Temminck's stint** on the scrape at Vane Farm and 2 **white-rumped sandpipers** at Aberlady in August, and several **pectoral sandpipers** in September, with at least 3 in Shetland, 1 in Orkney, 1 at Nigg Bay and 1 at Tynninghame. South Uist had a **spotted sandpiper** in July, while a lone **buff-breasted sandpiper** graced Mull, Fair Isle produced a **great snipe**, Orkney a **long-billed dowitcher** and Doonfoot a **grey phalarope** in September.

Orkney was exceptional for **Sabine's gulls** with 1 on 27th August and 3 on 5th September, when one also passed Turnberry; a juvenile was at Sandness, Shetland in late September. A good spread of **black terns** produced singles at Loch of Kinnordy in July, Girdleness, Skateraw and Barns Ness in August with 6 at Barns Ness on 24th August, and singles off Ballantrae and North Ronaldsay in September. Early **little auks** were off the Isle of May and North Ronaldsay in September.

The bird of my autumn so far performed in Shetland, for 3 days a week apart, in September. This was Britain's first **hawk owl** since 1966 and Scotland's first this century. Rumour has it one twitcher flew from London twice only to "dip out"!

An immature **roller** was seen near Biggar in August and a fine adult spent part of September on Islay. Three sightings of a **hoopoe** in Orkney may all have been the same bird. Among other uncommon species reported in small numbers were: **Wrynecks**, Out Skerries, Isle of May and Fair Isle; **Richard's pipits** on Fair Isle and North Ronaldsay in September, when a **citrine wagtail** was also on the latter; **Siberian stonechat** at Fife Ness; 3 **Icterine warblers** in Shetland, 2 in Orkney and 1 at Barns Ness in September and 1 on Fair Isle in August; single **melodious warblers** in Shetland and Orkney; and a moulting **sub-alpine warbler**, which had probably summered, in Shetland in July. **Barred warblers** were relatively scarce, with a maximum of only 5 on Fair Isle in September, single **greenish warblers** were on Out Skerries and Barns Ness in August, **Arctic warblers** appeared on Fair Isle and Orkney in September, and a **Bonelli's warbler** was in Lerwick from 26th September till October. The only reported **yellow-browed warbler** was at Dunbar on 2nd September. A fall of **goldcrests** in late September was not on the scale of October 1982, though their distribution was similar with 22 on Fair Isle, 100 on North Ronaldsay, 3000 on the isle of May and 300 at St Abbs. The most notable of the remaining reports was of a spectacular influx of **snow buntings** on 29th September which produced dancing white clouds of 150 on Out Skerries and over 1000 on Fetlar on 29th September.

Please note : I have been asked to request birdwatchers to respect the privacy of local residents at **Fife Ness**. This is a rather sensitive area and birders should take special care to avoid upsetting the people who live there.

PETE ELLIS

Stop Press Late October saw the most serious oiling incident recorded on the west coast since the war, with around 3,000 dead birds ashore on the Inner Hebrides and many more alive but badly oiled. Roger Broad, who has been investigating the incident, reported at the end of the month that some 1500 had been found on Tiree and over 1000 on Coll. Skye and the Small Isles, Mull and Ardnamurchan were also affected, though not so seriously. On Tiree 1160+ Guillemot corpses had been counted, with several hundred other auks (among which 32 Tysties probably represented the most serious local loss), 20 Eiders 9 Great Northern Divers, and a few other seabirds. Many Ringed Plovers and Sanderlings are on the Tiree beaches at this season and these too have been affected, with some Sanderlings so stained that they look like Dunlins.



SONG THRUSH A. Dowell

Without Comment !

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has bought 3,000 acres of Islay, the most important wintering and breeding area in northern Europe for the barnacle goose and other declining international species.

—*The Courier and Advertiser*, November 2, 1983



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