Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1966
(with 1964 and 1965 additions)
By F. R. Smith and the Rarities Committee
(Plates 37-40)

This is the ninth annual report of the Rarities Committee and has involved consideration of 356 records for 1966, an increase of 23 on the final total for 1965 and of 70 on that for 1964. The proportion of records accepted was 73%, thus maintaining the 1964-65 level after a rise from only 61% in 1962. This reflects a continued improvement in standards of observation and presentation; in the latter connection, the 'Unusual Record' form (Brit. Birds, 58: 228-229), obtainable free from the Hon. Secretary, has proved of value both to observers in submitting records and to us in considering them.

In contrast to the situation in 1965, we have had to deal with few records from earlier years, but three for 1964 and a short list for 1965 will be found on pages 333-335. Some records for 1966 are still outstanding because they were submitted late and one or two others have been delayed because they present special difficulties. In the main, however, observations have reached us quickly and the experience gained over the past nine years has enabled the Committee usually to deal promptly and, we hope, efficiently with the work involved. We have again considered a number of Irish records and a few British ones of species not on our list, when our opinions have been sought by the editors or local recorders concerned. The acceptance or rejection of Irish records is, however, the responsibility of the Irish Bird Report (and the Northern Ireland Bird Records Committee) and we are grateful to Major R. F. Rutledge for providing us with information on Irish records in advance of publication.

The continuity of the composition of the Committee was sadly broken by the unexpected death on 31st August 1966 of D. D. Harber, who had been its hard-working and efficient Hon. Secretary since January 1963 and one of the original members appointed in 1958.
number of members therefore stands now at nine with P. A. D. Hollom (Chairman), F. R. Smith (Hon. Secretary), D. G. Bell, A. R. M. Blake, Peter Davis, M. F. M. Meiklejohn, G. A. Pyman, R. Wagstaffe and D. I. M. Wallace. County editors and other area recorders throughout Britain have been asked to submit names to fill the vacancy. Before he went into hospital, the late D. D. Harber was able to explain the current situation to the present Hon. Secretary and to pass over the files; this ensured a smooth continuation of the duties, although at the time it was expected to be only a temporary arrangement.

The principles and procedure we follow in considering records were explained at length in the 1958 report (Brit. Birds, 53: 155-156). A list of the species with which we are concerned was given in the 1965 report (Brit. Birds, 59: 304-305) and revised reprints of this are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary. In the present report 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 formerly 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 indeterminable 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 are given in a subsequent paragraph. Although the report as a whole is confined to Great Britain, these general comments and totals always include relevant Irish records and sometimes refer to those of other European countries. Irish records are detailed in the Irish Bird Report for 1966 (obtainable from J. R. Dick, c/o 45 Kildare Street, Dublin 2), while totals from earlier years have been calculated with the aid of Ireland's Birds by R. F. Rutledge (1966).

One of the aims of these annual reports is to show the individual record against the general background. In this connection, the length
of a bird’s stay is of interest, as was shown by Dr. J. T. R. Sharrock in his letter to the editors on ‘Week-end bias, length of stay of rarities and proportion of rarities undetected’ (Brit. Birds, 59: 556-558), and it is therefore unfortunate that some people tend to forget that first and last dates are both needed. We hope that observers and county recorders alike will make a special point of supplying last dates in future.

The minor changes made in the last report proved successful and are being continued. A complete list of rejected records is therefore given in appendix 1 on pages 336-338 and immediately preceding this is a list of minor errors in the 1965 report. More significant mistakes are still corrected in the supplementary systematic lists.

An innovation this year is the publication of a small selection of photographs of some of the individual rarities. The Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus on plate 37 is the one in Cornwall in 1964/65 (Brit. Birds, 59: 285), but the other three plates all show birds covered in this report. In addition to these, we also have a fine series of prints of the Cornish dowitcher Limnodromus sp. (see page 317), but they will be published later on their own. We hope that these photographs will encourage others to take black-and-white pictures of rarities (colour transparencies seldom make good black-and-white prints).

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 comparing descriptions with specimen skins has been invaluable. D. I. M. Wallace and I. J. Ferguson-Lees have again very kindly co-operated over the preparation of the species comments in the systematic list. All records should continue to be sent to F. R. Smith, Telford, Hill Barton Road, Exeter, Devon.

Systematic list of 1966 records accepted

White-billed Diver (Gavia adamsii)

Northumberland: Sweethope Lough, seen alive for about a week, then picked up dead on 26th April and taken to the Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne (Colonel F. M. Wood per A. M. Tynan).

This is the sixth since 1958 and brings the total number of records of this arctic Russian and Siberian species to about twenty. Their geographical scatter remains restricted to northern waters and the east coast between Shetland and Yorkshire.

Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps)

Somerset: Chew Valley Lake, the one recorded in the 1965 report (Brit. Birds, 59: 282) was last seen 23rd October, not 28th as stated. What was assumed to be the same individual was seen again on 15th May 1966 (D. Shepherd, R. F. Thearle) and from 22nd July to 2nd November (D. E. Ladhams, R. J. Prytherch, K. E. L. Simmons et al.). (Brit. Birds, 60: 295-299), as well as in 1967.
**BRITISH BIRDS**

**Cory’s Shearwater** (*Procellaria diomedea*)

**Cornwall:** near Wolf Rock, 13th September (B. King).

**Kent:** Dungeness, 15th May (B. P. Austin, P. J. Grant, P. J. Oliver).

**Norfolk:** Salthouse, 29th January, dead about a week (A. Mannering, R. A. Richardson, B. Shergold *et al.*).

These three records in British waters, one each in winter, spring and autumn, are as many as in any previous year except 1965 when the final total, with late additions (see page 334), was 17 records involving about 142 birds (*Brit. Birds, 59: 283*). The one in Norfolk is of particular interest because it proved to belong to the mid-Atlantic race *P. d. borealis* and was the first subspecific determination since both that and the nominate Mediterranean race were removed from the British and Irish List as a result of the elimination of the Hastings Rarities (*Brit. Birds, 55: 281-384*, especially 306-307, 342 and 350-351). Sightings off Ireland in 1966 followed the normal pattern, except that there were no records from Cape Clear, Co. Cork, for the first year since 1961.

**Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*)

**Bedfordshire:** Wyboston gravel pits, immature, 10th August to 10th September (A. J. Livett, P. Trengrove, M. D. Wortley).

**Devon:** River Erme, near-adult, 27th April to 10th May (O. D. Hunt, L. H. Hurrell, S. C. Madge *et al.*).

**Hampshire:** Bembridge, Isle of Wight, immature, 18th May (H. P. K. Robinson).

**Kent:** Medway estuary, adult, 3rd and 4th August (W. and H. S. Mouland).

**Scilly:** Tresco, immature, 4th to 18th May (D. B. Hunt, B. King). St. Mary’s, near-adult, 1st to 30th May (S. Greenwood, K. Pellow, R. Symons *et al.*).

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, adult on 17th May, two adults on 18th, one on 23rd, 25th and 26th (H. E. Axell, D. Lea, J. C. Nicholson).

**Yorkshire:** Almholme, near Doncaster, immature, 3rd May (R. J. Rhodes).

The seven in April and May constitute the most striking influx since 1963 (*Brit. Birds, 57: 263*) of this summer visitor to the Netherlands and southern Europe, which also breeds widely in Asia and Africa.

**Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)

**Devon:** Axe estuary, 11th to 17th June (R. Cottrill, Mrs. H. Highway, F. R. Smith).

**Kent:** Medway estuary, 4th May (J. Hale).

**Scilly:** Tresco, 6th to 9th May (D. B. Hunt).

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, 14th June (J. C. Nicholson).

**Sussex:** Chichester Harbour, 2nd and 3rd May (O. M. Ashford, M. Shrub). There were also two Irish records, one at Killala Bay, Co. Mayo, on 25th June and one near Ballycotton, Co. Cork, from 29th June to 3rd September. As previously pointed out, most sight records of this south European species, which also breeds in southern Asia, Africa and Australia, do not exclude the remote possibility of the Snowy Egret *E. thula* of North America. The nine years 1958-66 produced a mini-
RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1966

A maximum of 45 Little Egrets in Britain and Ireland, but their monthly distribution was wrongly summarised in the 1965 report (Brit. Birds, 59: 284). In fact, the only March record in this time was in Co. Cork in 1961 and there have been only two in April. May (19), June (twelve) and July (six) account for 37 of the records and there has been none later than September since 1959 (when there was one in October and two in November, one remaining into December), except in 1961-62 when one first seen in August stayed on until it died in January.

