



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.Mellor, 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.*).

1988 At sea Sea area Dogger, adult, 21st May (W.Crombie per J.D.Lough) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 253).

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.*).

1987 Humberside Flamborough Head, 19th September (A.M.Allport, D.G.Hobson, P.A.Lassey).

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)

1988 At sea North Atlantic, sea area Sole, approximately 49°N 7°W, about 46 km SSW of Bishop Rock, Scilly, 31st July (R.Beddard, P.A.Fraser, C.D.R.Heard *et al.*). Little Minch, about 5 km southeast of Renish Point, Harris, Western Isles, 30th August (D.J.Britton).

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 Elburton, 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, 28th August, 3rd September (V.J.Hanlon, R.H.Terry).

Norfolk Welney, probably second-summer, 11th-14th May (J.B.Kemp *et al.*).

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

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

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

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

1988 Tyne & Wear West Boldon, adult, found injured 24th April, died in care 25th 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, 14th to at least 22nd August (J.M.Bowler, K.Pebberby *et al.*).

Buckinghamshire Near Wilstone Reservoir, two, 20th September (S.P.Dudley *et al.*).

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

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

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

Devon Ten, possibly 12: Erme Estuary, 17th July, 8th-26th August, 10th-26th October, 14th-15th, 25th, 27th-28th November, two, 27th, one 1st, 9th-13th December, two 10th-13th, 27th-31st, three 31st. (H. & Mrs J.Huggins, V.R.Tucker *et al.*). Exe and Clyst Estuaries, Dawlish Warren, three 19th-22nd July, one 8th-29th August, 22nd September, 4th December (M.D.Elcoate, D.M.Lowe, R.H.Montgomery, D.J.Stone, S.P.Warford *et al.*). Avon Estuary, 23rd-24th July, three, 1st August, one 20th, possibly discontinuously, 6th-24th September, two, 9th, 17th, three, 6th, 10th, presumed same as Kingsbridge Estuary individuals (per P.W.Ellicott). Axe Estuary, 26th July to 7th August, two, 1st-7th, three, 6th, one, 25th (N.R.Boulton, R.Griffiths, D. & Mrs M.Mockridge *et al.*). Kingsbridge Estuary, discontinuously, 3rd August to 27th October, four from 19th August, five, 21st-22nd, six, 23rd to 3rd September, up to six to 21st, three, 24th, four, 4th October, one 14th, two, 15th, three, 27th, one 12th November, 1st, 6th, 29th December to 1990 (P.Edmonds *et al.*). Yealm Estuary, 8th-31st August, three, 9th-10th (V.R.Tucker *et al.*). Tamar and Tavy Estuaries area, possibly discontinuously, 16th August to 17th September, four, 20th August, three, 22nd, two, 5th, 17th September, one, 15th October, all probably same as Kingsbridge Estuary individuals; one of same, Tamerton Foliot, 28th August, 11th September, probably others; also in Cornwall (per P.W.Ellicott). Taw and Torridge Estuaries area, probably continuously, 20th August to at least June 1990 (L.P. & S.D.Bruce *et al.*), probably same, Lundy, 19th September (L.McCallum).

Dorset Poole Harbour area, since 1988 (see 1988 Dorset below), to 5th 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, Abbotsbury, 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 Ogmere Estuary and Newton Point, two, 14th August (O.J.Leyshon *et al.*), same, Ogmere Castle, 15th (D.C.Bolt), one of same, Kenfig Pool, 15th (P.R.Hurlow), another, Ogmere Estuary, 15th (P.G.Lansdown, S.J.Moon), probably one of same, Kenfig Rivermouth, 28th (J.P.Curtis, S.J.Moon).

Glamorgan, South Ruymney 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).

Gwynedd Cemlyn Bay, Anglesey, 21st May (K.G. & Mrs E.Croft, P. & R.Mansfield, J.P.Thompson *et al.*), presumed same, Porthmadog, 25th (E.Lewis), probably also Greater Manchester.

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.Doody), probably same, Skipool 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.Forryan, R.M.Fray, L. & S.Lester *et al.*), same, Barrowden, 21st (Mrs K.M.Potterton), both probably same as Derbyshire individuals.

Lincolnshire Individual last reported Holbeach Marsh, 31st December 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 512), Frampton and Holbeach Marshes, 2nd January to 12th February, 20th August probably continuously to at least 12th November (S.P.Botham, S.Gillings, R. & K.Heath *et al.*). Presumed another, North Coates, 21st-24th May (S.Routledge *et al.*).

Norfolk Welney, 10th-14th May (J.B.Kemp *et al.*), possibly North Coates, Lincolnshire, individual; 19th September (J.Arbon, 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).

