Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1975 (with additions for nine previous years)

J. N. Dymond and the Rarities Committee

Plates 33-35

This is the eighteenth annual report of the Rarities Committee. The composition of the committee for 1975 was D. I. M. Wallace (chairman), J. N. Dymond (honorary secretary), D. G. Bell, A. R. M. Blake, R. H. Dennis, P. J. Grant, R. J. Johns, Dr R. J. Raines, R. A. Richardson, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock and G. A. Williams. D. I. M. Wallace continued as chairman in a non-voting and advisory capacity for a second year. As previously announced (Brit. Birds, 68: 306), the two longest-serving members, D. G. Bell and A. R. M. Blake, retired in April 1976, and their places have been filled by B. Little and J. R. Mather. In addition, R. A. Richardson has retired and, at its annual meeting in London on 28th February 1976, the committee decided to co-opt immediately D. J. Holman, thus maintaining the important link with East Anglia; he will stand for formal election early in 1977.

F. R. Smith retired as honorary secretary at the end of May 1975; he served on the committee for twelve years, almost ten of them as secretary, and we take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to him for his long and most efficient service and to wish him well in his ‘retirement’. D. G. Bell, who devised the Unusual Record Form which is supplied free by the committee and is used extensively by observers, served on the committee for 14 years; A. R. M. Blake for 13 years; and R. A. Richardson for seven: to each of them we extend our gratitude for their most substantial contributions.

The committee has reconsidered its list of subject species, last published in 1973 (Brit. Birds, 67: 347-348), and, in response to both internal and widespread external requests, has decided to add the Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* to the list and to reinstate the Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. The former remains a distinctly uncommon seabird and its identification is not as easy as many observers believe; happily, J. R. Mather is currently preparing a paper on skua identification, which will include treatment of the closely similar immature plumages. The return of the pipit is an acknowledgement by the committee that its neglect since 1970 of this Asiatic passerine was an error of judgment; the large irruptive autumn arrivals of the late 1960's have ceased and clearly it is sensible to resume the monitoring of its status on a national basis.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* (see announcement, above) and Arctic Skua *S. parasiticus*

The year 1975 was phenomenal for rare birds in Britain and the number of records submitted (about 840 of 136 species) was very considerably more than in any year since the inception of the committee in 1958. The acceptance rate, at about 81%, was consistent with that of recent years. Many observers submit their rarity records to county recorders for forwarding to the committee, while others send records directly to the committee. There is no hard-and-fast procedure, but observers submitting records to the committee are asked to send a copy to the relevant county recorder. Furthermore, whenever possible, observers are urged to send in their records within a reasonable time of the event, rather than after many months or at the end of the year; this report has been delayed by late submissions.

The year began well with two Surf Scoters *Melanitta perspicillata* and a King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (in the same Scottish sea loch) and a Little Crake *Porzana parva*, but, apart from a Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*, a Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo-vulpinus* and an American Robin *Turdus migratorius*, the later part of the winter
held few surprises. In spring, as in 1974, non-passerine rarities were not obvious, and there was no large influx of southern herons, although several Black Kites Milvus migrans and Cranes Grus grus appeared simultaneously in mid-May. Once again, Terek Sandpipers Xenus cinereus and a Broad-billed Sandpiper Limicola falcinellus came on cue, and another Ross’s Gull appeared. The variety of rare passerines was much more striking, with Black-eared Wheatears Oenanthe hispanica and no less than six Subalpine Warblers Sylvia cantillans overshooting from the south, and three singing Greenish Warblers Phylloscopus trochiloides (on two June days), a Collared Flycatcher Ficedula albicollis on Out Skerries (clearly, isles to rival Fair Isle), a Pechora Pipit Anthus gustavi (the first ever in spring), six Red-throated Pipits A. cervinus and a total of ten Rustic Emberiza rustica and Little Buntings E. pusilla extending their migration from the south-east. Other spring vagrants of extreme quality included two Pallas’s Sandgrouse Syrrhaptes paradoxus, a Pine Grosbeak Pinicola enucleator, a Pine Bunting Emberiza leucocephala, two Slate-coloured Juncos Junco hyemalis and Britain’s first Hermit Thrush Hylocichla guttata. In retrospect, the spring of 1975 foretold the riches of the autumn to come, but no one guessed so at the time.

The summer of 1975 was full of excitements too. Its chief prize was Britain’s first White-tailed Plover Vanellus leucurus, but there was also a striking influx of adult Rose-coloured Starlings Sturnus roseus.

The early events of the autumn were unremarkable, but from late August onwards an almost continuous flood of rarities came from both west and east. Nearctic waders were not in total exceptionally common, but, in a clear extension of a large flight across America, no fewer than 62 Buff-breasted Sandpipers Tryngites subruficollis were found, scattered all over Britain and Ireland. The influx of early September broke all records. Two Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca were welcome in view of their usual rarity and Lesser Golden Plovers Pluvialis dominica (of both American and Asiatic races) were in record numbers. At least 45 Aquatic Warblers Acrocephalus paludicola were noted at their regular off-passage marshes and some new localities, but Scarlet Rosefinches Carpodacus erythrinus proved to be rather fewer than in 1974. As in August, Continental drifts were not obvious, but American landbirds began to cross the Atlantic. Fair Isle produced two Tennessee Warblers Vermivora peregrina, again new to Britain, and to the southwest, out of a savage gale in the last week of September, came a small collection headed by a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Sphyrapicus varius, another first for Britain, and a splendid Black-and-White Warbler Mniotilta varia, the second ever and the first for 40 years. After a Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea, even a Blackpoll Warbler
Dendroica striata and two Bobolinks Dolichonyx oryzivorus did not complete the list. As the Americans moved away, the true measure of the waves of rare Palearctic passerines became recognised. They seemed to be everywhere, and October 1975 was the most magical month in the recorded history of rare birds in Britain. Even hallowed memories of October 1968 paled as an astonishing variety of birds appeared from Fair Isle round to Scilly, with the beautiful woods at Holkham in Norfolk providing the best ever mainland rarity watching. The number of rare Siberian and Asiatic passerines seen during the autumn was at least 48 (twice the 1974 total) and their proportion in the populations of other migrants was noticeably higher than usual. One in two of the Asiatic vagrants was a Pallas’s Warbler Phylloscopus proregulus and for every one there were at least four Yellow-browed Warblers P. inornatus. There can have been hardly a broadleaved wood on the east coast that did not receive one of these sprites. With them came the second ever Bimaculated Lark Melanocorypha bimaculata, three Asiatic thrushes, a Red-flanked Bluetail Tarsiger cyanurus, an Ehrenberg’s Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisicus, a Siberian Rubythroat Luscinia calliope (another first for Britain and Fair Isle’s chief prize), four Lanceolated Warblers Locustella lanceolata (all on Fair Isle, three on one day), two Desert Warblers Sylvia nana, three Radde’s Warblers Phylloscopus schwarzi and two Dusky Warblers P. fuscatus (all five in north Norfolk), both of Britain’s rarest pipits, and Norfolk’s rival to the Rubythroat, a Yellow-browed Bunting Emberiza chrysophrys (yet another first British record), which lurked all one day next to scores of observers but was seen by only three. Chief among the supporting cast were more Rose-coloured Starlings, Rustic and Little Buntings and Arctic Redpolls Acanthis hornemanni. Non-passerines seemed scarcer, but there were late Purple Herons Ardea purpurea, two Glossy Ibises Plegadis falcinellus, a Red-breasted Goose Branta ruficollis (with Brent Geese B. bernicla and not, for once, White-fronted Anser albifrons), another Steppe Buzzard, yet another Ross’s Gull, a Little Bustard Otis tetrao (the chief prize of St Agnes) and a Sociable Plover Vanellus gregarius. Other exceptional records were a Crested Lark Galerida cristata and a Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides.

By mid-November, life became quieter, but early winter saw another Little Crake and a typically late Killdeer Charadrius vociferus. Not to be outdone, America dealt the last high card, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak Pheucticus ludovicianus on a newly erected bird-table in Essex just before Christmas. So ended 1975, the best year for rarities (and ornithological telephone calls) ever!

An analysis of the first autumn dates for the Siberian and Asiatic passerines indicates that there were either at least four waves of
arrivals or redirected passage. The first broke on about 11th October and was most obvious at Fair Isle, though there were signs as far south as Sussex. The second was obvious by the 18th and touched the east coast from the Isle of May south to Norfolk, spreading west to Scilly. The third began on the 25th and was again obvious along the English Channel, but not north of Norfolk. The fourth, clearly separate, was obvious from 10th November, but was again restricted to the east coast between Northumberland and Essex. Regional differences in the species-spectrum suggests that each wave was distinct, but some later compounding by redirected passage from the north seems likely. It is an astonishing fact that not one of these birds (apart from Yellow-browed Warblers) added the few score kilometres westward to Ireland to the thousands already completed by their British landfalls. In this respect, it is noteworthy that the Channel Islands’ crop of rarities was essentially similar to that in Britain.

The occurrence patterns of the later Red-throated Pipits, Arctic Redpolls, Rustic and Little Buntings were not dissimilar to those of their far-eastern co-vagrants, which suggests that the individuals involved did not originate from the breeding populations nearest to Britain. Conversely, those of the Scarlet Rosefinch, Greenish and Arctic Warblers showed no such resemblance; their patterns had more of the erratic appearance of Scandinavian and European migrants, such as Barred Warblers *Sylvia nisoria* and Bluethroats *Luscinia svecica*. The autumn of 1975 was easy to enjoy; it is much more difficult to explain. One may sense that exceptional breeding success by Asiatic species caused an unusual degree of reversed migration and that the expanding polar circulation contributed to westward dispersal, but we lack proof that these were the major factors.


Comments on individual species have been prepared by D. I. M. Wallace, as have the paragraphs in this introduction relating the events of the year and analysing some of them. The comments 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.

It is our normal practice not to publish records of birds new to Britain and Ireland until they have been accepted both by us and by the Records Committee of the British Ornithologists’ Union. There were so many such records in 1975, however, and they form such an integral part of the whole picture of this remarkable year, that they have been included in this report. Such instances are always noted in the comments which appear below the records; we stress that these records are not yet formally accepted additions to the British and Irish list.

Photographs of a few of the rarities of 1975 are reproduced on plates 33-35. Observers are again urged to submit black-and-white prints for possible inclusion. Copies of the list of species considered by the committee and Unusual Record Forms are available on request free of charge from the address on page 327: observers are encouraged to use these forms as often 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 1974 report (Brit. Birds, 68: 306-338). 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 which societies or observatories suggest are in need of 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 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. In accordance with our declared policy (see Brit. Birds, 68: 1-4) the new county names have been used, and observers are asked to bear this in mind when submitting records. The old county names are used for the additional records for earlier years.

(ii) 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 Limnodromus scolopaceus and Short-billed Dowitchers 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.

(iii) 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.
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), and in some cases advice has also been sought from T. P. Inskipp. The Wildfowl Trust has continued to help with advice on wildfowl escape and identification problems, while Derek Goodwin has once again advised 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 be addressed to the honorary secretary, J. N. Dymond, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.**

Systematic list of records accepted

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

**Orkney**: Scapa Flow, adult, 21st August (G. G. Bunting).

**Shetland**: Hermaness, Unst, adult, 16th March to 18th August (D. J. Frost, H. Mitchell, R. J. Tulloch et al.)

(Southern oceans) None off Ireland and the two records above are obviously of the same bird. The five-month stay at one place eclipses even the Bass Rock episode of 1967 (*Brit. Birds*, 61: 22-27); the dates of arrival and departure indicate the close association with the Hermaness population of Gannets *Sula bassana*.

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

**Dorset**: Portland Bill, 25th May (P. Griggs, R. Howard); 7th June (P. D. Gorip, Z. J. Karpowicz et al.); 8th June (A. J. L. Smith); 21st June (G. Walbridge et al.); six, 28th June (F. R. Clafton).

**Irish Sea**: off Dyfed, 11, 4th September (G. Evans, P. J. Marsh).

**Mid-Glamorgan**: Sker Point, 27th July (D. P. Maddocks, J. D. Wells).

**Strathclyde**: Machrihanish, Argyll, 14th August (E. J. Maguire).

(East Atlantic and Mediterranean) Two Irish records, both of single birds off Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 15th July and 6th August, are fewer than usual.

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

**Cornwall**: off Land's End, 11th September (M. I. Harvey).

**Lancashire**: Cleveleys, Fylde, immature ♀, found shot dead, 27th March (E. W. Jackson, M. Jones, D. F. Wadsworth); specimen in Merseyside County Museum, Liverpool.

