

Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1977

Michael.J.Rogers and the Rarities Committee

Systematic list of accepted records

The principles and procedures followed in considering records were explained in the 1958 Report (Brit. Birds 53: 155-158). The systematic list is set out in the same way as in the 1976 Report (70: 405-453), apart from additional records from previous years are incorporated in the main systematic list. The following points show the basis on which the information has been put together in the list.

- 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.
- ii. In general, this report is confined to records that are regarded as certain, and 'probables' are not included. In the cases of the very similar Long-billed *Limnodromus scolopaceus* and Short-billed Dowitchers *L.griseus*, however, we are continuing to publish indeterminate records, and this also applies to observations of the two pratincoles *Glaucopis* and of such difficult groups as albatrosses *Diomedea* and frigatebirds *Fregata*.
- iii. The sequence of species, vernacular names and scientific nomenclature follow The '*British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1978). Any sight records of subspecies (including those of birds trapped and released) are normally referred to as 'showing the characters' of the race concerned.
- iv. The three numbers in brackets after each species name refer respectively to (1) the total to the end of 1957, (2) the total for the period since the formation of the Rarities Committee in 1958, but excluding (3) the total for the current year. A detailed breakdown of the figures for previous years is held by the Honorary Secretary.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (18, 31, 5)

Highland Gairloch, Wester Ross, 31st May (J.Hornbuckle).

Shetland near Fetlar, 1st May (J.N.Dymond, R.J.Tulloch). Yell, 5th to 9th June (M.J.Cowlard, K.D.Edwards). Hascosay, 5th October (R.J.Tulloch).

Grampian 1972 The individual at Buckie, Banff, was first seen on 5th March, not 14th March as previously stated (Brit. Birds 67: 342).

Grampian 1975 Findhorn Bay, Moray, 14th December (D.Noble, I.S.Suttie).

Also one off Rosses Point, Co. Sligo, on 28th January, constituting only the second record for Ireland. The deduction of J.T.R.Sharrock and E.M.Sharrock (1976, Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland) that the records of this diver stem from the presence of a small wintering population is further supported. Such is made most visible as the birds assume summer plumage and even paler bills in inshore Shetland waters!.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (0, 4, 2)

Grampian Loch of Strathbeg, 9th January to 27th March (J.Dunbar *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 181).

North Yorkshire Gouthwaite Reservoir, 23rd April to 15th May (J. & Mrs A.Denison, J.R.Mather *et al.*).

Although of almost annual recurrence from 1963 to 1968, this bird has been seen only once in the last eight years. Extended stays are typical, but none before has coped with a winter in northern Scotland.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* (2, 18, 0)

Shetland Adult again present at Hermaness, Unst, 23rd March to 20th September (I.Spence *et al.*).

None off Ireland in this year.

Albatross *Diomedea* (3, 33, 1)

Norfolk Cley, 19th October (M.King, C.Oldershaw).

Figures include Black-browed Albatrosses as well as those not specifically identified.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* (a few, 1,633, 32)

Cornwall off Newlyn, 29th September (R.A.Chapman, P.A.Fraser, N.A.Preston).

Dorset Portland, 10th May (P.P.Jennings); 20th July (W.R.Brackenridge, B.C.Forrester).

Humberside Flamborough Head, 19th June (D.I.M.Wallace); 12th August (A.Grieve, S.Holliday *et al.*). Withernsea, 17th June (S.M.Lister). Hornsea, 16th August (D.P.Sharpe); another, 18th August (W.F.Curtis).

Kent Dungeness, two, 15th May (T.E.Bowley); two, 11th June (A.J.Greenland, M.J.Sinden).

Kent/East Sussex Rye Bay, 4th April (K.Redshaw, K.Thomas).

Lothian Barns Ness, two, 18th April (S.T.Buckland, I.H.Leach).

Norfolk Holme, 10th June (P.R.Clarke). Great Yarmouth, 23rd July (P.R.Allard).

North Yorkshire Filey Brigg, 7th August (M.Atkinson, A.Patterson).

Dorset 1976 Portland, 18th June (R.Filby).

Norfolk 1976 Cley, 13th September (G.Sellors).

Also single birds off Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 31st July and 4th August, with ten there on 11th August, and further solitary occurrences off Dungarvan Bay, Co. Waterford on 11th August and off Helvick Head, Co. Waterford on 12th August. Once again, the majority of British records come surprisingly from the North Sea, as does another late 1976 occurrence; the Dorset, Kent and East Sussex records hint strongly at passage through the English Channel.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (5, 40, 2)

Cheshire Rostherne Mere, sick individual, 29th June, caught 2nd July, died 3rd, identified as Madeiran race *P.a.baroli* (M.Calvert, R.Harrison, T.H.Wall).

Humberside Flamborough Head, 27th August (P.A.Lassey, Miss I.Smith).

Once again none was seen off Ireland. Since 1974, five out of seven British birds have been seen well away from the traditional 'tubenose southwest' (but it is very difficult to judge whether this is a real shift in occurrence pattern or the effect of increased seawatching from new stations).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (150, 104, 11)

Devon Slapton Ley, male, 14th May (P.R.Bregazzi).

Dorset Radipole Lake, male, 18th to 20th May (P.A.Coe, G.Walbridge *et al.*).

East Sussex Birling Gap, Beachy Head, adult, freshly dead, 30th April (A.Ciok, M.Mathews). Rye Harbour, immature, 19th to 27th August (C.H.Dean, P.J.Grant, T. & T.A.Wyatt *et al.*); two immatures, 23rd August (A.V.Moon, J.Willsher).

Humber side Hornsea Mere, male, 29th May to at least 11th June (G.R.Bennett, D.G.Hobson, S.L.James *et al.*). Barton-on-Humber Pits, male, 23rd June (G.P.Gatley).

Mid Glamorgan Kenfig, found dead, 4th October (S.J.Moon, A.Morgan).

Suffolk Minsmere, male, 22nd May (R.H.Lawrence); female, 26th May (A.Curran).

West Glamorgan Oxwich, 17th September (D.Elias).

The total was exceeded only in 1964 and in the exceptional influx in 1970.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 81, 4)

Durham Witton-le-Wear, immature, 1st September (T.J.Bennett).

Northumberland Warkworth, immature, 5th December to 28th January 1978 (S.R.Fisher, B.Galloway *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Colwick, immature, 12th August (A.O.Aitken, A.Dobbs).

Tyne & Wear Holywell Pond, immature, 10th and 23rd August (J.E.Fergusson *et al.*).

Derbyshire 1976 The immature at Langley Mill Flashes on 9th to 10th September was also seen on 2nd October (P.Beresford) (Brit. Birds 70: 414).

The absences of an adult or any spring record are most striking.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 10, 2)

Avon Weston-super-Mare, 1st June (A.Chambers, J.Warne).

Dorset Longham Bridge, River Avon, 22nd May (T.Lennon, C.Woolgar).

Scilly Rosevear, male, recently dead, 17th June (R.W.Allen).

There were only five from 1958 to 1967 and again only five from 1970 to 1975. Now suddenly there are at least two in one year (the Avon and Dorset ones being treated here as the same bird).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (23, 204, 7)

Devon Yealm Estuary, 5th June (Miss C.M.Blackman, Miss E.O.Buley *et al.*).

Dorset Hamworthy, Poole, 6th to 11th May (J.Sullivan); another, Brownsea Island, Poole, 16th June to 3rd September (per J.V.Boys).

Hampshire Titchfield, 26th May (B.W.Renyard).

Lincolnshire Skidbrooke, 29th May (J.Lamming).

South Yorkshire Wath Ings, 24th May (J.Hewitt, I.Mallinder).

Suffolk Minsmere, 2nd May (G.S.Bowen).

Dorset 1976 Studland Heath, 6th May (J.R.Cox).

Hampshire 1976 near Eastleigh, 18th May (G.Barrett), probably the same as the individual elsewhere in Hampshire and West Sussex from 15th May to 31st October (Brit. Birds 70: 414).

Kent 1976 Isle of Grain, 8th May (A.Knight, C.E.Wheeler).

None in Ireland, for the first time in recent years. Compared with the annual average of 15 since 1965, this is a slim showing (in a year when Purple Herons and Little Bitterns appeared in unusual strength).

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 4, 2)

Kent Stodmarsh, 5th May (M.J.Comyn, Misses F.M. & H.M.Rowland); seen later the same day at St Margaret's Bay (K.Pitwon, M.Stevenson).

Northumberland Cresswell Pond, 29th April (J.Stephenson, S.E.Bird, E.R.Meek *et al.*).

This is currently the rarest British heron. The four in the last two decades were all in 1974.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (90, 205, 22)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, 23rd April (K.J.Hall, A.J.Merritt, R.B.H.Smith). Gordano Valley, 29th September (R.S.Cropper).

Bedfordshire Luton Hoo Park, 4th September (A.J.Livett).

Cheshire Rostherne Mere, 11th July (R.Harrison, T.H.Wall).

Derbyshire Langley Mill/Brinsley Flashes, 2nd to 4th May; another nearby at Shipley Lake, 15th May (P.Beresford, S.Jackson, R.T.Taylor).

Dyfed Pendine, 23rd June (N.E.G.Elms).

East Sussex St Leonards, 26th June (R.D.M.Edgar).

Hampshire Stockbridge, 7th May (J.Cantelo, T.Norris, D.A.Thelwell). Sowley Pond and Keyhaven Marshes, 29th August (N.Kendall). Needs Oar Point, 14th to 16th October (R.J.J.Hunt, D.T.Paradise).

Kent Sandwich, 20th May (S.V.Colombé). Fordwich/Westbere, 1st June (R.E.C.Collins).

Lancashire Leighton Moss, 30th April to 8th May (D.Boulton, A.Copleston, K.W.Horton *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, 17th April (K.Atkin, R.Southern, J.Walker). Tattershall, 19th to 22nd May (E.Clipson, J.G.Porter, R.R.South).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 11th to 16th April (D.Head, R.Pimm).

North Yorkshire Fairburn Ings, 17th May (B.Tucker, T.Watson). Upper Ribblesdale, 26th June (F.J.Roberts).

Shetland Sinna Water, Mainland, 13th to 15th May (L.Dalziel, P.K.Kinnear *et al.*).

Somerset Godney Moor, near Glastonbury, 24th May (P.D.Round).

West Glamorgan Oxwich, 28th May to 4th July (H.E.Grenfell, Dr D.K.Thomas *et al.*).

The high total includes the now increasingly expected autumn occurrences.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 9, 5)

Cornwall Ladock, near Truro, 23rd May (J.Dustow).

Dorset Arne, 28th to 29th May (Dr C.J.Bibby, B.Pickess). Lodmoor, 13th September (T.B. & Mrs A.Silcocks *et al.*).

Highland Brora Loch, Sutherland, 18th May (P.G.Ottaway).

Norfolk East Tuddenham, 11th September (Mrs A.Bull).

Shetland Loch of Hillwell, Dunrossness, 3rd to 6th May (P.K.Kinnear *et al.*).

Suffolk Mildenhall and Lakenheath, 5th to 6th June (M.S.Bishop, M.S.Chapman, R.Grimmett).

As forecast last year, the records of this stork continue to increase. Five or more in one year is unprecedented. Those in spring in Cornwall and Dorset, and in Highland and Shetland have, in each case, been regarded here as the same birds.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (70, 124, 35)

Cornwall Kilkhampton and Tamar Lake, 16th to 18th March (R.J.Beswetherick, T.J.Dingle *et al.*). Skewjack, two, 20th March, one remaining to 29th when found dead (W.R.Hirst, L.P.Williams *et al.*). Lizard, 27th August (R.Butts, P.A.Maker).

Devon Bideford, 26th August to 5th September (Sir D.Stucley).

Dorset Boys Hill, Long Burton, early December 1976 to late January, and Moreton, 22nd January to 3rd March; possibly the same, Winfrith, 21st March, Compton Valence, 24th to 26th May. Another, Radipole Lake, 23rd August (per J.V.Boys).

Dyfed Cross Inn, New Quay, 28th to 29th March (H.Bryant *et al.* per P.E.Davis).

East Sussex East Hoathley, 24th May (R.Best, D.C. & R.D.Lang). Rye, 21st August (P.J. & Mrs V.A.Wilson, T.A. & T.Wyatt); probably the same, Newhaven, 22nd August (D.A.Newman).

Essex Sewardstone Marsh, 3rd April (A.J.Gray, R.St John). Rowhedge, 26th June (E.Steele, P.Pearson).

Grampian Monymusk, 27th February (Mrs H.Duncan per Dr A.Knox). Dufftown, Banff, 18th April (D. & Mrs M.McDonald).

Gwynedd Roewan, near Conwy, 4th April (J.T.C.Knowles).

Highland Broadford, Skye, 21st April (Mrs H.Currie per R.H.Dennis). Glen Shiel, Skye & Lochalsh, 8th May (R.Worsley per R.H.Dennis). Durness, Sutherland, 15th to 20th May (B.Hendy per R.H.Dennis).

Humberside Spurn, 27th March (C.E.Andrassy, N.Jackson, Mrs D.Walls).

Kent Romney Marsh, 1st June (J.L.F.Parslow). In east of county, at least two, possibly four: two, Sandwich area, 12th to 13th May; two, Eastry, 29th May to 3rd June (D.C.Gilbert, T., T.A. & W.E.Wyatt *et al.*); Ramsgate, 4th to 5th June; Richborough, 7th June (A.C.B.Henderson *et al.*).

Merseyside Liverpool, 15th September (C.J.Galvin, C.Goodwin *et al.*).

Norfolk Brandon Parva, 21st August (Dr & Mrs J.D. & Mr & Mrs J.H.Geeson). Snettisham, 25th October (A.G. & Mrs P.M.Hall, Miss. I.Gardner). Snettisham, then Hunstanton, 4th December (J.D.Limentani, Dr S.Cox *et al.*).

Northampton Litchborough, 29th March (R.Hutchings).

North Yorkshire Whitestones Point, Whitby, 16th April (I.Edgar).

Nottinghamshire Bradmoor and East Leake, 8th to 9th May (C.W.Barsby, D.R.Parkin *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, St Agnes and Tresco, 10th to 11th September (R.W.Allen, P.A.Fraser, Miss H.M.Quick *et al.*).

Shetland Northmavine, 14th to 15th May (A.Scollay).

South Yorkshire Dunford, 27th to 28th March (A.Archer, C.Bower, D.J.Standring).

Suffolk Knodishall and Saxmundham, 20th to 23rd March, also at Walberswick on 20th and 25th. Possibly the same, Woodbridge and Tunstall, 29th to 30th May, Wrentham, 21st June, and Hinton, 29th June to 7th July (per W.H.Payn).

West Sussex Patching, 27th May (S.Carter, M.S.Chapman, P.James); possibly same as East Sussex individual of 24th May.

Cumbria 1976 Tarn House Tarn, 25th May (D. & R.Baines).

Dyfed 1976 Newgale, 29th May (A.G.Jones).

Hampshire 1976 Keyhaven Marshes, 18th July (E.J.Wiseman *et al.*).

Kent 1976 Coldred, Dover, 7th to 8th June (D.Rolfe, S.Warren): previously rejected (Brit. Birds 70: 449), but now accepted on further evidence.

Kent 1976 Sandwich, 14th September (D.F.Harle).

Somerset 1976 Whitcombe, near Ash, 28th February (Mrs G.A.Crouch, B.J.Widden).

Strathclyde 1976 Glasgow, 31st January (I.Gibson, S.Keenan).

Also singles at Collaney, Co. Sligo, from mid to 21st April and at Greenlough, Co. Donegal on 15th April. The total is one higher than that of 1976 (the previous peak year), and the species has now occurred annually since 1971. The observation of two or three couples in spring should be noted.