Northumberland Eshottheugh, 15th-17th August (E.T. & J.R.Norris *et al.*), same, Cresswell Pond, intermittently, 2nd-28th September (per M.S.Hodgson), same, Warkworth Pond, 15th, 25th-28th September (A.J.Booth, A.I.Bowman *et al.*).

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.Burridge).

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 Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, 4th August (G.R.Welch), possibly same as Lincolnshire individual (Brit. Birds 82: 512).

1988 Dorset Newtown Bay and Arne, Poole Harbour, 5th November 1987 to at least March 1988 (Brit. Birds 81: 543), to 13th May (S.J.Morrison *et al.*); 7th August to 1989, up to three, 5th August to 25th September, four, 24th August, two to 3rd October, presumed including 1987 individual (J.Martin, S.J.Morrison *et al.*). Lodmoor, 27th April (M.Cade, M.Slater *et al.*).

1988 Hampshire Beaulieu Mill Pond, five, 26th May (Brit. Birds 82: 512), probably one of same, Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes, 29th (S.P.Dudley, C.Stockley, A.Wheeler).

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).

1987 Kent Seaton, two, 25th April (D.Tutt *et al.*), probably same as East Sussex individuals, 25th-27th (Brit. Birds 81: 544).

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.*).

1988 Somerset Curry Moor, West Sedge Moor and Durleigh Reservoir, adult, 26th November to 1989 (B.D.Gibbs, I.A.Prophet *et al.*), presumed returning 1987 individual (Brit. Birds 81: 545).

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, 8th 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).

1988 Norfolk Cley, adult, 27th October to 12th March 1989 (S.J.M.Gantlett, D.J.Holman *et al.*). See also 1987 Norfolk above.

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 1990 (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, 28th-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.*).

Strathclyde Burnfoot, Fairlie, Ayrshire, male, 8th February (J.L.Burton). Loch Indaal, Islay, male, 15th-16th November (G.K.Brown, Mrs P.J.Dawson, G.Jackson).

Tayside Montrose Basin, first-year male, 6th June to 21st July (G.M.Addison, R.D.Goater, M.S.Scott *et al.*), same, Kinnaber, 26th July to 13th August (G.M.Addison, M.S.Scott). Vane Farm, male, 23rd November to 20th January 1990 (M.J.Pollard *et al.*).

1987 Dorset See 1987 Hampshire below.

1987 Hampshire Titchfield Haven, male, 7th May to at least 19th July (B.S.Duffin, R.K.Levett, M.J.Palmer), probably same as Stanpit Marsh and Brownsea Island, Dorset, individual, 3rd-5th May (Brit. Birds 81: 546).

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, 2nd 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, Oxloode 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 Drakelow, 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).

Northamptonshire Ditchford Gravel-pits, 3rd-4th March (R.W.Bullock, S.P.Fisher).

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 26th-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.*).

Hereford & Worcester Upton Warren, female, 19th-27th August (E.G.Phillips, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plates 41 & 254).

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 Cornwall Penhale Sands, Newquay, male, 17th May (P.J. & Mrs M.Dwyer, V.S. & Mrs J.Paton), presumed same as Marazion individual, 19th-21st May (Brit. Birds 82: 515).

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).

Bedfordshire Harrold-Odell Country Park, female, 1st-2nd January (D.J.Odell, M.J.Palmer *et al.*), same, Radwell Gravel-pits, 12th February to 25th March (M.J.Palmer, D.S. & M.Woodhead *et al.*).

Buckinghamshire/Greater London Yiewsley Gravel-pits and Little Britain Lake, Greater London, female, 14th January to 2nd May (C.Lamsdell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 248).

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.*).

Cornwall/Devon Tamar Lakes, female, 20th-21st October (M.Blatchford, S.M.Christophers, A.B.Rosier).

Cumbria Nibthwaite, Coniston Water, male, 7th January to 8th April (C.Raven, D.Satterthwaite *et al.*), presumed same, Barrow-in-Furness, 6th-8th 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 1990 (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.