**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)

[Derbyshire: Egginton, Etwall, immature, 12th July (T. Gibson, A. N. Stephens).]

As previously mentioned, this nearly cosmopolitan bird is not uncommonly kept in captivity and few individuals at large in Britain have been accepted as genuinely wild, since the species is resident in the parts of Europe where it breeds (chiefly Iberia and southern Russia) and it is therefore much less prone to wander north than other herons.

**Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

**Hampshire**: Beaulieu, immature, 8th to 11th December (N. D. Pullen).

**Surrey**: Surbiton, adult, 30th November into 1967 (J. Gale, S. Greenwood et al.).

Records in Britain of this nearly cosmopolitan bird may still relate to escapes from Edinburgh Zoo Park, where the species breeds in a free state (Brit. Birds, 53: 159-160). The Director-Secretary, G. D. Fisher, informs us (in litt.) that the colony there continues to thrive and now numbers about 40. An average of eight or nine young is reared annually; as the size of the colony now remains fairly constant (and as only one has been found dead in the park during the last decade), it appears that about this number must wander away each year. It should be borne in mind that these birds were obtained from Canada in 1936 and are presumably therefore of the North American race *N.n.boatelli* and, although this subspecies is not distinguishable in the field, a full examination should be made of any found dead. Against all this, a colony of Night Herons established itself in the Netherlands in 1946 and may be the source of the British records, particularly as a majority have been near the south and east coasts.

**Little Bittern** (*Ixobrychus minutus*)

**Hampshire**: Titchfield Haven, ♀, 3rd September (J. Barker, J. Cantelo, G. Preddle).

**Kent**: Stodmarsh, 3, 23rd July (J. G. Andrew, M. E. Griffiths, F. J. Lambert et al.).

**Sussex**: Steyning, ♀, 30th April to 5th May (R. E. Goddard, B. Metcalfe, J. A. Newnham et al.).

The Sussex record is paralleled by Irish observations of two at Cape Clear, Co. Cork, and one at Clifden River, Co. Galway, all on 1st May. This summer visitor to much of continental Europe, which also breeds...
in western and southern Asia, Africa and Australia, now occurs annually and the records in Britain and Ireland during the nine years 1958-66 total at least 33 (involving 34 or more individuals). Although half of these have been concentrated in the south-eastern quarter of England, the species may appear anywhere and there have been three Scottish records in this period. Observations in 1958 and 1960 suggested breeding attempts, but this species frequently 'overshoots' in spring. No less than 27 of the records relate to April, May (19) and June.

**Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)

A drake showing the characters of this North American race was recorded as follows:

**Inverness-shire**: Moray Firth, δ, 5th to 16th January (R. H. Dennis, M. Morrison).

There was also one Irish record, a drake at Muckinish Lough, Co. Clare, on 13th March. The distinctive males of this subspecies have been recorded annually since 1958.

**Blue-winged Teal** (*Anas discors*)

**Orkney**: North Ronaldsay, δ, 10th November (K. G. Walker).

This is the first British record of this North American duck since 1960, although two were shot in Ireland in 1962; the total of British and Irish records is now about 20. Very few are kept in captivity and, because of their rarity and value, it is unlikely that any would be allowed to escape.

**American Wigeon** (*Anas americana*)

**Inverness-shire**: Moray Firth, δ, 30th December 1965 to 11th February 1966 (R. Clark, R. H. Dennis, Wing-Commander R. J. Fursman et al.); δ, 16th December into 1967 (R. H. Dennis, M. Morrison); perhaps both these records relate to the same individual as in January and February 1965 (Brit. Birds, 59: 286).

**Shetland**: Loch of Mails, Sumburgh, δ, 7th October, shot by G. Leslie, was ringed as pullus near Sheffield, New Brunswick, Canada, on 6th August 1966 (per B.T.O. Ringing Committee).

These records bring the total number in Britain and Ireland since 1958 to between nine and eleven, all September to March. The one in Shetland demonstrates beyond all doubt that wild individuals do cross the Atlantic.

**Ferruginous Duck** (*Aythya nyroca*)

**Essex**: Abberton Reservoir, what was probably one of those recorded in late 1965 (Brit. Birds, 59: 286) stayed until 2nd February 1966 (R. V. A. Marshall et al.).

**Middlesex**: Staines Reservoir, δ, 28th September (Dr. A. D. Prowse, G. Walker).

Numbers of this south and east European duck, which also breeds in western Asia and north-west Africa, are commonly kept in collections.
**Surf Scoter** *(Melanitta perspicillata)*

**Fife:** Tentsmuir, ♀, 2nd October (R. Job).

**Kirkcudbrightshire:** Southerness, ♀, the one first recorded on 27th December 1965 *(Brit. Birds, 59: 286)* was last noted on 27th February 1966 (T. Gibson); it was seen throughout at Southerness and not at Portowarren as previously stated.

**Kirkcudbrightshire:** Southerness, ♀, 3rd December (R. J. Burness, T. Inskipp).

This North American sea-duck has been recorded annually since 1958 (except 1960) and these nine years have produced some 15 records, involving about 18 birds, all September to April.

**King Eider** *(Somateria spectabilis)*

**Shetland:** between Burra and Mainland, ♀, 19th to 29th April, reappearing 10th, 17th and 20th June (D. Courts, R. Duthie, J. Irvine et al.) *(plate 39)*, Sumburgh, ♀, 6th to 9th September (D. Courts, J. Irvine, G. D. Joy et al.).

These two observations, which it is thought may relate to the same individual, are only the fifth and sixth records of this circumpolar-arctic duck in Britain and Ireland in the nine years 1958-66.

**Lesser White-fronted Goose** *(Anser erythropus)*

**Gloucestershire:** Slimbridge, two adults, 6th February (M. Lubbock, P. Scott) and 13th February (D. I. M. Wallace), one on 20th and 23rd (P. Scott, D. I. M. Wallace et al.); a third adult and one immature, 27th February (D. I. M. Wallace), and a different immature, also 27th February (J. A. Bailey).

Except in 1965, this north-east European and north Asian summer-visitor, which breeds no further away than northern Scandinavia, has appeared annually in the nine years 1958-66. An area in Norfolk has been visited by one or more in five of these years and the New Grounds, Gloucestershire, in six. Of about 30 noted since 1958, at least 21 have been adults. The occurrence of five at the New Grounds in 1966 coincided with the biggest-ever influx to that area of White-fronted Geese *A. albifrons*. There are no Irish records at all.

**Red-breasted Goose** *(Branta ruficollis)*

[**Berwickshire:** near Greenlaw, five, 21st March (Major P. Deas, G. Speedy).]

This remarkable record cannot be accepted without reservation since this arctic Siberian species has been imported into the Netherlands in large numbers. Presumed wild individuals, of which there are about 20 British records, have always occurred singly and usually with flocks of White-fronted Geese.

**Black Kite** *(Milvus migrans)*

**Norfolk:** Cley, 14th May (R. S. Brown, A. Greensmith, A. Stagg).

**Orkney:** Harray, 18th and 19th May (E. Balfour).

**Scilly:** Tresco, 23rd April (D. B. Hunt, D. P. Upton).

**Shetland:** Sumburgh, 27th May to 2nd June (M. Carins, G. D. Joy, M. J. McVail et al.) *(plate 38)*.

There are only five previous British records of this very widespread
Old World species, although it is common in central, southern and eastern Europe. It is likely that only two individuals, perhaps even one, were concerned in the east coast records in May.

**Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*)

**Orkney:** Burrien Hill, 13th May (E. Balfour).

**Shetland:** Baltasound, Unst, late May to 4th August (M. Sinclair, F. J. Walker).

This circumpolar arctic species continues to occur annually with an average of two records each year, but these dates are unusual.

**Crane** (*Grus grus*)

**Aberdeenshire:** Newburgh, immature, 15th to 23rd October (Dr. G. M. Dunnet, H. Milne, W. Murray et al.).

**Anglesey:** Cemlya Bay, almost adult, 17th September (T. H. and Mrs. F. M. Ellis).

**Argyll:** Clachan, West Loch Tarbert, about 10th to 28th May (I. MacDonald, I. McPhail, Rev. J. D. Sutherland et al.). Glen Barr, Kintyre, immature, 19th December and into 1967 (J. Greenlees, A. McArthur, D. Mackinnon et al.).

