Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1972

F. R. Smith and the Rarities Committee

Plates 53-56

This is the fifteenth annual report of the Rarities Committee. The composition of the committee is now D. I. M. Wallace (chairman), F. R. Smith (honorary secretary), D. G. Bell, A. R. M. Blake, P. E. Davis, R. H. Dennis, P. J. Grant, R. J. Johns, R. A. Richardson and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock. The vacancy caused by the retirement of P. A. D. Hollom was filled by the appointment of R. J. Johns, following the necessary consultations with other review bodies.

The number of records submitted for 1972 was high at about 485, only a little below the 1970 and 1971 figures of over 500. Thus the annual total now seems fairly steady, with fluctuations caused by irruptions or special climatic conditions. In 1972 persistent easterly winds made the emphasis a Palearctic one. This is shown especially by the record number of Aquatic Warblers *Acrocephalus paludicola*, almost all immatures and most of them trapped, that reached an autumn total of over 50, far surpassing the 27 of 1971 which itself had signified a new scale of occurrence. The records involved 108 species, compared with 114 in 1971 when many rarities appeared also from Nearctic sources. The acceptance rate remains steady at 81%, as in 1971.

The main systematic list of accepted records is given on pages 333-355. This is followed by supplementary accepted records for 1959 (one), 1970 (four) and 1971 (19). Appendix 1 on pages 358-359 lists the 89 rejected records for 1972, and appendices 2, 3, 4 and 5 list one additional rejection for 1965, one for 1967, three for 1970 and six for 1971.

The comments on individual species have been prepared by D. I. M. Wallace with assistance from P. J. Grant and R. J. Johns. The accepted Irish records have again been included, but it should be made clear that the adjudication of these is the responsibility of the Irish Records Panel. All Irish records are published annually in the *Irish Bird Report* (obtainable from S. Cromien, 13 Fingal Place, Prussia Street, Dublin 7), and we express our gratitude to K. Preston, honorary secretary of the Irish Records Panel, for agreeing to our repeating them and for providing advance information. Arrangements have been continued for close co-operation with the Irish Records Panel and for the exchange of information.
Rare birds in Great Britain 1972

Irish records are given at the beginning of each species comment after the summary (in brackets) of the world breeding range.

Photographs of some of the rarities of 1972 and previous years are reproduced on plates 53-56. Observers are again urged to submit any black-and-white prints of rarities for publication, while there may continue to be scope for reproducing one or two colour transparencies of outstanding quality.

A list of the species considered by the committee was last published with the 1965 report (Brit. Birds, 59: 304-305). Revised reprints are available free of charge from the address on page 360, as are copies of the redesigned 'Unusual Record' form mentioned in the last report (Brit. Birds, 65: 322-323). It has been decided to include a list of accepted 'category D' rarity records (see Brit. Birds, 64: 429-430) in an appendix to future reports. At present the species in this category that concern the committee are Greater Flamingo Phoenicopterus ruber (Eurasian and African race roseus only), Baikal Teal Anas f. mosaa, Yellow-shafted Flicker Colaptes auratus, Blue Rock Thrush Monticola solitarius, Ovenbird Seiurus aurocapillus, Blue Grosbeak Guiraca caerulea and Indigo Bunting Passerina cyanea. Appendix 6 gives one such record for 1972. The committee welcomes details of records of these species, and also of others which might be added to category D, even where the observers suspect captive origin. Descriptions should be supplied in the usual way.

Enquiries for information about the principles and methods by which the committee operates came during the year from Canada and Sweden and follow the many similar enquiries in recent years. These principles were explained in the 1958 report (Brit. Birds, 53: 155-156), and the systematic list is set out in the same way as in the 1971 report (Brit. Birds, 65: 322-354). The following points, some of which were outlined more fully in the 1958 report (Brit. Birds, 53: 156-158), should be borne in mind, as they show the basis on which this information has been put together:

(i) The 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 normally given only where the bird concerned was not in adult summer plumage); (4) if trapped or found dead; (5) date(s); and (6) observer or observers up to three in number, in alphabetical order.

(ii) No record which would constitute the first for 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, and 'probables' are not included. 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 also applies to observations of the two pratincoles Glareola spp and of such 'difficult' groups as albatrosses Diomedea spp and frigatebirds Fregata spp.

(iv) The sequence of species, vernacular names and scientific nomenclature
follow the British Trust for Ornithology's recently published guide *A Species List of British and Irish Birds* (1971). Any sight records of subspecies (including those of birds trapped and released) are normally referred to as 'showing the characters' of the race concerned.

Duplicated draft lists of the records in this report have again been sent to all the county recorders concerned in England and to the regional recorders in Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man; proofs have also been approved by the appropriate authorities in Scotland, Wales and Ireland and individually by the members of the committee. This double-checking of the details and improvements in the exchange of information have reduced the likelihood of discrepancies between reports of this committee and regional publications. Observers can help by supplying the last dates on which birds are seen.

M. D. England has continued his enquiries into many particular problems relating to escapes and introductions, and the increasing importance of this work is emphasised by the assessment of the current trends made in the editorial in the April 1973 issue (*Brit. Birds*, 66: 133-135). The Wildfowl Trust has again been very helpful in advising on wildfowl escape and identification problems, while Derek Goodwin has continued to advise on problems involving museum research under the arrangement made with the British Museum (Natural History).

The committee are most grateful to the many individuals and organisations whose co-operation has made the publication of this report possible. All records should continue to be directed to F. R. Smith, 117 Hill Barton Road, Exeter, Devon EX1 3PP.

Systematic list of records accepted

**White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*

(Arctic Russia and Siberia) We are aware of the impatience among observers over the long delay in the judgement of recent records of this difficult species. Much painstaking research has been done, however, and J. R. Mather is currently resolving the last of the many arguments: a paper on identification criteria, with a full review of recent occurrences, is in preparation and is expected to be published in 1974.

**Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris*

**Fife**: Fife Ness, adult, 8th August (P. A. Lassey).

(Southern oceans) The years 1967-69 saw a rush of albatross observations off south-west Ireland and Yorkshire, and particularly in the Firth of Forth. This is the first record since May 1970, and it
may well be that several individuals that had wandered to British and Irish waters have now returned south.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

**Durham:** Hartlepool, 14th September (T. J. Francis).

**Kent:** Dungeness, two, 16th April (T. P. Inskipp). Sandwich Bay, 8th May (K. A. Chapman, S. Jones, R. Lawrence).

**Lancashire:** Walney Island, 6th August (K. Brown).

**Scilly:** Western Rocks, 30th August (D. B. Hunt et al.).

(East Atlantic and Mediterranean) Also singles off Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 9th and 12th August. (Omitted from the 1971 report were one off Cape Clear Island on 19th August, and a total of 262 flying west at the Old Head, Kinsale, Co. Cork, on 5th, 6th and 7th October—the biggest numbers seen in British or Irish waters since June 1968.) The two further spring observations above are noteworthy.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**Berkshire:** Reading sewage farm, immature, 17th August (Dr J. H. Brock et al.) and 2nd September (Miss M. C. Bailey).

**Hertfordshire:** Tring Reservoirs, 7th May (D. Livingstone, R. V. A. Wagstaff).


**Middlesex:** Brent Reservoir, immature, 12th September (M. D. Kingswell, N. Marshall).

**Nottinghamshire:** Carburton Lakes, immature, 18th March (J. Hall, R. Stevens, S. Turner).

**Sussex:** Church Norton, adult, 12th April (J. Dixon).

**Yorkshire:** Hornsea Mere, immature, 26th August to 4th October (C. Carter, D. T. Ireland et al.).

(South-central Eurasia, north to Netherlands, and Africa) Ten in seven counties is about the average since 1963, the first year in which the species showed its current tendency to occur annually in a wide scattering of places throughout the southern half of Britain. More noteworthy are the five autumn occurrences of young birds, probably from the Netherlands.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**Cardiganshire:** Ynys-hir, 17th to 24th June (W. M. Condry, A. Parker).

**Devon:** River Taw, the one first recorded on 1st November 1971 (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 325) was last seen on 15th March, and what was thought to be the same bird reappeared on 18th November and stayed to at least February 1973 (T. Beer et al.). Exe estuary, 9th to 22nd May (A. Radford, F. R. Smith, J. K. Windeatt et al.).

**Dumfriesshire:** River Annan, Solway, 17th December (D. J. Hall, Miss V. L. Jamieson).
Essex/Middlesex: Walthamstow and King George V Reservoirs, immature, 29th and 30th April (J. Fitzpatrick, A. Gibbs, A. Parker et al.).

Hampshire: The Gins, Needs Oar, Pennington and Farlington Marshes, 21st May to 11th June (Dr G. H. Fisher, J. H. Taverner, D. A. Thelwell et al.).

