

Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1965

(with 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964 additions)

By D. D. Harber and the Rarities Committee

THIS, THE EIGHTH annual report of the Rarities Committee, has been compiled after the examination of over 300 records for 1965. This is a larger total than those for the two preceding years (leaving out of account the invasion of Cranes *Grus grus* in the autumn of 1963). The proportion of records rejected was about 27%. This compares with about 39% rejected in 1962, about 32% in 1963 and about 27% in 1964. (These figures take into account only the species now on our list and, once again, do not include the 1963 Cranes.) This pleasing decline in the percentage of records rejected is undoubtedly due to improved standards of observation and presentation. We hope that this trend will continue and would stress once again in this connection the value of the 'Unusual Record' form devised by D. G. Bell (*Brit.*

continued...

Birds, 58: 228-229). It can be obtained, free of charge, from the Hon. Secretary.

We have had before us an unusual number of records for past years; and one additional one for 1958, one for 1961, one for 1962, four for 1963 and ten for 1964 will be found at the end of this report. A few 1965 records remain outstanding, either because they were received late or because they present special difficulties. Once again our views have been requested and given on a number of Irish records. But, of course, Irish records are accepted or rejected by the *Irish Bird Report*, not by us, and the Irish records mentioned in the systematic list below are taken from there.

The composition of the Committee has now remained the same for three years with 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. This stability of membership has undoubtedly facilitated the speed and efficiency of our work. We are also glad to report that the great majority of records now reach us reasonably quickly, though a few do still come in with what seems to be unnecessary slowness.

The principles and procedure we follow in considering records were explained at length in the 1958 report (*Brit. Birds*, 53: 155-156). At the very end of the present report is an up-to-date list of the species which are dealt with by us; reprints of this list are available and can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. In this connection, unnecessary correspondence is caused every year by observers sending in records of species which are either not now on our lists or (quite often) have never been on it.

The systematic list of records is set out in the same way as its predecessors. The following points, some of which were outlined more fully in the 1958 report (*Brit. Birds*, 53: 156-158), should be borne in mind since they show the basis on which the information has been put together:

(i) The scientific nomenclature, which has hitherto followed the B.O.U. *Check-List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* (1952) with the amendments subsequently proposed (*Ibis*, 98: 157-168) and those resulting from the decisions of the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (*Ibis*, 99: 369), is now based on the more up-to-date work of Charles Vaurie's *The Birds of the Palearctic Fauna* (1959-65). Any sight records of subspecies (including those of birds trapped and released) are normally referred to as 'showing the characters' of the race concerned.

(ii) No record which would constitute the first for Great Britain and Ireland is published by us, even if we consider it acceptable, until it has been passed by the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union.

(iii) In general, the report is confined to records which are regarded as certain. 'Probables' are never included and square brackets are used only to denote likely escapes or releases from captivity. In the case of the very similar Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers *Limnodromus scolopaceus* and *L. griseus*, however, we are

continuing to publish indeterminate records and this will also apply to observations of such 'difficult' groups as frigate-birds *Fregata spp.* and albatrosses *Diomedea spp.* if and when they occur.

(iv) The basic details included for each record are (1) county; (2) locality; (3) number of birds if more than one, and age and sex if known (in the cases of spring and summer records, however, the age is given only where the bird concerned was not in adult summer plumage); (4) if trapped or found dead; (5) date or dates; and (6) observer or observers up to three in number, in alphabetical order. Other relevant information is sometimes added at the end of individual records and general comments may be given in a subsequent paragraph; although the report as a whole is confined to Great Britain, these general comments may also cover Ireland and other European countries.

We are making two minor changes in the present report. First, we are replacing the appendix of 'Observations in "Recent reports" not now accepted' by a complete list of the records rejected by us for the year. This will contain dates and localities, but not names of observers. It will, we hope, eliminate the possibility of future confusion as to whether any particular record has been considered by us or not. Secondly, we are introducing (when necessary) a list of corrections of minor errors (e.g. in the spelling of observers' names). More serious mistakes (e.g. in dates and localities) will continue to be corrected in the supplementary systematic lists. It would be of great help if observers, particularly those who are sending in records for the first time, would *print* their own and the other names concerned. As it is, the Hon. Secretary is sometimes faced with an unknown signature which can be read either in more than one way or not at all.

Once again we thank the many individual observers and local organisations whose co-operation has made the publication of this report possible. The help given by R. Wagstaffe and the Staff of the Liverpool Museums in scrutinising records and comparing descriptions with specimen skins has been invaluable. D. I. M. Wallace has kindly been responsible for a number of the species comments in the present report. All records should now be sent to F. R. Smith at Telford, Hill Barton Road, Exeter, Devon, until further notice.

Systematic list of 1965 records accepted

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Somerset: Chew Valley Lake, 17th August to 28th October (D. G. Bell, G. L. Boyle, G. Sweet *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Beaverdyke Reservoir, near Harrogate, 9th June to 24th November (J. R. Mather, R. C. Parkinson, C. Worrin *et al.*).

These are only the second and third British and European records of this North American species, the first having been recorded at Blagdon Lake, Somerset, on 22nd December 1963 (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 305-309). It

should be added that, also in the summer of 1965, another Pied-billed Grebe came aboard the Shell tanker *Ondina* when she was two to three days out of Venezuela and was thus transported to Liverpool. Still in first-winter plumage, it was seen alive by R. Wagstaffe, but it died on 14th July and the skin is now in the City of Liverpool Museums (per Dr. D. A. P. Cooke).

Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*)

Devon: Morte Point, 25th April (M. E. Greenhalgh).

Yorkshire: Spurn, 4th to 7th November (J. Cudworth, J. Whitaker, C. Winn *et al.*).

These are only the third and fourth British records of this species which breeds in far-southern waters and very rarely visits the North Atlantic. It should be noted, however, that 1963 and 1964 provided three records of albatrosses in Irish waters, one in each year being identified as Black-browed.

Cory's Shearwater (*Procellaria diomedea*)

Dorset: Portland Bill, 19th April (K. L. Fox); two, also 19th April (J. P. Eaton, B. King).

Isles of Scilly: between Scilly and the mainland, four, 21st August; four 4th September (S. C. Joyner, P. F. Twist, N. S. Twist); twelve, 18th September (E. Griffiths, P. Harrison, S. C. Madge). St. Agnes, seven, 22nd August; one, 24th August; ten, 28th August, twelve, 29th August (S. C. Joyner, P. F. Twist, N. S. Twist).

Shetland: Fair Isle, about 62, 18th September; about six, 19th September; 13, 20th September; two, 23rd September (R. H. Dennis *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Spurn, three, 19th September (J. R. Collman, G. R. Edwards, D. J. Standing *et al.*).

Judged by previous records from British waters, the above total of 14 records featuring about 130 birds is unprecedented, though larger numbers were recorded off south-west Ireland in August 1962 and July 1963 (*Brit. Birds*, 56: 189-190; 57: 200-202). The 1965 autumn occurrences were clearly associated with unusually large movements of Great Shearwaters *Puffinus gravis* and Sooty Shearwaters *P. griseus* in British and, more particularly, Irish waters (*Brit. Birds*, 59: 88, 253-254). The April records off the Dorset coast were quite exceptional, but, like the autumn observations, were paralleled by Irish ones. The species breeds as close to Britain as Portugal.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Devon: Puslinch Bridge, near Newton Ferrers, 25th April to 10th May (L. I. Hamilton, R. F. Moore, R. M. Moore).