Grampian 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, 19th 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 Bothal Pond, male, 12th April (M.J.Sharp), same, Holywell Pond, 8th-9th May, 4th June (J.E.C. & J.Malloy *et al.*), Big Waters, near Seaton Burn, 11th-22nd May, 5th, 15th June (A.J.Johnston *et al.*), Druridge Pools, 1st August (A.J.Booth, I.R.Douglas), all presumed returning Holywell Pond individual 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 516). Cresswell Pond, female, 2nd-24th January, 7th February, 4th-5th March, 15th April (J.R.Todd, K.W.York *et al.*), same, Druridge Pools, 19th February (per M.S.Hodgson), Holywell Pond, 24th March (I.Chadwick, P.Hartley), again, Bothal Pond, 11th, 15th-26th October (A.H.Banks, K.W.York *et al.*), Druridge Pools, 7th, 27th-30th October, 6th, 26th November (A.J.Booth, I.R.Douglas, A.P.Mossop *et al.*), Queen Elizabeth II Country Park, 29th November (per M.S.Hodgson); all presumed returning Hadston Lake individual 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 516). See also 1988 Northumberland below.

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 Cotswold Water Park, female or first-winter, 14th October (N.Pleass *et al.*).

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

1983 Powys See 1984 Powys below.

1984 Powys Welshpool, male, 9th-31st January (B.Averis *et al.*), presumed returning individual of 5th-10th January 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 515).

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 Bigbury Bay, female, 28th January (R.Ness), presumed same as River Erme individual, 12th to at least 26th February (Brit. Birds 82: 516). Kenwith Nature Reserve, Bideford, male, 25th April to 1st May (Brit. Birds 82: 516), to 27th August (D.Churchill *et al.*).

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, Pown 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 Bothal Pond, female, 30th October to 12th November (A.J.Booth, M.A.Ridsdale, M.J.Sharpe *et al.*), same, Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools, 15th November to 1989 (A.J.Booth, I.R.Douglas, M.A.Ridsdale *et al.*).

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, 11th-12th November (per A.R.Mainwood), 10th December (R.J.Evans).

Shetland Fair Isle, second-summer male, 18th February to 10th May (P.Howlett *et al.*), presumed same, 17th September to at least 5th November (J.N.Dymond *et al.*), presumed returning 1988 individual. Ronas Voe, male, 4th April (D.R.Bird). West Sandwick, Yell, male, 6th April (D.R.Bird). Redayre and Tresta Voe, male, since 1988 to at least 6th June (per D.Suddaby) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 264), same as Raewick, Sand Voe, Tresta, North Havra and Westerwick individual, 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 517). Sumburgh Head, female, 19th June to 28th August (M.Heubeck *et al.*), presumed returning individual of 14th June to 18th September 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 517).

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

1986 Fife Lucky Scalp, male, 8th January to 9th March (Brit. Birds 80: 529), now considered same as Broughty Ferry, Tayside, 8th February, Ythan Estuary, Grampian, 24th May to 3rd June (Brit. Birds 80: 529), Peterhead and Ythan Estuary, Grampian, 28th April to 20th June 1987, Tayport, Fife, 6th October 1987 (Brit. Birds 81: 548-549), Tayport, Fife, 19th February to 14th April 1988, Ythan Estuary, Bridge of Don, Donmouth, Grampian, 17th May to 20th September 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 516) and 1989 as above.

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).

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

1988 Lothian Gosford Bay, male, first recorded 31st December 1987 (Brit. Birds 81: 549), 1st January (A.Brown).

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 Grafham 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 Lothian individuals.

Grampian Burghead, male, 26th February to 11th March (P.G.Akers *et al.*); males, 17th-18th, 30th October, 15th November, 12th December, two, 18th October (P.G.Akers, R.J.Evans *et al.*), both presumed returning 1988 Grampian individuals (Brit. Birds 82: 518). Kingston, male, 5th August to 9th September (M.J.H.Cook, T.Finnemore), probably Burghead individual.

Gwynedd Shell Island, near Harlech, male, 27th December (I.Copley, A.Davison, R.M.R.James *et al.*), probably returning individual last recorded Morfa Harlech 24th January (Brit. Birds 82: 518).

Highland Golspie, male, 24th February (P.G.Akers). Thurso Bay, first-winter, 29th October (S.Laybourne). Culbin Bar, three males, female, 11th December (P.G.Akers).

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

Lothian 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.J.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).

Northumberland Stag Rocks, second-winter male, 15th to at least 19th February (B.Beck, J.R.Duffie, M.Sidwell *et al.*). Buston Links, first-winter male, 18th-26th February, 2nd, 25th March (T.R.Cleaves, M.Hepple *et al.*). Ross Back Sands, second-winter male, female, 4th to at least 28th March (M.Hepple, A.Hutt, T.M.Melling), male same as Stag Rocks individual.

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 Lothian 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.Maughan *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).

Devon Sampford Spiney, 24th March (R.Andrew, A.W.G.John). Lundy, 10th-11th May (A.D.Warren *et al.*). South Milton Ley, 16th May (R.Burridge). Great Haldon Forest, 3rd July (G.Hudd, A.J.Swetman).