Norfolk: Cley, 30th April to 7th May (O. Laugharne, R. A. Richardson et al.), adult on 28th May, two adults 29th and 30th, adult 31st May and 1st June, immature 2nd June to 9th July (P. F. Bonham, D. J. Holman, Dr R. J. Raines et al.).

Pembrokeshire: Martin’s Haven, 20th November to at least 14th January 1973 (J. W. Donovan, B. L. Sage et al.).

Scilly: St Agnes and Bryher, 21st to 27th May (D. B. Hunt, Miss H. M. Quick et al.).

Suffolk: Havergate, Minsmere, Walberswick and Snape, 9th May to at least 2nd October (G. J. Jobson, B. W. Renyard et al.).

(South Eurasia, Africa and Australia) Also a belated Irish record for 1970, of one at Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, on 2nd June, and a wintering bird at Clonakilty, Co. Cork (Brit. Birds, 65: 326), which stayed from 11th September 1971 into at least January 1972. Once again a spring influx, the run of birds at Cley being quite remarkable (since only two had been recorded in Norfolk during 1958-71).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Hertfordshire: Welwyn Garden City area, the immature first recorded on 28th November 1971 (Brit. Birds, 65: 326) was last seen on 19th February (T. W. Gladwin, P. Waterton et al.).


Oxfordshire: Benson Weir, adult, 22nd May (E. B., Mrs S. and Miss S. Warburton).

Somerset: River Tone, Wellington, adult, 16th May and 11th June (B. Carter, Mr Williams et al.).

Westmorland: Appleby, the one first recorded as an immature in October 1970 (Brit. Birds, 64: 345) stayed until at least the end of March 1972 (R. W. Robson et al.).

(South Eurasia, Africa and the Americas) Against the backcloth of the Little Egret occurrences, it is impossible to doubt that the spring birds were wild.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Dorset: Radipole Lake, dr, 1st to about 16th July (D. Woodward et al.).

Kent: Chetney Marsh, dr, 20th May (Drs J. G. and P. F. Harrison).

(West Eurasia, Africa and Australia) Since 1958 this species has been a much more erratic visitor than either the Purple Heron or the Little Egret, and these two records constitute its poorest showing since 1963 and a complete reverse from the widespread influx in 1970.
**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

**Banffshire**: Mulben, Keith, 4th and 5th June (V. Murray *et al.*).

**Dorset**: Radipole Lake and Portland, 22nd August (D. J. Fisher, M. Shepherd, G. Walbridge *et al.*).

**East Lothian**: Aberlady Bay, 8th and 9th May (D. Jenkins, A. Mathieson, D. Norden).

**Glamorgan**: Penarth Flats, 28th August (A. J. Prater) (see below).

**Glocestershire/Wiltshire**: South Cerney, Cerney Wick and Ashton Keynes area, 6th to 22nd September (see below), two on 14th (Dr A. Chapel, R. F. Raynes, G. L. Webber *et al.*).

**Northumberland**: Howick Grange, 26th May to 11th June, believed to have also visited Wooler (J. M. Bayldon, L. G. Macfarlane, A. J. Wheeldon *et al.*).

**Orkney**: Rousay, 6th and 7th June, when died (E. Balfour, Mr and Mrs Warwick *et al.*).

**Roxburghshire**: Rennieston, Jedburgh, 15th to 24th May (A. J. Smith).

**Somerset**: Keynsham, 24th September, flying south (Dr M. Sainsbury); Huntworth, 25th September (J. Norman *et al.* (see below).

**Sussex**: Polegate, five, 25th April (K. Verrall).

**Sutherland**: Eriboll, 13th May (J. Elliot).

(Central and south Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) A temporal and geographical scatter that echoes that of the Purple Herons. There was also a considerable spring arrival in 1971, and this is the first time the species has appeared in above average numbers in consecutive years. It is now bidding to become as regular as the herons above.

The Penarth and Huntworth birds and the one that stayed at Ashton Keynes for much of September were ringed: together with the Keynsham individual (which, however, was not seen to be ringed), all are considered to have been the same Danish White Stork taken into captivity in autumn 1971 and released from Rode Tropical Bird Gardens, Somerset, about 18th August 1972 (see *Brit. Birds*, 65: 4-5, 303-305, 327).

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

**Orkney**: Sandwick, 7th to 12th June (Mr and Mrs Wylie and Mrs Wylie junior).

(Spain, east Europe to east Asia and southern Africa) For this species to occur in three out of four years since 1969 is remarkable. This is about the 33rd record in total and the furthest north ever.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

**Hampshire**: Stanpit Marsh, Christchurch, 10th August (C. I. Husband).

(Cosmopolitan but very local, nearest breeding colonies in Balkans) The first since 1965 and only the eighth since 1958, which is hardly surprising given the perilous state of this species in Europe. Early August is an unusual time for it to appear, antedating any recent autumn record by more than five weeks.
**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca carolinensis*

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

- **Cardiganshire/Pembrokeshire**: Teifi estuary, 30th January (K. J. S. Devonald, J. W. Donovan *et al.*).
- **Yorkshire**: Gouthwaite Reservoir, 26th February to at least 18th March (P. J. Stead, A. F. G. Walker *et al.*); this is the fourth successive year in which a drake has occurred here.

(North America) Also one at Inchydoney, Co. Cork, on 27th November. Six in a year is above average, and three in one island archipelago quite exceptional.

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

- **Cumberland**: Ravenglass, immature ♀, shot, 12th October; specimen in the Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne (per A. Jones).
- **Hampshire**: Pennington Marshes and The Gins, ♀, 30th May to 28th June (J. E. Hunt, J. N. Mutch, C. C. White, *et al.*).
- **Norfolk**: Hardley Flood, the ♀ first recorded on 12th December 1971 (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 328) was last seen on 12th March 1972, and not May as stated in the last report (C. R. Goate *et al.*).
- **Suffolk**: Minsmere, ♀, 27th to 29th May (H. E. Axell, J. Harvey, Colonel Mitchell).
- **Yorkshire**: Fairburn Ings, ♀, presumed to be that recorded in 1971, 1st April to 3rd July (C. Winn *et al.*).

(North America) Since 1966 annual records have averaged three and the number is growing. At the same time, however, the chances of captive birds escaping markedly increased about 1970 (*Brit. Birds*, 64: 347). The recent predominance of spring drakes in this species is paralleled in both the Green-winged Teal and the Ring-necked Duck.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana*

- **Aberdeen**: Auchlossan, ♀, 15th to 23rd April (R. H. Dennis, N. Picozzi, D. P. Willis *et al.*).

(North America) Spring occurrences of this duck are unusual. Surprisingly, there have been no Irish records since 1969.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

- **Bedfordshire**: Luton Hoo Park, ♀, 16th April to 7th May (P. F. Bonham, A. J. Livett, M. R. Seaman).
- **Buckinghamshire**: Marlow gravel pits, the ♀ first recorded on 14th November 1971 (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 329) was last seen on 30th March 1972 (not April as stated in the last report), and what was thought to be the same bird was present from 17th December to at least 24th May 1973 (E. J. Byrne, R. E. Youngman *et al.*).
Devon: ♂, presumed to be the bird recorded in 1970 and 1971, at Burrator Reservoir from 2nd to 29th January, at Dartington, Beesands Ley and Slapton Ley from 7th February to 23rd March, at Beesands Ley on 16th April, and at Slapton Ley from 20th December to at least February 1973 (M. R. Edmonds, S. C. Madge, C. Wills et al.).

Kent: Stodmarsh, ♂, 9th April (Miss M. M. Lees, B. Sutton).

Somerset: ♂, presumed to be the bird recorded in 1971, at Blagdon Reservoir from 26th March to 9th April, at Chew Valley Lake on 29th May, at Blagdon Reservoir again from 30th June to 23rd August, and at Cheddar Reservoir from 22nd September to 16th December (A. H. Davis, B. Rabbitts, K. E. Vinicombe et al.).

(North America) Once again all drakes, three maintaining the remarkable loyalty of station characteristic of this species. The case of summering was the first such instance on record.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

Caernarvonshire: Penychain, Pwllheli, adult ♀, 8th to 23rd April (P. Hope Jones, W. I. Jones, M. C. Wainwright).

(North America) Also a drake at Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry, on 23rd April. The above is the second Welsh record, hotfoot on the first in 1971. The grand total for Britain and Ireland is now over 100.

Steller’s Eider *Polysticta stelleri*

Outer Hebrides: South Uist, ♂, May to August, and 22nd November to at least August 1973 (R. Jones, Mrs M. E. Lacey, J. O’Sullivan et al.).

