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Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1962 (with 1961 additions)

*Compiled by D. D. Harber and C. M. Swaine.
on behalf of the Rarities Committee*

THIS IS THE FIFTH REPORT of the Rarities Committee. It has been compiled after the consideration of about 400 records for 1962 (rather fewer than in previous years), plus a few which were left over from 1961. Nearly all 1962 records have now been dealt with, though a few still remain outstanding.

The composition of the Committee is now as follows: P. A. D. Hollom (Chairman), D. D. Harber (Hon. Secretary), D. G. Bell, A. R. M. Blake, Peter Davis, M. F. M. Meiklejohn, G. A. Pyman, F. R. Smith, R. Wagstaffe and D. I. M. Wallace. C. M. Swaine, the former Hon. Secretary, had to resign in January 1963, owing to pressure of other work. Since, however, he had already dealt with a good many of the 1962 records, the present report is published under the names of both Hon. Secretaries. As in the case of the previous transfer of this position (from G. A. Pyman to C. M. Swaine), the perfect order in which the files had been kept greatly facilitated the change-over.

It will be seen that considerable changes in the composition of the Committee have taken place over the past year. The position left vacant by the resignation of C. M. Swaine was filled by R. Wagstaffe, of Liverpool Museums, with his valuable knowledge of and access to skins. Then, within a short time, H. G. Alexander, I. J. Ferguson-Lees and Kenneth Williamson all had to leave because they found the work involved too much for the time they had available; I. C. T. Nisbet also had to resign on taking up a post abroad. When only two of these four resignations had taken place, editors of county bird reports and observatory officials were sent a circular announcing the vacancies and asking for nominations. The names which received the most

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nominations were taken and the four vacancies which eventually occurred were thus filled by A. R. M. Blake (for some years Hon. Secretary of the West Midland Bird Club), Peter Davis (until recently Warden on Fair Isle and now with the British Trust for Ornithology), F. R. Smith (long-established as Hon. Recorder of the Devon Bird-watching and Preservation Society) and D. I. M. Wallace (former Editor of the London Bird Report). Thus the Committee was brought up to strength again and its regional basis considerably strengthened. Its members would like to take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the work done in the past by the five who resigned.

We have recently given consideration to the list of birds which come under our notice. The five annual reports have shown that some species are now recorded so regularly and in such numbers that they cannot be regarded as sufficiently rare to justify their retention in this category. The following are now occurring ten or more times annually and so are being removed from our list:

Red-crested Pochard	Sabine's Gull
Snow Goose	Melodious Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper	Icterine Warbler
Mediterranean Black-headed Gull	Yellow-browed Warbler

In addition, we are deleting the following which have been on our list for limited parts of Britain:

Goshawk	Crested Tit
Golden Eagle	Bearded Tit
Kite	Marsh Warbler
Kentish Plover	Dartford Warbler

Thus only sixteen species in all are involved, but the amount of work which will be saved by their omission is out of all proportion to their number. Of the 400 or so records which, as mentioned above, were considered for 1962, about 150 related to these birds. These deletions begin as from 1963 and we must apologise to those who have meanwhile sent in records of the species concerned. We could not inform observers earlier, for it was only after the 1962 records had been analysed and compared with those of former years that the necessity for these changes became apparent. Needless to say, we shall still be glad to give assistance with these species at the request of county editors or bird observatories.

The principles and procedure followed in considering records have been explained previously (*Brit. Birds*, 53: 155-156) and still remain the same, as does the method of presentation adopted in the systematic list (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 563-564).

It should be noted that the following caveats apply to sight records of certain species:

Little Egret. Though observations are always listed as *Egretta garzetta*, it is conceivable that the Snowy Egret (*E. thula*) of North America might cross the Atlantic. The two species are virtually indistinguishable in the field when not in breeding plumage.

Night Heron. As has been pointed out elsewhere (e.g. *Brit. Birds*, 53: 159-160), records may relate to escapes from Edinburgh Zoo (see also page 426).

Ferruginous Duck. Numbers occur in captivity where they sometimes hybridise with Tufted Ducks and Pochards (*Aythya fuligula* and *ferina*). Such hybrids, particularly female Ferruginous × Pochard, can be very confusing in the field.

Great Reed Warbler. Sight records lacking a song description do not normally rule out the Clamorous Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*), notably the less rufous race *brunnescens*.

Arctic Redpoll. In view of the close similarity to *hornemanni* of some examples of *flammea*, which may as a result be almost indistinguishable in the field, we are treating sight records of Arctic Redpolls as we do those of well-defined races, i.e. as 'showing the characters of this species'.

