This is the seventeenth annual report of the Rarities Committee. The composition of the committee for the year was 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 but, following consultations with other review bodies and the subsequent election, two new members, Dr. R. J. Raines and G. Williams, have since joined the committee, as explained in the foregoing announcement. J. N. Dymond has now replaced F. R. Smith as honorary secretary who has retired, together with P. E. Davis; while D. I. M. Wallace, although continuing as chairman in an advisory capacity and as a holder of editorial responsibility, will no longer take part in the voting on records but will be available to the committee for consultation on any particular problem that may arise. In April 1976, in accordance with the rotation procedure, the two longest-serving members will retire and B. Little and J. R. Mather, already elected, will replace them. We take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to Peter Davis, whose services on the committee for the past twelve years are greatly appreciated.

The number of records submitted for 1974 was again very high, at over 500 of 109 species. The acceptance rate of about 82% is within the remarkably constant range of 80-85% that has been regular since 1967, in contrast with the lowest rate of 61% in 1962. In spring, the balance of records was characterised by a rather poor showing of, for example, rare herons, White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* and Red-footed Falcons *Falco vespertinus*, and at that season there were no White-winged Black Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus* at all. Yet there were some surprising influxes, notably of Great White Egrets *Egretta alba* and Rustic Buntings *Emberiza rustica*, and a fairly full set of Mediterranean species included a Black Kite *Milvus migrans*. In autumn, with persistent westerly winds at peak migration time in August and September, followed by cold northerlies in October, it is not surprising that there were few ‘drifts’ of Fenno-Scandian or continental night migrants, and this is clearly reflected in the low number of, for example, Aquatic Warblers *Accipiter paludicola* and the total lack of autumn Red-throated Pipits *Anthus cervinus*. Indeed, the weather was so persistently ‘bad’ (in rarity expectation terms) that the events of October and November came as a con-
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considerable surprise and relief. In these two months, apart from Yellow-browed Warblers *Phylloscopus inornatus* and Richard's Pipits *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, some 24 Siberian and Asian passerines reached Britain to our knowledge. Chief among them were the fourth ever Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*, the fourth ever Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*, no fewer than twelve Pallas's Warblers *P. proregulus* and yet another Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*. Earlier weather vagaries did not seem to affect the appearances of Scarlet Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

Sometimes in a poor autumn for Palearctic rarities the occurrence of Nearctic species is favoured, but in 1974 this does not seem to have been the case. American wader numbers amounted to well above the 1972 total but reached only two-thirds of that for 1973. Even so, particular interest was created by the third Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*, the first multiple arrival of Solitary Sandpipers *Tringa solitaria*, a wintering Spotted Sandpiper *T. macularia* and the first spring Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. Other significant patterns in Nearctic species included markedly fewer ducks than usual (particularly in autumn) and only a single passerine, an autumn Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*. Finally, it should be noted that the tendency for several arctic species to occur more frequently, presumably in response to slowly decreasing mean temperatures at middle latitudes in north-west Europe, is strengthening. Three more Steller’s Eiders *Polysticta stelleri* (and one in permanent residence), another 20 records of King Eiders *Somateria spectabilis*, and a Ross’s Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* summering here for the first time are not so remarkable when their recent history is considered.

The main systematic list of accepted records is given on pages 309-332 and is followed by supplementary records for 1961 (one), 1969 (three), 1970 (one), 1972 (two) and 1973 (17). Appendix 1 on pages 335-337 lists the 78 rejected records for 1974, followed by appendices 2, 3 and 4 which give one additional rejected record for 1968, one for 1971 and seven for 1973, respectively.

Comments on individual species have been prepared by D. I. M. Wallace. These also include the accepted Irish records which are adjudicated by the Irish Records Panel. All Irish records are published annually in the *Irish Bird Report* (obtainable from K. Perry, 17 Bridge Street, Banbridge, Co. Down), and we express our gratitude to K. Preston, editor of the report and honorary secretary of the Irish Records Panel, for agreeing to our repeating them and for providing the information in advance of publication. They are given at the beginning of each species comment as before, after the summary (in brackets) of the world breeding range.

Photographs of a few of the rarities of 1974 are reproduced on
plates 44-47. Observers are again urged to submit black-and-white prints for possible inclusion. An up-to-date list of the species considered by the committee was given in appendix 10 of the 1973 report (Brit. Birds, 67: 347-348). Copies of this list and ‘Unusual Record’ forms are obtainable free of charge from the address on page 309: observers are encouraged to use these forms as far as possible.

The principles and procedure followed in considering records were explained in the 1958 report (Brit. Birds, 53: 155-158), and the systematic list is set out in the same way as in the 1973 report (Brit. Birds, 67: 313-340). The following points, some of which were outlined more fully in the 1958 report, should be borne in mind, as they show the basis on which this information has been put together. The committee will discuss any items that societies or observatories may suggest as needing further consideration.

(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 case 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, and where specimen is stored, if known; (5) date(s); and (6) observer(s) up to three in number, in alphabetical order. We have continued to set out the records under the old county names, but intend to change to the new counties and regions in the 1975 and subsequent reports, in accordance with our declared policy (see Brit. Birds, 68: 1-4); observers are asked to bear this in mind when submitting records.

(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, this 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 Dowitches 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 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 British 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; duplicated final drafts of the whole report 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 this report and regional publications. Observers can help by supplying the last dates on which birds were seen.
Problems concerning escapes and introductions have again been dealt with by M. D. England, author of a review of this subject (Brit. Birds, 67: 177-197). The Wildfowl Trust has continued to help with advice 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 is most grateful to the many individuals and organisations whose co-operation has made the publication of this report possible. All records should now be addressed to the new honorary secretary, J. N. Dymond, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Systematic list of records accepted

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

- **Aberdeenshire**: Aberdeen, 21st October (A. G. Knox).
- **Shetland**: Fetlar, 30th May to 9th June (R. J. Tulloch et al.). Hascosay, a different bird, 11th June (R. J. Tulloch et al.).
- **Sutherland**: Loch Fleet, 24th March (N. J. Phillips, V. Wood).

(Arctic Russia, Siberia and Alaska) Also one at Lough Hyne, Co. Cork, on 3rd February, the first Irish record. Five successful identifications in one year are indicative of the new appreciation of both field diagnosis and status since the publication of a full review of all past records by D. M. Burn and J. R. Mather (Brit. Birds, 67: 257-296, plates 41-44). Late spring and early summer records are not unusual.

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

- **Shetland**: Unst, about 10th June to 7th August (S. Albon, B. Britton, R. J. Tulloch et al.) (plate 47b).
- **Sussex**: Sandy Point, Chichester Harbour, 10th May (K. Shackleton).
- **Yorkshire**: Flamborough Head, 26th October (P. A. Lassey, I. Smith).

(Southern oceans) All three records may well have involved the same individual. The haunting of the gannetry at Hermaness, Unst (see also Brit. Birds, 67: 342), recalls the long stays of an earlier bird at the Bass Rock, East Lothian, during 1967-69. Before 1963 there had been only two certain records of this species, whereas in the last twelve years there have been about 18, as well as a dozen unidentified albatrosses.

**Cory’s Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

- **Kent**: Folkestone, two, 11th July (K. Barrett).
- **Suffolk**: Ness Point, Lowestoft, 19th September (D. R. Moore).

(East Atlantic and Mediterranean) Also off Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, as follows: two on 14th August, one on 15th, two on 16th,
one on 24th, one on 29th and one on 10th September; three off Clogher Head, Co. Louth, on 24th August; and one off Mizen Head, Co. Cork, on 8th September. The absence of records from south-west English waters is striking, as is the lack of spring records (for the first time since 1964).

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

**Argyll:** Islay, 30th June (K. Verrall).

**Scilly:** St Agnes, 30th April (D. I. M. Wallace).

(Atlantic south from Madeira and Caribbean, and southern oceans) The Scilly record falls within the established pattern of spring occurrences, but the other is unusual, the bird having travelled farther north than any previous. The latter is also the first record for Scotland.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**Cornwall:** Porthgwarra, immature, 19th April (R. W. Allen, H. P. K. Robinson).

**Hampshire:** St Catherine’s Point, Isle of Wight, 22nd and 24th April (T. A. Lawman).

**Kent:** Dungeness, 21st April (M. A. Hollingworth). Stodmarsh, two, 19th May (J. N. Hollyer). Sandwich Bay, immature, 10th September (Miss M. M. Lees).

**Lancashire:** Leighton Moss, 25th June to 26th July (P. J. Marsh et al.).

**Norfolk:** Hickling Broad, immature, 17th August to 2nd September (B. Bland, P. J. Milford et al.).

**Suffolk:** Walberswick, two, 14th May (G. A. Bond, P. S. Campbell), one 25th (D. I. M. Wallace). Minsmere, immature, 18th May (M. A. and Mrs J. M. Hollingworth, C. W. Westwood).

(South-central Eurasia, north to Netherlands, and Africa) These ten or more take the grand total since 1958 to at least 162.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**Aberdeenshire:** Loch of Strathbog, 22nd to 29th May (J. Dunbar).

**Carmarthenshire:** Tumble, 2nd August (P. G. Lansdown). Kidwelly Saltlings, about 22nd to 30th September (H. E. Grenfell, E. Smith et al.).