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 Dunsop 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).

Essex Bradwell-on-Sea, male, 21st May (J.Skuse, J.C.Sutherby), presumed same, Langenhoe Marsh, 5th June (M.Cock, R.P.Hull), Old Hall Marshes, at least 10th (D.Saunders, M.Stott *et al.*). Colne Point, first-summer male, 2nd June (R.W.Arthur, M.Frisby, B.C.Manning).

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 (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.*).

Norfolk Winterton and Horsey Gap area, female, 14th May (D.Herrievan, R.Preston). Winterton, female, 24th-25th May (P.Cawley, J.Maslen, I.Smith). Waxham, female, age uncertain, 14th September (M.Fischer).

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

Silly 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.Shaughnessey *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.

Yorkshire, South Thorne Moors, first-summer female, 25th May (C.Auld, A.R.Farrar, T.M.Melling *et al.*), presumed same, 29th (L.Degnan, D.Page).

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 eleonora* (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)

Tyne & Wear Mowbray Park, Sunderland, possibly male, 17th-20th May (R.Hudson, S.Metcalf *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plates 303 & 304).

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, -)

1985 Norfolk Titchwell, 13th May (A.J. & G.C.Barrett).

1986 Dorset Bere Regis, at least 4th August (B.W.Edwards, C.Elford).

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.Donnely) (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.*).

1988 Cornwall Landulph Marsh, juvenile, 25th October (I.Grant, G.Levine).

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 Baldoyle, 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.*).

Shetland Baltasound, Unst, adult, 24th-25th September (M.G.Pennington *et al.*). Loch of Spiggie, adult, 19th October (K.Osborn, M.G.Pennington).

Strathclyde Dundonald Camp, Gales, 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 Culoort 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, 31st July to 4th August (Brit. Birds 82: 523), was adult.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 291, 7)

Cleveland Long Drag Pool and Reclamation Pond, adult, 5th to at least 16th August (D. & K.Cowton *et al.*).

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

Norfolk Holme, adult, 29th June (J.Bishop, G.F.Hibberd *et al.*).

Staffordshire Rudyard Lake, juvenile, at least 3rd November (P.G.Barratt).

Strathclyde Barassie, Ayr, adult, 30th July to 5th August (W.A.Davidson *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, adult, 28th-30th July (J.M.Cawston, D.Watson *et al.*).

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

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

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

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

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

Devon Lundy, juvenile, 19th-20th September (M.Cade, A.M.Jewels, S.Nagle *et al.*).

Hampshire Farlington Marsh, juvenile, 19th-22nd September (T.J.Jennings, D.J.Unsworth *et al.*).

Shetland Pool of Virkie, juvenile, 8th-11th September (P.R.Flint, R.Frost *et al.*).

Sussex, East Pett Pools, juvenile, 17th September (C.Barwood, C.H.Dean, H.Taffs *et al.*).

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

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

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

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

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

Essex Old Hall Marshes, 23rd-24th May (D.Saunders, M.Stott *et al.*).

Humber Hornsea Mere, 11th-12th May (G.R.Bennett *et al.*).

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

Northumberland Druridge Pools, adult, 11th July (A.J.Booth, I.R.Douglas, A.Priest *et al.*).

1986 Humber Saltend Marsh, Hull, 17th-18th May (S.L.James, B.Richards).

1988 Hampshire Farlington Marshes, 4th-5th 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.*).

Nottinghamshire Girton Gravel-pits, juvenile, 27th August to 2nd September (B.N.Ellis, J.A.Hopper, R.L.Sorrell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 40).

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.*).

Highland Tain, Ross & Cromarty, juvenile, 19th September (P.G.Akers, C.H.Crooke, R.J.Evans).

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).

1988 Dorset Ferrybridge, 25th July (Brit. Birds 82: 527), same, Stanpit Marsh, 15th-24th (W.Borras *et al.*).

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.Callf, 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 Somerset Sutton Bingham Reservoir, 29th-30th September (Brit. Birds 82: 527), first seen 28th (R.Newton).

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, -)

1976 Cumbria Near Kendal, 2nd-5th October (A.F. & L.Gould, M.Hutcheson *et al.*).

The Rarities Committee ceased to consider records relating to this species after the end of 1979.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 52, 2)

Humber-side 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 Ogmores 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 Dysnni, 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:

Grampian Banff Bay and Harbour, adult, since 27th December 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 529) to 12th April (K.D.Shaw *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plates 191 & 192).

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, 24th-28th January (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 184).

1987 Humberside Flamborough Head, adult, 10th August (D.G.Hobson).

1988 Humberside Flamborough Head, adult, 30th 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, 2nd-19th December, possibly since 27th November (P.N. & Mrs C.M.Guy *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 256).