(Atlantic south from Madeira and Canaries, and southern
One Irish record, a single bird off Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 9th September, takes the grand total to 45. The Lancashire record is the earliest ever in spring.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**Avon:** Chew Valley Lake, 28th September (D. Buffery, P. Denning).

**Cleveland:** Moorsholm, Guisborough, immature, found dying, 1st August (M. A. Blick, J. B. Dunnett, D. Smith).

**Cornwall:** between Isles of Scilly and Land's End, immature, 31st October (D. S. Flumm, Dr C. A. Walker).

**Derbyshire:** Sawley, adult, 27th August (R. A. Frost).

**East Sussex:** Pett Level, immature, 26th April (P. F. Bonham, R. R. Greenhalf, N. Finder). Weir Wood Reservoir, adult, 8th July (C. E. Hope, C. R. Janman).

**Essex:** Rainham, 31st May (P. Griggs, N. Parr). Hanningfield Reservoir, immature, 15th June (S. H. Hudgell).

**Gwynedd:** Llyn Bodgylched, Beaumaris, immature, 11th May (N. H. Brown, P. and R. A. Schofield).

**Humberside:** Flamborough Head, 10th October (P. A. Lassey).

**Kent:** Dungeness, 19th April (M. A. Hollingworth, A. Howard, N. Riddiford et al.).

**Lincolnshire:** Huttoft, 4th to 6th June (K. Atkin, M. Mellor, R. B. Wilkinson).

**Norfolk:** Hickling Broad, immature, 26th April (H. Mitchell et al.). Rockland Broad, 22nd June (R. C. McIntyre). Halvergate, 17th to 30th August (D. Talks et al.).

**Northamptonshire:** Thrapston gravel pit, immature, found dead, 24th August (J. W. W. Metcalfe).

**Scilly:** St Mary’s, 23rd April to 22nd May (J. R. H. Clements, D. B. Hunt, R. E. Turley et al.).

**Suffolk:** Walberswick, 10th May (G. J. Jobson).

**West Glamorgan:** Oxwich, immature, 7th to 8th May, 29th May to 4th June, 26th to 28th June, one individual (H. E. Grenfell, A. Pym, K. E. Vinicombe et al.); adult, 6th July (H. E. Grenfell, Miss J. I. Peachey).

(South-central Eurasia, north to Netherlands, and Africa) The total of 20 is above the average and it is also unusual for six to be in autumn. The total since 1958 is now about 185.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**Essex:** Mundon, Maldon, 16th to 18th May (H. G. Binder, D. Thompson). Old Hall Marsh, 8th June (I. Pearson).

**Gloucestershire:** Witcombe Reservoir, 11th May (L. Foat, Mrs E. Sutton).

**Grampian:** River North Esk, Kincardine, 4th June (P. J. Dolton).

**South Yorkshire:** Potteric Carr, Doncaster, 21st August (M. G. Ibbotson, N. P. Whitehouse).

(South Eurasia, Africa and Australia) Also one in Cork Harbour, Co. Cork, from 31st October into December. Six is a poor showing and the recent series of widespread spring influxes is broken. The total since 1958 is now 155.
Rare birds in Great Britain 1975

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

**Oxfordshire:** Stanton Harcourt, 16th to 22nd August (Dr B. Campbell, T. Godfrey, T. Young et al.).

(South Europe, south-west Asia, and Africa) Only the tenth since 1958.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

**Gloucestershire:** Slimbridge, 2nd to 7th March (E. E. Jackson, W. Shakespear, M. Smart et al.), possibly the same bird as in August 1974 (see page 362).

**Norfolk:** Hickling Broad, 23rd to 26th April (P. R. Allard, G. E. Dunmore et al.).

(Almost cosmopolitan in tropics, nearest breeding colonies in south France and Portugal) This remains the rarest Palearctic heron to visit Britain, but its occurrences inevitably attract the doubts that attach to every species widely held captive.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**Devon:** Lundy, 15th April (I. G. Black, A. M. Taylor).

**East Sussex:** Rye Harbour, adult, 2nd to 4th September (G. H. and Mrs K. A. Shiner, S. J. Woolner).

**Grampian:** Newburgh, Gordon, 3rd to 8th May (M. A. Macdonald).

(South Eurasia, Africa and the Americas) Another poor showing, for the third year running. The grand total now approaches 240.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

**Cornwall:** Goonhilly Downs, ♀, 21st June (W. R. Hirst, F. J. Roberts).

**Dorset:** Lodmoor, ♀, 18th May (M. Whitelock et al.).

**Kent:** Stodmarsh, ♀, 25th to 27th May (S. J. Moss, D. R. Colaço Osorio).

(West Eurasia, Africa and Australia) There was none in 1974, but these three are not unusual in the long-term context of regular spring influxes.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

**Berkshire:** Walbury Hill, 16th March (Z. J. Karpowicz et al.).

**Dyfed:** Gwaun Valley, 26th May (R. J. Fuller, R. E. Youngman). Castle Lloyd, Pendine, found injured, 24th September (M. Cullen); this bird had been ringed as a nestling on 17th July 1975 at Oldeborg, Aurich, Neidersachsen, West Germany.

**East Sussex:** near Southease, Lewes, 26th May to 1st June (J. M. Daykin, D. C. Lang et al.).

**Essex:** Leigh-on-Sea, 12th March (A. R. Mead).

**Grampian:** Elgin, 7th to 10th May (C. A. Gervaise et al.). Fintray, 11th to 20th June (per A. G. Knox).

**Highland:** Lairg, Sutherland, 21st to 23rd April (A. Lockart et al.). Nigg Bay, Ross and Cromarty, 24th April (per C. G. Headlam). Auldearn, Nairn, 27th April (J. Ellingham), Ardesier, Inverness, 28th April (Mrs Job). Insh Marshes, Badenoch and Strathspey, 3rd May (D. N. Weir et al.).

**North Yorkshire:** Aketon, Castleford, 31st May to 1st June (D. Hirst).
Shetland: Fair Isle, 25th May (G. J. Barnes).

Suffolk: Rendham/Yoxford area, the one first recorded on 22nd October 1974 (Brit. Birds, 68: 311) stayed until 12th April (H. E. Axell et al.). Bungay, 10th to 16th June (B. J. Brown, D. R. Moore).

West Sussex: Adversane and vicinity, the one first recorded in mid-September 1974 (Brit. Birds, 68: 311) was last seen on 16th February (F. W. Dougharty, S. W. M. Hughes, K. Neale).

(central and south Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) The Grampian and Highland records are all thought to refer to a single individual, and the dates suggest that this bird may even have reached Fair Isle. In Suffolk, the one at Bungay was possibly the bird that overwintered near Yoxford. The grand total is now about 152, of which some 80 have been since 1967, when the current trend of increased vagrancy began.

**Glossy Ibis** Plegadis falcinellus

Kent: Stodmarsh, 14th December (I. J. Andrews et al.).

Lincolnshire: Saltfleetby, 5th November (K. Harrison).

(Cosmopolitan, but very local, nearest breeding colonies in Balkans) Surprisingly, this is now the fourth consecutive year in which this species has appeared. We await details of a third, late autumn record.

**Teal** Anas crecca

Drakes showing the characters of the North American race *A. c. carolinensis*, colloquially known as the Green-winged Teal, were recorded as follows:

East Sussex: Cuckmere Valley, 21st to 22nd March (M. J. Rogers, P. J. Wilson).

Scilly: St Agnes, 1st to 10th May (R. W. Allen, J. R. H. Clements et al.). St Mary’s, 14th to 22nd May (R. W. Allen, D. B. Hunt).


(North America) The two Scilly records certainly refer to the same individual. The grand total for Britain and Ireland is now about 94.

**Blue-winged Teal** Anas discors

Ross and Cromarty: Tarradale, Beauly Firth, 3, 31st August (R. H. Dennis).

(North America) Also three in Ireland, two shot at Lough Denararagh, Co. Westmeath, and a duck shot on North Slob, Co. Wexford, all between 1st and 5th October; bringing the grand total to 53.

**American Wigeon** Anas americana

Borders: Bowden Reservoir, 3, 25th to 28th February (Mrs M. Little, Mrs. A. Speirs).
Dumfries and Galloway: Loch Milton, ♂, 16th to 26th March (Miss M. Matheson, T. Nisbet et al.).
Greater London: Surrey Docks, pair, 5th September (R. E. Alderton); another ♂, 9th to 15th September (R. E. Alderton).
(North America) The grand total moves on to 81. The Surrey Docks birds are considered particularly suspect as escapes from captivity.

**Surf Scoter Melanitta perspicillata**
Fife: St Andrews, ♂, 14th to 18th December (A. J. Blackx, I. G. Cumming et al.).
Shetland: Ronas Voe, ♂, 20th to 25th May (C. M. Adamson, D. Coutts, I. Sandison).
Sutherland: Loch Fleet, two ♂♂, 1st January to 16th March (R. H. Dennis et al.).
(North America) Seven records of nine birds—in winter, spring, autumn and, again, winter—set a new level of occurrence for this scoter. The grand total moves on to 112.

**Steller’s Eider Polysticta stelleri**
Western Isles: South Uist, the drake first recorded in May 1972 (Brit. Birds 66: 338) has stayed through 1973, 1974 and 1975, and was still present in summer 1976.

**King Eider Somateria spectabilis**
Grampian: Murcar, ♂, 23rd September to 2nd October (P. M. Ellis et al.); ♂, 4th to 11th October (M. A. S. Beaman, C. J. Spray).
Orkney: Long Hope, South Walls, ♂, 8th February (D. Lea).
Strathclyde: Great Cumbrae, ♂, 22nd April and 19th to 20th June, and Little Cumbrae, 21st May (J. J. Boyle et al.).
Sutherland: Loch Fleet, ♂, 1st January to 13th April, three ♂♂, 14th to 19th April, two ♂♂ to 4th June (R. H. Dennis, P. M. Ellis et al.); ♂, 31st October into 1976 (R. H. Dennis).
(Circumpolar Arctic) This fine sea-duck continues to be found in Scotland and is showing a marked loyalty to certain areas there. It is difficult to judge how many individuals were involved in 1975, but it can hardly have been less than eleven. There have now been
over 50 records in Britain in the last three years, compared with the grand total up to 1972 of about 80.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

**Derbyshire:** Drakelow Reserve, two $\delta\delta$, 11th to 18th May (T. Cockburn, J. R. Collinson).

**Humberside:** Whitton Sand, River Humber, two, 13th to 14th September (D. I. M. Wallace).

**Norfolk:** Cley, two, 9th to 31st August, one on 1st September (D. J. Holman, et al.).

(North-west Africa, south-east Europe and across Asia) This species appears to have been seen more frequently in recent years and the committee requests that all unpublished records since 1958 be submitted, so that its current status can be assessed.

![Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*](image)

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

**Gloucestershire:** Slimbridge, immature, 28th December to 4th March 1976 (P. A. R. Hockey, J. B. O. Rossetti, G. P. Threlfall et al.); two adults, one 28th December to 4th March 1976 (Miss D. Fowler, K. Lane et al.) and a second on 29th December (R. W. Byrne).

(North-east Europe and Siberia) Although the numbers of European White-fronted Geese *A. albifrons albifrons* reaching Slimbridge are now even further reduced (in the absence of regular hard weather in north-west Europe), happily those that come are still sometimes accompanied by one or two Lesser White-fronts. The grand total is now 95.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

**Essex:** Foulness, 12th October (A. St Joseph). Two Tree Island, 24th October to 7th November (A. R. Mead, C. J. Stratford et al.) (plate 33).

**Hampshire:** Hayling Island, 8th November to end of February 1976 (per J. H. Taverner).

(West Siberia) This bird, the first since 1969, arrived with and moved west with Brent Geese *B. bernicla*; wild birds usually associate
with the European White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons albifrons*. The grand total is now about 26.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Individuals showing the characters of the distinctive subspecies *B. b. vulpinus*, colloquially known as the Steppe Buzzard, were recorded as follows:

**Cornwall:** St Ives, 27th October and 2nd November (P. Pearce, V. A. Stratton).

**Kent:** Reculver, 1st February to 20th April (J. N. Hollyer *et al.*).

(East Europe and west Asia) The second and third records of this subspecies, which breeds east from central Fenno-Scandia. The only previous fully accepted record was in Wiltshire in September 1864.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

**Cornwall:** Porthgwarra, 17th May (D. J. Barker, L. P. Williams *et al.*).

**North Yorkshire:** near Kepwick, 12th May (C. Bielby).

**Orkney:** Eday, 3rd May (R. D. Lowe).

(Most of Eurasia, Africa and Australia) Three apparently different birds in only 14 days is unprecedented. Out of a grand total of 20, 15 have been seen in the last ten years. The most obvious association of this influx is with the four spring Cranes *Grus grus*.

