Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1989

Michael J. Rogers and the Rarities Committee
With comments by C.D.R. Heard and R.A. Hume

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 1988 report (82: 505-563). The following points show the basis on which the list has been compiled:

1. 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.

2. 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 pratincoles Glareola, and of such difficult groups as albatrosses Diomedea and frigatebirds Fregata.

3. The sequence of species, English names and scientific nomenclature follow the ‘British Birds’ List of Birds of Western Palearctic (1984). Any sight records of subspecies (including those of birds trapped and released) are normally referred to as ‘showing the characters’ of the race concerned.

4. The three numbers in brackets after each species’ name refer respectively to the total number of individuals recorded in Britain & Ireland (excluding those ‘At sea’) (i) to the end of 1957, (ii) for the period since the formation of the Rarities Committee in 1958, but excluding (iii) the current year. The decision as to how many individuals were involved is often difficult and rather arbitrary, but the consensus of members is indicated by ‘possibly the same’ (counted as different in the totals), ‘probably the same’ (counted as the same in the totals), or ‘the same’ when evidence is certain or overwhelming. An identical approach is applied to records of the same species recurring at the same locality after a lapse of time, including those which occur annually at the same or a nearby site. In considering claims of more than one individual at the same or adjacent localities, the Committee usually requires firm evidence before more than one is counted in the totals. A detailed breakdown of the figures for previous years is held by the Honorary Secretary.

White-billed Diver Gavia adamsii (18, 109, 4)

Humberside Flamborough Head, adult, 9th October (P.A. Lassey).
Orkney Scapa Flow, adult, 6th January (G. Christer, E.J. Williams).
Shetland Whalsay, adult, since 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 508) to 21st April, 18th November to 1990 (Dr B. Marshall et al.). Raewick, first-summer, 2nd June (P.M. Ellis, M. Mellow, M.G. Richardson).
Western Isles Aird an Runair, North Uist, age uncertain, 5th May (M.S.J. Hoekstein, P.A. Wolf). Howbeg, South Uist, probably first-summer, 6th June (E.D. Lloyd).

The June records catch the eye here, in an otherwise normal crop.
Black-browed Albatross Diomedea melanophris (2, 24, 0)
1978 Kent Foreness, 16th December (Brit. Birds 72: 508), no longer considered acceptable.
1984 At sea Sea area Irish Sea, North Channel, about 10 km west of Corsewall Point, Dumfries and Galloway, 7th August (D.Allen).
1988 Cornwall Gwennap Head, immature, 30th August (J.M.Cawston, D.S.Flumm, M.J.Pearson et al.).
Reports from Norfolk and Gwynedd in 1987 remain under consideration. The 1988 Dogger bird may well have been the long-stayer from Hermaness, living with Fulmars Fulmarus glacialis for a time instead of with the usual unresponsive Gannets Sula bassana.

Little Shearwater Puffinus assimilis (5, 73, 2)
Dyfed Strumble Head, 5th November (K.J.S.Devonald, J.Green, G.H.Rees).
Tyne & Wear Whitburn, 15th July (G.K.Gordon, T.I.Mills et al.).
1988 Gwynedd Bardsey, 7th October (P.Jenks, G.Poole et al.).
1988 Somerset Hinkley Point, 3rd September (J.G.Hole).
The Dyfed bird, although in a fairly predictable place, represents a new late date for UK observations. The Somerset individual is the opposite case: a reasonable date, but an unusual location – perhaps not so odd in the context of local movements of Manx Shearwaters Puffinus puffinus.

Wilson’s Petrel Oceanites oceanicus (4, 10, 0)
A Western Isles bird adds a new dimension to the improved appreciation of this species’ status in British and Irish waters.

Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus (150, 160, 3)
Highland Loch Kemp, Inverness-shire, male, 6th July (R.W.J. & Mrs E.M.Smith).
Scilly St Mary’s, male, 21st May to 7th June (P.A.Fraser, K.E.Vinicombe et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 263).
Surrey Near Dorking, male, 25th May (G.C.Maples).
One late report from the Channel Islands, at Catel, Guernsey, on 1st and 2nd May 1988 (and another report is still under consideration). This species is still in a deep trough after a series of strong highs in the 1970s. Wetland drainage all around the Mediterranean must be beginning to take its toll on all these southern herons.

Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax (165, 231, 10)
Devon Eiburton, adult or second-summer, 20th June (V.R. & Mrs S.R.Tucker).
Dorset Stanpit Marsh, first-summer, 22nd April (D.N.Smith). West Stafford, probably second-summer, 27th May (S.N.Hales).
Glamorgan, South Roath Park Lake, juvenile, 26th November to 1990 (P.Bristow, S.R.Howe et al.).
Glamorgan, West Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, juvenile, 24th November (C.Baker, A.J.Mear), probably same as South Glamorgan.
Humberside Spurn, adult or second-summer, 27th May (K.F.Betton, B.R.Spence et al.).
Kent Sevenoaks, adult or second-summer, 28\textsuperscript{th} August, 3\textsuperscript{rd} September (V.J.Hanlon, R.H.Terry).

Norfolk Welney, probably second-summer, 14\textsuperscript{th}-14\textsuperscript{th} May (J.B.Kemp et al.).

Orkney Finstown, adult or second-summer, 6\textsuperscript{th} July (E.J. & S.J.Williams).

Sussex, East Near Newhaven, adult, 30\textsuperscript{th} April to 3\textsuperscript{rd} May (P.K.Kenward et al.).

1987 Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, immature, age uncertain, 10\textsuperscript{th}-11\textsuperscript{th} May (J.A.Baker, Mr & Mrs A.Bryant et al.).

1988 Shropshire Near Ludlow, adult, 1\textsuperscript{st} April (F.W.Marston, Mrs J.Reynolds et al.).

1988 Tyne & Wear West Boldon, adult, found injured 24\textsuperscript{th} April, died in care 25\textsuperscript{th} July (A.Donnison, G.Gibson et al.).

The spread of dates so typical for this species almost defies analysis, but, apart from the liking for late autumn in South Wales, there is nothing unusual here.

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (23, 458, 122)**

Avon Clevedon, 14\textsuperscript{th} to at least 22\textsuperscript{nd} August (J.M.Bowler, K.Pebberby et al.).

Buckinghamshire Near Wilstone Reservoir, two, 20\textsuperscript{th} September (S.P.Dudley et al.).

Clwyd Point of Air, 19\textsuperscript{th}-24\textsuperscript{th} August (N.J.Holton et al.), presumed same, Oakenholt Marsh, 14\textsuperscript{th}-25\textsuperscript{th} September (H.Birch, N.J.Holton et al.).

Cornwall At least 26: Camel Estuary, 24\textsuperscript{th} June, 18\textsuperscript{th} July to 19\textsuperscript{th} September; another, 15\textsuperscript{th} August to 19\textsuperscript{th} September (S.M.Christophers et al.). Cargreen, Landulph Marsh, Kingsmill Creek area, 11\textsuperscript{th}-31\textsuperscript{st} August; another, 15\textsuperscript{th}-31\textsuperscript{st} (R.M.Belringer, J.M.Clatworthy et al.); another, intermittently, 22\textsuperscript{nd} August to 9\textsuperscript{th} September; also at Tamerton Foliot, Devon, see below (S.C.Madge et al.). St John’s Lake, two, 23\textsuperscript{rd} August (D.R.Courtin). Fal Estuary, 5\textsuperscript{th} August to 23\textsuperscript{rd} October; another, 3\textsuperscript{rd}-5\textsuperscript{th} August, then Truro River, 18\textsuperscript{th}-19\textsuperscript{th}, 27\textsuperscript{th}, Restronguet and Perranworthal, 24\textsuperscript{th}-27\textsuperscript{th}, 16\textsuperscript{th}-21\textsuperscript{st} September, 9\textsuperscript{th} December to 1990, also Helford River, 29\textsuperscript{th} August (S.Croaker, I.Gardner, J.A.Jane, J.Millett et al.). Hayle Estuary and Copperhouse Creek, two from 10\textsuperscript{th} August, three from 21\textsuperscript{st}, five, 22\textsuperscript{nd} August to 26\textsuperscript{st} September, four to 30\textsuperscript{th}, three to 5\textsuperscript{th} October, 22\textsuperscript{nd}, one to 5\textsuperscript{th} December, two to 1990, additional four, 10\textsuperscript{th} December (D.Lewis, S.Keslake, L.P.Williams et al.). Gwithian, 14\textsuperscript{th} December (P.A.Rutter). Marazion, ten, 18\textsuperscript{th} August, five, 20\textsuperscript{th}, two, 21\textsuperscript{st}, one to 28\textsuperscript{th}; another, 19\textsuperscript{th} September (W.R.Hirst, D.Parker, L.P.Williams et al.). Stithians Reservoir, seven, 20\textsuperscript{th} August (J.Hawkey). Sennen, 21\textsuperscript{st}-24\textsuperscript{th} August (Dr J.F.Ryan). Gannel Estuary, 27\textsuperscript{nd} November to 1990; another, 14\textsuperscript{th} December to 1990, same, Newquay, 12\textsuperscript{th}-14\textsuperscript{th} December (S.M.Christophers et al.).

Derbyshire Ogston Reservoir, two, 10\textsuperscript{th} August (Dr D.A.King et al.), probably one of same, Newton Solney and Willington, 17\textsuperscript{th}-27\textsuperscript{th} (T.Davison, A.J.Parker et al.), both probably same as Leicestershire individuals.

Devon Ten, possibly 12: Erme Estuary, 17\textsuperscript{th} July, 8\textsuperscript{th}-26\textsuperscript{th} August, 10\textsuperscript{th}-26\textsuperscript{th} October, 14\textsuperscript{th}-15\textsuperscript{th}, 25\textsuperscript{th}, 27\textsuperscript{th}-28\textsuperscript{th} November, two, 27\textsuperscript{th}, one 1\textsuperscript{st}, 9\textsuperscript{th}-13\textsuperscript{th} December, two 10\textsuperscript{th}-13\textsuperscript{th}, 27\textsuperscript{th}-31\textsuperscript{st}, three 31\textsuperscript{st}. (H. & Mrs J.Huggins, V.R.Tucker et al.). Exe and Clyst Estuaries, Dawlish Warren, three 19\textsuperscript{th}-22\textsuperscript{nd} July, one 8\textsuperscript{th}-29\textsuperscript{th} August, 22\textsuperscript{nd} September, 4\textsuperscript{th} December (M.D.Eloake, D.M.Lowe, R.H.Montgomery, D.J.Stone, S.P.Warford et al.). Avon Estuary, 23\textsuperscript{rd}-24\textsuperscript{th} July, three, 1\textsuperscript{st} August, one 20\textsuperscript{th}, possibly discontinuously, 6\textsuperscript{th}-24\textsuperscript{th} September, two, 9\textsuperscript{th}, 17\textsuperscript{th}, three, 6\textsuperscript{th}, 10\textsuperscript{th}, presumed same as Kingsbridge Estuary individuals (per P.W.Elliot). Axe Estuary, 26\textsuperscript{th} July to 7\textsuperscript{th} August, two, 1\textsuperscript{st}-7\textsuperscript{th}, three, 6\textsuperscript{th}, one, 25\textsuperscript{th} (N.R.Boulton, R.Griffiths, D. & Mrs M.Modrick & al.). Kingsbridge Estuary, discontinuously, 3\textsuperscript{rd} August to 27\textsuperscript{th} October, four from 19\textsuperscript{th} August, five, 21\textsuperscript{st}-22\textsuperscript{nd}, six, 23\textsuperscript{rd} to 3\textsuperscript{rd} September, up to six to 21\textsuperscript{st}, three, 24\textsuperscript{th}, four, 4\textsuperscript{th} October, one 14\textsuperscript{th}, two, 15\textsuperscript{th}, three, 27\textsuperscript{th}, one 12\textsuperscript{th} November, 1\textsuperscript{st}, 6\textsuperscript{th}, 29\textsuperscript{th} December to 1990 (P.Edmonds et al.). Yealm Estuary, 8\textsuperscript{th}-31\textsuperscript{st} August, three, 9\textsuperscript{th}-10\textsuperscript{th} (V.R.Tucker et al.). Tamar and Tavy Estuaries area, possibly discontinuously, 16\textsuperscript{th} August to 17\textsuperscript{th} September, four, 20\textsuperscript{th} August, three, 22\textsuperscript{nd}, two, 5\textsuperscript{th}, 17\textsuperscript{th} September, one, 15\textsuperscript{th} October, all probably same as Kingsbridge Estuary individuals; one of same, Tamerton Foliot, 28\textsuperscript{th} August, 11\textsuperscript{th} September, probably others; also in Cornwall (per P.W.Elliot). Taw and Torridge Estuaries area, probably continuously, 20\textsuperscript{th} August to at least June 1990 (L.P. & S.D.Bruce et al.), probably same, Lundy, 19\textsuperscript{th} September (L.McCallum).
Dorset Poole Harbour area, since 1988 (see 1988 Dorset below), to 6th February, 13th-21st April (per M.Cade), near Wareham, 19th March (G. & Mrs S.Walbridge), Middlebere, 16th April (P.M.Troake); autumn, about nine: 3rd August, two from 5th (per M.Cade), five, 21st-22nd (J.Littlewood, P.M.Troake et al.), at least three to 25th, five from 26th, six, 28th to 13th September, four to 24th, two to 21st November, four, 22nd, five, 30th, three to 10th December, two to 14th, one to 1990 (P.M.Troake et al. per M.Cade) (Brit. Birds: 83: plate 30). Lodmoor, 15th-18th July, presumed same, Abbotbury, 24th (M.Cade, P.M.Harris et al.), Radipole, 26th (J.Brodie Good), probably subsequently, Poole Harbour.

Dyfed Nevern Estuary, Pembrokeshire, 10th-13th December, two, 10th (A.Ogilvie, G.H.Rees, D.Spencer). Gwendraeth Estuary, Cardiganshire, 27th December to 12th February 1990 (G.Davies, G.Harper, F.B.Jenkins et al.).

Essex Chigborough Lakes, 23rd May (G.A.Pyman, L.A.Sims), probably also in Kent. Potton Creek, 5th-13th August (N.J.Murphy, S.L.Satchell et al.).

Glamorgan, Mid Ogmore Estuary and Newton Point, two, 14th August (O.J.Leyshon et al.), same, Ogmore Castle, 15th (D.C.Bolt), one of same, Kenfig Pool, 15th (P.R.Hurlow), another, Ogmore Estuary, 15th (P.G.Lansdown, S.J.Moon), probably one of same, Kenfig Rivermouth, 28th (J.P.Curtis, S.J.Moon).

Glamorgan, South Ruynamney Great Wharf, 5th-6th May (R.G.Hogarth et al.), also in Gwent.

Glamorgan, West Whiteford, Gower, 16th-19th, 26th August to 3rd September, 19th-23rd September (R.J.Howells, A.J.Jones, L. & Mrs E.Murley et al.), probably either or both Mid Glamorgan individuals.

Gloucestershire Frampton-on-Severn, 15th-16th May (G.R. & Mrs M.Avery, M.Coveney, I.Rattley et al.), same, Slimbridge, 16th (per G.R.Avery), possibly same as South Glamorgan individual. Cotswold Water Park, 30th September (S.N.Thomson).

Greater Manchester Sale Water Park, 28th-30th May (P.F.Berry, Mr & Mrs Pruskin et al.), probably Gwynedd individual (also Cheshire, mid May, under consideration).

Gwent Sluice Farm, Peterstone, 5th-6th May (R.G.Hogarth, G.Powell et al.), same as South Glamorgan. Llandegfedd Reservoir, 11th June (per R.W.Poole).


Hampshire About 19: northwest Solent from Hurst Spit to Sowley Shore, including Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes, up to 17, 30th July to 24th September: two, probably four, 6th August, three from 9th, five 20th, seven 26th, fifteen 27th, seventeen 28th, eight 29th, up to twelve to 10th September, nine, possibly fourteen, 17th, six to 24th; probably another, 24th October; probably another, 15th-31st December (M.C. & P.Combridge et al.). Beaulieu Estuary, probably discontinuously, 6th August to 27th September: two 6th, 25th, 27th August, three 20th, 31st, 15th September, one 17th, 28th-29th December, all presumed northwest Solent individuals (D.J.Unsworth et al.). Titchfield Haven, 15th August (B.S.Duffin), three 24th September (J.Dodds, R.K.Levett), all probably from northwest Solent.