**Kent:** Stodmarsh, 1st to 3rd June (C. P. Carpenter, A. R. Mountford, D. B. Rosair et al.). Dungeness, 30th July (J. D. Okill, K. Redshaw).

**Lancashire:** Ribble marshes, 10th to 28th April (P. Carah, M. Jones, H. Shorrock et al.).

**Lincolnshire:** Huttoft Bank, 1st June (K. Atkin, P. Haywood, F. Stewart).

**Staffordshire:** Belvide Reservoir, 30th May (C. J. Hawkridge, S. McMinn).

**Suffolk:** Havergate Island, 17th June (J. Partridge, P. J. Roberts et al.).
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(South Eurasia, Africa and Australia) Also one at Aghadown, Co. Cork, from 10th October 1973 (omitted from the previous report) to at least 5th January; one at Aughinish Island, Co. Limerick, from 11th March to November; and singles in Co. Wexford as follows: at Lady's Island Lake from 5th to 12th May, at North Slob on 6th June and a different bird at Tacumshin on 21st June and 7th July, and lastly again at North Slob on 26th August.

A further repetition of the spring influxes characteristic of this species in recent years. As in 1973, one reached northern Scotland in May, frequenting a coastal loch that also attracted three escaped flamingoes Phoenicopterus spp.

Great White Egret  *Egretta alba*

**Derbyshire:** Clay Mills gravel pits, 19th May (R. H. Appleby, E. and P. Warren et al.).

**Dorset:** Lodmoor, Weymouth, 11th June (S. C. Edds, D. C. Gilbert). Brownsea Island, Poole, 12th June (H. Prendergast).

**Hampshire:** Christchurch Harbour, 12th and 13th June (N. A. Meader et al.).

**Yorkshire:** Scaling Dam Reservoir, 28th May to 6th June (D. G. Bell, H. Collinson, G. P. Green et al.), Spurn, 1st June (A. Broome, K. Knowles, R. A. Williams).

(Almost cosmopolitan, nearest in eastern Europe where very local) In addition to the above, a white heron probably of this species was seen on 16th May flying over Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, towards the Derbyshire locality. It is possible that no more than two wandering individuals were involved in all these records, but even so this does not lessen the drama of the general event, the most obvious influx ever of this majestic bird. It is the second rarest of the European herons (after the Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*): before 1974 there had been only ten accepted records, the last as long ago as 1951.

Night Heron  *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**Cumberland:** Cleator, 12th to 18th April (B. R. S. Shaw).

**Kent:** Walland Marsh, immature, 2nd October (Dr J. G. Harrison).

**Norfolk:** Hickling Broad, adult, 28th October (Dr G. R. S. Stewart).

(South Eurasia, Africa and the Americas) For the second year in succession, a poor showing for a heron which breeds as close as the Netherlands. The absence of Little Bitterns *Ixobrychus minutus* in the year under review may be noted here.

White Stork  *Ciconia ciconia*

**Essex:** Hadleigh Downs and Marshes, two, 13th October (R. Howard, C. Stratford).

**Suffolk:** Rendham/Yoxford area, 22nd October to April 1975 (H. E. Axell et al.).

**Sussex:** Adversane and vicinity, mid-September to 16th February 1975 (F. W. Dougharty, S. W. M. Hughes, K. Neale et al.).

**Yorkshire:** Gisburn, adult and immature, 15th September (R. Freethy).
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(Central and south Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) Also one at Lough Beg, Co. Londonderry, on 25th April which had moved to the Ballykelly area by 14th May, where it remained to about December; and one at North Slob, Co. Wexford, on 6th June and at Baltray, Co. Louth, from 10th to 19th June. In common with several herons, this species is again becoming rarer in Britain. The two in Ireland were the first there since 1909.

The Essex birds were both rather tame and had a number of primaries and secondaries missing. A report that two White Storks had escaped from Colchester Zoo during autumn 1974 has been denied by the owner of the zoo (J. Howard, Essex recorder, in litt.), and thus the question of origin remains open.

Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus

Kent: Swanscombe Marsh, 11th April to 12th May (B. Fagg, J. D. Hook, L. F. Woollard et al.).

(Cosmopolitan but very local, nearest breeding colonies in Balkans) Although wary at first, this bird became unusually tame during its stay, even perching on barges on the Thames. The species is rare in captivity, and its occurrence in Britain in three consecutive years is without recent precedent. Equally unusual is the date; most records have been between September and November.

Green-winged Teal Anas crecca carolinensis

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

Devon: Burrator Reservoir, 15th December to 26th January 1975 (L. I. Hamilton et al.).

Durham: Hurworth Burn Reservoir, the one recorded from 23rd December 1973 (Brit. Birds, 67: 316) was last seen on 28th January (M. A. Blick, P. T. Salmon et al.).

Suffolk: Walberswick, 20th April to 5th May (G. J. Jobson, C. S. Waller); Minsmere, 11th to 20th May (H. E. and Mrs J. M. Axell, P. J. Makepeace et al.).

(North America) Also single drakes at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 24th February; at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 14th April; and at the North Bull, Co. Dublin, on 21st April. The grand total for Britain and Ireland is now about 90, though it is almost certain that some individuals recur from year to year in the same neighbourhood, as with, for example, the Ring-necked Duck and King Eider (see below).

Blue-winged Teal Anas discors


Yorkshire: Hornsea Mere, eclipse 9, 10th to 26th August (R. G. Hawley, S. C. Madge, D. I. M. Wallace et al.).

(North America) Also an adult male at the North Bull and in
various estuaries in Co. Dublin from 22nd October into 1975. For the two British records, the descriptions did not entirely rule out Cinnamon Teal *A. cyanoptera*, though the latter was considered an unlikely possibility. Both species are, however, kept in collections and are liable to escape.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana*

**Leicestershire/Rutland**: Eye Brook Reservoir, ♂, 17th April to 17th May (D. R. Willett *et al.*).  
**Lincolnshire**: Covenham Reservoir, ♂, 12th to 14th February (S. Lorand, M. Mellor, G. Roberts *et al.*).  

(North America) For all records to be in spring is remarkable, though there has been a marked change in their seasonal distribution in the last two decades so that during 1972-74 spring sightings have actually outnumbered those in autumn and winter. The grand total for Britain and Ireland is now about 75.

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

**Buckinghamshire**: Marlow gravel pits, the ♂ recorded in 1972 and 1973 (*Brit. Birds*, 66: 337; 67: 316) was last seen on 17th April (R. E. Youngman *et al.*).  
**Hertfordshire**: Broxbourne gravel pits, ♂, 28th to 30th April (H. P. Medhurst *et al.*).

(North America) Also a female (the first ever recorded in Britain and Ireland) at Lough Skahanagh and Shreelane Lakes, Co. Cork, from 10th February to at least 16th March, and a male at the latter locality from 5th to at least 16th March and (presumed to be the same individual) at Gullane’s Lough, Co. Cork, on 4th and 5th May.

It seems possible that both British records refer to the same bird. The failure of other drakes to reappear at traditional localities in Devon and Somerset is noteworthy.

**Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*

**Northumberland**: Bamburgh, the ♂ recorded from 25th October 1973 (*Brit. Birds*, 67: 317) was last seen on 10th February (A. J. P. Gloth, M. Henry *et al.*). Coquet Island, ♂, 5th October (R. Gomes).  
**Sutherland**: Loch Fleet Bar, ♂, 21st March to 14th April (Mrs M. Hall, D. MacDonald, N. W. G. Wright *et al.*).

**Steller’s Eider** *Polysticta stelleri*

**Orkney**: Westray, immature ♂, 25th October to at least 14th November (R. H. Dennis, R. Hastings).  
**Outer Hebrides**: South Uist, the ♂ recorded in 1972 and 1973 (*Brit. Birds*, 66: 338; 67: 317, plate 48) stayed all year, and was seen with two ♀♀, 13th April (D. Waring *et al.*).

(Arctic Russia to extreme north-west Canada) The sixth record
ever of this distinctive eider was in 1959, followed by a ten-year gap; thus the six further individuals during 1970-74 have defied all precedent, as has the continuing stay of the drake on South Uist.

**King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*

**Aberdeenshire:** Murcar, ♂, 13th October (P. M. Ellis, M. Hickson).

**Argyll:** Innellan, ♂, 5th June (L. Robertson); see Ayrshire below.

**Ayrshire:** Largs, ♂, presumed to be the bird recorded in Ayrshire and Buteshire in 1971-73 (*Brit. Birds, 67: 317*), 16th to 26th March (K. C. Lowe, W. W. Wardrop); the Argyll and Buteshire records (see above and below) are thought to refer to the same individual.

**Buteshire:** Great Cumbrae, ♂, 1st June (G. and Mrs L. Shaw); see Ayrshire.

**Caithness:** ♂, presumed to be the bird recorded in 1973 (*Brit. Birds, 67: 317*), at Thurso East, 6th March (K. M. Banks, S. Laybourne), and at Holborn Head, 12th October (S. Laybourne).