**Cheshire:** Tatton Mere, adult, 13th February (D. T. Parkin).

**Devon:** Slapton Ley, adult, 23rd September (L. I. Hamilton, R. V. Price, P. R. Smith et al.).

**Lancashire:** Garstang, 23rd August to 14th September (R. G. Carefoot, T. Elliott).

**Lincolnshire:** Skegness, immature, 4th November (L. Hurst, E. J. Mackrill).

**Suffolk:** Westleton, adult, 14th May (R. G. H. Cant, S. R. Edwards).

**Surrey:** Frensham Little Pond, 16th June (Dr. S. G. Kent).


By comparison with the remarkable influx at the end of October 1963 (*Brit. Birds*, 57: 502-508), these eleven records of this summer-visitor to Fennoscandia and eastern Europe, which also breeds across Asia and south to Turkey, may seem quite modest. The three spring records are noteworthy, however, and the total is, in fact, the second highest since at least 1958 and probably very much earlier than that.

**AMERICAN WADERS**

Excluding Pectoral Sandpipers *Calidris melanotos*, now no longer on our list, accepted records of American waders in Britain involved 26 individuals of ten species. All but one were in autumn and there was a remarkable influx between 24th August and 23rd September when 18 individuals of eight species were first seen. A similar influx occurred in Ireland, with at least 26 individuals of nine species (plus ten or eleven Pectoral Sandpipers), but there very few were noted during the peak period in Britain, the majority being recorded during the following three weeks. Amongst these British and Irish records combined were no less than four each of Least Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper, species formerly very rare on this side of the Atlantic.
**Long-billed or Short-billed Dowitcher**  
*Limnodromus scolopaceus or griseus*

**Cornwall**: Hayle estuary, trapped but not examined in detail in the hand, 30th October for several months to at least spring 1967 (E. Griffiths, R. Khan, L. P. Williams et al.).

**Kent**: Milton Creek, Sittingbourne, 30th August (E. G. Philp, R. Smith).


It is particularly interesting that the one in Cornwall stayed on right through the winter into the spring of 1967. There were also two Irish records of indeterminate dowitchers, at Kilcoole Marsh, Co. Wicklow, from 29th September to 8th October and at Tacumshane Lake, Co. Wexford, on 2nd October, as well as one Short-billed *L. griseus* at Ballymona, Co. Cork, on 8th and 9th October.

In 1961 Dr. I. C. T. Nisbet, discussing the field identification of the then recently separated dowitchers and reviewing all British and Irish occurrences, accepted 41 records up to and including 1960 (*Brit. Birds*, 54: 343-356). He considered that at least twelve could be referred to *scolopaceus* and only four to *griseus*. He further concluded that this balance in occurrence would be maintained in view of the timing of the former’s autumn passage on the east coast of America.

Events appear not to be in line with this forecast, however. Dowitchers have become more regular in Britain and Ireland, the years 1961-66 producing about 30 individuals, and, in the cases where specific identifications have been accepted, nine have been of *griseus* (including a party of five in Ireland) and only four of *scolopaceus*. As it is difficult to fault Dr. Nisbet’s logic, this is a puzzling situation. The whole matter is aggravated by the fact that too often observers seem to use one or two main identification points in isolation from other supporting details. The specific identification of dowitchers is often very difficult and the greatest attention to detail is essential if the observers, and the Committee, are to succeed in judging between the two species.

**Great Snipe** (*Gallinago media*)


Only 13 or 14 records of this north-east European and Asiatic species have been accepted since 1958 (and there has been none in Ireland in that time). Of these, five have been in winter, two in spring, and five or six in autumn. It is interesting to note that three intensively watched areas, Fair Isle, St. Agnes and the Home Counties, have provided eight or nine of the records. It may well be that this species is under-recorded.
Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

**Wiltshire**: Rodbourne, Swindon, trapped, 13th to 25th September (Dr. E. A. R. Ennion, C. M. Swaine, G. L. Webber *et al.* (plate 40b).)

This is only the ninth British record of this North American wader and all have been between mid-July and October. Curiously, there are no Irish records.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)

**Devon**: Braunton Pill, 24th and 25th August (G. Jessup, A. J. Vickery).

**Lincolnshire/Norfolk**: Wisbech sewage farm, 17th September (M. Densley, A. R. Jenkins, W. J. Lloyd *et al.*).

This has long been one of the more regular North American waders over here and at least one has been recorded annually since 1958, except in 1960. In Ireland, one frequented Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, from 2nd to 12th November.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Tringa macularia*)

**Scilly**: Tresco, trapped, 3rd September to 1st October (D. B. Hunt, J. L. F. Parslow, R. F. Thearle *et al.*), St. Agnes, 23rd to 25th September (S. C. Joyner, M. Kendall, N. J. Westwood *et al.*).

These are only the third and fourth records of this North American sandpiper since 1958, but they follow on the heels of one on St. Agnes in 1965 (*Brit. Birds*, 59: 288), which means that the Isles of Scilly have produced three in two years.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

**Caithness**: Dunnet Bay, 3rd to 5th September (K. Goodchild, Dr. P. McMorran, D. M. Stark *et al.*).


There are now 16 records of this summer-visitor to east Europe and west Asia. It was not noted in Britain for several years up to 1962, but 1963-66 produced five (though two in 1963, on opposite sides of the Thames in Kent and Essex, were probably the same individual).

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)

**Cornwall**: River Camel, 12th to 22nd September (D. G. Britton, W. J. Julyan, R. J. Salmon *et al.*).

**Devon**: Lundy, trapped with Semipalmated Sandpiper, 8th September (J. A. Ginnever, C. S. Waller); another trapped, 14th and 15th September (C. S. Waller).

There was also an Irish record (the third in four years) at Clonakilty Bay, Co. Cork, on 13th September. With only five previous records this century (including the one for 1965 given on page 334) and only nine in all, four in one year was quite exceptional. The occurrences were clearly associated with the unusual influx of North American waders in mid-autumn.
Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

Gloucestershire: Frampton-on-Severn, 30th and 31st August (R. K. Bircher, C. M. Swaine, D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

Lincolnshire: Bardney, 1st to 8th September (K. Atkin, R. May, K. Wood).


Scilly: Tresco, 26th August to 12th September (N. E. Ballard, D. B. Hunt, J. L. F. Parslow *et al.*). St. Agnes, 19th to 30th September (S. C. Joyner, M. Kendall, R. F. Thearle *et al.*).

There were also three in Cos. Cork and Kerry in late September and early October. As many as eight records of this North American wader in one year is quite unprecedented (the previous highest years being 1963 and 1965 with two apiece) and this brings the British and Irish total to 19, 17 of them since 1950 and all but one in autumn.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)

Cheshire: Altrincham sewage farm, 16th and 17th November (S. C. Joyner, M. S. Twist, P. F. Twist).


Outer Hebrides: Stornoway, 21st to 27th November (W. A. J. Cunningham, I. D. MacLean, M. F. M. Meiklejohn *et al.* (plate 40a).

Scilly: Tresco, 10th to 17th September (D. B. Hunt, J. L. F. Parslow *et al.*).


The six records above were matched by six or seven in Ireland, all between 8th September and 9th October. This North American wader now appears annually in small numbers and about 41 have been recorded in Britain and Ireland in the nine years 1958-66.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)

Middlesex: Staines Reservoir, 28th September (Dr. A. D. Prowse, G. S. Walker).

This is the first record of this summer-visitor to north-east Siberia since 1963 and the eighth in all. All but one in January have been in August-October. There are no Irish records.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusillus*)

Devon: Lundy, 8th September, trapped with Least Sandpiper (J. A. Ginnever, C. S. Waller).

Lincolnshire/Norfolk: Wisbech sewage farm, 9th October, trapped 13th October, to end of December (A. R. Bomford, C. J. Hopcroft, C. Kearton *et al.*).

Clearly linked with these two records were the first two Irish ones at Akeagh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 10th September and at Ballymona, Co. Cork, on 16th October. This is an abundant species in North America and it has now appeared here annually since 1964, these four occurrences bringing the British and Irish total to eight.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)

*Somerset*: Stert, 18th September (K. D. Smith).

This North American wader has now been recorded annually since 1960 and, although one record is less than usual in Britain, Ireland produced five between 9th September and 5th October. Since 1958 there has been a total of 29 British and Irish records involving about 35 birds.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

*Yorkshire*: Scaling Dam Reservoir, adult ♀, dead a week or more, 22nd June (D. G. and Mrs. S. A. Bell).

This is the nineteenth British record (and there is also a single Irish one) of this North American species, all since 1954. It was found at the same spot as the bird of 20th and 21st June 1965 (*Brit. Birds*, 59: 220) and may even have been the same individual.

Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)

*Northumberland*: Holywell Ponds, 2nd to 6th July (C. C. E. Douglas, Dr. J. D. Parrack *et al.*).