**Gyrfalcon** *Falco rusticolus*

**Devon:** Exminster Marshes, 6th February (R. Khan).

**Grampian:** Forties Field, North Sea, 200 km north-east of Aberdeen, found exhausted, 5th January, taken to Aberdeen Zoo where later died (R. Baxter, per G. Leslie and Aberdeen Zoo).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Two winter records are typical of the occurrence pattern of this magnificent raptor from 1958 to 1965, but the more recent series of spring occurrences is broken. Oil rigs evidently have some ornithological potential.

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

**Derbyshire:** Church Wilne Reservoir, immature, 6th and 9th July (T. Gibson, R. W. Key, K. J. Lyon).

**Devon:** Lundy, immature, 27th to 28th August (N. A. Clark, M. Rogers).

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, ♂, 3rd May (P. G. and Mrs C. M. Lansdown, G. I. Webber).

**Dyfed:** Skokholm, ♂, 27th May (M. de L. Brooke). St Ann’s Head, immature ♂, 28th to 31st May (D. F. Billet, T. A. W. Davis, K. J. S. Devonald *et al.*). Skomer, ♂, 8th to 11th June (J. E. Davis *et al.*).

**Grampian:** Crimond, ♂, 20th June (J. Dunbar).

**Lothian:** Belhaven, Dunbar, ♂, 4th July (T. C. and Mrs A. Smout).

**Suffolk:** Minsmere, ♂, 28th September (R. V. A. Marshall, J. K. and Mrs D. J. Weston *et al.*).
(East Europe and south from Siberia) An about average showing of this eastern falcon. Three in Wales in one year is unusual. There have been about 157 in total.

**Crane Grus grus**

**Cambridgeshire:** Woodwalton Fen, 9th and 12th May (G. K. Mason). Wicken Fen, 11th May (N. J. Bucknall, H. J. Harvey, Dr C. J. R. Thorne *et al.*).

**Dorset:** Lychett Bay, Poole Harbour, 16th August (S. Harrop).

**Strathclyde:** Bunessan, Mull, 9th to 12th May (H. Cook, J. Rusk).

**Tyne and Wear:** Monkseaton, 16th May (J. A. Ginnever).

(1963) In Ireland, there were single birds at Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal, from 24th May to at least November and at Ballymacoda, Co. Cork, on 30th November. Seven records in one year is well above average. There was none in 1974. The total since the large autumn influx of 1963 is about 60.

**Little Crake Porzana parva**

**Dorset:** Lodmoor, 8th to 10th November and 8th December (D. C. Gilbert).

**Nottinghamshire:** Attenborough, 3rd January (N. G. Beynon, B. Wetton).

(1969) Two more records suggesting that this crake, both elusive and hard to identify, winters in England. The grand total moves on to nearly 90.

**Little Bustard Otis tetrax**

Scilly: St Agnes, 29th October (M. A. Hollingworth, T. P. Inskipp, Miss C. Robinson *et al.*), and St Mary's, 2nd to 3rd November (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood, D. B. Hunt).

(1958) This bird, the first since 1959 and the tenth since 1958, is the first hint in this list of the exceptional flood of rarities that lapped over Britain in the late autumn of 1975.

**Sociable Plover Vanellus gregarius**

**Dorset:** Langton Herring, 28th September to 10th October (M. J. Cowlard, J. R. Mullins *et al.*).

(1963) The fourteenth ever; a typical date.

**White-tailed Plover Vanellus leucurus**

**Warwickshire:** Packington gravel pits, 12th to 18th July (A. R. Dean, J. E. Fortey, E. G. Phillips *et al.*).

(1963) Still under consideration by the BOU Records Committee. The first
record here of this graceful and beautiful relation of the Lapwing *V. vanellus*. At first sight, it is an astonishing occurrence, but 1975 saw others reach several more European countries, including Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden.

**Killdeer Charadrius vociferus**

**Humberside**: Thorne Moors, 29th to 30th November (S. James, M. Limbert, C. Wells et al.).

**Leicestershire**: Eye Brook Reservoir, 28th September to 19th October, and Swithland Reservoir, 2nd to 16th November (K. Allsopp, R. E. Davis, J. W. Walker et al.) (plate 35c).

(North America, West Indies and Peru) These two take the grand total to 20, although it is conceivable that only one individual was involved.

**Lesser Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica**

**Cornwall**: Stithians Reservoir, 28th August to early October (R. Butts, P. D. Round); another, 2nd to 20th September (R. Andrew, E. Griffiths, V. R. Tucker et al.); a third individual, 26th September (J. Hawkey, V. R. Tucker). Culdrose, Helston, 19th September (E. Grace). Siblyback Reservoir, 26th September to 18th October (D. J. Barrett, S. C. Madge).

**Humberside**: Bempton Cliffs, 1st September (S. C. Madge).

**Scilly**: St Mary’s, 18th to 19th September (D. B. Hunt et al.).

(Arctic North America and north-east Asia) The third Stithians Reservoir bird and that at Bempton were considered to be probably of the Asiatic race, *P. d. fulva*, while all the others were thought to be of the American race, *P. d. dominica*. The Culdrose bird was probably one of the Stithians individuals. Exceptionally rare before 1962, the absence of this species from the autumn roll would now seem odd indeed. Six in one season sets a new level of occurrence and the grand total moves on to 38.

**Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scolopaceus**

**Cornwall**: Stithians Reservoir, two, 13th October, one to 16th November and the other to 25th March 1976 (Rev. J. E. Beckerlegge, E. Grace, K. Noble et al.) (plate 34b).

**Scilly**: St Mary’s, 5th to 12th October (D. S. Flumm, M. J. Rogers et al.).

(North America) Also one at St Ouen’s Pond, Jersey, from 20th to 24th September. It is noteworthy that three straggled west to Nova Scotia on 9th and 10th October.

**Great Snipe Gallinago media**

**Humberside**: Crabley Creek, 6th September (D. I. M. Wallace).

**Inverness**: near Drumnadrochit, 29th April (M. I. Harvey, J. Love).

**Kent**: Sevenoaks, 3rd to 15th September (J. Carter, Dr J. G. Harrison et al.).
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(North-east Europe and north-west Asia) Three in one year is above average and the total since 1958 now reaches 35. A paper detailing the differences between this species and the Snipe *G. gallinago* will appear shortly in this journal.

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda*

**Dyfed**: Dale Aerodrome, 1st September (R. Boden, J. W. and Mrs J. E. Donovan).

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, 25th September (R. A. Broad, G. J. Jobson, P. J. Roberts et al.).

(North America) The grand total moves on to 30, half of them since 1960. Aerodromes are a favoured habitat of autumn migrants in North America.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*

**Scilly**: Tresco, 12th September (W. E. Oddie).

(North America) The seventeenth ever.

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Tringa macularia*

**Dyfed/Gwynedd**: Ynys-hir, Dovey estuary, 9th October to 20th November (S. C. Madge et al.).


(North America) Only one autumn bird looks rather lonely in the recent context (though there was none at all in 1972). Even so, the breeding attempt may be seen as the product of the increasingly complex pattern of occurrence for this sandpiper since 1965.

**Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleuca*

**Norfolk**: Breydon Water, 8th to 13th September (P. R. Allard, P. J. Grant, M. J. Seago et al.).

**Scilly**: Tresco, 24th August to 3rd September (found dead on 6th) (D. B. Hunt C. McCullough et al.).

(North America) It is surprising that two of the five yellowlegs in 1975 should be of this species, usually much the rarer of the two. The grand total moves on to 21.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

**Caithness**: Wick, 20th September (S. Laybourae).

**Devon**: Teign estuary, 10th November to 6th April 1976 (R. A. Harding, R. Khan, D. M. Norman et al.).

**Gwynedd**: Pwllheli, 9th to 10th September (A. H. Morley, D. Thomas, M. C. Wainwright).

(North America) In Ireland, there were single birds at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 5th April and 10th and 14th August, and at
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Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 2nd September. Another above average showing; the grand total is now 120.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

**Norfolk:** Breydon Water, 1st June (P. R. Allard, T. E. Boulton, G. E. Dunmore *et al*.). Cley, 2nd to 4th July (P. J. Milford *et al*.).

**Shetland:** Whalsay, 20th to 21st June (W. Arthur, Dr B. Marshall, J. H. Simpson *et al*.).

(North-east Europe and Siberia) There have now been spring records of this very individual sandpiper in four consecutive years. Out of a grand total of 14 records, 11 have been since 1969. The Scottish record is the first for that country.

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*

**Berkshire:** Brimpton gravel pits, 11th October (N. Cleere).

(North America) The nineteenth ever.

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

**Lothian:** Aberlady Bay, 11th to 12th August (M. W. Fraser, R. G. Nisbet, G. L. Sandeman).

**West Glamorgan:** Whiteford Point, 31st August (M. Chown, P. G. Lansdown *et al*.).

(North America) Also one at Lough Derravaragh, Co. Westmeath, on 30th July. A poor showing, with none in England for the first time since 1969, but the grand total is now at least 54.

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

**Cleveland:** Reclamation Pond, Teessmouth, 16th August (T. Francis, G. Iceton, R. Little *et al*.).

**Dyfed:** near Kidwelly, 25th to 27th September (H. E. Grenfell, I. K. Morgan, E. J. Smith).

**Humberside:** Welton Waters, 13th to 14th July (H. O. Bunce, D. I. M. Wallace *et al*.).

(North America) Also one in Cork Harbour, Co. Cork, on 17th September. The grand total is now 129.

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

**Berkshire:** Manor Farm sewage farm, Reading, 17th to 22nd August (Z. and Z. J. Karpowicz *et al*.).

(North-east Siberia) The thirteenth ever of a once very rare bird, now appearing almost annually. Sweden's first was seen in July 1975.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

**Avon:** Chew Valley Lake, two, 1st September, one to 12th (T. R. Cleeves, A. J. Merritt, T. Nichols *et al.*); another, 20th to 22nd September (D. Buffery, A. J. Merritt *et al.*); a third individual, 26th September to 1st October (D. Buffery, J. B. O. Rossetti, K. E. Vinicombe).

**Cambridgeshire:** Grafham Water, 2nd to 30th September, two from 17th to 26th September (J. N. Dymond, R. I. Thorpe, C. E. Wells *et al.*); another, 20th to 22nd September (J. N. Dymond, R. I. Thorpe, C. E. Wells *et al.*); a third individual, 26th September to 1st October (D. Buffery, J. B. O. Rossetti, K. E. Vinicombe).

**Cheshire:** Frodsham, 20th to 22nd August (E. J. and R. J. Abraham, D. Woodward *et al.*).

**Cumbria:** Walney Island, 5th October (J. Sheldon).

**Devon:** Lundy, 8th September (C. C. Baillie, N. A. Clark, M. Rogers *et al.*); another, 29th September to 5th October (N. A. Clark, M. Rogers).

**Dorset:** Ferrybridge, 1st September (R. Hudson, C. Powell, I. S. Robertson *et al.*).

**Dyfed:** Towyn Point, Llanelli, 26th to 29th April (H. E. Grenfell, G. Harper, E. J. Smith *et al.*).

**Essex:** Hanningfield Reservoir, 1st to 17th September (J. Dunn, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*). Abberton Reservoir, 4th to 5th September (R. V. A. Marshall, R. M. Wright).

**Fife:** Tentsmuir, 7th September (A. Brown, R. H. and Mrs M. W. Hogg).

**Hampshire:** Pennington Marshes, 31st August (R. Dunn, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

**Inverness:** Longman, 3rd to 4th September (R. H. Dennis, P. M. Ellis *et al.*).

**Lincolnshire:** River Witham, Boston, 13th September (Mr and Mrs D. G. Atkin, K. Atkin).

**Lothian:** Aberlady Bay, 3rd September (M. W. Fraser, A. Mathieson). Musselburgh, two, 4th to 7th September (A. Brown, G. L. Sandeman, Dr L. L. J. Vick); another, 16th to 17th September (G. L. Sandeman, Dr L. L. J. Vick).