Additional 1976 observations in Ireland featured individuals near Waterfoot, Co. Antrim, on 9th May and at Poythpass, Co. Armagh, from 20th to 24th May.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 16, 4)

Dorset Nyland, 27th to at least 30th August, then at Radipole Lake and Lodmoor, 9th to 18th September (K.Parker, K.E.Vinicombe).

Greater London Totteridge, 8th May to 22nd September (W.Marshall, L.K.Wilkinson *et al.*); this bird was most probably an escape.

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, 6th June (K.Douglas).

Kent Grove, 2nd January (J.G.Hollyer, K.B.Ellis) and between there and Stodmarsh until 12th March, again 1st May to 19th June and 24th September until the end of the year. Also seen at the Isle of Sheppey on 15th May, 27th August and 1st and 4th September and at Graveney on 25th September. All records relate to the individual first seen on 14th December 1975 (Brit. Birds 69: 330; 70: 416) (per D.W.Taylor).

Norfolk Hockering, 24th August (M.O. & P.Kingswell).

This rare and local bird will not go away. Annual since 1972, its records reached a peak of four in 1976 and it may well be that all the individuals concerned have remained in Britain and Ireland.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (47, 52, 2)

Essex Hanningfield Reservoir, adult, 22nd June to end of July (D.Acfield, R.Howard, J.Miller).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, adult, first seen on 25th December 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 418), remained until 1st February (K.Lane, Sir Peter Scott *et al.*); another adult, 11th to about 28th February (K.Lane, M.Smart *et al.*).

Humberside Hornsea Mere, adult, 24th April to 10th May (R.G.Hawley *et al.*).

West Yorkshire Fairburn Ings, adult, 24th to 26th May (S.C.Madge *et al.*).

The records in Humberside and West Yorkshire are here regarded as referring to the same bird, a wandering individual first recorded in 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 418). The Humberside bird could be approached to within 20m; it and those in Yorkshire and Essex are unlikely to have been wild. The Slimbridge individuals remain untainted.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* (0, 1, 1)

Suffolk Trimley Marsh, an individual showing the characteristics of the North American race *B.b.nigricans*, colloquially known as the Black Brant, was present from 7th to at least 12th February (R.N.Hopper, M.C.Marsh, K.C.Ramsey *et al.*).

Only the second individual of this race to be reported here; the first was in 1958.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 70, 7)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, male, 2nd April (T.E.Box, A.Pay), considered to be the individual from Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset (see below).

Gwynedd Llyn Bodgylched, male, 30th to 31st January and 11th February (M.J.Donahue, P.R.Harris, K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

Hampshire Dibden Bay, male, 17th to at least 18th April (R.E.Cooke, T.Martin, R.Ship).

Norfolk Welney, male, 23rd October (D.J.Fisher, R.B.Hastings).

North Yorkshire Fairburn Ings, female, 17th September (S.C.Madge).

Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, male, first seen on 13th October 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 417) remained until 21st February, when it moved to Chew Valley Lake, Avon; it was not present at Cheddar Reservoir on 2nd April as previously noted (B.Rabbits *et al.*).

Avon/Wiltshire 1976 confluence of Rivers Frome and Avon, two males, 30th August (N.Collar, A.Rackham).

Also a pair at Rogerstown, Co. Dublin, from 22nd April to 8th May and a duck near Tuam, Co. Galway, on 8th and 9th October; the latter was shot and found to have been ringed on Prince Edward Island, Canada, on 30th August. The year's total was high, but there were 16 in 1968 (another year in which a shot bird provided a recovery from eastern Canada).

Teal *Anas crecca* (13, 89, 7)

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

Avon Chew Valley Lake, 17th November to 26th January 1978 (K.E.Vinicombe).

Cornwall Hayle Estuary, 16th January to 4th March (D.J.Barker, L.P.Williams *et al.*); 5th November to February 1978 (S.M.Christophers, G.W.Davis, P.A.Rutter *et al.*).

Highland Loch of Mey, Caithness, 18th December (Dr D.M. & Mrs J.Edge).

Western Isles Aignish, Lewis, 26th to 29th March (W.A.J.Cunningham, R.MacIntyre, W.Matheson).

Also singles on River Lee, near Coachford, Co. Cork, on 15th November, at Ballymacoda and Carrigadrohid, both Co. Cork, on 18th and 29th December respectively. Another good showing, typical of the years since 1968.

Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (1, 6, 0)

Scilly Tresco; one of the two first seen on 27th October 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 416) remained until 16th May, reappeared on 29th August and was still present at the end of the year (R.W.Allen *et al.*).

A long stay by this close relative of the Mallard *A.platyrhynchos*.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (19, 39, 2)

Scilly St Mary's, immature female, 24th August to about 9th September, then Tresco, 12th September to 27th October (R.W.Allen, D.B.Hunt *et al.*).

Cambridgeshire 1969 Grafham Water, Huntingdonshire, a pair, 19th January (T.J.Norris).

West Yorkshire Fairburn Ings, male, 17th March to August (D.J.Britton *et al.*), probably the same as that in 1971 and 1972 (Brit. Birds 65: 328; 66: 337).

Also one at Bull Island, Co. Dublin, from 16th September to 14th March 1978. This duck has been recorded annually since 1966 (but it must be remembered that the risk of escapes has increased since 1970).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1, 25, 15)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, two males, first seen 29th December 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 417), to 5th February; three males, 8th January to 16th February, four males, 6th to 12th February, at least two to 27th; one to 27th March (A.J.Merritt, M.Ryder, K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*). Blagdon Water, male, 8th January (J.Cantelo, A.H.Davis, T.J.Norris). The presumed hybrid with Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, first seen 19th December 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 417), remained at Chew Valley Lake until early April, then Blagdon Water to at least 10th April. (J.B.O.Rossetti, K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

Cambridgeshire Earith gravel-pit, male, 23rd March to 24th April (R.Frost, R.Gray, T.R.Talbot *et al.*).

Cleveland/Durham Crookfoot Reservoir, male, 5th May (T.Francis): same as Durham individual.

Dorset/Somerset Sutton Bingham Reservoir, male, 22nd April to 21st May (C.Cornell, B.A.Crouch, B.J.Widden).

Durham Hurworth Burn Reservoir, male, 30th April to 4th May (A.Bottirill, T.Charlton, J.Whitehead), considered same as Northumberland individual.

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, male trapped, 1st March (M.Lubbock, M.A.Ogilvie, Sir P.Scott *et al.*), shot in southeast Greenland in May 1977 (per M.A.Ogilvie).

Hertfordshire Tring Reservoirs, male, 2nd to at least 30th April (M.Bradberry, per B.Taggart).

Kent Westbere Lakes, male, 2nd February (D.C.Gilbert). Sevenoaks, male, 15th April (G.C.D.Harrison, A.J.Holcombe *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 70: plate 78).

Lothian near Drem, female, 7th to at least 23rd February, and 23rd March (A.Brown, S.R.D.da Prato) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 182) ; same individual, East Fortune, 8th to 9th May (Mrs D.E.Abbey, D.J.Bates).

Northumberland Derwent Reservoir, male, 13th February to 26th March (B.Little); reappeared 27th August to October (C.Jewitt, G.Tuthill *et al.*); same individual, Capheaton Lake, 29th May to 14th June (D.P.Hammersley, P.W.West), and three localities in Tyne & Wear.

Somerset Witcombe Bottom, Longload, male, 5th to 8th April (D.E.Paull *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Gosforth Park, male, 3rd to 26th April and 12th May (F.Colley, B.Galloway, G.Sutton *et al.*), Wallsend Swallow, 9th to 11th May (G.F.Miller *et al.*), and Holywell Pond, 14th to 22nd May (C.E.Douglas *et al.*), all presumed to relate to the Northumberland and Durham individual.

West Yorkshire Newmillerdam, male, 31st May (P.Smith, G.J.Speight).

Also three drakes and a duck at Carrigadrohid, Co. Cork, from 28th November into 1978, when there was a further large arrival of at least 19 to Britain. Compared with a previous peak of six (in 1976), the influx in winter and spring had been remarkable, but it was soon eclipsed (the events of late 1977 and 1978 will be fully reviewed in the next report). The clear evidence of a successful return flight across (or up) the North Atlantic provided by the recovery of the Gloucestershire drake is noteworthy.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 68, 13)

Dumfries & Galloway Loch Ryan, male, first seen 26th December 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 418), remained until at least 26th February (R.H.Hogg *et al.*).

Essex Colne Point, male, 18th July (Dr S.Cox, Miss J.Malley, A.Simons *et al.*), but origin of this apparently wild individual may be questionable.

Fife Torry Bay, male, 3rd to 28th January (R.B.Tozer *et al.*).

Highland Skerray, Caithness, male, 5th to 6th July (K.Clarkson, R.Wells). Loch Fleet and Golspie area, male, first seen 1975 (see below), present throughout year; three males, 9th to 11th April, two to 13th; two males, 24th November into 1978 (per R.H.Dennis).

Grampian Collieston, male, 13th to 16th March (A.C.Hay, M.Huebeck). Murcar, immature male, 17th September (P.G.H.Evans).

Shetland Sullom Voe, male, 13th January to 23rd March (J.D.Okill, I.Sandison). Burga Skerries, South Yell, male, 28th February to 1st March (Miss M.Odie, R.J.Tulloch). Tresta-Sandsound, male, 21st April to 7th June (J.D.Okill, I.Sandison). Hascosay, Yell, male, 27th November; another male, South Hascosay, 27th November (P.K.Kinnear, M.Richardson).

Strathclyde Woodhall, male, 9th November (D.L.Clugston).

Grampian 1976 Sands of Forvie and Ythan Estuary, male, 8th June to 4th July (D.Butler, W.Murray, Dr I.J.Patterson *et al.*).

Highland 1974 Loch Fleet, immature male present 20th to 22nd April, not 20th to 28th as noted (Brit. Birds 68: 314).

Highland 1976 Loch Fleet and Golspie area, male, first seen in 1975 (Brit. Birds 69: 331) present throughout year; two males, from 7th March and three males, 14th to 30th April (A.R.Mainwood *et al.*).

Also a reappearance of the drake off Rossbeg, Co. Donegal, on 17th July. An obvious return to recent form; it can no longer be doubted that this species has become a regular visitor to Britain and Ireland since 1969. Few prizes are being won for duck spotting!

Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* (5, 8, 0)

Western Isles South Uist, the male first seen in summer 1972 (Brit. Birds 66: 338) was present again in summer 1977.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (75, 48, 17)

Cleveland Hartlepool, male, 17th September (M.A.Blick, M.J.Gee, G.Iceton *et al.*), see also Tyne & Wear.

Devon Kingsbridge Estuary, the individual first seen on 27th December 1976 (Brit. Birds 70: 417) remained until 7th March (V.R.Tucker *et al.*).

East Sussex Rye Bay, female or immature, 23rd November to 2nd December (P.F.Bonham, C.H.Dean, P.Rouse).

Highland Loch Fleet, male present since 5th November 1975 (see below), remained until at least April (A.R.Mainwood).

Lothian Gullane Bay, male, 23rd September (G.J.Gibbins *et al.*).

Strathclyde Ballochroy, male, 16th to 21st April (B.C. & R.W.Forrester), Rubha-na-Faing, Islay, two males, three females or immatures, 15th May (K.Verrall).

Tyne & Wear Whitburn, male, 17th September (B.Armstrong, W.L.Rimmer), almost certainly same as Cleveland individual.

Highland 1975 Loch Fleet, male, 5th November to at least April 1977; two males, about 17th November to at least 3rd December (A.R.Mainwood, M.C.Powell). Golspie, two males, 31st March (R.Fairbank), doubtless same individuals as two at Loch Fleet, 1st January to 16th March, already published (Brit. Birds 69: 331).

Highland 1976 Loch Fleet, male, first seen 5th November 1975 (see above), present throughout year (A.N.Mainwood, M.C.Powell); another male, 1st January to 22nd April (A.R.Mainwood *et al.*).

Also eight in Ireland: adult drakes at Bundoran, Co. Donegal, on 13th and 14th March; Clogher Head, Co. Louth, from 19th to 24th March; Lahinch, Co. Clare, from 10th to 14th April; and Brandon Bay, Co. Kerry, from 28th October (later two); an immature drake also at Lahinch on the same dates; and immatures off Clogher Head from 19th November to 26th December; and in Brandon Bay in early winter. The total of at least 19 in Britain and Ireland is unprecedented, but small parties, as off Islay, Strathclyde, are not.

Additional 1976 observations in Ireland were of four females or immatures off Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 23rd October to 13th February 1977.

Ruddy Shelduck (many, 15, -)

The Committee is continuing to assemble all records of this species since 1958 and appeals for details of any that remain unsubmitted.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 21, 2)

Essex Bradwell-on-Sea, 6th May (G.Smith).

West Sussex Cissbury Ring, 5th May (B.F.Forbes).

Western Isles 1976 North Rona, 26th to 30th June (M.A.S.Beaman, P.G.H.Evans *et al.*).

These records are typical of the three most recent years. This ace scavenger shows no sign of resuming its former true rarity.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (many, 6, 0)

Orkney 1976 Hoy, immature, 6th May (D.Garratt).

With one recent past and one current attempt to re-establish this huge raptor on Scottish isles in mind (see pages 475-481), it is difficult to comment on this bird. There has been no evidence of a true vagrant to Britain or Ireland since 1973.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* (0, 2, 0)

Cornwall 1976 Bearah Tor, Bodmin Moor, female, 13th June to about 28th July (H.A.Deal, P.A.Maker, B.K.Mellor *et al.*).

Shetland 1976 Fair Isle, male, 25th to 27th May (R.A.Broad, the late R.A.Richardson, A.M.Taylor *et al.*).

The first two records in Britain and Ireland, now accepted by the BOU Records Committee. We hope to publish full details shortly.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 172, 12)

Cambridgeshire Welches Dam, Ouse Washes, female, 15th May (D.Allen).

Derbyshire/South Yorkshire Upper Derwentdale, male, 28th May (D.P.Gosney, D.Herringshaw, M.E.Taylor).

Devon Lundy, male, 1st June (A.Harris, M. & Mrs W.Rogers).

Dorset Clifton Wood, female, 12th to 14th May (B.J.Widden, B.J.Matthews *et al.*).

Hampshire Winnall, near Winchester, male, 2nd to 3rd June (J.H.Taverner *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, male, 29th June (R.D.Purnell).

Kent Stodmarsh, two, 29th May: an immature (W.G.Harvey, P.J.Mountford, D.B.Rosair) and a sub-adult (C.Abrahams, W.G.Harvey).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, female, 12th June (S.Lorand, C.Morrison); male, 2nd August (S. & Mrs V.Lorand).

Norfolk Winterton-on-Sea, female, 4th June (E.T.Boulton).

Staffordshire Brewwood, male, 23rd August (E.B. & P.A.Brown).

Shetland 1976 Whalsay, immature, 9th to 10th October (the late J.H.Simpson).

West Yorkshire 1976 Winterset Reservoir, immature, 28th August to 1st September (J.S.Armitage, P.Smith, G.J.Speight).

Another marked spring influx, but now an average annual total.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 46, 1)

Highland Williamston, Duffus, Moray, 24th November (R.Richter).

Borders 1976 Rule Moss, 21st October: this locality is in Borders, not Lothian as previously stated (Brit. Birds 70: 419).

Lothian 1976 see Borders.

This single bird looks lonely compared with the average of three a year since 1970.

Little Crake *Porzana parva* (68, 23, 1)

None in Britain, but one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 21st August.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (many, 5, 0)

West Glamorgan 1976 Llantwit Major, 7th to 8th February (Dr A.R. & R.V.A.Lansdown).

This is now the rarest of Palearctic crakes to reach Britain. This record is the second of the last five (since 1965) to be in February. It appears that, like the Little Crake *P.parva*, this species may occasionally winter in Britain.

Crane *Grus grus* (many, 644, 51)

Cornwall Porthgarra, four of the five first seen on 21st December 1976 remained until 8th January, not 3rd January as previously noted (Brit. Birds 70: 419) (per D.Barker).