Hertfordshire Wilstone Reservoir, 12th-13th May (S.P.Dudley, D.R.Wilson et al.). Near Wilstone Reservoir, two, 20th September, same as Buckinghamshire.

Kent Cliffe, 23rd May (R.C.Peters), probably same as Essex individual, 23rd. Oare, 25th July (G.J.A.Burton), possibly Havergate, Suffolk, individual, 26th. Bough Beech Reservoir, 10th-18th August (D.P.Appleton et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 33), presumed same as Weir Wood Reservoir, West Sussex, individual. Stodmarsh, 17th August (C.Hindle). Lade Gravel-pit, Dungeness, 4th September (Mrs A.Burr, M.Montier).

Lancashire Leighton Moss and Carnforth Inner Marsh, 12th May (P.J.Marsh, J.Wilson et al.). River Ribble, Preston, 10th June (D. & M.Doodly), probably same, Skippool Creek, River Wyre, 30th June to 22nd August (A.H.Sumner et al.), probably same as Greater Manchester individual.

Leicestershire Eyebrook Reservoir, 16th-18th August, two, 16th (D.Jones et al.), one of same, Rutland Water, 19th-20th, 25th, 27th-28th (J.A.Forney, R.M.Fray, L. & S.Lester et al.), same, Barrowden, 21st (Mrs K.M.Potterton), both probably same as Derbyshire individuals.

Norfolk Welney, 10th-14th May (J.B.Kemp et al.), possibly North Coates, Lincolnshire, individual; 19th September (J.Aarbon, L.Butler), probably same, Blakeney Point, 21st (T.Brereton, T.B.Norman, P.Tomas et al.). Ouse Mouth, 16th-17th August (G.M.S.Easy), possibly same as Suffolk individual.

Northamptonshire Pitsford Reservoir, 10th-17th August (K.Moulton, F.C.Smith), probably same, Nassington, 19th (M. & Mrs P.Byrd).


Orkney Loch of Stenness, 24th-26th May (M.A. & Mrs L.Russell et al.), probably same as Shetland individual.

Scilly St Mary's, 1st-14th December; another 1st-8th, same, Bryher, 9th, found dead 10th (D.J.D.Hickman et al.).

Shetland Loch of Hillwell, 11th-12th May, same, Loch of Spiggie, 12th-13th (D.R.Bird et al.), probably same as Orkney individual.

Somerset Steart, 3rd to at least 17th August (B.D.Gibbs, N.E.Wall), probably same, Burnham-on-Sea, at least 3rd September (B.J.Hill).

Strathclyde Fionn Phort, Mull, 1st May (W.B.Wolstenholme), same, Ulva Ferry, 4th-18th (J.Howard et al.).

Suffolk Orfordness, 18th June (J.R.Askins, J.M.Bourne et al.), presumed same, Havergate, 26th July to 3rd August, 20th-22nd August (K.Bennett, J.Partridge et al.), possibly also in Kent.

Sussex, East Icklesham, two, probably intermittently, 3rd-26th August, one, 11th-21st September (S.J.R.Rumsey et al.), at least one of same, Rye, intermittently 2nd August to 15th September (Dr B.J.Yates et al.), probably also in Dungeness area, Kent. Pett Level, 5th August (R.S.Kelly et al.), probably same as Bough Beech Reservoir, Kent, individual, 10th. Cuckmere Valley, 7th-27th September (J.L. & Mrs E.P.Harvey, W.J.M.Scott et al.).

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 15th July intermittently to 28th August, two 16th, 25th July, three 1st October, one 29th October, 3rd December (R.J.Fairbank, C.M. & Mrs B.James et al. per R.J.Fairbank), 27th September (O.Mitchell), all also in Chichester Harbour. Chichester Harbour, one, discontinuously, 18th July to 19th August, three 29th, at least five 4th September to 3rd October, six 30th September, three to 13th October, one to 12th November and intermittently to 1990 (C.B. & Mrs M.A.Collins, R.J.Fairbank, R.J.Senior et al.). Selsey Bill, 17th August (B.J.Carter), presumed Chichester/Pagham Harbour individual. Weir Wood Reservoir, 14th August (N.A.Driver, D.W.Mayford, D.C. & Mrs B.M.Mortlock et al.), same as Bough Beech Reservoir, Kent, individual.

1987 Devon Teign Estuary, 5th December (R.Burrage).

1987 Lancashire Various localities, 26th May to 17th September (Brit. Birds 82: 512), Preston, 9th June (W.J.Clift, Martin Mere, 13th (S.J. & Mrs J.A.Riley).


1988 Norfolk Cley and Holkham, 14th May (Brit. Birds 82: 512), also at Burnham Deepdale and Holme, 14th (per P.R.Allard).

1988 Strathclyde Loch Craignish, Argyll, 23rd June to 8th September, probably since 13th June (Brit. Birds 82: 512), 10th September (R.W.Forrester); second individual, 15th August (R. & Mrs F.Place et al.).

1988 Sussex, East Cuckmere Haven, two, 6th-7th May, possibly since 5th (Brit. Birds 82: 512), to 9th (R.J.Fairbank, A.Swetman et al.), Pevensey Bridge Levels individual, 8th, now presumed additional.
Also in the Channel Islands, one at Rocquaine Bay, Guernsey, from 29th to 30th July and two at Petit Port, Jersey, on 5th August. In Ireland, late reports are of one on Bull Island (Co. Dublin) on 9th October 1988 and one at Baltray (Co. Louth) on 15th October. In 1989, there were singles at Timoleague from 14th to 22nd April; at Kinsale Marsh on 28th April; and at Ringabella from 19th to 20th August. Two at Belvelly on 19th and one to 26th August and one at Belgooly from 31st August to 2nd October (all Co. Cork); one at Tarbert from January until at least 5th March and at Caherciveen on 9th May (both Co. Kerry); and singles at Tacumshin from 22nd July until 12th August and at Fethard from 9th to 20th September (both Co. Wexford).

This was the bird of the year. MJR has studied the reports and concludes that, from the dates on the Committee’s files, there was little evidence of much movement either east or west, with the possible exception of some west Cornwall birds moving east into Devon. The maximum count on the south coast from Cornwall to Rye, East Sussex, rose from 11 on 11th August to at least 46 on 28th August, and fell slowly to 42 on 17th September, then more rapidly to just six on 14th October. There was also little to suggest that those from the south coast trickled inland to the north, as the more northerly ones tended to be seen in periods of steady totals in the south, and site-fidelity was marked in southern England. There was, however, a very late influx into south and southwest England and south Wales, with nine new individuals in Cornwall from 22nd November. Although an egret in view is obvious to all, there must have been many that wandered widely out of sight of keen birdwatchers, and the analysis of these will remain somewhat speculative. The other speculation is about the future status of this beautiful egret – will this boom year be a ‘one-off’ or will global warming inspire flocks of egrets to come here to settle?

**Great White Egret* Egretta alba (10, 30, 4)**

**Cornwall** Fal Estuary, 23rd June to 24th July (B.Cave *et al.*), presumed same as Gloucestershire individual.

**Gloucestershire** Slimbridge, 18th June (L.P.Alder *et al.*), presumed same as Cornwall, Nottinghamshire individual.

**Grampian** Loirston Loch, Aberdeen, 21st-22nd April (M.A.Sullivan *et al.*), possibly same as Northumberland individual.

**Norfolk** Titchwell, 13th October (A.S.C.Barker *et al.*), presumed same as Suffolk individual.

**Northumberland** Holywell Dene and Holywell Pond, 8th May (R.Dunn, I.Kerr *et al.*), same, Druridge Pools, 9th (M.G.Anderson), possibly same as Grampian individual.

**Nottinghamshire** Attenborough, 16th-17th June (G.B.Nunn *et al.*), presumed same as Cornwall, Gloucestershire individual.

**Suffolk** Minsmere, 25th September to 12th October (J.M.Cawston, J.B.Higgott, R.Macklin *et al.*), also in Norfolk.

The West Yorkshire individual whose photograph has already been published (Brit. Birds 82: plate 297) was, sadly, not submitted to the Committee in time for consideration this time around. Could all the spring reports have referred to a single bird?

**Purple Heron* Ardea purpurea (90, -, -)**

**1982 Cornwall** St Germans, probably second-summer, 21st-25th May (A. & P.Blonden).

The Rarities Committee ceased to consider records relating to this species after the end of 1982, but those prior to this date are still welcomed.

**Black Stork* Ciconia nigra (26, 40, 8)**

**Cornwall** Hayle, 4th May (A.R.Pay); presumed same, Camel Estuary, 9th (S.M.Christophers, Mr & Mrs R.E.Wake *et al.*).

**Durham** Hamsterley Forest, 13th May (T. & V.Coult, G.Hinchcliffe, R.Strachan *et al.*).

**Essex** Lea Valley Regional Park, Waltham Abbey, 14th May (D. & J.A.Hawes, A.Palmer), also in Hertfordshire.

**Essex/Hertfordshire** Cheshunt, 14th May (Miss J.R.Binstead, J.Cadera, M.Hardwick *et al.*), same as Essex individual above.

**Gwynedd** Cwm Eilau, Carneddau, 3rd May (P.Boxall), presumed same, Foel Fras, Carneddau, 7th (Dr A.C. & R.C.Gallon *et al.*).

**Hertfordshire** Amwell, 14th May (G.J.White), same as Essex individual.
Kent Murston, 28th April (R.R.Thompson); presumed another, 28th May (B.J.Walker), probably same as East Sussex individual.

Lancashire Leighton Moss and Carnforth Marsh, 10th-11th June (J.A.Girdley et al.).

Sussex, East Near Wych Cross, 26th May (M. & Mrs I.Hopkins), probably same as second Kent individual.

Wight, Isle of Knighton, 28th-29th May (J.C.Gloyn, K.Russell), presumed same as Wiltshire individual.

Wiltshire Near Redlynch, 26th May (G.D.Pictor), presumed same as Isle of Wight individual.

An increase in the numbers of this wonderful species has to be good news... But how many individuals could be involved here? Certainly the Wight and Kent birds of 28th May were seen at the same time, evidence that simple 'lumping' is not the best answer. Although one might argue that a single bird could be seen in several places, it has to be admitted that many past reports were of single birds never seen again – they can slip by unseen.

**Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus** (many, 51, 3)

Kent Stodmarsh area, 1988 individual (Brit. Birds 82: 513) 1st January to 7th May, 24th June, 31st July to end of year; same, Sheppey, 14th, 30th May (per D.W.Taylor).

Northumberland Bothal Pond, 10th May (M.G.Anderson).


In Ireland, there were two at Portmagee, Co. Kerry, on 15th March, one staying until 25th. Little to add here, but a May report from Northumberland is clearly particularly interesting.

**Bewick’s Swan Cygnus columbianus** (0, 6, 0)

An individual showing the characters of the nominate North American and East Siberian race was recorded as follows:

Somerset Curry Moor and Durleigh Reservoir, adult, since 26th November 1988 (see below) to at least 12th February, 26th November to at least 23rd December (A.J.Bundy, B.J.Matthews, D.E.Paull et al.).


Reports of individuals at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, in 1969-70 and 1976, are now thought to be of indeterminate race.

**Brent Goose Branta bernicla** (1, 45, 2)

Individuals showing the characters of the North American and East Siberian race *B.b.nigricans* were recorded as follows:

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, adult, 20th December (L.P.Alder).

Hampshire See West Sussex below.

Norfolk See 1988 Norfolk below.

Sussex, West Thorney Island and other localities, Chichester Harbour, adult, since 27th October 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 514) to 19th February, 10th November to 1990, also Hayling Island, Hampshire; Thorney Deeps and Prinsted area, adult, 6th January to 18th March (C.B. & Mrs M.A.Collins et al.).

1987 Norfolk Lynn Point, adult, 17th December to 18th April 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 514), 19th (per P.R.Allard).

1988 Devon Exe Estuary, adult, 31st October to 18th November (K.Pellow).


The Thorney Deeps bird had six indeterminate, presumed ‘hybrid’, young with it. Groan!
American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 179, 14)

**Cumbria** Duddon Estuary, male, 9th March to 15th April (D.J.Radford *et al*.).

**Fife** Stenhouse Reservoir, male, female, 12th to at least 13th November, first-winter male, 13th, same three, Lochgelly Loch, 24th to 1980 (D.E.Dickson, B.H.Little, J.S.Nadin *et al*.).

**Grampian** Cotehill Loch, male, 16th-17th July (K.D.Shaw, J.L.Swallow, A.Webb *et al*.).

**Highland** Loch Fleet, male, at least 3rd January (R.J.Evans, J.Vaughan *et al*.), probably the same as 1988 individual below.

**Lancashire** Martin Mere, female, 26th-30th September (G.R.Clarkson, D.J.Rigby *et al*.).

**Norfolk** Welney, male, at least 14th-16th January (J.L.Newman *et al*.), presumed same, 19th December (J.B.Kemp *et al*.).

**Northumberland** Holy Island, male, 20th May (K.W.Regan, M.G.Watson).

**Orkney** Loch of Harray, Mainland, male, 24th January to 24th March (M.Gray *et al*.).

**Shetland** Lochs of Melby and Collaster, two males, 17th January to 19th February, one to 18th March (P.M.Ellis *et al*.).

1987 **Dorset** See 1987 Hampshire below.


1987 **Highland** See 1988 Highland below.

1988 **Cornwall** Stithians Reservoir, female or first-winter, 19th-26th October (J.Hawkey, A.D.Smith).

1988 **Hertfordshire** Tringford Reservoir, first-winter male, 2nd to at least 9th October (S.P.Dudley *et al*.).

1988 **Highland** Loch Heilen, Caithness, male, 11th-23rd March (J.S.Corbett, E.W.E.Maughan), probably same as Loch of Mey individual, 4th-10th October 1987 (Brit. Birds 81: 546). Loch Fleet, male, 23rd July (J.Vaughan), probably same as 1989 above.

These appear to conform with our usual ideas as to dates and distribution, but this species is always a test for observers’ sharpness in the field.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* (6, 5, 0)

1969 **Dorset** Brownsea Island, male, trapped, 1st January (A.T.Bromby per M.Cade).

Still too rare to form a real pattern, and still of uncertain provenance (many being kept in captivity), but this stands a chance of being wild. Deciding on the origin of most ducks is just so difficult.

Teal *Anas crecca* (13, 268, 25)

Drakes showing the characters of the North American race *A.c.carolinensis* were recorded as follows:

**Avon** Chew Valley Lake, 26th November to 7th December (K.E.Vinicombe *et al*.), also in Somerset.

**Cambridgeshire** Sutton, Ouse Washes, 25th-26th March (C.A.E.Kirtland *et al*.); second individual, Oxiode Pool, Ouse Washes, 8th April; third, Littleport Toll, 8th (G.M.S.Easy).

**Cornwall** River Lynher, 10th-21st January (S.C.Madge *et al*.).

**Cornwall/Devon** Lower Tamar Reservoir, 17th-23rd October (I.Kendall, D.J.Rigby *et al*.).

**Derbyshire** Drakeelow, 26th December (T.Bagworth, M.Williams).
Devon See Cornwall/Devon above.

Dorset Middlebere, 16th-28th April (P.M.Troake).

Essex Abberton Reservoir, 15th October to at least 12th November (A. & I.P.Dearing, H.Lacey et al.).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, 22nd April to 5th May (M.L.King, D.B.Paynter et al.).

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, 5th, 27th-28th May, presumed same, 29th October to 13th November, 20th January to 4th March 1990 (T.D.Codlin, B.S.Duffin et al.), probably same, Farlington Marsh, 28th December to at least 2nd January 1990 (C.M.C.Patrick, R.W.White et al.).

Highland Tain, 15th December (P.G.Akers).

Leicestershire Rutland Water, 26th April (J.A.Forryan), presumed same, 17th November (K.Bindley, J.Cracknell).

Merseyside Marshside Marsh, 8th-16th April (Dr B.McCarthy et al.).

Norfolk Welney, 9th March to 7th April (J.B.Kemp).


Northumberland Grindon Lough, 27th March to 1st May (J.R.Todd).

Nottinghamshire Cottam, 4th March (M.C.Dennis, R.Mundy, P.Palmer et al.).

Shetland Boddam, 30th May (P.M.Ellis, R.L.Howells).

Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, 9th November to 24th December (T.A.Box et al.).

Strathclyde Munnoch Reservoir, Ardrossan, 15th-16th January (P.McEwan, G.Mitchell). Loch Gruinart, Islay, 25th or 28th-30th March; same, Easter Ellister, 31st to 3rd April (A.F.G.Walker, Dr M.A.Ogilvie et al.).