Finally, we should like to thank the local organisations and the individual observers who have, as before, been so co-operative in assisting our work over the past year. We must also apologise to those who, unfortunately, have often had to wait far more than a reasonable time before learning whether records have been accepted or rejected. It is good to be able to state that the basic reason for such delays now seems to have been effectively eliminated. Apart from unusually 'difficult' cases, we can promise much speedier decisions than we have normally been able to give previously. An important factor in this very necessary speeding up of procedure is the sending of all records *direct* to the Hon. Secretary of this Committee at 1 Gorringe Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Supplementary systematic list of 1961 records accepted

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

1961

Cornwall: 30 miles SW of the Lizard, captured in dying condition on the trawler *Sarah Stevenson*, 4th May (A. G. Parsons, R. J. Pentreath); skin now in the possession of Dr. J. M. Harrison.

Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Orkney: Rendall, 1st November (J. Halcro, R. Tulloch).

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)

Suffolk: Thorpness Mere, adult ♂, 13th May (G. Dent).

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1961

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Norfolk: Whitlingham, near Norwich, 23rd December 1961 to 2nd February 1962, when found dead (T. Colman, M. J. Seago); this bird had been caught, presumably in bad health, at Skaerbaek, Denmark, in 1960 and kept by a Danish ringer over the 1960-61 winter before being released, flying strongly, on 16th April.

Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)

Inverness-shire: North Uist, winter 1960-61 (W. Mackenzie, J. Munro).

Kite (*Milvus milvus*)
(except in Wales)

Somerset: South Cadbury, 26th January (S. E. Chapman).

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

Norfolk: Holme, 24th December (G. M. S. Easy).

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

Suffolk: marsh in E of county, 9th June until mid-July (G. Dent *et al.*), two being present on 12th June (H. E. Axell).

Systematic list of 1962 records accepted

1962

Cory's Shearwater (*Procellaria diomedea*)

Cornwall: off Wolf Rock Lighthouse, 7th September (B. King).

Northumberland: off Holy Island, 11th September (L. P. Alder).

Outer Hebrides: off Ard an Runair, North Uist, 23rd August (Mr. and Mrs. P. J. K. Burton).

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Mary's, 10th to 23rd May (P. Z. Mackenzie, R. F. Sanderson).

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Devon: Salcombe, about the last week of May (E. Payne *per* J. Roebuck).

Hampshire: Bickton, 21st to 25th May (E. Cohen, C. W. Mackworth-Praed).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 13th to 28th May (E. Brown, R. F. Sanderson, F. R. Trust).

Norfolk: Stiffkey, 15th June (Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Fullagar, J. T. R. Sharrock).

Pembrokeshire: Little Milford, 1st June (J. H. Roberts). Sandy Haven, 5th August (R. E. Hitchcock). Gann Estuary, 13th to 29th August (T. A. W. Davis, J. W. Donovan, J. R. W. Stott *et al.*). The August records doubtless relate to the same individual, as may the June one also.

Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*)

Sussex: Pagham, four, 27th April (J. Fleming, H. R. Hatch, W. W. A. Phillips), one, 29th April (W. W. A. Phillips *et al.*); Lancing, 28th April (P. Elston *per* C. A. Grigg) (*Brit. Birds*, 56: 293-294).

Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Cheshire: near Runcorn, adult, 7th May (R. H. Allen, R. P. Cockbain, G. Thomason).

Dorset: Radipole Lake, adult, Weymouth, 14th April (P. Lever, R. A. Montagu, M. R. Shepherd).

Hampshire: Christchurch, 26th January and apparently for two or three weeks before this (P. S. Bulson, E. Cohen).

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)

Kent: Stodmarsh, adult ♂, 27th May (W. G. Harvey).

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Norfolk: Whitlingham, the bird first seen in December 1961 (page 396) remained until 2nd February when it was found dead (T. Colman).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Sutherland: Cambusavis, 3rd December (J. D. Oliver).

Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Drakes showing the characters of the American race, known as the Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*), were reported as follows:

Cornwall: Marazion Marsh, 4th February to 5th April (J. E. Beckerlegge, R. G. Hadden, R. Khan *et al.*).

Devon: River Yealm, 20th March to 3rd April (P. F. Goodfellow, L. I. Hamilton).

Hampshire: Avington, 30th January to 18th March (A. S. Cheke, E. A. Grove, J. H. Taverner).

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

Essex: Foulness Island, first-winter ♂, shot, 20th December (H. Hume, G. A. Pyman, P. Rudge).

Northumberland: Holywell Ponds, ♂, 24th February to 25th March (J. D. Parrack, S. R. Stobart, R. M. Wood *et al.*).

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

(except in the London area)

Essex: Abberton Reservoir, ♂, 6th July (R. V. A. Marshall); two, 19th August (J. A. Cowlin, J. R. Cowlin); one or two on several dates in September (J. W. Andrews, R. V. A. Marshall, M. S. J. Snoxell); seven, 4th October (R. V. A. Marshall), two, 6th (J. W. Andrews, R. G. H. Cant), three, 8th (R. V. A. Marshall) and three, 17th (J. A. Cowlin, J. R. Cowlin). Hanningfield Reservoir, ♂ in eclipse, 29th July to 26th August (S. Hudgell, A. P. Simes *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Eccup Reservoir, 29th June (G. R. Naylor).