**Fife:** Culross, ♂, 10th March to 15th December (D. M. Bryant, T. Newsome, D. R. Waugh).

**Northumberland:** Fenham Flats, ♀, found dead, 11th January (G. F. Miller).

**Shetland:** Cliff Sound/Trondra, the ♂ recorded in 1973 (*Brit. Birds, 67: 317*) was last seen on 29th April (D. Coutts, J. and Mrs V. Spriggs et al.), Quendale, ♂, late January (A. R. Whitfield et al.), Cheynies, ♂, 16th March (P. K. Kinnear, A. R. Whitfield). Mousa Sound, ♂, 16th March (P. K. Kinnear, A. R. Whitfield). Sound Gruney/North Fetlar area, ♂, 10th May to 3rd June (R. J. Tulloch et al.). Toft, immature ♂, 16th May to 7th July (D. Coutts, R. J. Tulloch); ♀ 21st May to 22nd June (D. Coutts, N. L. Storie et al.). Fair Isle, ♂, 2nd to 4th June (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad, B. Underwood et al.); ♂, 18th September to at least 6th November (B. Bland, R. A. Broad, F. A. Clements et al.). Gutcher, ♂, 10th October (A. J. Gear).

**Sutherland:** Loch Fleet, the ♂ first recorded on 17th November 1973 (*Brit. Birds, 67: 317*) was last seen on 23rd June (R. H. Dennis, D. Macdonald et al.); immature ♂, 20th to 28th April (M. Davies et al.); ♂, 24th November to at least 1st January 1975 (R. H. Dennis).

(Circumpolar arctic) Also an adult male off Rosbeg, Co. Donegal, on 21st April. In general, a striking repeat of the 1973 occurrences which fully confirms the trend in the last five years for this eider to appear more frequently and at more southerly latitudes. The second English record since 1915 is particularly noteworthy.

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

**Gloucestershire:** Slimbridge, the adult first recorded on 2nd December 1973 (*Brit. Birds, 67: 317*) was last seen on 23rd February (L. P. Alder, M. A. Ogilvie, Sir P. Scott et al.).

**Lanarkshire:** Carnwath, 6th February (K. C. R. and Mrs H. S. C. Halliday).

(North-east Europe and Siberia) Mild winters in recent years have led to a marked reduction in the numbers of White-fronted Geese *A. albifrons* wintering in Britain. Since this species is the usual ‘vehicle’ for its rarer congener, the increased rarity of the latter is likely to continue.
Black Kite  *Milvus migrans*

**Norfolk:** Ringstead Downs, 11th May (R. Longstaff, R. Washbourn).

(Most of Eurasia, Africa and Australia) The seventeenth record ever and on a typical date, indicative of the overshooting of a European bird on spring migration.

Gyrfalcon  *Falco rusticolus*

**Ayrshire:** Glen Tig/Dunnackburn, 23rd February (R. H. Hogg).

(Circumpolar arctic) After two years of striking influxes in early spring, this single record in winter represents a dramatic about-turn.

Red-footed Falcon  *Falco vespertinus*

**Durham:** Washington Ponds, ♂, 29th and 30th May (J. Perffit, J. Strowger).

**Essex:** Ingatestone, ♂, 11th July (G. Smith). Walton-on-the-Naze, ♂, 21st July (J. N. Stedman).

**Gloucestershire:** Severn Vale, ♂, 16th September (A. R. Ball).

**Hampshire:** Bickton, Fordingbridge, ♂, 5th May (J. Oakshatt et al.). Wick Hams, Christchurch, immature ♂, 18th September (Dr R. G. Mayall).

**Kent:** Sandwich Bay, ♂, 1st to 8th June (R. Martin, M. P. Sutherland, D. Tutt et al.). Dungeness, immature ♀, 7th to 13th June (N. Riddiford, D. B. Rosair, K. Thomas et al.).

**Norfolk:** Wells, ♀, 16th June (S. J. Broyd, D. J. Holman et al.).

**Shropshire:** Culmington, ♂, 24th and 29th May (R. Bennett, L. Durtnall).

(East Europe and south from Siberia) A return to more normal dimensions in the number and distribution of records. There have been about 145 since 1958.

Lesser Kestrel  *Falco naumanni*

**Essex:** Rainham Marsh, 31st July to 3rd August (R. E. Turley, J. and Mrs I. Miller et al.).

(South Europe, west-central and east Asia and north-west Africa) The eighteenth ever and the first in late summer. The historical pattern of the occurrences is the oddest of any British raptor. Between 1867 and 1909 there were ten; in the next 59 years there was only one (in 1926), but from 1968 seven have appeared.

Little Crake  *Porzana parva*

**Warwickshire:** Hams Hall, Sutton Coldfield, 7th November to 12th December (H. T. Lees et al.).

(Central and east Europe and west Asia) Another record indicative of occasional wintering by the second smallest of Palearctic crakes.

Killdeer  *Charadrius vociferus*

**Sussex:** Sidlesham, 30th March (M. and Mrs V. A. Shrubbs, Miss J. V. Stacey).
(North America, West Indies and Peru) Unlike those of most American waders, the records of this species have not been much augmented by the increased rarity-searching of recent years. It remains an erratic winter vagrant. There have now been a total of 18 in Britain and Ireland; the above was the first in Britain since 1964.

**Lesser Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*

**Lincolnshire/Norfolk**: Wisbech sewage farm, adult, 10th August (J. A. W. Moyes).

(North America and north-east Asia) The total for Britain and Ireland moves on to 32, all but six since 1962.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

**Wiltshire**: Swindon sewage farm, 14th to 23rd September (G. L. Boyle, G. L. and M. G. Webber et al.).

**Yorkshire**: Hornsea Mere, 24th July (R. G. Hawley).

(North America) Also either a Long-billed or a Short-billed Dowitcher *L. griseus* at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 2nd November. The Yorkshire bird was an adult in full breeding plumage. Its appearance was virtually simultaneous with those of four other Nearctic waders (see below).

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*

**Shetland**: Out Skerries, 10th to 15th September (D. Coutts, M. Harris, I. S. Robertson et al.).

(North-east Europe and north-west Asia) This brings the total since 1958 to 32. In this species, acceptances are thrice outnumbered by submissions; a paper on its identification is being prepared for publication.

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*

(North America) None in Britain, but one in Rogerstown estuary, Co. Dublin, on 17th July was the earliest ever and the 28th in all.

**Hudsonian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

**Shetland**: Out Skerries, showing the characters of this subspecies, 24th July to 8th August (Dr B. Marshall, I. S. Robertson, J. H. Simpson et al.).

(North America) Only the third record of this distinctively dark-rumped race in Britain and Ireland. The previous two are from Fair Isle in May 1955 and Co. Kerry in October 1957.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*

**Essex**: Rainham Marsh, 1st to 6th September (J. T. Smith, J. P. Widgery et al.).

**Scilly**: Rosevear, 23rd July (R. W. Allen); same bird on St Mary's, 24th, and Tresco, 25th July (D. B. Hunt). Tresco, 8th to 11th September (R. F. W. Hemming, A. R. Lowe, W. E. Oddie et al.).
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(North America) Also one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 15th to 17th September. These four in one year may be compared with the previous total of only twelve up to 1971. Indeed, there has never before been more than one record in a single year.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Tringa macularia*

**Dorset:** Weymouth, the bird recorded from 8th or 9th December 1973 (see page 334) was last seen on 24th March (D. Fisher).


**Scilly:** St Mary's, 27th August to 11th September (R. W. Allen, D. B. Hunt et al.).

**Sussex:** Weir Wood Reservoir, 11th to 17th August (M. J. Horsfall et al.).

(North America) Wise caution and highly acute observation were evident in the successful establishment of the first wintering of this species in Britain. The individual concerned associated with a single Common Sandpiper *T. hypoleucos*. There are now 25 British records, but strangely only one has been identified in Ireland.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

**Ayrshire:** Springside, 28th to 30th November (W. C. Brackenridge, G. J. Cambridge, R. H. Hogg et al.).

**Cornwall:** Truro River, 1st November (R. Butts, B. K. Mellow et al.).

**Hampshire:** Hayling Island, 19th September (T. F. Twist).

**Inverness-shire/Nairnshire:** Carse of Ardersier, 15th September (R. H. Dennis, M. I. Harvey, A. R. Mainwood et al.).

**Lancashire:** Martin Mere, 29th and 30th September (D. L. Clugston, J. R. Mullins et al.); same bird, Freckleton, 6th to 15th October and 30th October to at least 16th November (M. Jones, D. Wright et al.).

**Scilly:** St Mary's, 11th to 18th May (R. W. Allen, D. S. Flumm et al.).

(North America) Six in one year is above average. Another spring record, the tenth since 1958, is noteworthy.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

**Staffordshire:** Belvide Reservoir, 22nd June (D. Smallshire, I. C. Whitehouse et al.).

(South-east Europe and west and east Asia) This was only the nineteenth ever, the first since 1969 and the first in June, and the inland locality, as well as the date, was unusual.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

**Devon:** Plym estuary, the bird recorded from 17th November (Brit. Birds, 67: 322) was last seen on 5th May (R. Smaldon et al.).

**Dorset:** Radipole Lake, 6th and 7th May (D. Fisher, D. C. Gilbert, Col E. D. V. Prendergast et al.). Brownsea Island, Poole, 8th and 9th May (H. Prendergast).

**Dorset/Somerset:** Sutton Bingham Reservoir, 18th August (D. E. Paull, R. H. Ryall).

(North-east Europe and Siberia) It seems certain that the first three records involved the same bird, its movement suggesting correctly orientated migration to the breeding range. With this
assumption, the British total becomes eleven individuals, six during 1969-74.