This is only the third record since 1958 of this common summer-visitor to southern Europe, particularly Iberia, southern France, Hungary and the Balkans, which also breeds in the south-western quarter of Asia and in many parts of Africa. It seems surprising that it can raise no better score when compared with the next species. One in Kent in 1962 may have been either *pratincola* or *nordmanni*.

Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*)

*Norfolk*: Cley, 3rd to 5th July (W. F. Bishop *et al.*).

Of the eight records of pratincoles during 1958-66, this is the fourth of *nordmanni* (now again regarded as a distinct species), which nests mainly in southern Russia and western Asia. It is also interesting that the two practically simultaneous records in 1966 should involve one of each species, thus perhaps suggesting that both had a south-easterly origin from the area in which they overlap.

Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*)

*Man*: Calf of Man, adult, 21st May (P. Bennett).

This is only the sixth British record of this vagrant from southern Russia and western and central Asia, and the first since 1932; it is also the furthest north and west.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)


This is the first record to be accepted of this North American gull of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts (*Brit. Birds*, 60: 157-159).
White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

Kent: Dungeness, two immatures, 22nd August (D. C. Gladwin, B. D. Harding, R. E. Scott).

Lincolnshire: Bardney sewage works, immature, 23rd August to 7th September (G. F. Leachman, R. May, A. D. Townsend).

Middlesex: Queen Mary Reservoir, immature, 27th August (M. J. Rogers).


Northamptonshire: Pitsford Reservoir, immature, 25th August to 7th September (B. S. Cave, G. E. Dunmore, M. Goodman *et al.*).

Orkney: North Ronaldsay, adult, 11th to 13th June (A. Swanney, K. G. Walker).

Somerset: Chew Valley Lake, immature, 27th to 30th August (R. M. Curber, B. King, D. Warden *et al.*).

Sussex: Chichester gravel pits, immature, 28th and 29th August (C. M. James, H. P. K. Robinson, M. Shrubb *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Elsecar Reservoir, Barnsley, immature, 18th September (H. Crookes, J. I. Martin, D. J. Standring *et al.*).

The nine years 1958-66 produced over 70 records of this summer-visitor to south-east Europe and Asia, but the 1966 total was the second highest in that period (in contrast to three only in 1965). Of the ten individuals listed, eight were first recorded within a ten-day period from 22nd August and all were in the usual months of May-June and August-September.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Sussex: Selsey Bill, 7th May (B. King, J. C. Rolls).

West Lothian: Dalmeny, 3rd September (Dr. T. C. Smout).

Since 1958 there have been about 56 records of this almost cosmopolitan tern, involving well over 60 individuals. All but eight records (ten birds) have been in the English Channel, with Kent and Sussex providing 44 records of over 50 individuals; the one in West Lothian was only the second Scottish record in that time. All have been during April-October, with May-August the peak months, and presumably these are mainly birds on their way to, or vagrant from, the Danish breeding colonies, the only sizeable population in north-west Europe.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne tschegravd*)

Devon: Axe estuary, 6th July (R. Cottrill).

Kent: Stodmarsh, 12th June (B. E. Cooper, A. Quinn, K. Verrall *et al.*).

Lancashire: Leighton Moss, 25th and 26th July; 14th August (I. Corbett, P. A. Lassey, J. Wilson *et al.*).

Norfolk: Arnold's Marsh, Salthouse, 10th June (M. J. Rogers).

Nottinghamshire: Holme Pierrepont gravel pits, 11th June (P. M. Hope, P. Woodcock), River Trent, near Beeston Weir, 15th August (B. D. Bell, A. E. Keena).

Suffolk: Minsmere, 14th July (H. E. Axell, D. Mower, J. C. Nicholson); 23rd August, a different bird (H. E. and Mrs. J. M. Axell).
Sussex: Chichester gravel pits, 11th to 13th July (B. Metcalfe, M. Shrubb, Miss J. V. Stacey et al.); 31st July (C. M. James).

These ten or eleven records show an unprecedented influx of this largest of all terns. Although it is much inclined to vagrancy, the total for the previous eight years is only about 18. The species is nearly cosmopolitan, but in Europe nests mainly in the Baltic and Black Seas.

Sooty Tern (Sterna fuscata)
Norfolk: Scolt Head Island, 14th to 19th June, and 11th July (R. Chestney, R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley).

There are about 17 previous records of this tropical oceanic tern, the last in Hampshire in June 1961. It seems just possible that the 1966 observations may refer to a single individual wandering up and down the east coast.

Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca)
Aberdeenshire: Cabrach area, 28th October 1965 to 12th January 1966 (S. Roberts).
Aberdeenshire/Banffshire/Inverness-shire: Cairngorms, 25th June (S. Roberts).
Moray Basin: 23rd January to 3rd March (S. Roberts).
Shetland: Fetlar, Yell and other islands, at least two ♂♂ and one ♀ during whole year (W. Ogilvy, R. J. Tulloch et al.).

These few records constitute the lowest number of observations of this circumpolar arctic owl since 1963 and a reversal of the trend shown in 1964 and 1965 (Brit. Birds, 58: 363; 59: 291). Nevertheless, the regular observations in Shetland during 1963-66 provided an interesting build-up to the now widely known breeding on Fetlar in 1967.

Alpine Swift (Apus melba)
Suffolk: Minsmere, 23rd May (J. H. Wood).

These three records bring the British and Irish total of this south Eurasian and African species during 1958-66 to 38.

Bee-eater (Merops apiaster)
Norfolk: Surlingham Wood, 21st and 22nd October (E. A. Ellis).
Orkney: Binscarth, three, about 31st May to 5th June (E. Balfour, Dr. B. Campbell, E. J. Williams et al.).
Sutherland: Durness, 2nd to 4th May (D. Mackay).

This summer-visitor to southern Europe and Asia occurs annually between May and September, but five records is above the average.
Roller (*Coracias garrulus*)

**Dorset:** Sugar Hill, Bere, 13th and 14th June (I. Phillips et al.).

**Nottinghamshire:** Babworth, Retford, 28th June to 22nd July (J. Calthorpe, A. E. Dobbs, H. W. Pain et al.); it should be noted in this connection that one escaped from Twyckes, Leicestershire, in June.

**Orkney:** North Ronaldsay, 11th June (K. G. Walker).

These three records of this south and east European, south-west Asian and north African species bring the British and Irish total since 1958 to about 18.

Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella cinerea*)

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 14th and 15th May (R. H. Dennis et al.).

**Surrey:** Beddington sewage farm, 24th April (P. J. Morgan, Dr. A. D. Prowse).

There have now been 27 or more records of this south European, Asiatic and African species in Britain and Ireland in the nine years 1958-66. During this period the seasonal pattern of occurrence has changed substantially, with the result that most records are now in spring.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

**Hertfordshire:** Hilfield Park Reservoir, 1st October (B. L. Sage).

There are now 14 British and Irish records of this spreading south European, north African and Asiatic species, all except one since 1949, but this is only the third in autumn.

Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*)

**Yorkshire:** Spurn, 22nd to 28th October (A. A. Bell, Dr. R. J. H. Raines, B. R. Spence et al.).

This is the first British record of this resident of eastern and southern Europe. As the species has long been recognised as a wanderer in winter and as it has been extending its breeding range north and northwest from Germany and Poland into Denmark and the Baltic States, with ‘cock’s nests’ in Finland and the Netherlands, as well as occurrences in north-west France and Belgium, its appearance here is not unexpected; it has also since been recorded in the Channel Islands (February 1967). A more detailed account of the spread is being prepared for publication with a full note on the Yorkshire occurrence.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)

**Dorset:** Durlston Head, 18th November to 5th February 1967 (Dr. J. S. Ash, Major C. S. L. Incledon, M. F. Robertson et al.).

This is the first British record of this North American species which breeds in temperate eastern regions from southern Canada through the United States to the Gulf coast and which normally winters in the southern parts of its range.
BRITISH BIRDS

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

**Dorset:** Brand's Bay, Poole Harbour, 15th and 16th January (S. P. W. Corbett, Dr. D. J. Godfrey, W. T. Haysom *et al.*). Canford Cliffs, about 18th January to 10th March (Dr. J. S. Ash, Miss H. A. J. Brotherton, Miss M. D. Crosby *et al.*). Probably both these records refer to the same individual.

**Kirkcudbrightshire:** Woodhall Loch, 12th May (E. Hales).

There are now nine British and Irish records of this widespread North American thrush, or twelve if three Irish records of 1891-94 are accepted (R. F. Rutledge, *Ireland's Birds: 156*), but, as numbers have been imported in recent years, there is an increasing risk of escapes.