Sussex, West Arundel, 21st April to 1st May (R.J.L.Kemp et al.).

Western Isles Howbeg, South Uist, 9th June (T.J.Dix, W.McLaughlin).

1988 Norfolk Tottenhill, 27th November to 12th December (D.J.Holman et al.).

In Ireland, single males at Lough Beg, Co. Cork, from 19th May to 1st July and at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 26th December. An interesting number of March to June reports, falling somewhat outside the norm for this race.

American Black Duck Anas rubripes (1, 14, 1)

Strathclyde Barr and Castle Semple Lochs, first-winter male, 26th November to 6th March 1990 (A.A.Murray, J.J.Sweeney et al.).

A good long-stayer, much appreciated by many people.

Blue-winged Teal Anas discors (19, 133, 11)

Berkshire Theale, male, 19th May (B.Bennett, A.Croucher, B.Uttley et al.).

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, male, 11th-13th September (C.C.Barnard, Dr J.F.Ryan et al.).

Cornwall/Devon Tamar Lakes, female or first-winter, 31st August (R.M.R.James et al.); female or first-winter, 10th October to 9th November (J.D.Bryden, S.M.Christophers, R.Smaldon et al.).

Devon See Cornwall/Devon above.

Dorset Stanpit Marsh, female or first-winter, at least 17th September (R.J.Taylor).

Essex Stanford Warren, male, 9th-12th May (P.J.Fallan, A.J.Kane, J.Miller et al.).


Orkney Sanday, female, 7th-8th May (C.J.Corse, M.Gray).

Scilly St Mary’s, juvenile or first-winter female, 7th October (A.J.Booth, D.Short et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: page 451 fig. 1 & plate 262).
1983 Shetland Wester Loch, Unst, possibly immature, 3rd-23rd September (Brit. Birds 77: 515), as female or immature (Brit. Birds 78: 513, plate 274), now considered adult male in eclipse.


1988 Yorkshire, South Thorpe Marsh, Doncaster, male, 16th November (P.Sutton).

A late report from Ireland, of one at Kinsale Marsh, Co. Cork, on 7th and 8th May 1988, was followed in 1989 by one at the North Slob on 15th October and one at Tacumshin from 5th to 12th November (both Co. Wexford). A return to a more typical run of reports after few in 1988, with a good geographical spread in typical months.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1, 242, 22)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, male, 8th December (R.Higgins).


Central Region See Lothian.

Cornwall Loe Pool, male, since 6th November 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 516), to at least 29th January; presumed same, 17th June to at least 16th November (per S.M.Christophers). Drift Reservoir, first-winter male, 14th January to 30th March, 26th December (P.Moore, Dr J.F.Ryan, M.Southam *et al*.), presumed same, Marazion, 2nd-11th April, 15th June, 27th-28th December (D.Lewis, Dr J.F.Ryan *et al*.).


Cumbria Nibthwaite, Coniston Water, male, 7th January to 8th April (C.Raven, D.Satterthwaite *et al*.), presumed same, Barrow-in-Furness, 6th-9th June (M.Cope, A.Mackay, C.Raven), and North Walney, 9th (A.S.Mackay).

Devon Braunton, male, 4th June (L.P. & Mrs S.D.Bruce), presumed returning individual last recorded Kenwith Nature Reserve, Bideford, 1988, see 1988 Devon below. Huntsham Barton, male, 18th December to at least 3rd March 1990 (Mrs A.A.Cross, R.Greenwood, B.J.Hill *et al*.) (Brit. Birds 83: page 453 fig. 2), also in Somerset. See also Cornwall/Devon above.

Dorset Studland and Poole Park Lake, male, at least 7th October (R., S. & V.Papps *et al*.), 9th December to 9th November (P.M.Troake *et al*.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 189), possibly returning individual last recorded Radipole, 5th September to at least 23rd October 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 516). See also 1988 Dorset below.

Glamorgan, West Broadpool, male, 6th May (R.Gjuv, S.P.Hinton), possibly same as Braunton, Devon, individual above.

Grompian Meikle Loch, female, 4th November (C.Barton, J.R.W.Gordon *et al*.).

Greater London See Buckinghamshire/Greater London above.

Hampshire Timsbury Gravel-pits, male, returning 1988 individual (Brit. Birds 82: 516) to 25th April; again, 12th November to 1990 (per G.C.Stephenson).

Lancashire Stocks Reservoir, male, since 25th September 1988 (see 1988 Lancashire below), to 10th January (A.A.Cooper), same, Foulridge Reservoir, intermittently, 14th January to 22nd April (G.S.Motley *et al*.), same, Wood End Sewage-works, intermittently, 10th March to 21st June (R.Ashworth, S.E.Duffield, G.S.Motley *et al*.), again, Stocks Reservoir, 11th November to 1990 (A.A.Cooper *et al*); all records per M.Jones. Carnforth and Leighton Moss, male, 20th September to 5th November (P.J.Marsh *et al*.), probably same as Stocks Reservoir individual above.

Lincolnshire Baston Common, first-winter male, 15th March (E.J.Redshaw).

Lothian Linlithgow Loch, male, 26th February to 16th March (K.Gillon, A.O’Connor *et al*.), first noted Bo’ness, Central Region, 25th (per A.Brown).
Northumberland

Scilly
Tresco, male, 13th November (W.H.Wagstaff et al.).

Somerset
Wimbleball Lake, male, 11th November to at least 18th December (B.D.Gibbs et al.), presumed returning individual winter 1988/89 (Brit. Birds 82: 516), same as Huntsham Barton, Devon, individual above. Ashford Reservoir, Cannington, first-winter male, 13th, 22nd November (T.A.Box, B.Rabbitts et al.).

Wiltshire

Yorkshire
West
Pungey’s Gravel-pit, Wakefield, male, at least 24th April (J.Clarke et al.).

1983 Powys
See 1984 Powys below.

1984 Powys

1985 Powys
Welshpool, male, 1st-31st January (B.Averis et al.), presumed returning 1984 individual above.

1986 Humberside
See 1988 Humberside below.

1986 Powys
Welshpool, male, 1st January to 26th May (B.Averis, R.Q.Skeen, R.I.Thorpe et al.), presumed returning 1985 individual above.

1987 Humberside
Easington Lagoon and Beacon Lane Pond, male, 8th April (G.Carr, S.M.Lister et al.).

1987 Powys
Welshpool, male, January, dates uncertain, presumed returning 1986 individual (per R.Q.Skeen).

1988 Cambridgeshire
Nene Washes, male, 24th March to 11th April (A.le F.Dobson, G.R.Welch et al.).

1988 Derbyshire
See 1988 Yorkshire, South, below.

1988 Devon

1988 Dorset
Abbotsbury, male, 6th November (R.W.Grove, B.S.Ryman now Spencer), presumed same as Radipole individual, 5th September to at least 23rd October (Brit. Birds 82: 516).

1988 Dyfed
Upper Lleidi Reservoir, male, 10th January to at least 17th February (Brit. Birds 82: 516), to 17th February only; same, Pownd Twyn, Llanelli, 28th February to 21st April (D.Allward, R.O.Hunt et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 261).

1988 Hampshire
Timsbury Gravel-pits, male, from December 1987 to at least January (Brit. Birds 82: 516), to at least 27th February (R.J.Fairbank et al.); returned 25th November to 1989 (per G.C.Stephenson).

1988 Highland
Loch Insh and Loch Morlich, male, 2nd October to 5th November (Brit. Birds 82: 516), Loch Morlich, 6th November to 12th December (D.M.Pullan et al.).

1988 Humberside
Tophill Low Reservoir, male, 30th May to 7th June (K.J. & S.Allison, I.Forsyth et al.), presumed returning individual last recorded 24th November 1985 to 23rd March 1986 (Brit. Birds 80: 528).

1988 Lancashire
Foulridge Reservoir, male, presumed returning individual of 1985-86 (Brit. Birds 81: 548), at least 14th February to 31st May, same, Rowley Lake, Barnsley, 12th March, 19th May, Stocks Reservoir, 25th September to 1989 (see above) (S.Berry, A.A.Cooper, M.J.Naylor et al. per M.Jones).

1988 Northumberland

1988 Scilly
Tresco, male, 21st-30th October (P.I.Holt, M.J.Palmer et al.).
1988 **Yorkshire, South** Catcliffe Flash, male, 8th June to 9th November (M.G.Fenner, R.M.Fray et al.), presumed same as 1987-88 Derbyshire/South Yorkshire individual (Brit. Birds 82: 516).

One belated record from Ireland, a drake at Kilkerran Lake, Co. Cork, on 29th December 1987. In 1989, one at Lough Corrib, Co. Galway, on 26th February; a female at Lough Cullin, Co. Mayo, from 15th to 24th March (presumed the same as the November 1988 individual there, Brit. Birds 82: 516); a male at Lough Cullin on 29th October; a female at Ballyshunnock Reservoir, Co. Waterford, from 22nd to 29th October; one at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, from 8th April to May and the same at the South Slob, Co. Wexford, in June; a female at the South Slob on 3rd December; and one at Vartry Reservoir, Co. Wicklow, from 1st January to 11th March. Analysis of this species’ patterns depends so much on the assumptions made regarding returning individuals and wandering birds – it is the ideal case for long arguments over numbers and origins.

**King Eider Somateria spectabilis** (62, 139, 9)

**Fife** Tayport, male, 10th January to at least 6th April (B.Little et al.), also in Grampian, Tayside.

**Grampian** Ythan Estuary, male, 1st May to 6th June (S.A.Reeves, R.D.Steele et al.), also in Fife, Tayside, presumed returning 1988 individual, see 1988 Grampian below; first-summer male, 16th May to 2nd June (J.R.W.Gordon, S.A.Reeves et al.) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 299); male, 25th November to at least January 1990 (M.Hannay, S.A.Reeves, A.Simmons et al.), not same as May-June individual. Murcar, male, 16th-21st July (K.D.Shaw); Donmouth, female, 20th August to 17th September (K.D.Shaw, D.Waring et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: page 454 fig. 3); male, 26th October to 24th November (P.J. & Mrs K.Dunn et al.); female or first-winter, 4th-22nd November (K.D.Shaw et al.).

**Gwynedd** Black Rock Sands, female, 28th January to 23rd September (K.G.Croft, A.Davies et al.).

**Highland** Loch Fleet and Embo, male, 20th May (R.J.Evans et al.), 9th June (per A.R.Mainwood), 11th October (P.G.Akers), 26th October, 11st-12th November (per A.R.Mainwood), 10th December (R.J.Evans).


**Tayside** Broughty Ferry, male, 8th January to March (S.A.Reeves, M.S.Scott et al.), also in Fife, Grampian.


**1986 Grampian** See 1986 Fife above.

**1986 Tayside** See 1986 Fife above.

**1987 Fife** See 1986 Fife above.

**1987 Grampian** See 1986 Fife above.

**1988 Fife** See 1986 Fife above.

**1988 Grampian** See 1986 Fife above.

**1988 Highland** Loch Fleet, male, 14th February to 6th April (Brit. Birds 82: 517), 29th (J.Vaughan et al.); second-year male, 29th April (J.Vaughan et al.).

All sorts of lumping going on here, which is perhaps a good thing and makes this beautiful and evocative duck (and a really wild one!) all the rarer. Gwynedd is getting to be quite a good place for rare wildfowl, and now gets in on the King Eider act.

**Harlequin Duck Histrionicus histrionicus** (7, 4, 0)

**1987 Strathclyde** Claggain Bay, Islay, female, 20th-30th October (Brit. Birds 82: 518), 31st (J.A.Hazell, D.A.Shute et al.).
Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (0, 4, 1)

Individuals showing the characters of the North American and East Siberian race *M.n.americana* were recorded as follows:

**Highland** Culbin Bar, male, 22nd January to 8th February; presumed returning individual, 11th December (P.G.Akers).

**Lothan** Gosford Bay, male, 14th March; presumed same, Gullane Point, 22nd November (P.R.Gordon), probably same as 1988 individual below.


This race requires the closest examination in the field and occasional very yellow-billed European drakes can cause problems.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (75, 245, 29)

**Cambridgeshire** Graffham Water, first-winter male, 26th April to 5th May (B.A.E.Marr et al.).

**Dorset** Burton Bradstock, first-winter male, 8th-21st January (A.Barrett, D.Foot et al.).

**Fife** Largo Bay, males, 3rd-23rd January, 14th March to 17th April, two, 17th March to 2nd April, three, 27th February (D.E.Dickson, J.S.Nadin, M.J.Ware et al.), 9th November to 10th December, two, 9th-25th (N.Hughes, J.S.Nadin, M.J.Pollard et al.); female, 27th February, 14th March to 2nd April (D.E.Dickson, J.S.Nadin et al.). Anstruther, male, female, 12th March (Mrs A.-M.Smout), probably from Largo Bay. St Andrew’s, male, 6th December to at least 12th January 1990 (D.E.Dickson et al.), probably from Largo Bay. All probably same as Lothan individuals.


**Humberside** Klinsea, male, female, 4th May (T.M.Clegg et al.).

**Lothan** Gosford Bay, at least six males: 21st January to 7th May, three, 28th January, one from 29th, two from 11th March, three from 26th March, four from 31st March, up to six from 2nd April, six, 7th May; first-summer male, 1st-2nd April, also at Musselburgh below; four females: 28th January, 11th March to 14th April; 31st March to 7th May; 2nd April to 7th May; 13th April; male, 18th-26th November, presumed returning individual (A.Brown et al.). Musselburgh, first-summer male, 9th April to 13th May (I.Andrews, A.Brown et al.), same as Gosford Bay individual, 1st-2nd April. Aberlady Bay and Gullane Point, male, 17th November (P.R.Gordon), same as Gosford Bay individual, 18th-26th November, above. See also Fife above. Three males, two females, presumed returning 1988 individuals (Brit. Birds 82: 518).


**Shetland** Noss Sound, first-summer male, 4th-17th June (C.Donald et al.), presumed same, with female, Trebister Ness, 24th-25th August (M.Heubeck et al.).

**Tayside** Lunan Bay, male, 3rd September to at least 8th October (M.S.Scott et al.), probably same as Lothan individual, November, above.

1981 **Highland** Embo, male, 14th November (D.E.Dickson et al.), presumed returning Golspie and Loch Fleet individual, February to April (Brit. Birds 75: 495).

1988 **Highland** Dunnet Bay, male, 2nd-6th October (E.W.E.Maugham et al.).

1988 **Norfolk** Holme, male, 19th-24th June (D.J.Holman et al.).
There were also seven in Ireland: at Broad Strand, Co. Cork, from 26th December into 1990; at Ballinskelligs Bay, Co. Kerry, on 26th December; a female at The Mullet, Co. Mayo, on 16th February; at Courtown, Co. Wexford, on 6th March, joined by two others on 13th (at least one of these is presumably a returning individual, see Brit. Birds 82: 519), and at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 11th November.

Mostly standard stuff, but the remarkable inland young drake in Cambridgeshire brightened up the spring for many observers. The Dorset and Humberside drakes are also noteworthy for a species still very rare in England.

**Black Kite Milvus migrans (5, 114, 15)**

**Bedfordshire** Little Staughton, 7th June (R.Nye).

**Cornwall** Porthgwarra, intermittently, 20th-29th May (C.C.Barnard et al.), same, near Sennen, 22nd (per S.M.Christophers), The Lizard, 24th (B.Cave, A.Walker), Penzance, 31st (per S.M.Christophers), near Mullion, 7th June (J.M.Walters).


**Essex** Stanway Green, Colchester, 26th May (Dr R.J.Banham, A.P.Thompson), same, Birch, 27th (R.Allen) (Brit. Birds 83: page 457 fig. 4).

**Kent** Dungeness, 27th May (C.G.Bradshaw, A.J.Fossey, M.May).

**Lancashire** Near Dunlop Bridge, 30th April (A.Dawson, P.J.Marsh, M.Rawcliffe).

**Norfolk** Reepham and Kerdiston area, 24th June (S.Betts, B.Bosley).

**Orkney** Birsay, 14th June (M.Gray, I.Higginson et al.), same, Finstown, 14th (E.J.Williams).

**Suffolk** Minsmere, 26th April (R.J.Prytherch et al.); 13th May (G.J.Jobson, R.L.Morgan, R.Smith et al.).

**Sussex, East** Cuckmere Haven, 29th April (R.J.Taylor, I.R.Thomas).

**Sussex, West** Chichester Harbour, 6th May (C.B.Collins).

1986 **Humberside** Saltend, Hull, 26th August (S.L.James, M.Stansfield).