**Norfolk:** Cley, 15th to 20th September (F. R. Cannings *et al.*).

**Nottinghamshire:** Netherfield, 13th to 18th September (G. Andrews, A. Dobbs, J. A. Hopper *et al.*).

**Scilly:** St Mary’s, 7th to 8th September, six on 9th, seven on 10th to 11th, eight on 12 to 14th, seven on 15th (E. Griffiths, W. E. Oddie *et al.*); two, 25th to 26th September, one with injured leg remaining to 3rd October (P. J. Grant, Z. Karpowicz *et al.*); another two, 2nd October (D. B. Hunt); 10th to 12th October (D. B. Hunt *et al.*). Tresco, 9th to 10th September (B. J. Widden *et al.*). St Agnes, the injured individual, 4th to 11th October (P. J. Grant *et al.*).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis.* More were seen in 1975 than in any previous year; airports are favourite haunts.
Shetland: Sumburgh, 30th September (C. D. R. Heard, Mr and Mrs J. Wood­land).

Somerset: Cheddar Reservoir, 3rd September (B. Rabbitts).


Suffolk: Walberswick, 28th August to 5th September (G. J. Jobson, W. Urwin, C. S. Waller et al.).

Tyne and Wear: near St Mary’s Island, Whitley Bay, 20th September (J. S. Booth, J. A. Bould).

West Yorkshire: Blackmoorfoot and Deerhill Reservoirs, 28th to 29th August (J. E. Dale, M. L. Denton, G. M. Yates et al.); perhaps another, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, 15th to 17th September (F. J. Roberts et al.).

Wiltshire/Gloucestershire: Ashton Keynes, 11th September (J. G. Snowball).

(North America) In Ireland, there were at least eleven in September, with at least six at North Bull, Co. Dublin (up to four on 7th, 9th, 11th, 21st and 25th to 1st October), two at Hook Head, Co. Wexford, on 20th and three at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 21st. After only the sixth ever spring record, there was an autumn flood. A minimum of 60 birds in Britain and Ireland completely overshadowed the notable influxes of 1970, 1971 and 1973. Simultaneous first occurrences over wide areas in Britain were most obvious on 28th August, 3rd, 10th to 15th and 20th September. Northerly records were not significantly later than southerly ones—indeed, there were some in Scotland before any in Scilly—and a broad-front movement across the Atlantic is indicated. The date of the Cheshire bird looks odd: the main flight to the Maritime Provinces of north-east America did not begin until 23rd August, though flocks of up to 18 were obvious there in the last ten days of that month, and on 3rd September.

Broad-billed Sandpiper **Limicola falcinellus**

Dorset: Herbury Gore, Fleet, 18th May (C. E. Richards).

(North Eurasia) Another spring record, typical of the last four years, brings the grand total to 50.

Wilson’s Phalarope **Phalaropus tricolor**

Avon: Chew Valley Lake, 17th to 18th September (J. A. McGeoch, B. Rabbitts et al.).

Lincolnshire/Norfolk: Wisbech sewage farm, 5, 7th to 11th June (H. Mayer-Gross, J. A. W. Moyes, B. Walker et al.).

Powys: Llyn Hilyn Lake, 6th September (Mrs J. M. Bromley, K. A. Mason, A. Mountford et al.).

Shetland: Strand Loch, 9th May (F. Hunter et al.).

(North America) Also one at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, from 26th August to 6th September. A total of 73 has been seen in
Britain and Ireland in the 21 years since the first in 1954. Although unusually common in north-east America (with a major arrival there on 24th August), this wader did not join the Buff-breasted Sandpipers in a large transatlantic flight.

**Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni*

**Leicestershire**: Wanlip gravel pits, 10th to 13th August (D. Gamble, C. Towe *et al.*).

(South Russia and west Asia) The fourteenth ever and in the same month as seven others.

**Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* or *G. nordmanni*

**Suffolk**: Covehithe, 22nd August (J. Barber).

**West Sussex**: Selsey Bill, 3rd September (G. J. Barker).

A detailed review of past pratincole records, especially those pre-1958, is required.

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

**West Glamorgan**: Blackpill, the adult recorded from 28th November 1974 (*Brit. Birds*, 68: 320) was last seen on 30th March; second adult, 24th January to 24th April (R. A. Hume, K. E. Vinicombe *et al.*); third adult, 21st March (K. E. Vinicombe); fourth adult, 22nd to 25th April (D. W. Evans, K. E. Vinicombe, R. P. S. Wolsey *et al.*); first-summer, 23rd June to 22nd July (H. E. Grenfell, K. E. Vinicombe, R. P. S. Wolsey *et al.*); adult, 17th November to 16th April 1976 (P. G. Lansdown, K. E. Vinicombe *et al.*).

(North America) The remarkably acute observers of Blackpill maintained their monopoly of this gull during 1975. At least five individuals have been involved since the first in March 1973.

**Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, adult, 13th September (R. A. Broad, D. J. Buckler, D. R. Waugh *et al.*).

(North America) This individual, the second Scottish record, which takes the grand total to nine, occurred a day after a Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* on Islay and during the main influx of Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

**Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia*

**Dorset**: Christchurch Harbour, adult, 9th to 12th April (M. J. Arnold, C. I. Husband, Dr R. G. Mayall *et al.*).

**Strathclyde**: Loch Indaal, Islay, adult, 26th to 27th June (K. and Mrs A. Verrall); Claggain Bay, Islay, adult, 12th September (L. Catlin, K. Verrall).

(North America) After an absence in 1974, three is a good showing. The grand total reaches 31, 17 since 1967. Early spring records are unusual.
Ross’s Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

**Cleveland:** Seaton Carew, adult, 6th and 9th April (E. C. Gatenby, G. Iceton, D. Nelson); immature, 8th August (A. Vittery).

**Shetland:** Scalloway, immature, 19th to 29th January (D. Coutts, R. Johnson et al.).

(North-east Siberia) These three take the grand total to 15, all but two since 1958, and add to the scattered monthly occurrence pattern.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

**Avon:** Chew Valley Lake, two, 14th June (A. R. Ashman); adult, 8th to 12th August (M. W. A. Martin, A. J. Merritt, K. E. Vinicombe et al.).

**Dyfed:** Ginst Point, adult, 6th September (Drs R. C. and F. H. Milner).

**East Sussex:** Pett Pools, immature, 29th to 30th August (R. Auger, P. Ewins, N. Riddiford et al.).

**Grampian:** Meikle Loch, 25th May (M. A. Macdonald et al.).

**Greater London:** Queen Mary Reservoir, immature, 8th August (M. J. Rogers).

**Kent:** Sandwich Bay, immature, 9th August (R. Martin, D. Tutt et al.). Dungeness, immature, 16th to 28th August (N. Riddiford, A. T. M. Ruck et al.); immature, 24th September to 4th October (N. Riddiford, A. J. B. Thompson et al.).

**Norfolk:** Winterton, immature, 10th August (R. and S. Ludford, R. C. McIntyre).

**North Yorkshire:** Fairburn Ings, immature, 25th August (Dr J. D. Pickup, C. G. Varty, J. Whitehead et al.).

**South Yorkshire:** Wombwell Ings, 19th June (J. Seeviour, R. Wells et al.).

**West Sussex:** Oving gravel pits, immature, 24th to 30th August (M. J. W. Hay, R. J. Senior, J. G. Threadgold).

(South-east Europe, west and east Asia) Ireland did exceptionally well, with one at Swords estuary, Co. Dublin, on 19th to 20th August, another at South Slob, Co. Wexford, on 18th September, and three in September at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 6th and 9th to 13th (two, one staying to 21st). A return to form, after a poor showing in 1974; the grand total is now about 300, over 200 since 1963.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

**North Yorkshire:** Fairburn Ings, adult, 13th September (H. Shorrock et al.).

(South Eurasia, parts of Africa, and Australia) This single record brings the grand total to 57.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

**East Sussex:** Rye Harbour, 24th August (N. Pinder).

**Lincolnshire:** Boston Point, adult, 7th September (R. C. Broadbent, F. Butwright).

(Almost cosmopolitan, nearest breeding colony in Denmark) A poor showing, with no spring record for the first time since 1969.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

**Essex:** Colne Point, 29th June (Dr S. Cox), and Fingringhoe Wick, 1st to 2nd July (I. Pearson).

**Grampian:** Ythan estuary, 25th June (A. H. Cuthbert).

**Kent:** Reculver, 1st June (D. C. Gilbert).

**Warwickshire:** Bodymoor Heath, 6th to 11th July (R. J. Jennett, T. P. Milsom et al.).

(Almost cosmopolitan, nearest breeding colonies in Baltic) The Essex records refer to the same individual. The total since 1958 is now 78.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*

**Fife:** Isle of May, two, 11th May (J. M. S. Arnott, I. Balfour-Paul, J. H. B. Munro).

(Central Asia east to Manchuria and China) The recent rarity of this almost mythical steppe species is well known. There are only four other records for the last 67 years and the good fortune of these three observers will be widely acknowledged.

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

**Cleveland:** Redcar, trapped, 23rd to 24th September (G. VV. Follows et al.).

(North America) Only the seventh ever, and associated with a marked influx of Nearctic passerines to western Britain.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

**Shetland:** Fetlar, four on 6th February; pair and three ♂♀, 3rd April; as in 1974 (Brit. Birds, 68: 322), ♂ mated to two ♂♂, with another ♂ present on 14th May; one ♂ laid three eggs, but these were abandoned; second ♂ laid six eggs, four hatched, and all young successfully fledged; during August, in addition to the pair and four young, there were two ♂♂ present; one ♂ seen on 27th September (R. J. Tulloch et al.). Unst, Lund, 13th March (per R. J. Tulloch); Stourhoull, ♂, 8th May (J. and C. Whyte); Hermaness, 12th May (per M. Sinclair); Burrafirth, 6th June (per M. Sinclair); Lund, ♂, 10th to 12th, 15th and 21st June, 9th July, 14th to 15th August, and at Hellicers Water, 26th and 31st October (I. Spence et al.). North Roe, 2nd February (A. Inkster). Whalsay, 19th to 20th April (J. H. Simpson). Foula, late May (per J. G. Holbourn). Ronas Hill, 16th July (R. Ashcroft).

**Western Isles:** St Kilda, ♂, 26th May (H. Brown et al.).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Once again, only one certain vagrant away from Shetland. We hear of others wintering, notably in Grampian, but alas we see no documentation of them.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

**Devon:** Dawlish Warren, 4th October (V. B. and Mrs M. A. Hicks).

**Greater London:** Staines Reservoir, 19th September (V. R. Leclercq, W. McCubbin et al.).
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Lincolnshire: Donna Nook, 20th July (B. and Mrs S. Leflay).

Norfolk: Salthouse Heath, 19th June (J. P. Guest et al.).

Oxfordshire: Cholsey, 14th July (A. W. Williams).

(South Eurasia, north-west and east Africa) The total since 1958 is now about 111. Three in July is unusual.

Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Dorset: West Milton, 16th to 21st June (Mr and Mrs A. Dale, Mr Harris).

Dumfries and Galloway: Ae Forest, 18th June (M. Marquiss, D. Moss).

(South and east Europe, west Asia and north-west Africa) These two bring the total to 45 since 1958.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*

Scilly: Tresco, immature ♀, 26th September to 6th October (D. B. Hunt et al.).

(North America) Still under consideration by the BOU Records Committee. Although recorded in Iceland, it is odd that this species should be the first Nearctic woodpecker safely to reach a tree in Britain. The more robust Yellow-shafted Flicker *Colaptes auratus* has long seemed a better bet: see *Brit. Birds*, 56: 157-164.

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

Scilly: St Mary’s, 24th to 27th October (D. S. Flumm et al.).

(Caucasus and south-west Asia) Only the second record here of this relative of the Calandra Lark *M. calandra*. The first appeared on Lundy, Devon, in May 1962 (*Brit. Birds*, 58: 309-312).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

Gwynedd: Bardsey, 17th to 19th October (P. E. Davis, D. A. Henshilwood, P. Hope Jones et al.); probably another, 28th October (D. A. Henshilwood).

Norfolk: Holme, 27th October to 16th November (P. R. Clarke, G. Walbridge et al.).