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)

Norfolk: Stanford Battle area, ♂, 1st to 22nd April (C. A. E. Kirtland, M. J. Seago, A. E. Vine *et al.*).

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

Devon: Burrator Reservoir, one of the two recorded on 23rd November 1961 (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 569) was still there on 3rd January (L. I. Hamilton).

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Lancashire: Bolton, 13th October to 10th November (F. A. Lowe, T. E. Wheeler, J. R. Whitelegg *et al.*).

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

Orkney: Echnaloch Bay, Burray, ♂, 21st October (E. Balfour, Miss E. R. Bullard, S. Luke *et al.*).

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)

Shetland: Yell, ♂, 6th June to 5th July (K. D. Smith *et al.*).

Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)

Norfolk: Yare Valley, the two adults recorded on 26th and 27th December 1961 (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 570) were still there on 13th January (R. W. Colman, M. J. Seago) and one was present on 4th February (C. J. Cadbury, G. M. S. Easy, A. E. Vine). Lower Bure Marshes, 20th January (R. Harrison) and 27th January (P. R. Allard).

Gloucestershire: Slimbridge, 27th February (K. D. Edwards).

Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)

[**Lanarkshire:** Libberton, the blue-phase bird seen in autumn 1961 and the two previous winters (*Brit. Birds*, 54: 565; and 55: 570) stayed until 20th April; it returned on 20th October, remaining until 11th November (R. Erskine-Hill, W. K. Richmond *et al.*).

Lanarkshire/Midlothian: various localities, adult white phase, noted each winter since 1959-60 (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 570) stayed until at least 11th April, but did not return in the autumn (W. Brotherston, R. Erskine-Hill, W. K. Richmond *et al.*).

Yorkshire: the adult white-phase bird seen up to the end of 1961 (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 570) was last seen at Scaling Dam Reservoir on 9th January (D. G. Bell).]

It seems likely that all these records relate to birds which had escaped from captivity.

Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*)

Norfolk: Halvergate Marshes, 2nd to 28th January (P. R. Allard, M. J. Seago, G. R. South *et al.*).

Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

(except in the southern half of England)

Dumbartonshire: Gartocharn, 20th and 25th November (M. Forrester, D. Stalker, T. Weir).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 16th to 24th November (G. J. Barnes, P. Davis).

Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

(except in Wales)

Devon: Dartmoor, 23rd June (L. I. Hamilton), 25th November (G. M. Spooner), 16th December (L. H. Hurrell), 19th and 20th December (H. G. Hurrell, K. G. Hurrell).

Gloucestershire: Sherbourne, 8th September (F. Brockman).

Northumberland: near Belford, 20th April (C. Souter, D. C. Souter).

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

Norfolk: Scolt Head, 7th, 19th and 20th February (R. Chestney).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

Somerset: Chew Valley Reservoir, the bird reported on 5th November 1961 (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 571) was last seen on 13th January.

Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*)

Kent: Dungeness, ♀, 17th April (C. A. Thompson). Sevenoaks, ♀, 8th June (J. G. Harrison).

Orkney: near Stromness, ♀, 8th May (Mr. and Mrs. R. Bremner).

Crane (*Megalornis grus*)

Aberdeenshire: Kemnay, two, 14th August to 16th September (A. Anderson, D. Jenkins, Mrs. M. Jenkins *et al.*).

Cheshire/Shropshire: near Audlem, 6th June to 2nd July (J. Baker, L. A. Pownall, L. P. Samuels).

Cheshire: Hilbre Island, 2nd May (D. L. Clugston, K. Mullins).

Fife: Newburgh, two, 27th June (T. Spence).

Inverness-shire: Glen Urquhart, 23rd June to 27th July (L. Girvan).

Lanarkshire: Carnwath, two, 30th September to 8th October (R. Erskine-Hill).

Shetland: Fair Isle, two, 29th May (G. J. Barnes, P. Davis, B. R. Spence *et al.*); one, 19th July to 28th August (P. Davis, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*)

Suffolk: Westleton, 21st November to 29th December (H. E. Axell, G. B. G. Benson, W. H. Payn *et al.*) (two photographs appear on plate 61).

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

(except coast from Wash to Hampshire and Isle of Wight)

Aberdeenshire: Ythan Estuary, Newburgh, 3rd and 4th May (A. G. Gordon, W. E. Pool).

Lesser Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 30th September to 10th October (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*)

Buckinghamshire: Alderbourne and Rush Green watercress beds, 23rd to 27th December (D. G. Harris, D. M. Putman, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Norfolk: near Thetford, 1st January (A. J. Davison).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 27th and 30th April (F. H. D. Hicks, C. Sharr, J. J. Weller *et al.*).

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

Nottinghamshire: Nottingham sewage-farm, trapped, 24th August to 1st September (A. Dobbs, P. M. Hope, A. R. Johnson *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds*, 56: 65-66).