Glamorgan: Eglwys Nynnid Reservoir, 6th June (D. F. A. Kiddle, N. H. Pratt); juvenile, 16th to 18th October (N. Douglas-Jones, D. Griffin, A. J. Hambury *et al.*).

Norfolk: Cley, first-summer, 10th May (R. A. Richardson).

BRITISH BIRDS

Shetland: Fair Isle, sub-adult, 17th to 22nd June (R. H. Dennis, J. Wilson, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

The eight years 1958-65 produced 35 British records of this summer visitor to the Netherlands and southern Europe. Annual totals have varied from one in 1962 to eight in 1963 and so the five above may be regarded as about average. With the exception of one in February and one in November, all the records have been during April-October with just over half (18 out of the 35) in April-May (see also under Little Egret below). In addition to the above, one was seen on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 2nd May 1965—only the second Irish record.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Anglesey: Afon Alaw estuary, 25th July to 7th August (D. C. Ager, P. Hope Jones, C. Tottey *et al.*).

Bedfordshire: near Heath and Reach, 5th June (H. Mayer-Gross, R. Pennell).

Devon: River Erme, 3rd to 20th April (R. Burridge, P. Harrison, H. G. Hurrell *et al.*).

Kent: Stodmarsh, 12th June (A. S. Cheke, M. Davenport, A. W. Sudbury *et al.*).

Somerset: Axe estuary, 22nd May (T. R. J. Williams).

Sussex: Cuckmere Haven, 30th May (C. Bone, R. H. D. Young).

As has been pointed out on previous occasions, most sight records of this south European species do not exclude the Snowy Egret *E. thula* of North America, though the latter has never been recorded in this country. The eight years 1958-65 produced a total of 34 British records of the Little Egret. Annual totals have varied from one in 1964 to seven in 1961 and so the total of six above is on the high side. If we ignore a few individuals which have stayed into the winter months, all these 34 have been during March-November with March, May and June (seven each) as the most frequent months. The total of 34 is very similar to that for the Purple Heron above, but the records of Little Egrets have mostly been in southern counties whereas those of Purple Herons have been more widely scattered, particularly in eastern districts. This suggests that many of the Purple Herons may be of Dutch origin, rather than from southern Europe like the Little Egrets, a conclusion which is supported by the fact that the same period produced about eight records of Little Egrets, but only one of a Purple Heron, as far west as Ireland. There was one Little Egret in Ireland in 1965, on the North Bull, Co. Dublin, on 15th May.

Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Devon: near Newton Ferrers, 4th April (R. Burridge) and 29th April (P. Harrison).

Isles of Scilly: Treско, 26th March to 1st April (R. M. Curber, K. Hawkins, B. King *et al.*).

RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1965

These are the first records for south-west England since 1961 and seem likely to have been of genuine vagrants from southern Europe rather than escapes.

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)

Ayrshire: Craigie Park, Ayr, ♂, 18th to 19th May (A. B. and D. Johnston, G. A. Richards).

Hertfordshire: Stevenage, ♂, 10th June (P. Walton).

Shetland: Scatness, ♀, 2nd to 10th June (D. Coutts, G. D. Joy, R. H. Dennis *et al.*).

The Ayrshire record was paralleled by an Irish one near Crumlin, Co. Antrim, on 13th May 1965.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

East Lothian: near Innerwick, 16th to 17th March (M. J. Everett, A. Macdonald, A. T. Macmillan *et al.*).

Sussex: Bodiam, 19th September (Mrs. M. A. Stead, P. J. Stead).

The possibility that both these birds had escaped from captivity cannot be ruled out.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Cornwall: near Wadebridge, the one first seen in December 1964 (see page 300) remained until 28th March (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, Dr H. V. Brown, G. McD. Warner *et al.*).

Sussex: Pagham Harbour, 22nd to 23rd April (A. Allen).

It is reasonable to suppose that both these records, and the one in Devon in November and December 1964 (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 357), relate to the same individual. The possibility that the bird(s) concerned had escaped from captivity cannot be ruled out. It should be added that a Glossy Ibis was shot in Co. Galway on 5th December 1965.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)

Drakes showing the characters of this American race were recorded as follows:

Norfolk: Cley, 10th May (R. A. Richardson).

Renfrewshire: Barr Loch, 10th to 19th April (J. M. S. Arnott, R. G. Caldwell, L. A. Urquhart *et al.*).

Somerset: Stert Point, 13th to 21st March (R. A. Evans, R. D. Cades, C. E. Ridsdale *et al.*).

There have now been 16 records of drakes in Great Britain since 1960. Of these, ten have occurred between mid-March and mid-May. The same six-year period has seen four records in Ireland, including one near Blennerville and one at Akeagh Lough, both Co. Kerry, on 21st March and 17th October 1965 respectively.

BRITISH BIRDS

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

Inverness-shire: Moray Firth, ♂, 17th January to 28th February (R. Clark, R. H. Dennis, Wing-Commander R. J. Fursman *et al.*).

This is only the fifth British record of a supposedly wild bird since 1958.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

Essex: Abberton Reservoir, ♂, 29th October to 1st November (R. V. A. Marshall, W. E. Oddie, M. S. J. Snoxell); immature, 18th November to 8th December (F. K. Cobb, G. J. Jobson, R. V. A. Marshall *et al.*); another immature, 4th to 5th December (F. K. Cobb, G. J. Jobson, R. V. A. Marshall *et al.*).

Glamorgan: Eglwys Nynnid Reservoir, ♂, 2nd to 7th April (R. A. Cadman, Mrs. A. Heathcote, W. E. Jones *et al.*). Hensol Lake, ♂, 3rd to 4th November (Mrs. K. I. Collings, Mrs. A. Heathcote, Col. H. Morrey Salmon).

Hertfordshire: Tring Reservoirs, ♂, 3rd to 4th January (A. J. Livett, P. J. Mountford, R. V. A. Wagstaff).

Middlesex: Brent Reservoir, ♂, 5th November (L. A. Batten).

This south and east European and south Asiatic species is so commonly kept in captivity that it may be assumed that at least some of the above records relate to escapes.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

Kirkcudbrightshire: Southernness Point, ♂, 13th February to 14th March (E. L. Roberts, J. H. Swan *et al.*). Portowarren, two adult and one immature ♂♂ and one ♀, 28th February to 4th April (J. A. Bailey, E. L. Roberts, A. J. Smith *et al.*); ♂, 27th December, staying on into 1966 (Miss P. G. Baxter, A. Paterson *et al.*).

Ross and Cromarty: Lewis, Broad Bay, near Stornoway, ♂, 4th to 9th February and 4th March (N. Elkins).

Wigtownshire: Luce Bay, ♂, 23rd February (E. S. Clare, M. J. Warren).

The above total of five records of this North American sea-duck (involving at least six individuals) is unprecedented in recent years. It seems that a small number has taken to wintering in the Solway area.

Harlequin (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

Caithness: near Wick, ♂ and ♀, 18th April to 1st May (G. Gunn, Dr. I. D. Pennie, R. S. Shand *et al.*).