Scilly: St Mary’s, 13th to 21st September, two, 22nd to 24th, three, 25th to 29th, four, 30th to 7th October (W. E. Oddie, G. Summers, G. G. Williams et al.); two, apparently different individuals, 16th to 18th October (P. J. Grant, J. A. Hazell et al.); 25th October to 4th November, another, 1st to 8th November (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood, D. B. Hunt). St Martin’s, 3rd to 17th October (D. S. Flumm, P. J. Grant, R. V. A. Marshall et al.). Tresco, 12th October (B. Bland, J. N. Dymond et al.).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 20th to 26th April (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts et al.); probably another, 4th to 9th May (R. A. Broad, T. Nisbet et al.); 21st to 27th September (R. A. Broad, P. G. Lansdown, P. J. Roberts et al.); two, 8th to 9th October, one to 14th (R. A. Broad, A. R. Lowe, P. J. Roberts et al.). Whalsay, 4th to 5th October (Dr B. Marshall, J. H. Simpson); 19th to 20th October (J. H. Simpson).
Suffolk: Walberswick, 7th September (A. M. Cage, C. Cuthbert, C. S. Waller et al.).

(South Eurasia, north and east Africa) The best ever showing of this engaging small lark. The total of at least 20 individuals (18 in autumn) is twice the average of the last eight years. The grand total is now about 150.

Crested Lark Galerida cristata

Kent: Dungeness, 28th September to 1st October (P. J. Grant, P. S. Redman, N. Riddiford et al.).

(Continental Europe south from Baltic, south Asia, north-west and upland equatorial Africa) This, the first record since 1972, takes the grand total to 18. This very sedentary lark clearly flinches from a Channel crossing.

Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica

Dorset: Radipole Lake, 22nd to 25th May (P. Foster, Dr N. R. Rogers, R. Wolfenden et al.).


Kent: Stodmarsh, 11th May (G. J. Hinchon, J. N. Hollyer, T. J. Lawrence).

(South and east Eurasia, and Africa) The grand total is now 41.

Dusky Thrush Turdus naumanni

Shetland: Firth, 6th to 13th November (D. Coutts, B. P. Walker et al.).

(Northern and central Siberia) The fifth ever, and the fourth since 1958.

Black-throated Thrush Turdus ruficollis

Norfolk: Holkham, immature, 21st to 24th October (Miss W. U. Flower, D. G. Wright et al.).

(Central Asia) Scores of observers are indebted to the two named above for a sight of this splendid thrush, only the fifth to reach Britain. It was remarkably tolerant of the human beings who surrounded its favourite bramble patch.
**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*

**Western Isles:** St Kilda, 14th to 15th February (C. Brown *et al.*).

(North America) The grand total is now at least 13, ten of them in the months November to February.

**White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*

**Shetland:** Whalsay, 11th October (J. H. Simpson).

(Central, east and south-east Asia and Australia) Although only the seventh since 1958, it would have been surprising if this classic Asian vagrant had not reached Britain during the astonishing autumn of 1975.

**Hermit Thrush** *Hylocichla guttata*

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 2nd June (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts, S. Rumsey *et al.*).

(North America) The first for Britain and Ireland. Previous records of this genus in Europe have been concentrated in late autumn, but an Olive-backed Thrush *H. ustulata* reached Co. Mayo, Ireland, in May 1956.

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

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, ♂, 14th June (A. Barber, L. Mulford, I. S. Robertson *et al.*).

**Norfolk:** Cley, ♂, 13th May (P. Tate). Holme, ♂, 2nd to 21st June (H. Ramsay *et al.*).

(South Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) Three overshooting males (a close repeat of the 1974 occurrences) take the grand total to 31.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Stonechats showing the characters of one or other of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri*, colloquially known as Siberian Stonechats, were recorded as follows:

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, 24th October (D. J. Fisher, S. J. M. Gantlett, I. S. Robertson *et al.*).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 10th to 17th October (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts *et al.*).

**Northumberland:** Holy Island, 18th October (R. G. Lewis, T. R. Palmer).

(Eastwards from north-east Russia) These three take the grand total to 17. A review of the British status and the field characters of this group is in preparation.

**Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*

**Fife:** Isle of May, immature, trapped, 14th October (I. Balfour-Paul, J. H. B. Munro, G. L. Sandeman).
(North-east Europe, across Asia to Japan) One of the autumn’s highlights and the sixth ever. We wonder how many others skulked undetected in the cover of Britain’s east coast.

**Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus**

**Norfolk:** Heacham, adult ♂, showing the characters of the distinctive subspecies *P. p. samamisicus*, colloquially known as Ehrenberg’s Redstart, 26th October (G. M. S. Easy, C. A. E. Kirtland, R. C. Mansfield).

(South Russia, through Asia Minor to Iran) The first record here of this beautiful race, which is characterised by a blaze of white on the wing, recalling the adult male Black Redstart *P. ochruros*.

**Thrush Nightingale Luscinia luscinia**

**Fife:** Isle of May, trapped, 31st May to 6th June (H. Galbraith, Dr M. P. Harris, M. Sutherland).

**Western Isles:** St Kilda, trapped, 29th to 30th May (Dr M. P. Harris).

(Scandinavia, east Europe and west Asia) Two more overshooting adults, the latter only just avoiding the North Atlantic; the grand total is now 28.

**Siberian Rubythroat Luscinia calliope**

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, trapped, 9th to 11th October (R. A. Broad, A. R. Lowe, P. J. Roberts *et al.*).

(Siberia) Still under consideration by the BOU Records Committee. Long hoped for, this longer-legged relation of the Blue-throat *L. svecica* (surprisingly, relatively uncommon in 1975) reached Britain at last. There are old records for France and Italy. It should be noted that its close relative, the Himalayan Rubythroat *L. pectoralis*, is imported as a cage-bird. It may also be noted here that a Siberian Blue Robin *L. cyane* was trapped on Sark, Channel Islands, on 27th October.

**Cetti’s Warbler Cettia cetti**

**Avon:** Chew Valley Lake, ♀, trapped, 25th February to 20th April (R. H. Creighton *et al.*).

**Berkshire:** Wraysbury, pair, 18th July (C. F. Tydeman). Thatcham, trapped, 19th October to 26th December (R. Crockford *et al.*).

**Cornwall:** Marazion Marsh, 20th September (Dr M. A. Cotton, H. A. Dean, A. R. Kitson *et al.*).

**Devon:** southern locality (not one of following sites), pair bred, successfully rearing at least two young, 24th May to at least 21st September (R. M. Belringer, M. R. Edmonds, D. G. Warman *et al.*). South Milton Ley, four trapped, 29th to 30th November, 7th, 8th and 16th December (R. Burridge, R. F. A. Resource). Slapton Ley, the individual first recorded on 19th November 1974 (*Brit. Birds*, 68: 325) remained to 13th April, and a second was present during January to
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April; one during August and two singing during October; eight singing birds from late December into 1976 (R. M. Belringer, M. R. Edmonds et al.).


**East Sussex**: Beachy Head, trapped, 3rd May (R. H. and Mrs M. E. Charlwood). Lutlington, 16th to 19th September (P. J. Wilson).

**Hampshire**: Itchen Navigation, Eastleigh, 19th to 22nd February (S. Buckland, S. N. Delany).

**Hertfordshire**: River Colne, ♂, trapped, 14th December remained until 9th January 1976 (N. R. Jones et al.).

**Kent**: Stour Valley and area, about 60 singing males during the breeding season, with nesting proved at several sites. Sandwich Bay, 20th April (A. T. M. Ruck); 1st June (D. M. Batchelor). Dungeness, ♂, trapped, 14th October (H. A. R. Cawkell, N. Riddiford et al.); 4th to 6th November (T. P. Inskipp). Burham, Maidstone, 26th October (A. M. Woodcock). A north-western locality, ♂, 20th to 25th May (observer's name withheld).

**Norfolk**: Yare Valley, 12 singing males during the breeding season, with several records of proved nesting. Bure Valley, one singing male during the breeding season (G. E. Dunmore, R. Martins et al.).

**Shropshire**: locality withheld, 14th to 27th December (R. Stokes).

**Suffolk**: Minsmere, 8th March (per H. E. Axell).

**West Midlands**: Edgbaston Park, Birmingham, ♂, 2nd May to 12th July, trapped on 17th May (S. Bingham).

**West Sussex**: locality withheld, pair bred successfully, April to August (R. S. Cragg, D. C. Geoghegan et al.).

(South and west Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) Also one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 8th October. With yet another mild winter in the series since 1962/63, this colonising species appears to be rapidly consolidating its position, with breeding proved in four southern English counties.

**Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata*

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, three, two trapped, 11th October, one remaining to 14th, a fourth on 14th (R. A. Broad, S. G. Cook, A. R. Lowe et al.).

(East Eurasia from central Russia to north Japan) The text comment on this species following the 1973 records (Brit. Birds, 67: 332) has been corrected by Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (Brit. Birds, 69: 109-110). These four, constituting the first multiple arrival, take the grand total to 19.

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

**Cornwall**: Marazion Marsh, ♂, 14th to 24th May (T. J. S. Pinfield, H. P. K. Robinson, L. P. Williams et al.).

**Dorset**: Eyebriidge, Wimborne, ♂, 9th to 18th May (D. J. and K. M. Godfrey et al.). Wareham, ♂, 30th May (C. J. Bibby).

**Kent**: Stodmarsh, ♂, 22nd April, and subsequently one pair which reared four
young, and one unmated (P. J. Mountford et al.). Westbere, 3, 4th May (D. B. Rosaid).

(Europe, west and central Asia and north-west Africa) It is sad to see that this species failed to reappear in Suffolk, after breeding in the five years 1970-74. These records from only three counties are in striking contrast to those of Cetti’s Warblers Cettia cetti.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

**Hampshire:** Fleet Pond, 3, 20th May to 1st June (S. J. M. Gantlett et al.).

**Merseyside:** Red Rocks, 3, trapped, 17th to 19th May (E. J. Abraham, C. Jones, D. Woodward et al.).

(Europe and west-central Asia) As in 1974, two records of this robust, loud-singing reed warbler were welcome, but, like the last species, it is not fulfilling the promise of its comparative abundance in the 1960’s.

**Blyth’s Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

**North Yorkshire:** Filey Brigg, 30th August (R. H. Appleby, C. R. Clark).

(North-east Europe, across Asia to Mongolia) The difficulty of identification may well be obscuring the true status here. This individual and one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, in October 1969 (Brit. Birds, 63: 214-216) constitute the only accepted records since 1928.

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*

**Cheshire:** Frodsham, 31st August to 12th September (R. Arrowsmith, Dr J. A. Eyre, C. R. Linfoot et al.).

**Cornwall:** Marazion Marsh, six immatures—three, two trapped, on 26th August, one trapped on 5th September, one on 17th to 18th September, and one on 21st to 26th September, trapped on 22nd (R. B. Hastings, P. D. Round, V. R. Tucker et al.). St. Ives, 15th to 20th September (E. Griffiths et al.).

**Dorset:** Wick Hams, Christchurch, six immatures trapped—7th August, 10th, two on 14th, 18th and 19th (R. G. Booth, S. E. Christmas, C. I. Husband et al.). Radipole Lake, eleven immatures trapped—three on 11th August, 15th, 19th and 21st, two on 2nd September, two on 3rd, and 4th to 6th (G. R. M. Pepler et al.).

**East Sussex:** Litlington, 30th August (P. J. Wilson).

**Humberside:** Spurn Point, trapped, 9th to 11th August (J. Cudworth, C. Masingham, B. R. Spence et al.).

**Kent:** Dungeness, 2nd September (Rev. H. M. Hill); 10th to 14th September (F. Lockwood, W. Spencer).

**Mid-Glamorgan:** Kenfig Pool, 17th August (P. G. and Mrs G. M. Lansdown).

**Norfolk:** Blakeney Point, 5th to 6th September (D. J. Holman et al.).

**Powys:** Llangorse Lake, immature trapped, 17th August (M. V. Preece, P. D. Rose et al.).

**Scilly:** St Mary’s, 26th September (C. R. Ireland).
Shetland: Fair Isle, two immatures trapped, 9th to 10th August and 18th August (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts, D. Willis et al.).

Somerset: Steart, eleven immatures, ten of them trapped—two on 9th August, two on 11th, 15th, 18th, 23rd, two on 28th, one remaining to 29th, and 13th September (A. W. Evans), and an unringed individual on 29th August (B. Rabbitts).

(East Europe and west Asia) This total of 46 is three times the number reported in 1974 and is on a par with those of 1972 and 1973. The grand total is now over 360, almost two-thirds of them since 1968.

Subalpine Warbler Sylvia cantillans

Cleveland: Hartlepool, ♂, 8th May (M. A. Blick, W. E. Fletcher et al.).

Cornwall: Porthgwarra, ♂, 18th May (J. Johns, H. P. K. Robinson et al.).


Shetland: Fair Isle, ♂, trapped, 9th May (R. A. Broad, D. J. Frost et al.); ♂ and ♀, both trapped, 8th June, ♂ remaining to 10th (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts et al.).