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

Hampshire: Farlington Marshes, 19th to 21st July (D. F. Billett, G. H. Clay, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

Middlesex: Perry Oaks, 5th to 7th September (B. E. Cooper, J. Cooper, M. J. Cowlard *et al.*) and Staines Reservoir, 9th September (*per* F. M. Gauntlett).

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 4th October (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace).

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, trapped, 2nd and 3rd October (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Suffolk: Minsmere and Walberswick, trapped, 20th August to 7th September (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace, D. J. Pearson *et al.*).

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

Cornwall: Marazion Marsh, 29th May (J. E. Beckerlegge).

Derbyshire: Egginton, 12th to 24th August (R. H. Appleby, R. A. Frost, R. G. Hawley *et al.*).

Co. Durham: Teesmouth, 12th to 17th September (J. A. Bailey, Mrs. A. Cooper, P. J. Stead).

Hampshire: Pennington Marsh, 25th August (E. J. Williams), two, 1st and 2nd September (E. J. Williams, G. Westerhoff, D. B. Woodridge *et al.*), one, 8th September (E. J. Woodridge).

Kent: Sittingbourne, trapped, 13th September (D. Burkett, G. Morgan, E. G. Philp *et al.*). Sandwich Bay, 16th to 18th September (A. Halliwell, G. Halliwell, G. R. Shannon). Barnfleet, 13th to 19th September (P. L. Britton, J. M. Harrison, M. L. R. Romer *et al.*).

Lanarkshire: near Hamilton, 18th to 21st October (J. M. S. Arnott, M. F. M. Meiklejohn *et al.*).

Lincolnshire/Norfolk: Wisbech sewage-farm, 8th to 16th September, two being present on 10th (J. A. Bailey, J. A. W. Moyes, P. J. Stead).

Middlesex: Perry Oaks, 8th to 16th September (R. E. Emmett, F. M. Gauntlett, C. M. Veysey *et al.*).

Norfolk: Cley, 1st to 17th September (W. F. Bishop *et al.*).

Pembrokeshire: Skokholm, 1st and 2nd June (R. Coleman, D. Glanville).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, three, trapped, between 27th August and 12th September (J. C. Eaton, F. H. D. Hicks, R. C. Righelato *et al.*).

Shetland: Fair Isle, at least two (one trapped), 29th August to 9th September (P. Davis, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

Staffordshire: Blithfield Reservoir, 23rd and 30th September (K. C. G. Farmer, G. M. Ireson, J. Lord *et al.*).

Suffolk: Minsmere, 27th July (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace). Easton Broad, 23rd August (G. B. G. Benson).

Sussex: Weir Wood Reservoir, 1st to 7th September (J. F. Cooper, S. Greenwood, A. Quinn *et al.*). Newhaven, 29th and 30th September (R. H. Charlwood, D. V. Freshwater, M. H. Port).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)

Cambridgeshire: near Peterborough sewage-farm, 12th-27th September (G. M. S. Easy, P. J. Tizzard, A. E. Vine *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides: St. Kilda, 15th June (J. M. Boyd, M. Smith).

Isles of Scilly: St. Mary's airport, three, 9th to 11th September (D. D. Harber, P. Z. Mackenzie, Miss H. M. Quick *et al.*).

Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*)

Norfolk: Breydon Water, 26th May (P. R. Allard, F. Pitts).

Wiltshire: Rodbourne sewage-farm, Swindon, 23rd to 25th September (Mrs. R. Barnes, E. A. R. Ennion, G. L. Webber *et al.*).

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Essex: Little Oakley, 10th August (D. E. Massey).

Hampshire: Dadenham Creek, Bursledon, 3rd October (Mrs. E. Edom).

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*)

Sussex: Chichester gravel-pits, 1st to 7th September (C. J. Mead, A. B. Sheldon, M. Shrubbs *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds*, 56: 64-66).

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Cheshire: near Sandbach, 10th to 24th September (C. G. Bennett, H. G. Hancox, D. J. Jeffers *et al.*).

Cornwall: Ponsandane, near Penzance, 23rd to 25th August (G. Allsop, J. E. Beckerlegge, A. C. Sawle *et al.*).

Dumbartonshire: Ardmore, 30th August to 1st September (J. M. S. Arnott, S. Gordon, T. D. H. McCrie).

Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)

Kent: Reculver, 6th October (R. G. Pitt).

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*)

Shetland: Scalloway, adult, 8th to 19th February (J. Peterson).

Mediterranean Black-headed Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)

Cornwall: St. Ives, adult, 20th and 21st February (N. R. Phillips). Marazion Marsh, adult, 28th March (R. Khan). St. Ives and Porthkidney Beach, at least two adults, possibly three, 17th August to 24th November (R. E. Beckerlegge, R. Khan, A. C. Sawle).