Shetland: Fair Isle, ♂ and ♀, 11th January to 2nd February (G. Barnes, J. A. Stout, J. Wilson).

It seems likely that the same birds were concerned in both the above records. There are seven previous British records for this north Holarctic species, the last being in 1954.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

[**Yorkshire:** Spurn, 14th November (A. Archer, B. R. Spence, D. J. Standing *et al.*)]

As we have stated previously, this species is commonly kept in

captivity, while the European breeding population is much smaller than was formerly the case.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

Cornwall: St. Michael's Mount—Marazion Marsh, 15th January to 9th February (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, R. G. Hadden, B. Pattenden).

Inverness-shire: near Kingussie, 24th March (C. C. I. Murdoch).

Isles of Scilly: Tresco, the one first recorded on 6th November 1964 (see page 301) was last seen on 5th January (D. R. Hunt).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 9th September (W. G. Porteous).

It seems likely that the one in Cornwall was the same individual as that last seen in Scilly a few days earlier. These records (and the supplementary ones from 1958, 1963 and 1964 on pages 299-301) bring the total number of British records of this circumpolar arctic species since 1958 to 15. This total includes five or six cases of extended stays suggesting wintering.

Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*)

Hampshire: Rhine Field Walk, New Forest, first-summer ♂, 7th June (M. T. Barnes, C. A. E. Kirtland, O. R. Marks).

Norfolk: Mundesley, ♀, 26th May (A. J. Harris).

Crane (*Grus grus*)

Essex: North Fambridge, 14th October (G. D. S. Hooper, D. Stone). Goldhanger, 14th November (R. Bartlett, G. K. Martin, R. J. Thatcher *et al.*).

Suffolk: Flatford Mill, 19th September (R. M. Fry); Hinton, juvenile, 1st October (P. Muttitt).

Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*)

Yorkshire: near Guisborough, 10th to 12th May (A. Barnard, D. G. Bell, P. J. Stead *et al.*).

It may be that observations of this and the next species are mainly controlled by the minimal chance of their discovery. Nevertheless this is only the second record of this widespread Old World crake in Britain in the last twenty years, the other having been in Essex in June 1953.

Little Crake (*Porzana parva*)

Essex: River Crouch marshes, ♀, caught, 3rd April (D. and R. B. Warren).

There have been only six British and one Irish records of this species since 1958.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)

Sussex: Sidlesham Ferry, 14th February to 15th March (D. D. Harber, L. G. Holloway, M. Shrubbs *et al.*).

This is only the sixth British record of this North American species, but individual dowitchers cannot always be specifically identified (see below).

Long-billed or Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*
or *griseus*)

Shetland: Symbister, Whalsay, 20th October and 7th November (J. H. Simpson).

Somerset: Stert Point, 24th October (B. E. Slade).

Sussex: Pagham Harbour, 4th April (T. Banks, M. Harrison, D. Ware *et al.*). Chidham, 4th April (R. F. Porter). It seems likely that these two records relate to the Short-billed Dowitcher recorded earlier at Sidlesham Ferry (see above).

The winter and spring dates of the Sussex bird(s) are without precedent in Great Britain for either species of dowitcher. A Long-billed Dowitcher was identified at Akeagh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 26th and 27th September 1965.

Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, 1st May (R. H. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman); 27th September (E. J. Wiseman).

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

Lancashire: Inner Ribble Marshes, 11th to 12th August (M. E. Greenhalgh).

This North American species has been recorded annually in Great Britain since 1958, except for 1960. There have also been five records in Ireland in that time, including one at Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, on 8th May 1965.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Tringa macularia*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, trapped, 23rd September to 28th October (B. Marshall, J. R. Mullins, C. S. Waller *et al.*).

This is only the second record of this North American bird (now once again regarded as a full species) since 1958. A note discussing its separation from the Common Sandpiper *T. hypoleucos* in the field when not in summer plumage is to be published later in this journal.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

Isles of Scilly: St Agnes, 25th September (E. Griffiths, A. Quinn, C. S. Waller *et al.*).

Suffolk: Havergate, 4th to 18th September (G. J. Jobson, R. J. Partridge, D. J. Pearson *et al.*).

With the above there are now ten British records of this North American wader, eight of them since 1950. There is also one Irish record, in 1962.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Cornwall: Marazion Marsh, 5th November (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, R. G. Hadden).

Isles of Scilly: Tresco, trapped, 6th to 28th September (D. Hunt, P. Z. Mackenzie, J. C. Rolls *et al.*).

There was also one at Akeagh Lough, Co. Kerry, from 28th February to 14th March.

Semi-palmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*)

Kent: Dungeness, 6th to 9th September (A. J. Greenlands, J. G. Harrison, R. E. Scott *et al.*).

This is the fourth British record of this North American species.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)

Devon: Lundy, two, 27th to 28th September (A. J. Vickery).

Dorset: West Fleet, Weymouth, 16th August (B. and P. Roscoe).

Norfolk: Thornham—Holme, 26th September to 3rd October (E. J. Cottier, J. A. W. Moyes, M. Webber *et al.*).

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Anglesey: Newborough Warren, 23rd August (K. A. Roberts).

Hampshire: Dibden Bay, Southampton Water, three, 10th April (E. M. Miller),

Huntingdonshire: Diddington Reservoir, 17th to 24th August (Mrs Lovell, J. T. R. Sharrock *et al.*).

Kent: Hythe, Palmarsh, 23rd May (C. H. Dean).

Lincolnshire: Gibraltar Point, two, 26th April (J. A. Ewan, J. C. Sillitoe).

Norfolk: Holme, 3rd May (P. R. Clarke). Near Reedham, two, 25th May (D. A. Dorling, M. J. Seago).

Shropshire: Venus Pool, Shrewsbury, two, 20th May (Mr. and Mrs. J. Durnall, P. Hope).

Somerset: Chew Valley Reservoir, two, 22nd to 25th May (L. Brock, R. J. Prytherch, R. F. Thearle, *et al.*).

Suffolk: Felixstowe Golf Course, two, 20th to 28th April; one, 29th April (H. E. Axell, F. L. French, G. J. Jobson). Minsmere, two, 10th May; one, 11th May (H. E. Axell, Mrs. K. E. I. Barham, P. J. Makepeace *et al.*).

While the possibility of some of the spring records referring to the same individual(s) is fairly high, it is clear that there was an unprecedented and widespread influx in April and May. This immigration was presumably an example of the 'overshooting' phenomenon that characterises the spring occurrences here of several species which are summer visitors to southern Europe. We understand that a number of pairs of Black-winged Stilts nested in the Netherlands in 1965.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*)

Lincolnshire/Norfolk: Wisbech sewage farm, 12th to 26th August (D. G. Bell, G. M. S. Easy, J. A. W. Moyes *et al.*).

This is the fifth British record, and the third in August, of this North American wader.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Derbyshire: Ogston Reservoir, 23rd to 24th June (R. H. Appleby, R. A. Frost *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Scaling Dam Reservoir, 20th to 21st June (W. Norman, S. Norman, P. J. Stead *et al.*).

These are the 17th and 18th British records of this North American species, though it seems reasonable to suppose that the same individual was involved in both cases. The only Irish record was in 1961.

Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius cursor*)

East Lothian: Aberlady Bay, 9th to 21st October (D. Baty, I. Robertson, G. Waterston *et al.*).

Although *The Handbook* listed (up to 1939) about 27 records of this desert and steppe wader from Africa and southern Asia, it has in recent decades become extremely rare here. There has been only one other British record since 1958: in Devon in October 1959.

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

Cornwall: Hayle Estuary, Drift Reservoir and Marazion Marsh, adult, 3rd to 6th August (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, N. R. Phillips, G. Raper).

Kent: Leybourne gravel pits, juvenile, 29th September (J. J. M. Flegg).

Northamptonshire: Hollowell Reservoir, two, 14th May (B. Cave, G. E. Dunmore, L. S. Taylor *et al.*).

The above three records constitute the lowest total of any of the last eight years, showing an extraordinary collapse from the record 18 or 19 observations in 1964.

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Cardiganshire: Glandyfri, adult, 11th July (B. E. Cooper, P. Clement, A. Quinn).

Cornwall: Marazion Marsh, 19th to 20th June (R. G. Hadden, R. D. Penhallurick).

This species, which breeds as near as south-central France, has been absent from our report only once in the last eight years.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Kent: Sandwich Bay, 1st May (D. M. Batchelor).

Sussex: Selsey Bill, 29th May (B. King, J. C. Rolls); two 12th June (R. J. Johns); one, 13th June (H. P. Kay Robinson). Langney Point, 1st July (D. D. Harber); 5th July (R. H. Charlwood); two, 13th July (D. D. Harber). Holywell, Eastbourne, 20th August (D. D. Harber). It seems likely that some of these Sussex records relate to the same individual(s).

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne tschegryva*)

Yorkshire: South Gare, near Redcar, 26th September (T. Bradbury, L. Norman, S. C. Norman *et al.*).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 28th October (D. Hunt, B. S. Milne, A. W. Sudbury).

There has only been one other British record of this American cuckoo since 1958 and that was in Sussex in December 1960.

Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)

Orkney: Kirkwall, 11th June (E. Balfour, D. Glue, Mrs. M. Traill-Clouston *et al.*).

This is the only British record since 1958, though the species migrates to breeding localities within 250 miles of southern England.

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*)

Aberdeenshire: Cabrach, 11th to 25th February (S. Roberts).

Aberdeenshire/Banffshire/Inverness-shire: ♂, 3rd June to 19th August; a different individual, 8th August; one to 17th October (A. D. Brewer, C. C. I. Murdoch, S. Roberts *et al.*).

Angus: near Kirriemuir, 22nd January (Miss I. F. Lindsay).

Hampshire: Pennington Marshes, 14th March (A. D. and J. M. Crocker). Brading Marsh, Isle of Wight, 28th March (Mrs. E. M. Henry, Mr. Sheppard, J. Stafford). These two records presumably relate to the same individual.

Kent: near Lydd, 23rd to 31st January (W. S. Nevin, C. Pain, Miss H. M. Rowland *et al.*).

Moray Basin: ♂ and ♀ from November 1964 (see page 301), ♂ last seen 7th February; ♀, 15th March; one 17th March; ♂ again present 29th August to at least 30th October (S. Roberts).

Northumberland: Low Hauxley, 28th November (E. Robson, P. Yeoman).

Orkney: North Ronaldsay, 11th to 17th April (K. G. Walker); 5th to 7th May (K. G. Walker). The latter was thought by the observer to be a different individual.

Isles of Scilly: the bird previously reported as having been present on various islands from 10th October 1964 was still about in early March (see also *Brit. Birds*, 59: plate 17).

Shetland: Fetlar, ♂, more or less continuously from 24th January to mid-December; ♀, 25th to 26th February; what was probably the above ♂ was also recorded on Mainland, Unst and Yell on various occasions. Whalsay, ♂, from 18th April; ♀, 28th to 29th June; then, a day or two later, two ♂♂, one of which was last seen 17th October and the other 11th November (W. Ogilvy, J. H. Simpson, R. J. Tulloch *et al.*). Fair Isle, ♂, 17th May (R. H. Dennis, Dr. M. Rusk, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

Only four of these circumpolar arctic owls were recorded in Britain in the five years 1958-62, three in Scotland and one in Wales. In 1963 two to four were recorded in Scotland and one in Essex, and then in 1964 Scottish records related to about seven birds while one was recorded from Suffolk and one from the Scillies. The 1965 records

show a further striking increase, including several from southern England. This sudden change in the apparent status of this species in Britain has taken place during a period in which, we are informed, 'surprisingly large' numbers have been imported for sale here. The records from southern England are, of course, particularly suspect, but at least some of those from more northerly localities may well also relate to escapes from captivity, particularly where summering birds are involved. It is perhaps of interest to add that there has been no record in Ireland since 1958.

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*)

Devon: Lundy, 28th September (A. J. Vickery).

Hampshire: Gilkicker Point, 4th October (B. S. Duffin).

Hertfordshire/Middlesex: Troy Mill gravel pit, 26th September (Miss E. R. Gooding, J. D. Magee).

Norfolk: Cley, 3rd October (R. A. Richardson).

Orkney: North Ronaldsay, trapped, 8th June (K. G. Walker).

Sussex: Beachy Head, 7th August (R. F. Porter, I. R. Willis).

The last eight years have provided no less than 33 British records of this species which is found in southern Europe, southern Asia and Africa. In the same period there have been only two records in Ireland, including one at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 6th and 7th August 1965 (*cf.* the Sussex date above).

Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

Glamorgan: Northgate, 6th July (P. J. Taylor, P. J. M. Thomas).

Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)

Carmarthenshire: Pentre-bach, near Halfway, 4th July (P. J. Chadwick, M. A. Wright) and 6th July (W. B. Yapp).

There have now been about 14 British (and one Irish) records of this south and east European, south-west Asian and north African species since 1958.

Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella cinerea*)

Essex: Hanningfield Reservoir, 20th May (S. Hudgell, R. P. Hull).

Shetland: Fair Isle, showing the characters of the rufous western races, 27th to 29th May (G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman).

In addition, one was identified on Inishtrahull, Co. Donegal, from 17th to 21st October 1965.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)

Cornwall: Marazion, 4th April (R. G. Hadden, N. R. Phillips *et al.*).

Though this species breeds north to the Channel coast of France and

the Low Countries, it remains a very rare vagrant to Britain. The above is only our third record since 1958.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

Yorkshire: Spurn, 13th May (G. R. Edwards, B. R. Spence, S. J. Weston *et al.*).

There have been six British records of this species since 1958. It is extending its breeding range northwards in Iberia and the Balkans.

Grey-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*)

Morayshire: Lossiemouth, found dying, 26th November (D. Careless, Capt. J. N. Humphreys R.N., Dr. J. G. Harrison).

Outer Hebrides: St. Kilda, 29th October, died during night (P. Grubb).

There are only three previous British records of this North American thrush, all in October.

Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*)

Norfolk: Salthouse, 30th August to 14th September (J. Crudass, P. Thomson, R. A. Richardson *et al.*).

This is the 19th British record of this common Mediterranean and Near East breeding species and only the third since 1956.

Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*)

Northumberland: Low Hauxley, first-winter, trapped, 26th September (G. Bruce, B. Galloway, E. Robson *et al.*); another first-winter, trapped, 2nd October (B. Galloway, B. Little, E. Robson *et al.*).

Shetland: Fair Isle, trapped, 24th to 26th May (G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman, *et al.*); another, trapped, 26th to 29th May (G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

There are only three previous British records of this Scandinavian, east European and Asiatic species, all for Fair Isle and all in May. The above occurrences in Northumberland are therefore particularly interesting.

Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*)

Kent: (locality suppressed), twelve ♂♂ were holding territory between 15th April and 12th July (R. G. Pitt *et al.*); one trapped in same area, 16th May (D. Batchelor, M. Davenport, J. Websper *et al.*).

Wiltshire: (locality suppressed), trapped, 6th to 15th May (D. Brotheridge, J. Squire, G. L. Webber *et al.*).

An account of the colonisation of Kent in recent years by this Continental European, west Asian and north African species, which used to breed in the fens of East Anglia until the middle of the 19th century, will appear in a future issue of *British Birds*.

Moustached Warbler (*Luscinola melanopogon*)

Buckinghamshire: Wendover, trapped, 31st July (D. N. Makepeace, D. R. Rose, K. Williamson *et al.*).

There are only four previous British records of this Mediterranean, east European and south-west Asian species, and this is the first to be examined in the hand here.

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

Essex: Hanningfield Reservoir, 6th June (M. S. Freeman, S. Hudgell, A. P. Simes *et al.*).

Kent: Stodmarsh, 13th June (J. Cranfield, R. Easts, M. Hollingsworth).

Suffolk: Walberswick, 5th September (D. J. Pearson).

Surrey: Frensham Great Pond, trapped, 7th to 19th June (P. G. Davis, V. R. Herbert *et al.*).

Sussex: Selsey Bill, 6th June (H. P. Kay Robinson).

Field observations do not normally exclude the Clamorous Reed Warbler *A. stentoreus* of southern Asia and Egypt, but this species is practically unknown in Europe.

Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

Cornwall: Marazion Marsh, trapped, 30th August (E. Griffiths, N. R. Phillips); River Camel, 23rd September (R. J. Salmon).

Hampshire: Stanpit Marsh, trapped, 14th August (D. F. Elliott, K. T. Standring, A. J. Wise); trapped, 24th August (C. I. Husband, K. T. Standring, M. A. Stewart).

Norfolk: Blakeney Point, 4th September (B. A. E. Marr, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Somerset: Chew Valley Lake, trapped, 15th August, released 16th August (R. J. Prytherch, P. T. Sims, R. F. Thearle *et al.*).

Surrey: Beddington sewage farm, 17th August (P. J. Wilson).

Shetland: Fair Isle, trapped, 5th September (R. Bourne, R. H. Dennis, M. Griffiths *et al.*); another, trapped, 9th to 10th September (R. Bourne, R. H. Dennis *et al.*).

These records bring the total since 1958 to over eighty. Analysis shows that, apart from single occurrences in May and November, all have been between early August and early October. If these seven weeks are broken down into ten-day periods, the resulting groups of records total 6, 11, 14, 20, 16, 8 and 4. This is a remarkably smooth curve of occurrence and it can be argued that this east European and west Asiatic summer visitor has proved itself to be a regular autumn migrant here.

Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)

Northumberland: Bamburgh, trapped, 4th to 7th September (J. M. Bayldon, M. Bell, M. Marquiss).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 7th to 14th October (J. B. Cox, P. Harrison, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Sussex: The Crumbles, Eastbourne, 17th September (R. H. Charlwood).

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In addition, one was present on Malin Head, Co. Donegal, from 18th to 21st October 1965.

Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus bonelli*)

Dorset: Portland Bill, trapped, 10th to 20th August (F. R. Clifton, Dr. K. B. Rooke *et al.*).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, trapped, 4th to 5th October (E. Griffiths, P. Harrison, A. Quinn *et al.*).

Although not recorded in Britain before 1948, this species now occurs almost annually, this presumably being linked with its northward spread in Europe.

Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Northumberland: Low Hauxley, trapped, 16th September, released 17th September at Gosforth where it stayed until 18th (B. Little, E. Meck, E. Robson).

Somerset: Sand Point, Weston-super-Mare, 17th August (C. G. Bennett).

This north European and Siberian species, which winters in south-east Asia, has been recorded annually since 1958, except in 1963, but the Somerset record is the first for western Britain since 1960.

Pallas's Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

Dorset: Portland Bill, 25th October (A. W. Evans, G. P. Green, D. A. Thelwell).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 22nd to 23rd October (D. D. Harber, B. S. Milne, A. W. Sudbury *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Spurn, trapped, 24th to 28th October (J. Cudworth, J. B. Hague, B. R. Spence *et al.*); another, trapped, 11th to 13th November (D. L. Davenport, J. W. Hartley, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

There are now 18 British records of this Siberian warbler and all but one have been since 1951. The appearance of this species on St. Agnes, a tiny island some 3,600 miles to the west of its nearest breeding place, for the third consecutive autumn is particularly noteworthy.

Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)

Yorkshire: Spurn, trapped, 26th to 31st October (C. Bower, C. W. Holt, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

This is the fourth British record of this summer visitor to eastern Asia and the third since 1961.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 2nd October (E. Griffiths, P. Harrison).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 2nd October (E. J. Wiseman); two, 26th October (G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis).

Thus there were considerably fewer records of this summer visitor to central Asia than in 1963 or 1964.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)

Dorset: Portland Bill, 27th September (F. R. Clifton, D. J. Godfrey, A. W. Sudbury *et al.*).

Hampshire: Gilkicker Point, 8th to 11th September (M. Bryant, B. Duffin, M. H. Terry *et al.*).

Kent: Sandwich Bay, trapped, 17th April (D. M. Batchelor, K. Chapman, M. Davenport *et al.*).

Norfolk: Hunstanton, 3rd October (D. M. Broom, M. J. E. Hewlins).

Suffolk: Minsmere, 4th September (H. E. Axell, R. G. H. Cant, P. J. Makepeace); Sizewell, three, perhaps five, 5th September (R. V. A. Marshall); three, 6th to 8th September; one, 9th September (H. E. Axell, R. G. H. Cant, P. J. Makepeace).

Sussex: Langney Point, 22nd September (D. D. Harber). Darwell Reservoir, 6th October (R. V. White).

The number of individuals concerned in the Suffolk records is unprecedented in recent years. Their occurrence was associated with an avalanche of night migrants on the East Anglian coast in the first week of September (to be analysed in a future issue of *British Birds*).

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 31st October to 4th November (M. I. Harvey, B. S. Milne, A. W. Sudbury *et al.*).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 26th May (E. J. Wiseman); 13th October (G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman).

There is only one previous November record, in 1961, of this summer visitor to north-east Europe and Siberia.

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*)

Dorset: between Bere Regis and Wareham, adult, 23rd August (A. W. and R. A. Preston).

Orkney: North Ronaldsay, found dead, 30th May (K. G. Walker).

Shetland: Sellafirth, Yell, adult, 23rd to 30th September (R. J. Tulloch). Whalsay, adult, 17th to 24th October (Miss W. Dickson, J. H. Simpson, E. J. Wiseman).