Essex A party of 26 was seen over East Bergholt, Tollesbury and Foulness on 16th October (Miss A.Plumridge, J.Thorogood, H.Wedgewood *et al.*); it was seen also in Kent, see below.

Grampian New Pitsligo, 22nd to 26th March (T.Hodd); Loch of Strathbeg, two, 24th August to 25th September (J.Dunbar, Dr A.Knox).

Gwynedd near Conwy, 22nd May (T.McCrail, S.J.Riley).

Highland Reay, Caithness, two, 22nd October (J.M.Gunn, E.W.E.Maughan).

Humberside Hornsea, 1st October (J.E.Adlard, S.Taylor).

Humberside/North Yorkshire Wheldrake Ings/Derwent Valley, 24th April to 4th May (T.D.Charlton, Dr J.H.Lawton, G.Smith *et al.*).

Kent Boughton, near Ashford, 3rd April (K.B.Ellis, P.R.Fennell); Minster, 3rd April (C.Byrne); another 22nd to 23rd May (W.G.Harvey, A.W.Thorpe); another, Hinxhill, near Ashford, 24th May (P.J.Grant). Dungeness, 29th May (Z.Bhatia, A.R.Pickup, A.T.M.Ruck). Ashford and Challock, north of Ashford, a party of 26, 16th October, doubtless the same as that seen in Essex earlier the same afternoon, subsequently thought to have been seen leaving the coast at Folkestone (per D.W.Taylor).

Lancashire Leighton Moss, 15th May (M.Jones, G.W. & M.A.Wilby *et al.*).

Norfolk Wells, 16th April (D.G. H. & Mrs M.Goodall). Bacton, 21st April (B.Cobbold). A crane at Sheringham on 16th (K.B.Shepherd) and Salthouse on 19th (M.P.Lee) was probably the same individual.

Northumberland Lindisfarne area, two, 4th May to 9th July (P.Corkhill, D.O'Connor *et al.*). Bamburgh, 6th May (I. & P.W.Davidson, A.B.Roe *et al.*); near Spindlestones, 9th July (T.R.Cook, D.P. & J.Hammersley *et al.*), these two records probably relate to one of the Lindisfarne individuals.

North Yorkshire Haxby, 8th to 17th October (C. & M.J.A.Thompson).

Strathclyde Dalrymple, 4th October to 12th November (M.E.Castle, E.M. & R.Hissett, R.H.Hogg).

Suffolk Havergate, 24th May (N.Devy, Mrs P.Hoggott). Orford, 9th June (J.Partridge).

Warwickshire Welford-on-Avon, 3rd January to 13th February (D.W.Hildred).

West Yorkshire Fairburn Ings, 17th March (C.Winn).

Grampian 1976 Newburgh, Aberdeen, 17th April (C.J.Spray). Maryculter, three, 21st to 23rd December (Mrs W.Stewart).

North Yorkshire 1976 Leighton Reservoir, 30th May (P.J.Carlton).

Wiltshire 1975 Allcannings, 8th to 10th April (R.Fussell).

Also singles at Broad Lough, Co. Wicklow, from 28th August to 25th September and Erriff Valley, Co. Mayo, from mid November to January 1978. Yet another striking series of records with almost twice the number seen in 1976 spread over eight months. The spring influx from March to June is the largest for that season in recent centuries (and perhaps since the 17th). The large autumn flock is the biggest since those involved in the exceptional passage of late October 1963 (Brit. Birds 57: 502-508).

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (many, 5, 1)

Gloucestershire flying south over Leckhampton and Leckhampton Hill, 24th May (Dr J.Harpum).

This bird must have been a magnificent sight as it flew over the Cotswold escarpment, but, although none has been traced, the possibility of an escape (from British or Continental collections) does exist.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (5, 11, 0)

Grampian 1976 Loch of Strathbeg, 15th July (R.Cardno, S.Cutts, J.Dunbar).

A second record for the long hot summer of that year.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (31, 21, 4)

Dorset Poole Harbour, 24th May (H.A.Lilley).

Humberside Blacktoft Sands, 11th June (P.Greaves, A.Grieve, D.Page *et al.*); possibly the same individual, Spurn, 12th to 19th June (J.Cudworth, I.Forsyth, C.D.R.Heard *et al.*).

Lancashire Marton Mere, 26th May (J.P.Guest) and 30th May to 1st June (E. & Dr R.Stirling *et al.*).

Suffolk Alton Water, 30th May to 2nd June (B.F.Butler, P.W.Murphy *et al.*).

Dorset 1974 Lodmoor, 7th June (M.Cade).

Four in one year is over three times the average for the last two decades.

Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* or *G.nordmanni* (36, 39, 5)

Cambridgeshire Ouse Washes, 7th June (A.Bottirill, I.Forsyth, J.Rawcliffe), considered to have been probably a Collared Pratincole.

Dorset 1971 Portland, two, 9th October (J.M. & D.Cobb).

Grampian 1972 Meikle Loch, 12th August (R.H.Hogg): previously rejected (Brit. Birds 66: 359), but now accepted after reconsideration of the details and circumstances.

The totals include those specifically identified.

Killdeer Plover *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 15, 0)

Humberside 1975 see South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire 1975 Thorne Moor, 29th to 30th November: this locality is in South Yorkshire, not Humberside as previously stated (Brit. Birds 69: 335).

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (6, 38, 6)

Central East Grangemouth, adult *P.d.dominica*, 14th to 22nd August (Dr D.M.Bryant, R.D.Moore *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 183).

Humberside Faxfleet, immature, probably *P.d.dominica*, 30th October (D.I.M.Wallace).

Lothian Aberlady Bay, adult *P.d.fulva*, 9th July (A.Brown, G.L.Sandeman, W.Thom). Musselburgh, adult *P.d.dominica*, 9th to 17th September (D.J.Bates, L.L.J.Vick, P.Wilson *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 10th to 12th April (R.N.Hobbs, D.B.Hunt *et al.*); immature *P.d.dominica*, 14th to 23rd September (P.A.Fraser, A.Nichols, J.F.Ryan).

Dumfries & Galloway 1976 East Park, the individual first seen on 23rd November 1975 (Brit. Birds 70: 447) remained until 26th February.

Lothian 1976 Aberlady Bay, adult *P.d.fulva*, 10th to 16th July (D.J.Bates *et al.*). West Fenton, *P.d.dominica*, 13th to 14th November (S.T.Buckland, H.Howard, I.H.Leach).

A fascinating set of records of this globe-trotting plover which has become increasingly regular in Britain and Ireland since 1962. The prompt reappearance of a July adult in Lothian is particularly noteworthy and the Scilly record is only the second in spring. It is unlikely that breeding birds of the two races ever come as close as the two vagrants to the Firth of Forth, Lothian.

Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria* (5, 11, 2)

Essex see Suffolk.

Norfolk Welney, 3rd to at least 20th September (S.J.M.Gantlett, A.Hopkins *et al.*).

Suffolk Little Cornard, adult, 27th December to 15th January 1978; also seen nearby at Middleton and Great Henny, Essex (M.N.Lynton, G.C.White *et al.*).

Never before has this species occurred in three consecutive years. These two records could have referred to the same wintering individual, since extended stays are not unusual, but are treated here as different.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 16, 0)

Essex 1974 Barking, 4th May: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 68: 318), but now considered unacceptable after review and should be deleted.

Gloucestershire 1968 Slimbridge, 13th October: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 62: 470), but now withdrawn by observer prior to review and should be deleted.

Kent 1965 Dungeness, 6th to 9th September: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 59: 289, 543-547, plate 79), but now considered unacceptable after review and should be deleted.

Kent 1967 Sevenoaks, 10th September: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 61: 342), but now considered unacceptable after review and should be deleted.

Lincolnshire/Norfolk 1966 Wisbech sewage-farm: the individual last seen on 29th December was first identified on 12th November and not 9th October as previously stated (Brit. Birds 60: 319).

Scilly 1969 Tresco, 19th August: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 63: 277), but now considered unacceptable after review and should be deleted.

Suffolk 1971 Minsmere, 3rd to 8th September: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 65: 334), but now considered unacceptable after review and should be deleted.

A review of all past records by D.I.M.Wallace will be published soon. It will include the detailed reasons for the above changes in judgement and further comment on the identification of this species.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (6, 15, 1)

Hampshire Farlington Marshes, 22nd May (D.F. & Mrs R.A.Billett, T.C.Juniper).

Only the second ever in spring. Following the revision of the occurrences of the Semipalmated Sandpiper, this becomes the most frequent transatlantic vagrant of the three American stints.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 113, 6)

Dyfed Dale, 20th September (R.C.Price).

Highland Dornoch, Sutherland, 23rd October (D.S.Whitaker).

Kent Bough Beech Reservoir, 27th August (R.B.Aitken, R.K.Coles, D.R.Hodge).

Norfolk Holme, 28th August to 2nd September (P.R.Clarke *et al.*); see also Northumberland.

Northumberland Lynemouth, 14th to 18th September (B.Galloway, E.R.Meek *et al.*); damaged bill and plumage features indicated that this was same as Norfolk individual.

Also singles at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 23rd August and at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 29th August. The multiple arrival in late August is noteworthy; records of this species are more often widely spread in time. That an injured individual should move north along the East Coast indicates how disorientated some vagrants become.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 57, 6)

Essex Rainham, 3rd September (P.M.Griggs, J.Miller, P.Vines *et al.*).

Leicestershire Eye Brook Reservoir, 10th to 15th September (K.Allsopp, R.G.Lockwood, F.C.Pickering *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 31st August to 12th September (R.W.Allen, D.B.Hunt, W.E.Oddie); another, 3rd to 8th October (P.J.Grant, D.B.Hunt *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: 417-418, plate 154). St Mary's, 24th September, considered to be a third individual (L.R.Price, G.G. & P.E.Williams *et al.*).

Suffolk Benacre, 8th to 18th September (G.J.Jobson, M.Parker *et al.*).

None in Ireland in the year under review, but a second bird there in 1976, at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 10th October. Thrice the average number for Britain, which makes a total absence from Ireland even more surprising. Before 1958, only one came with every five White-rumped Sandpipers; recently, one has come with two.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (5, 9, 1)

Cleveland Seal Sands, 3rd September (M.A.Blick, D.J.Britton, T.Francis *et al.*).

There had been only eight in all up to 1966 and there was none from 1967 to 1972, but now seven have come in the last five years. The date is typical.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 31, 3)

Norfolk Breydon Water, 5th to 6th June (P.R.Allard, A.D.Boote *et al.*); 21st September (P.R.Allard).

Wiltshire Swindon sewage-farm, 21st September (G.L.Webber).

Cheshire 1975 Frodsham, 17th May (G.Sellors).

Merseyside 1976 Crossens Marsh, 1st July (S.J.M.Riley, M.Thomas *et al.*).

Shetland 1976 Whalsay, 3rd November (the late J.H.Simpson).

Formerly subject to a high rate of rejections, records of this species have now been annual from 1972. The average since that year has been three, compared with just over one up to 1970. The regularity of spring occurrences in East Anglia is now well established. The one in Shetland was the latest ever.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (33, 219, 64)

Cheshire Burton Marshes, 12th to 24th September (A.Graham, S.Campbell *et al.*).

Cleveland Saltholme Pools, 10th September (A.Goodwin, J.P.Guest). Marske, two, 11th September (D.J.Britton).

Cornwall Porthgwarra: one from 31st August; four, 4th to 6th September; two to 18th; another 24th and 25th: possibly eight in all (E.Griffiths, V.B.Hicks, L.P.Williams *et al.*). Crowdy Reservoir, 3rd to 7th September (H.Deal, F.M.C. & J.Kendal, A.I.Prophet *et al.*). Predannack Airfield, 10th September, two on 11th; another three on 17th (E.Griffiths *et al.*).

Devon Lundy, two, 5th to 11th September (R.W.Britton, D.R.Richards, M. & Mrs W.Rogers); another, trapped, 15th to 25th September (M.Rogers, R.E.Youngman).

Essex Hanningfield Reservoir, 9th to 17th September (G.R. & E.V.Ekins, S.A.Webb).

Fife Crail, two, 12th to 14th September (Mrs G.Anderson, Miss R.Cleghorn, Mrs J.A.R.Grant).

Gloucestershire Dumbles, New Grounds, 9th to 10th May (L.P.Alder, M.Smart).

Grampian Loch of Strathbeg, three, 18th September (C.Rutter, M.J.Whitehouse).

Gwynedd Cemlyn Bay, 21st September to 8th October (A.Clements, P.J.Dare, M.Smith *et al.*), the same individual again 13th to 17th November (K.G.Craft).

Hampshire Pennington Marshes, 4th September (P. & M.C.Combridge).

Kent Dungeness, 14th September (Z.Bhatia, O.Coppin, P.J.Grant *et al.*). Cliffe, 10th September to 9th October (S.J.Gatley, J.C.Martin, D.W.Taylor *et al.*).

Lothian Musselburgh, 10th to 13th, 20th and 22nd September, presumed the same individual (Dr L.J.Vick *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, at least 15: five from 30th August, eight on 6th September, nine on 7th, 12 on 8th, 15 on 9th to 10th, 14 on 11th to 12th, dropping to nine by early October; last one, found dying, 12th October (P.Fraser; per H.P.K.Robinson).

Shetland Fair Isle, 10th to 13th September (R.A.Broad, C.D.R.Heard *et al.*).

Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, 9th to 10th October; another, 2nd to 7th November (B.Rabbitts *et al.*).

Surrey Staines Reservoirs, 14th September to 2nd October (J.Hazell, A.V.Moon, P.Naylor).

West Glamorgan Burry Holm, Gower, 7th September (H.E.Grenfell, W.L.Phillips).

West Yorkshire Ringstone Edge Reservoir, 13th to 16th September (J.Beaumont, J.E.Dale *et al.*).

Also, in September, one at Bull Island, Co. Dublin, from 1st to 22nd (two from 4th to 10th); seven at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, from 15th to 21st; singles at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 17th and at Doolin, Co. Clare, on 19th; and in October singles at Ballycotton on 4th, and Lough Beg, Co. Derry, on 9th.

Another marvellous flight across the Atlantic by this charming bird, almost on the scale of the record influx of 67 in 1975. The British total of at least 51 is the highest in any year.

Late 1976 acceptances for Ireland were of singles at Lough Beg, Co. Derry, on 5th September and 10th October.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 42, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, 6th October (E.Fagrell, H.Gilston, R.J.Johns).

Scilly 1968 Tresco, 3rd October: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 62: 468), but now withdrawn by observer and should be deleted.

This bird looks very lonely, compared with the seven of 1976, but the average since 1958 is only just over two.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 28, 11)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, two, 30th September, later moved to Blagdon Water, where one remained to 11th January and one to 21st January 1978 (K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

Cornwall/Devon Lower Tamar Lake, two, first week of October to 16th, one remaining to 23rd (S.M.Christophers, G.P.Sutton *et al.*).

Dorset Lodmoor/Radipole, 28th to 30th September; probably different individual Radipole, 17th to 18th October (M.Cade). Fleet, 10th December to early 1978 (G.J.Armstrong).

Dorset/Somerset Sutton Bingham Reservoir, first-winter, 8th to 22nd October (D.Chown, B.J.Widden *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 184).

Hertfordshire Tring Reservoirs, 22nd October to 12th November (R.A.Kempster, P.J.Stead *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes/St Mary's, 28th September to early 1978 (P.A.Dukes, D.A.Parmenter *et al.*).

Surrey Staines Reservoirs, 1st to 15th October (I.Archibald, J.Hazell *et al.*).

Western Isles Hallaman Bay, Barra, 1st to 2nd August (J.K. & Mrs Duncan).

Cornwall 1976 one of the two first seen at Stithians Reservoir on 13th October 1975 (Brit. Birds 69: 335) remained until 25th March.