(South-west Europe, Middle East and north-west Africa) Six make up the largest spring influx on record of this classic overshooting passerine, and take the grand total to 58.

Desert Warbler Sylvia nana

Essex: Frinton-on-Sea, 20th to 21st November (Miss P. Harris, J. K. and Mrs D. J. Weston et al.).

Humberside: Spurn Point, trapped, 20th to 24th October (I. Corbett, M. Mills, B. R. Spence et al.).

(Middle East, central Asia and north-west Sahara) Both of the nominate Asiatic race, these are the second and third ever. The Spurn bird frequented a pile of bricks and roosted in an isolated buckthorn near a sandy beach, a biotope with some resemblance to its native habitat; similarly, the Frinton bird favoured low vegetation along a concrete sea-wall. There was one in Finland on 17th October.

Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides

Dorset: Portland Bill, immature, trapped, 5th September (J. Guest, I. S. Robertson et al.); 13th September (R. J. Johns, I. S. Robertson et al.).


Kent: Dungeness, singing ♂, 6th June (N. Riddiford, A. T. M. Ruck); immature, trapped, 20th September (P. W. Burness, P. J. Grant, N. Riddiford et al.).

Man: Calf of Man, singing ♂, 7th June (W. G. Dye, R. J. Haycock, P. Pratey).

(Eurasia east from north-east Germany) The geographical spread of the early June influx of singing males was unprecedented; it recalls the influx that led to breeding in Sweden in the 1950’s. The total moves on to 103. It should be noted that the identification
of this species (liable to confusion with the Arctic Warbler \textit{P. borealis} and various eastern races of the Chiffchaff \textit{P. collybita}) is still worrying the committee.

**Bonelli's Warbler** \textit{Phylloscopus bonelli}

**Berkshire:** Small Mead Farm gravel pit, Reading, 23rd August (M. Coath, C. J. Mackenzie-Grieve \textit{et al.}).

**Dorset:** Hengistbury Head, singing $\delta$, 31st May (T. J. Christmas, C. I. Husband, G. R. Sherwood).

**Scilly:** St Mary's, 7th May (R. W. Allen, D. B. Hunt). St Agnes, 2nd September (Dr P. H. Smith).

(Central, west and south Europe, Levant and north-west Africa) Four in one year is more than usual. The grand total is now 40, all since 1948.

**Arctic Warbler** \textit{Phylloscopus borealis}

**Fife:** Isle of May, trapped, 6th September (P. N. J. Clark, D. W. Oliver, H. D. Smith \textit{et al.}).

**Norfolk:** Titchwell, trapped, 5th July (P. R. Clarke, J. Reynolds).

**Scilly:** St Agnes, 23rd September, another on 24th, both remaining until 27th (Z. Karpowicz, P. Naylor, G. Summers \textit{et al.}).

(North-east Europe, north Asia and Alaska) The Norfolk individual was the earliest ever by a clear month. The grand total moves on to 84.

**Pallas's Warbler** \textit{Phylloscopus proregulus}

**Cornwall:** Porthgwarra, 1st November (G. S. Gay, B. K. Mellow \textit{et al.}).

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, immature, trapped, 29th to 31st October (S. J. M. Gantlett, I. S. Robertson \textit{et al.}). East Weare, Portland, 1st November, perhaps the Portland Bill individual (C. E. Richards).

**East Sussex:** Beachy Head, 2nd November (J. F. Cooper, D. A. and T. W. Parmenter \textit{et al.}).

**Fife:** Isle of May, 21st October (M. W. Fraser, S. R. D. da Prato \textit{et al.}).

**Gwynedd:** Bardsey, trapped, 7th November (D. A. Henshilwood, A. W. and Mrs E. J. Strick).

**Humberside:** Flamborough Head, two, 10th November (P. A. Lassey, H. Smith, D. I. M. Wallace). Spurn Point, three, all trapped, 14th to 17th, 18th, and 19th to 22nd October (D. Okill, B. R. Spence \textit{et al.}).

**Kent:** Dungeness, trapped, 21st October (T. P. Inskipp, N. Riddiford \textit{et al.}). Sandwich Bay, trapped, 11th October, another trapped, 12th, both to 13th, one to 15th, another on 15th, a fourth individual, trapped, on 24th (J. N. Hollyer, M. R. Lawn, M. Sutherland \textit{et al.}).

**Lincolnshire:** Saltfleetby, 16th October (R. H. Higgins, C. L. Ottoway). Gibraltar Point, 19th to 22nd October (K. Atkin, M. Mellor, A. G. Parker \textit{et al.}).

**Norfolk:** Holkham, 11th to 14th October, two on 15th (F. K. Cobb, J. C. Eaton, S. C. Joyner \textit{et al.}). Happisburgh, trapped, 17th October (Mrs B. M. F. Unsworth). Scolt Head Island, 17th October (J. D. Brown).
Northumberland: Farne Islands, 19th October (P. Hawkey, I. J. Proctor, C. Watts et al.). Low Hauxley, 13th to 16th November (B. Little, E. R. Meek, A. M. Taylor et al.).

North Yorkshire: Scarborough, 15th November (R. H. Appleby).

Scilly: St Mary’s, 17th October (P. J. Grant, G. and A. May et al.); perhaps the same individual, 20th to 22nd and 24th (D. S. Flumm, G. J. Hinchon et al.).

Shetland: Fair Isle, 10th to 11th October (R. A. Broad, A. R. Lowe, Dr B. Marshall et al.).

Tayside: Killilochan, Loch Rannoch, 15th October (W. D. Campbell).

(Central, east and south-east Asia) Although no longer to be classed as one of the rarest vagrant passerines, this species is still perhaps one of the most attractive. The influx of about 28 in 1975 was the largest ever and it gained much by being set among a three-figure flood of Yellow-browed Warblers P. inornatus. For seven splendid weeks, the east coast woods were full of these two delightful, tiny warblers. The Tayside bird had penetrated Britain deeper than any other; the tendency towards generally earlier arrival continues. The grand total leaps to 89; yet there were only four before the 1960’s.

Dusky Warbler Phylloscopus fuscatus

Norfolk: Wells, 14th to 16th October (G. B. Brown, S. C. Joyner, N. Williams et al.). Blakeney Point, 18th October (G. E. Dunmore et al.).

(Central and north-east to south-east Asia) These two take the grand total to 18. As befits this cover-seeking, ground-feeding Phylloscopus, they left behind a long trail of frustrated would-be observers.

Radde’s Warbler Phylloscopus schwarzi


(Central and east Asia) This trio takes the grand total to 17. The dates are typical.

Collared Flycatcher Ficedula albicollis


(Central and south-east Europe, west Russia and south to Iran) All but one of the previous six were also in spring. The Out Skerries clearly attract goodies.

Tawny Pipit Anthus campestris

Dyfed: Skomer, two, 8th October (J. E. and Mrs H. M. Davis).

Lincolnshire: Tetney Haven, 15th October (A. Parker).

Scilly: St Mary’s, adult, 3rd to 13th October (J. A. Hazell, J. A. Lucas et al.); immature, 7th October (D. Page et al.); perhaps another adult, 10th October (D. I. M. Wallace).

Surrey: Cleygate Common, Pirbright, 23rd March (J. R. Mullins).

(Europe, south Asia and north-west Africa) Not every rarity was commoner than usual in 1975: this is the smallest total of this species since 1968. The Surrey individual was the earliest ever in spring.

**Olive-backed Pipit Anthus hodgsoni**

Norfolk: Wells, 10th October (S. C. Joyner, N. Williams).

(North-east Russia, central and east Asia) The fifth British record; note the simultaneous arrival with the next two species.

**Pechora Pipit Anthus gustavi**

Shetland: Fair Isle, 10th October (R. A. Broad, S. G. D. Cook, A. R. Lowe et al.).

Suffolk: Minsmere, 27th April (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace et al.).

(North-east Russia, central and east Asia) The Suffolk individual was the first ever in spring. The grand total is now at least 21.

**Red-throated Pipit Anthus cervinus**

Scilly: St Agnes, 27th April (J. R. H. Clements, R. E. Turley). St Mary’s, 10th to 11th October (D. J. Holman et al.); another, 16th October (J. N. Dymond, P. J. Grant, D. J. Holman et al.).

Shetland: Fair Isle, two, 24th to 25th May, three, 26th, one staying to 27th, one to 28th and one to 31st (R. A. Broad, H. Nash, D. Woodward et al.); 4th June (H. Nash); 8th to 17th September (R. A. Broad, G. Walbridge, S. Whitehouse et al.); 20th to 25th September (V. A. Lister et al.); another, 26th to 27th September (D. Willis et al.). Out Skerries, 14th to 18th September (D. J. Fisher, C. A. Harbard, T. A. Walsh et al.).

Strathclyde: Tobermory, Mull, 7th May (R. Coomber).

(Arctic Eurasia) Also one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 8th October. It should be remembered that this pipit winters as far west as Morocco. Astonishingly, the Irish individual and one Little Bunting Emberiza pusilla were the only major rarities of probable eastern origin west of Scilly. The total of 13 was the highest ever, and takes the grand total to 100.

**Citrine Wagtail Motacilla citreola**

Shetland: Fair Isle, immature, 7th to 18th September (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts et al.).

(East European Russia and west-central Asia). The grand total is now 21 in 21 years.
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**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*

**Dyfed:** Ferryside, adult, 13th October (P. Bond).

**Norfolk:** Holme, adult, 25th October to 4th November (P. R. Clarke et al.).

**Northumberland:** Elwick, adult ♂, found dead, 20th September (D. O’Connor).

(South and east Europe and south-west Asia) Three is about average and takes the grand total to 96.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*


**Dyfed:** Skomer, 24th to 25th May (J. E. Davis et al.); 7th June (T. R. Birkhead, P. Chard).

**Scilly:** St Mary’s, adult, 9th October (R. V. A. Marshall, Miss S. Vere Benson); immature, 10th October (G. Clark, W. E. Fletcher, D. J. Holman).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, immature, 13th to 20th August (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts, D. Willis et al.).

(West and central Europe, south-west Asia and north-west Africa) Eight is below par, but, in the general context of the spring of 1975, a low showing is not surprising.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

Individuals showing the characters of one of the *isabellinus* group of red-tailed races were recorded as follows:

**Norfolk:** Holkham, 12th to 13th October (G. B. Brown, S. C. Joyner, R. Martins et al.).

**West Sussex:** Sidlesham, 1st March to 20th April (P. Clement, J. G. Threadgold et al.) (plate 35a).

(South Asia, across to China) The sixth and seventh ever of one of these distinctive races. Earlier records were in September, October and, once, May. The Sussex individual is considered likely to have been an escape from captivity.

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

**Berkshire:** Purley, Reading, adult, 14th to 16th July (N. J. Bucknall, Mr and Mrs Jones).

**Dyfed:** Ystumtuen, Devil’s Bridge, adult, 25th to 26th July (Rev and Mrs R. J. Blakeway-Phillips).

**Lochaber:** Fort William, adult, 28th to 29th August (R. M. Morrison).

**Norfolk:** Winterton, adult, 31st July (A. Boote).

**North Yorkshire:** Hutton Rudby, Yarm, adult, 31st August (P. and Mrs T. N. Gilbert).

**Orkney:** Finstown, adult, 17th to 26th July (D. Lea, E. J. Williams et al.).

**Scilly:** St Martin’s, immature, 3rd to 6th October (M. Coath, P. J. Grant, D. I. M. Wallace et al.). St Mary’s, immature, 13th to 17th October (M. A. Blick, D. B. Hunt et al.).
Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (immature) and Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, adult, 28th July to 16th August (Mrs J. A. Broad, Miss A. Shearer et al.).

**Somerset**: Minehead, adult, 2nd November and 9th December (Mrs J. Harding, F. Porter).

**Sutherland**: Islay, Kinlochbervie, adult, 14th July (C. and J. Waltho et al.).

**Tyne and Wear**: East Boldon, adult, 12th July (R. Adams).

(South-east Europe and south-west Asia) The total of 12 is more than twice the average (and it is likely that there are at least two others worthy of submission). Most past records have been in June to September, but the July influx of seven adults was noticeably widespread and the most striking of recent years.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*


(North America) The eighth record; all have been in Ireland or western Britain.

**Black-and-White Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*

**Scilly**: St Mary's, 27th to 30th September (M. Coath, A. Holliman, R. B. H. Smith et al.).

(North America) Forty years after the first (in Shetland in October 1936), this extraordinarily patterned bird gave hours of delight to many observers for four days, but hours of agony to those who searched for it in October.