Dorset: Radipole Lake, Weymouth, adult, 22nd March; sub-adult, 28th April (G. W. H. Moule). Portland Bill, second-year, 29th August (G. A. Pyman).

Co. Durham: Hartlepool, adult, 1st January to 24th March and 31st August to 28th December (D. G. Bell, P. Harland, P. J. Stead *et al.*). Doubtless the individual which has wintered in this locality since 1956.

Gloucestershire: South Cerney, first-winter, 9th April (C. M. Swaine).

Norfolk: Cley, adult, 11th August (R. A. Richardson).

Sussex: Selsey Bill, second-winter, 18th February (B. A. E. Marr, A. B. Sheldon);

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adult, 17th April (R. L. K. Jolliffe, A. R. Kitson); second-summer, 24th June (A. B. Sheldon). Porto Bello, Brighton, first-year, 15th September (A. B. Sheldon).
Yorkshire: Spurn Point, adult, 21st October (M. Densley, P. H. G. Wolstenholme, G. R. Naylor *et al.*).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

Dorset: Portland Bill, 11th September (K. D. Edwards).

Co. Durham: Hartlepool, adult, 29th September (E. C. Gatenby, P. Harland, P. J. Stead *et al.*).

Norfolk: Scolt Head, first-winter, 6th November (R. Chestney).

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)

Yorkshire: Bridlington, 17th to 22nd February (G. R. Bennett, H. O. Bunce I. N. B. Richards *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 480-481).

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

Essex: Abberton Reservoir, juvenile, 6th September (R. V. A. Marshall).

Norfolk: Cley, adult, 18th June (D. L. Clugston, R. A. Richardson, J. T. R. Sharrock).

Kent: Stoke, several dates from 29th July to 11th August (P. C. Bance, M. E. Barnard, N. London *et al.*). Isle of Sheppey, Shellness, 12th August (M. E. Barnard, B. W. Edwards, N. London *et al.*). Hook's Fleet, between Stoke and Allhallow, 26th August (J. M. Crocker, R. B. Tozer). Lower Hope Point, 1st September (S. J. Oliver).

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Kent: Stour Estuary, 7th May (D. F. Harle). Sandwich Bay, 21st, 26th, 27th and 29th August (D. M. Batchelor, J. Websper, D. C. F. Worsfold *et al.*); probably a different bird, 2nd to 4th September (D. M. Batchelor, K. Charman, W. Harvey *et al.*).

Sussex: Selsey Bill, 26th April (R. K. L. Jolliffe, R. M. Leaney, R. F. Porter).

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Breconshire: Langorse Lake, 20th July (G. Griffiths, J. Griffiths).

Suffolk: Minsmere, 6th June (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace, J. W. Tattersall-Wright *et al.*).

Sussex: Pagham Harbour, 28th July (H. C. Dunk, G. R. Gervis).

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*)

Caernarvonshire: Bardsey Island, 12th October (F. R. Clifton, D. L. Clugston)

Hampshire: St. Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 13th May (E. J. Wiseman).

Kent: Deal, 24th June (J. N. Hollyer, E. G. Philp).

Norfolk: Cley, 14th June (J. T. R. Sharrock).

Shetland: Hermanness, Unst, 13th June (K. D. Smith).

Suffolk: Minsmere, 12th July (P. J. Makepeace).

Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

Cornwall: Perranporth, 12th July (D. F. Smith).

Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)

Kent: Canterbury, 26th June to 2nd July (Miss A. Ottley, K. Windle, Mrs. M. H. Windle). Wye, Ashford, 4th or 5th to 15th July (B. E. A. Knight, D. Robinson *et al.*).

Lincolnshire: Grainthorpe, shot in mistake for a Jay, 13th June (L. R. Dawson, who has the skin).

Radnorshire: Pennygarreg Reservoir, 12th July (R. H. Baillie).

Bimaculated Lark (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*)

Devon: Lundy, 7th to 11th May (R. Carden, M. R. Jones).

This is a species new to Britain. Fuller details will be published later.

Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*)

(except in East Anglia)

Hampshire: two (one ♂), Fleet Pond, 10th February to 4th March (M. Harvey, N. H. Pratt).

Sussex: Paghham, at least three (two ♂♂) during March (F. P. Penfold, N. F. Robson, W. W. A. Phillips *et al.*). Church Norton, nine, 16th October; seven trapped, 20th October (P. J. Davis). Paghham Harbour, 22nd October to 25th December (G. R. Gervis, L. G. Holloway *et al.*).

Yorkshire: one to five in one locality on several dates (Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Records Committee).

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Devon: Lundy, 7th November (M. R. Jones).

Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*)

Outer Hebrides: St. Kilda, ♀, 17th June (J. M. Boyd, W. E. Waters) (*Brit. Birds* 56: 66-67).

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*)

Yorkshire: Easington, 16th to 19th April (R. F. Dickens, P. J. Mountfort, G. R. Naylor *et al.*).