Dorset 1976 Arne, 3rd August (B.P.Pickess, N.Knight).

Highland 1975 Thurso, Caithness, 11th October to 20th November (Miss V.Hewison, J.Gunn, Mrs P.M.Collett *et al.*).

Yet again, none in Ireland, but the biggest ever influx to Britain, with at least 11 in autumn and winter. It should be remembered that this species has to overfly almost the entire breeding range of the Short-billed Dowitcher *L.griseus* to reach eastern Canada, let alone Europe!

Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* or *L.griseus* (31, 102, 16)

Avon Aust Warth, 16th October (P.J.Chadwick, N.J.Lacy).

Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, 1st to 3rd October (G.W.Davis, S.Pilbeam).

Essex Bradwell-on-Sea, 29th August (A.J.Gabriel).

Suffolk Havergate, two, 22nd October to early 1978 (R.Gomes, J.Partridge).

The totals include those specifically identified.

Another five indeterminate birds bring the 1977 total of dowitchers to an astonishing 16, twice the previous peaks of 8 in 1970 and 1971.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 10, 3)

Gwynedd Malltraeth, Anglesey, 30th June to 2nd July (K.Burry, T.Dixon, Dr J.H.Lawton *et al.*).

Hampshire Farlington Marshes, 5th to 8th and 11th July (M.S.Arnott, D.S.Flumm, C.R.Janman *et al.*).

Suffolk Benacre Broad, 14th September (P.Tate).

Three in one year is quite exceptional; June and July records are unusual.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 92, 8)

Buckinghamshire Denham, 15th October to 5th November (R.P.Bosanquet, A.J.Prater, Miss S.Woodman *et al.*).

Devon Horsey Island, Taw estuary, 6th and 16th to 17th March (Mrs H.Stormont *et al.*).

Dorset Lodmoor, 3rd to 9th September (R.A.Ford, I.S.Robertson *et al.*).

Gwynedd Bardsey, 11th October (P.J.Roberts).

Hampshire Dibden Bay, 29th August to 9th September (G.J.Armstrong, J.M.Clark, P.F.Fawkes *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Fenwick Pond and Wallsend, 15th to 27th September (J.A.Ginnever, M.S.Hodgson).

Devon 1976 Teign estuary, first seen 10th November 1975 (Brit. Birds 69: 336), present until 6th April.

Also singles at Rahasane, Co. Galway, on 20th January and near Skibbereen, Co. Cork, on 13th September. Another typical showing of this shank which never seems to cross the Atlantic in a major flight: it just appears in a wide scatter in most months except January and February.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (6, 11, 1)

Surrey Perry Oaks sewage-farm, 22nd July (J.Sayers).

The second July record of a sandpiper which appears to cross the Atlantic earlier than most other Nearctic waders.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 11, 1)

Highland Sandside Bay, Reay, Caithness, 5th to 12th June (Mrs P.M.Collett, S.Edwards, J.M.Gunn *et al.*).

This species has failed to appear in only two years since 1969.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 27, 5)

East Sussex Barcombe Reservoir, immature, 3rd to 11th November (P.Clement, R.D.M.Edgar).

Gwynedd Bardsey, trapped, 16th September (T.Cleaves, T.Jones, P.J.Roberts).

Kent Bough Beech Reservoir, immature, 20th to 30th September (G.T.A.Burton, R.K.Coles, B.A.Ryan) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 185).

North Yorkshire near Knaresborough, 7th to 11th May (R.Evison, J.R.Mather, A.F.G.Walker *et al.*).

Warwickshire Draycote Water, 8th to 10th May (A.R.M.Blake, P.J.Finden, G.R. & Mrs J.V.Harrison *et al.*).

Another two spring records bring the total for that season to seven (all but one since 1971). Five is the most for any year. Further useful comments on the separation of this species from Common Sandpiper *A.hypoleucos* have been published by S.C.Madge (Brit. Birds 70: 346-348).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 76, 12)

Cambridgeshire Ouse Washes, 30th May to 4th August (D.Allen, S.Young *et al.*).

Cleveland Saltholme Pools, 7th to 28th September (M.A.Blick *et al.*).

Cornwall Hayle Estuary, 30th August to 4th September (R.M.Belringer, J.C.Nicholls). Crowdy Reservoir and Davidstow Aerodrome, 2nd to 11th September (M.Blatchford, S.M.Christophers, E.Griffiths); probably the same individual, Siblyback Reservoir, 5th to 21st September (S.M.Christophers, A.I.Prophet).

Essex Hanningfield Reservoir, 23rd October to 2nd November (P.Griggs, J.Miller *et al.*).

Hampshire Dibden Bay, 9th October (R.Cook, T.M.Martin, R.Ship).

Northumberland Monks House Pool, near Seahouses, 27th to 29th September (K.J.Hall, D.Henshilwood, T.G.Smith *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 5th to 12th September (D.B.Hunt); another, 3rd to 9th October (P.J.Grant *et al.*).

Cheshire 1976 Walton Reservoir, 25th May (C.Antrobus).

Also singles at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 17th and 18th September; at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, from 25th to 27th; and at Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 1st to 8th October. The largest influx since records began, but unlikely to be linked to the September flight of Buff-breasted Sandpipers (since their larger movements are not correlated in Britain and Ireland). The long summer stay in Cambridgeshire is noteworthy.

The total number of Nearctic waders (excluding Pectoral Sandpipers *Calidris melanotos* and Lesser Golden Plovers *Pluvialis dominica*) in the year under review is 119 (of nine species), compared with 48 (of 11 species) in 1976 and 109 (of 12 species) in 1975.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* (not known, not known, 68)

Cleveland Teesmouth, adult, 31st July (M.A.Blick *et al.*). Hartlepool, immature and three adults, 31st July; adult, 6th August (M.A.Blick *et al.*); immature, 16th August (G.Keton); immature, 19th August (D.Page); sub-adult and two immatures, 25th August (G.Keton); immature, 27th August (M.A.Blick *et al.*); sub-adult, 10th September (G.Keton).

Grampian Girdleness, adults, 21st and 30th July, and sub-adult on 28th (P.M.Ellis); adult, 17th August (P.R.Gordon). Kinnairds Head, adult, 7th September (D.I.M.Wallace). Collieston, adult, 10th September (C.J.Spray). Fraserburgh, adult, 16th September (M.J.H.Cook).

Humberside Flamborough Head, sub-adult, 24th July (D.I.M.Wallace); immature, 13th August (P.A.Lassey, Miss I.Smith); adult, 20th August (S.T.Holliday, P.A.Lassey, Miss I.Smith); adult, 27th August (P.Greaves, D.Page, J.Palmer). Hornsea, adult, 16th August (W.F.Curtis). Bridlington, immature, 16th September (D.I.M.Wallace).

Kent Dungeness, immature, 24th October to 11th November (P.J.Grant, A.J.Greenland *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, immature, 21st August (G.P.Catley, S.F.A.Firth, D.A.Robinson).

Merseyside Wirral, immature, 14th August (P.A.Walton).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, adults, 16th July (T.A.Walsh) and 11th August (L.F. & S.Woollard). Cley, adult, 17th September (S.J.M.Gantlett, G.Stephenson, D.Willis).

Northumberland Seaton Sluice, adults, 29th May (G.Sutton, K.Walton) and 31st July (C.Freeman, F.G.Grey). Newton Point, adult, 13th July (M.J.Chester). Farne Islands, adult, 11th September (C.Slater). Holy Island, two adults, 12th September (A.Heavisides).

North Yorkshire Filey Brigg, adult, 8th August (P.J.Dunn, T.Hobson, A.Patterson).

Orkney Evie, adult, 29th May (D.Mower).

Shetland off Whalsay, adult, 24th June (Dr B.Marshall).

Strathclyde Islay, two immatures, 27th September (K.Verrall).

Western Isles Balranald, North Uist, flock of 24, 10th May (D.L.Davenport, M.H.Davies, M.J.Sinden). Between Skye and Uist, adult, 6th June (W. & Mrs E.C.McCubbin).

Cleveland 1976 Skinningrove, adult, 4th September (N.Walker).

Grampian 1976 Collieston, adults, 17th September (C.J.Spray) and 1st October (Dr A.Knox). Girdleness, immature, 30th September (P.M.Ellis).

Humber side 1976 Spurn, adult, 24th September (N. & P.J.P.Money). Flamborough Head, additional to those already published (Brit. Birds 70: 424:): immature, 28th August; adult and sub-adult, 9th September (D.I.M.Wallace); immatures, 10th September (P.A.Lassey, Miss I.Smith, D.I.M.Wallace), 11th and 12th September (P.A.Lassey, D.I.M.Wallace); sub-adult and immature, 16th September; immatures, 29th and 30th October (D.I.M.Wallace).

West Yorkshire 1976 Wath Ings, adult, 29th May (J.Hewitt).

The 16 additional acceptances for 1976 bring the total for that year to 125. The 68 in the year under review make this species look uncommon in comparison, but clearly this delightful skua is no rarity these days (cf. an average of only 17 per year during 1958-67: J.T.R.Sharrock, 1974, Scarce Migrant Birds in Britain and Ireland).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 9, 3)

Cornwall St Ives Bay, first-winter, 10th to 25th December (P.Pearce, V.Stratton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 188); this individual reappeared, at Newlyn in January 1978.

Merseyside Mersey Estuary, adult, 3rd August (Dr R.J.Raines).

Suffolk River Orwell, Wherstead, adult, 13th November (A.Botwright); presumably the same individual, Felixstowe, 29th November to 2nd December (A.R.J.Paine).

Although there was none in 1976, these three bring the total since 1974 to eight.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 3, 2)

Cleveland North Care, adult, 24th July (M.A.Blick, D.I.Griss).

Suffolk Lowestoft Harbour and fields inland, probably second-winter, 13th November to March 1978 (B.J.Brown *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plates 186 & 187).

Norfolk 1976 West Runton, probably second-winter, 29th October (G.R. & Mrs J.V.Harrison, Mrs D.Herlihy).

The first since two in 1970 of this prairie species. The Suffolk individual probably saw more birdwatchers than any other bird in Britain during its four-month stay.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 18, 1)

Cleveland Teesmouth, first-summer to second-winter, 12th August to 2nd October (D.J.Britton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 189).

This close cousin of the Black-headed Gull *L.ridibundus* remains rare. Although of annual occurrence between 1967 and 1973, it has become erratic again.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (0, 10, 4)

Hampshire Langstone Harbour, first-summer to second-winter, 1st June to 31st July (R.A.Barratt, D.S.Flumm, P.J.Grant *et al.*).

South Glamorgan Blackpill, adult, 12th to 13th March (K.E.Vinicombe); probably second-winter, 18th September (W.E.Oddie).

West Glamorgan Clyne Common, Gower, adult, 8th August (J.E.Morgan).

Undiscovered (though not necessarily absent) before 1973, this close cousin of the Common Gull *L.canus* has occurred in every subsequent year.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (2, 18, 2)

Cornwall St Ives, adult, 12th November (V.Stratton).

Shetland Lerwick Harbour, adult, 20th to 23rd November (C.Byers, J.D.Hall, J.Pearson).

Shetland 1975 The Scalloway individual, 19th to 29th January, was adult, not immature as previously stated (Brit. Birds 69: 341).

The run of consecutive annual appearances extends to four.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 15, 0)

Grampian 1976 West Hills of Skene, first-winter, trapped 29th December, released 3rd January 1977 (R.Rae *et al.*).

Highland 1976 Wick Harbour, Caithness, two first-winters, 24th to 27th November, one remaining to 29th (P.Shand, I.G. & R.S.Smitton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 190).

Humberside 1976 Hornsea, first-winter, 25th January (D.Fleet, S.L.James, S.Morgan).

These three late acceptances for 1976 are of considerable interest, matching as they do the five records of Ross's Gull in that year. Before 1958, this was a much more frequent vagrant than Ross's (76:2), but since 1960 it has become the scarcer of the two (15:20).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* (53, 130, 5)

Devon Dawlish Warren, two adults, 8th September (R.Khan).

Lothian Bo'ness, 21st May (R.Bernard).

Norfolk Breydon Water, 6th June (P.R.Allard). Cley, 28th August (R.Aberdein, C.R.Ireland).

The Lothian bird is only the second spring record for Scotland.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 93, 7)

Kent Sandwich Bay, two, possibly three, 3rd June (J.H.van der Dol, N.V.McCanch *et al.*). Margate, two, 16th June (D.C.Gilbert).

Norfolk Swanton Morley gravel-pit, 11th July (J.King *et al.*).

Somerset Bridgwater Bay and Durleigh Reservoir, 16th July (J.M.Breeds, C.P. & Mrs T.A.Denman).

Suffolk Benacre Ness, 23rd August (K.J.S.Devonald).

Grampian 1976 Ythan Estuary, 25th July (P.M.Ellis, C.J.Spray, L.Steele).

Shetland 1976 Yell, found long-dead on shoreline early August, having been ringed as nestling near Stockholm, Sweden, 18th June 1975 (per BTO Ringing Office and J.Ohlsson).

Strathclyde 1976 Endrick Mouth, 4th July (K.Francis).

The three late records for 1976 take the total for that year to 12, the highest ever, and include the first direct evidence of vagrancy from the Baltic population. An average showing in the year under review.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (20, 42, 5)

Cambridgeshire Grafham Water, 26th May (P. J. Marsh).

Humberside Easington, 24th to at least 30th April (G.Catley, S.M.Lister).

Lancashire Leighton Moss, 6th June (P.Guy, A.W.H.Wincott).

Surrey Staines Reservoirs, 17th August (R.J. & Mrs S.M.Johns *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Gosforth Park, 23rd April (F.Colley, M.S.Hodgson *et al.*).

Although not yet annual in occurrence, this marsh tern is now twice as common as it was in 1967.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 290, 31)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, immature, 25th to 28th September (A.H.Davis, A.J.Merritt, K.E.Vinicombe).

Cleveland Saltholme Pool, immature, 10th to 11th August (M.A.Blick, J.Crussell, T.Francis). Seal Sands, immature, 20th August (D.J.Britton).

Cornwall Camel Estuary, adult, 23rd May (M.P.Frost, R.E.Wake). Stithians Reservoir, adult, 8th July (J.Hawkey *et al.*).

Dorset/Somerset Sutton Bingham Reservoir, immature, 23rd to 25th August (A.J.Bundy, D.E.Paull, M.Regan).

East Sussex Pett Pools, immature, 27th August to 10th September; two immatures, 2nd to 3rd September (C.H.Dean, J.Houghton, E.W.Sears *et al.*).

Gwynedd Llyn Traffwl, Anglesey, adult, 16th July to 8th August (M.J.Donahue, M.H.Rogers *et al.*); apparently the same individual, Ynys Fenrig, 31st July to 6th August (R.Bines, I.McLean *et al.*).

Humber Tophill Low Reservoir, adult, 7th June (A.S.Butler, P.Doherty, V.A.Lister). Blacktoft Sands, immature, 25th to 26th August (A.Grieve). Hornsea Mere, adult, 30th August (D.G.Hobson, D.P.Sharpe).

Kent Margate, first-summer, 8th July (D.C.Gilbert). Dungeness, immature, 20th to 22nd August (B.Reed, N.Riddiford *et al.*).

Lancashire Clifton Marsh, adult, 20th June (P.Guy).

Lincolnshire Covenham Reservoir, immature, 30th August to 11th September (B.M. & J.R.Clarkson).

Norfolk Hardley Flood, adult, 26th to 28th May (J.C.Eaton *et al.*). Cley, adult, 1st to 9th June (B.Bland, R.Wells).

Suffolk Alton Water, adult, 28th May (M.C.Marsh, P.W.Murphy). Havergate, adult, 2nd to 3rd June (N.R.Davies, R.I.Thorpe). Minsmere, adult, 23rd June (N.Beach, R.F.W.Hemming, N.R.Stocks *et al.*); immature, 24th August (I.H.Brown, S.N.G.Howell).