**Tennessee Warbler** *Vermivora peregrina*

**Shetland**: Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 6th to 18th September (R. A. Broad, C. D. Heard, G. Walbridge et al.); immature, trapped, 24th September (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts et al.).

(North America) Still under consideration by the BOU Records Committee. The first and second records in Britain and Ireland. This species has spread to north-east Siberia, where it overlaps with the somewhat similar Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*.
Rare birds in Great Britain 1975

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*

**Scilly:** St Agnes, 19th to 20th October (P. W. Burness, G. J. Jobson, D. B. Rosair *et al.*); considered the same individual, 31st October to 1st November (R. J. Burness, A. P. Goddard, M. A. Hollingworth *et al.*).

(North America) Only the fourth record of this species, which is abundant on autumn passage in east America and might be expected to reach Europe more often. Perhaps associated with this record was a Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* at St Brelade’s Bay, Jersey, in mid-October.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

**Scilly:** St Mary’s, 9th October (P. J. Grant, D. J. Holman, K. C. Osborne *et al.*) (plate 35b).

**Shetland:** Out Skerries, 18th September (C. A. Harbard, I. Sandison, T. A. Walsh *et al.*).

(North America) Only the fourth and fifth records of this strange grassland passerine.

Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*

**Orkney:** North Ronaldsay, immature, trapped, 15th October (J. M. B. King).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 14th to 15th November (R. A. Broad).

In addition, sight records of redpolls showing the characters of *A. hornemanni* were reported as follows:

**Humberside:** Flamborough Head, 11th October (P. A. Lassey, I. Smith). Spurn Point, 21st October (D. I. M. Wallace).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, two on 9th to 10th October, three on 11th to 12th, one remaining to 18th (R. A. Broad, A. R. Lowe, Dr B. Marshall *et al.*).

(Circumpolar Arctic) Our publication of records of this species is open to criticism. It is not our task, however, to define genetic purity and, as in 1972, these records should be seen in the context of a heavy autumn passage of Mealy Redpolls *A. f. flammea*. Several flocks of the latter contained the apparent hybrids that so cloud the issue, but seven or so of those listed here showed the typical ‘ghostly’ appearance of Arctic Redpolls.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

**Cornwall:** Porthgwarra, 26th October (P. D. Round).

**Devon:** Lundy, 3rd November (M. and Mrs W. Rogers).

**Dorset:** Southwell, Portland, two ♂♂, one ♀, 19th to 20th April (P. A. Dukes, N. Marshall, I. S. Robertson *et al.*). East Weare, Portland, two ♀♀, 10th May (C. E. Richards). Portland Bill, 4th December (F. R. Clifton, I. S. Robertson).

**Dyfed:** Ynys-hir, Dovey estuary, 28th October (S. C. Madge).

**East Sussex:** Cuckmere Haven, 26th April (D. S. Flumm). Beachy Head, ♀, 15th April (R. H. Charlwood); 11th May (M. J. Rogers).

**Kent:** Dungeness, ♀, 11th May (D. L. Davenport, M. A. Hollingworth, R. E. Turley *et al.*).
Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

**Devon:** Lundy, 10th to 20th May and, presumably the same individual, singing ♂ in 'brown' plumage, trapped, 1st June (C. C. Baillie, I. G. Black, A. M. Taylor *et al.*); immature, trapped, 17th September to 10th October (C. C. Baillie, N. A. Clark, M. Rogers *et al.*).

**Humbertside:** Kilnsea, 18th to 19th October (C. D. R. Heard).

**Norfolk:** Holkham, 29th August (D. M. Williams)

**Orkney:** Copinsay, 4th August (M. A. S. Beaman, G. G. Bunting).

**Scilly:** St Agnes, 29th September (M. Brazil, P. A. Dukes, P. Nichols).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, at least 13 individuals (of which two trapped) during autumn, all immature or ♀—15th August, 31st August to 6th September, four on 7th, three to 10th, one to 11th, 17th to 18th, two on 20th, one to 24th, two on 25th to 27th, one to 30th, 10th October, 20th to 24th October (R. A. Broad *et al.*). Fetlar, 28th August (H. Prendergast, M. C. Robinson). Out Skerries, eight individuals during autumn, all immature or ♀—four on 24th August, two on 7th September, 8th to 9th, 12th to 14th September (D. J. Fisher, C. A. Harbard, T. A. Walsh *et al.*). Whalsay, 3rd September (J. H. Simpson). Grutness, 29th September to 1st October (P. Rock, Mr and Mrs J. Woodland). Uyeasound, Unst, 26th to 28th August (I. K. Saunders, I. Spence).

(East Europe and across Asia, and east Turkey to Himalayas)
About 30 is a lower score than in 1973 (40) or 1974 (35), but the trend away from its former extreme rarity and localisation at Fair Isle remains pronounced. Even so, it is puzzling that the autumn of 1975 did not produce a bumper crop. The total since 1958 has now passed 310.

**Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator*

**Northumberland:** Holy Island, ♀, 11th to 12th May (R. Crabb, E. R. Meek *et al.*).

(Scandinavia, across Asia, and North America) This fine, northern finch was one of the surprises of the year. All but one of the eight previous records were in autumn.

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

**Norfolk:** Sandringham, ♀, 16th February (J. Campton, G. Parker).

(Northern Eurasia and North America) Another winter male brings the grand total to over 60, but the species remains a true rarity.
Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

**Scilly:** Tresco, immature ♂, 28th September to 3rd October (R. E. Alderton, G. C. Hearl et al.).

(North America) Only the second record; the first was also on the Isles of Scilly.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephala*

**Dorset:** Southwell, Portland, ♂, 15th April (G. Walbridge).

(Eastern Russia, across Asia to Sakhalin) Only the fourth ever; an isolated occurrence that is difficult to relate to those of other species. Immatures closely resemble young Yellowhammers *E. citrinella*—sometimes regarded as conspecific—and are, therefore, perhaps overlooked.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, ♂, 26th May (I. S. Robertson, G. Walbridge et al.).

**Shetland:** Out Skerries, ♂, 22nd to 29th August (G. Armstrong, D. J. Fisher, Dr B. Marshall et al.).

(South-east Europe and south-west Asia) These two take the grand total to about 40.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

**Humberside:** Spurn Point, ♂, 14th to 15th June (J. Cudworth, Mr and Mrs C. Massingham et al.).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 7th to 18th September, another 17th to 18th September (R. A. Broad, P. Kennerley, G. Walbridge et al.).

(North-east Europe and north Asia) Three is fewer than in the last few years, but the Spurn individual was the first ever in spring: apart from an old July record, all others have been in August to October. The grand total is now 56.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

**Cleveland:** Redcar, 9th to 10th May (M. A. Blick, C. D. R. Heard, H. Mitchell et al.).

**Dyfed:** Skokholm, ♂, trapped, 6th to 7th June (M. de L. Brooke, A. B. Heath et al.).

**Fife:** Isle of May, immature ♀, trapped, 30th September to 6th October (N. K. Atkinson, D. L. Bell, M. Nichol et al.).

**Lincolnshire:** Gibraltar Point, ♂, 11th May (A. O. Aitken, K. Knowles).

**Norfolk:** Cley, 18th October (A. J. L. Smith et al.); another, ♂, 19th to 22nd October (R. J. Johns, A. J. L. Smith, D. I. M. Wallace et al.).

**Northumberland:** Blyth, 15th to 16th October (B. Galloway, B. Little, E. R. Meek et al.).

**Scilly:** St Martin's, 5th October (J. East, P. J. Grant et al.). St Mary's, immature ♂, 31st October (D. B. Hunt).

(North-east Europe and north Asia) Unlike the Yellow-breasted Bunting *E. aureola*, with similar origins, this species occurred in record numbers. With seven in spring and eight in autumn, the grand total moves on to 103. This species is being increasingly noted as an autumn migrant in Sweden.

**Yellow-browed Bunting** *Emberiza chrysophrys*

**Norfolk:** Holkham, 19th October (D. J. Holman, J. Kemp, M. Parker).

(North-east Asia and east China) Still under consideration by the BOU Records Committee. This remarkable occurrence is the first for Britain and Ireland, although there are old records for both Belgium and France. The date is coincident with many of the other extreme rarities from the east.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

**Devon:** Lundy, 12th to 13th October (N. A. Clark, M. Rogers).

**Northumberland:** Holy Island, three, 23rd to 26th September (S. Anderson, T. Cadwallender, Prof. J. D. Craggs); two, 26th October (P. G. Williams, B. and L. Tollit).

**Ross and Cromarty:** Dingwall, trapped, 16th to 17th November (A. R. Mainwood et al.).

**Scilly:** St Martin’s, 6th October (G. J. Hinchon, K. C. Osborne, D. Willis et al.).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, 4th to 5th May (R. A. Broad, S. Holmes, P. J. Roberts et al.); 17th May (R. A. Broad, P. J. Roberts); 29th September to 1st October (R. A. Broad, C. D. Heard, C. J. Mackenzie-Grieve et al.); two, 10th to 16th October, one to 25th, trapped on 24th (R. A. Broad, A. R. Lowe, Dr B. Marshall et al.); 11th to 19th November (R. A. Broad).

(North-east Europe and north Asia) Also one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 7th-11th October. Two in spring and 13 in autumn match the pattern of the previous species and, together, give the highest total in any one year. Mainland records are always indicative of an unusual passage. The grand total is now about 193.

**Slate-coloured Junco** *Junco hyemalis*

**Gloucestershire:** Haresfield, 1st to 12th April (A. Richardson, R. S. Warren, G. L. Webber et al.).

**Gwynedd:** Bardsey, trapped, 25th April to 3rd May (D. Hardaker, D. A. Henshilwood, Mrs E. J. Strick et al.).

(North America) These two bring the total to seven, all of which have been in spring.
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

**Essex:** Leigh-on-Sea, immature ♀, 20th to 21st December, and 4th January 1976 (Mr and Mrs A. M. Feather).

(North America) Only the fifth record, but the first from an eastern locality. This bird brings the total number of American passerines to reach Britain in 1975 to eleven (a Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* at Spurn Point, Humberside, has not yet been fully considered by the committee). With the addition of the Catbird (already mentioned under Blackpoll Warbler) and another Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Sark, Channel Islands, on 26th September, the full figure is 13.

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Amendment to the 1968 report

**Myrtle Warbler** *Dendroica coronata*

**Scilly:** the first date was 22nd October, not 23rd.

Amendments to the 1974 report

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**Norfolk:** the last date was 17th September, not 2nd.

**American Wigeon** *Anas americana*

**Lincolnshire:** the last date was 24th February, not 14th.

**Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*

**Northumberland:** the individual last seen at Bamburgh on 10th February was observed at Budle Point on 15th and Ross Links on 16th.

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

**Kent:** the last date was 8th September, not 7th.

**Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima*

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

**Flintshire:** Point of Air, 22nd September (B. Boothby).

(West Africa, North America and the Caribbean) These two sightings, clearly relating to one individual, were originally accepted as Royal or Caspian Tern (*Brit. Birds*, 68: 322), but, after reconsideration, the committee decided that the descriptions could refer only to a Royal Tern. Together, they constitute the fourth British and Irish record.
Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Outer Hebrides: this entry should be deleted; it refers to Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*.

Supplementary 1960 record accepted

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

**Durham:** Hartlepool, showing the characters of one of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri*, 26th October (A. Vittery).

Supplementary 1964 record accepted

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, showing the characters of one of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri*, 1st November (R. H. Dennis, C. S. Waller, E. J. Wiseman *et al.*).

Supplementary 1965 records accepted

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

**Yorkshire:** Spurn Point, 16th May (P. F. Bonham).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, showing the characters of one of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri*, 5th to 6th October (R. H. Dennis, A. Heath *et al.*).

Supplementary 1967 record accepted

**King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*

**Aberdeenshire:** Ythan estuary, ♂, 5th October (Dr C. H. Fry).

Supplementary 1969 record accepted

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*

**Kent:** Dungeness, trapped, 27th to 30th September (R. E. Scott).

(Central and south Continental Europe and north-west Africa)

Now accepted by both the Rarities Committee and the BOU Records Committee as the first record of this species in Britain and Ireland. A further 13 records are still under consideration.

Supplementary 1971 record accepted

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*

**Suffolk:** Dunwich, ♀, 15th June (R. J. Johns).
Rare birds in Great Britain 1975

Supplementary 1972 records accepted

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Norfolk: Weybourne, adult, 12th August (R. J. Johns, P. J. McCann).