Wiltshire: Castle Eaton, 26th to 27th June (M. Latham, J. E. Squire, G. L. Webber *et al.*).

An unusual number of records, exceeded only in 1961 when six were reported. The wide scatter of dates seems to be characteristic of this south and east European and south-west Asian species.

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)

Caernarvonshire: Bardsey, 4th to 7th June (G. H. Evans, W. J. Lloyd, Miss G. Marston); juvenile, 12th August (G. H. Evans *et al.*); first-summer ♂, trapped, 12th to 13th August (A. Atkinson, G. H. Evans, R. F. Durman *et al.*).

Cornwall: Marazion Marsh, juvenile, trapped, 28th to 30th August (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, R. M. Curber, N. R. Phillips *et al.*).

Dorset: Verne Common, Portland, 6th May (D. C. Moule). Portland, adult, 29th August (Dr. J. S. Ash, D. G. Bell, F. R. Clifton *et al.*).

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East Lothian: Barns Ness, adult ♀, trapped, 4th to 15th September (A. Macdonald, A. T. Macmillan, G. Waterston *et al.*).

Fife: Kilconquhar, 30th May (Dr. W. J. Eggeling, D. W. Oliver).

Kent: Dungeness, juvenile, trapped, 22nd August to 13th September (H. A. R. Cawkell, P. J. Grant, R. E. Scott *et al.*).

Norfolk: Happisburgh, 19th May (M. W. Ferguson). Holme, 26th May (P. R. and Mrs. M. R. Clarke).

Northumberland: Farne Islands, 25th to 26th May (F. Y. Bodger). Holy Island, juvenile, 21st to 24th September (L. G. Macfarlane, M. Natrass, R. Norman *et al.*).

Pembrokeshire: Martinshaven, near Marloes, adult, 9th August (Rev. D. A. Quine, H. Thompson, P. J. M. Ward *et al.*).

Isles of Scilly: Tresco, 2nd June (A. and L. R. Mitchell).

Shetland: Fair Isle, adult ♂, trapped, 23rd May to 7th June (R. H. Dennis, J. Wilson, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*); adult ♂, trapped, 12th August (R. H. Dennis, Mrs. M. T. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*). Gremista, Lerwick, immature, 2nd to 5th October (D. Coutts).

Yorkshire: Spurn, 5th June (J. Cudworth, P. E. Preston, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

These 18 records show a continued reversal of the downward trend of the three years 1961-63, during which period there was a total of only ten observations of this summer visitor to western and southern Europe.

Rose-coloured Starling (*Sturnus roseus*)

[**Cornwall:** Wadebridge, adult, 16th August (Mrs. O. B. Luke).]

As we have stated previously, this species is not uncommonly kept in captivity and there are reasons to suggest that the above individual may well have been an escape. On the other hand, it should be borne in mind that 14 out of the 24 records listed by us since 1958 have been in July and August. These are two of the months most associated with the trans-European wanderings of this nomadic species.

Arctic Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*)

Shetland: Foula, a redpoll showing the characters of this species, 13th to 25th July (H. Fabritius, E. E. Jackson *et al.*). Fair Isle, trapped, 4th to 6th November (G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis).

Many birds which have the appearance of Arctic Redpolls show, on examination in the hand, a degree of flecking on the rump or other characters suggesting specific relationship with the Redpoll *A. flammea*. The one on Fair Isle had rump and lower back pure white, but a few black streaks on feathers when lifted; upper tail-coverts white with some black centres; and flanks pure white with a few long black streaks. In addition, it was unusually large, with wing 86 mm., bill 13 mm., tarsus 18 mm. and tail 66 mm. and was found after a severe north-west gale. It was thus one of the purest examples of nominate *hornemanni* (the Greenland form) which has been submitted to

us, but taxonomists are divided about the validity or feasibility of distinguishing the Arctic Redpoll and the Redpoll as separate species. So far as the one on Foula is concerned, it should be mentioned that the inhabitants of this island have the habit of catching small birds in autumn and releasing them in spring. Although enquiries failed to establish such an origin in this case, the possibility cannot quite be excluded in view of the most unusual date.

Serin (*Serinus serinus*)

Cambridgeshire: Cambridge, ♂, 7th to 12th May and then again 5th to 9th July (A. S. Cheke, A. W. Sudbury, Dr. P. Yeo).

Dorset: Portland Bill, 5th July (F. R. Clifton, R. Gyllin).

Hampshire: Beaulieu, ♂, 7th March (J. M. Jones).

Norfolk: Holme, ♂, 23rd August (P. R. and Mrs. M. R. Clarke).

Sussex: Selsey Bill, 15th May (B. A. E. Marr).

Scarlet Rosefinch or Grosbeak (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, ♀ or first-summer ♂, 9th to 13th June (R. H. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman). Foula, ♀ or first-summer ♂, trapped, 10th to 16th September, and a second one, 14th to 16th September (A. R. Mainwood).

Yorkshire: Spurn, ♀ or first-summer ♂, 29th to 30th September (C. Devlin, J. W. Hartley, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

Though Scarlet Grosbeaks are imported and sold as Rosefinches, it seems likely that the above records relate to genuine vagrants from eastern Europe. In addition to these, one was seen on Inishtrahull, Co. Donegal, on 25th September 1965.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

Lancashire: Walney, trapped, 17th June (J. Adam, Dr. R. G. B. Brown, W. H. Tickle *et al.*).

This is the third British record of this common North American species. All occurrences have so far been in spring and one was associated with known assisted passage across the Atlantic.

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*)

Pembrokeshire: Skokholm, ♂, 11th May; ♂, 3rd June (Dr. M. P. Harris).

[**Shetland:** Fair Isle, ♂, 29th to 30th June (R. H. Dennis *et al.*). Whalsay, ♂, 1st to 5th May (J. H. Simpson, R. J. Tulloch).]

Like the Red-headed Bunting *E. bruniceps*, this summer visitor to south-east Europe and Asia Minor is kept in captivity, though not to the same extent as the former (which is now no longer on our list). It is worthy of note that Red-headed Buntings appeared at both Fair Isle and Whalsay, Shetland, about the same time as the Black-headed Buntings above, which suggests that the latter also may well have escaped from

captivity. This possibility can by no means be excluded in the cases of those on Skokholm also.

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, ♀ or first-winter, 9th September (R. H. Dennis, R. J. Tulloch, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*)

Yorkshire: Spurn, 19th February to 10th March (J. Cudworth, R. G. Preston, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

The fifth British record and the first since 1958. Though it breeds as close to Britain as western Germany, it is mainly resident and any migration is chiefly altitudinal.

Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*)

Outer Hebrides: South Uist, ♂, 7th May (Dr. W. J. Eggeling, D. Lea, G. Waterston *et al.*).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, ♂, 21st October (D. D. Harber); ♂ (from the description probably the same individual), 28th October (B. S. Milne).

Shetland: Fair Isle, adult ♂, 30th April to 1st May (R. H. Dennis, J. Wilson, E. J. Wiseman); 5th October (R. H. Dennis).

Apart from 1961, this north Eurasian bunting has been recorded annually since 1958. The British records for the last eight years total 25.

Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*)

Essex: Hamford Water, Walton-on-Naze, 5th October (R. V. A. Marshall).