White’s Thrush (*Zoothera dauma*)

**Gloucestershire:** Lechlade, 30th October (C. H. Potter).

This is only the fourth record of this Asiatic species since 1958, but it brings the total of British and Irish records to about 29.

Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)

[**Orkney:** North Ronaldsay, 29th August to 6th September (K. G. Walker).]

This could be the first British record of this mainly resident thrush from southern Europe, southern Asia and north-west Africa, but the situation is clouded by the fact that numbers are now imported as cage-birds. The British Records Committee of the B.O.U. also regard the record as suspect on these grounds.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*)

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, 5, 17th to 21st April (P. Clement, the late D. D. Harber, Mrs. M. G. Mudford *et al.*).

This is only the fifth record of this vagrant from southern and central Asia and North Africa in the last nine years, and the fifteenth in all.

Savi’s Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*)

**Kent:** (locality suppressed), up to eight or nine 53 singing, 8th April to 8th July, evidence of two pairs nesting (J. J. M. Flegg, J. N. Hollyer, P. J. Mountford *et al.*).

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, trapped, 26th and 27th May (R. H. and Mrs. M. T. Dennis, A. Tegelin *et al.*).

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, 7th July (H. E. Axell, D. Mower).

**Surrey:** Frensham Great Pond, 29th May to at least 6th June (P. G. Davis, D. I. M. Wallace, T. G. Winter *et al.*).

These records bring the total since 1958 to about 34. Since 1963 the majority have occurred in sizeable reed-beds in late spring and summer, and for the second year in succession one sang persistently at Frensham Great Pond. 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.

324
Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

**Cornwall**: Marazion Marsh, trapped, 2nd to 4th October (A. H. Glamrille, R. G. Hadden, L. P. Williams).

**Devon**: Slapton Ley, immature, trapped, 19th August (F. R. Smith).

**Dorset**: Weymouth, 15th August (F. R. and Mrs. B. Clifton, C. Jackson).

**Essex**: Springfield, Chelmsford, trapped, 13th August (R. W. Readman).

**Fife**: Isle of May, immature, trapped, 28th to 30th August (Miss W. U. Flower, K. Mackenzie, D. W. Oliver).

**Middlesex**: Queen Mary Reservoir, 20th and 21st August (D. M. Putman, M. J. Rogers).

**Scilly**: St. Agnes, trapped, 30th September to 5th October (P. J. Grant, R. Kettle, K. Noble *et al.*).

**Somerset**: Chew Valley Lake, immature, trapped, 13th August (Miss D. M. Crompton, D. Shepherd, R. F. Thearie).

This east European and west Asiatic species has been recorded over 80 times since 1958 and, as argued in the 1965 report (*Brit. Birds*, 59: 294), might now be considered a regular autumn migrant. As shown by autumn ringing in 1966, however, its incidence here in pre-migratory populations of Sedge Warblers *A. schoenobaenus* is very low, being of the order of one in over 1,000 at Chew Valley Lake and one in 450 at Slapton Ley; on the other hand, the proportion in what might be termed ‘vagrant populations’ on St. Agnes in autumns 1959-66 is seven in 180-200, or one in under 30. A detailed analysis of the records of this species from 1958 to 1965 was made by Dr. J. T. R. Sharrock (*Brit. Birds*, 59: 556) and included corrected figures for those given in the comments in the 1965 report (*Brit. Birds*, 59: 294).

Booted Warbler (*Hippolais caligata*)


**Shetland**: Fair Isle, trapped, 28th August to 17th September (R. H. Dennis, J. N. Dymond *et al.*).

These are only the third and fourth records of this species which breeds from northern and central Russia, the Caspian Sea area and Iran across southern Siberia and Turkestan to north-western Mongolia, and which winters in India and southern Arabia. The one on St. Agnes is the first away from Fair Isle, where the other three have all been first recorded between 28th August and 3rd September.

Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia cantillans*)

**Lancashire**: Hightown, ♂, trapped, 22nd to 27th May (A. S. Duckels, M. P. Dye, D. J. Low).

**Man**: Calf of Man, ♂, trapped, 8th September (P. Bennett, D. Holyoak).

**Shetland**: Out Skerries, ♀, 10th and 11th May (R. J. Tulloch). Fair Isle, ♂, trapped, 19th May (R. H. Dennis, P. Holt, E. J. Wiseman).

RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1966

Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

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**Dorset**: Weymouth, 15th August (F. R. and Mrs. B. Clifton, C. Jackson).

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**Man**: Calf of Man, ♂, trapped, 8th September (P. Bennett, D. Holyoak).

**Shetland**: Out Skerries, ♀, 10th and 11th May (R. J. Tulloch). Fair Isle, ♂, trapped, 19th May (R. H. Dennis, P. Holt, E. J. Wiseman).

325
There are now 26 records of this summer-visitor to southern Europe and the Mediterranean area, but these four constitute the highest number in any one year.

**Greenish Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)


Northumberland: Bamburgh, immature, trapped, 30th August (M. Bell, Dr. J. D. Parrack).

Yorkshire: Redcar, 6th to 13th November (I. Boustead, L. Norman, W. Norman *et al.*).

The nine years 1958-66 have produced no less than 38 records of this summer-visitor to north-east Europe and many parts of Asia, although before 1945 there was just one and in the next twelve years only about ten more. The last 20 or 30 years have seen a considerable extension of range in Finland, the Baltic States, Poland and north Germany. Though the greater incidence of this species in Britain and Ireland is probably connected with this, there is little indication that individuals are coming here in spring. Since 1958 there have been no April or May records and only two in early June. The great majority have been between late July and October, with as many as ten in a twelve-day period from 30th August, but there have also been six records in November and two cases of wintering. All but eight of the records have been grouped in five areas or localities: Middlesex, Kent and Sussex have together accounted for nine, and Yorkshire, Northumberland and now Berwickshire for seven, while the islands of Cape Clear (Co. Cork), St. Agnes (Isles of Scilly) and Fair Isle (Shetland) have produced six, five and three respectively.

**Arctic Warbler** (*Phylloscopus borealis*)

Northumberland: Druridge Bay, 28th and 29th August (I. H. Armstrong, T. Hallam). High Hauxley, 28th and 29th August (B. Galloway, B. Little, Dr. J. D. (Parrack).

Yorkshire: Spurn, trapped, 12th October (F. C. Gribble, B. R. Spence, S. J. Weston *et al.*).

These records bring the total of this north European and Siberian summer-visitor to 24 during the nine years 1958-66.

**Pallas's Warbler** (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

Scilly: St. Agnes, 30th and 31st October (P. R. Holness, E. J. Wiseman, D. B. Wooldridge *et al.*).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 11th October (G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis, D. Parkin *et al.*).

Suffolk: Minsmere, trapped, 4th November (H. E. Axell, D. Mower).

Though recorded only once before 1951, this south Siberian and south-east Asian species now appears annually. The sizeable influx of 1963 (*Brit. Birds, 57: 508-513*) thus looks less exceptional than it did.
at the time. There are now 21 records and all have come from island or coastal stations on the eastern and southern sea-boards. The species' occurrence for the fourth successive year on St. Agnes suggests that the first Irish record may not be far off. The Fair Isle one above was significantly earlier than most recent records, which have been concentrated in late October and the first half of November.

**Radde's Warbler** (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*)


These are the sixth and seventh British records of this summer visitor to southern Siberia. All have been in October and all but one since 1961.

**Richard's Pipit** (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

**Caernarvonshire**: Bardsey Island, six or seven, 30th September (G. H. Evans, Miss F. Z. Walton, R. M. Wright).

**Cornwall**: Porthgwarra, five, 24th September (N. R. Phillips); one, 29th October (R. J. Johns, N. R. Phillips).

**Devon**: Lundy, 18th to 21st September; two, 22nd and 23rd September; three, 24th September (R. F. Coomber, C. S. Waller, A. J. Vickery).

**Northamptonshire**: Pitsford Reservoir, 25th September (J. A. Bailey, R. Brownword et al.).


**Shetland**: Fair Isle, one, 3rd to 6th October; three, 7th October; one, 9th October; a different bird, 10th October; two, 11th October; one, 15th to 22nd October (R. H. Dennis, J. N. Dymond et al.). Sumburgh, 20th October (G. D. Joy, R. J. Tulloch).

**Yorkshire**: Spurn, 18th September (J. R. Collman, S. Kenyon, B. R. Spence); 1st October (B. R. Spence); 21st October (B. R. Spence).