(Arctic Russia to extreme north-west Canada) Only the ninth ever, but 1972 was the third successive year in which this species appeared in northern Scotland. Even more noteworthy is the long stay.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Argyll: Clachan, Kintyre, ♂, 18th to 24th December (N. Duncan).

Ayrshire: Irvine estuary, the ♂ first recorded on 22nd December 1971 (Brit. Birds, 65: 329) was last seen on 15th April (K. C. C. Halliday, A. G. Stewart et al.).

Northumberland: Amble, ♂, 1st May to at least end September (M. Robinson et al.).

Shetland: Trondra area, adult ♂, 8th March to 13th June (S. J. Broyd, D. Coutts, Dr B. Marshall et al.). Ronas Voe, adult ♂, 14th March to 8th May (Dr B. Marshall, R. J. Tulloch et al.).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Also a drake off Portstewart, Co. Londonderry, from 1st to 4th April (in 1971, what was probably the same bird was present there from 17th March to 15th May, and not until only 28th March as stated in our last report). Up to 1968, records averaged less than one a year, but since 1969 there have been at least two annually. In 1970 King Eiders began to appear well south of Shetland, and this trend led to the occurrence in 1972
of one in England, apparently the first there since as long ago as 1915. The reasons for this trend (also apparent in the case of Steller’s Eider) are not clear.

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

**Gloucestershire:** Slimbridge, adult, 22nd January to 19th February (L. P. Alder, M. A. Ogilvie, M. Owen *et al.*); immature, 14th February (M. Owen).

**Gyrfalcon** *Falco rusticolus*

**Anglesey:** Penlon, Newborough, adult ♀ grey phase, found shot 31st March, died 3rd April (Dr P. J. Darc, A. J. Mercer, K. Williams).

**Cornwall:** Trevone, white phase, 26th March (Dr L. H. Hurrell).

**Devon:** Putford, 7th March (L. R. Woolner). Foreland Point, 17th March (Dr A. Stormont). Lundy, 19th, 21st and 22nd March (J. N. Dymond, A. W. and Mrs. E. J. Strick *et al.*). All white phase and perhaps (with the Cornish and Scilly records) involving the same individual.

**Inverness-shire:** Loch Insh, ♀ grey or dark phase, 10th May (N. Picozzi, Hon. D. N. Weir).

**Scilly:** Bryher, white phase, 14th April (Mrs H. R. Shepherd). St Mary’s, white phase, 6th to 10th May (D. B. Hunt, A. Vittery).

**Surrey:** Chessington, white phase, 14th to 19th March (S. Greenwood).

**Sussex:** Steyning area, white phase, 11th to 24th March (B. F. Forbes, C. E. Messer *et al.*).

(Circumpolar Arctic) An astonishing influx, quite without precedent in recent years, though the fact that most were of the white ‘candicans’ form (which predominates in parts of Greenland) accords with the balance of past identifications.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

**Devon:** Lundy, immature, 16th October (J. N. Dymond).

**Dorset:** Cranborne Common, ♂, 9th to 11th July (G. B. Brown, Dr K. B. Rooke *et al.*).

**Glamorgan:** Sker Point, immature, 16th to 20th October (D. and H. E. Dicks, A. Morgan); possibly the Devon bird.

**Pembrokeshire:** Haverfordwest, ♂, 6th to 16th October (J. Rogers).

**Shetland:** Whalsay, ♂, 3rd to 6th May (J. H. Simpson *et al.*). Fetlar, ♂, 28th June (I. S. and S. Robertson).

**Yorkshire:** Fairburn, ♂, 27th and 28th September (B. Blackburn, C. Winn *et al.*).

(East Europe and south from Siberia) For autumn occurrences to outnumber those in spring is very unusual. There have now been about 80 records since 1958. See also plate 56b.

**Crane** *Grus grus*

**Caithness:** Auckingill, Wick, 22nd March to 8th April (A. F. C. M. Collett, Mrs P. Collett, Miss H. E. Munro *et al.*).
Dorset: Portland, 14th October (F. R. Clafton, K. D. Smith et al.); Seacombe, Swanage, the same bird, 15th October (W. T. Haysom).
Lincolnshire: Gibraltar Point, 23rd August (F. Evans, M. C. Powell).
Shetland: Robin’s Brae, Dunrossness, 10th to 14th August (D. Coutts, R. H. Dennis et al.).

(North and central Eurasia, locally south to Turkey) Also one at Kinsale, Co. Cork, for two weeks in early February, apparently the first in Ireland since 1961. See also plate 56a.

Baillon’s Crake *Porzana pusilla*


(West and south Europe, across south Asia to Japan, and Africa and Australasia) Only the fifth since 1948.

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Scilly: St Mary’s, 2nd to 7th August (P. A. R. Hockey, D. B. Hunt, R. Symons et al.).

(Arctic North America and north-east Asia) Before 1958 there had been only six known occurrences, but this, the earliest autumn record, raises the grand total for Britain and Ireland to 26.

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus*

Sussex: Sidlesham Ferry, 14th July (R. D. M. Edgar, B. Metcalfe, M. Shrub). (North America) The tenth British and Irish record and the earliest of the nine autumn occurrences.

Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* or *L. griseus*

(North America) None accepted in Britain, but the one first recorded at Inchydoney, Co. Cork, on 28th September 1971 (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 332) stayed into January.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

Suffolk: Benacre, 14th September (C. R. Naunton).

(North-east Europe and north-west Asia) As in each of the last two years, only one accepted record, bringing the total since 1958 to 23. This remains a problem species, with a high proportion of the descriptions submitted inadequate to establish identity with complete certainty.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

Scilly: St Mary’s, 7th to 28th October (B. Bland, D. B. Hunt, P. G. Lansdown et al.) (plate 53).

(North America) A typical autumn record, the eleventh since 1958, which brings the all-time total to 26.
Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

**Kent:** Medway estuary, 22nd November (Dr J. G. Harrison).

(North America) The first in Britain since 1961 and only the eleventh ever. Irish records bring the grand total to 19. The date appears late, but there have been three records in December and January.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

**Cornwall:** Camel estuary, 10th to 20th September; Hayle Kimbro Pool, Lizard, 21st to 30th September (plate 54); Stithians Reservoir, 12th October (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, P. J. and Mrs M. C. Dwyer *et al.*). Possibly only one bird involved.

**Northamptonshire:** Pitsford Reservoir, the one first recorded on 26th September 1971 (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 333) stayed until January or February, when it moved to Ecton sewage farm, where it was last seen on 3rd May (C. D. Ingram *et al.*).

(North America) One of the more regular American waders, with a total of about 97 British and Irish records, 62 since 1958. The overwintering of the Northamptonshire bird is particularly interesting following the possibility of similar behaviour in Co. Cork during winter 1969/70.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, 19th to 22nd May (H. E. Axell, C. Murphy, J. Warham *et al.*).

(North-east Europe and Siberia) Although the third in four years, this was only the eighth British record. During its four-day stay it was seen by large numbers of observers, many of whom had the unique British experience of watching Terek and Broad-billed Sandpipers together (see below).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

**Glamorgan:** Aberthaw, 2nd September (R. A. Cadman, Mrs A. Heathcote, P. Hughes *et al.*).

(North America) The 13th record since 1958, bringing the grand total to 18. This occurred at the beginning of the only ‘star-spangled’ patch in an otherwise poor autumn for transatlantic vagrants, which produced seven species of American waders between 2nd and 17th September and included a Baird’s Sandpiper at the same locality. The above is apparently the first accepted Welsh record.

Baird’s Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

**Essex:** Abberton Reservoir, 19th August (T. Bispham, M. Hutchings, R. V. A. Marshall *et al.*).

**Glamorgan:** Aberthaw, 9th September (P. G. Lansdown, D. C. Palmer *et al.*).

(North America) These two records conform with the recent pattern and bring the total to at least 42, 35 of them in the last ten years.
**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

**Essex**: Heybridge gravel pits, 31st August (R. Glover, R. P. Hull).

**Midlothian**: Musselburgh Lagoons, 16th to 25th September (R. Macgregor, A. D. K. Ramsay, R. W. J. Smith *et al.*).

**Norfolk**: Cley, 14th October (A. Bull, Dr D. Walker).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, trapped, 28th November to 2nd December (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad *et al.*).

(North America) There are now well over 100 British and Irish records of this species (plate 55b) which has occurred annually since 1955, mostly during September-November.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

**Scilly**: St Agnes, two, 29th October (D. I. M. Wallace).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, trapped, 17th to 19th September (R. A. Broad, E. R. and Mrs C. Meek *et al.*).