Surrey Staines Reservoirs, immature, 23rd August (J.Hazell); probably the same individual, Queen Mary Reservoir, 24th August to 4th September (J.Hazell, M.J.Rogers); second immature, 25th August (Dr D.B.Jones, R.J.Johns); another immature, 10th to 12th September (P.Clement, P.R.Colston).

Tyne & Wear Wallsend, adult, 11th June (C.Oldershaw, S.Roddis *et al.*).

West Midlands Rotton Park Reservoir, Birmingham, immature, 17th August (A.R.M.Blake).

West Sussex Sidlesham Ferry, adult, 26th May (C.R.Janman, M.Shrub).

Dorset 1976 The immature at Christchurch Harbour on 9th to 26th October (Brit. Birds 70: 425) was last seen on 30th October.

Norfolk 1976 Cley, adult, 14th July (R. & S.C.Ludford).

Orkney 1976 North Ronaldsay, adult, 24th to 26th May (J.W.A.Cutt).

Oxfordshire 1976 Farmoor Reservoir, adult, 18th October (R.Nelson).

Strathclyde 1976 Eaglesham, adult, 4th June (Mr & Mrs D.Chalmers, J.Donn, W.Munro).

Also singles at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 21st August, Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, on 18th September and Cobh, Co. Cork, on 28th September. Only twice before (in 1970 and 1976) have more than 30 reached Britain and Ireland in one year.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* (3, 4, 1)

Shetland Sumburgh, found dead, 18th December (D.P.P.Eva, P.K.Kinnear, T.D.Rogers), now at Fair Isle Bird Observatory.

Highland 1976 Reay Beach, Thurso, found dead, 31st January (Mrs P.M.Collett *et al.*), now at Royal Scottish Museum.

The odds on putting binoculars on to a live Brünnich's Guillemot get no better. All five birds in the last 20 years have been found dead (and there are only three previous records). Yet there is a strong hint in their dates and localities – three in Ireland and Argyll in September and October, four in Scotland in December, January and March and one in Lancashire in April – that these waifs come from a small wintering population, like that now established for the White-billed Diver. In eastern North America, birds stray south as far as Delaware.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (6, 12, 1)

Norfolk Cley and Salthouse, 21st October (C.E. & Mrs M.S.Hope, C.R.Linfoot, G.G.Williams *et al.*).

This is the latest ever. The ornithological depression at Cley on the day after this bird's very brief appearance to a select few observers was monumental.

Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 10, 1)

Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, found dead, 7th April (C.Marsh per S.Lorand).

Another in early April, like the sole 1976 record in the Isles of Scilly.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 154, 10)

Orkney Birsay Moor, 13th to 16th May (D.Mower, N.Picozzi).

Shetland Fetlar: two adult females, probably present since late 1976, from March to 9th and 12th June respectively; three sub-adult females in early April and on 9th May and one on 5th June; adult female, 4th to 7th September and two from 8th September to the end of the year (J.N.Dymond, R.J.Tulloch). Unst, female, 28th and 30th April (per R.J.Tulloch). Out Skerries, 21st May (R.W.Hemming, A.R.Lowe, W.E.Oddie). Ronas Hill, Mainland, sub-adult female, 24th June and 9th July, two on 12th and at least two on 28th, again on 13th August and 16th September (I.S.Robertson, R.J.Tulloch *et al.*). Burra, female, 23rd October (per R.J.Tulloch). Yell, adult female, 28th December (per R.J.Tulloch).

Plenty of potential wives, but sadly once again no husband!

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (150, 123, 6)

Dorset Portland, 20th May (I.S.Robertson).

Essex The Naze, 9th October (M.Coath).

Gloucestershire South Cerney sewage farm, 1st June (R. & T.Hamlett).

Hertfordshire Hartsbourne golf course, 14th May (A.G.Clarke).

Shetland Burra, 24th June (I.Burrows, R.W.Furness).

Surrey Staines Reservoirs, 25th August (R.J.Johns).

Greater London 1967 Beddington sewage-farm, Surrey, 18th June (P.R.Colston).

Western Isles 1974 Hirta, St Kilda, 12th to 16th May (L.J. & Mrs L.Brown, J.Wilkie *et al.*).

An average showing.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 93, 1)

Suffolk Dunwich, 28th May (D.A.Pond).

There can be no doubt that this Mediterranean spirit is becoming scarcer. Up to 1974, records averaged over five a year, but there have been only three since.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 54, 3)

Oxfordshire Bruern, 14th to 16th June (J.M. & Dr B.Campbell, D. & J.Wilson).

North Yorkshire Ripley, 15th July (R.Smith).

West Sussex Upwaltham Down, 19th to 22nd June (R.A.Cawthorne, J.H.Marchant, E.T.Roberts *et al.*).

An average showing.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 138, 14)

Fife Isle of May, 26th May (N.J.Phillips *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, 28th May (S.M.Lister, J.M.Turton *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Sywell Reservoir, 13th to at least 14th May (L.S.Taylor *et al.*).

Scilly St Martin's, 30th September; two, 1st to 8th October (R.W.Allen, I.Forsyth *et al.*); another, 12th to 16th October (per H.P.K.Robinson). St Mary's, five or more: 1st to 4th October (P.J.Grant, M.J.Rogers *et al.*); another locality, two, 7th October, three on 9th, four 12th to 13th, two to 15th and one to 16th (M.J.Rogers *et al.*). Others elsewhere, 10th, 11th, 14th and 15th (per H.P.K.Robinson) probably associated with same party. Tresco, 23rd to at least 25th October (B.Bland).

Shetland Out Skerries, 27th to 28th September (D.Coutts, P.J.Ewins, J.D.Okil). Fair Isle, 1st October (E.Fagrell, H.Gilston, R.J.Johns *et al.*).

An influx almost rivalling that of 1975, with the Isles of Scilly receiving the lion's share this time, but Fair Isle almost dipping out.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 40, 12)

Avon New Passage, 16th September (P.Evans, G.Youdale).

Cornwall Rinsey Head, 17th May (J.A.Grover).

Dyfed Bosherton Ponds, near Pembroke, 30th June (Miss I.Cotgrove).

Humberside Hornsea Mere, 30th April (J.E.Adlard, R.G.Hawley, R.G.Sturman). Spurn, two, 22nd October (J.M.Bayldon, J.Cudworth, D.Page *et al.*); another, 25th October (D.Abbott, B.Banson, D.Ford *et al.*); another, 13th November (D.Carroll, R.Gilbert, K.Pearson *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 29th October (R.Thompson).

Norfolk Cley, 11th June (R.J.Fairbank, P.Naylor, N.J.Redman); 18th October (H.G.Tyler *et al.*).

Northumberland Holy Island and Bamburgh Head, 27th to 30th October (D.G. & Mrs Bell, S.J.M.Gantlett, Miss M.G.Robinson *et al.*).

Orkney 1976 North Ronaldsay, 7th October (J.W.A.Cutt).

Spring influxes are expected; but the pronounced arrival on the East Coast in October is unprecedented. The total of 12 compares with five in each of the two previous best years (1968 and 1973). (In the last report it was stated (70: 429) that the 1976 Scottish record was only the second for that country: A.T.Macmillan has rightly pointed out that it was in fact the fourth.)

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* (135, 724, 90)

Cheshire Burton Marsh, two, 9th to 10th March (Dr R.J.Raines, W.T.C. & Mrs L.Rankin).

Cornwall Stepper Point, Padstow, 25th September (R.Smaldon). Marazion Marsh, 14th October (D.J.Barker). Pentire Point, 17th October; another, 25th November (S.M.Christophers). Wadebridge, 25th October (S.M.Christophers).

Devon Dawlish Warren, 18th September (R.Burrige). Ernsettle Marsh, Plymouth, 19th September (E.Griffiths).

Dorset Portland, 24th September (G.Walbridge *et al.*).

Dyfed Skokholm, 20th to 23rd September (D.B.Wooldridge).

Fife Isle of May, 23rd September (I.H.Leach *et al.*).

Grampian Meikle Loch, 30th October (R.W. & Mrs Byrne, C.J.Spray).

Gwent Peterstone, 25th to 26th September (S.D.Enright, S.N.G.Howell).

Gwynedd Bardsey, 7th October (M.R.Lawn); another, 25th to 26th October (P.J.Roberts, R.S.Thomas). Malltraeth, Anglesey, 12th to 15th December (T.Baker, C.McCarty, C.M.Swaine *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, 16th to 25th October (A.O.Aitken, S.M.Lister, M.L.Passant *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Grainthorpe Marsh, two, 22nd to 25th September; another, 29th to at least 8th October; possibly additional individuals, 8th and 16th October (S.Lorand *et al.*) Donna Nook, at least five: 4th October; one or two, 22nd October to 6th November; four, 29th to 30th October (S.Lorand *et al.*).

Lothian Barns Ness, 9th October (D.J.Bates, W.R.Brackenridge, R.H.Hogg *et al.*).

Norfolk Winterton/Horsey, total of at least ten, 1st to 23rd October (P.R.Allard, A.D.Boote, T.E.Boulton *et al.*). Sheringham, 28th September; three, 20th to 25th October, four 22nd to 23rd October (Dr M.Taylor). Weybourne, two, 27th October; another, 5th to 7th November (Dr M.Taylor *et al.*). Cley, 13th to 28th October (C.R.Linfoot, D.I.M.Wallace *et al.*); another, 23rd (B.Reed). Blakeney Point, 13th October (D.M.Norman *et al.*). Stiffkey, 22nd September; another, 25th September; three, 11th to 12th October, one remaining to 14th, one to 15th; another, 14th to 17th (P.J.Marsh *et al.*). Warham, 1st to 2nd October (G.E.Dunmore). Wells/Holkham, 7th to 9th October; three, 11th, two remaining to 18th; possibly another, 23rd (S.J.M.Gantlett, P.J.Marsh *et al.*). Gun Hill, Holkham, two, 11th to 13th October; another two, 29th October (per G.E.Dunmore). Scolt Head, 16th to 29th October, two on 27th (per G.E.Dunmore). Burnham Overy, 16th October (per G.E.Dunmore).

Northumberland Low Hauxley, 16th October (J.A.Ginnever, E.R.Meek).

Nottinghamshire Hoveringham gravel-pits, 8th to 9th October (J.A.Hopper, N.R.Stocks).

Scilly St Mary's, ten: 16th to 18th September (N.A.Preston, J.F.Ryan); 20th September (G.G. & P.E.Williams); 25th to 29th September (per H.P.K.Robinson); a second individual, 29th (M.J.Rogers); 3rd October (P.M.Ellis); 8th October (G.Summers); two, 9th to 10th October (H.P.K.Robinson, G.Summers *et al.*); 11th October (H.P.K.Robinson); 14th October (G.Summers); two, separate individuals, 18th October (G.J.Clark, Dr N.R.Rogers); another, 3rd November (P.A.Dukes). St Martin's, 9th October (D.Page). St Agnes, 21st to 25th April (R.W.Allen); 30th September (P.A.Dukes); 7th October (C.E.Richards); 18th to at least 22nd October (R.A.Hume *et al.*). Tresco, 13th to 14th October (A.R.Dean, D.I.M.Wallace *et al.*). We believe that several more remain unreported.

Shetland Out Skerries, 24th and 27th to 28th September (P.J.Ewins, J.D.Okill *et al.*). Fair Isle, 11th to 17th September (R.A.Broad, C.D.R.Heard *et al.*).

Somerset Dunster Beach, 27th November (D.E.Paull, P.D.Round *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, 2nd May (Mr & Mrs D.Elphick). Landguard Point, 24th to 26th September (P.W.Murphy *et al.*); another, 22nd October (M.C.Marsh, P.W.Murphy *et al.*).

Humberside 1976 Kilnsea, 24th October (C.D.R.Heard *et al.*).

Scilly 1976 St Mary's, 25th September (J.Miller *et al.*).

Also one at Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, on 22nd October. A dramatic return to its form of the late 1960s. The Cheshire birds are the first March records assessed by us. As with Short-toed Lark, Shetland records were relatively few.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (120, 349, 42)

Cornwall Porthgarra, 25th September (L.P.Williams). Par Beach, 29th September (S.M.Christophers).

Dorset Portland, 19th August (I.S.Robertson); 28th August (D.J.Fisher, R.J.Johns *et al.*); 24th to 25th September (I.S.Robertson, A.J.L.Smith); at least one other, 25th September (A.J.L.Smith). Easton, near Portland, three, 25th September (A.J.Bundy, D.E.Paull, P.D.Round). Some duplication may have occurred.

East Sussex Beachy Head, 21st August (P.Clement, R.E.Turley); three, 27th August (D.A. & T.W.Parmenter); another, 27th August (M.J.Rogers); 25th September (J.F.Cooper). Crumbles, Eastbourne, 26th August (M.J.Rogers). Pett Level, 3rd September (G.Summers, Miss C.A.Taylor). Cuckmere Valley, two, 29th September to 1st October (R.D.M.Edgar, T.W.Parmenter *et al.*).

Hampshire Dibden Bay, 4th to 6th September (J.M.Clark). Shepherd's Spring, Andover, 11th September (G.H.Johnson).

Kent Minnis Bay, 17th October (D.C.Gilbert).

Norfolk Holme, 19th March to 10th April (P.R.Clark). Sheringham, 24th September (M.Fischer, K.B.Shepherd, Dr M.Taylor *et al.*); another three, 24th September (K.B.Shepherd). Cley, 21st October (I.R.Clark, C.R.Linfoot, G.G.Williams).

Scilly St Mary's, 5th to 6th September (R.W.Allen, W.E.Oddie); 26th to 28th September (P.A.Dukes, G.G. & P.E.Williams *et al.*); 13th to 17th October, two on 14th to 15th (G.J.Clark *et al.*); another, 24th October (B.Bland, D.Filby, P.J. & Mrs V.A.Wilson *et al.*). St Martin's, two, 28th September (M.J.Rogers, N.R.Stocks). Tresco, 20th October (D.I.M.Wallace). Bryher, 16th to 22nd October (D.I.M.Wallace *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 26th May (R.A.Broad, S.W.Holmes, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*).

West Sussex Cissbury Ring, 23rd August (B.F.Forbes). Pagham Harbour, 28th August (S.E.Gast, C.A.Harbard). Littlehampton, 27th September (C.R.Janman).

Wight Headon Warren, 12th September (M.C. & P.Combridge).

Devon 1976 South Milton Ley, 8th September (R.Burridge).

East Sussex 1976 Arlington Reservoir, 4th September (J.Willsher). Beachy Head, two, 28th August (J.F.Cooper, A.R.Kitson *et al.*).

Essex 1976 Colne Point, 18th September (P.Loud, P.Newton *et al.*).

Scilly 1976 Tresco, 27th September to 3rd October (J.Miller *et al.*).

Shetland 1976 Foula, 1st June (B.L. & R.W.Furness).

Although once again overtaken by Richard's Pipit, this not dissimilar large pipit came in record numbers: the previous peak was 36 in 1971. (It may be noted here that the BOU Records committee is currently re-examining an old Sussex record of Blyth's Pipit *A.godlewskii*, which may result in that species' arrival on the British list, in category B. Since there was also one in Finland in 1975, observers should take particular care with large pipits. P.J.Grant is preparing a fresh statement on the west European records.)

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (0, 9, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 16th to 18th October (G.J.Clark, W.E.Fletcher *et al.*).

This is the fifth autumn running for this beautiful pipit, with a tail-wag beyond compare. That one should have occurred in a generally poor season for Siberian and Asiatic vagrants is remarkable. A pre-1958 record will be published shortly.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 9, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, 21st to 25th September, trapped 22nd (R.A.Broad, A.Clark, C.D.R.Heard *et al.*), seen again 1st October (H.Gilston, R.J.Johns) (Brit. Birds 71: plates 191 & 192).