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*

**Devon:** Lundy, 6th to 13th September (C. C. Baillie, R. W. Britton, N. A. Clark *et al.*).

**Lancashire:** Carnforth and Silverdale marshes, 5th and 6th September (P. J. Marsh, M. J. Thomas, J. A. Wolstencroft).

**Midlothian:** Gladhouse Reservoir, 14th to 17th September (A. Brown, R. W. J. Smith, L. J. Vick *et al.*).

**Somerset:** Steart, 15th and 16th September (D. E. Paull, D. H. Payne, R. H. Ryall *et al.*).

(Extreme north-east Siberia and North America) Four typical records. At least 51 have reached Britain and Ireland (49 since 1950).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

**Carmarthenshire:** Kidwelly, 12th to 26th October (J. Gower, G. Harper, E. J. Smith).

**Dorset:** Ferrybridge, 4th to 9th September (F. R. Clafton, Dr N. R. Rogers *et al.*).

**Sussex:** Sidlesham Ferry, 24th to 28th August (B. F. Forbes, J. G. Threadgold).

(North America) Also two at Ballymacoda, Co. Cork, on 25th September. After 14 in 1973 these five appear rather lonely, but they take the grand total to about 125.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

**Scilly:** St Mary's, 20th to 29th September (D. S. Flumm, S. Greenwood, J. C. Yrizarry *et al.*) (plate 44).


**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*

**Essex:** Barking, 4th May (K. Barrett).

(North America) Also one at Tivoli, Co. Cork, from 30th August to 6th September. The Essex record is the first in spring. Although plans for a further review of the identification problems in small *Calidris* still await completion, it is certain that not all past records of this species are acceptable in the light of current knowledge. A full review is therefore in hand.

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

**Argyll:** Machirnanish, 7th to 16th September (E. J. Maguire, C. Whyte).

**Devon:** Lundy, 6th September, a different bird on 7th (C. C. Baillie, R. W. Britton, N. A. Clark *et al.*), a third bird, 14th to 16th September (C. C. Baillie, N. A. Clark, M. Unwin *et al.*).
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Scilly: St Mary’s, 8th to 10th September, two on 14th, three on 15th September (A. R. Lowe, W. E. Oddie et al.).

Sussex: Sidlesham Ferry, 9th and 10th September (M. Shrub). (North America) Also one at Rahasane, Co. Galway, on 17th August. This was unusually early, but the other eight in autumn were dated typically. The May bird was exceptional; previous spring records number only four.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Angus/Kincardineshire: Mouth of River North Esk, 25th May (N. K. Atkinson).

Devon: Dawlish Warren, 27th May (B. White, C. R. Wills et al.).

Durham: Greenabella Marsh, Teesmouth, 22nd to 29th June (D. G. Bell, E. C. Gatenby, R. T. McAndrew et al.). (North Eurasia) Three more spring records, extending the series that began in 1972. Of an all-time total of about 49, eleven have appeared in the last three years.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Nottinghamshire: Attenborough, 18th May (Miss C. Robinson), (Southern Eurasia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas) This single record brings the grand total to about 154, though only 49 of these have occurred since 1958 and only four since 1968. In 1945 two pairs bred in Nottinghamshire.

Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Carmarthenshire: Pembrey, 12th November (J. Gower, D. M. Powell, E. J. Smith).

Durham: Washington Ponds, 17th to 22nd July (D. Warden, B. Unwin et al.).

Hampshire: Dibden Bay, Southampton Water, 14th to 18th August (J. H. Andrews, R. F. Porter et al.).

Shetland: Loch of Hillwell, 27th September to 8th October (B. Bland, P. Feakes, M. Lawley et al.).

Suffolk: Havergate Island, 25th July to 8th August (P. J. Roberts et al.). (North America) Also singles on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 24th August; at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 11th September; at Inchydoney, Co. Cork, on 15th September; and at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, from 22nd to 26th September. The propensity for this species to reappear in the same areas in consecutive years is strikingly demonstrated by a further Shetland record. In total, about 67 have been found in Britain and Ireland since the first in 1954.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Shetland: Unst, 2nd July (G. Bundy). (South Europe, south-west Asia and Africa) A disorientated adult with nowhere to go in Britain brings the total number recorded to 45.
Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

**Norfolk:** Salthouse Heath and Cley Marsh, 25th to 28th August (M. I. Avery, A. Brown, P. J. Dolton *et al.*).  

(South Russia and west Asia) This is the first to be identified since 1969. Of the 13 records so far, seven have been in August, three in September, and singles in May, June and July.

**Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis***

**Glamorgan:** Blackpill, the adult recorded from 5th December 1973 (*Brit. Birds*, 67: 326) was last seen on 2nd April; second-year, 3rd to 7th April; a different second-year, 27th April to 6th May; adult, 28th November to 30th March 1975 (R. A. Hume, P. G. Lansdown, K. E. Vinicombe *et al.*).  

(North America) Since 14th March 1973 there have been six records of this species at Blackpill. A pattern has begun to form, with at least one adult regularly overwintering and at least two immatures staying for shorter periods in spring. We still await acceptable records from elsewhere in Britain and Ireland. Incidentally, there was no acceptable record of Bonaparte’s Gull *L. philadelphia* in 1974, for the first year since 1966.

**Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla***

**Argyll:** Loch Skerrols, Islay, 21st April (K. Verrall).  

**Essex:** Holliwell Point, Burnham-on-Crouch, 5th May (C. J. Mackenzie-Grieve).  

(North America and Caribbean) Two more records bring the total for Britain and Ireland to eight. The Argyll record is the first for Scotland. No clear seasonal pattern has yet emerged.

**Ross’s Gull *Rhodostethia rosea***


**Yorkshire:** Bridlington, immature, 27th January (M. Densley).  

(North-east Siberia) For a bird of this high-arctic species to summer on the south coast was perhaps the most remarkable ornithological event of the year. Records since 1958 now add to ten of a grand total of twelve, while those of the other high-arctic gull, the Ivory *Pagophila eburnea*, in the same period amount to only eleven out of some 87 in all, setting a considerable puzzle.

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

**Glamorgan:** Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, immatures, 5th to 11th and 6th to 11th September (P. G. Lansdown, Dr D. K. Thomas *et al.*).  

**Kent:** Dungeness, immature, 25th August to 7th September (P. J. Grant, N. Riddiford, A. T. M. Ruck *et al.*).  

**Lincolnshire:** Covenham Reservoir, immature, 8th August (A. Grieve); another immature, 30th August to 10th September (R. A. Frost, A. Grieve, M. E. Taylor *et al.*) (plate 47a).
Middlesex: Queen Mary Reservoir, immature, 9th September (M. J. Rogers).

Norfolk: Titchwell, immature, 4th September (A. Parker).


Staffordshire: Belvide Reservoir, immature, 15th to 18th September (B. Craddock, F. C. Gribble, D. Smallshire et al.).

Yorkshire: Hornsea Mere, immature, 1st to 13th September (R. G. Hawley, D. I. M. Wallace et al.).

(South-east Europe, west and east Asia) Also one at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 16th September. Twelve is well below the average of recent years and the absence of spring records is equally striking. Even so, the grand total moves on to about 280.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*


(South Eurasia, parts of Africa, and Australia) Three typical records (four birds) take the grand total to 56 individuals.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Dorset: Portland Bill, 16th May (P. and M. C. Cambridge); 14th September (J. E. Hunt, J. N. Mutch et al.).

Essex: Maplin Sands, 5th September (R. A. Jacobs).

Hampshire: St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, three, 3rd May (D. B. Woolridge).


Suffolk: Sizewell Beach, 10th May (M. A. Hall, D. Nesling).


(April south-eastern Europe, Africa, and Australia) Ten records (13 individuals) is well above the recent average and echoes the widespread scatter of 1967. A further parallel with that year can be found in the four autumn birds in Norfolk. The grand total is now at least 173; in addition, a pair bred in Essex in 1950.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Aberdeenshire: Loch of Strathbeg, 13th August (J. Dunbar).

Cardiganshire: Ynys-las and Ynys-hir, 8th to 28th May (C. W. Heelliwell, A. Parker et al.).

Hampshire: Milford-on-Sea, 22nd June (L. Mulford, A. J. L. Smith).


(Almost cosmopolitan, nearest breeding colonies in Baltic) These four take the total since 1958 to 74 individuals. The Aberdeenshire bird was the farthest north of the four ever recorded in Scotland. Welsh and Irish records number only three and one respectively.
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Caspian or Royal Tern *Hydroprogne caspia/Sterna maxima*

**Cheshire:** Hilbre Island, 8th September (R. Anderson, K. A. Dummigan, J. Gittins).

**Flintshire:** Point of Air, 22nd September (B. Boothby); same bird as above.

**Rufous Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 31st October and 1st November (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad).

(Most of Asia, except far north) This is only the fifth British record but the second in two years. Another was reported from Suffolk in the previous week but no details have been received.

**Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*

**Banffshire:** Cabrach, 24th to 26th November (M. J. H. Cook, J. Edelsten).

**Shetland:** Fetlar, up to three, January to March; as in 1973 (*Brit. Birds*, 67: 328) ♂ mated to two ♀♀; old ♀ laid five eggs, from about 24th May; all hatched, though three of the chicks died during cold and mist, 8th-9th July; remaining two young left nest area but one found dead at end of July; last chick fledged but came to grief on a barbed-wire fence and was taken into care on 16th August and released 19th September; this last bird could have been one of the three to four that stayed on Fetlar to the end of the year; young ♀ laid one egg on 30th May but subsequently deserted and left the area (R. J. Tulloch *et al*.). Unst, ♀, 6th and 18th May (I. Spence); possibly the same bird, 24th and 29th May (G. Bundy). Fair Isle, immature ♀, 17th to 20th May (R. A. Broad *et al*.). Near Hamnavoe, 30th May (per P. Cole). Foula, two, May (per Brathay Exploration Group). Norwick, 6th June (per M. Sinclair). Collafirth Hill, 22nd July (D. Coutts). Ronas Hill, ♀, 28th July (I. Sandison); possibly the same bird, mid-August (F. Dunn).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Following a flush of records throughout Britain in 1972 and the presence of at least three pairs on Scottish isles in 1973, it is difficult not to feel concern over this poor showing. Low breeding success may be about to eclipse the presence of this fine owl in Britain.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

**Lincolnshire:** Gibraltar Point, 11th June (D. Brooke, K. Payne).

**Norfolk:** Cley, 17th May (M. A. Blick, P. A. Dukes, R. A. Richardson *et al*.). Stiffkey, 23rd September (R. Harrison, B. C. Shergold *et al*.).

**Outer Hebrides:** pair, January to April, ♂ all year, ♀ in different area 17th September (W. A. J. Cunningham, P. G. Hopkins, R. MacIntyre).

**Pembrokeshire:** Ramsey Island, 28th June (T. Gladwin, M. Thomas *et al*.).

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, 25th August (D. S. Flumm).

**Yorkshire:** Hunmanby Gap, Bempton Cliffs, 15th May (S. D. and Mrs S. B. Gall).

(South Eurasia, north-west and east Africa) There have now been about 103 since 1958. It is interesting to note that the three May birds were shortly followed by two Bee-eaters and two Rollers (see below).
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**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

**Cornwall:** Porthgwarr, 14th September (D. J. Barker, L. P. Williams).

**Kent:** Dungeness, 19th May (R. E. Howlett); 7th August (K. Redshaw, N. Riddiford et al.).

**Yorkshire:** Bempton Cliffs, 17th May (S. C. Madge).

(South Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) After the previous year's exceptional influx, this average showing takes the number of birds since 1958 to at least 91 out of an all-time total of over 245. Three pairs bred in Sussex in 1955.

**Roller** *Coracias garrulus*

**Banffshire:** Grange, 29th May to 3rd June (J. Edelsten et al.).

**Oxfordshire:** Aston Upthorpe Down, 23rd to 27th May (F. Berry, J. A. Lucas, A. Rolf et al.).

(South and east Europe, west Asia and north-west Africa) These two typical records take the total for Britain and Ireland to about 178, though only 43 of these have occurred since 1958.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 11th to 15th May (G. J. Barnes, J. Selwyn); 11th to 15th October (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad et al.). Out Skerries, 11th to 20th November (I. S. and Mrs S. Robertson).

**Yorkshire:** Spurn, trapped, 9th May (B. R. and Mrs C. Spence). Coatham Marsh, Redcar, 21st June to 14th August (D. G. Bell, D. J. Britton et al.).

(South Eurasia, north and east Africa) Only five is well below par for this small lark in recent years. The summering of the one in Yorkshire is without precedent.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*

**Yorkshire:** Healaugh Pond, Reeth, 7th May (P. J. Dunn, Miss K. Sawyer).

(South and east Eurasia, and Africa) The least showing since 1966.

**Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis*

**Shetland:** Tolob, adult ♀, 5th and 6th October (A. D. J. Cook, D. Coutts, C. J. Mackenzie-Grieve et al.) (plate 45b).

(Central Asia) This is only the fourth ever and the first female. The three previous records were in December 1866 (Sussex), February 1879 (Perthshire) and December 1957—January 1958 (Fair Isle). It is surprising that this large and conspicuous bird does not occur far more often than its eastern Palearctic relatives, the Siberian *T. sibiricus*, Eye-browed *T. obscurus* and Dusky Thrushes *T. naumanni* (with one, three and four records respectively), since its winter distribution is much more westerly than any of theirs.

**Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*

(Central and south Eurasia) None in Britain, but an adult male
at Clogher Head, Co. Louth, on 20th and 21st May was the first for Ireland. There have been eleven British records, all but two in May or June (see page 333).

**Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*

**Yorkshire:** Fraisthorpe, ♂, 29th November to 1st December (G. Brown, D. I. M. Wallace et al.).

(North Africa and south-central Asia) This is the nineteenth known to have reached Britain since 1880, when the first was found. The extent of white on the inner webs of the remiges marked it as belonging to one of the eastern races *deserti* or *atrogularis*. It had successfully found a small but almost perfect coastal replica of its breeding habitat, but sadly it is likely that it died there.

**Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*

**Devon:** Lundy, ♂, 14th May (P. Bowyer).

**Kent:** Dengemarsh, Dungeness, two adult ♂♂, 21st May (Miss Tubbs), one (trapped) staying to 29th May (P. J. Grant, N. Riddiford, D. B. Rosair et al.); both of the black-throated form.

(South Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) Three overshooting birds that came in a period marked by the arrival of several Mediterranean species take the grand total to 28.

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata maura|stejnegeri*

Stonechats showing the characters of one or other of these eastern races were recorded as follows:

**Dorset:** Portland, 21st October (G. Walbridge et al.).

**Norfolk:** Snettisham, 4th November (G. B. Brown).

**Northumberland:** Holy Island, two, 12th and 13th October (B. Galloway, B. Little, E. R. Meek et al.). Tynemouth, 7th to 15th November (K. G. Dures, M. S. Hodgson, E. R. Meek).

**Shetland:** Out Skerries, 16th October (I. S. Robertson).

(Eastwards from north-east Russia) These six, plus one in 1961 (page 333), and three others in 1904, 1913 and 1964, make a total of ten so far published. I. S. Robertson is preparing a review of their British status (all records welcomed by the committee).

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*

**Shetland:** Whalsay, trapped, 14th to 20th May (Dr B. Marshall et al.). Out Skerries, 17th May (I. S. Robertson). Fair Isle, 21st and 22nd May (B. S. Barnacal, D. Bell, Mrs V. MacFarland et al.); immature, trapped, 15th June (G. J. Barnes, I. G. Black, R. A. Broad et al.).

(Scandinavia, east Europe and west Asia) A remarkable repeat of the 1973 occurrences on Fair Isle, and further evidence of the overshooting of Scandinavian adults in late May. The total moves on to 26, all but one in the last 18 years.
Cetti's Warbler  *Cettia cetti*

**Cornwall:** Marazion Marsh, 16th September (W. E. Oddie).

**Devon:** Exe reedbeds, immature ♀, trapped, 9th October to 5th November (F. R. Smith); immature ♂, trapped, 21st October (R. Khan, F. R. Smith, Mrs H. A. Woodland *et al.*). Slapton Ley, 19th November to mid-April 1975 (P. Brown, M. R. Edmonds *et al.*). South Milton Ley, 24th December (R. Burridge).

**Dorset:** Radipole Lake, 29th September (N. A. and Mrs L. Tucker).

**Hampshire:** Alresford, singing ♂, 5th May to 30th June (R. J. Carpenter, J. M. Cloyne, J. H. Taverner).

**Kent:** many records again, with three or more breeding pairs, to be summarised at a later date.

**Norfolk:** Yare valley, at least four singing ♂♂ between 14th May and end of year, one pair bred successfully and raised four young (D. J. Holman, B. W. Jarvis, R. Martins *et al.*). Holme, trapped, 15th October (P. R. Clarke).

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, two remaining from 1973 (*Brit. Birds*, 67: 331) stayed to at least 18th February (A. Parker *et al.*). Oulton Broad, ♀, trapped, 20th October (R. S. Briggs).

**Sussex:** Litlington, three trapped: ♀ on 19th September, ♀♀ on 6th and 15th October (P. J. and Mrs V. A. Wilson *et al.*).

(South and west Europe north to England and Belgium, southwest Asia and north-west Africa) The pattern of autumn influx or dispersal of young birds and the establishment of breeding populations both continue. With the controversy surrounding the first acceptable British record only 14 years old, times have changed indeed for this species. A paper by J. N. Hollyer on its establishment in Kent was published in the *Kent Bird Report* for 1973, and an account of its recent spread in north-west Europe, bringing up-to-date the summary by I. J. Ferguson-Lees in *Brit. Birds*, 57: 357-358, is nearing completion.

Savi's Warbler  *Locustella luscinioides*

**Devon:** Taw estuary, 20th May to 18th July (A. J. Vickery *et al.*).

**Norfolk:** Hickling Broad, 14th to 16th June (Dr C. J. Cadbury).

**Somerset:** Bridgwater area, trapped, 14th May (A. W. Evans).

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, first 17th April, last 11th September, three pairs bred (H. E. Axell). Walberswick, 8th May to 2nd August, two on 2nd August (G. J. Jobson, C. S. Waller).

( Europe, west and central Asia and north-west Africa) Still no proof of breeding in recent times outside Kent and Suffolk, despite good coverage of typical habitats. Numerically this species has now been outstripped by Cetti's Warbler, a much more recent colonist.