1988 **Cumbria** Baycliffe, 15th May (S.J. & Mrs J.A.Riley, M.Rimmer et al.).

1988 **Norfolk** Dersingham, 12th May (Dr K.P.Elsby).

For a bird that is big and brown with a forked tail, and flies about in the open air, the Black Kite still has a troubled time in Committee circulations. Simplistic descriptions are all too often inadequate for a species that should, when a real one appears, present little trouble. This was a good year, and the first individual in Devon was exceptionally early.

**White-tailed Eagle Haliaeetus albicilla (many, 16, 2)**

**Humberside** Flamborough Head, immature, possibly first-summer, 7th May (D.Beaumont, M.Newsome, P.J.Willoughby), also in Lincolnshire. Atwick, immature, 8th October (W.F.Curtis).

**Kent** Sheppey and North Downs area, immature, since 16th November 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 519), Elmley, to at least 15th January.

**Lincolnshire** Revesby Park, 12th-13th, 16th-17th May, probably since late April (S.H.M.Buchart, R.J.F.Carr et al.), same as Humberside individual.

**Suffolk** Butley River and Gedgrave area, first-winter, since 1988, to 22nd February (Brit. Birds 82: 519).

Other sightings remain under consideration; those already accepted continue the welcome trend towards greater regularity. Individuals belonging to the introduced breeding population are not considered by the Committee and are not included in the statistics.
Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 315, 31)

**Cleveland** Redcar, female, 17th May (B.Foster *et al*.), presumed same, Coatham Marsh, 18th (D.J.Britton), 27th (C.Bielby), Eston Nab, 29th-30th (M.A.Blick, G.Iceton, N.A.Preston).

**Cornwall** Trevoze Head, first-summer male, 20th May (P.A.Maker, L.Webb). Delabole, first-summer male, bearing ring, origin not known, 27th-29th May (G.Sabran). Croft Pasco, female, 4th-5th June (R.Wilkins *et al*.).

**Dyfed** Skomer, male, 20th May (C.C. & M.Bevan).


**Gloucestershire/Wiltshire** Cotswold Water Park, females, 28th-30th May, two, 28th, one or both first-summer (J.Booth, A.Jaques, G.L.Webber *et al*.).

**Hampshire** Shipton Bellinger, first-summer female, 2nd to at least 14th June (D.A.Thelwell *et al*.) (Brit. Birds 82: plates 348 & 349).

**Humberside** Flamborough Head, male, 28th May (P.A.Lassey); first-summer male, 28th (M.Newsome). Kilnsea, female, 29th May (N.C.Moores, M.J.Sharp, M.D.Sutton *et al*.), same, Spurn, 29th-30th (R.H.Chittenden, J.P.Martin *et al*.).

**Kent** Dungeness, male, 21st May (B.Banson, D.Gibson, D.Walker). Oare, female, 22nd May (C.Abrams, G.J.A.Burton).

**Lincolnshire** Gibraltar Point, first-summer male, 30th May to 4th June (M.A.Golley, C. & R.Perry, T.Pottle *et al*.).


**Northamptonshire** Earls Barton, first-summer male, 2nd-12th June (P.Britten, R.P.Clarke *et al*.), first-summer female, 9th-13th (J.L.Blincow, P.Campbell *et al*.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 255).

**Scilly** St Mary’s, female, 7th May to 5th June (K. & Mrs H.J.Warmington *et al*.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 270).

**Shetland** Baltasound, Unst, male, 27th May (H.J.Burgess, M.G.Pennington), presumed same, 5th June (J.Burgess, J.Thomson). Walls, first-summer male, 14th-17th June (J.N.Dymond, I.Sandison *et al*.).

**Suffolk** Southwold, female, 24th May (J.M.Cawston, E.W.Patrick *et al*.), same, Walberswick, 24th (H.Maclean, E.Wicken), Dunwich Heath, 24th (J.C.Sutherby). Easton Bavents and Reydon Marshes, first-summer male, 20th June (D.Eaton *et al*.).

**Sussex, East** Newmarket Hill, female, 29th May to 3rd June (D.P.Dunk *et al*.); first-summer male, 30th May to 1st June (J.Curson, J.P.Shaughnessy *et al*.). Hooe Level, first-summer female, 1st June (M.Whiffen).

**Tyne & Wear** Byker, female, found injured, 18th May, died in care, 19th (S.Longstaffe per C.Bradshaw).

**Wiltshire** See Gloucestershire/Wiltshire above.


1963 **Merseyside** (then Lancashire) Hundred End and Hesketh Bank, immature male, 26th January to 4th February (Brit. Birds 57: 266), no longer considered acceptable.

1979 **Sussex, West** Church Norton, male, 11th August (Brit. Birds 73: 502), no longer considered acceptable.

1987 **Humberside** Flamborough Head, first-summer male, 2nd May (A.M.Allport).

1987 **Kent** Pegwell Bay, female, 2nd May (D.Tutt *et al*.).

1987 **Northumberland** Budle Bay, female, 29th October (A.S.Jack, D.Short).

1988 **Kent** Near Lydd, juvenile, 30th October (R.Mercer).

In the Channel Islands, females (perhaps the same) were at Airport Forest, Guernsey, on 9th and 10th May and 21st and 22nd May. Some others remain under consideration. This was a very good year after a poor one in 1988, and two together in Gloucestershire/Wiltshire and Northamptonshire is remarkable.
Eleonora’s Falcon *Falco eleonorae* (0, 3, 0)

1985 **Western Isles** Bornish, South Uist, male, 14th June (Dr D.B.Jackson, T.J. & Mrs C.Stowe).

Well, would you have believed it? A dark-phase Eleonora’s in the Hebrides? Of course! What else would you expect during a Corncrake *Crex crex* survey?

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 88, 5)

**Highland** Poolewe, Wester Ross, probably juvenile, 17th October (A.Mee).

**Orkney** Orphir, adult, 2nd April (C.J.Booth).

**Western Isles** Cheese Bay, North Uist, adult, 11th March (J.J.Gordon, P.S.Read). Grogarry, South Uist, 24th March (W.McLaughlin), presumed same, Eriskay, 24th (P.L.Wright). Gerinish and Drimsdale, South Uist, first-winter, 13th-19th April (T.J.Dix, Dr D.B.Jackson), presumed same, Griminish, North Uist, 24th (G.P.Catley).

1981 **Borders/Lothian** Lammermuir Hills, 8th February (A.Brown), 14th (I.J.Andrews, P.R.G.Marriott), 21st (A.Brown, R.H.Hogg).

It is difficult to know whether there were three or four on the Western Isles, in a good year for this robust falcon.

Baillon’s Crake *Porzana pusilla* (many, 5, 1)


The sexing of this individual remains uncertain, despite the extraordinary grilling it received at unbelievably close range (tangible evidence for BBRC members at last being a literal reality). Never have so many telescopes and tripods been so redundant at a mass twitch.

Crane *Grus grus* (many, over 1242, -)


The Rarities Committee ceased to consider records relating to this species after the end of 1987, but those prior to this date are still welcomed.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* (92, 14, 1)

**Orkney** North Ronaldsay, male, 23rd May (P.J.Donnelly) (Brit. Birds 83: page 460 fig. 5).

1987 **Dorset** Coward’s Marsh, Christchurch, 30th December; Sopley, Hampshire, Burton and Waterditch area, 31st, to 5th January 1988 (A.Hayden et al.).

1987 **Hampshire** See 1987 Dorset above.

1988 **Dorset** See 1987 Dorset above.

1988 **Hampshire** See 1987 Dorset above.

Who knows what might be lurking on North Ronaldsay? The 1987 individual came just ten days after three in Suffolk, and could conceivably have been one of those or, equally, part of a tiny influx.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (many, 21, 0)

1978 **Kent** St Nicholas-at-Wade, first-winter male, 7th January to 8th April (Brit. Birds 73: 505), 9th (A.S.Cook).
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 139, 5)
1987 Norfolk Holme, pair, 21st May to 18th August (Brit. Birds 82: 521), first recorded 17th May (D.J.Holman et al.).
In the Channel Islands, one at St Peter, Jersey, on 8th May. In Ireland, there was one at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 15th October, joined by a second on 22nd; one at Bull Island, Co. Dublin, on 27th August, later also seen at Ballydow, Co. Dublin, from 10th to 15th September; one at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, on 31st October; and one at Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, from 16th to 23rd September.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (30, 44, 1)
Yorkshire, West Pugney’s Gravel-pit, Wakefield, 17th April (J.Hamilton).
An exceptionally early bird just scrapes the species into the report, after none in 1988.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 34, 1)
Scilly St Mary’s, age uncertain, 15th-26th November (D.J.D.Hickman, W.H.Wagstaff et al.).
A November arrival is quite typical for this eyecatching plover.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (3, 131, 5)
Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, juvenile to first-winter, 6th November (M.Blatchford, S.M.Christophers).
Scilly St Mary’s and St Agnes, juvenile, 23rd September to at least 2nd October (P.Oldfield, T.Robson et al.).
Strathclyde Dundonald Camp, Gailes, juvenile, 16th-24th September (B.C.Forrester, R.H.Hogg, A.A.Murray et al.).
1988 Cleveland Greatham Creek and Saltholme Pool, juvenile, 30th September to 1st October (M.A.Blick et al.), also in Durham.
1988 Durham Langley Moor, juvenile, 29th September (N.Urwin), presumed same as Cleveland individual above.
1988 Humberside Spurn, possibly first-summer, 20th-26th May (N.A.Bell, J.Cudworth, P.Shepherd et al.).
Also one in the Channel Islands, at Le Havel, Jersey, on 2nd and 3rd June.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (3, 8, 1)
Norfolk Holme, adult, 20th-22nd July, same, Thornham Creek, at least 26th (G.F.Hibberd A.M.Stoddart et al.).
A typical date, but still a very special bird

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 54, 2)
Dorset The Fleet, juvenile, 20th-25th August (P.M.Harris, B.E.Slade, R.J.Taylor et al.).
There was an Irish record, of one at Culoo Bay on 25th August and later at Inch (both in Co. Donegal) from 2nd to 4th September. At least one remains under consideration. Finding one of these must bring a strange mixture of exhilaration and dread that it will fly away before the last critical feature is safely in the notebook.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (1, 5, 0)
1988 Shetland Pool of Virkie, juvenile, 25th September (P.M.Ellis, J.D.Okill, G.W.Petrie et al.).
Sharp eyes and cool nerves sorted this out without room for doubt – a first-class find, still one of our rarest Nearctic waders.
Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (6, 26, 0)
1988 Grampian Cove, near Aberdeen, 31\textsuperscript{st} July to 4\textsuperscript{th} August (Brit. Birds 82: 523), was adult.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 291, 7)
\textbf{Cleveland} Long Drag Pool and Reclamation Pond, adult, 5\textsuperscript{th} to at least 16\textsuperscript{th} August (D. & K.Cowton et al.).

\textbf{Cornwall} Stithians Reservoir, juvenile, 24\textsuperscript{th} October to at least 2\textsuperscript{nd} November (W.Aspin, A.S.Disley, I.Gardner et al.).

\textbf{Norfolk} Holme, adult, 29\textsuperscript{th} June (J.Bishop, G.F.Hibberd et al.).

\textbf{Staffordshire} Rudyard Lake, juvenile, at least 3\textsuperscript{rd} November (P.G.Barratt).

\textbf{Strathclyde} Barassie, Ayr, adult, 30\textsuperscript{th} July to 5\textsuperscript{th} August (W.A.Davidson et al.).

\textbf{Suffolk} Minsmere, adult, 28\textsuperscript{th}-30\textsuperscript{th} July (J.M.Cawston, D.Watson et al.).

1988 Gloucestershire Slimbridge, adult, 2\textsuperscript{nd} October (Brit. Birds 82: 523), finder was N.R.Smart.

1988 Hampshire Titchfield Haven, juvenile, 2\textsuperscript{nd} to at least 5\textsuperscript{th} October (B.S.Duffin, D.Powell, C.Savage).

A first-winter was at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 24\textsuperscript{th} September. Standard stuff, except the excellent Staffordshire record in a relatively rarity-free area.

Baird’s Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 138, 10)

\textbf{Cornwall} Crowdy Reservoir, juvenile, 1\textsuperscript{st}-11\textsuperscript{th} October (G.Allen, M.D.James et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 38). Stithians Reservoir, juvenile, 24\textsuperscript{th} to at least 30\textsuperscript{th} October (W.Aspin, A.S.Disley, I.Gardner et al.).

\textbf{Devon} Lundy, juvenile, 19\textsuperscript{th}-20\textsuperscript{th} September (M.Cade, A.M.Jewels, S.Nagle et al.).

\textbf{Hampshire} Farlington Marsh, juvenile, 19\textsuperscript{th}-22\textsuperscript{nd} September (T.J.Jennings, D.J.Unsworth et al.).

\textbf{Shetland} Pool of Virkie, juvenile, 8\textsuperscript{th}-11\textsuperscript{th} September (P.R.Flint, R.Frost et al.).

\textbf{Sussex, East} Pett Pools, juvenile, 17\textsuperscript{th} September (C.Barwood, C.H.Dean, H.Taffs et al.).

1988 Dorset Stanpit Marsh and Hengistbury Head, juvenile, 6\textsuperscript{th}-19\textsuperscript{th} October (Brit. Birds 82: 524), finder was M.A.Hallett.

1988 Hampshire Pennington Marsh, juvenile, 7\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} September (R.P.Bowman et al.), presumed same as Isle of Wight individual, 3\textsuperscript{rd}-5\textsuperscript{th} (Brit. Birds 82: 524).

1988 Norfolk Lodge Marsh, Wells, adult, 27\textsuperscript{th} July (M.Askew, J.R.McCallum).

In Ireland, a juvenile at Lissagriffin Lake, Co. Cork, on 12\textsuperscript{th} and 13\textsuperscript{th} September; two juveniles at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, from 16\textsuperscript{th} to 24\textsuperscript{th} September; and one at Broadlough, Co. Wicklow, on 24\textsuperscript{th} September. The typical pattern nicely reinforced.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 113, 12)

\textbf{Essex} Old Hall Marshes, 23\textsuperscript{rd}-24\textsuperscript{th} May (D.Saunders, M.Stott et al.).

\textbf{Humberside} Hornsea Mere, 11\textsuperscript{th}-12\textsuperscript{th} May (G.R.Bennett et al.).

\textbf{Norfolk} Ouse Mouth, King’s Lynn, 7\textsuperscript{th} May (C.Donner). Breydon Water and Berney Marshes, 18\textsuperscript{th}-23\textsuperscript{rd} May, two, 20\textsuperscript{th}-21\textsuperscript{st}, three 22\textsuperscript{nd}, possibly another, 27\textsuperscript{th} (P.R.Allard et al.); adult, 31\textsuperscript{st} July to 1\textsuperscript{st} August (K.R.Dye et al.). Holme, 13\textsuperscript{th}-16\textsuperscript{th} May (Ms V.Heppell, G.F.Hibberd, Ms J.Sainsbury et al.), same, Titchwell, 15\textsuperscript{th}-24\textsuperscript{th} (per G.E.Dunmore). Cley, 31\textsuperscript{st} May to 5\textsuperscript{th} June (H.Vaughan et al.).

\textbf{Northumberland} Druridge Pools, adult, 11\textsuperscript{th} July (A.J.Booth, I.R.Douglas, A.Priest et al.).

1986 Humberside Saltend Marsh, Hull, 17\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} May (S.L.James, B.Richards).

1988 Hampshire Farlington Marshes, 4\textsuperscript{th}-5\textsuperscript{th} June (D.F.Billett, K.Evans et al.).
In Ireland, singles at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, from 18th to 20th June and at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, from 2nd to 3rd July. Recent springs have produced a spate of this species, and the year in question was more or less spot-on once more, in terms of both dates and localities, except for the summertime Irish birds (and didn’t Tacumshin do well in 1989?).

**Stilt Sandpiper** *Micropalama himantopus* (1, 20, 1)

*Humberside* Flamborough Head, adult, 2nd July (A.M.Allport, G.R.Bennett, P.A.Lassey et al.); same, Sandfield Pond, Catwick, 3rd-4th (G.R.Bennett, E.W.Clubley, B.Richards et al.).

This fits in with the unusually early pattern of ‘autumn’ Stilt Sandpipers, already well established.

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* (180, 61, 3)

*Essex* Dagenham Chase, 1st to 2nd June (K.Barrett, M.K.Dennis, M.Sullivan et al.).