(North America) Also one at Waterford Reservoir, Co. Waterford, on 10th September. (In addition, two at Loch Corrib, Co. Galway, on 14th September 1971 were omitted from the 1971 report.) A rather poor year for this distinctive prairie species, especially in comparison with 1970 and 1971 when a combined total of over 40 was recorded. The date of the Fair Isle bird was typical, but the St Agnes record was the latest for many years. This was the sixth successive year that the species reached the Isles of Scilly.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

**Suffolk**: Minsmere, in winter plumage, 10th to 20th May, perhaps also on 7th (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace *et al.*); in summer plumage, 23rd May (H. E. Axell, R. G. H. Cant, P. J. Makepeace *et al.*).

(North Eurasia) Only the 15th and 16th accepted records since 1958 but, like the Great Snipe, this species continues to have a high rejection rate and is probably under-recorded.

**Wilson’s Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*

**Bedfordshire**: Bedford sewage farm, 12th to 16th September (P. F. Bonham, A. J. Livett, P. Trengrove *et al.*).

**Kirkcudbrightshire**: Kirkgunzeon, 25th August to 3rd September (Dr E. C. Fellowes, B. S. Turner *et al.*).

**Northumberland**: Budle Bay, 2nd November (Miss H. M. Jackson, Miss M. R. Sanderson).

**Yorkshire**: Fairburn Ings, 7th September (R. F. Dickens, D. Pickup, C. Winn *et al.*).

(North America) This species has occurred annually in Britain and Ireland since 1961 and these four records, which conform to the established pattern, bring the total to approximately 50. Although it seems likely that more than one bird was involved...
in the August and September records, there is an interesting association between latitude and date.

**Bonaparte’s Gull** *Larus philadelphia*

**Fife:** Luthrie, Cupar, immature, 26th and 27th February (P. N. J. Clark, A. Grieve, D. W. Oliver).

(North America) The first Scottish record since 1967. What was presumably the single individual that had visited St Ives, Cornwall, during the previous four winters, did not reappear.

**Ross’s Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea*

**Shetland:** Scalloway, adult, 22nd January (A. Inkster, R. Johnson, N. L. Storie et al.).

(North-east Siberia) The eighth British and Irish record since 1960 but only the tenth in all.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

**Durham:** Teesmouth, 13th to 20th May (W. E. Fletcher, P. J. Stead, G. S. Tuffnell et al.).

**Glamorgan:** Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, 23rd to 25th May (Miss C. M. Jones, P. G. Lansdown, Mrs D. A. Oxenham).

**Hampshire:** Pennington Marshes, 29th May (D. A. Thelwell).

**Kent:** Dungeness, 8th June (K. Atkin); immatures, 31st July, 11th August to 12th September, 12th August, 1st to 11th September, and 9th to 11th September (P. J. Grant, K. Redshaw, R. E. Scott et al.).

**Somerset:** Cheddar Reservoir, immature, 28th August (S. B. Edwards, J. F. Salaman).

**Sussex:** Rye Harbour, 28th May (K. G. Cawte). Chichester gravel pits, 6th and 7th June (Miss J. V. Stacey et al.).

(South-east Europe, west and east Asia) The total of twelve in 1972 is well below the yearly average of 22 during 1967-71, and continues the decline since the exceptional peak of 35 in 1970.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

**Hampshire:** Milford-on-Sea, 13th May (R. Dunn, E. J. Wiseman).

(South Eurasia, north-west, east and south Africa, and Australia) After a run of annual occurrences from 1967 to 1970, culminating in the record number of nine in the last year, there was none in 1971 and now only one in 1972. Thus this species is showing a similar collapse to the last.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

**Hampshire:** Pennington Marshes, 26th May (D. J. Lister).

**Lincolnshire:** Covenham Reservoir, immature, 16th September to 14th October (K. Atkin, M. Mellor et al.) (plate 55a).

(Denmark, south Europe, south Asia, north-west Africa, Australia
and the Americas) During 1968-72 the average was only three or four a year, compared with eight or nine annually during 1958-67.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

**Leicestershire/Rutland**: Eye Brook Reservoir, adult, 12th July (S.S. and M. J. Garner *et al.*).

**Staffordshire**: Blithfield Reservoir, adult, 16th July (E. S. Clare, M. J. Inskip, E. G. Phillips *et al.*).


(Baltic, south-east Europe, south-west and south-east Asia, Africa, Australia and North America) Four records a year is about the current average. Inland records are not unusual, now standing at 20 out of a total of 55 since 1958.

**Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*

**Anglesey**: Mynachdy, adult ♀, found dead, 3rd May (Dr P. J. Dare, K. Williams *et al.*).

**Devon**: North Molton, 9th March (D. J. W. Jones).

**Glamorgan**: Penarth Moors, Cardiff, immature, 28th March (Dr P. N. Ferns, Dr A. G. Hildrew, I. Macalpine-Leny).

**Orkney**: Eday, 11th May, and possibly the same bird on Papa Westray a few days later (E. Ballour).

**Outer Hebrides**: St Kilda, 17th April (D. Stewart *et al.*). Two, 18th May, possibly up to five later, still two in December (locality withheld) (W. A. J. Cunningham *et al.*).

**Shetland**: Fetlar, up to five, January to April; a pair bred again, laying four eggs from 20th May, but all four young died within a week of hatching in June; immature ♀ joined the pair from 5th August; six present by 18th October stayed to end of year (R. J. Tulloch *et al.*). Unst, singles January, May and June, two on 10th May; Yell, singles 12th February and 14th May; Mainland, pair in early April, two different birds at North Roe, 6th and 10th May, singles June, one 13th August (R. J. Tulloch *et al.*). Fair Isle, sub-adult ♀, 26th and 27th April; ♀, 16th May; adult ♀, trapped, 9th to 15th June (R. A. Broad *et al.*).

**Sutherland**: Ben Hutig, Tongue, 13th April (J. R. Best).

(Circumpolar Arctic) The first year that the pair on Fetlar did not breed successfully since 1967, when they first nested. The other records are the first outside Shetland since 1968.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

**Banffshire**: Buckie Harbour, 27th May (D. L. Clugston).

**Kent**: Kingsdown, 27th May (G. and R. Halliwell).

**Northumberland**: Inner Farne Island, 24th September (S. Robbins, M. Walters).

**Pembrokeshire**: Skokholm, 13th July (G. K. Britton, J. W. F. Davis, D. J. Onley *et al.*).
Shetland: Fair Isle, 6th June (R. A. Broad, E. R. Meek, R. J. Sandison et al.).
Sussex: Church Norton, 30th October (Mrs W. Frost, P. S. and Mrs D. J. Herlihy).
Yorkshire: Spurn, 2nd July (R. T. Parrish).

(South Eurasia, north-west and east Africa) Eight in 1972 shows a return to form for this species after only three in 1971. The October records are unusually late.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*
Dorset: Upwey, Weymouth, two, 9th and 10th June (Mrs S. M. Davies, S. N. Delany).
Shetland: Gloup, Yell, 25th May (Mr Dalziel).

(South Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) The least showing of this species since 1965, the average number of records per year being four between 1958 and 1971. It may be noted that there was no accepted record of a Roller *Coracias garrulus* for the first time since 1964.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cinerea*
Cornwall: Porthgwarra, 18th September (H. P. K. Robinson); 21st October (Miss G. Culwick, J. H. Johns).
Devon: Lundy, 16th to 20th October (J. N. Dymond et al.).
Scilly: St Mary’s, 30th September (P. Harrison, V. R. Tucker); 11th to 22nd November (D. B. Hunt, H. F. W. Prendergast).
Shetland: Out Skerries, 25th to 28th May (Dr B. and Mrs M. E. Marshall). Fair Isle, trapped, 29th September to 27th October (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad, E. R. Meek et al.).
Sussex: Beachy Head, four, 2nd October (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood).

(South Europe, north and east Africa) The tendency for autumn records to outnumber spring ones is now very marked, and the pattern of occurrence of this species once again resembles that established up to 1938. Small parties are not unusual, but the four at Beachy Head is apparently the largest ever seen.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*
Somerset: Steart Point, 8th April (P. G. Lansdown, D. C. Palmer).
Yorkshire: Tunstall, 11th June (A. W. Wallis).

(Continental Europe south from Baltic, south Asia, north-west and upland equatorial Africa) With only 15 previous records and none since 1965, two birds in one year add up to one of the most surprising events of 1972. This is essentially a sedentary species and the English Channel thus constitutes a formidable barrier. Apart from one on Fair Isle, the Yorkshire bird had moved farther north than any other.
Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

**Dorset**: Radipole Lake, 6th May (K. Derrett, P. J. Knight, M. P. Rossiter *et al.*).

**Kent**: Bough Beech Reservoir, 28th August (G. J. Harris, D. R. Hodge).

**Shetland**: Sumburgh Head, 29th May (S. J. Broyd).

**Warwickshire**: Draycote Reservoir, 27th May (G. R. and Mrs J. V. Harrison).

(South and east Eurasia, and Africa) In a year when the spring overshooting of southern migrants was generally less marked than recently, the appearance of this species in Shetland (for the second year running) was remarkable.

Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

**Kent**: Bedgebury, two, 27th December (P. T. and K. Dann).

(Eurasia from Scandinavia and the Alps to Kamchatka and China) This species seems bent on resuming its former exceptional occurrences. It should be remembered that during 1958-65 it appeared on only four occasions and that the huge irruption in 1968 (*Brit. Birds*, 63: 353-373) was without precedent in British and European ornithology.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

(Continental Europe south of Baltic, also Asia Minor and north-west Africa) The Rarities Committee has continued to receive records of this species but, in spite of much joint research by its own members, the B.T.O. and the Wildlife Sound Recording Society, no clear solution of the identification problems surrounding it has yet been obtained. Work continues upon them, and we ask any observers who suspect that they may have found a Short-toed Treecreeper to take the greatest care over their description and to make the promptest comparison with as many known Treecreepers *C. familiaris* as possible.

Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

**Yorkshire**: Flamborough Head, 5th and 6th October (K. and Mrs E. M. P. Allsopp, D. J. Britton *et al.*).

(South Europe, south-west Asia and North Africa) In a year that earned little renown for southern species, this bird provided one of the most striking contradictions in the general theme of the autumn migration. It is only the fourth since 1958 and the tenth in all; the species remains a quite exceptional vagrant to Britain and Ireland. All four British captives were caged at the time (and still are).

Cetti’s Warbler *Cettia cetti*

**Berkshire**: Thatcham Marsh, Newbury, the one trapped on 24th October 1971 (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 342) stayed until at least April (I. Hawthorn, R. G. Smith, I. Weston *et al.*).

**Kent:** Stodmarsh, one or two remained from December 1971 (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 342); details of 1972 records are withheld for the time being for security reasons. Up to two present at another locality in May, October and November, with two trapped on 19th November (names of observers withheld).

**Yorkshire:** Hornsea, trapped, 2nd and 3rd November (G. Bird, J. E. S. and Mrs C. F. Walker).

(South and west Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) A sequel to the autumn 1971 exodus from the Continent, with evidence of another in autumn 1972. In view of the likely establishment of breeding populations, we have readily accepted pleas for security from several quarters and ask observers not to enlarge upon certain already open secrets concerning this attractive species.

**Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata*

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, trapped, 19th to perhaps 21st September (R. A. Broad, Mrs V. McFarland, Dr R. J. Raines *et al.*).

(East Eurasia from central Russia to north Japan) The 13th record of this very rare trans-Palearctic vagrant and the first since 1961. The locality and date are typical.

**Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*

**Kent:** Stodmarsh, two, 27th April, up to six regularly heard subsequently and at least one pair bred (P. J. Mountford *et al.*).

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, present from 13th April, at least three pairs bred (H. E. Axell *et al.*). Walberswick, present from 30th April to 13th July, three pairs and one additional singing male (G. J. Jobson *et al.*).

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, 7th to 10th May (B. E. and J. F. Cooper, A. Quinn *et al.*).

**Warwickshire:** one heard and seen, 2nd May to 4th June (locality and names of observers withheld).

(Europe, west and central Asia and north-west Africa) The 'brown reeler' has maintained its Kent and Suffolk footholds. Following our comments in the last report on the lack of records from coastal observatories, congratulations to the Sussex ringers who spotted an incoming bird!

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

**Devon:** Thurlestone, trapped, 15th November (R. Burridge).

**Kent:** Stodmarsh, 11th June (P. J. Mountford). Wingham, 20th August (A. J. K. Henderson).

(Europe and west-central Asia) Again a poor showing of a southern passerine that has consistently overshot into southern England during the last 15 years and whose occurrences have averaged at least four a year, with a peak of nine in 1969. The Devon bird was easily the tardiest ever, the previous latest coming curiously from the very same locality on 12th October 1969.
Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

**Berkshire**: Reading, 28th August (C. C. White).

**Cornwall**: Marazion Marsh, two trapped 23rd August, one trapped 24th, three trapped 29th, one seen 2nd September (G. Price, P. D. Round et al.). Long Rock, Penzance, singles trapped 23rd August and 21st September (J. Parrott, B. Pattenden et al.). All trapped birds were immatures.


**Dorset**: Radipole Lake, 22 immatures trapped, one on 12th August, three 13th, one 14th, four 15th, four 17th, one 20th, one 21st, one 31st, one 5th September, two 6th, one 12th, one 17th, one 20th September (J. Oakshatt, G. Pepler et al.); immature, trapped, 26th September (P. J. Curry, J. Williamson).


**Scilly**: St Mary's, immature, 8th October (B. Bland, T. Hobday, P. Milford).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, trapped, 12th and 13th August, three trapped 14th, last seen 23rd August (R. A. Broad, R. H. Dennis, E. R. Meek et al.). All immatures.


**Wiltshire**: Swindon, 30th September and 1st October (E. G. and M. H. Smith, G. L. Webber).

(East Europe and west Asia) This astonishing total of at least 55 smartly doubles the previous peak in 1971. The marked passage through Radipole Lake, ably intercepted by a particularly active ringing group, indicates a still greater potential for this species as an autumn migrant. Given the almost simultaneous arrivals of the first birds in Shetland, Dorset and Somerset, the finding of only two on the well-watched east coast of England in August and early September is equally remarkable (though we are aware of at least two records claimed there but not yet submitted).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

**Scilly**: St Mary's, 10th October (D. B. Hunt, B. King, H. P. K. Robinson).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, ♂, trapped, 26th June to 5th July (R. A. Broad, D. P. Cyrus, E. R. Meek et al.).

(South-west Europe, Middle East and north-west Africa) Once again a below-average showing of a southern warbler. The grand total is now 49, and one in three still fly all the way to Fair Isle.
Rare birds in Great Britain 1972

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

**Kent:** Dungeness, 26th September (S. D. Housden).


(Eurasia from south Finland and north Germany to Kamchatka)

Six in one year is not remarkable and takes the grand total of British and Irish records to 85, all but one since 1945. The concentration of five in north Norfolk in just eight days is, however, unprecedented; normally this species occurs in a markedly random scatter.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

**Dorset:** Portland, 9th September (F. R. Clafton, R. A. Ford, G. Walbridge *et al.*).

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, 9th April (R. K. Haggar, R. Smith, K. Verrall).


(Central and south Europe, Levant and north-west Africa) Although only 25 years old as a British bird, this species has now been recorded 35 times. This most southerly of the European *Phylloscopus* has been pushing north in France, and the pattern of the 13 records in the last three years appears related to such range extension. Not surprisingly, only two of these 13 have been dated within the typical late autumn period of long-distance vagrancy in this genus (and at least one of these was of the eastern race *orientalis*). The others consist of two overshooting in spring and nine in early or mid-autumn, when the mean date (28th August) closely parallels those of the largely sympatric Melodious and Icterine Warblers *Hippolais polyglotta* and *H. icterina* (*Brit. Birds*, 62: 300, 304).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

**Orkney:** Stenness, trapped, 3rd September (C. J. and J. Booth).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 24th to 26th September (R. A. Broad, D. M. Walker, D. Willis *et al.*). Whalsay, 2nd October (J. H. Simpson).

(North-east Europe, north Asia and Alaska) These three records take the grand total to about 70. The dates are typical of recent years, with only one August record since 1968.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

**Cambridgeshire:** Kennett, 11th and 12th June (G. M. S. Easy).

**Dorset:** Portland, 1st September (A. H. Davis, K. E. Vinicombe).

**Hampshire:** Pennington Marshes, 3rd September (D. J. Lister, Miss M. J. Spurgin).

**Kent:** Sandwich Bay, 18th May (Miss M. M. Lees). Dungeness, 3rd September (R. W. Burness, T. P. Inskipp); 8th to 10th September (C. P. Carpenter, M. T.
35°

Rare birds in Great Britain 1972


Midlothian: Musselburgh Lagoons, 15th September (G. L. Sandeman, R. W. J. Smith, Miss O. Thompson et al.).

Norfolk: near Cley, 7th May (Dr M. P. Taylor).

Scilly: St Martin's, 19th May (D. B. Hunt, W. E. Oddie); 30th September (M. J. Rogers). St Mary's, 26th September to 1st October (D. B. and O. D. Hunt); 3rd to 8th October (B. Armstrong, G. Cooper, G. Summers et al.); 13th October (B. Bland); 20th October (G. Hinchon). St Agnes, 6th and 7th October (T. A. Guyatt et al.).

Somerset: Woodspring Bay, 29th July (K. L. Fox).

Sussex: Hodcombe, Beachy Head, 29th August, 10th to 12th September, 26th September, 15th October (R. H. Charlwood, also Mrs M. E. Charlwood for the second).