British and Irish records of this widespread summer-visitor to central and eastern Asia, which also breeds in southern Asia, Africa and Australasia, have been increasing in recent years (except 1965). Nevertheless, the total of 32-38 individuals in 1966 was three times as many as in any previous year, and the presence of small flocks indicated that a most unusual displacement took place over the western Palearctic in mid-autumn. It is interesting to note that, apart from the first one at Spurn, the late September records came exclusively from the south and west. Associated with these were single birds at Cape Clear, Co. Cork, on 23rd, 24th and 26th September and 4th October, bringing the Irish total to six or seven. None of these occurrences was apparently linked with arrivals of other Asiatic rarities. The run of records on Fair Isle through the first half of October suggested a separate influx.
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)


*Devon:* Lundy, 2nd November (C. S. Waller).

*Kent:* Dungeness, 3rd October (R. E. Scott).

*Scilly:* St. Agnes, first-year, trapped, 14th October (R. H. Charlwood, P. J. Grant, R. J. Johns *et al.*).


*Yorkshire:* Spurn, 14th and 15th June (G. R. Edwards, B. R. Spence).

There was also one at Cape Clear, Co. Cork, on 4th September.

These eight records of this widespread European, southern Asiatic and north-west African species are fewer than in any year since 1959, except 1964 when there were seven. The June record is the third for that month in the last four years.

Pechora Pipit (*Anthus gustavi*)

*Shetland:* Fair Isle, first-year, trapped, 2nd and 3rd October (G. J. Barnes, D. Bodley, R. H. Dennis *et al.*).

*Yorkshire:* Spurn, trapped, 26th September (G. Follows, M. E. Greenhalgh, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

These are the first since 1958 and the one at Spurn is the first of the total of 17 British records of this summer-visitor to north Russia and Siberia to occur away from Fair Isle. All have been autumn records, and all but two in September and October.

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)

*Scilly:* St. Agnes, 23rd October (P. R. Holness, R. J. Johns, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).


The nine years 1958-66 produced about 24 records, involving some 29 individuals, of this summer-visitor to the tundras of north-east Europe and Siberia. In this time the pattern of seasonal occurrence has changed strikingly; spring records are now regular, accounting for no less than 13 individuals since 1958; in fact, more have been recorded in May during this period than in any other month.

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)


This is the eighth British record of this Russian, Siberian and central Asian species, but the first involving two together and only the second for the mainland, six being from Fair Isle, and the other from Suffolk in 1964 (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 344-346).
RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1966

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*)

Shetland: Fair Isle, ♂, trapped, 29th May (R. H. Dennis, J. N. Dymond, A. Tegelin); ♂, 19th June (J. N. Dymond); first-year, trapped, 21st September (R. H. Dennis, J. Love, M. Morrison). Foula, 20th to 28th June (A. R. Mainwood *et al.*).

Yorkshire: Spurn, 27th August (B. Banson, P. Edwards, B. R. Spence *et al.*).

Since 1960 this south and east European and south-west Asian species has been recorded every year except 1963. The numbers were evenly balanced between spring and autumn until 1966.

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)

Caernarvonshire: Bardsey Island, ♂, 29th and 30th April (G. H. Evans, Miss F. Z. Walton, R. M. Wright).

Cornwall: Porth Mear, near Porthcothan, ♂, 4th to 7th May (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, T. Brenton, D. Harvey *et al.*).

Devon: Lundy, immature, 22nd August (C. S. Waller).

Dorset: Lodmoor, Weymouth, ♂, 5th and 6th July (Miss M. D. Crosby, Mrs. E. D. Parrinder, B. Watts).

Northumberland: Druridge, immature, 31st August to 1st September (I. H. Armstrong, T. Hallam, Dr. J. D. Parrack).

Yorkshire: Spurn, ♂, 28th and 29th May (J. K. Fenton, B. R. Spence, B. Zobbe). Irton Moor, Scarborough, 7th June (P. Robson).

This is the smallest number of records since 1963 of this west and south European summer-visitor, which also breeds in north-west Africa and south-west Asia. It is a species which has shown marked fluctuations over the nine years 1958-66, the annual totals varying between two and 21.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)

Scilly: St. Agnes, immature, trapped, 6th October (K. Allsopp, P. J. Grant, E. Griffiths *et al.*).

The only previous records of this North American species, which breeds from central Canada south to Texas and Florida, wintering in South America, are one picked up dead at Tuskar Rock Lighthouse, Co. Wexford, on 4th October 1951 and an adult and an immature on St. Agnes, like the above record, for several days from 4th October 1962. All have thus been in the first week of October. The species has also been recorded in Iceland.

Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*)

Scilly: Tresco, 16th and 17th October (R. H. Charlwood, D. B. Hunt, B. King *et al.*).

This is the first British and Irish record of this North American wood warbler, which is a summer-visitor to the eastern United States and eastern Canada as far north as the Gulf of St. Lawrence, migrating south to winter in Central America and the West Indies. The only previous European records are from Iceland.
**Rose-coloured Starling** (*Sturnus roseus*)

Shetland: Gonfirth Voe, 24th June to 7th July (D. Coutts, J. Walterson).

This south-east European and south-west Asian species is not uncommonly kept in captivity and neither the locality nor the date excludes the possibility of the above bird’s being an escape.

**Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*)


This is the fourth record of this North American species, which belongs to a different family from the Old World orioles. All have been since 1958 and all in the first half of October. As numbers are now imported as cage-birds, the possibility of escape cannot be ruled out, but the fact that the arrival of this one coincided with that of the Parula Warbler on Tresco suggests that it is likely to have been a wild bird, even though both may have been ship-assisted.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

Scilly: St. Agnes, ♀, trapped, 6th to 11th October (J. R. H. Clements, P. J. Grant, N. J. Westwood et al.).

The only previous records of this North American species are two Irish ones of an adult male at Shane’s Castle, Co. Antrim, on 24th November 1957 and a first-winter male at Cape Clear, Co. Cork, on 7th and 8th October 1962. The possibility of escape cannot be excluded as a number have been imported as cage-birds in recent years, but the fact that the present occurrence coincided with the Red-eyed Vireo on St. Agnes suggests a common wild origin. Assisted passage is, of course, quite likely in the cases of this and the other three American passerines above.

**Serin** (*Serinus serinus*)

Cornwall: Porthleven, one, 2nd November; three, 3rd November (N. R. Phillips). Lelant, three, 12th and 21st November, two at least staying into 1967 (J. B. and Mrs. S. Bottomley, E. Griffiths et al.).

Devon: Slapton Ley, two, 18th and 20th December (I. I. Hamilton, F. R. Smith).

Dorset: Durlston Head, 17th December (M. L. Doble, P. Roscoe).

Hampshire: Hengistbury Head, two, 15th October (C. I. Husband).

Kent: Dungeness, 8th October (T. Inskipp).


Yorkshire: Spurn, 22nd October (M. Densley, Dr. R. J. H. Raines).

This is an exceptional series of records, more than in any previous year; in fact, the number of individuals is two-thirds as many as in the eight years 1958-65 combined. The last decade has seen a steady increase in the occurrences here of this small finch from continental Europe, north-west Africa and Asia Minor. The species has been spreading north in Europe in the last 100 years and reached the
Channel coast of France in the early 1950's. Observations in Britain in recent years have been most frequent in April and May and have almost all concerned single birds, one or two of which have made protracted stays. It is interesting, therefore, that only one of the records above was outside the last three months of 1966, while in two localities Serins remained well into 1967. With the history of the spread in mind it seems possible that this oddly dated influx was indicative of post-breeding dispersal to new areas.

**Scarlet Rosefinch or Grosbeak** (*Carpodacus erythrinus*)

**Devon**: Lundy, trapped, 7th September (C. S. Waller).

**Fife**: Isle of May, trapped, 25th to 27th August (Dr. W. J. Eggeling); 29th September, trapped (R. A. Jeffrey).

**Kent**: Dungeness, ♂, 2nd May (R. J. Burgess, V. Hancock, R. E. Scott et al.).

**Scilly**: St. Mary’s, 2nd October (B. Fletcher, R. Kettle, K. Noble). Tresco, 21st October (B. King).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, 22nd to 26th May (R. H. Dennis, M. J. McVail et al.); 26th August to 1st September; one, trapped, 18th to 27th September; two new ones, 28th September; one, 29th September; two, 30th September; one, 3rd October; three, 4th October; two (one trapped), 5th and 6th October; one, 7th and 8th October; one, trapped, 22nd and 23rd October (R. H. Dennis, J. N. Dymond et al.). Foula, 23rd August to 4th September (R. D. Oades, A. R. Mainwood et al.). Whalsay, ♂, 15th September (J. H. Simpson).