Paddyfield Warbler  *Acrocephalus agricola*

**Northumberland:** Low Hauxley, immature, trapped, 12th October (B. Little, F. D. Middleton *et al.*).

(South Russia and Asia) This brings the total to four, all in
September-October, two on Fair Isle and two in north-east England. A report from Scilly in autumn 1974 is still under consideration.

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*

**Cornwall**: Marazion Marsh, 3rd October (N. J. Phillips); 17th October (Dr J. N. Yates).


**Dorset**: Radipole Lake, eight immatures trapped, 17th, 21st to 29th, 22nd August, two on 23rd, one on 24th August, singles on 12th, 14th September (G. R. M. Pepler et al.).

**Scilly**: St Agnes, 14th September (R. F. W. Hemming, A. R. Lowe, W. E. Oddie et al.).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, immature, 15th to 23rd September when found dead (R. A. Broad, T. Loseby, D. Willis et al.).

**Somerset**: Berrow Marsh, 7th July (B. E. Slade).

(East Europe and west Asia) These show a very sharp decline from the peak passage of 1972. The Somerset bird was only the second ever to be found in July.

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*

**Devon**: South Milton Ley, immature ♂, trapped, 17th September (R. Burridge, J. F. Spry).

**Norfolk**: Lower Bodham, Holt, ♂, 10th April (L. Bruce Lockhart).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, ♀, trapped, 16th May (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad et al.).

(South-west Europe, Middle East and north-west Africa) After a gap in 1973, these three take the British and Irish total to 52. The first (the eighth April record) was exceptionally early.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

**Fife**: Isle of May, trapped, 15th to 19th September (N. G. Campbell, J. A. D. Hope et al.).

**Man**: Calf of Man, singing ♂, 19th June (R. J. Haycock, M. Wright).


**Shetland**: Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 14th September (B. Bland, R. A. Broad et al.). Whalsay, trapped, 14th to 19th September (Dr B. Marshall).

**Yorkshire**: Kilnsea, 1st to 5th September (S. C. Madge et al.).

(Eurasia east from north-east Germany) Another late spring overshoot and another small autumn arrival of immatures, presumably on reversed migration, continue the recent pattern. The dates of the first four autumn birds are virtually identical with those of the unprecedented influx to north Norfolk in 1972. The grand total becomes 97, all but one since 1945.
Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

**Norfolk:** Great Yarmouth, 30th August to 2nd September (P. R. Allard, G. E. Dunmore, D. J. Holman *et al.*).

**Scilly:** St Agnes, 11th September (R. F. W. Hemming, A. R. Lowe, W. E. Oddie *et al.*).

(Central, west and south Europe, Levant and north-west Africa)

Two more take the British and Irish total to 39. It is difficult to understand the coincidence of the first with the largest fall of Scandinavian night migrants on the east coast in 1974.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

**Shetland:** Out Skerries, 18th August (I. S. Robertson).

(North-east Europe, north Asia and Alaska) It is 11 years since fewer than two were accepted in an autumn. Grand total now 80.

Pallas’s Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, 14th October (Mrs M. Tucker).

**Durham:** Hartlepool, 9th October (J. M. Bayldon, D. Clayton).

**Hampshire:** Milford-on-Sea, 23rd November (J. Sylvester).

**Norfolk:** Happisburgh, trapped, 14th to 16th October (Mrs B. M. E. Unsworth *et al.*). Wells, 24th and 25th October (D. I. M. Wallace *et al.*).

**Northumberland:** Coquet Island, trapped, 3rd to 6th October (R. Gomes). Holy Island, 4th October (T. and Mrs B. Hallam).

**Scilly:** St Mary's, 12th to 14th October (P. Maker, B. K. Mellow, C. Murphy *et al.*). St Agnes, 22nd October (P. G. Lansdown).

**Sussex:** Beachy Head, trapped, 14th to 17th October (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood); another, 3rd November; two (one trapped), 17th to 19th November, one staying to 21st (S. Greenwood, A. Quinn *et al.*).

(Central, east and south-east Asia) There were some who feared that, after two years which could muster between them only a single record of this jewel of a bird, their eyes might never feast upon it. Yet suddenly 13 came apparently from nowhere in the second half of the autumn and gave much happiness to scores of observers. The influx was second in scale only to that of 1968 (when 18 appeared) and was associated with anticyclones at high latitudes in Fenno-Scandia which produced an easterly airstream out of north Russia. It is remarkable that, in contrast to several of its congeners, this species is tending to occur earlier than hitherto. The mean date of these 13 is 24th October, and the number of records in the first half of October now jumps from four to eleven. The all-time total for Britain and Ireland moves on to 60. There was a contemporaneous influx into south Norway in the year under review with ten birds between 5th and 27th October, their mean date being 15th October.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 13th and 14th October (G. J. Barnes, I. G. Black, R. A. Broad *et al.*).
Rare birds in Great Britain 1974

Sussex: Beachy Head, trapped, 18th October (J. F. Cooper, D. and T. Parmenter et al.) (plate 45a).

(Central and north-east to south-east Asia) Two birds appearing, as the last species, rather earlier than usual take the British total to 16. These were the first since 1970.

Radde’s Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Sussex: Beachy Head, trapped, 18th October (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood et al.).

(Central and east Asia) This bird completed a remarkable quartet of Asiatic warblers that came to Beachy Head during the week 14th-18th October—Yellow-browed *P. inornatus* and Pallas’s on 14th, Dusky and Radde’s on 18th—and added further evidence of their unusual displacement in the year under review. Almost on a par with the last species, the grand total now becomes 14.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*


Dorset: Ferrybridge, 13th to 15th September (M. Casement, T. Kittle).

Hampshire: Hengistbury Head, 14th September (A. E. and T. J. Christmas).

Kent: Dungeness, 29th August (P. J. Grant, N. Riddiford et al.); two, perhaps three, 12th September (N. Riddiford et al.).

Outer Hebrides: Hirta, St Kilda, 8th May (Dr. M. P. Harris).

Pembrokeshire: Skomer Island, 13th May (J. E. and Mrs H. Davis, A. Jones).


Shetland: Out Skerries, 14th to 17th May (I. S. Robertson); 26th May (I. S. Robertson).

Somerset: Steart, 15th October (B. Rabbitts, K. Utteridge).

Sussex: Beachy Head, 29th August (M. Eales); two, 30th August to 2nd September, one 8th to 14th September (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood); singles, 2nd and 16th September (T. Gravett) and 29th September (P. Clement). Rye Harbour, 16th and 17th September (P. F. Bonham, C. Parish, N. Pinder et al.).

Yorkshire: Bempton Cliffs, 18th and 19th May (S. C. Madge).

(Europe, south Asia and north-west Africa) Another 22 or so individuals take the grand total to about 415 (300 since 1958), continuing the recent pattern of 20-35 birds each year since 1968. The spring overshooting to four western islands and to Shetland is the most striking ever recorded.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Shetland: Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 24th to 26th November (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad et al.).

(North-east Russia, central and east Asia) The locality is typical but the date is 52 days behind the mean of the first three British
autumn records (there has also been one in spring). The last of the Pallas’s Warblers was found on the previous day and a Desert Wheatear only five days later.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

**Northumberland**: Brownsman, Farne Islands, 2nd to 6th May (C. J. Clarke, R. A. Langston).

(=Arctic Eurasia) After the bumper crop of nine in 1973, this single spring bird looks strangely lonely. The absence of any autumn record further underlines the paucity of Fenno-Scandian rarities in the autumn under review.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, immature, 2nd to 4th September (J. K. Bowers, D. A. Boyd, R. V. A. Marshall et al.); immature, 2nd to 10th October (R. A. Broad, H. Nash et al.).

(=East European Russia and west-central Asia) The total is now 20, all since 1954.

**Black-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Males showing the characters of this distinctive subspecies of the Yellow Wagtail were recorded as follows:

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, 3rd to 8th May (R. A. Broad, E. Thomson et al.).

**Sussex**: Thorney Island, 23rd July (Rev H. M. Hill).

(=Balkans and Asia Minor) The ninth and tenth records, and the first since 1970. The May bird came during a period characterised by marked overshooting of Tawny Pipits.

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*

**Argyll**: Salen, Mull, 5th September (R. F. Coomber, A. Stephenson, Dr M. E. Witherick).

**Durham**: near Port Clarence, Teesmouth, 29th June to 3rd July (E. C. Gatenby et al.).

**Pembrokeshire**: Skomer Island, 18th September (J. E. Davis).

**Shetland**: Fetlar, 14th and 15th June (M. C. Robinson). Unst, 19th June (G. Bundy). Fair Isle, 24th to 28th June (R. A. Broad et al.).

(=South and east Europe and south-west Asia) These four June and two September records make up an above-average showing for this shrike, matched only in 1961, 1970 and 1973, and take the grand total to 93. Note the close association of the spring records with three Woodchats and two Rose-coloured Starlings (see below).

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

**Buckinghamshire**: Padbury Hill Farm, 5th June (E. Coles).

**Cornwall**: Porthgwarra, 17th and 18th May (H. P. K. Robinson et al.).

**Devon**: Lundy, 20th June (G. Glombek, A. M. Taylor); immature, 21st to 25th September (C. C. Baillie, N. A. Clark et al.).
Lincolnshire: Skidbrooke North End, immature, 21st September (P. F. Le Brocq).