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*)

Sussex: The Crumbles, trapped, 9th October (R. H. Charlwood, D. D. Harber).

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

Corwall: Marazion Marsh, 15th May (R. Khan).

Kent: Sandwich Bay, trapped, 12th and 13th May (D. M. Batchelor, K. Charman, J. Websper *et al.*); another trapped, 19th August (D. M. Batchelor, J. Websper, D. C. H. Worsford *et al.*).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, trapped, 6th to 8th June (Mr. and Mrs. J. L. F. Parslow, Miss H. M. Quick *et al.*).

Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*)

(outside England)

Shetland: Fair Isle, adult, trapped, 2nd September (P. Davis, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, trapped, 23rd August (P. Davis, B. R. Spence, E. M. Wilkinson *et al.*).

Glamorgan: Kenfig Pool, 29th August (R. G. Knight, H. M. Salmon, J. R. Smith *et al.*).

Hampshire: Newtown, Isle of Wight, 7th October (C. J. Cadbury).

Kent: Sandwich Bay, trapped, 9th September (D. M. Batchelor, J. N. Hollyer, D. C. M. Worsfold).

Norfolk: Cley, 14th September (B. J. Burton, S. Dobson, J. Johnson).

Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*)

Devon: Lundy, trapped, 15th September (M. R. Jones, A. J. Vickery).

Dorset: Portland Bill, trapped, 16th to 22nd August (K. V. Edwards, G. H. Evans, J. R. Newmark *et al.*); another, 1st and 2nd September (G. A. Pyman, A. B. Watson, J. K. Weston *et al.*); another, trapped, 29th September to 8th October (D. J. Godfrey, Miss A. Lansdown, R. F. Thearle *et al.*); another, trapped, 29th September to 15th October (same observers as last); another, 30th September to 6th October (J. S. Ash, A. B. Sheldon, M. Shrubbs); one, 7th October (J. S. Ash, B. A. E. Marr, A. B. Sheldon *et al.*).

Kent: Dungeness, trapped, 8th August (A. R. Mainwood, R. E. Scott, L. P. Tucker *et al.*); another trapped, 26th September (P. L. Britton, Miss H. A. Fitzgerald, P. J. Grant *et al.*).

Pembrokeshire: Skokholm, trapped, 17th August (R. C. B. Coleman, D. Glanville); two, trapped, 20th August (same observers); another, trapped, 30th August (same observers); another, trapped, 10th September (R. C. B. Coleman, M. P. Harris); another, trapped, 12th September (same observers as last).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, at least five (three trapped), 6th to 18th September (J. A. Burton, D. D. Harber, R. C. Righelato); one, 2nd and 3rd October (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace). St. Martin's, trapped, 5th September (D. M. Broom).

Sussex: Holywell, Eastbourne, trapped, 23rd August (D. D. Harber). Selsey Bill, 26th August (M. A. Jennings, B. A. E. Marr, A. B. Sheldon); one on 27th September, apparently two on 28th September, one on 30th September (M. J. Helps, A. A. K. Lancaster, B. A. E. Marr *et al.*).

Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*)

Caernarvonshire: Bardsey Island, trapped, 3rd September (M. Lindstrom, P. Reading, M. P. Richards *et al.*).

Devon: Prawle Point, 13th and 14th October (R. M. Curber, P. J. Dare, R. Goodsell).

Dorset: Portland Bill, 31st August (M. E. Griffiths, C. Newton, M. D. Smith *et al.*). Studland Heath, 9th September (K. D. Edwards, K. J. Gearson, J. M. Sage *et al.*).

Essex: Bradwell, 3rd September (G. Downey, R. Larner).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 31st August (K. T. B. Hodd, D. A. Whitehouse, E. M. Wilkinson).

Kent: Sandwich Bay, 4th May (D. M. Batchelor, U. Benecke, J. Websper *et al.*); one, trapped, 22nd September (G. Dunkling, R. Fern, D. C. M. Worsfold *et al.*).

Norfolk: Holkham, 5th September (I. C. T. Nisbet).

Pembrokeshire: Skokholm, two, trapped, 3rd September (R. C. B. Coleman, D. Glanville).

RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1962

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 14th and 15th September (M. J. Carter, M. J. Cowlard, M. W. Scott *et al.*); 16th September (T. H. Levere); 30th September and 1st October (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace). Annet, 18th September (J. A. Burton, J. Cooke, F. H. D. Hicks).

Yorkshire: Flamborough Head, 15th September (R. S. Oddy, D. A. Scott).

Olivaceous Warbler (*Hippolais pallida*)

Dorset: Easton, Portland, 5th September (G. A. Pyman, A. B. Watson, J. K. Weston *et al.*).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 30th September to 2nd October (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)

Kent: Dungeness, trapped, 9th June (P. J. Grant, G. J. Harris, R. E. Scott).