**Yorkshire**: Spurn, trapped, 30th September (G. Follows, M. E. Greenhalgh, B. R. Spence et al.).

Rosefinches of several species are imported in some numbers and sold as cage-birds*, but it is considered likely that most, if not all, of the above records concerned genuine vagrants from eastern Europe. (This species breeds from Finland, Germany and Poland through Russia and Asia Minor across much of Asia.) The two males are noteworthy as the rosy feathering is not assumed until the second year and adult males in this plumage are seldom seen in Britain. Juvenile and first-year males are not distinguishable from females, and so all the other records above may be said to refer to females or immature males.

**Two-barred Crossbill** (*Loxia leucoptera*)

**Cheshire**: Bebington, Wirral, ♂, dead 22nd October (I. G. R. Jolley, Dr. A. D. Scott, R. Wagstaffe).

**Dorset**: Arne, ♂, 7th July (J. Crebs, D. Milne, B. P. Pickess et al.).

**Hertfordshire**: Bramfield Forest, ♂, 18th September (T. James, B. L. Sage).

**Norfolk**: Holkham, Wells Beach, ♂, 21st September to 25th November (Mrs. B. F. Barratt, E. S. Clare, R. A. Richardson et al.).

**Surrey**: Frensham, ♂, 22nd September to 20th October (D. Carr, Dr. S. G. Kent, H., W. Rudd).

*An escaped female or first-year male rosefinch of unknown species was seen and trapped on Fair Isle during 27th-30th April.
These are the first records of this north Eurasian (and also North American) finch since 1963 and only four were recorded between 1958 and that year. Five records in one year is thus quite exceptional in recent times, although many more were recorded in some years in the 19th century. The species is less strikingly eruptive than the Crossbill, but it is nomadic and in some autumns considerable numbers appear in southern Scandinavia.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*)

**Devon:** Lundy, trapped, 7th June (Miss J. Mundy, J. Ogilvie, C. S. Waller *et al.*).

This is the first British record of this North American finch, which breeds from southern Canada to Central America and winters in the southern parts of its range.

Slate-coloured Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)

**Shetland:** Foula, 1st May (Mrs. D. M. Gear).]

As this North American species is imported in captivity and some have escaped in the last year or two, this record must remain suspect. There is an Irish record of 30th May 1905 from Loop Head, Co. Clare, but no others are accepted.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 13th May (G. Barnes, R. H. and Mrs. M. T. Dennis).]

The three previous British records of this common North American bird have all been in May or June (see discussion by Dr. I. C. T. Nisbet in *Brit. Birds*, 56: 204-217), but, as the species is now not infrequent in captivity, the possibility of escape cannot be excluded.

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*)

**Caernarvonshire:** Bardsey Island, ♂, 27th May (G. H. Evans).]

**Nottinghamshire:** Blyth, ♂, 17th to 25th May (T. M. Clegg, R. Pearson, R. G. Tanner *et al.*).]

**Shetland:** Foula, ♂, 25th to 27th June (A. R. Mainwood).]

This summer-visitor to south-east Europe and Asia Minor is not uncommonly kept in captivity and the possibility of escape cannot be excluded.

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*)

**Fife:** Isle of May, ♀ or immature, trapped, 28th August (D. W. Oliver, G. Paton, H. Smith *et al.*).

**Shetland:** Foula, ♀, 12th and 13th September (R. D. Oades).

One or two of these summer-visitors to north-east Europe and northern Asia have been recorded almost every year since 1958 and British records now total 20. There have also been two Irish records, in 1959 and 1961.
RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1966

**Rustic Bunting** (*Emberiza rustica*)

**Essex:** Dengie Coast, ♂, 18th September (J. Fitzpatrick).

**Northumberland:** Holy Island, ♂ and ♀, 1st September (M. F. M. Meiklejohn, L. J. Reed).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 20th October (R. H. Dennis). Foula, ♂, 29th and 30th October (A. R. Mainwood).

The nine years 1958-66 have produced 29 British records (and one Irish one) of this north-east European and Siberian species, mostly in September and October.

**Little Bunting** (*Emberiza pusilla*)

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 13th October (J. A. Stout).

This single record compares with four of this north-east European and Siberian bunting in 1965 and over 40 since 1958.

**Spanish Sparrow** (*Passer hispaniolensis*)

**Devon:** Lundy, 9th June (F. W. Gade, J. Ogilvie, C. S. Waller et al.).

This is the first British record of this Mediterranean and south-west Asian species. Some populations are partially migratory and an extralimital vagrant is therefore not totally unexpected.

**Supplementary 1964 records**

**Pallas’s Sandgrouse** (*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*)

**Kent:** Stodmarsh, 28th December (D. L. Davenport, L. J. Davenport, C. E. Wheeler).

This record of a formerly irruptive species from south-east Russia and west central Asia was at first rejected as improbable since flight views only were obtained and no other recent European records were known. The observers concerned subsequently discovered a record of one which stayed near Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 26th October to 25th December 1964 (*Limosa*, 39: 65). The coincidence of dates is so remarkable that it seems probable that the same bird was involved in both observations and the British record is now considered acceptable.

**Olive-backed Pipit** (*Anthus hodgsoni*)

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, trapped, 17th October (P. Adams, G. J. Barnes, R. H. Dennis et al.).

A full account of this Asiatic and north-east Russian species new to Britain and Ireland has already been published (*Brit. Birds*, 60: 161-166), covering the above record and also the 1965 one (page 335).

**Woodchat Shrike** (*Lanius senator*)

**Orkney:** North Ronaldsay, ♂, 8th May (K. G. Walker).
Cory’s Shearwater (Procellaria diomedea)

Cornwall: between Isles of Scilly and Land’s End, 21st August (E. A. Machell).

Hampshire: St. Catherine’s Point, Isle of Wight, 23rd and 26th April (D. B. Wooldridge).

Yorkshire: Spurn, 10th July (G. R. Edwards).

Green-winged Teal (Anas crecca carolinensis)

(Correction): the dates of the one at Cley, Norfolk (Brit. Birds, 59: 285), were 17th to 19th April, not 10th May, and the bird was also seen by A. Lowe.

American Wigeon (Anas americana)

Inverness-shire: Moray Firth, 30th December 1965 to 11th February 1969 (R. Clark, R. H. Dennis, Wing-Commander R. J. Fursman et al.) (see also page 314).

Gyr Falcon (Falco rusticolus)

(Correction): the one in Shetland (Brit. Birds, 59: 287) was recorded at Kergord, Mainland, not on Fair Isle.

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

Yorkshire: Patrington Haven, 15th and 19th May (H. O. Bunce).

Least Sandpiper (Calidris minutilla)

Lanarkshire: Cadder, 11th to 14th September (J. M. S. Arnott, W. M. M. Eddie, D. J. Norden).

Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)

Northamptonshire: Byfield Reservoir, 22nd and 23rd May (A. Bradshaw, A. Nash).

Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon nilotica)

Hampshire: Farlington Marshes, two, 1st May (D. F. Billett, M. Bryant, G. H. Rees).

Black-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus erythropthalmus)

Cornwall: Gweek, dying, 30th October, sent to British Museum (Natural History) for identification (J. E. Norman).

This is the first record of this North American species since 1953 and only the fifth in all.

Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca)

(Correction): the first date of the male in Aberdeenshire/Banffshire/Inverness-shire (Brit. Birds, 59: 291) was 25th April, not 3rd June.

Aberdeenshire: Cabrach area, 28th October 1965 to 12th January 1966 (S. Roberts) (see also page 322).

Alpine Swift (Apus melba)

Hertfordshire: St. Albans, 30th September (P. Berry, K. T. B. Hodd).
Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola)
Norfolk: Holme, trapped, 5th September (F. Britton, P. R. Clarke, J. Sheldrake et al.).

Greenish Warbler (Phylloscopus trochiloides)
(Correction): the one on St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly (Brit. Birds, 58: 366), stayed until at least 15th January 1965.

Arctic Warbler (Phylloscopus borealis)
Northumberland: Hauxley, 15th August (B. Little).

Tawny Pipit (Anthus campestris)
Norfolk: Holme, 30th September to 3rd October (P. R. Clarke, G. M. S. Easy et al.).

Olive-backed Pipit (Anthus hodgsoni)
Shetland: Fair Isle, trapped, 29th September (R. H. Dennis, A. Heath, L. Tucker et al.) (see also page 333).

Red-throated Pipit (Anthus cervinus)
Scilly: St. Agnes, trapped, 6th and 7th May (H. A. and Mrs. G. L. Craw).

Woodchat Shrike (Lanius senator)
Norfolk: Holme, 4th October (P. R. and Mrs. M. R. Clarke, R. A. Richardson et al.).
(Correction): the one on Tresco, Isles of Scilly (Brit. Birds, 59: 297), was also seen on 4th June.
(Correction): the first date for the one at Lerwick, Shetland (Brit. Birds, 59: 297), was 3rd October, not 2nd.