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 84, 10)

Lincolnshire Grainthorpe Marsh, 21st to 22nd September (S.Lorand).

Norfolk Cley, 18th May (M.F.Stoyle). Weybourne, 29th to 31st May (S.J.M.Gantlett, M.C.Powell *et al.*).

Northumberland Bamburgh, 4th June (J.A. & R.McCutcheon).

Scilly St Mary's, 25th September; another, 14th October (M.J.Rogers). St Agnes, 14th to 17th October, two, 15th to 16th (G.J.Jobson, M.Parker *et al.*).

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, 26th May (Dr M.P.Harris).

Shetland 1976 Out Skerries, 21st to 23rd September, two, 22nd September (M.W.Fraser, R.G.Nisbet); it is possible that the first of these was the same as that on 25th to 26th September, already published (Brit. Birds 70: 439). Whalsay, 30th September to 2nd October (Dr B.Marshall).

Also one on Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, on 15th and 16th October. Another good showing, for the third year running. The average since 1975 has been 12 (ten to 14); before then, it was under four (none to nine).

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* (29, 3, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 30th October to 9th November (M.S.Chapman, C.D.R.Heard, B.Whitby *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 193).

Yet another single bird, for the third year running. Is this species becoming more regular, as it used to be?

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 29, 7)

Fife Isle of May, 22nd to 23rd August, trapped 22nd (F., G. & M.Griffith, D.B.Smith).

Lincolnshire North Somercotes, trapped, 22nd May (C.Morrison, P.J.Wycherley *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 194). Theddlethorpe Dunes, 3rd to 10th September, trapped 3rd (R.M.Jones).

Norfolk Holme, trapped, 14th May (P.R. & Miss P.A.Clarke) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 195).

Shetland Fair Isle, trapped, 21st May (R.A.Broad, S.W.Holmes, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*); another, trapped, 28th May (R.A.Broad, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*); 12th to 15th August, trapped 13th (R.A.Broad, J.Richards *et al.*).

Shetland 1976 Whalsay, 3rd October (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall, the late J.H.Simpson *et al.*).

Once a true rarity, this duller version of the Nightingale *L.megarhynchos* has missed only one year in the last eight. The seven records in 1977 match the previous peak in 1970. Range expansion has been recorded in Norway (see Brit. Birds 70: 348-349).

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* (0, 1, 0)

Shetland 1975 Fair Isle, trapped, 9th to 11th October (R.A.Broad, A.R.Lowe, P.J.Roberts *et al.*).

Now accepted by the BOU Records Committee. We hope to publish full details shortly.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (3, 4, 0)

Fife 1975 Isle of May, 14th October (Brit. Birds 69: 345), was also seen on 15th October.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (1, 16, 2)

Individuals 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:

Suffolk Benacre, 29th September to at least 2nd October (F.K.Cobb, J.Faulkner, C.S.Waller *et al.*).

West Yorkshire 1976 Winterset Reservoir, 19th to 24th October, trapped 22nd (J.S.Armitage, M.J.Polson, P.Smith *et al.*).

Also one, probably *maura*, on Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, from 12th to 19th October, the first for Ireland.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 2, 0)

Grampian 1976 Mouth of River Don, adult male, 26th September to 7th October, trapped 4th (Dr A.Knox *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plates 196-198).

The earliest ever of a fine chat that has remained a true rarity. The last was in 1968; three out of the five have appeared in Scotland.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (15, 16, 1)

Scilly Samson, 22nd to 26th April (R.W.Allen, D.B.Hunt, the late P.Z.McKenzie).

Cornwall 1971 Porthgwarra: one of the two recorded on 2nd October (Brit. Birds 65: 341) was first seen on 1st October.

The one in Scilly is a classic example of overshooting by a summer visitor to Iberia.

Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* (1, 1, 1)

Norfolk Great Yarmouth, male, 25th December (P.J.Wilkinson).

Another male hot on the heels of the one in Hampshire in December 1976. Would that we could all have one for Christmas!

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 3, 1)

Shetland Loch of Hillwell, female, *T.r.atrogularis*, 6th to 12th November (J.D.Okill *et al.*).

There were only three up to 1958, but, since 1974, single birds have appeared in three autumns and one midwinter.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (11, 11, 1)

Western Isles 1975 The individual on St Kilda was present from 14th January to 15th February, not 14th to 15th February as previously noted (Brit. Birds 69: 342).

None in Britain in 1977, but one at Glengariff, Co. Cork, on 16th January, the first of a limp quintet of Nearctic passerines in this report (there were 22 in 1976).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (0, 403, -)

Hampshire 1976 Keyhaven Marshes, 31st October to 3rd November (P. & M.C.Combridge, E.J.Wiseman).

Kent 1976 Murston, at least one, 3rd April to 31st December (D.C.Gilbert *et al.*).

Now no longer on the Committee's list, but any unsubmitted pre-1977 records are still required.

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* (0, 2, 1)

Dorset Lodmoor, in song, 24th to 28th June (M.Cade *et al.*).

This small dervish of a warbler lost no time in putting in its second British appearance. The forecast of likely breeding (Brit. Birds 70: 152-159) receives further support.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 13, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, immature, trapped, 19th September (R.A.Broad, M.S.Chapman, N.Mathews) (Brit. Birds 71: plates 199 & 200).

Shetland 1976 Fair Isle, 6th October (H.Gilston, R.J.Johns).

In the 14 years 1958-71 there had been only three, but then 11 came in the next six. This 1977 individual was against the odds, with so few other Siberian warblers in support.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* (many, 173, 32)

Devon South Milton Ley, male, 10th May to 4th June (R.Burrige, E.Griffiths *et al.*). Slapton Ley, male, 4th to 21st May (R.M.Belringer, M.R.Edmonds, J.B.Morris *et al.*).

Dorset Lodmoor, possibly two males, 9th May to 22nd August, one trapped 26th May (M.Cade, G.P.Green *et al.*).

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, male, 25th to 29th June (B.S.Duffin *et al.*). Farlington Marshes, first-year, trapped, 21st August (R.Tofts).

Humberside Tophill Low Reservoir, male, 30th April to 30th May; second individual, 25th May (N.A.Bell, G.E.Dobbs). Blacktoft Sands, male, 12th May to 2nd July; two males, 16th May to 4th June (A.Grieve *et al.*). Flamborough Head, male, 15th to 19th May (P.A.Lassey, Miss I.Smith, D.I.M.Wallace).

Kent Stodmarsh, 3rd April to 25th September; up to five pairs, two probably bred (P.J.Mountford *et al.*). Locality withheld, 24th April to 4th September, one pair bred (observers' names withheld).

Merseyside Marshside Marsh, male, 28th April (Dr B.McCarthy).

Norfolk a Broadland site, present throughout breeding season (per G.E.Dunmore).

Suffolk locality A, 30th April to at least 11th August, one pair bred (observers' names withheld). Locality B, present throughout breeding season (observers' names withheld).

Warwickshire locality withheld, male, 24th April to 5th May, second male, in late April, third individual assumed to be female (observers' names withheld).

County withheld locality withheld, male, 10th May to 24th June, two males, 17th to 26th May (observers' names withheld).

Kent 1974 Stodmarsh, three males present by 4th May, not by 7th May as previously stated (Brit. Birds 69: 364).

Oxfordshire 1975 East Hendred, male, 20th to 22nd May (C.E.Davies, R.Rabi).

Another marked influx in spring, as in 1976, with an impressive multiple arrival in Humberside.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (47, 417, 28)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, immature, trapped, 3rd August (D.Buffery, R.Webber, S.J.Wilkinson).

Borders St Abbs Head, 22nd to 23rd August (M.W.Fraser *et al.*).

Cornwall Marazion Marsh, three immatures, trapped, 22nd August (D.S.Flumm, P.D.Round); two immatures, 17th September (E.Griffiths). Long Rock, Marazion, immature, trapped, 11th September (B.Pattenden). Stithians Reservoir, immature, 4th September (R.M.Belringer, T.R.Elliot, J.C.Nicholls). Predannack Airfield, immature, 10th September (E.Griffiths).

Devon South Milton Ley, immature, trapped, 19th August (R.Burridge). Ebford, Exeter, adult, trapped, 21st August (Miss B.O.B.Primmer). Slapton Ley, probable immature, 27th September (J.F.Edwards, D.Jenks, J.B.Morris).

Dorset Portland, adult and immature, 14th August (R.J.Johns, I.S.Robertson *et al.*); immature, 22nd August (I.S.Robertson, G.Walbridge *et al.*). Radipole Lake, probable immature, 28th August (N.Marshall, L.Mulford, A.J.L.Smith *et al.*).

East Sussex Cuckmere, probable immature, 12th August (Mrs E.Chadwell, J.M.F.Rogers).

Essex Fingringhoe Wick, 21st August (M.H.Rowntree).

Greater London Surrey Docks, immature, 23rd to 24th September (R.E.Alderton).

Hampshire Shepherd's Spring, adult, 25th July (G.H.Johnson). Titchfield Haven, immature, trapped, 11th August (B.S.Duffin *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, immature, 21st to 22nd August, trapped 21st (B.Banson *et al.*).

Mid Glamorgan Kenfig Pool, immature, 14th August (P.G.Lansdown).

Somerset Steart, two immatures, trapped, 15th August; another, 16th August (A.W.Evans, B.Rabbitts).

West Sussex Pagham Harbour, immature, 27th August to 3rd September (P. & Mrs B.James, P.Martin).

Avon 1976 Littleton-on-Severn, adult, trapped, 14th August (P.Rossiter).

Devon 1976 Thurlestone, probable immature, 7th September; immature, trapped, 19th September (R.Burridge, M.C.Comington).

Dorset 1970 Portland, adult, trapped, 24th August (R.J.Senior).

Dorset 1976 Brownsea Island, 26th July (A.J.Wise). Radipole Lake, immature, 29th August (R.Filby).

The five late acceptances take the total for 1976 to 83. The 1977 records sum to only just over one-third of that figure, but the general increase since 1971 is maintained.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 78, 3)

Cornwall Marazion Marsh, 27th August (D.S.Flumm, P.D.Round).

Humberside Spurn, in song, 3rd to 4th June, trapped 3rd (D.Barraclough, D.Bower *et al.*).

Warwickshire locality withheld, 12th June (D.A.Stone *et al.*).

Leicestershire/Northamptonshire 1976 Stanford Reservoir, 5th September (M.J.Townsend).

The number appearing fell back from the peak of eight in 1976. Three is below average. Hopes of a breeding attempt fade again.

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* (2, 9, 1)

Humberside 1976 Flamborough Head, 22nd October (P.A.Lassey, Miss I.Smith).

None in Britain in 1977, but one, only the second for Ireland, on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, on 16th September. In spite of two small flurries of four birds from 1959 to 1962 and in 1967 and 1968, this is a true rarity. Only two have appeared farther north than the Humberside one.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 6, 2)

Shetland Fair Isle, immature, 20th to 27th August, trapped 20th (R.A.Broad, M.A.Peacock, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 201). Whalsay, immature, 26th September to 4th October, trapped 27th September (Dr B. & Mrs M.E.Marshall, C.Rutter, M.J.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Fife 1975 Isle of May, 31st August to 1st September, immature, trapped 31st (M.F.Carrier, D.Skilling).

For this bird to appear in three consecutive years is most unusual. Furthermore, the total number of records has now doubled in those same years. The date of the Whalsay record is the latest for a northern occurrence.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 54, 6)

Humberside Spurn, male, 22nd May (P.Greaves, D.Page, J.Palmer).

Man Calf of Man, male, probably first-summer, trapped, 1st June (M.A.Harris, R.J.Haycock, R.E.Smith).

Northumberland Farne Islands, male, 20th June (J.Chester, C.Slater *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, male, 8th June (D.S.Flumm, D.B.Hunt, V.Stratton).

Shetland Fetlar, male, 13th to 30th May (J.N.Dymond *et al.*). Fair Isle, male, trapped, 29th May (R.A.Broad, M.P.Sutherland, J.Watt *et al.*).

Greater London 1976 Derrick Wood, Orpington, 9th May: this locality is in Greater London, not Kent as previously stated (Brit. Birds 70: 435).

Kent 1976 see Greater London.

The expected spring crop.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 101, 11)

Borders St Abb's Head, 21st to 22nd August (R.H.Hogg, I.H.Leach, D.A.Smith); 22nd to 25th September (M.Densley, R.D.Murray, S.R.D.da Prato *et al.*).

Dorset Portland, 20th August (R.J. & Mrs S.M.Johns).

Fife Isle of May, 14th to 16th August, trapped 14th (N.K.Atkinson, K.Brockie).

Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, 21st to 22nd August (G.P.Catley, S.F.A.Firth *et al.*). Skegness, trapped, 23rd August (A.G.Ball, P.Kirmond, R.Lambert).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, 13th August (D.J.Holman, A.V.Moon, P.Naylor *et al.*). Wells, 21st August (S.D.Housden, S.C.Joyner, N.Williams).

Northumberland Low Hauxley; 19th to 21st August, trapped 19th (M.Natgrass, R.D.Temple *et al.*); another, 21st to 27th August, trapped 21st (B.Galloway, A.M.Taylor *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 8th October (D.R.Bishop, A.R.Dean *et al.*).

Scilly 1976 St Mary's, 9th to 14th October (D.I.M.Wallace *et al.*).

Another 11 to match the exceptional 1976 crop. Although a true rarity before 1958, this *Phylloscopus* now vies with Pallas's Warbler (then even rarer) to be the commonest vagrant of the genus. It is good to see the increasingly regular observations at St Abb's Head paying off, with records of this species, but why has there been none on Cape Clear Island in the last decade?

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 72, 4)

Norfolk Holkham, 18th to 23rd September (S.J.M.Gantlett, G.Stephenson *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 20th August (R.A.Broad, A.Reynolds, J.Watt *et al.*); another, trapped, 16th September (R.A.Broad, J.D.Hall, R.O'Reilly *et al.*).

Scilly 1976 St Agnes, 17th September (D.J.Barker).

Shetland 1976 Whalsay, trapped, 18th August (Dr B.Marshall); another, 28th October (the late J.H.Simpson). Weisdale, Mainland, 20th September (I.Sandison).

Also one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 20th to 22nd October. The four late acceptances for 1976 make the showing (of seven) in that year even more striking. Only in 1970 have more been seen. The dichotomy between the occurrence pattern of this species and the last is well illustrated by the events of 1977. There is no trend towards increase here.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (3, 103, 6)

Kent Dungeness, trapped, 27th October (N.Riddiford *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 16th October (J. and Mrs I.Dalgleish *et al.*); another, 25th October (E.J.Abraham *et al.*).

Shetland Whalsay, trapped, 21st to 22nd October (Dr B. and Mrs L.Marshall).

Suffolk Landguard Point, 22nd October (A.A.Butcher, M.C.Marsh, P.W.Murphy).

West Yorkshire Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, trapped, 12th October (M.L.Denton, J.E. & Mrs S.M.Dale, S.Hey *et al.*).

Highland 1976 near Wick, Caithness: the individual on 18th to 19th October (Brit. Birds 70: 436) was also seen on 23rd (Dr D.M. & Mrs J.Edge).

Six is a poor ration of this gem, especially when compared with the total of 58 in the three previous years. Another inland record is noteworthy.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 21, 1)

Scilly St Agnes, 26th to 27th October (P.A.Dukes, D.Woodward, G.M.Yates *et al.*).

Shetland 1976 Whalsay, 3rd to 4th October (W.Arthur, Dr B.Marshall, the late J.H.Simpson).

The best ever showing in 1976 grows with a late acceptance. The single bird in the year under review arrived in association with the last species. Considering the marked lack of sustained high pressure and easterly winds during the autumn, they did well to reach us.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 23, 0)

Norfolk 1976 Wells, 16th October (J.D.Sigley, G.G.Williams).