*Orkney* North Ronaldsay, 24th May (P.D.Bloor, Dr K.F.Woodbridge et al.).

Great Snipe in June? The one in Essex just, by a couple of days, fills in the last remaining month with no previous records in the history of the Committee. The Nottinghamshire one filled in quite a few life lists with no previous records, too.

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 133, 4)

*Glamorgan, South* Rhymney Estuary, 10th March to 18th April, same, Sluice Farm, Gwent, 9th (P.Bristow et al.).

*Gwent* See South Glamorgan above.

*Lancashire* Marton Mere, adult, 9th September (H.Andrews, P.Ellis, D.J.McCullagh et al.).

*Norfolk* Titchwell, 18th-19th June (J.Thomas et al.).

1985 *Orkney* Shapinsay, first-winter, shot during Snipe shoot, October, skin now in private collection (per K.Brockie).

Just one in Ireland, at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 16th and 17th June. Clearly in the doldrums for the time being, this species is now not at all easy to see on this side of the Atlantic.

**Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* (0, 2, 0)

1988 *Grampian* Near Collieston, 26th September (Miss J.Cooper, R.Duncan).

Well seen, mostly in flight, as it went on its way, to who knows where.

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 26, 0)

One late report from the Channel Islands, at Le Marais, Guernsey, on 1st and 2nd October 1988.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 50, 2)

*Norfolk* Shropham, adult, 1st June (P.J.Dolton).

*Sussex, East* Icklesham, first-summer, 23rd May (D.P.Butterfield et al.).

Just about the norm, with Norfolk keeping up its recent good form for this ‘perfect’ wader.
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 162, 6)

**Cornwall** Drift Reservoir, juvenile, 21st August to 5th September (M.P.Semmens et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 32).

**Devon** Fremington, juvenile, 8th-9th October (D.J.Davies et al.).


**Strathclyde** Shewalton, juvenile, 23rd September (B.Orr et al.).

**1988 Cambridgeshire** Nene Washes, juvenile, 18th-28th October (D.Cavanagh, G.R. & Mrs H.J.Welch et al.).

In Ireland, one at Lough Beg, Co. Cork, from 7th to 21st August, and a juvenile at Tacumshin and Lady’s Island Lake, Co. Wexford, from 16th September to 1st October. The 1988 Cambridgeshire individual attracted over 1,000 admirers, proof that the species has not yet lost its charisma (we would be in a poor state if it had…). Others are still to be reported – please help if you have notes on any not included here.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (6, 20, 1)

**Hertfordshire** Kimpton Mill, probably adult, 13th-15th August (T.Kittle, Dr K.W.Smith, P.D.Walton).

A touch earlier than most, but in a suitably out-of-the-way place – an excellent find, and a Nearctic wader that seems destined never to be other than a great rarity.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 29, 3)

**Kent** Cliffe, 12th-13th June (F.Cackett, P.Larkin et al.).

**Northumberland** North Blyth, adult, 22nd-29th November, January to at least April 1990 (A.M.Bankier, I.Fisher et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 200).

**Yorkshire, West** Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, 16th June (M.L.Denton et al.).

**1987 Somerset** Porlock Weir, 28th May (J.S.Trimingham).


May, June (perhaps surprisingly) and July are classic months, and the wintering individual is not quite unprecedented, recalling as it does the one on the River Plym, Devon, from 17th November 1973 to 5th May 1974.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 83, 4)

**Essex/Greater London** King George V Reservoir, adult, 25th September to 6th October (R.M.Calif, A.D.Wilson et al.).

**Greater London** See above.

**Oxfordshire** Farmoor Reservoir, adult, 1st May (R.P.Burgess, N.Cobb, C.A.Salmon).

**Scilly** Tresco, juvenile, 18th-24th August (P.K.Greaves, D.Page).

One in Ireland, a first-winter on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 28th September to 13th October. One late report from the Channel Islands, at Vale Pond, Guernsey, on 25th May 1988. Back to the old pattern, rather than following the wintering trend of late.

Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 221, 5)

**Cornwall** Stithians Reservoir, age uncertain, 15th-20th September (B.Cave, D.Lewis et al.). Camel Estuary, age uncertain, 16th September (P.A.Maker).

**Cumbria** South Walney, age uncertain, 1st October (B. & Mrs P.Chadwick, T.Dean, C.Raven et al.).

**Hampshire** Titchfield Haven, juvenile to first-winter, 14th-15th September (D.Bright, D.P. & I.M.Powell) (Brit. Birds 83: page 465 fig. 6).

**1987 Lincolnshire** Gibraltar Point, female, 8th June (A.J.Bellamy, M.Briggs, K.M.Wilson et al.).
1988 Warwickshire Draycote Water, first-winter, 12th-23rd September (M.Baines, A.Curran, P.D.Hyde et al.).
Also just a single from Ireland, a juvenile at Lough Beg, Co. Cork, from 22nd to 24th August. A poor year for a wader that should be challenging for pole position among Nearctic visitors.

Long-tailed Skua Stercorarius longicaudus (not known, not known, -)
The Rarities Committee ceased to consider records relating to this species after the end of 1979.

Laughing Gull Larus atricilla (2, 52, 2)
Humberside Flamborough Head, second-winter, 12th November (P.A.Lassey).
Shetland Lerwick, second-summer, 31st August to 8th September (D. & J.Coutts et al.).
1984 Western Isles Balgarva, South Uist, second-winter, 19th February (P.R.Boyer).
Northeast England has a good lead over any other region for this species.

Bonaparte's Gull Larus philadelphia (11, 50, 2)
Kent Dungeness, adult, 15th April (P. & Mrs B.D.James, R.E.Turley et al.)
Western Isles Ardivachar, South Uist, first-summer, 27th August (T.J.Dix).
1968 Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, first-year, 28th August (Brit. Birds 62: 471), now not considered acceptable.
Two good records – but all are noteworthy for this dainty, small gull.

Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis (0, 612, -)
1985 Glamorgan, Mid Ogmore Estuary, first-summer to first-winter, 11th May to at least early August (Brit. Birds 82: 528), was first-summer to second-winter; also at Kenfig Pool, 4th, 23rd July (the late W.N.A.Nelson, N.Odin et al.).
1987 Gwynedd Aber Dysnii, second-winter, 16th November (R.Q.Skeen).
The Committee remains happy (honest!) to try to resolve problems encountered with this still sometimes-tricky species.

Herring Gull Larus argentatus (0, 1, 0)
One first-winter individual in Ireland in 1986, at Cobh, Co. Cork, from 16th November to mid December, showed the characters of the Nearctic race L.a.smithsonianus. This is the first record for Britain and Ireland, the only previous West Palearctic record being of an individual ringed in Canada and captured 400 km off Spain in November 1937 (BWP).

Iceland Gull Larus glaucoides (0, 8, 0)
An individual showing the characters of the North American race L.g.kumlieni was recorded as follows:
The taxonomic situation regarding this race and related species/races remains confused (or, perhaps we should say, debatable). Meanwhile, gulls still receive much attention and further reports seem probable.
Ross’s Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (2, 51, 1)

Cornwall Newlyn, first-winter, 24\(^{\text{th}}\)-28\(^{\text{th}}\) January (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*). (Brit. Birds 82: plate 184).

1987 Humberside Flamborough Head, adult, 10\(^{\text{th}}\) August (D.G.Hobson).

1988 Humberside Flamborough Head, adult, 30\(^{\text{th}}\) October (J.C.Lamplough, P.A.Lassey).

Cornwall is a bit out of the way for this legendary gull, but Flamborough Head is building a remarkable record, the 1987 individual being the second (chronologically the first) for that year.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 32, 1)

Shetland Loch of East Yell and Otterswick, Yell, first-winter, 2\(^{\text{nd}}\)-19\(^{\text{th}}\) December, possibly since 27\(^{\text{th}}\) November (P.N. & Mrs C.M.Guy *et al.*). (Brit. Birds 83: plate 256).

1988 Dyfed Burry Port, first-winter, 10\(^{\text{th}}\)-12\(^{\text{th}}\) October (E.D.Phipps) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 265).

A late report from Ireland concerns a first-winter at Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, on 21\(^{\text{st}}\) January 1988. The totally extraordinary Dyfed report concerned one found with Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus*, feeding on a drift net full of fish that had been towed in from Carmarthen Bay and left anchored to a pontoon in the little harbour. It just isn’t fair, is it?

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (52, 184, 2)

Cheshire Burton Marsh, 16\(^{\text{th}}\) June (B.S.Barnacal), presumed same as Staffordshire individual.

Humberside Spurn, 31\(^{\text{st}}\) May (R.Gilbert, M.G.Neal).

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, 19\(^{\text{th}}\) June (W.J.Low *et al.*), presumed same as Cheshire individual.

1979 Gwent St Brides, female, shot, 5\(^{\text{th}}\) July, now at National Museum of Wales (per P.G.Lansdown).

Clearly the Staffordshire report is very much the exception to the coastal rule for this rare visitor, whose unique character still seems difficult to find in many submitted descriptions.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 164, 5)

Cambridgeshire Nene Washes and Peterborough area, 7\(^{\text{th}}\) to at least 10\(^{\text{th}}\) September (A.Adams, A.L.F.Dobson, G.R. & Mrs H.J.Welch *et al.*).

Cumbria Killington Reservoir, 14\(^{\text{th}}\)-15\(^{\text{th}}\) June (A.F.Gould, I.R.Kinley *et al.*); same, Fisher Tarn, 14\(^{\text{th}}\) (G.L.Agar).

Humberside Brandesburton, adult, 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) September (R.G. & Mrs L.M.Westoby); presumed same, Spurn, 3\(^{\text{rd}}\) (J.M.Dale, I.D.Walker *et al.*).

Lincolnshire See Nottinghamshire below.

Nottinghamshire Colwick Country Park, 28\(^{\text{th}}\) May (M.C.Dennis); presumed same, River Trent, near Cottam, 6\(^{\text{th}}\) June (D.Fogg), seen to fly into Lincolnshire.

Suffolk Lackford, 30\(^{\text{th}}\) May (S.Bishop, T.Kerridge).


1988 Cheshire Neumann’s Flash, 26\(^{\text{th}}\) June (G.F.J.Baker), presumed same as Ogston Reservoir, Derbyshire, individual, 26\(^{\text{th}}\) (Brit. Birds 82: 530).

Late May and June records fit the pattern perfectly; September reports are not quite so common.
Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* (0, 4, 0)

Kent Dungeness, 6th May (J.V.Brighten, F.Lockwood, D.Walker), presumed same as Northumberland individual, also in Sussex.

Lothian Musselburgh, adult, 7th-16th August (Dr S.R.D. & Mrs E.S.da Prato *et al*.), juvenile hybrid, 8th-12th, 25th August (C.McGuigan, J.G.Steele *et al*.), same Aberlady Bay, 2nd September (P.R.Gordon), both presumed same as Northumberland individuals.

Northumberland Farne Islands, female, presumed returning 1988 individual (Brit. Birds 82: 531), 7th May to 1st July, paired with Sandwich Tern *S.sandvicensis*, one young raised to flying stage (D.A.Waters *et al*.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 266). Seaton Sluice, adult, 31st July (J.E.Fergusson, M.Hepple *et al*.), presumed same as Farne Islands individual.

Sussex, East Seaford Head, 6th May (A.M.Wheeler), same, Beachy Head, 6th (B.A.E.Marr, R.F.Porter), presumed same as Kent, Northumberland individual.


1988 Tyne & Wear Tynemouth Haven, 12th August (M.P.Carruthers, A.Hutt), same, Whitburn, 21st August (G.K.Gordon, B.Unwin), both presumed same as Farne Islands, Northumberland, individual (Brit. Birds 82: 531).

In addition, there were reports, either of this species or of Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*, from Dungeness, Kent, on 26th June 1982 and Folkestone, Kent, on 17th September 1984. The prospect of maturing hybrids in Britain in future summers is not a happy one…

Forster’s Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 17, 1)


In Ireland, there was one at The Mullet, Co. Mayo, on 1st February, the same at Killala Bay, Co. Mayo, from 19th to 24th February. Although not listed for 1988, there were also two returning individuals, both in Wexford Harbour, Co. Wexford, one from 21st January into May and one from 29th October into December. We apologise for the late appearance of the 1987 record, details of which were lost in the post during the original circulation. When this happens (rarely) we are grateful to patient observers and recorders for helping us to rebuild the lost files.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* (3, 9, 0)


The 1988 individual could have been a third for the year, or it could equally have been the one from Gwynedd in July. Returning and wandering individuals give more people a chance to see them, but really mess up the statistics. Another (or a Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*) remains under consideration.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* (20, 83, 3)

Cambridgeshire Purl’s Bridge, Ouse Washes, intermittently 12th-13th May (per C.A.E.Kirtland), same as Norfolk individual.

Cornwall Hayle, first-summer, 12th-24th June (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al*.).

Norfolk Welney, intermittently, 12th-13th May (J.B.Kemp *et al*.), also in Cambridgeshire.
Also one in Ireland, at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford (where else?), on 16th July. One in the Channel Islands, at St Peter, Jersey, from 6th to 8th May.

**White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 512, 5)**
- **Devon** Barnstaple, 8th May (J.P.Turner).
- **Essex** Abberton Reservoir, adult or second-summer, 2nd July (A.Hasler, M.Theobald, J.Thorogood).
- **Grampian** Meikle Loch, probably second-summer, 25th-26th June (R.D.Steele *et al*.
- **Kent** Dungeness, 5th-11th September (per D.W.Taylor), same as Sussex individual.
- **Northamptonshire** Pitsford Reservoir, probably second-summer, 22nd May (J.Dunkley, N.Hasdell).
- **Sussex, East** The Midrips, juvenile, 3rd-4th September (M.K.Ahmad, N.A. & Mrs B.A.Driver *et al*.), also in Kent.
- 1988 **Humberside** Flamborough Head, first-winter, 11th September (A.M.Allport, J.C.Lamplough).
- 1988 **Somerset** Steart, adult, 25th September (P.Skirrow, N.E.Wall).
- 1988 **Sussex, West** Sidlesham Ferry, first- or second-summer, 14th-15th July (Father K.Wood *et al*.), same, Chichester Harbour, 15th to 3rd August (J.Beaumont, C.B.Collins, K.W.Maycock *et al*.).

Quite a poor year for a species that not long ago might have been a candidate for removal from the Committee’s list; now, it is a difficult bird to find, Summer-plumaged individuals should be easy, but anything from Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* to feral Rock Dove *Columba livia* might get a mention in Committee circulations!

**Brünnich’s Guillemot *Uria lomvia* (2, 23, 1)**
- **Shetland** Sumburgh Head, 16th June to 12th July (M.Heubeck *et al*.).

This clearly establishes some sort of longevity record for the species in the UK. It hit a lot of people rather hard in the wallet.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (6, 22, 2)**
- **Dorset** St Alban’s Head, probably first-summer, 11th-12th March (D.C.Hamilton, A.Nicholson *et al*.).
- **Kent** Dungeness, age uncertain, 25th September (D.Walker *et al*.).

There have been at least three previous March records of this exotic vagrant (and there was one on Alderney in the Channel Islands on 14th February 1982), but the July record is only the second in midsummer. It was uncertain whether the latter was an early juvenile or a similarly plumaged first-summer (see Birding World 3: 140 for relevant discussion).

**Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (4, 8, 0)**
- **At sea** North Sea, sea area Forties, oil platform ‘Maureen’, 55°08’N 01°42’E, found exhausted 30th September, taken into care, released 1st October (E.Cox, B.St J.Richards, M.Wildon *et al*.).

This was well on its way to becoming a Norwegian record (and as an at-sea record is not included in the totals).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (22, 28, 3)**
- **Devon** Lundy, 25th October (R.Duncan, J.S.Hampshire, A.M.Taylor *et al*.).

In Ireland, one was found dead in Waterford City, Co. Waterford, on 27th October.

Three within three days, in widely separated parts of Britain and Ireland, are likely to reflect a substantial exodus and subsequent mortality over the North Atlantic.
Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 16, 1)

**Scilly** Tresco, 3rd April (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

The earliest since 1958 (though there was one on St Mary’s, Isles of Scilly, on 4th and 5th April 1976).

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 92, 2)

**Orkney** North Ronaldsay, female or immature, 14th June (P.D.Bloor, A.E.Duncan).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, immature male, 25th May (Dr P.G.H.Evans, A.Miline *et al.*), Norwick, Unst, female, 22nd May; Uyeasound, Unst, female, 8th November (per D.Suddaby), both presumed Fetlar individual. Fetlar, two females, through most of year; first-summer male, 7th-9th April after release from care, same, Eshaness, 19th-26th June, later, Ronas Hill (per D.Suddaby).