Arctic Redpoll (Acanthis hornemanni)
Norfolk: Wells, a redpoll showing the characters of this species, 29th September to 3rd October (R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley).
Northumberland: Bamburgh, a redpoll showing the characters of this species, 10th to 16th October (M. Bell, M. Marquiss).

Serin (Serinus serinus)
Somerset: Brean Down, 8th May (T. R. J. Williams).

Black-headed Bunting (Emberiza melanocephala)
(Correction): the dates of the one on Whalsay, Shetland (Brit. Birds, 59: 298), were 1st to 5th June, not 1st to 5th May.

Little Bunting (Emberiza pusilla)
Middlesex: Perry Oaks sewage farm, 2nd to 19th May (D. M. Putman, M. J. Rogers).

OTHER 1965 CORRECTIONS
Cory’s Shearwater. Under Yorkshire, for D. J. Standing read D. J. Standring.
Woodchat Shrike. Under Dorset, for D. C. Moule, read D. C. Mole.
Appendix 1.  List of 1966 records not accepted

This list contains all the 1966 records which were not accepted 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 full details were unobtainable. Birds considered to be escapes are also omitted.

In the vast majority of instances the record was not accepted because we were not quite convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was correct; in only a very few cases were we satisfied that a mistake was made.

Albatross sp.  Whithburn, Co. Durham, 31st August
              Robin Hood’s Bay, Yorkshire, 15th September
Madeiran Petrel  Herne Bay, Kent, 25th October
Cory’s Shearwater  Dungeness, Kent, spring records other than 15th May
Magnificent Frigate-bird  Filey Brigg, Yorkshire, 15th October
Purple Heron  Campsie Fells, Stirlingshire, 24th or 25th February
              Downderry, Cornwall, 24th April
Little Bittern  Auchinleck Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire, 30th May
American Wigeon  Upton Warren, Worcestershire, about 13th to 28th June
Ferruginous Duck  Talybont Reservoir, Breconshire, 8th October
Surf Scoter  Southerness, Kirkcudbrightshire, ♀ and probably immature ♂, 1st and 2nd January
King Eider  River Medway, Kent, 9th January
Long-legged Buzzard  Playford Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, August to November
Pallid Harrier  Stodmarsh, Kent, 30th October
Red-tailed Hawk  Inverness-shire, 4th to 7th December
Gyr Falcon  Dawlish Warren, Devon, 13th November
              Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, 9th October
              Conway Mountains, Caernarvonshire, 12th November
Red-footed Falcon  Stogursey, Bridgewater, Somerset, 18th May
              Stodmarsh, Kent, 9th May
              Dungeness, Kent, 21st August
Crane  Attenborough, Nottinghamshire, 16th April
              Portland Bill, Dorset, 24th October
Sora Rail  Coombe Hill Canal, Gloucestershire, 10th December
Little Crake  Cambridgeshire, May
              St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly, 25th September
Little Bustard  Stanton-by-Bridge, Derbyshire, 4th June
              Benington, Yorkshire, two, 13th September
RARE BIRDS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1966

Great Snipe
Rodbourne sewage farm, Wiltshire, 24th August
The Gann, Dale, Pembrokeshire, 20th November

Lesser Yellowlegs
Hayle estuary, Cornwall, 29th August
Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire, 15th September

Great Knot
Bardney, Lincolnshire, 25th September

Baird's Sandpiper
Sandwich Bay, Kent, 5th August

Semipalmated Sandpiper
Foula, Shetland, 14th to 19th September

Broad-billed Sandpiper
Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, 3rd to 6th December

Wilson's Phalarope
Hayle estuary, Cornwall, 4th August

Great Black-headed Gull
Anderby, Lincolnshire, 25th September

Bonaparte's Gull
Dungeness, Kent, 4th May
Minsmere, Suffolk, 14th May
Hilbre Island, Cheshire, 18th September
Barrow Gurney Reservoir, Somerset, 18th December

White-winged Black Tern
Seaton Sluice, Northumberland, 5th September
Wisbech sewage farm, Lincolnshire/Norfolk, 12th September

Whiskered Tern
At sea between Douglas, Isle of Man, and Liverpool, 20th August
St. Ives, Cornwall, six, 11th September
Oakham Ness, Kent, 28th September

Gull-billed Tern
Selsey Bill, Sussex, 16th April
Sandwich Bay, Kent, 17th and 18th April
Dungeness, Kent, 1st May
Selsey Bill, Sussex, 8th September
Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 10th September
Spurn, Yorkshire, 13th September

Caspian Tern
Havergate Island, Suffolk, 17th May

Snowy Owl
Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, 26th February
Bembridge, Isle of Wight, 16th to 24th June

Alpine Swift
Aylsham, Norfolk, 1st July
Winchelsea Beach, Sussex, 14th August
Cholsey Common, Berkshire, 29th August

White-winged Lark
Coatham Sands, Redcar, Yorkshire, 25th and 26th March

Red-rumped Swallow
Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire, 14th May

Black Wheatear
Farlington Marshes, Portsmouth, Hampshire, 30th October

Great Reed Warbler
Broughton, Hampshire, 3rd April
Foula, Shetland, 8th October

Aquatic Warbler
Stow Valley, Kent, 26th and 27th April
Wembury, Devon, 20th August
Marazion Marsh, Cornwall, 18th September
Stodmarsh, Kent, 22nd October
BRITISH BIRDS

Olivaceous Warbler
Singleton Forest, Sussex, 2nd June
Beachy Head, Sussex, 3rd September

Orphee Warbler
Foula, Shetland, 3rd June

Bonelli’s Warbler
St. Mary’s Island, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, 10th October

Richard’s Pipit
Morte Point, Devon, 16th April
Church Norton, Sussex, 8th September
Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex, 26th September
River Usk, Llanwenarth, Monmouthshire, 12th October
Braunton Burrows, Devon, 26th December

Tawny Pipit
Thatcham sewage farm, Newbury, Berkshire, 30th March
Morte Point, Devon, 13th April
Spurn, Yorkshire, 28th August
King George VI Reservoir, Middlesex, 11th September

Red-throated Pipit
Lambert Hill Pond, Lincolnshire, 22nd May
Dungeness, Kent, 9th September

Lesser Grey Shrike
Goss Moor, Cornwall, 23rd April
Barns Ness, East Lothian, 14th October

Woodchat Shrike
Spurn, Yorkshire, 1st September
Cley, Norfolk, 14th October

Arctic Redpoll
Rothbury, Northumberland, 30th October

Citril Finch
London Airport, Heathrow, Middlesex, 22nd January

Serin
Selsey Bill, Sussex, 15th May

Pine Grosbeak
Alfriston, Sussex, two, 29th November

Two-barred Crossbill
Maidstone, Kent, 18th April
Porlock, Somerset, 4th December

White-crowned Sparrow
Frocester, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, 2nd August

Little Bunting
St. Mary’s Island, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, 10th to 12th and 17th October

Appendix 2. Supplementary list of 1965 records not accepted

Wilson’s Petrel
Hengistbury Head, Hampshire, 7th November

Cory’s Shearwater
Bigger Bank, Walney, Lancashire, 5th August

Great Snipe
Little Cressingham, Norfolk, 23rd October to 27th November

Lesser Yellowlegs
St. Breward Parish, Cornwall, three, 15th July; and two, 4th August

Spotted Sandpiper
River Kelvin, Glasgow, Lanarkshire or Dunbartonshire, 21st to 24th November

Aquatic Warbler
Portland, Dorset, 31st August

Little Bunting
Staines, Middlesex, 24th May

338
PLATE 37. Glossy Ibis Plagadis falcinellus, Cornwall, winter 1964/65 (see vol. 59: 285). The dark plumage glossed with purple, green and bronze and the long, curved bill are well-known features, but these photos also show how white feather edgings give the head a streaked appearance in winter dress (photos: J. B. and S. Bottomley)
Plate 38. Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, Shetland, 27th May to 2nd June 1966, one of three records in eastern Britain in the space of a fortnight (page 315). Note the mainly dark plumage with paler head and dark line through eye, and the triangular (rather than forked) appearance of the tail when spread (photos: Dennis Coutts)
Plate 39. Male King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* with Eiders *S. mollissima*, Shetland, April 1966 (page 315): orange beak and black-edged shield, blue-grey crown and nape separated from green cheeks by a buff stripe; in flight, pale front half, black rear half with white patches on wings and rump edges (photos: Dennis Coutts)