None, for the first year in five. This species and the last keep pace with each other; the late 1976 record raises that year's total to five, equalling 1968.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 53, 4)

East Sussex Beachy Head, trapped, 15th September (J.F.Cooper, T.Gravett *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, trapped, 27th October (N.Riddiford).

Scilly St Mary's, 2nd to 8th October (C.McCarty, D.A.Parmenter *et al.*); another, 26th October (B.Bland, M.S.Chapman, C.D.R.Heard *et al.*).

Humberside 1976 Flamborough Head, 2nd to 9th October (C.D.R.Heard *et al.*).

Norfolk 1976 Holkham, 14th September (H.Shorrock, D.Wright).

Shetland 1974 Sumburgh, 5th September (F.A.Clements, D.Willis *et al.*).

Strathclyde 1976 Port Charlotte, Islay, 21st to 22nd May (the late R.Dawson *et al.*).

The three late acceptances for 1976 bring the total for that year to 11. The 1977 showing remains above average. Late October records are mounting.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* (6, 2, 1)

East Sussex Ecclesbourne Glen, near Hastings, 6th to 10th April (A.Davis *et al.*).

Somerset Cheddar, early November 1976 (see below) to 6th April (S.Davies, J.T.Eley *et al.*); early November to April 1978 (S.Dear, B.Rabbits; W.G.Watts *et al.*).

Somerset 1976 Cheddar, early November (W.G.Watts) to April 1977 (see above).

With only seven previous records in all time, the presence of two different birds in April (and the return of the second to winter again in its busy quarry) is quite astonishing.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 68, 6)

Kent Seasalter, 4th to 12th June (P.J.Grant, R.H.Lawrence *et al.*).

Norfolk Downham Market, 8th June (C.O'Neil).

Shetland Out Skerries, 20th to 21st May (R.W.Hemming, A.R.Lowe, W.E.Oddie).

Somerset Meare, near Glastonbury, 1st June (P.D.Round).

Suffolk near Lakenheath, 4th June (P.G. & Mrs C.M.Lansdown, D.T.Palmer).

Tyne & Wear Priors Park, 26th May (K.G.Dures).

A good showing, matched in only four previous years. The three inland in June are noteworthy.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 246, 18)

Devon Lundy, adult, 12th July (M. & Mrs W.Rogers). Near Sidmouth, adult, 6th August (D.H.U.Petter, Miss E.Wood).

Dorset Portland, adult female, 30th May to 6th June (P.P.Jennings, I.S.Robertson *et al.*).

Gwynedd Bardsey, adult, 14th to 18th August (P.J.Roberts); immature, 26th August (T.Jones, P.J.Roberts).

Kent Langley, adult, 28th June to 2nd July (R.L.Bland, R.C.Stone, D.W.Taylor *et al.*). Kingsdown, immature, 3rd September (G.Halliwell).

Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, immature, 21st to 22nd August (G.P.Catley, J.F.A.Firth, D.A.Robinson).

Norfolk Sheringham, adult, 5th July (J.C.Marsham *et al.*). Cley, adult, 24th to 25th September (S.P. & Mrs E.J.Harris, P.J.Marsh *et al.*).

Salop Eardiston, adult, 23rd to 25th July (T.W.Edwards, Mrs Bance).

Scilly Gugh, immature, 23rd August (D.B.Hunt). Tresco, immature, 29th September to 2nd October (A.R. & Mrs L.J.Coley, D.A.Parmenter *et al.*).

Suffolk Landguard Point, immature, 17th to 21st August (A.A.Butcher, M.C.Marsh, R.Waters *et al.*).

Surrey near Godstone, adult, 29th May (S.A.Robinson *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Holywell Pond, adult, 2nd June (J.E.Fergusson, I.D.Moorhouse).

Clwyd 1970 Shotton Steelworks, immature, 2nd August (J.E.Birch *et al.*).

Dorset 1976 Portland, adult, 10th May (D.Goodwin, E.Knowles).

Scilly 1976 St Mary's, immature, 22nd September to 3rd October (J.Miller *et al.*): additional to the immature present 27th September to 10th October (Brit. Birds 70: 439).

Shetland 1976 Foula, adult, 26th May (B.L. & R.W.Furness).

Also singles on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 12th and 13th July and from 4th to 15th August. Another good showing (cf. 17 in 1976 and the average of 13 a year since 1958).

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 86, 3)

Scilly St Mary's, immature, 8th to 17th October (R.E.Alderton, G.T.Foggitt, P.J.Grant *et al.*).

Shetland Yell, first-winter, 3rd to 11th November (J.W.Spence, R.J.Tulloch).

Strathclyde Islay, adult, 20th to 24th July (C.G.Booth, N.P.McLaren, K.Verrall); probably the same, some time in August and 9th to 10th September (A.McIndeor *et al.*).

Grampian 1976 Braemar, adult, 23rd October to 5th November (Mrs J.Beech *et al.* per Dr A.Knox).

Few compared with the 12 in 1975, but the average is less than five a year.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* (0, 2, 1)

Scilly Bryher, 22nd to 24th October (B.Bland, D.J.Britton, P.G.Lansdown *et al.*).

The chief prize among the remarkable group of vagrants to reach Bryher in late October. The second had been on nearby St Mary's, a day earlier in 1972, and the first on Lundy, Devon, in June 1966.

Serin *Serinus serinus* (76, 217, 18)

Devon Axe Estuary, 12th June (R.T.Cottrill). Beesands, 18th December (T.J.Norriss).

Dorset Portland, female, 24th March (P.P.Jennings, G.Walbridge). Hengistbury Head, male, 4th June (M.L.Opie, D.M.Smith).

East Sussex Beachy Head, female, 13th May (M.J.Rogers).

Hampshire Beaulieu Abbey, male, 18th to 19th March (D.E.Glue).

Humberside Spurn, 23rd April (J.Cudworth *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, pair, 16th April (S.Morgan); another, 16th April (H.A.R.Cawkell, M.H.Davies, N.Riddiford); male, 18th May (P.C.Heathcote, N.Riddiford); another, sex not determined, 19th May (N.Riddiford); another, sex not determined, 21st July (N.Riddiford). Chilham, male, 21st June (I.R.Hepburn).

Norfolk Wells, male, 11th to 12th April (L.Evans, D.Foster).

Scilly St Mary's, 11th October (M.J.Rogers); immature, 8th to 9th November (C.D.R.Heard).

Wight St Catherine's Point, 10th April (D.B.Wooldridge).

Hertfordshire 1976 Ashwell, male, 19th December (Dr N.R.Rogers).

Humberside 1976 Cleethorpes, male, 5th to 7th May (R.K.Norman).

Kent 1976 Margate, male, 23rd May (D.Worsfold).

Kent 1976 Dungeness, 10th May: the first-noted observer was R.Harding, not B.D.Harding as previously stated (Brit. Birds 70: 441).

Suffolk 1976 Benacre, male, 4th September (D.R.Moore, C.S.Waller).

Except for a brief collapse in 1970 and 1971, the number seen each year has been remarkably constant at 18-22 since 1967. Those observers (and there were more than a few) who were duped by a very wild Canary *Serinus canarius* on Tresco in October will be glad to know that an identification paper on the Serin and its confusion species is in hand.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 51, 2)

Scilly Bryher, sight record, 21st October to 5th November (B.Bland, D.J.Britton *et al.*).

Shetland Scalloway, sight record, 25th November (C.Byers, M.S.Chapman, J.D.Hall *et al.*).

Humberside 1975 Spurn, sight record, 12th October (J.Cudworth, C.D.R.Heard, B.R.Spence).

Man 1972 Calf of Man, sight record, 14th November (S.C.Madge).

The meeting of the first bird with a Spanish Sparrow in a tiny flower field must rank as the most unexpected confrontation of the year!

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 21, 1)

Northumberland Low Hauxley, adult male, trapped, 13th to 14th August (B.Little *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: plate 202).

There have been records in only ten of the last 18 years, and, apart from five in 1966 and seven in 1972, only one or two have appeared in any one year.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* (about 10, 1, 0)

Humberside 1975 Spurn, adult male, 22nd October (I.Clarke, J.P.Guest *et al.*).

This is the first to feature in our reports following the Committee's decision to add this large crossbill to its list (Brit. Birds 71: 423). Sight records will be hard to prove, but we welcome submissions of all claimed occurrences since 1958.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (over 200, 357, 65)

Cleveland Hartlepool, female or immature, 19th August (M.A.Blick, J.B.Dunnett, T.Francis *et al.*).

Devon Lundy, females or immatures, 11th September (R.Britton, M.Rogers) and 27th September (M.Rogers).

Highland Wick River, Caithness, immature male in song, 31st May to 1st June (K.V. & D.Banks, D.M. & J.Edge). Near Lairg, Sutherland, male in song, 8th June to 22nd July (G.Bundy).

Humberside Spurn, female or immature, 30th August (A.O.Aitken, L.J.Degnan).

Kent Dungeness, pair, 19th to 27th June, female trapped on 19th, first-summer male in song (P.C.Heathcote, C.G.Golson, N.Riddiford *et al.*).

Northumberland Low Hauxley, females or immatures, 19th to 24th August, trapped 19th (M.Natgrass); 25th September (E.R.Meek); 8th October (B.Little).

Orkney South Ronaldsay, male, 9th June (A.J. & S.R.Clark).

Scilly St Mary's, females or immatures, 14th to 18th September, two on 15th (D.B.Hunt, N.A.Preston, J.F.Ryan *et al.*); 14th October (P.J.Grant *et al.*). Bryher, female or immature, 22nd October (D.J.Britton).

Shetland Fair Isle, 17, all females or immatures: 8th to 9th May; another, 25th to 27th May; another, 3rd June; then 14th August; two, 21st to 25th, three, 22nd to 23rd, one remaining to 27th, one trapped on 22nd; another, 29th August to 5th September, two on 30th August and three from 31st to 2nd; another, 8th September; two, 12th to 13th; another, 17th; another, 20th; at least one, 23rd to 3rd October; another, 23rd to 24th October, trapped 23rd (R.A.Broad *et al.*). Whalsay, eight: female or immature, 4th May (Dr B.Marshall); another trapped, 22nd May; male and another female or immature, 26th May (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall, the late J.H.Simpson *et al.*); females or immatures, 18th to 19th September (P.J.Ewins, J.D.Okill); two, 24th September, one remaining to 26th (Dr B.Marshall); another, 1st October (R.Gall, Dr B.Marshall, I.Sandison). Fetlar, at least five, all females or immatures: 15th to 17th August; another, 25th to 31st; three, 12th September; possibly another, 14th (J.N.Dymond). Out Skerries, nine, all females or immatures: 24th August; another, 26th August (D.Coutts, J.D.Okill); three, 29th, two, 30th August (I.Balfour-Paul, R.P.H.Clark, M.W.Fraser *et al.*); two, 13th to 14th September (J.N.Dymond, E.Tait, R.J.Tulloch); another, 17th to 19th September; another, 23rd to 24th September (D.Coutts, J.D.Okill). Boddam, female or immature, 20th to 23rd August, two, 20th (D.Coutts, J.D.Okill). Durrigarth, female or immature, 27th August (D.Coutts, J.D.Okill). Strand, 23rd to 27th August (A.Graham).

Somerset Brean Down, female or immature, 14th to 18th October (B.Rabbits).

Western Isles St Kilda, male, 25th to 26th May (S.Murray, K.Taylor, W.Wright *et al.*). Rona, female, 28th May (N.Picozzi).

Orkney 1976 Copinsay, 18th to 19th June (P.J.B.Slater).

Shetland 1976 Whalsay, female or immature, 30th September to 5th October, two, 3rd to 4th October (W.Arthur, Dr B.Marshall, the late J.H.Simpson). Out Skerries, females or immatures, two, 17th to 19th September (M.Fraser, R.G.Nisbett); 23rd to 24th September (M.Fraser, Dr B.Marshall, R.G.Nisbett); 26th to 28th September (D.L.Clugston, D.Coutts). Fair Isle, female or immature, 8th October (H.Gilston, R.J.Johns).

Also singles on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 23rd to 27th September and 10th to 21st October: only the seventh and eighth Irish records, but five have been since 1971 and this is the third successive year in which the species has occurred on Cape Clear Island (one on that island on 6th to 7th October 1976 was not noted in last year's report). Marked influxes in both spring and autumn contribute to the highest ever crop: this species was not daunted by head winds.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (1, 1, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 29th September to 1st October (P.J.Grant *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 71: 541-542).

The first two were in Shetland in October 1936 and on St Mary's in late September 1975. The zebra stripes of this delightful warbler and its Nuthatch-like character present no identification problem.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (1, 5, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 18th May (R.A.Broad, Mr & Mrs J.Woodland).

Scilly 1973 Tresco individual present from 16th October to 24th, not 23rd as previously stated (Brit. Birds 67: 336).

The recent run of Nearctic wood-warblers began when the first of this species was discovered wintering in Devon in January 1955. Now, it has the distinction of providing the first spring record in this group. Such observations are more characteristic of the American sparrows.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (0, 14, 1)

Scilly Bryher, 29th October (R.J. & Mrs S.M.Johns).

Although not noted here before 1968, this species has now accumulated more records in Britain and Ireland than any other Nearctic passerine. This individual was yet another of the remarkable collection of rarities on Bryher in late October.

Rufous-sided Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (0, 2, 0)

Humberside 1975, 1976 Spurn, 5th September to 10th January (Brit. Birds 70: 443, 449): this individual is now widely considered to have had a captive origin.

Slate-coloured Junco *Junco hyemalis* (1, 6, 1)

Highland Loch Affric, Inverness, 19th May (Mrs J.Cardew, R.J.Miller).

The almost simultaneous arrival of this bird with a Yellow-rumped Warbler on Fair Isle leaves little room for doubts on its origin. All previous British and Irish records have been in April and May.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 80, 2)

Scilly St Mary's, immature male, 11th to 16th October (D.R.Bishop, P.G. & Mrs C.M.Lansdown). St Agnes, immature male, 12th October (G.J.Jobson *et al.*).

Orkney 1976 Copinsay, 9th to 13th June (M.A.S.Beamon, P.J.B.Slater).

Shetland 1976 Yell, male, 20th May (Miss W.Dickson, Mrs M.Odie, R.J.Tulloch). Sumburgh, male, 26th May (J.D.Okill). Whalsay, 11th October (Dr B.Marshall).

The four late acceptances for 1976 take the total in that year to 11 and for the last three years to 33. Thus these two autumn records look lonely. The absence of any spring overshoot is striking.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (94, 128, 18)

Borders St Abb's Head, 17th October (R.H.Hogg, A.H.Lavery).

Fife Isle of May, 17th to 18th September (G.M.Crichton, J.M.Dickson, I.H.Leach *et al.*); another, 9th October (R.G.Nisbett *et al.*).

Highland Dingwall, Ross & Cromarty, male, trapped, 23rd January (D.McAllister *et al.*).

Lothian Barns Ness, 8th October (A.Brown).

Norfolk Stiffkey Greens, 22nd to at least 25th September (P.J.Marsh *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 17th to 23rd September, two, 22nd to 23rd (J.Chester, R.Pimm, C.Slater *et al.*). Holy Island, 19th September (M.Densley). Low Hauxley, 15th October; probably the same, 21st October (A.Heavisides, J.Richardson, A.M.Taylor *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 11th to 14th October (R.Filby, D.I.M.Wallace *et al.*). Bryher, 23rd to 24th October (B.Bland *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 5th to 9th May (R.A.Broad, M.A.Peacock, J.Wilson *et al.*); adult, 12th September (R.A.Broad, D.G.H.Mills *et al.*); adult, 24th September to 1st October (R.A.Broad, M.Coath *et al.*); another, 8th to 22nd October, trapped on 8th; two, 12th to 14th (R.A.Broad *et al.*). Out Skerries, immature, 24th to 29th September (P.J.Ewins, J.D.Okill *et al.*).