1987 **Highland** Between Cairngorm and Ben Macdui, female, 21st June to 4th September (R.Thaxton, P.L.Varney *et al.*).

The first male on Fetlar since 1985 was released there after having been found exhausted on an oil tanker at sea; but he lost no time in putting distance between himself and the ‘widows’ of Fetlar.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (3, 10, 1)

**Scilly** Tresco, juvenile, 16th-22nd September (A.Vittery, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plates 257, 258 & 268).

The second record for Tresco, and just one day earlier than the first there (in 1927!). There are still only four records for mainland Britain and Ireland.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (150, 271, 8)

**Dorset** Dorchester, 18th May (M.J.Everett *et al.*).

**Glamorgan, South** Llisvane and Llanishen Reservoirs, 15th July (P.Bristow).

**Greater London** South Croydon, 12th August (P.Holt).

**Highland** Boat of Garten, 24th July (E.Hunter, P.Rhodes).

**Humberside** Hornsea, 16th May (C.Hogg).

**Kent** Folkestone, 22nd May (I.A.Roberts).

**Oxfordshire** Charney Bassett, 15th July (I.Rhymer).

**Yorkshire, North** Bempton, 17th June (M.A.Hirons, A.J.Yeomans *et al.*).

1988 **Devon** Sharp Tor, 4th April (S.Nicholson), presumed same as East Soar individual, 4th (Brit. Birds 82: 534), but neither same as Lansallos, Cornwall, individual, also 4th (Brit. Birds 82: 534).

1988 **Dorset** Peveril Point and Swanage, two, 30th March (Brit. Birds 82: 534), one of same, Durlston, 31st (R.J.H.Murray *et al.*); did not include Portland and Wyke Regis individual, 29th March to at least 2nd April (per M.Cade).

1988 **Kent** North Foreland, two, 24th-28th March, one later found dead, retained by M.P.Sutherland (J.Bessant, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 81: plates 187-188); another, 17th April (R.Bouldon).

1988 **West Midlands** Rowley Regis, taken into care exhausted, 16th March, sent to Portugal, 20th, by courtesy of British Airways, but dead on arrival (B.Masefield, A.D.Warren *et al.*).

A sad outcome to the 1988 attempt to repatriate the West Midlands bird. The additional 1988 records complete the picture of the first multiple March arrival of this species (previous March records were on 14th March 1833 in Co. Dublin, 11th March 1930 in Devon and 15th-18th March 1969 in Kent).
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* (2, 2, 3)
Cornwall Kennack Sands and Cadgwith, 1st June (A.Coupland, Mr & Mrs B.R. & Miss C.A.Heal et al.).

Humberside Cowden, 8th-10th July, possibly since 25th June (W.T.Alexander, G.R.Bennett et al.), presumed same, Leverton Marsh, Lincolnshire, 12th July (Mr & Mrs R.Humberstone).

Kent Church Hougham, 18th July (I.P.Hodgson, M.D.Kennett).

Lincolnshire See Humberside, above.

Arguably the ornithological event of the year, these three records seem more likely to have been the product of a small influx rather than the successful tracking of just one bird through midsummer Britain. There was also one in Denmark at Christiansø on 21st-22nd June (awaiting acceptance) and three of the four previous records have been in June or July.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 284, 26)
Cornwall Porthgwarra, 21st May (Dr J.F.Ryan, J.M.Walters); 27th May (C.C.Barnard). Kennack Sands, 4th June (R.Wilkins).

Devon Staddon Heights, Plymouth, four, 26th May (G.R. & A.M.Forster).

Kent St Margaret’s, five, 28th May (E.D.Fell, D.W.Taylor).

Norfolk Holme, 17th June (G.F.Hibberd).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, female, 18th-20th June, trapped 19th (P.D.Bloor, A.E.Duncan et al.).

Scilly Tresco, three, 17th May. St Mary’s, four, 17th, including Tresco individuals; same, St Agnes, 17th, one to 18th (S.Norman, W.H.Wagstaff et al.).

Shetland Scalloway, two, 20th-24th May (the late R.Duthie, Mrs J.Johnson et al.), same, Kergord, 24th (per D.Suddaby); another, 21st-22nd July (L.Dalziel, P.R.Flint et al.).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, six, possibly seven, 28th May (D., J.F. & Mrs D.R.Cooper).


1988 Highland Loch Fleet, 20th July (J.Vaughan).

There was one at sea at the Marathon gas platform off the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, on 23rd May. In the Channel Islands, there were four at Le Bigard Forest, Guernsey, on 29th May and one at L’Etacq, Jersey, on 27th July.

These 26 equal the previous best year in 1985. The Orkney bird was the first to be ringed in Britain.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 78, 2)
Devon East Budleigh Common, 28th May to 14th June (T.Bartlett, K.Pellow et al.) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 302).

Somerset Shapwick Heath, 3rd-10th June (R.J.Ingram, B.E.Slade et al.).

1987 Hampshire Various localities, New Forest, at least 30th May (Brit. Birds 81: 571), 31st (R.J.Fairbank et al.).

After the all-too-brief appearance of the New Forest bird in 1987, and no sightings in 1988, these two were widely appreciated.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 296, 14)
Devon Dawlish Warren, 17th September (D.J.Stone).

Dorset Portland, 5th May (P.Coe, P.B.Stanbury, J.Stokes); 10th (G.Walbridge, J.Williamson).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 26th-27th September (C.Barton, P.Scholes et al.); 3rd-5th October (A.Dawson, P.J.Marsh et al.).
Scilly  St Martin’s, 2nd-3rd May (D.M. & Mrs L.F.C.Love). St Mary’s, 23rd October (J.M. & Mrs S.Greenwood, N.Simpson et al.).

Shetland Fair Isle, 13th May (D.J.Unsworth et al.); 4th-8th October (C.Donald et al.); 6th-14th (P.V.Harvey, M.Reid et al.); 20th-27th (P.M.Potts et al.). Northdale, Unst, 22nd-29th September (K.Osborn, M.G.Pennington et al.). Grutness, 8th-9th October (P.M.Ellis, A.J.McCall).

1986 Kent Foreness, 13th September (Brit. Birds 80: 549), now considered not acceptable.

1987 Devon Lundy, 23rd-27th October (A.M.Taylor, N.Trout et al.).

In Ireland, there was one at Dursey Island, Co. Cork, on 3rd-4th October. The average during the 1980s was 13 per year, so this batch is typical.

Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne rupestris (0, 2, 1)

Gwynedd Llanfairfechan, 3rd September (R.Evans, M. & P.Latham).

Hot on the heels of the first British records, in 1988, comes the third – this time on the north coast of Wales. Perhaps the next will stay around for more than one day.

Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica (7, 170, 11)

Devon Lundy, 18th May (B.D.Gibbs, I.A.Prophet et al.).

Dorset Stanpit Marsh, 9th April (D.N.Smith). Portland, 20th May (G.Walbridge, J.Williamson); 1st July (G. & Mrs S.Walbridge).

Norfolk Wells, 4th November (Mr & Mrs H.W.Wallis et al.). Winterton, 4th November (P.Cawley), probably same as Wells individual.

Suffolk Southwold, 4th May (J.M.Cawston, S.Ling). Lowestoft, 4th November (P.Gill, Dr N.J.Skinner, R.C.Smith et al.), not same as Wells, Norfolk, individual, 4th, possibly same as Winterton, Norfolk, individual.

Sussex, West Sidlesham Ferry, 22nd April (P.F.Burns, T.Sweetland et al.).

Yorkshire, West Bradley Gate, Huddersfield, 2nd May (J.E.Rogan).


1988 Merseyside Hilbre, 7th May (P.G.Williams).

In Ireland, there was one at Lissagriffin Lake, Co. Cork, on 26th March and one at Hook Head, Co. Wexford, on 28th October. In the Channel Islands, there was one at Jerbourg Point, Guernsey, on 15th March and a late acceptance for 1988 is of one at Torteral, Guernsey, on 25th-26th October.

After a lull in the early 1980s, this species appears to be gaining ground once again. Although dwarfed by the 64 in 1987, these 11 are the fourth-highest annual total ever (there were 13 in 1977 and 1980). The summering in Dorset in 1988 is unprecedented.

Olive-backed Pipit Anthus hodgsoni (1, 69, 2)

Devon Lundy, 24th-29th October, trapped 26th (R.A.Duncan, J.Hampshire, A.M.Taylor et al.).

Scilly St Agnes, 16th-23rd October (F.H.D.Hicks, P.G.Lansdown, Dr M.E.Witherick et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plates 84, 259 & 260).

1988 Kent Sandwich Bay, 16th-28th October, trapped 16th (K.B.Ellis, W.E.Fletcher, I.D.Hunter).

Even without the exceptional 20 in 1987, the average during the 1980s was still around five per year; so, typical dates, but a poor showing by recent standards. The Lundy record is the first for Devon.
Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 17, 2)

**Orkney** North Ronaldsay, 3rd October (P.J.Marsh et al.).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, 4th-24th October (P.V.Harvey, A.J.Livett et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 274).

The one in Shetland stayed later than any other since 1958 (there is a previous Fair Isle record for 19th November 1936) and the North Ronaldsay record is the first for Orkney. There have still been only three in England.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 183, 6)

**Dorset** Portland, 27th September, probably since 26th (G.Walbridge).

**Dyfed** Skokholm, 19th-23rd September (M.Betts, M.Heubeck et al.).

**Hampshire** Titchfield Haven, 29th October (B.S.Duffin).

**Norfolk** Blakeney Point, 13th-15th May (R.Drew, M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart et al.).

**Scilly** St Mary’s, 18th-19th October (C.B.Cole, M.D.Crewe, S.J.Slade et al.).

1988 **Fife** Isle of May, 14th-17th May (I.English, M.Mallalieu et al.).


In Ireland, one was on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 18th-19th October.

Observers are reminded that a call-based identification of this species in flight needs more than a brief description. The Committee is, rightly, cautious about accepting such claims, and observers will need to establish clearly that the bird was a pipit, and also should make sure that the call description is personal and as detailed as possible.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 45, 3)

**Northumberland** Farne Islands, first-winter, 11th-12th September (A.P.Cotton, M.Ellison, D.C.Richardson et al.).

**Scilly** Tresco, first-winter, 3rd September, presumed same, Bryher, 4th to at least 6th (W.E.Oddie et al.); Tresco, first-winter, 2nd-5th October (the late P.J.Grant, R.E.Turley et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 269).

1982 **Northumberland** Holy Island, first-winter, 9th-10th October (B.Galloway, I.Kerr, A.J.Richards et al.).

It is possible that the September and October records in Scilly (only the second and third accepted for the archipelago) refer to the same individual.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* (29, 6, 0)

None in Britain and Ireland since 1978, but in the Channel Islands there was one at Corbiere, Guernsey, on 19th May 1988.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 79, 9)

**Kent** Dungeness, in song, 20th-21st May (J.Siddle, H.Taffs, D.Walker).

**Man, Isle of** Calf of Man, first-summer, trapped, 26th May (I.Fisher, A.Sapsford).

**Norfolk** Walsey Hills, Cley, in song, 20th-22nd May (M. & T.Benton, A.M.Brown, E.Stanford et al.).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, four, all first-summer: trapped, 21st May (P.V.Harvey, P.Howlett et al.); 21st-23rd May, trapped 23rd (J.Coutts, P.V.Harvey, P.Howlett et al.); 24th-26th May, trapped 24th (P.S.Castle, P.V.Harvey, P.Howlett et al.); trapped, 25th May (P.V.Harvey, P.Howlett, D.J.Unsworth et al.). Sumburgh, first-summer, trapped, 4th June, (G.W.Petrie, M.Reid, D.N.Smith et al.).

1988 **Shetland** Voe, 14th May (M.S.Chapman, A.Graham).

One on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, during 29th October to 1st November was the first for Ireland and also the latest British and Irish record by 26 days.
As in some other springs, the four on Fair Isle showed considerable individual variation: observers should be aware of the dangerous degree of character overlap between this and its commoner confusion species, the Nightingale *L. megarhynchos*.

**Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus (0, 2, 2)**

Individuals showing the characters of the southern/eastern race *P. p. samamisicus* were recorded as follows:

**Avon** Near Keynsham, male, 22nd-23rd September (A.H. Davis, J.W. Duckworth).

**Norfolk** Holkham Meals, first-winter male, 12th September (J.B. Kemp).

The Avon record is the first away from the East or South Coasts and raises the question of how many others may go overlooked.

**Moussier’s Redstart Phoenicurus moussieri (0, 1, 0)**

1988 **Dyfed** See below.

1988 **Gwent** Dinas Head, male, 24th April (Brit. Birds 82: 540), locality is in Dyfed.

**Stonechat Saxicola torquata (1, 123, 2)**

Individuals showing the characters of one or other of the eastern races *S. t. maura* or *stejnegeri* were recorded as follows:

**Fife** Fife Ness, female or immature, 28th-30th October (W.T. Appleyard, H. Bell).

**Kent** Dungeness, female or immature, 12th November (I.A. Roberts, J.P. Siddle, R.E. Turley et al.).

1988 **Hampshire** Titchfield Haven, female or immature, 31st October (B.S. Duffin).

After the record 24 in 1987, there were four in 1988, and now these two represent the fewest since 1976 (although several records remain under consideration).

**Pied Wheatear Oenanthe pleschanka (3, 15, 2)**

**Norfolk** Winterton, first-winter male, 13th-14th September (T.R. Dean et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 88).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, first-winter male, trapped, 10th October (P.V. Harvey, A.F. Silcocks et al.).

There was one in Ireland in 1988: at Loop Head, Co. Clare, during 5th-8th November.

The one in Norfolk is the earliest ever by 13 days. The only other years with more than one were 1983 and 1988.

**Black-eared Wheatear Oenanthe hispanica (15, 29, 2)**

**Essex** Jaywick, male, showing the characters of *O. h. melanoleuca*, 26th May (C. Atkins, P. Newton, Mr & Mrs L. Roker).

**Western Isles** Tigharry, North Uist, male, showing the characters of *O. h. melanoleuca*, 19th-20th May (T.J. Dix, M. Shepherd et al.).

The record of one at Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, on 17th-24th September 1987 has been re-assessed by the Irish Rare Birds Committee and is no longer acceptable.

The identification of females and immatures in autumn remains fraught with difficulties: observers are reminded to note structural characters as carefully as the plumage.

**Desert Wheatear Oenanthe deserti (11, 17, 4)**


**Kent** St Margarets, male, 7th April (D. & Mrs T. Anning).
Sussex, West Selsey Bill, female or first-winter, 1st-6th November (C.M. & Mrs B.James et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 197).

Yorkshire, North Burniston, male, 26th to at least 30th November (P.Harrison, D.Proctor, Mrs D.M.Walls et al.).


Details of a further April record (at Barn Elms Reservoir, Greater London) arrived too late for inclusion in this report. Even so, these four are twice as many as in any previous year. Nine of the 21 since 1958 have been found in November.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* (6, 16, 2)

Dorset Portland, male, 6th May (P.W.Kent et al.).

Norfolk Horsey, male, 30th April (J.Whitelegg et al.).

Of the 18 since 1958, 13 have occurred during May to June.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (1, 32, 1)

Western Isles Benbecula, first-winter, trapped, 29th October (P.R.Boyer, T.J.Dix, J.J.Gordon et al.).

The biometrics of a corpse found on Lundy, Devon, on 27th October 1986 indicated that it was almost certainly of this species, but its condition and the general circumstances of examination left an element of uncertainty as to whether Swainson’s Thrush *C.ustulatus* was completely ruled out.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 15, 2)

Lothian Preston Grange, first-winter, sex uncertain, 25th December (J.R.W.Gordon, D.J.Kelly).

Yorkshire, North Knaresborough, first-winter male, 1st-8th January (R. & Mrs S.J.Evison, G.T.Foggitt et al.).

1987 Shetland Toab, Mainland, first-winter male, 11th November (P.D.Dean, J.McKee).

The well-photographed individual in a Knaresborough back garden recalls the previous Yorkshire record (in Sheffield Botanical Gardens during January 1987). With the additional 1987 record, that year’s total now reaches a record four.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 36, 2)

Shetland Fair Isle, 16th-18th September (R.J.Arnfield et al.); 11th October (D.P.Bell, I.D.Elder, T.H.Ryder et al.).