(Europe, south Asia and north-west Africa) Although below the peak arrivals of 1968-71, these 23 records bring the total since 1958 to nearly 250 and the grand total to about 360. The inland record in Cambridgeshire in June is most unusual, and the one in Midlothian was apparently the first on the mainland of Scotland.

Pechora Pipit Anthus gustavi


(North-east Russia to Bering Straits) The 19th in all and only the second away from Fair Isle.

Red-throated Pipit Anthus cervinus

Scilly: St Mary's, 20th September (M. J. Rogers). St Agnes, 31st October to 3rd November (R. J. Johns, D. I. M. Wallace).

Yorkshire: Spurn, trapped, 21st September (T. J. Bennett, G. R. Edwards, B. R. Spence et al.).

(Arctic Eurasia) The strange absence from Shetland since 1969 continues, and this species is now becoming most regular in Scilly where late October and early November records since 1958 number four out of a total for the islands of eight.

Citrine Wagtail Motacilla citreola

Inverness-shire: Inverness, immature, 3rd September (R. H. Dennis et al.).

Shetland: Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 7th to 13th September (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad, E. R. Meek et al.).

(East Russia and west-central Asia) This species, yet to appear in its beautiful adult plumage, was unknown in Britain before 1954, and six years passed before a series of autumn records began. Since 1960 it has failed to appear only twice and it has been regular since 1966. Thus it may now be termed an annual vagrant, though still a Fair Isle speciality. The Inverness bird is the earliest so far of a grand total of 17.
PLATE 53. Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*, Scilly, October 1972 (page 340). This Ruff-sized, brown wader of the North American grasslands has a small head and short bill, a rather long, thin neck, and a long, barred tail extending well beyond the wing-tips; its legs and feet are yellow (*photos: J. B. and S. Bottomley*)
PLATE 54. Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Lizard peninsula, Cornwall, September 1972 (page 341). There are now nearly 100 British and Irish records of this delicately built American wader. Slightly smaller than a Redshank, with a fine, straight bill and bright yellow legs, it lacks white on the upperwings and has a square white rump patch not extending up the back (photos: J. B. and S. Bottomley)
Plate 56. Two rarities of continental origin in Shetland in June 1969: above, Crane *Grus grus* on Unst; below, first-summer male Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* on Yell (photos: R. J. Tulloch). These two species occurred in about average numbers in 1972, and again there were records of both in Shetland (pages 339-340).
**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*

**Northamptonshire**: Stanford Reservoir, 14th and 15th June (D. Waring).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 26th September to 5th October (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad, E. R. Meek *et al.*).

**Sutherland**: Kinbrace, 21st June (Mr and Mrs J. Loates).

(South and east Europe and south-west Asia) Another poor showing, as in several other southern passerines. Occurrences as far inland as Northamptonshire are unusual.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

**Bedfordshire**: near Bedford sewage farm, 17th July to 29th August (P. F. Bonham, M. Rogers, P. Trengrove *et al.*).

**Cornwall**: Porthgwarra, 31st May and 1st June (H. P. K. Robinson *et al.*); 22nd July (H. P. K. Robinson, P. D. Round).

**Kent**: Dungeness, 26th June (A. K. Child, K. Redshaw, R. E. Scott).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 18th to 30th September (R. A. Broad, M. J. Cowlard, P. R. Holness *et al.*).

**Sussex**: Crowlink, 16th June (A. J. Cooke).

**Yorkshire**: near Tunstall, 6th and 7th May (A. W. Wallis).

(West and central Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) Seven records is only half the average since 1958, and clearly 1972 was not a year which favoured overshooting. Even so, the grand total of British and Irish records fast approaches 300.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

**Hampshire**: Fareham, 24th April (D. G. Evans).

**Kent**: Sandwich, immature, 22nd to 27th February (J. N. Hollyer *et al.*).

**Kirkcudbrightshire**: Palnackie, 13th to 18th September (Mrs H. B. Halliday).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, adult ♂, 8th to 10th July (Miss E. Blake, R. A. Broad, Miss R. Powell *et al.*).

**Surrey**: Virginia Water, adult, 31st July (Mr and Mrs P. A. M. Bishop, P. Bishop).

**Sutherland**: Faraid Head, adult, 9th to 14th July (G. Bundy, M. Davies, E. Maughan *et al.*). Scourie, adult, 31st August to late September (B. Harrup *et al.*).

(South-east Europe and south-west Asia) Also an adult at Greystones, Co. Wicklow, on 11th July. July and August are the most frequent months for true trans-European vagrancy of this beautiful nomad: between 1958 and 1965, 14 out of 24 records were dated in these months, while since then 13 out of 26 have been so dated. Furthermore, M. D. England informs us that in recent years we have been exaggerating the escape problem for this species.

**Arctic Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni*

**Norfolk**: near Cley, singles trapped, 24th October, 14th November and 19th December (Dr M. P. Taylor).

**Orkney**: North Ronaldsay, adult ♂, trapped, 12th October (J. M. B. King).
**Shetland:** Fair Isle, immature ♂, trapped, 24th to 28th September; another trapped, 19th to 26th October (R. A. Broad, E. R. Meek, R. A. Richardson et al.).

**Suffolk:** Oulton Broad, trapped, 5th November; showing the characters of *A. h. exilipes* (R. S. Briggs).

**Yorkshire:** Spurn, trapped, 5th November (J. Cassidy, B. R. Spence, D. Woodward et al.).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Observers continue to be vexed by the taxonomic stalemate surrounding this beautiful northern finch and its close relative, the Redpoll *A. flammea*. The Records Committee of the British Ornithologists’ Union has recently followed Vaurie’s *The Birds of the Palearctic Fauna: Passeriformes* (1959) in maintaining *A. hornemanni* as a full member of the British and Irish list. Therefore the Rarities Committee continues to attempt judgement of identifications, and certainly the events of 1972 have once again focused its attention on Arctic Redpolls. In addition to the above eight trapped individuals which all pass the criteria currently applied to birds in the hand, the committee also reviewed sight records of one between Egypt Bay and St Mary’s Bay, Kent, on 8th October, two at Wells, Norfolk, from 13th to at least 15th October, and one at Dungeness, Kent, on 21st October. All four showed the characters of pure *hornemanni* and it seems important that they are not forgotten. Apart from one in 1970, these are the first Arctic Redpolls accepted since 1966, and even excluding the untrapped birds the total of eight records outnumbers that of any recent year. More significantly, all fell within 42 autumn days and were closely associated with an unusually large irruption of Redpolls noted not only in Britain but also in northern continental Europe.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*

**Cornwall:** Swanpool, Falmouth, ♂, 16th November (B. Cave).

**Dorset:** Portland, ♂, 22nd April (P. A. Dukes, D. J. Holman, C. W. Westwood).

**Glamorgan:** Kenfig Castle, ♂, 18th March (K. Jones).

**Kent:** Ash-next-Sandwich, ♂, 24th March (W. G. Harvey).

**Pembrokeshire:** St David’s, ♂, 8th and 9th June (T. P. Inskipp et al.).

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, ♂, 15th April (J. F. Cooper, R. Haggar); ♂, 22nd April (B. E. Cooper, A. R. Kitson, M. J. Rogers); 2nd May (D. S. Flumm, A. R. Kitson, M. J. Rogers); 3rd May (D. S. Flumm, A. R. Kitson, N. A. G. Lord); ♂, 29th June, ♂, 18th July, 29th July, 13th August, 8th October, 11th October (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood); ♂, 21st October (D. W. Musson); 11th November (K. Verrall). Selsey Bill, ♂, 26th April (M. Shrubb). East Dean, ♂, May to July (J. F. Cooper, D. E. Lester, M. J. Rogers).

(Continental Europe, Mediterranean, Asia Minor and northwest Africa) A pattern of records more like those of 1966 and 1967 but strangely lacking in 1970 and 1971. The presence of birds around Beachy Head in five consecutive and two later months (spanning the breeding season) is without precedent; there were
similar multiple occurrences in Cornwall from 1966 to 1968, but these were of wintering birds.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

**Angus**: West Haven, Carnoustie, adult ♂, 30th April (T. M. Clegg).

**Devon**: Lundy, ♀, 4th June (J. N. Dymond).

**Fife**: Isle of May, ♂, trapped, 31st May (J. H. B. Munro); singles trapped 28th August to 6th September (G. L. Sandeman, Dr L. Vick), 6th to 14th and 9th to 12th September (T. Osborne, R. L. Swann *et al.*); one seen, 18th and 19th September (J. M. A. and J. R. D. Osborne, R. L. Swann, A. J. Watson *et al.*).