Norfolk 1967 Paston Cliffs, 12th September: previously accepted (Brit. Birds 61: 360), but now withdrawn by observer and should be deleted.

Shetland 1976 North Nesting, Mainland, 5th October (A.W.Wolton). Whalsay, 1st to 4th October, two on 1st (W.Arthur, Dr B. & Mrs L.M.Marshall, the late J.H.Simpson); another, 9th October (Dr B.Marshall, the late J.H.Simpson). Weisdale, Mainland, 8th October (C.Rutter, M.J.Whitehouse).

The five late acceptances for 1976 take the total for that year to a record 23, almost four times the average. Unlike the last species, such a level of occurrence is sustained here. The Highland record is yet another indicative of wintering.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 55, 9)

Dorset Portland, female or immature, 20th to 22nd September (A.Manley, I.S.Robertson *et al.*).

Fife Isle of May, immature, 17th September (G.Crichton, J.M.Dickson, I.H.Leach *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point male, 15th May (R.Bunten, S.E.Crooks, Dr A.T. & Mrs I.W.Jennings *et al.*).

Shetland Out Skerries, female or immature, 4th September (M.W.Fraser, R.J.Miller); immature, 13th to 14th September (J.N.Dymond, R.J.Tulloch). Fair Isle, four female or immatures: 11th to 15th September; 18th to 23rd September; two, 21st to 23rd; another, 20th to 27th, trapped 20th (R.A.Broad, C.D.R.Heard, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*).

Shetland 1976 Whalsay, female or immature, 23rd to 24th September, trapped 23rd (Dr B.Marshall *et al.*).

Nine in one year sets a new level of occurrence. They were also more widely spread than usual. That in Lincolnshire is the second in spring.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 34, 2)

Dorset Portland, male, 26th to 27th May (C.E.Richards).

Shetland Whalsay, immature, 20th September to 4th October (P.J.Ewins, Dr B.Marshall, J.D.Okil).

Two typical records: an over-shooting male in spring and a lost immature in autumn.

Appendix 1. Category D species accepted (see Brit. Birds 64: 429)

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris* (0, 1, 0)

Shetland 1972 Voe, male, trapped and taken into captivity, 28th May (D.Coutts, A.Thompson *et al.*).

The first accepted record, but a common cage bird.

Appendix 2. List of records not accepted

This list contains all current 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 monthly summaries in British Birds if full details were unobtainable. Birds considered 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.

1977 White-billed Diver Kyle of Tongue, Highland, 8th June. Kyle of Tongue, Highland, 1st August. **Black-browed Albatross** Dirleton, Lothian, 30th August. **Albatross sp.** Sheringham, Norfolk, 27th May. Collieston, Grampian, 8th August. Strumble Head, Dyfed, 17th September. **Cory's Shearwater** Spurn, Humberside, 30th August. **Little Shearwater** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 11th June. Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire, 9th August. **Purple Heron** South Lancing, West Sussex, 8th May. **Black Stork** near Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway, 30th May. **White Stork** Bentley, Hampshire, 12, 8th March. Plymouth, Devon, 19th May. **Black Duck** Ware, Hertfordshire, 14th December. **Surf Scoter** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, three, 4th December. **Black Kite** Box Hill, Surrey, 9th September. **Egyptian Vulture** Banbury, Oxfordshire, 19th September. **Red-footed Falcon** near Swindon, Wiltshire, 18th April. A locality in Wiltshire, 5th June. Cley, Norfolk, 6th June. Calf of Man, Man, 30th June. Highgate Hill, Greater London, 2nd July. **Gyrfalcon** Glen More, Highland, 6th June. Glen Coe, Highland, 6th August. Mishnish Lochs, Mull, Strathclyde, 10th November. **Crane** Cuckmere, East Sussex, 19th May. **Western Sandpiper** Hickling, Norfolk, 7th September. **Baird's Sandpiper** Borth, Dyfed, 2nd September. Lisset, Humberside, 10th December. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Camel Estuary, Cornwall, 24th May. **Great Snipe** Thetford, Norfolk, 16th January. St Abb's Head, Borders, 24th September. St Agnes, Scilly, 16th October. Edgbaston Park, West Midlands, 26th November. Cley, Norfolk, 16th December. **Dowitcher sp.** Lovell Hill, Wilton, Cleveland, 6th March. Draycote Water, Warwickshire, 26th October. Ferrybridge, Dorset, 30th October and 17th November. **Slender-billed Curlew** Nigg Bay, Grampian, 16th October. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Pennington Marshes, Hampshire, 16th September. **Spotted Sandpiper** Walberswick, Suffolk, 12th June. **Wilson's Phalarope** Pencelli Mire, Powys, 28th September. **Long-tailed Skua** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 29th August. Don Estuary, Grampian, 6th September. Witham/Welland Estuary, Lincolnshire, 18th September. River Wear, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, 21st September. **Great Black-headed Gull** Torcross, Devon, two, 23rd May. **Laughing Gull** Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire, 24th September. **Franklin's Gull** Shelley, Suffolk, 26th December. **Bonaparte's Gull** Dyfi Estuary and Aberystwyth, Dyfed, 9th and 13th March. Hornsea, Humberside, 22nd July. **Ring-billed Gull** Radipole Lake, Dorset, second-winter, 2nd to 3rd March. **Ross's Gull** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 19th February. **Ivory Gull** Dunwich, Suffolk, 25th November. **Gull-billed Tern** Dawlish Warren, Devon, immature, 10th September. Cley, Norfolk, 13th September. Dungeness, Kent, 20th September. **Caspian Tern** Keyhaven Marshes, Hampshire, 28th August. **Whiskered Tern** Whitehaven, Cumbria, 28th May. **White-winged Black Tern** Benacre, Suffolk, three, 8th August. New Passage, River Severn, Avon, 24th August. Slapton Ley, Devon, 7th September. **Pallas's Sandgrouse** Aberdaron, Gwynedd, 23rd September. **Rufous Turtle Dove** Pennington Marshes, Hampshire, 6th June. **Snowy Owl** Dartmoor, Devon, 12th March. **Roller** Lakenheath, Suffolk, 5th April. Thorpeness, Suffolk, 17th to 19th August. **White-winged Lark** Branscombe, Devon, 3rd July. **Short-toed Lark** St Agnes, Scilly, 10th October. **Crested Lark** Aberthaw, South Glamorgan, 18th May. Druidston, Powys, sometime in July. **Richard's Pipit** East Wretham, Norfolk, 19th April. Redcar, Cleveland, 25th April. Hilbre, Merseyside, 15th May. Whinnyford, Grampian, 16th May. Holme, Norfolk, two, 1st September. Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire, 24th September. Breydon Water, Norfolk, 20th October. Longridge, Clynderwen, Dyfed, 20th December. **Tawny Pipit** Teignmouth, Devon, 9th September. Dunwich Heath, Suffolk, 24th September. Tresco, Scilly, 1st October. Rhymney Wharf, South Glamorgan, 16th to 17th November. **Olive-backed Pipit** Cley, Norfolk, 23rd October. **Pechora Pipit** near Valley, Anglesey, Gwynedd, 22nd July. **Black-headed Wagtail** near Settle, West Yorkshire, 10th June. **Rufous Bush Robin** near Keighley, West Yorkshire, 8th May. Merriot, Somerset, 29th September. **Thrush Nightingale** Farnham, Surrey, sometime in May. **White-throated Robin** South Gare, Redcar, Cleveland, 24th September. **Siberian Stonechat** Birling Gap, Beachy Head, East Sussex, 9th October. **Black-eared Wheatear** Loch A'Bhaid-Iuachraich, Highland, 9th August. **White's Thrush** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 13th January. Fishguard, Dyfed, 20th March. Loch Garten, Highland, 24th August. **Dusky Thrush** Penn, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, 14th January. Skurdington, Gloucestershire, 13th January. **Fan-tailed Warbler** Sandown, Isle of Wight, 7th May. **Savi's Warbler** Manor Farm, Reading, Berkshire, 23rd April. Hayle, Cornwall, 27th May. **Aquatic Warbler** Steart, Somerset, 22nd August, 20th September. Oxwich, West Glamorgan, 25th September. **Great Reed Warbler** Cotham, near Newark, Nottinghamshire, 22nd June. Thursley Common, Surrey, 4th November. **Greenish Warbler** Loudwater, Hertfordshire, 7th July. Clyne Common, Gower, West Glamorgan, 18th August. **Bonelli's Warbler** Tresco, Scilly, 27th October. **Brown Flycatcher** St Abb's Head, Borders, 15th May. **Penduline Tit** Balsall Common, Warwickshire, 29th May. **Isabelline Shrike** Sheffield, West Yorkshire, 20th March.

Lesser Grey Shrike Ramsgate, Kent, 23rd September. **Nutcracker** Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire, 28th December. **Serin** Dungeness, Kent, 20th March. Dungeness, Kent, 23rd April. Beachy Head, East Sussex, 26th April. Beachy Head, East Sussex, 2nd June. Hinchley Wood, Surrey, 14th June. near Purley, Surrey, sometime in November. **Arctic Redpoll** Stroud, Gloucestershire, 25th March. Newtonhill, Kincardine, Grampian, 24th January **Two-barred Crossbill** Loch Moan, Dumfries & Galloway, 8th May. Fair Isle, Shetland, 14th August. **Scarlet Rosefinch** near Bucksburn, Grampian, 17th May. Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, 19th November. **Rustic Bunting** Ringwood, Hampshire, 11th March. St Abb's Head, Borders, 8th October. **Little Bunting** Eaton Estate, Chester, Cheshire, 13th March. St Mary's, Scilly, 12th October. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** High Hauxley, Northumberland, 15th October.

1976 Cory's Shearwater Barns Ness, Lothian, 29th August. **Little Shearwater** Hilbre Island, Cheshire, 1st September. **Frigatebird sp.** Clyde Estuary, Strathclyde, 10th July. **Lesser White-fronted Goose** Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, 26th December. **Red-footed Falcon** Great Totham, Essex, 29th May. **Lesser Kestrel** Banks Marsh, Lancashire, 21st August. **Gyrfalcon** Benderloch, Highland, 14th March. St Abb's Head, Borders, 2nd October. **Crane** near Wokingham, Berkshire, five, sometime in November. **Killdeer** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 16th October. **Lesser Golden Plover** Blyth Estuary, Suffolk, 10th July. Marshside Marsh, Merseyside, 11th September. **Sociable Plover** Thorpe Morieux, Suffolk, 18th November. **Long-billed Plover** Chasewater (Cannock Reservoir), Staffordshire, 17th July. **Western Sandpiper** Weaver Bend, Cheshire, 15th August. **Great Snipe** Tetney, Lincolnshire, 18th April. Carn a'Gheoidh, Grampian, 31st October. **Spotted Sandpiper** Drakelow Reservoir, Derbyshire, 2nd to 12th September. Wisbech sewage-farm, Lincolnshire/Norfolk, 11th September. **Long-tailed Skua** Portland, Dorset, 13th September. **Ross's Gull** Spurn, Humberside, 15th October. **Gull-billed Tern** Camber, East Sussex, four, 21st April. Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire, 11th September. Kingsgate, Kent, 5th September. **Tengmalm's Owl** Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, 22nd October. **Common Nighthawk** Red Rocks, Merseyside, 8th October. **Alpine Swift** Kyle of Tongue, Highland, 24th October. Gravesend, Kent, 23rd October. **Short-toed Lark** Rye, East Sussex, 26th July. **Richard's Pipit** Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 29th October. **Tawny Pipit** Lancing, West Sussex, 24th August. **Red-throated Pipit** Out Skerries, Shetland, 5th October. **Desert Wheatear** St Mary's, Scilly, 7th October. **White's Thrush** Aberdeen, Grampian, 4th May. **Dusky Thrush** Lydd, Kent, 29th August. **Red-throated Thrush** Strachan, Grampian, 7th December. **Savi's Warbler** Hickling, Norfolk, 11th August to 5th September. **Aquatic Warbler** Wells, Norfolk, 29th August. **Orphean Warbler** Spurn, Humberside, 16th September. **Greenish Warbler** Wells, Norfolk, 21st August. **Lesser Grey Shrike** St Mary's, Scilly, 31st October. **Nutcracker** Sourton, Devon, 6th October. Libberton, Strathclyde, 27th December to 19th January 1977. **Arctic Redpoll** Brandon, Suffolk, two, 16th April.

1975 Purple Heron Boyton, Suffolk, 4th May. **Crane** Alexandra Palace, Greater London, 19th July, not 19th May as previously stated (Brit. Birds 70: 452). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Tring sewage-farm, Hertfordshire, 26th to 27th August. Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 6th to 10th September. **Western Sandpiper** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 24th August. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Sidlesham Ferry, West Sussex, 25th July and 8th August. **Desert Wheatear** Cley, Norfolk, 1st September. **Nutcracker** near Hungerford, Berkshire, 3rd May.

1974 Black Kite Cabrach, Grampian, 14th July. **Cinereous Bunting** St Martin's Haven, Dyfed, 19th June.

1973 White Stork Isington, Hampshire, two, in April. **Pine Bunting** Glenkindie, Grampian, two, in December.

1972 Gyrfalcon Dee Estuary, Merseyside, 16th January. **Olive-tree Warbler** St Agnes, Scilly, 25th September.

1971 White Stork Bentley, Hampshire, two, in March.

Appendix 3. Supplementary records: species and years

To assist researchers, species for which supplementary records for previous years are included in the main body of this report are listed here, with the years involved.

White-billed Diver 1972 1975. Cory's Shearwater 1976. Night Heron 1976. Little Egret 1976. White Stork 1976. American Wigeon 1976. Blue-winged Teal 1969 1973. King Eider 1974 1976. Surf Scoter 1975 1976. Black Kite 1976. White-tailed Eagle 1976. American Kestrel 1976, Red-footed Falcon 1976. Gyrfalcon 1976. Baillon's Crane 1976. Crane 1975 1976. Black-winged Pratincole 1976. Collared Pratincole 1974. Collared or Black-winged Pratincole 1971 1972. Killdeer 1975. Lesser Golden Plover 1976. Semipalmated Sandpiper 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1971 1974. Broad-billed Sandpiper 1975 1976. Great Snipe 1968. Long-billed Dowitcher 1975 1976. Lesser Yellowlegs 1976. Wilson's Phalarope 1976. Long-tailed Skua 1976. Franklin's Gull 1976. Ross's Gull 1975. Ivory Gull 1976. Caspian Tern 1976. White-winged Black Tern 1976. Brünnich's Guillemot 1976. Alpine Swift 1967 1974. Red-rumped Swallow 1976. Richard's Pipit 1976. Tawny Pipit 1976. Red-throated Pipit 1976. Thrush Nightingale 1976. Siberian Rubythroat 1975. Red-flanked Bluetail 1975. Siberian Stonechat 1976. Pied Wheatear 1976. Black-eared Wheatear 1971. American Robin 1975. Cetti's Warbler 1976. Lanceolated Warbler 1976. Savi's Warbler 1974 1975. Aquatic Warbler 1970 1976. Great Reed Warbler 1976. Olivaceous Warbler 1976. Booted Warbler 1975. Subalpine Warbler 1976. Greenish Warbler 1976. Arctic Warbler 1976. Pallas's Warbler 1976. Radde's Warbler 1976. Dusky Warbler 1976. Bonelli's Warbler 1974 1976. Wallcreeper 1976. Woodchat Shrike 1970 1976. Rose-coloured Starling 1976. Serin 1976. Arctic Redpoll 1972 1975. Parrot Crossbill 1975. Scarlet Rosefinch 1976. Yellow-rumped Warbler 1973. Rufous-sided Towhee 1975. Rustic Bunting 1976. Little Bunting 1967 1976. Yellow-breasted Bunting 1976. Painted Bunting 1972.