Once located, this streaked skulker can be remarkably confiding; the above October individual was observed down to 15 cm, and even ran over the feet of one of its admirers.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (0, 10, 2)

Humberside Flamborough Head, in song, trapped, 29th May (P.A.Lassey, M.Newsome, P.J.Willoughby et al.).

Norfolk Boughton Fen, in song, 8th-21st July (P.Banwell, J.Baxter, P.Clement et al.).


Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* (2, 15, 0)

1987 Essex Walton-on-the-Naze, 11th October (Dr C.R.Ireland).

A typical date, but only the third to be identified in the Southeast.
Blyth’s Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (9, 7, 0)
This is the earliest-ever autumn record (by 16 days); the majority have occurred in late September to mid October. Several 1989 claims are still in circulation.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 128, 5)
Devon Budleigh Salterton, in song, 30\(^{th}\) May (K.R.Grant, K.Pellow, W.Simcox et al.).
Dorset Radipole, in song, 21\(^{st}\) May (A.H.Brampton, N.R.Pope et al.).
Humberside Spurn, in song, 28\(^{th}\) May (K.F.Betton, B.R.Spence et al.).
Scilly St Agnes, in song, 8\(^{th}\) May (P. & R.Hawkins, D.P.Wyatt et al.).
Sussex, West Thorney Deeps, in song, 19\(^{th}\) May (C.B.Collins).
1988 Cornwall Crowan Reservoir, 13\(^{th}\)-15\(^{th}\) May (S.Bury, D.Lewis et al.).
1988 Norfolk Cley, in song, 8\(^{th}\) to at least 23\(^{rd}\) June (D.J.Holman, M.P.Lee et al.).
A typical series of records. This species has missed only two years (1968 and 1983) since ‘Rarities reports’ began in 1958.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 27, 2)
Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 22\(^{nd}\)-27\(^{th}\) September, trapped 22\(^{nd}\) (M.Dowie, P.Howlett, R.J. & Mrs S.Johns et al.).
Yorkshire, North Bempton, 13\(^{th}\) September (V.A.Lister, R.A.Matthews et al.).
1988 Kent Pegwell, 21\(^{st}\) September (D.Beadle et al.).
There were six Fair Isle records up to 1977, but this is the first to be seen there for 12 years.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* (0, 0, 0)
1968 Humberside Spurn, first-winter female, 21\(^{st}\) to 31\(^{st}\) October, trapped 21\(^{st}\), subsequently reviewed and accepted as Subalpine Warbler *S.cantillans* (Brit. Birds 78: 575).
1969 Cornwall Porthgwarra, 17\(^{th}\) October (Brit. Birds 63: 286), now considered not acceptable.
1979 Shetland Fair Isle, male, 4\(^{th}\)-5\(^{th}\) June (Brit. Birds 73: 523), now considered not acceptable.
Following the revised acceptance of the 1968 Spurn, Humberside, individual as a first-winter female Subalpine Warbler (Brit. Birds 78: 575), only the above Spectacled Warbler records remained. The Cornwall record failed to stand up to the necessary present-day criteria for continued acceptance as either species. The Rarities Committee’s painstaking (and often painful) re-assessment of the Shetland record ran to no fewer than eight circulations before it was put to the Records Committee of the BOU, which concurred that the strength of reported detail to support the identification fell short, albeit marginally, of that required for the only British record. The species is now deleted from the British and Irish list (Ibis in prep.).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 211, 25)
Cornwall Caerthillian, male, 30\(^{th}\) March to 8\(^{th}\) April (J.Hawkey et al.).
Dorset Portland, male, 20\(^{th}\) April (Dr K.M.Godfrey et al.); male, 3\(^{rd}\)-4\(^{th}\) May (I.C.Pembroke et al.); male, 9\(^{th}\) May (P.W.Kent, G.Walbridge et al.).
Dyfed Skomer, male, 26\(^{th}\)-27\(^{th}\) March (M.J.Keene, S.J.Sutcliffe, H.A.Williams).
Essex Holland-on-Sea, male, 18\(^{th}\) April (M.Daniels, T.H.Watson).
Highland Rhum, male, 22\(^{nd}\) May (A.P.Mossop). Durness, male, 28\(^{th}\) August (S.J.Aspinall B.Clark, D.M.Pullan).
Man, Isle of Calf of Man, male, trapped, 8\(^{th}\) May (I.Fisher, A.Sapsford).
Norfolk Weybourne, first-summer male, 3rd May (Dr M.P.Taylor, J.Wallis).


Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-summer male, 4th-12th June, trapped 4th (A.E.Duncan et al.).

Scilly St Agnes, male, 7th May (P. & R.Hawkins, D.Hurley, J.Lawson).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 7th-8th May (R.S.Atkins, C.Burgmann et al.); first-summer male trapped, 19th May, probably showing the characters of S.c.albistriata (P.V.Harvey, D.J.Unsworth et al.). Noss, first-summer male, 8th-9th May, probably showing the characters of S.c.albistriata (C.Donald, E.Stuart et al.). Eswick, male, 27th May to 1st August, probably showing the characters of S.c.albistriata (T.D.Rogers et al.). Toab, female, trapped, 19th May, probably showing the characters of S.c.albistriata (C.Donald, E.Stuart et al.). Out Skerries, female, 22nd May (E. & Mrs M.Tait). Virkie, female, 24th May to 21st June, trapped 25th May (D.R.Bird, P.M.Ellis, J.Morton et al.).

Suffolk Landguard, first-summer male, trapped, 30th May (J.R.Askins, G.Brown et al.). Dunwich, male, trapped, 4th June (H.E.Axell, A.Brown, Sir A.G.Hurrell et al.).

In Ireland, there was a male on Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, on 21st May.

The second-best year (after the 32 in 1988). The two March records are the first for that month (the earliest spring record prior to this was during 2nd-6th April 1967 on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly). Once again, the prolonged stay of two in Shetland (a male at Eswick and a female at Virkie) raise all sorts of possibilities…

Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides (13, 170, 8)

Cleveland Hartlepool, age uncertain, 31st August (M.J.Gill et al.); possibly adult, 13th-14th September (M.A.Blick et al.).

Fife Isle of May, first-winter, 11th-12th September, trapped 11th (S.Holloway, D.Norden).

Humberside Spurn, first-winter, 16th-17th September (J.M. & R.G.Bayldon, D.Page et al.).

Kent St Margaret’s, first-winter, 10th-12th September (P.J.Chantler et al.). Bishopstone, probably adult, 16th-17th September (C.G.Bradshaw, J.Young et al.).

Tayside Arbroath, first-winter, 12th-13th September (S.A.Reeves, M.S.Scott, R.D.Steele et al.).

Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, first-winter, 10th-13th September (J.A.Pollintine, C.C.Thomas et al.).

1988 Dorset Portland, trapped, 13th June (M.Rogers et al.).

1988 Orkney Stronsay, two, 2nd September (J.F.Holloway et al.).

1988 Shetland Kergord, 29th August (Dr C.F.Mackenzie), presumed same, 6th September (P.M.Ellis).

A typical showing. With 22 individuals, 1987 remains the best-ever year for this species, which has missed only one year (1980) since these reports began.

Arctic Warbler Phylloscopus borealis (19, 141, 1)

Shetland Norwich, Unst, first-winter, trapped, 12th September (H.J.Burgess, G.Gray, M.G.Pennington).


The fewest since 1974 (1981, with 17, now seems a very long time ago). We shall shortly be commencing a review of the 1958-70 records.

Pallas’s Warbler Phylloscopus proregulus (3, 477, 28)

Cornwall Porthgwara, 27th-29th October (P. & Mrs B.D.James, T.J.Toohig et al.).

Dorset Portland, 23rd October (M.Cade et al.). Hengistbury Head, 23rd October (A.W.Mason, P.A.Stancliffe).

Durham Dawdon, 29th October (T.I.Mills, B.Unwin).

Fife Isle of May, 29th-30th October (I.M. & Mrs K.Darling, S.Holloway).
Grampian Cruden Bay, 28th-29th October (S.A. Reeves, R.D. Steele).

Humberside Holmpton, 28th-29th October (S.L. James, S. Morgan).

Kent Sandwich Bay, 29th-30th October, trapped 29th (P. Naylor, J. Sanderson et al.). Reculver, 20th November (M. F. King).

Lancashire Silverdale, 24th-26th October (P.J. Marsh, D.A. Scott, J.A. Wolstencroft et al.).


Scilly St Martin’s, 18th October (A.I. Cook, J. Torino et al.).

Shetland Burravoe, Yell, 23rd-26th September (Mrs C. M. Guy). Stendaal, South Nesting, 30th October (P.M. Ellis, M. Leask). Eswick, Nesting, 8th-10th November (T.D. Rogers et al.).


Tayside Mains of Usan, 29th October (M.S. Scott).

Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, 8th-9th October, trapped 8th (P.J. Dunn, J. Hanwood et al.); 8th-10th October (M. R. & T.J. Benton, H.J. Whitehead et al.).

1987 Gwynedd South Stack, Anglesey, 15th November (P. Fisher et al.).

1987 Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, 7th-8th November (Brit. Birds 81: 584), 9th (G.N. Megson et al.).

1988 Borders St Abbs, 20th October (J. Knowler), presumed same, 22nd (Brit. Birds 82: 549).


1988 Hampshire Titchfield Haven, 26th-28th October (B.S. Duffin, B. Powell, B.J. & Prof. R.J. Small et al.).

1988 Norfolk Cley, 21st to at least 22nd October (D.J. Holman et al.). Holme, 22nd-24th October (R.A. Hume et al.).


1988 Yorkshire, North Scarborough Castle, 18th October (K. Walker), probably same, 20th-21st (R.H. Appleby).

The Yell record was the earliest ever; the earliest prior to this was also in Shetland, on 27th September 1976.

Radde’s Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 82, 9)

**Cornwall** Near Nanjizal Cove, 17th-22nd October (P.A. Gammage, G.C. Stephenson, K.A. Turner et al.).

**Dorset** Easton, Portland, 18th-19th October (G. Bright, M. Cade, B.C. Sheldon et al.). Portland, trapped, 26th October (M. Cade, M. Rogers, B.C. Sheldon et al.).

**Kent** Dungeness, trapped, 17th October (S. Colenutt, D. Walker et al.).

**Scilly** St Mary’s, 4th October (P.I. Holt). St Martin’s, 16th October (M.D. Crewe, G.N. Megson, R. Stride et al.). St Agnes, 25th-27th October (C. Bradshaw, M.P. Eccles, A. Hutt et al.).

**Tyne & Wear** Marsden, 28th-30th October (G.K. Gordon et al.).

In Ireland, there was one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 18th-20th October.

Since 1980, this species has missed only one year in Scilly (1983); Scilly has had the most (21), followed by Norfolk (15) and Humberside (7).
Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 72, 4)

*Kent* North Foreland, 12th November (R.Boulden).

*Norfolk* Blakeney Point, 12th November (P.Feakes, S.C.Joyner, N.Williams et al.).

*Northumberland* Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, 28th-29th October (G.Bowman, L.Robson, J.G.Steele et al.).

*Shetland* Hillwell, first-winter, trapped, 3rd November (C.Donald, P.M.Ellis, Dr C.F.Mackenzie).


1988 *Shetland* Virkie, 27th-28th October (Dr C.F.Mackenzie et al.).

In spite of the 17 in 1987, this species is finally being overtaken by Radde’s Warbler *P.schwarzi*. Unlike Radde’s, however, it has not missed a year since 1978, and Kent has had almost as many (12) as Norfolk (14).

Bonelli’s Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 99, 5)


*Dorset* Hengistbury Head, 29th-31st August (G.Armstrong, S.Simmonds).

*Kent* Dungeness, first-winter, trapped, 3rd September (D.Walker et al.).

*Norfolk* Holkham Meals, 10th-17th September (C.K.T.Hocking, R.F.Reader et al.).

1988 *Norfolk* Blakeney Point, 14th May (G.E.Dunmore, N.Williams et al.).

August-September is the peak period for autumn migrants. Annual since 1970, these five are an above-average number for recent years (but 1976, with 11, is still well ahead).

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 24, 11)

*Hampshire* Titchfield Haven, two, 28th October (B.S.Duffin); juvenile, trapped, 9th November (B.S. & Mrs I.S.R.Duffin, M.J.Palmer).

*Scilly* St Mary’s, adult and first-winter, 24th October (T.Francis, T.P. & Mrs C.Inskipp, D.Page et al.). Tresco, adult, 27th October (N.R.Jones, D. & J.Walsh et al.), presumed same as St Mary’s individual.

*Suffolk* Minsmere, male, 13th-25th April (S.F.Davies, R.N.Macklin, W.J.Webber et al.), presumed same, 23rd-24th June (M.Davies, P.Pinter et al.) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 352); adult (Brit. Birds 83: plate 95) and two juveniles, 25th-29th October (I.Clowes, M.Davies et al.).

*Sussex, East* Icklesham, first-winter, trapped, 7th October; male, trapped, 24th (J.Wilsher et al.).

This species finally seems to be pressing home its promise to become a regular visitor to Britain; these 11 represent the best-ever showing.

Observers making call-based identifications of this flighty species should note that particular care is needed to eliminate any possibility of confusion with Blackbird *Turdus merula* or Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, both of which can give almost identical calls.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 27, 2)


*Somerset* Minehead, first-winter, 22nd-24th September (N.V.Allen, J.White et al.).

1988 *Kent* Stodmarsh, first-winter, 4th to at least 14th November (C.Emery, M.Finn et al.).

The additional 1988 record brings that year’s total to an unprecedented seven.

The two 1989 records are only the fourth and fifth in September; an October record from Cornwall remains under consideration. Twenty of the British and Irish records have fallen within the October-November period.
Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 99, 4)

**Dorset/Somerset** Stoford Nature Reserve, male, 20th May (M.A.Hallett, R.Kershaw, B.J.Matthews et al.).

**Essex** Great Wakering, male, 17th-27th August (P.Low, I.Prentice, J.G.Threadgold et al.).


**Somerset** See Dorset/Somerset above.

**Suffolk** Lound, adult, sex uncertain, 10th-12th September (M.Bunn, S.A.Graham et al.).


1988 **Strathclyde** Coll, first-winter, 26th October to 2nd November (D.MacLeod, Dr G.M.de Mornay et al.).

This is the best year since the five in 1982, and this species has now been annual since 1964.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 438, 19)

**Avon** Marshfield, adult, 23rd July (M.Collar, A.H.Davis, M.Hayes et al.).


**Devon** Exford, 21st April (Mrs B.Poling). Lundy, juvenile, 28th August to 2nd September (R.Bower, A.M.Jewels, S.Wing).

**Dorset** Lodmoor, 21st May (D. & Mrs M.M.Walbridge et al.). Charborough Park, 2nd to at least 4th June (J.V.Boys, Mrs A.Russell et al.). Portland, juvenile, 19th-21st August (B.E.Slade et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: page 487 fig. 7).

**Highland** Dunvegan, Skye, 1st June (D.A.Budge), probably same, Struan, 28th (J.Macdonald).


**Somerset** Velvet Bottom, Cheddar, 1st-2nd May (S.Holmes, D.Morgan, Miss C.L.Sparkes).

**Suffolk** Westleton Heath, 18th May (M.Davies, R.N.Macklin).

**Sussex, East** Westmeston, 20th May (G.B.Langley).

**Sussex, West** Sidlesham, 16th May (P.F.Burns, R.J.Fairbank, P. & Mrs B.D.James et al.).

**Wight, Isle of** St Catherine’s Point, 11th-13th May (R.P.Attrill et al.).

1988 **Devon** Prawle Point, 8th May (M.D.Elcoate et al.).

In Ireland, there was a male at Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford, on 21st May.

There have been at least 25 previous April records of this annual vagrant.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 182, 9)

**Cornwall** Illogan, Redruth, adult, 26th October to 1990 (D.S.Flumm et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 91).

**Devon** Goosewell, Plymouth, juvenile to first-winter, 1st-14th November (B.Whitehall et al.).

**Dorset** Portland, adult, 30th August to at least February 1990 (M.Cade et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 90; juvenile, 24th October (G.Walbridge).

**Highland** Durness, adult, 24th August to end of September (S.J.Aspinall et al.).

**Scilly** St Mary’s, juvenile, 20th-28th September (D.C.Bolt, O.J.Leyshon et al.).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, adult, 19th June (A. & A.Cumber, P.F.Donald et al.). Whalsay, juvenile, 22nd-28th September (Dr B.Marshall et al.).