**Northumberland**: Farne Islands, 9th and 13th September (B. S. Duffin).

**Orkney**: Rousay, 5th October (D. and M. Swann).

**Shetland**: Baltasound, Unst, ♂, 29th May (R. J. Tulloch). Fair Isle, ♀, trapped, 19th to 21st June (R. A. Broad *et al.*); at least 17 individuals in autumn, seven of them trapped, between 23rd August and 1st October: three on 23rd August increased to six on 26th and 27th, then three daily until five on 2nd September, four 3rd, singles to 14th except for three on 9th, one to three daily 16th-19th, one to two daily 25th September-1st October (R. A. Broad *et al.*). Fetlar, singles daily 29th August to 2nd September, two 4th to 6th September (I. S. Robertson *et al.*). Out Skerries, singles 8th and 10th September, two 11th and 12th, one 15th September (D. A. Henshilwood). Sumburgh, two, 10th September (D. Coutts). Whalsay, ♂, 19th July (J. H. Simpson *et al.*). (East Europe and across Asia, and east Turkey to Himalayas) A total of at least 39 individuals (five in spring) constitutes a sharp new peak for this species, once known only from Fair Isle but now increasingly widespread.

**Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera*

**Devon**: Lundy, 3rd August (I. P. Bainbridge).

**Northumberland**: Chevington Burn, ♂, trapped, 29th to 31st July (C. Jewett, B. Little, M. Nattrass *et al.*).

**Shetland**: Kergord, ♂, 6th to 13th July (P. K. Kinneir, I. Sandison, R. J. Tulloch *et al.*). Fair Isle, ♂, 8th and 9th July (R. A. Broad, D. P. Cyrus, E. R. Meek *et al.*). Whalsay, ♂, 19th July (J. H. Simpson).

**Yorkshire**: Whitby, ♂, 3rd to 7th August (R. H. Appleby, A. Redman, A. J. Wallis *et al.*). (North-east Europe, north-central Asia, northern North America and West Indies) These six records are the by-product of a marked (but not massive) invasion of Crossbills *L. curvirostra* in late summer. They do not parallel the events of 1966, when five birds came rather late and to localities in Cheshire and farther south. The grand total of records is now about 60, 13 since 1966.

**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*

**Kent**: Sandwich Bay, ♂, 1st June (D. L. Davenport).
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Shetland: Fair Isle, $\delta$, trapped, 4th July (R. A. Broad, D. P. Cyrus, E. R. Meek).

(South-east Europe and south-west Asia) The dates are consistent with a natural origin and, significantly, precede an apparent influx of Rose-coloured Starlings, which share a somewhat similar breeding distribution and migration pattern.

Yellow-breasted Bunting  *Emberiza aureola*

Northumberland: Brownsman Island, Farne Islands, 17th September (B. S. Duffin, D. Laing).

Shetland: Fair Isle, immature $\delta$, 30th August (R. A. Broad, J. A. Ginnever, E. R. Meek); another immature $\delta$, 9th to 11th September (R. A. Broad, J. Hickerton, A. Reynolds et al.). Out Skerries, 7th and 8th September (D. A. Henshilwood). Whalsay, 2nd October (J. H. Simpson).

(North-east Europe and north Asia) A new annual peak of five records, which brings the total since 1966 to 19 (out of a grand total of 40). The Northumberland bird was the fourth in England.

Rustic Bunting  *Emberiza rustica*

Fife: Isle of May, $\delta$, trapped, 12th May (C. W. Bailey et al.).

Norfolk: Wells, immature $\delta$, 17th to 22nd October (S. C. Joyner et al.).


Scilly: Tresco, immature $\delta$, 2nd to at least 5th November (R. J. Johns, Miss H. M. Quick, D. I. M. Wallace et al.).

Shetland: Fair Isle, $\delta$, trapped, 26th to 29th May (R. A. Broad, P. R. Holness, E. R. Meek et al.); $\delta$, trapped, 8th to 10th June (R. A. Broad, I. Brown, G. C. Jamieson et al.). Ham, Foula, $\delta$, 11th October (J. G. Holbourn).

(North-east Europe and north Asia) Not since 1962 has this bunting broken its normal bounds so dramatically. Seven in one year equals the previous peak (in 1962), and the Tresco individual stayed later than any other in the last 15 years. Both it and the Wells bird arrived with Reed Buntings *E. schoeniclus* and associated closely with them over several days. The grand total is now about 80.

Little Bunting  *Emberiza pusilla*

Durham: Marsden, 17th and 18th October (R. Higson, N. J. Phillips et al.).

Scilly: St Mary's, 20th October (R. H. Loyn).

Shetland: Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 2nd to 7th October, a different bird seen 7th to 9th October, a third seen 21st to 26th October (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad, E. R. Meek et al.).

Yorkshire: South Gare, Redcar, trapped, 3rd to 7th October (D. G. Bell, I. Boustead, M. Carter et al.).

(North-east Europe and north Asia) Six is above the average for this congener of the last two species (with which it is largely sympatric), and the two mainland occurrences reflect the trend of the early 1960's to a wider dispersal in Britain. (It may be noted here that the known total of rare finches and buntings likely to have reached Britain from northern continental Europe in 1972 is about
70. The persistence of north-easterly winds in the autumn may have kept Nearctic waders away from us, but not this lot!

**Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis*

Scilly: St Mary’s, ♂, 21st October (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood).

(Mediterranean and south-west Asia) Around this date, Red-footed Falcons reached Devon and Glamorgan, Alpine Swifts Scilly and Sussex, and Short-toed Larks Devon and Scilly, while a Tawny Pipit came to Scilly and, later, a Cetti’s Warbler to Yorkshire and a Great Reed Warbler to Devon. They constitute a very plausible supporting cast to the second British record of this partially migratory sparrow. The first was on Lundy, Devon, in June 1966.

Amendments to the 1971 report

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

Cornwall: this should read St Just airfield, 27th September (G. E. Dunmore, H. P. Medhurst). The Carn Brea entry was correctly listed among the rejected records (Brit. Birds, 65: 353) and should be omitted from page 334. We apologise to the observer concerned for this error on our part.

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*


Supplementary 1959 record accepted

**Richard’s Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Co. Cork: Cape Clear Island, 14th October (Dr J. T. R. Sharrock). This record, previously rejected (Brit. Birds, 53: 431), has been accepted after reconsideration.

Supplementary 1970 records accepted

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

Scilly: Tresco, 4th June (M. Harrison).

(Most of Eurasia, Africa and Australia) Only the twelfth British record (no 11th) of this widespread raptor. Five subsequent records have already been published (Brit. Birds, 64: 348; 65: 330).

**Bonaparte’s Gull** *Larus philadelphia*

Dorset: Durlston Head, adult, 14th March (B. Bland, R. Curtis, J. Fearside).

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*


(South Eurasia, north-west and east Africa) Another one to add to the already high total for 1970, making it 14 in all, the largest number for many years.
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**Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*


(North-west Sahara, arid regions of central Asia, east and south Iran) A full account of this first British and Irish record has already been published. The bird resembled the nominate (Asiatic) race.

**Supplementary 1971 records accepted**

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**Hampshire**: Farlington Marshes, adult, 31st August (J. Gallagher).

**Kent**: Medway estuary, immature, 6th August (Dr J. G. Harrison).

(South-central Eurasia, north to Netherlands, and Africa) Two more bring the total in 1971 to 18.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**Hampshire**: River Beaulieu, 16th May (Mrs J. E. Chamberlain).

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

**Wiltshire**: East Knoyle, 5th June (D. Morris).

(Central and south Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) One addition to the pronounced spring influx that characterised April, May and June. We still seek at least two 1971 records.

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

**Yorkshire**: Gouthwaite Reservoir, ♀, 28th March to 19th April (P. J. Stead, A. F. G. Walker *et al.*).

**Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

**Northumberland**: Lindisfarne, ♀, shot, 6th September *(per B. Little).*

**Crane** *Grus grus*

**Ross-shire**: Nigg Bay, 11th June to 8th July (R. H. Dennis, C. G. Headlam *et al.*).

(North and central Eurasia, south to Black Sea area) 1971 was an exceptional year for this species. The long stay is noteworthy.

**Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea*

(Circumpolar Arctic) One off Bunowen Point, Co. Galway, on 6th August was the eighth Irish record.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

**Norfolk**: Cley, immature, 28th August (J. G. Goldsmith, T. J. Lawrence).

(South-east Europe, west and east Asia) It is likely that this bird was 'controlled', to borrow a ringers' term, at Holkham and Holme on the same day.
Caspian Tern  *Hydroprogne caspia*

**Kent:** Kingsdown, Deal, 19th April (N. J. Ball, C. A. Harbard).

(Baltic, south-east Europe, south-west and south-east Asia, Africa, Australia and North America) This brings the 1971 total to nine.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo  *Coccyzus americanus*

**Cornwall:** St Mawes, 4th to 7th November (Miss G. Emmett, F. S. Scott).

(North America) A second (and typical) record for 1971, and about the 31st in total.