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*
Scilly: St Agnes, 31st October (R. J. Johns).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*
Norfolk: Cley, ♀, showing the characters of one of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or stejnegeri, 6th May (R. A. Richardson).

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*
Sussex: Chichester gravel pits, immature, trapped, 3rd September (Dr A. B. Watson et al.).

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Scilly: Tresco, 2nd November (R. J. Johns).

Supplementary 1973 records accepted

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
Dumfries: Waterfoot, Annan, 12th April to 2nd June (T. Johnson-Ferguson et al.).

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Lancashire: Longton Marsh, adult, 11th to 12th August (M. E. Greenhalgh, Dr P. H. Smith et al.).

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
Middlesex: Staines Reservoir, 17th May (R. J. Johns).

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*
Berkshire: Thatcham, trapped, 1st April (I. Hawthorn et al.).

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*
Hampshire: Wick Hams, Christchurch, adult, trapped, 13th August; immature, trapped, 20th August (S. E. and T. J. Christmas et al.).

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*
Shetland: Gulberwick, 22nd September (J. and Mrs V. Spriggs, N. Storie).

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*
Scilly: St Agnes, 14th October (R. J. Johns).

Supplementary 1974 records accepted

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*
Cornwall: between Isles of Scilly and Land's End, 27th July (J. B. and Mrs S. Bottomley).
Purple Heron Ardea purpurea

Lancashire: Leighton Moss, immature, 15th May (P. J. Marsh, J. Wilson, J. Wood et al.).

Norfolk: Strumpshaw, 19th May (R. Martins).

Suffolk: Minsmere, immature, 19th to 29th June (H. E. Axell, J. F. Denny et al.); another, immature, 19th to 20th and 26th to 27th August (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace et al.).

(South-central Eurasia, north to Netherlands; and Africa) These four additional records bring the total for 1974 to at least 14.

Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Gloucestershire: Slimbridge, 20th August (S. E. M. Goodsall, E. E. Jackson, Lady Scott et al.); see page 329.

Kent/Sussex: Wittersham/Maytham, 8th to 15th August (K. and P. T. Dann, P. J. Grant et al.); almost certainly an escape from captivity.

Black Stork Ciconia nigra

Outer Hebrides: Valley Strand, North Uist, 26th to 30th August (J. B. O. Rossetti et al.).

(Spain, east Europe to east Asia, and southern Africa) The second Scottish record, taking the grand total to 34.

Teal Anas crecca

Ross-shire: Balblair, near Culrain, ♂, showing the characters of the North American race, A. c. carolinensis, 7th June (T. H. Wall).

American Wigeon Anas americana

Kinross: Loch Leven, ♂, 20th October to 6th November (T. O. James, Miss B. H. Moore et al.).

Surf Scoter Melanitta perspicillata

Kirkcudbrightshire: Carrick Point, ♂, 13th November (W. and Mrs K. Jackson).

Red-footed Falcon Falco vespertinus

Lancashire: Leighton Moss, ♂, 17th to 18th May (P. J. Marsh, J. Wilson, J. Wood et al.).

Norfolk: Holme, ♀, 17th May (P. R. Clarke, K. K. Harrison).

Suffolk: Minsmere, ♂, 2nd and 19th May (H. E. Axell, P. J. Makepeace et al.).

(East Europe and south from Siberia) These three bring the total for 1974 to 13.

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes

Cheshire: Sandbach, 27th August to 18th September (W. D. Forshaw, G. Summers et al.).

Lancashire: Altcar, Formby, 28th September (D. R. Williams et al.).
Rare birds in Great Britain 1975

(North America) The Lancashire bird was clearly the individual seen at Martin Mere over the next two days and subsequently at Freckleton (Brit. Birds, 68: 317).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Lancashire: Martin Mere, 13th to 16th September (P. Gladstone et al.).

(South-east Europe and west and east Asia) This makes two in 1974 and 20 in all.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Hampshire: Pennington Marshes, 10th August (R. Dunn, E. J. Wiseman).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Shetland: Fair Isle, 8th September (R. A. Broad, D. Willis et al.).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

(Southern Eurasia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas) The second for 1974 and on an interesting date.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*
Lancashire: Scotsman’s Flash, Wigan, 23rd to 26th May (W. D. Forshaw, M. L. Passant et al.). Freckleton, 24th to 29th May (M. J. Ainscough, T. Henderson, Dr P. H. Smith et al.).

(South Europe, south-west Asia and Africa) These three records within six days constitute the most marked spring influx ever; with one in Shetland in July (Brit. Birds, 68: 319), the 1974 total was four.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Kent: Dungeness, immature, 4th September (R. E. Scott).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
Dorset: Chesil Beach, Abbotsbury, 15th June (R. J. Johns).

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*
Lincolnshire: Donna Nook, 1st July (S. Lorand).

(South Europe, south-west Asia and Africa) Only the seventeenth record.

Scops Owl *Otus scops*
Cornwall: Saltash, found injured, died later, 18th May (P. F. Goodfellow, L. Hurrell, W. Sharpe).
(South Europe, Russia, west Asia and north-west Africa) There have now been 72 records, but this is only the seventh since 1958.

**Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*

*Orkney*: Loch of St Treadwell, Papa Westray, two, 5th November (W. Irvine).

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

**Cetti’s Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

*Hampshire*: north-west Solent area, 24th March to 21st April (G. P. Green, E. J. Wiseman).

**Savi’s Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*

*Dorset*: Portland Bill, 29th April (F. R. Clafton, A. Wigzell).

*Kent*: Stodmarsh, singing ♀, 6th April, another on 10th, and a third on 7th May; all three ♀♀ held territory through the breeding season, one pair definitely bred and a second pair very probably bred (P. J. Mountford).

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*


(Europe and west-central Asia) This takes the total since 1958 to 62.

**Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*

*Scilly*: St Mary’s, 30th September to 15th October (D. S. Flumm, N. A. G. Lord, M. J. Rogers et al.).

(South Russia and Asia) A second record for 1974, featuring a bleached adult in moult, which led its observers through a terrible maze of reeds (and identification criteria). The fifth ever and the first in the south-west.

**Bonelli’s Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*

*Dorset*: Brownsea Island, Poole, 19th August (A. J. Wise).

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*


*Durham*: Saltolme Pool, Teesmouth, two, 10th July (T. Francis).

*Sussex*: Beachy Head, 29th September (P. Clement).

(Europe, south Asia and north-west Africa) Four records (of five birds) take the 1974 total to about 27. The two in Durham in July are particularly noteworthy; a Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cinerea* was also summering nearby (*Brit. Birds*, 68: 323).
Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

**Dorset:** Portland Bill, immature, trapped, 23rd August (F. R. Clafton, G. Walbridge *et al.*).

**Orkney:** Cairnton, Orphir, 9th to 16th June (D. Lea, A. MacNair *et al.*).

Serin *Serinus serinus*

**Dorset:** Durlston Head, ♂, 16th March (R. J. Johns).

**Sussex:** Selsey Bill, 25th May (B. A. E. Marr).

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

**Orkney:** Eday, 1st to 7th September (R. D. Lowe *et al.*).

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

**Dorset:** Portland, ♂, 4th to 6th August (F. R. Clafton, G. Walbridge *et al.*).

**Shetland:** Fair Isle, ♀ or immature, 6th to 7th October (R. A. Broad, R. D. Moore, D. R. Waugh *et al.*).

**Appendix 1: List of 1975 records not accepted**

This list contains all the 1975 records not accepted after circulation to the committee. It does not include (a) those withdrawn by the observer(s), without circulation, after discussion with the honorary secretary; (b) those which, even if circulated, were not attributed by the observer(s) to any definite species; or (c) those mentioned in the monthly summaries in this journal, if 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.

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<td>Cemaes Head, Dyfed,</td>
<td>20th August and 3rd</td>
<td>Isles of Scilly,</td>
<td>1st October</td>
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<td>Cory’s Shearwater</td>
<td>Frenchman’s Rocks,</td>
<td>3rd August</td>
<td>Isles of Scilly</td>
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<td>Islay, Strathclyde</td>
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<td>Little Shearwater</td>
<td>St Ives, Cornwall,</td>
<td>26th May</td>
<td>Sand Point, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, two, 27th May</td>
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<td>Purple Heron</td>
<td>Hauxton gravel pit,</td>
<td>3rd and 22nd August</td>
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<td>Fulbourn Fen,</td>
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<td>Long Hope, South Walls, Orkney, ♀, 8th February</td>
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<td>Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall, 24th to 25th August</td>
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<td>Crane</td>
<td>Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, two, 16th May</td>
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<td>Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, 28th to 29th September</td>
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<td>Stilt Sandpiper</td>
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<td>Dusky Thrush</td>
<td>Purton, Wiltshire, 26th December</td>
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<td>Black-throated Thrush</td>
<td>St Agnes, Scilly, 7th October</td>
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<td>Netley, Hampshire, 2nd December</td>
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<td>Walberswick, Suffolk, 6th July</td>
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<td>Daventry Reservoir, Northamptonshire, 17th August</td>
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<td>Aquatic Warbler</td>
<td>Sand Bay, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, 10th August</td>
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<td>Newton Poppleford, Devon, 17th August</td>
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<td>Stodmarsh, Kent, 5th September</td>
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<td>Portbury Wharf, Avon, two, 7th September</td>
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<td>Perry Oaks sewage farm, Greater London, 7th September</td>
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<td>Kenfig Pool, Mid-Glamorgan, 21st September</td>
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<td>Bonelli’s Warbler</td>
<td>Marazion Marsh, Cornwall, 16th March</td>
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<td>Arctic Warbler</td>
<td>Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 23rd to 24th August</td>
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<td>Llanishen Reservoir, South Glamorgan, 21st September</td>
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<td>Alpine Accentor</td>
<td>Ythan, Grampian, 12th October</td>
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<td>Tawny Pipit</td>
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<td>Ramsgate, Kent, 7th May</td>
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<td>Clyne Common, West Glamorgan, 16th March</td>
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<td>Hughenden, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, 20th November</td>
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<td>Scarlet Rosefinch</td>
<td>Sand Point, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, 7th September</td>
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<td>Two-barred Crossbill</td>
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<td>Sidlesham Ferry, West Sussex, 25th December</td>
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<td>Little Bunting</td>
<td>Holkham, Norfolk, 22nd September</td>
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<td>Hutton, Brentwood, Essex, 22nd October</td>
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<td>Tetney Lock, Lincolnshire, 4th June</td>
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<td>Fingringhoe Wick, Essex, 1st October</td>
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<td>Tresco, Scilly, 15th to 16th October</td>
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Appendix 2. Supplementary 1959 record not accepted
Red-throated Pipit Stirling Hill, Aberdeenshire, 2nd October

Appendix 3. Supplementary 1970 record not accepted
Great Snipe Ham sewage farm, Berkshire, 23rd October

Appendix 4. Supplementary 1971 records not accepted
American Wigeon Ythan estuary, Aberdeenshire, 28th August
Arctic Warbler St Agnes, Scilly, 9th October

Appendix 5. Supplementary 1972 record not accepted
Little Crake Eythrope Lake, Stone, Buckinghamshire, 15th October

Appendix 6. Supplementary 1973 records not accepted
Lesser Golden Plover Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall, 10th September
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Hayle, Cornwall, 6th October
White-winged Black Tern Whitsand Bay, Cornwall, 28th April

Appendix 7. Supplementary 1974 records not accepted
White Stork Kingston Seymour, Somerset, 10th April
Red-footed Falcon Sumburgh, Shetland, 9th June, 16th May
Solitary Sandpiper Wisbech sewage farm, Lincolnshire/Norfolk, 28th August
White-winged Black Tern Hickling Broad, Norfolk, two, 27th May
Gull-billed Tern Frampton Marsh, Lincolnshire, 15th September
Roller Tarbert, Harris, Outer Hebrides, 12th September
Siberian Stonechat Titchwell, Norfolk, 1st November and 9th December
Savi’s Warbler Alfriston, Sussex, 14th June
Booted Warbler St Mary’s, Scilly, 8th October
Arctic Warbler Wester Quarff, Shetland, 14th September
Rose-coloured Starling Marazion Marsh, Cornwall, 26th October
Scarlet Rosefinch Sheringham, Norfolk, 9th, 27th May
Little Bunting Washington, Durham, 18th and 25th September

J. N. Dymond, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL
PLATE 33. Red-breasted Goose \textit{Branta ruficollis} with Brent Geese \textit{B. bernicla}, Essex, October 1975 (page 332) (photos: Pamela Harrison)