Isle of Man: Calf of Man, 27th July (A. H. Morley).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, at least two (one trapped), 15th to 21st September (M. J. Carter, J. Cooke, M. J. Cowlard *et al.*).

Sussex: Selsey Bill, 27th September (A. A. K. Lancaster, R. F. Porter). The Crumbles, 19th October (D. D. Harber).

Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, trapped, 1st September (P. Davis, P. J. Slater, B. R. Spence).

Northumberland: Hartley, 15th August (D. T. Parkin, S. R. Stobart, R. M. Wood).

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Caernarvonshire: Bardsey Island, trapped, 12th and 13th October (F. R. Clifton, D. L. Clugston, R. C. Pratt *et al.*).

Devon: Lundy, 4th to 6th October (M. R. Jones).

Co. Durham: Hartlepool, 14th October to 6th November (J. A. Bailey, E. C. Gatenby, P. J. Stead *et al.*).

Fife: Isle of May, 8th October (Miss N. J. Gordon, R. A. O. Hickling, K. Williamson).

Lincolnshire: Tetney, trapped, 11th to 15th October (C. K. Brown, E. A. Mackell, R. K. Norman *et al.*).

Norfolk: Blakeney Point, 21st to 23rd September (S. Greenwood, R. A. Richardson *et al.*).

Northumberland: Tynemouth, 8th October (J. M. Bayldon, M. Bell, J. D. Parrack). Whiteley Bay Cemetery, 13th and 14th October (J. A. Bailey, B. Galloway, S. R. Stobart *et al.*). Blyth Cemetery, 13th to 15th October (B. Etheridge, P. J. Stead, T. Winter *et al.*).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 6th to 9th October (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*) and 15th October (K. H. Hyatt, R. M. Larner).

Shetland: Fair Isle, two (one trapped), 29th September (P. Davis, P. J. Slater, B. R. Spence *et al.*); one, 5th and 7th October (P. Davis, B. R. Spence).

Yorkshire: Spurn Point, trapped, 26th September (P. J. Mountfort).

Pallas's Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

Co. Durham: Hartlepool, 12th and 13th October (J. A. Bailey, D. G. Bell, P. J. Stead *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds*, 56: 112-113).

BRITISH BIRDS

Radde's Warbler (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*)

Fife: Isle of May, 8th October (G. H. Acklam, G. Patrick, K. Williamson *et al.*).
Kent: Dungeness, trapped, 3rd to 8th October (P. L. Britton, P. J. Morgan, R. E. Scott *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds*, 56: 420-421).

Collared Flycatcher (*Muscicapa albicollis*)

Essex: North Fambridge, 21st to 23rd September (J. T. Friedlein).

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Cornwall: Ponsandane, near Penzance, 4th December (R. G. Hadden, J. E. Beckerlegge).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 24th September (G. J. Barnes); one, trapped, 6th to at least 26th October and another, trapped, 20th to at least 26th October, one of these remaining until 10th November (P. Davis, B. R. Spence).

Shetland: Sumburgh, 30th September and 1st October (P. Devillers, W. E. Oddie, C. E. Wheeler).

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)

Cambridgeshire: Grantchester, 7th September (I. C. T. Nisbet).

Fife: Isle of May, trapped, 24th and 25th October (J. S. Phillips, I. F. Stewart).

Kent: Dungeness, 25th April (L. A. Batten, R. E. Scott, C. A. Thompson *et al.*); at least two, 27th to 30th September (D. J. Britton, P. L. Britton, P. J. Grant *et al.*).
Sandwich Bay, 6th September (D. M. Batchelor, G. Dunkling, J. Websper *et al.*).
Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 9th and 11th May (Mr. and Mrs. D. I. M. Wallace, R. Williams).

Suffolk: near Walberswick, 7th September (H. Bentham).

Yellow-headed or Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped, 22nd and 24th September (P. Davis, P. Devillers, B. R. Spence *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds*, 56: 30-31).

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*)

Sussex: Siddlesham, 1st and 2nd July (W. W. A. Phillips, Miss J. Stacey).

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)

Kent: Sandwich Bay, immature, 14th to 23rd August (W. G. Harvey, J. Websper, D. C. M. Worsfold *et al.*).

Norfolk: Sheringham, 17th June (J. T. R. Sharrock).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, adult and immature, 4th to 10th October, one seen again 17th (R. E. Emmett, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, trapped, 19th September (J. A. Burton, F. H. D. Hicks, M. J. Carter *et al.*).

This is a species new to Britain. Fuller details will be published later.

RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1962

Rose-coloured Starling (*Sturnus roseus*)

Devon: Kingswear, juvenile, 12th October (M. R. Edmonds).

Fife: Lundin Links, adult, 6th and 7th September (Miss P. G. Baxter, R. S. Weir).

Northumberland: Tynemouth, adult, 21st to 25th August (J. M. Bayldon, M. Cowley, J. D. Parrack).

Orkney: Rousay, adult, dead, beginning of August (W. Groundwater).