Alpine Swift  *Apus melba*

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, 22nd August (R. H. Charlwood).

Nutcracker  *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

**Suffolk:** Lowestoft, 27th October (J. M. Last, G. H. Peake). This record, previously rejected (*Brit. Birds*, 65: 353), has been accepted after reconsideration.

(Eurasia from Scandinavia and the Alps to Kamchatka and China) The third record (seventh bird) for 1971 and only a day before one was found in Norfolk.

Aquatic Warbler  *Acrocephalus paludicola*

**Hampshire:** Farlington Marshes, immature, trapped, 24th August (J. H. Marchant).

Desert Warbler  *Sylvia nana*

**Dorset:** Portland, the one first recorded on 16th December 1970 (see page 356) was last seen on 2nd January (F. R. Clafton, G. Walbridge *et al*).

Tawny Pipit  *Anthus campestris*

**Kent:** Sandwich Bay, 5th September (D. M. Batchelor).

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, 10th and 16th September (R. H. Charlwood).

(Europe, south Asia and north-west Africa) 1971 was a record year for this species and these two bring the total to at least 32 individuals.

Woodchat Shrike  *Lanius senator*

**Norfolk:** Holkham, 18th September (B. Bland, R. Curtis, J. Fearnside).

Serin  *Serinus serinus*

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, 3, 15th and 16th April (A. G. Duff, A. Parker, K. E. Vinicombe).

(Continental Europe, Mediterranean, Asia Minor and north-west Africa) Just one to add to the six already recorded. We know of at least three other records claimed for 1970-71 but not submitted.

Scarlet Rosefinch  *Carpodacus erythrinus*

**Shetland:** Out Skerries, 25th and 26th September (R. J. Tulloch).
Appendix I. List of 1972 records not accepted

This list contains all the 1972 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 honorary 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 cases the record was not accepted because we were not convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was fully established; in only a very few cases were we satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Albatross
Cory's Shearwater
Purple Heron
Little Bittern
White Stork
Blue-winged Teal
American Wigeon
Barrow's Goldeneye
Spotted Eagle
Black Kite
Gyrfalcon
Red-footed Falcon
Baillon's Crake
Little Crake
Lesser Golden Plover
Dowitcher
Great Snipe

Whitburn, Co. Durham, 18th February
St Ives, Cornwall, 31st July
Belle Tout, Sussex, 17th October
Flatford Mill, Suffolk, 9th July
St Ives, Huntingdonshire, 8th August
Beachy Head, Sussex, 24th September
Maple Cross, Hertfordshire, 11th September
River North Esk, Angus, 1st October
Cley, Norfolk, 23rd to 26th October
Ramagare, Kent, 23rd October
Copinsay, Orkney, 26th August
Stalybridge, Cheshire, 25th March
Ringshall, Hertfordshire, 16th April
Tomintoul, Banffshire, 28th April
Morston, Norfolk, 16th June
Small Dole, Sussex, 18th August
Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, 24th September
Thatcham, Berkshire, 6th January
New Forest, Hampshire, 16th April
St Agnes, Scilly, 28th September
Dersingham, Norfolk, 5th September
Fair Isle, Shetland, 11th January
Earith, Huntingdonshire, 17th January
St Mary's, Scilly, 18th September
Ecton sewage farm, Northamptonshire, 26th September
Lizard, Cornwall, 3rd October
Attenborough, Nottinghamshire, 17th December
Benington, Lincolnshire, 8th and 9th October
Covenham Reservoir, Lincolnshire, 31st May
The Skerries, Holyhead, Anglesey, 13th August
Frosham, Cheshire, 24th September
Burnham Overy, Norfolk, 26th September
Copinsay, Orkney, 19th August
Frampton, Gloucestershire, 2nd April

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Upland Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Terek Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Broad-billed Sandpiper

Attenborough, Nottinghamshire, 17th December
Wisbech sewage farm, Lincolnshire/Norfolk, 27th December
Covenham Reservoir, Lincolnshire, 31st May
The Skerries, Holyhead, Anglesey, 13th August
Frosham, Cheshire, 24th September
Burnham Overy, Norfolk, 26th September
Copinsay, Orkney, 19th August
Frampton, Gloucestershire, 2nd April
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Pratincole
Slender-billed Gull
Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Ross's Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Gull-billed Tern
Sooty Tern
Elegant Tern
Brünnich's Guillemot
Scops Owl
Alpine Swift
Roller
White-winged Lark
Crested Lark
Nutcracker
Naumann's Thrush
American Robin
White's Thrush
Isabelline Wheatear
Red-flanked Bluetail
Great Reed Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Desert Warbler
Fan-tailed Warbler
Bonelli's Warbler
Arctic Warbler
Tawny Pipit
Red-throated Pipit
Citrine Wagtail
Lesser Grey Shrike
Serin
Yellow-breasted Bunting
Little Bunting

Netherfield, Nottinghamshire, 10th to 13th September
Meikle Loch, Aberdeenshire, 12th August
Teifi estuary, Cardiganshire, 22nd September
Saltfleet, Lincolnshire, 15th and 20th October
Sandwich Bay, Kent, 10th August
St Mary's, Scilly, 21st February
Dungeness, Kent, 6th August
Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire, 31st August
Beeston Regis, Norfolk, 24th September
Minsmere, Suffolk, 16th May
St Mary's, Scilly, 21st February
Minsmere, Suffolk, 12th October
Blackwater estuary, Essex, 10th December
Credeniton, Devon, 31st March to 7th April
Berry Head, Devon, two, 8th April
Dundery Hill, Bristol, Somerset, 26th July
Holmham, Norfolk, 28th August
Monks Eleigh, Suffolk, 1st October
Llandudno, Caernarvonshire, 15th March
Minsmere, Suffolk, 12th October
Chertion, Hampshire, four, 13th August
Gartleca, Caldervans, Dunbartonshire, 13th December
Aberdeen, 30th January
Duffield, Derbyshire, 11th June
Girvan, Ayrshire, 16th January
Gairloch, Inverness-shire, 11th August
Portland, Dorset, 10th September
Holmham, Norfolk, 14th September
Sevenoaks, Kent, 15th July
Holmham, Norfolk, 14th September
Marazion Marsh, Cornwall, 1st October
Thornham Beach, Norfolk, 12th May
Prawle Point, Devon, 11th and 12th October
St Agnes, Scilly, 4th October
Holmham, Norfolk, 16th October
Reading, Berkshire, 5th to 25th July
Horsey, Devon, 4th October
Glimpholm, Orkney, 26th August
Eye Brook Reservoir, Leicestershire/Rutland, adult
and juvenile, 15th June
Hardley Flood, Norfolk, 10th June
Cuffley, Hertfordshire, 15th April
Hove, Sussex, 8th May
Inglestone Common, Gloucestershire, 19th May
Pinner, Middlesex, 14th August
Stoke Park, Bristol, Somerset, 22nd September
Fife Ness, Fife, 23rd September
Lundy, Devon, 25th September
Writtle, Essex, 9th April
Wells, Norfolk, 5th November
Brighton, Sussex, 12th October
Southwold, Suffolk, two, 8th December
Appendix 2. Supplementary 1965 record not accepted
Crested Lark Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, adult and young, 30th June

Appendix 3. Supplementary 1967 record not accepted
Greenish Warbler Kirkwall, Orkney, 9th and 10th November

Appendix 4. Supplementary 1970 records not accepted
Spotted Sandpiper St Agnes, Scilly, 9th to 13th September
Baird's Sandpiper Lemsford Springs, Hertfordshire, 24th August
Ring-billed Gull Pagham Harbour, Sussex, 14th December

Appendix 5. Supplementary 1971 records not accepted
Frigatebird Whitburn, Co. Durham, 18th August
Great Snipe Atterby Carrs, Lincolnshire, 15th August
Wisbech sewage farm, Lincolnshire/Norfolk, 28th September
Gull-billed Tern River Tywi, Carmarthenshire, 31st August
Red-flanked Bluetail Fair Isle, Shetland, 16th May
St Agnes, Scilly, 15th and 16th October

Appendix 6. Species currently placed in category D
One such record for 1972 has been accepted (see page 332).

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea*

*Inverness-shire:* Kiltartility, immature ♂, 10th and 11th March (M. I. Harvey) (North America) This species, like its close relative the Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, may be capable of an Atlantic crossing. Since it is regularly imported as a cagebird, however, the situation must remain inconclusive until several records have established a pattern of occurrence (the only previous one was on the Out Skerries, Shetland, in August 1970).

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