Lancashire: Walney Island, 22nd September (A. J. Mercer).

Isles of Scilly: St. Agnes, 20th to 21st October (J. A. Bertenshaw, D. D. Harber, A. W. Sudbury).

Shetland: Fair Isle, trapped, 16th to 21st September (R. H. Dennis, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

Although most records of this north-east European and Siberian species still come from islands, observations on the mainland have become more frequent since 1958 and now total eight in that period.

Supplementary 1958 record and correction

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

Inverness-shire: Kingussie, found dead, end of April or beginning of May (C. C. I. Murdoch).

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*)

(**Correction**): The locality of the one seen on 22nd February was wrongly given as Corse Maul, Banffshire (*Brit. Birds*, 57: 278); it was actually seen in Glen Esk, Angus.

Supplementary 1961 record**Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)**

Shetland: Foula, two, one trapped, 31st August to 7th September (J. F. W. Bruhn, P. J. Mawby).

Although this species is no longer on our list, we continue to publish additional records for past years.

Supplementary 1962 record**Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*)**

Orkney: Finstown, first-winter, 11th November (E. Balfour).

Supplementary 1963 records and correction**Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)**

(Correction): The one on St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, was seen 3rd to 30th April, not 8th to 20th April as published (*Brit. Birds*, 57: 264).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

Breconshire: Cefn Coch Mountain, 23rd December (M. E. Smith).

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Martin's, at least two, 19th November to at least 16th January 1964 (Miss N. Stevens, R. Stevens *et al.*).

Most of the British and Irish records of this North American species have been between November and early April. It should be remembered that one was present at Egginton sewage farm, Derbyshire, from 29th February to 22nd March 1964 (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 360).

Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)

Orkney: South Ronaldsay, 6th October (H. McKenzie).

Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

Middlesex: Staines Reservoir, 30th April (Dr. A. D. Prowse).

Supplementary 1964 records and corrections**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**

Cornwall: Wadebridge, 31st December, perhaps earlier (G. McD. Warner); this bird stayed well into 1965 (see page 285).

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

Yorkshire: Bretton Park, 20th December (J. E. Dale, G. Taylor, R. W. Kaye).

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

Isles of Scilly: Tresco, 6th November to 5th January 1965 (see also page 287) (D. R. Hunt, D. Sedgwick, F. Wardle *et al.*).

(**Correction**): We learn from H. O. Bunce that a Gyr Falcon came aboard a Hull trawler off Bear Island and was handed over to the Hull R.S.P.C.A. on 11th August 1964; it was released at Bempton, Yorkshire, on 12th August. It seems very likely that this was the same individual as that recorded at Preston, Lancashire, on 25th August (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 359) and we therefore now consider that this record should be square-bracketed.

Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*)

(**Correction**): We now learn that the one recorded on Unst, Shetland, on 19th May (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 359) remained until 29th May.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Isles of Scilly: St. Martin's, the two listed above among the supplementary 1963 records stayed until at least 16th January.

Long-billed or Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus* or *griseus*)

Flintshire: Shotton Pools, 21st June to 12th November (E. J. Abraham, C. G. Bennett, J. R. Mullin *et al.*).

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

(**Correction**): The date of the one at Brownsea Island, Poole Harbour, Dorset, was incorrectly given as 15th June (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 362); it should have been 3rd June.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Northumberland: Hauxley, 26th July; two, 1st August (B. Little, E. Robson).

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*)

Aberdeen/Banffshire: Cairngorms, 5th June (S. Roberts).

Moray Basin: 15th November, then ♂ identified from 21st November and ♀ from 23rd; both stayed on into 1965 (see page 291).

Suffolk: near Shingle Street, mid-January (Miss N. V. Pierce Butler, Lady Prestige).

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)

Devon: Lundy, 26th May (M. Jones, A. J. Vickery).

OTHER 1964 CORRECTIONS

Gyr Falcon. Under Lancashire, for G. Blackwekk, read G. Blackwell.

Dusky Warbler. Under Isles of Scilly, for P. C. Chance, read P. C. Bance.

Appendix 1. List of 1965 records rejected

This list contains all 1965 records which were rejected after circulation to the Committee. It does not include (a) records withdrawn by the observer(s), without circulation, after discussion with the Hon. Secretary; (b) records which, even if circulated, were not attributed by the observer(s) to any definite species; or (c) a few records which were mentioned in 'Recent reports', but of which we have been unable to obtain full details and which have therefore not been considered.

So far as the following rejected records are concerned, it must be made clear that only in a very few cases are we satisfied that a mistake was made. In the vast majority of instances the record has not been accepted because we were not quite convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was correct.

Albatross sp.	Low Hauxley, Northumberland, 19th September
Frigate-bird sp.	Low Hauxley, Northumberland, 19th September
Cory's Shearwater	Bardsey, Caernarvonshire, 9th September St. Ives Island, Cornwall, 1st November Portland Bill, Dorset, two, 17th April, and two, 26th April Isle of May, Fife, 3 1st August off Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, 25th September Low Hauxley, Northumberland, 21, 19th September
Purple Heron	Stodmarsh, Kent, 21st June Swindon, Wiltshire, 1st September
Little Egret	Sidlesham, Sussex, 6th June
Great White Heron	Grove Ferry, Kent, 12th June
Little Bittern	Oxwich, Glamorgan, 14th July
American Bittern	Blagdon, Northumberland, 1 7th January
Harlequin	Fareham, Hampshire, 19th January
Steller's Eider	Lowestoft, Suffolk, up to two, 3rd to 17th June
Gyr Falcon	Lunan Bay, Angus, 24th January
Red-footed Falcon	Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, 8th August
Baillon's Crake	Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, 21st October
Little Crake	Holme Pierrepoint gravel pits, Nottinghamshire, 30th November
Dowitcher sp.	Tynninghame, East Lothian, 17th August
Great Snipe	Perry Oaks, Middlesex, 4th September Beddington sewage farm, Surrey, 1st September Beddington sewage farm, Surrey, 25th and 26th August
Solitary Sandpiper	Ynys Tewyn, Caernarvonshire, 17th August
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tresco, Isles of Scilly, 24th to 25th August
Least Sandpiper	Dozmary Pool, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, 27th to 28th September
Baird's Sandpiper	Marazion Marsh, Cornwall, 20th to 21st October Dungeness, Kent, 6th to 9th September (accepted as a Semi-palmated Sandpiper)

RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1965

Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Tring, Hertfordshire, 30th August
Pratincole	near Brandeston, Suffolk, 15th September
Great Black-headed Gull	Birling Gap, Beachy Head, Sussex, 1st May
Bonaparte's Gull	King George VI Reservoir, Staines, Middlesex, 20th June
	Porto Bello, Brighton, Sussex, 18th September
Slender-billed Gull	Sandwich Bay, Kent, 30th August to 9th September
White-winged Black Tern	Gilkicker Point, Hampshire, 18th July
	Tring Reservoirs, Hertfordshire, 2nd May
	Cliffe, Kent, 9th October
	Grantham sewage farm, Lincolnshire, 18th September
	Queen Mary Reservoir, Staines, Middlesex, 22nd August
	Wooltack Point, Pembrokeshire, 14th September
Gull-billed Tern	Dungeness, Kent, two, 1st May
	Tresco, Isles of Scilly, 15th September
	Birling Gap, Beachy Head, Sussex, two, 23rd May
Caspian Tern	Minsmere, Suffolk, two, 9th May
Alpine Swift	St. John, Cornwall, 29th September
Calandra Lark	Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 2nd to 3rd October
	South Gare, Yorkshire, 3rd October
Lesser Short-toed Lark	Cley, Norfolk, 21st November
Nutcracker	Chesil Bank, Dorset, eight, 6th September
	Marlborough, Wiltshire, 20th March
Wallcreeper	Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 31st May
Dusky Thrush	Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, 6th March
White's Thrush	North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 1st October
	Tresco, Isles of Scilly, 3rd to 5th November
Desert Wheatear	Slapton, Devon, 24th August
Black-eared Wheatear	London Airport, Middlesex, 4th May
Cetti's Warbler	Stodmarsh, Kent, 12th September
Great Reed Warbler	Verne Common, Dorset, 13th August
Aquatic Warbler	Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, 24th July and 25th September
Greenish Warbler	Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire, trapped, 10th to 16th October
Arctic Warbler	Clapham Common, London, 10th October
Collared Flycatcher	Salthouse, Norfolk, 4th September
Richard's Pipit	Clodsey Point, St. Ives, Cornwall, 10th April
	Ham Green, Kent, 30th August
	Perry Oaks sewage farm, Middlesex, 22nd July
	Cley, Norfolk, 27th September
	Low Hauxley, Northumberland, 25th September
	Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire, 23rd March
	Long Ashton, Bristol, four, 3rd April
	Langney Point, Sussex, 7th March

BRITISH BIRDS

Tawny Pipit	Buckhurst Hill, Essex, 28th August Isle of May, Fife, 7th September Regent's Park, London, 22nd May Salthouse Marsh, Norfolk, two, 24th October Spurn, Yorkshire, 15th May
Red-tailed Shrike	Benacre, Suffolk, 7th September
Serin	Portland Bill, Dorset, 26th October Isle of May, Fife, 6th September Brean Down, Somerset, 8th May Selsey Bill, Sussex, 17th October
Yellow-breasted Bunting	Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 16th September
Little Bunting	Glen Lethnot, Angus, 6th April Freathy Cliff, near Rame Head, Cornwall, 22nd September Sandwich Bay, Kent, 20th September Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 12th September Blakeney Point, Norfolk, trapped, 10th October

Appendix 2. Full list of species which come under the consideration of the Rarities Committee

The list which follows is based upon the British and Irish list, but naturally we are also interested in records of species which have not yet qualified for this. We are likewise concerned with a number of well-marked races, e.g. Green-winged Teal, Black-headed Wagtail and Red-tailed Shrike. But sight records of these (including ones examined in the hand and then released) are accepted only as 'showing the characters' of the race in question; we regard museum examination and comparison with skins as the only method of determining even well-marked races with certainty.

White-billed Diver	Night Heron	Ruddy Shelduck
Pied-billed Grebe	Little Bittern	Lesser White-fronted Goose
Black-browed Albatross	American Bittern	Red-breasted Goose
Wilson's Petrel	White Stork	Egyptian Vulture
Madeiran Petrel	Black Stork	Griffon Vulture
Frigate Petrel	Glossy Ibis	Spotted Eagle
Little Shearwater	Flamingo	Black Kite
Audubon's Shearwater	Black Duck	White-tailed Eagle
Cory's Shearwater	Baikal Teal	Pallid Harrier
Bulwer's Petrel	Blue-winged Teal	Gyr Falcon
Kermadec Petrel	American Wigeon	Red-footed Falcon
Collared Petrel	Ring-necked Duck	Lesser Kestrel
Capped Petrel	Ferruginous Duck	Crane
Magnificent Frigate-bird	Bufflehead	Sora Rail
Purple Heron	Surf Scoter	Baillon's Crake
Little Egret	Harlequin	Little Crake
Great White Heron	Steller's Eider	American Purple Gallinule
Squacco Heron	King Eider	Great Bustard
Cattle Egret	Hooded Merganser	

RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1965

Little Bustard	Scops Owl	Booted Warbler
Houbara Bustard	Eagle Owl	Orphean Warbler
Sociable Plover	Snowy Owl	Sardinian Warbler
Killdeer	Hawk Owl	Subalpine Warbler
Caspian Plover	Tengmalm's Owl	Rufous Warbler
Lesser Golden Plover	Nighthawk	Greenish Warbler
Long-billed Dowitcher	Red-necked Nightjar	Bonelli's Warbler
Short-billed Dowitcher	Egyptian Nightjar	Arctic Warbler
Great Snipe	Alpine Swift	Pallas's Warbler
Upland Sandpiper	Needle-tailed Swi ft	Dusky Warbler
Eskimo Curlew	Bee-eater	Radde's Warbler
Solitary Sandpiper	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Brown Flycatcher
Greater Yellowlegs	Roller	Collared Flycatcher
Lesser Yellowlegs	Calandra Lark	Alpine Accentor
Spotted Sandpiper	Bimaculated Lark	Richard's Pipit
Marsh Sandpiper	White-winged Lark	Tawny Pipit
Terek Sandpiper	Short-toed Lark	Pechora Pipit
Least Sandpiper	Lesser Short-toed Lark	Red-throated Pipit
Baird's Sandpiper	Crested Lark	Citrine Wagtail
White-rumped Sandpiper	Red-rumped Swallow	Lesser Grey Shrike
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Nutcracker	Woodchat Shrike
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Wallcreeper	Red-eyed Vireo
Western Sandpiper	Dusky Thrush	Black-and-White Warbler
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Black-throated Thrush	Yellow Warbler
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Siberian Thrush	Myrtle Warbler
Black-winged Stilt	American Robin	Northern Waterthrush
Stilt Sandpiper	White's Thrush	Yellowthroat
Wilson's Phalarope	Rock Thrush	Rose-coloured Starling
Pratincole	Olive-backed Thrush	Bobolink
Black-winged Pratincole	Grey-cheeked Thrush	Baltimore Oriole
Cream-coloured Courser	Desert Wheatear	Summer Tanager
Ivory Gull	Black-eared Wheatear	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Great Black-headed Gull	Pied Wheatear	Slate-coloured Junco
Bonaparte's Gull	Isabelline Wheatear	Arctic Redpoll
Slender-billed Gull	Black Wheatear	Citril Finch
Ross's Gull	Red-flanked Bluetail	Serin
White-winged Black Tern	Thrush Nightingale	Scarlet Rosefinch or Grosbeak
Whiskered Tern	Cetti's Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Gull-billed Tern	Lanceolated Warbler	Two-barred Crossbill
Caspian Tern	River Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Sooty Tern	Savi's Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Bridled Tern	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	Song Sparrow
Royal Tern	Moustached Warbler	Pine Bunting
Brünnich's Guillemot	Thick-billed Warbler	Black-headed Bunting
Pallas's Sandgrouse	Great Reed Warbler	Yellow-breasted Bunting
Rufous Turtle Dove	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Rock Bunting
Great Spotted Cuckoo	Paddyfield Warbler	Rustic Bunting
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Aquatic Warbler	Little Bunting
Black-billed Cuckoo	Olivaceous Warbler	