(West and central Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa)

Also an adult at Tramore, Co. Waterford, on 21st and 22nd June. Another near-average showing. The inland July record is unusual but not unprecedented (cf. Brit. Birds, 66: 351).

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Aberdeenshire: Methlick, 17th June (T. and Mrs P. Hodd).
Outer Hebrides: Hirta, St Kilda, 18th and 19th June (S. Murray).
Pembrokeshire: Waterston, 2nd January (J. Pearce, R. Powell).

(South-east Europe and south-west Asia) Also one at Ballyconneely, Co. Galway, during the first week of August. Five in all, as in 1973.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

Shetland: Fair Isle, 19th and 20th September (R. A. Broad, A. R. and B. R. Dean et al.).

(North America) This, the only American passerine of the year, appeared during a month of persistent westerly gales which also brought a Wilson’s Phalarope to Shetland. It is the twelfth ever and the first since 1970.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Hampshire: St Catherine’s Point, Isle of Wight, 15th April (S. Linington et al.). Old Winchester Hill, ♂, 16th September (D. J. Lister).
Middlesex: Twickenham, ♂, 15th March (B. D. Harding, P. Smith).
Pembrokeshire: Skomer Island, ♀, 30th and 31st May (T. R. Birkhead, J. E. and H. M. Davis et al.).
Sussex: Beachy Head, 13th June (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood).

(Continental Europe, Mediterranean, Asia Minor and north-west Africa) Also one at Clogher Head, Co. Louth, on 19th May, only the fifth in Ireland and the first since 1959. This species is defying attempts to define its status in Britain: only one mid-year record on
the south coast of England contrasts oddly with an autumn flock in Scilly. The total number of British and Irish records is now about 185, involving roughly 240 individuals.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Caernarvonshire: Bardsey Island, ♂, trapped, 31st May (D. A. Henshilwood); immature, trapped, 17th to 19th September (D. A. Henshilwood, J. D. Okill, A. Ormond et al.).

Norfolk: Walsey Hills, Salthouse, immature ♂, 27th May (D. B. Rosair, R. E. Turley et al.).


Orkney: North Ronaldsay, immature, trapped, 28th September (J. M. B. King).

Pembrokeshire: Skokholm Island, trapped, 17th September (M. de L. Brook, Mr and Mrs J. R. Ladman et al.).

Scilly: St Mary’s, 22nd September (N. A. G. Lord); 1st and 2nd October (J. B. O. Rossetti, G. P. Threlfall et al.). St Agnes and Gugh, 27th September (J. G. Gregory, D. Sykes, B. P. Walker), two, 28th September to 3rd October (D. Sykes et al.).

Shetland: Out Skerries, ♂, trapped, 3rd to 23rd April (Dr B. Marshall, I. S. and Mrs S. Robertson); ♂, 18th May (I. S. Robertson); 29th August, two different ones on 31st August and 1st September; one on 10th, 27th, 28th, two 29th and one on 30th September (I. S. Robertson et al.). Bigton, ♂, 2nd June (D. Coutts). Foulser, trapped, 15th and 16th June; 29th August; trapped, 10th September; two 11th to 14th, one to 17th; trapped, 21st and 22nd; five 23rd, two to 25th; three 26th; six 27th September—at least ten individuals in autumn, all immature or ♂ (R. A. Broad et al.). Foula, 30th August (Brathay Exploration Group). Sumburgh, 31st August (J. K. Bowers, D. Boyd); 1st September (D. Coutts). Whalsay, 1st September, three 2nd, one 5th, three individuals in all (Dr B. Marshall). Unst, 13th and 14th September (I. Spence).

Sussex: Beachy Head, trapped, 1st October (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood).

Yorkshire: Spurn, trapped, 11th September (T. J. Bennett et al.).

(East Europe and across Asia, and east Turkey to Himalayas) Another 35 or so keep the recent tide of dramatically increased occurrences flowing. The consistency of the trend argues strongly for the basic cause to be reversed migration from an expanding population. The total since 1958 is now about 280; this is the second commonest passerine on our list, after the Tawny Pipit.

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

Argyll: Island of Seil, ♂, 21st June (Mr and Mrs D. Richmond).

Lincolnshire: Theddlethorpe, ♂, 14th September (R. K. Norman).

(South-east Europe and south-west Asia) Given the backcloth of several other southern or eastern species in June, including four of the Lesser Grey Shrikes and two of the Rose-coloured Starlings, all in northern Britain, the Argyll bird was surely wild. The other’s origin is more contentious, though autumn records are not rare (and made up three out of the four in 1973). The grand total is now about 38, 29 of these since 1958.
Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

**Fife:** Isle of May, trapped, 1st and 2nd September, another 2nd September (D. R. Langslow, D. Moss, G. L. Sandeman *et al.)*.

**Scilly:** St Mary’s, immature, 25th to 27th September (D. S. Flumm, C. Heard, N. A. G. Lord *et al.)*.

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, ♂♀ or immatures, 29th August to 3rd September, 10th to 17th September, and 16th and 17th September (three birds in all); immature, probably ♂, 23rd to 25th September (R. A. Broad *et al.)*. Out Skerries, 12th September, two 13th, one 14th September, all immature (Dr M. Harris, I. S. Robertson, R. J. Tulloch *et al.)*.

(North-east Europe and north Asia) This is the third successive year in which this bunting has put in an above-average appearance. Hot on the heels of the first Welsh bird in 1973 comes the first for south-west England. We have already argued that there is a link between the occurrences of this species and those of the Scarlet Rosefinch (*Brit. Birds*, 67: 339). In total, there have now been 55 (35 since 1966). Surprisingly, it is still very much an ‘island’ rarity.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

**Fife:** Isle of May, 18th May (J. A. Morgan).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, ♂, 10th to 14th May (R. A. Broad, B. Cochrane, E. Thomson *et al.)*; ♂, 15th and 16th May (S. Baines, I. G. Black *et al.)*; ♂, 17th to 22nd May (R. A. Broad *et al.)*. Whalsay, 13th May (Dr B. Marshall); 20th and 21st May (J. H. Simpson). Out Skerries, ♂, 16th May (I. S. and Mrs S. Robertson).

(North-east Europe and north Asia) Six in Shetland and one in Fife in eleven May days constitutes the most striking spring influx ever recorded. Their close association with three Thrush Nightingales is noteworthy. The grand total is now about 88.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

**Fife:** Isle of May, 11th and 12th October (M. F. Carrier, T. Irving, D. Skilling *et al.)*.

**Scilly:** St Mary’s, 10th October (P. S. Campbell, A. Goodwin, C. Murphy), and probably the same bird, Gugh, 10th and 11th October (T. P. Inskipp *et al.)*. Tresco, 16th October (B. D. Harding, T. H. Marchant, D. B. Rosair *et al.)*. St Agnes, 24th October (P. A. Dukes).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 10th to 13th October (R. D. Moore, D. R. Waugh *et al.)*.

(North-east Europe and north Asia) Five is the average since 1958 (and since 1968), and the dates and island distribution, too, were typical.
Amendment to the 1973 report

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*

Scilly: B. D. Harding’s name should be omitted from the St Mary’s records.

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Supplementary 1961 record accepted

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata maure|stejnegeri*

Shetland: Fair Isle, ♀, showing the characters of one of these eastern races, 13th to 17th October (G. J. Barnes, P. E. Davis).

(Eastwards from north-east Russia) This becomes the third accepted out of eight in all (see page 324).

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Supplementary 1969 records accepted

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

Yorkshire: Filey, 20th June (L. G. Dewdney). This record, previously rejected, has been reconsidered and accepted after further discussion of the details and circumstances of the occurrence.

**Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*

Yorkshire: Sutton Bank, ♂, 17th May (C. Clapham).

(Central and southern Eurasia) This was the tenth British record, coming only eight days after a male in Norfolk (*Brit. Birds*, 63: 284); the Fair Isle bird of June 1970 (*Brit. Birds*, 64: 358) thus becomes the eleventh. The first Irish record is mentioned on page 324.

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*

Lincolnshire: Saltfleetby, 5th October (R. May, D. C. Robinson).

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Supplementary 1970 record accepted

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

Dorset: Weston, Portland, ♂, 24th May (G. Walbridge).
Supplementary 1972 records accepted

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*
- **Cornwall**: Saltash, 22nd May (E. Griffiths).

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*
- **Cheshire**: Meols, Wirral, 13th to 18th October (D. J. Bates, C. Murphy *et al.*).

Supplementary 1973 records accepted

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*
- **Scilly**: Gugh, 1st May (J. D. Sanders *et al.*).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
- **Lancashire**: Freckleton area, 26th May to 3rd June (D. J. Hall, Miss U. L. Jamieson *et al.*).
- **Sussex**: Hastings, 3rd June (R. E. C. Collins).

(South Eurasia, Africa and Australia) Also one at Aghadown, Co. Cork, from 10th October to at least 5th January 1974, much the latest to appear in 1973 and providing a further case of attempted overwintering in a western estuary.

**American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*
- (North America) None in Britain, but one, the first since 1962, at Malin Beg, Co. Donegal, on 21st October was the 21st Irish.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*
- **Berkshire**: Bracknell, 9, 27th September (T. A. Guyatt).