1988 **Dyfed** Gwbert, Cardiganshire, adult, 6th-7th August (A.N. & D.W.Owen).
1988 Highland Portskerra, Sutherland, adult, 12\textsuperscript{th}-27\textsuperscript{th} October, probably since about 1\textsuperscript{st} (G.C.Crittenden, Mrs J.Forbes \textit{et al.}).

1988 Scilly Tresco, juvenile, 26\textsuperscript{th}-27\textsuperscript{th} October (P.I.Holt \textit{et al.}), additional to St Mary's individual (Brit. Birds 82: 554).

In Ireland, there was one at the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, during 10\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} June.

A better-than-average year, but no challenge to the 17 in 1983. There have been previous instances of an autumn migrant Rose-coloured Starling staying on into winter.

**Red-eyed Vireo \textit{Vireo olivaceus} (1, 54, 2)**

**Cornwall** Cot Valley, 25\textsuperscript{th} September to 1\textsuperscript{st} October (M.A. \& Mrs I.B.Snelling \textit{et al.}).

**Scilly** St Martin’s, 11\textsuperscript{th}-17\textsuperscript{th} October (P.I.Holt \textit{et al.}), (Brit. Birds 83: plate 89).

This species has not missed a year since 1979; the above records are the twenty-first for Scilly and the eighth for Cornwall.

**Arctic Redpoll \textit{Carduelis hornemanni} (30, 130, 10)**

**Northumberland** Farne Islands, trapped, 3\textsuperscript{rd} October (P.M.Gosling \textit{et al.}).

**Orkney** Evie, Mainland, 30\textsuperscript{th} September (I.Higgins, J.B.Ribbands), Stronsay, 2\textsuperscript{nd}-8\textsuperscript{th} October (J.F.Holloway). North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 11\textsuperscript{th}-22\textsuperscript{nd} October, trapped 17\textsuperscript{th} (P.J.Donnelly, A.E.Duncan, M.J.Pollard \textit{et al.}).

**Shetland** Fair Isle, first-winter male, 4\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} October, trapped 5\textsuperscript{th}, 14\textsuperscript{th} (T.R.Cleeves, P.Howlett, T.M.Melling \textit{et al.}) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 272); 11\textsuperscript{th} October, later killed by cat (N.Green, P.V.Harvey \textit{et al.}). Baltasound, Unst, 1\textsuperscript{st}-12\textsuperscript{th} November, possibly since 30\textsuperscript{th} October (Dr C.F.Mackenzie, M.G.Pennington, I.Spence); another two, 2\textsuperscript{nd} November; presumed same, with third individual, Norwick, 3\textsuperscript{rd} (K.Osborn, M.G.Pennington).

1980 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 13\textsuperscript{th}-30\textsuperscript{th} October, trapped 13\textsuperscript{th} (Dr K.F.Woodbridge \textit{et al.}).

1982 Shetland Fair Isle, 15\textsuperscript{th}-16\textsuperscript{th} October (P.Cartwright, R.G.W.Heselden, N.J.Riddiford).

1988 Shetland Baltasound, Unst, 1\textsuperscript{st} October (P.R.Durnell, D.J.Unsworth, A.Whyte), Boddam, 12\textsuperscript{th} November (P.R.Flint, M.Mellor).

Once again, Orkney and Shetland have stolen the show. Assessing records of this species is one of the Committee’s hardest tasks, and observers are advised to be as precise as possible when describing the species’ identification features. A major identification paper by Peter Lansdown, Nick Riddiford and Dr Alan Knox is scheduled for publication in British Birds shortly.

**Two-barred Crossbill \textit{Loxia leucoptera} (40, 50, 0)**

1980 Norfolk Santon Warren, female, 7\textsuperscript{th} June (R.Walton \textit{et al.}).

1984 Hampshire Slufter’s Inclosure, New Forest, male, 14\textsuperscript{th} to at least 21\textsuperscript{st} March (Brit. Birds 82: 556), to 28\textsuperscript{th} April (G.C.Barrett \textit{et al.}); first-named observer was D.L.Barrett.

1987 Orkney North Ronaldsay, juvenile, 13\textsuperscript{th} August (M.G.Pennington). Finstown, two juveniles, 22\textsuperscript{nd} August (M.Russell).

1987 Shetland Fetlar, female, 9\textsuperscript{th} August, killed by cat (M.A.Peacock). Wester Quarff, Mainland, juvenile, 10\textsuperscript{th}-11\textsuperscript{th} August, killed against window, now at Royal Scottish Museum (J.N.Dymond, P.V.Harvey, Mrs D.Playfair). Basta, Yell, at least two juveniles, 11\textsuperscript{th}-13\textsuperscript{th} August (T. \& Mrs V.Leask per J.R.Clarkson). Foula, juveniles, 11\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} August, three, 11\textsuperscript{th}, two, 12\textsuperscript{th}-16\textsuperscript{th} (R.Caldow), six, possibly ten, 15\textsuperscript{th} (J.D.Okill, M.A.Peacock). Voe, juveniles, 13\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} August, three, 13\textsuperscript{th}, four, 14\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} (M.S.Chapman, J.N.Dymond, M.A.Peacock \textit{et al.}). Fair Isle, three juveniles, 15\textsuperscript{th} August, two to 16\textsuperscript{th} (N.J.Riddiford \textit{et al.}).

The exceptional, and perhaps unprecedented, 1987 influx was confined to Orkney and Shetland and, unlike the influxes in 1966 and 1972, was not associated with any influx of common Crossbills \textit{L.curvirostra}. 
Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (200+, 668, -)
1972 Northumberland Farne Islands, male, 3rd-7th May (B.S.Duffin, R.Lowe).
This species was dropped from the Committee's list in 1983.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* (0, 0, 1)
Totally unexpected in every way – it was not predicted by Chandler S. Robbins (Brit. Birds 73: 448-457) – and who would have expected an American warbler new for the Western Palearctic to turn up inland in Kent in January?

Northern Parula *Parula americana* (0, 13, 1)
None in Britain, but in Ireland there was a female on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, on 25th September. The earliest ever, and only the second for Ireland.

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* (0, 2, 0)
1961 Dyfed (then Pembrokeshire) Skomer, age and sex uncertain, 5th October (D.R. & Mrs S.M.Saunders).
1988 Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter male, 7th October (G.R.Avery, N.J.Riddiford, M.J.Wilmott et al.).
This Nearctic warbler was predicted ten years ago by Chandler S. Robbins (Brit. Birds 73: 448-457) and, indeed, had already occurred. The 1961 record was originally classed as an ‘Unidentified *Dendroica* species’ (though Dr I.C.T.Nisbet referred to it as ‘probably a Blackburnian Warbler’ in Brit. Birds 56: 205). Now re-assessed, the Committee and the BOURC had no doubts about its true identity.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (0, 5, 1)
Scilly St Agnes, 29th-30th August (W.H.Wagstaff et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 87).
A month earlier than any previous record and a welcome diversion during the finder’s routine tour-leading.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (1, 2, 1)
Kent Near Sittingbourne, first-winter male, 6th January to 23rd April (D.Sydall, R.R.Thompson, D.M.Wilson et al.).
The first winter record of this quite robust species and a curious parallel, in both time and location, with the Golden-winged Warbler just 25 kilometres away.

Song Sparrow *Zonotrichia melodia* (0, 5, 1)
Shetland Fair Isle, male, 11th-26th April, trapped 11th (P.V.Harvey, P.Howlett et al.).
This is the earliest British record, but the previous two on Fair Isle also arrived in April. (The Secretary would be pleased to hear from Mr P.I.Morris, whose Clwyd record in 1987 was lost in the post during circulation.)

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (1, 15, 1)
Eight have occurred in the Northern Isles and all save one of those have been in May to June.
Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (1, 12, 2)


**Hampshire** Church Crookham, male, 7th February, 26th December to 7th March 1990 (J.M.Clark, D.P.Dimmock *et al*.) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 192), presumed returning 1987-88 individual below.

**Wight, Isle of Wootton,** male, 8th-9th April (R.C.Snow, J.Willmot *et al*.).

1987 **Hampshire** Church Crookham, first-summer male, in song, 30th May to 7th June (P.Maynard), also 1988 below.

1988 **Hampshire** Church Crookham, male, in song, at least 20th May (P.Maynard), also 1989 above.

The one in Dorset was only the second to be found in winter (there was one previously in South Yorkshire on 1st January 1977), and both it and the returning Hampshire individual provided many birders with their favourite Christmas present.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* (2, 15, 1)

**Surrey** Ewhurst, female, dead at roadside, 29th January, skin retained by Surrey Bird Club (J.J. & L.N.Weller).

1988 **Orkney** Sanday, male, 30th October (R.Thorne).

Somewhat surprisingly, the Surrey record was only the second in January. It had evidently been consorting with a winter flock of Yellowhammers *E.citrinella* and Reed Buntings *E.schoeniclus*. Such flocks have now been proved occasionally to conceal Pine and Little Buntings *E.pusilla* (and could conceivably contain a bunting species which is not yet on the British list).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 183, 6)

**Shetland** Fair Isle, female, 22nd May (Dr C.F.Mackenzie).

1972 **Orkney** North Ronaldsay, male, 16th May (E.J.Williams).


Also four in Ireland, all in Co. Cork: one at the Old Head of Kinsale on 26th March, a male on Cape Clear Island on 26th April, a female or immature on Dursey Island on 7th to 10th October, and one on Cape Clear Island on 25th October.

A typical series in Britain, but the four in Ireland are remarkable in view of only two previous records there.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (93, 361, 45)

**Cleveland** Locke Park, Redcar, 11th-14th September (I.Boustead *et al*.). South Gare, 12th September (M.A.Blick, T.Francis).

**Devon** Slapton Ley, 29th March to 1st April, two, 29th-30th (P.A.Dennis, J.Hunt *et al*.).

**Dorset** Portland, trapped, 4th October (M.Cade, M.Rogers *et al*.).

**Essex** Holland Haven, trapped, 12th October (Dr S. & Mrs P.Cox, Mr & Mrs L.Roker, T.H.Watson).

**Fife** Isle of May, adult, 10th-12th September, trapped 10th (S.J.Holloway, D.Norden *et al*.); first-winter, trapped, 3rd October (I.Balfour-Paul, S.J.Holloway, G.L.Sandeman *et al*.).

**Humberside** Flamborough Head, two, first-winter, 10th-13th September, both trapped 12th, released 13th (P.A.Lassey, M.Newsome, P.J.Willoughby *et al*.); another first-winter, trapped, 12th (A.M.Allport, A.Grieve, P.A.Lassey).

**Norfolk** Great Yarmouth, 9th-10th September (K.R.Dye *et al*.); presumed another, 4th October (T.Hill, G.J.White), probably same, 15th (G.M.Cresswell, J.C.Eames).
Northumberland Farne Islands, four: 7th September (D.C.Richardson et al.); 12th (D.C.Richardson, B.J.Robson et al.); two, 28th, one to 29th (P.M.Gosling, B.J.Robson et al.), probably one of same, 1st November (D.M.Jones, D.C.Richardson, D.Stokoe). Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, 1st October (J.G.Steele, A.Tilmouth et al.) (Brit. Birds 83: page 491 fig. 8).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 16th-18th September (P.R.Brash et al.). Stronsay, 28th-30th September (J.F.McConnell et al.); another, 29th-30th (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway).

Scilly Tresco, 5th October (the late P.J.Grant). St Mary’s, 12th-30th October, two, 18th-25th (P.I.Holt, A.D.Hughes, G.Langan et al.). St Agnes, 12th October (P.A.Dukes). Bryher, 24th October (T.I.Mills).


1988 Northumberland Low Hauxley, first-winter, trapped, 24th October, later died, now at Hancock Museum (J.C.Day, I.O.Kerton, M.Nattrass).

1988 Shetland Foula, 10th October (S.Moore, G.W.Petrie).

In Ireland: one on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, during 5th-8th October, with another on 7th October, and one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 13th November.


Yellow-breasted Bunting Emberiza aureola (10, 131, 5)

Devon Lundy, female or immature, 10th-11th September (R.Bower, A.M.Jewels).

Fife Isle of May, female or immature, 12th September (S.J.Holloway).

Shetland Fair Isle, three females or immatures: 29th August to 6th September (D.N.Arnold, T.Crompton, G.A.Deacon et al.); 9th September (P.V.Harvey et al.). 11th-17th September (P.Howlett et al.).

1988 Shetland Fair Isle, female or immature, 19th September (Brit. Birds 82: 558), first-named observer was P.G.Barratt.

Apart from records on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, in September 1983 and 1985, the most recent record for the Southwest was also on Lundy, in September 1982.

Black-headed Bunting Emberiza melanocephala (9, 73, 5)

Highland Red Point, Wester Ross, male, 24th May (B.Averis).

Orkney Finstown, male, 20th-23rd July, trapped 22nd (A.K.Rendall, E.J. & S.J.Williams et al.).

Scilly St Mary’s, male, 25th May (K.Pellow, K.E.Vinicombe et al.).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 23rd-31st May (P.L.J.Mantle et al.).

Strathclyde Kilmory, Argyll, male, 27th-30th May (Mrs B.A. & Miss L.A.Campbell et al.).

The close dates of arrival of the four in late May once again strongly indicates a natural origin. The July record is the third in that month in Orkney and the eighth in July in Britain as a whole.
Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (0, 1, 0)

In Ireland, the immature on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, during 9th-19th October 1985 has been admitted to ‘Category A’ of the British and Irish list. Two subsequent British records (and the two others previously placed in ‘Category D’) will need to be assessed with regard to the escape possibility; the Committee learns that this species has recently been imported into Europe.

Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* (0, 16, 1)


This is the first time that this species has been proved to have overwintered in Britain (there is a previous record of one, found dead, in December 1968) and, with the Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* and Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* in Kent, it completes a remarkable trio of wintering American passerines during the first part of 1989. It also provides vindication of the principle that, when publicised, a major rarity can earn big money for local conservation bodies. A previous record in Haverfordwest was on 6th to 7th May 1970.
Appendix 1. Category D species accepted (see Brit. Birds 64: 429)

**Saker Falco cherrug** (0, 3, 0)

1986 Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 23rd October to 3rd December (D.R.Bird, M.G.Pennington, N.J.Riddiford *et al.*).

The origin of this super bird is open to debate. The distant possibility that it was some escaped hybrid cannot altogether be excluded. The abhorrent practice of hybridisation by artificial insemination (even crossing such unlikely bedfellows as Merlin *F.columbarius* and Gyrfalcon *F.rusticolus*, with unidentifiable results) is apparently not uncommon in some disreputable falconry establishments.
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 the monthly summaries in this journal, if full details were unobtainable. Birds considered to be certain escapes are also omitted.

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

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
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October. **Spotted Sandpiper** Chelmarsh Reservoir, Shropshire, 23rd-24th August. **Red-throated Pipit** Salthouse, Norfolk, 10th April. **Thrush Nightingale** Coquet Island, Northumberland, 24th-26th May. **Siberian Stonechat** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 22nd-23rd May; Thatcham, Berkshire, 3rd October. **Black-eared Wheatear** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 16th-17th September. **Blyth's Reed Warbler** Minnis Bay, Kent, 1st November; Welches Dam, Cambridgeshire, 29th November to 7th December. **Greenish Warbler** Prestatyn, Clwyd, 14th March.


1985 **Black-browed Albatross** Little Minch, 26th June. **Magnificent Frigatebird** Exe Estuary, Devon, 15th November. **White-headed Duck** Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset, 24th February. **Collared Flycatcher** Holkham Meals, Norfolk, 12th-14th May.

1984 **Crane** Upper Hamble Country Park, Hampshire, 26th April. **Black-headed Bunting** Cley, Norfolk, 25th October.

1983 **Long-billed Dowitcher** Claddach Cumhang, North Uist, Western Isles, 9th June. **Red-throated Pipit** Cowes, Isle of Wight, 1st September. **Arctic Warbler** Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 14th May. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** Cresswell Ponds, Northumberland, 30th July.

1982 **Whistling Swan** Near Caerlaverock, Dumfries & Galloway, 14th December. **Brünnich's Guillemot** Off Tarbert Loch, Western Isles, 5th August. **Tengmalm's Owl** Abingdon, Oxfordshire, two, 23rd-24th June.

1981 **Purple Heron** Holland Haven, Essex, 27th May.

1980 **Pine Bunting** Holkham Meals, Norfolk, 12th October.

1979 **Long-toed Stint** Hilbre, Merseyside, 14th October.

1976 **Whistling Swan** Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, 17th January to 24th February.

1969 **Whistling Swan** Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, 2nd January to 7th March, 29th November to 24th February 1970.

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