As pointed out in our last two reports (*Brit. Birds*, 54: 195; and 55: 581), Rose-coloured Starlings are frequently imported as cage-birds.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)

Sussex: Beachy Head, adult ♂, 5th and 6th October (R. H. Charlwood, D. D. Harber).

The possibility of this having escaped from captivity cannot be entirely excluded since it is known that a few have been imported in recent years, but we have not been able to trace any actual escape and several other American species appeared in Great Britain and Ireland about the same time.

Arctic Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)

Outer Hebrides: Uigen, Lewis, ♂, dead, 8th April (W. A. J. Cunningham, C. E. Palmar, D. Weir).

In addition, there were the following sight records of birds showing the characters of this species:

Northumberland: St. Mary's Island, Whitley Bay, one of the two observed on 31st December 1961 (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 581) was still present on 1st January (C. Douglas). Holy Island, the bird recorded on 31st December 1961 (*Brit. Birds*, 55: 581) was seen again on 1st January (S. R. Stobart, R. M. Wood).

Yorkshire: near Patrington, six, 25th February (A. Credland).

Serin (*Serinus canarius*)

Dorset: Weymouth, 18th April to 6th July (Miss M. D. Crosby, R. H. J. Nash, J. Stokes).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 9th May (D. I. M. Wallace); 13th October (G. J. Harris, K. H. Hyatt, B. P. Pickess *et al.*).

Sussex: Selsey Bill, 30th August (M. A. Jennings).

Scarlet Grosbeak (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, trapped, 12th September; another, 13th to 15th September (P. Davis, P. Devillers, B. R. Spence *et al.*); one, trapped, 25th October (P. Davis, B. R. Spence).

Northumberland: Holywell Ponds, 22nd and 23rd September (J. M. Bayldon, J. P. Deacon, J. D. Parrack *et al.*).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 8th to 12th October (G. J. Harris, K. H. Hyatt, B. P. Pickess *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Spurn Point, 26th and 27th September (J. Cudworth, W. C. Wakefield).

Two-barred Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, immature ♂, 29th to 31st July (P. Davis, B. R. Spence, J. A. Stout).

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*)

[**Shetland:** Fair Isle, ♂, 5th to 13th June (P. Davis, B. R. Spence, J. A. Stout).]

This bird was very tame and is believed to have escaped from captivity.

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, first-winter, 12th to 15th September (P. Davis, B. R. Spence, J. A. Stout).

Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*)

Fife: Isle of May, trapped, 11th and 12th September (J. Ballantyne, S. R. Stobart, R. M. Wood *et al.*).

Kent: Shellness, 9th April (Mr. and Mrs. J. Hori).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 26th and 27th October (K. H. Hyatt, R. Lerner, B. S. Milne *et al.*); another, 4th November (K. H. Hyatt).

Shetland: Fair Isle, ♂, 13th May, and two ♂♂ on 14th, one staying until 18th (G. K. Brown, P. Davis, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

Suffolk: Minsmere, trapped, 24th October (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace *et al.*).

Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Cheshire: Bidston, two, 9th to 15th March, three (one adult ♂), 17th to 19th March, two (including the adult ♂) to 28th March, one to 11th April (J. R. Mullins, K. M. Mullins, W. T. C. Rankin *et al.*).

Northumberland: near Gosforth, trapped, 22nd October (M. Marquiss, C. F. Watson).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 11th to 18th October (P. Davis, B. R. Spence).

Appendix—Observations in ‘Recent reports and news’ not now accepted

The following records appeared in ‘Recent reports and news’, but were found to be unacceptable upon fuller consideration. This list includes all the records of this kind unless they were qualified by such terms as ‘apparent’ or ‘probable’, or unless they appeared in brief summaries without precise date or location. A few other observations remain outstanding, no decision having yet been reached on them. The rejection of these records does not imply a slur on the observers concerned. Often it merely means that we considered the evidence insufficient for complete acceptance.

1961

Broad-billed Sandpiper Seaton Burn, Northumberland, 12th-16th August
(*Brit. Birds*, 55: 48).

THE INCIDENCE OF ALBINISM AND MELANISM

1962

Crane	Cley, Norfolk, 8th September (55: 460).
Greater Yellowlegs	Shotton, Cheshire, 3rd September (55: 596).
Ross's Gull	St. Ives, Cornwall, from 26th July (55: 460).
Gull-billed Tern	Gosford Bay, East Lothian, 16th September (55: 460).
Aquatic Warbler	Oxwich Marsh, Glamorgan (55: 460).



PLATE 61. Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*), Suffolk, November-December 1962. Note the turkey shape, the black and white feathers down the neck, the long barred tail and the darkish pattern on the sandy upper-parts. The first record in Britain this century, it spent most time in a mustard field, but it used also to go across a lane and the small picture shows it only yards from the wing mirror of the photographer's car (full details to be published soon, but see page 399) (photos: Eric Hosking)