(East Europe and south from Siberia) Also an adult female at Copeland Island, Co. Down, on 26th May, only the third ever identified in Ireland (the other two were in 1832 and 1966). These two further increase the record 1973 total to about 42.

**Great Bustard** *Otis tarda*
- **Yorkshire**: Goathland Moor, 9, 18th August (D. Clarke).

(Central and south Eurasia, discontinuously from Portugal to the Pacific) This species is kept in captivity on the Continent (as well as on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire) and a number are believed to have been imported. Furthermore, August is an exceptional month: the twelve other birds since 1910 have occurred in December (six), January (four), March and May, and before that it was primarily a winter visitor. Thus this individual's origin is very much open to doubt.
Rare birds in Great Britain 1974

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
**Cornwall:** Stithians Reservoir, two, 15th September (E. Griffiths).

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*
**Scilly:** St Agnes, 13th October (R. J. McCann, S. C. Madge).

Spotted Sandpiper *Tringa macularia*
**Dorset:** Weymouth, 8th or 9th December to 24th March 1974 (D. Fisher).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicolis*
**Lincolnshire:** Frampton Marsh, 16th September (B. Redman).

Semipalmated or Western Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla/mauri*
**Dorset/Somerset:** Sutton Bingham Reservoir, 18th to 20th October (D. E. Paull, R. H. Ryall et al.).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
**Dorset/Somerset:** Sutton Bingham Reservoir, 18th to 20th October (D. E. Paull, R. H. Ryall et al.).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
**Hampshire:** Farlington Marshes, 25th February (S. J. M. Gantlett, R. G. Millington et al.).

Norfolk: Norwich, found dead, 28th June (per J. G. Goldsmith), ringed as a juvenile at Hensies, Hainaut, Belgium, on 23rd August 1970; specimen at Castle Museum, Norwich.

(South and west Europe north to England and Belgium, southwest Asia and north-west Africa) The Norfolk recovery is the only direct evidence to date of the origin of the British colonists.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*
**Hampshire:** Farlington Marshes, singing 3, 14th to 17th June (J. D. Lindsay, R. Tofts, A. N. Williamson).

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*
**Dorset:** Lodmoor, Weymouth, 8th October (D. G. Gilbert).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
**Scilly:** St Agnes, 10th to 13th October, perhaps another on 14th October (B. D. Harding et al.).

Serin *Serinus serinus*
**Hampshire:** Fleet Pond, pair with juvenile, 17th September (R. G. Millington).

(Continental Europe, Mediterranean, Asia Minor and north-west Africa) Particularly since post-breeding dispersal in this species does not normally start until October (*Brit. Birds*, 64: 221-222), this record suggests to us that breeding took place somewhere in the area, where there is an abundance of suitable habitat.
**Appendix 1. List of 1974 records not accepted**

This list contains all the 1974 records 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) records mentioned in 'Recent reports' 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location and Date</th>
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<td>Albatross sp</td>
<td>Portland Bill, Dorset, 27th April</td>
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<td>Cory's Shearwater</td>
<td>Spurn, Yorkshire, 20th August</td>
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<td>Lundy, Devon, 7th September</td>
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<td>Little Shearwater</td>
<td>St Agnes, Scilly, 7th October</td>
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<td>Purple Heron</td>
<td>Cley, Norfolk, 13th May</td>
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<td>Conyer, Kent, 18th August</td>
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<td>Pennington Flash, Leigh, Lancashire, 27th August</td>
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<td>Altcar Withins, Formby, Lancashire, 13th September</td>
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<td>American Bittern</td>
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<td>White Stork</td>
<td>North Camp gravel pits, Farnborough, Hampshire/Surrey, 21st June</td>
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<td>Blue-winged Teal</td>
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<td>Surf Scoter</td>
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<td>King Eider</td>
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<td>Woodham Ferrers, Essex, 11th to 15th June</td>
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<td>Battlesbridge, Essex, 1st July</td>
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<td>Dowitcher</td>
<td>Wensleydale, Yorkshire, 23rd April</td>
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<td>near Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, 16th August</td>
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<td>Great Snipe</td>
<td>Aberthaw, Glamorgan, 3rd September</td>
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<td>Shellness, Kent, two, 8th September</td>
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<td>Fairburn Ings, Yorkshire, three, 25th September</td>
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<td>Bo'ness, West Lothian, seven, 29th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upland Sandpiper</td>
<td>Eastbridge, Suffolk, 26th May</td>
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<td>Greater Yellowlegs</td>
<td>Saxlingham, Norfolk, 31st August</td>
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<td>Windrush valley, Oxfordshire, 28th August</td>
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<td>Islay, Argyll, 11th September</td>
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<td>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</td>
<td>Murton Common, Glamorgan, 1st November</td>
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<td>Broad-billed Sandpiper</td>
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<td>Black-winged Stilt</td>
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<td>Wilson's Phalarope</td>
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<td>Lundy, Devon, 30th August to 9th September</td>
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<td>Wells, Norfolk, 21st October</td>
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<td>Steart, Somerset, 5th August</td>
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Rare birds in Great Britain 1974

Pratincole sp  Durleigh Reservoir, Somerset, 12th May
              Rumworth Reservoir, Bolton, Lancashire, two, 15th September
              Billing gravel pit, Northampton, 13th October

Ivory Gull  Breydon Water, Norfolk, 26th June

Bonaparte’s Gull  Worthing, Sussex, 9th May

Ross’s Gull  Redcar, Yorkshire, 22nd August

White-winged Black Tern  Minsmere, Suffolk, 18th May
              Swalecliffe, Kent, 22nd and 26th August

Whiskered Tern  Abberton Reservoir, Essex, 14th July
              Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, 10th August
              Belvide Reservoir, Staffordshire, 1st and 2nd September

Gull-billed Tern  Langney Point, Sussex, two, 14th May, one 16th May
              Cemlyn, Anglesey, 27th May

Great Spotted Cuckoo  Covehithe, Suffolk, 27th July

Yellow-billed Cuckoo  New Forest, Hampshire, 22nd October

Roller  Clyst St George, Devon, 17th and 18th June

Black Woodpecker  Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, two, 20th September

Nutmegger  Egerton, Ashford, Kent, eight, 22nd to 30th August
              Ruan Lanihorne, Cornwall, 12th October

White’s Thrush  Eynsford, Kent, 28th September
              Bletchingley, Surrey, 15th to 25th November

Rock Thrush  Southam, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, 6th June

Isabelline Wheatear  Liskeard, Cornwall, 14th to 21st September

Savi’s Warbler  Scotton, Knaresborough, Yorkshire, 23rd April
              Portland, Dorset, 20th October

Bonelli’s Warbler  Gugh, Scilly, 29th April

Arctic Warbler  Brownsman, Farne Islands, Northumberland, 30th August

Tawny Pipit  Lowestoft, Suffolk, 8th September
              Murton Common, Glamorgan, 19th September
              St Agnes, Scilly, 20th October

Red-throated Pipit  Fair Isle, Shetland, 13th and 14th May
              Altcar Withins, Formby, Lancashire, 19th March

Citrine Wagtail  Hurworth Burn Reservoir, Durham, 4th to at least 29th May

Black-headed Wagtail  Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, 28th April

Lesser Grey Shrike  Farmoor, Oxfordshire, 29th March

Seren  Salthouse, Norfolk, 4th May

Black-headed Bunting  Selsey, Sussex, 25th August

Little Bunting  Horsham, Sussex, two, 14th to 17th March
              North Muskham, Nottinghamshire, 31st March
              Cley, Norfolk, 17th September
              Isle of May, Fife, 23rd October
              Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, 10th November

Snow Finch  Cromer, Norfolk, 22nd May

Appendix 2. Supplementary 1968 record not accepted
Orphean Warbler  Portland Bill, Dorset, 5th May

Appendix 3. Supplementary 1971 record not accepted
Brown Flycatcher  St Agnes, Scilly, 5th October
Appendix 4. Supplementary 1973 records not accepted

Night Heron Raithby, Lincolnshire, 11th November
Black Kite Snettisham, Norfolk, 14th January
Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 21st February
Ring-billed Gull Pagham Lagoon, Sussex, 25th February
Arctic Warbler Titchwell, Norfolk, 25th September
Serin Tresco, Scilly, 11th September
Pine Bunting South Shields, Durham, 27th October
Little Bunting Deerness, Orkney, 19th August

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Plate 44. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*, Scilly, September 1974 (page 318), in bottom picture with three Pectoral Sandpipers *C. melanotos* at same place (lower, centre and right). The white supercilium contrasting with the dark crown is obvious (cf. *British Birds*. 67: plate 50) (photos: D. B. Hunt).

Below, female Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*, Shetland, October 1974 (page 323): only the fourth time that this large thrush had occurred in Britain and the first female; note the heavy streaking extending well down the flanks and the dark and light mark on the closed wing (photo: D. Coutts).
Plate 47. Above, juvenile White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Lincolnshire, September 1974 (page 320): the dark back contrasting with the paler wings and white rump shows up well in this photograph; note also the dark crown, white forehead and white nape, and the grey, square-ended tail (*photo: K. Atkin*). Below, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* with (below) Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*, Shetland, 1974 (page 309): the albatross stayed for two months in the gannetry at Hermaness, where an individual, perhaps the same, summered in 1972 (*Brit. Birds*, 67: 342) (*photo: D. Coutts*).