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

A late report from Ireland concerns a first-winter at Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, on 21st 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, 16th June (B.S.Barnacal), presumed same as Staffordshire individual.

Humberside Spurn, 31st May (R.Gilbert, M.G.Neal).

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

1979 Gwent St Brides, female, shot, 5th 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, 7th to at least 10th September (A.Adams, A.le F.Dobson, G.R. & Mrs H.J.Welch *et al.*).

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

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

Lincolnshire See Nottinghamshire below.

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

Suffolk Lackford, 30th May (S.Bishop, T.Kerridge).

1987 Suffolk Minsmere, 13th June (M.K.Ahmad, D.W.Hovell, P.A.St Pierre).

1988 Cheshire Neumann's Flash, 26th June (G.F.J.Baker), presumed same as Ogston Reservoir, Derbyshire, individual, 26th (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.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.

1987 Northumberland Holy Island, 16th August (J.Jamieson, D.Patterson), presumed same as Cleveland, Humberside, Lothian individual (Brit. Birds 81: 567).

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)

Gwynedd Holyhead area, adult, 21st January to 1st March (K.G.Croft, A. & Mrs C.Davies *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 193), presumed same as 1988 individual (Brit. Birds 82: 531).

1987 Clwyd Gronant, 20th August to 20th September, two, 31st August to 20th September (P.Douglas, R.H.H.Evans, R.Handley, C.Rowley *et al.*), one or other presumed same as 1987 Gwynedd and Merseyside individual (Brit. Birds 82: 531).

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)

Northumberland Hauxley, 16th July (S.Sexton, J.R.Todd *et al.*), same, Seaton Sluice, 16th (T.R.Cleaves, M.Hepple, A.Hutt), presumed returning 1988 Cleveland, Northumberland individual (Brit. Birds 82: 531).

1988 Grampian Sands of Forvie, 2nd August (A.J.M.Smith), probably same as Cleveland, Northumberland individual (Brit. Birds 82: 531).

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 Hampshire Titchfield Haven, juvenile, 22nd August (D.Bright, B.S. & T.M.Duffin, R.K.Levett).

1988 Humberside Flamborough Head, first-winter, 11th September (A.M.Allport, J.C.Laplough).

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, 8th July (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.*).

Suffolk Landguard, trapped, 25th October (J.R.Askins, M.C.Marsh, N.Odin *et al.*) (*Brit. Birds* 83: plate 86).

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.Milne *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 Lisvane 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).

Humber side 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 Porthgarra, 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).

1987 Tayside Montrose, 4th-6th June (G.M.Crighton, J.Wint).

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 Dorset Portland, 27th April (G.Walbridge). Corfe Mullen, presumed male, in territory, at least 18th July to 10th September (Dr G.P.Green *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 81: plates 319, 346-347; 83: 376).

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.*).

1988 Gwynedd Bardsey, 24th-26th October (S.Hughston-Roberts, P.Jenks, D.Okines).

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 should also 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 Treско, first-winter, 3rd September, presumed same, Bryher, 4th to at least 6th (W.E.Oddie *et al.*); Treско, 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.samamisticus* 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)

Glamorgan, West Pen-clawdd, first-summer male, 21st-22nd November (W.E. & Mrs A.L.Jones, K.M. & R.E.Tallack *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 194).

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.*).

1986 Cumbria South Walney, 15th-21st November (Brit. Birds 80: 557, plates 47-48, 98, 286, 288), now considered female, age indeterminate.

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.Everson, 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.Newsoms, P.J.Willoughby *et al.*).

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

This species is, like the last, given to good and bad years: the 12 since 1958 have occurred in just six years (1961, 1969, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1989). The one singing in Norfolk in July delighted hundreds of observers, and recalls those singing in East Anglia in May-June 1981 and July-August 1984.

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)

1985 Shetland Noss, trapped, 14th August (K.Clarkson, D.J.Gilbert, C.R.McKay) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 273).

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, 30th May (K.R.Grant, K.Pellow, W.Simcox *et al.*).

Dorset Radipole, in song, 21st May (A.H.Brampton, N.R.Pope *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, in song, 28th May (K.F.Betton, B.R.Spence *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes, in song, 8th May (P. & R.Hawkins, D.P.Wyatt *et al.*).

Sussex, West Thorney Deeps, in song, 19th May (C.B.Collins).

1988 Cornwall Crowan Reservoir, 13th-15th May (S.Bury, D.Lewis *et al.*).

1988 Norfolk Cley, in song, 8th to at least 23rd 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, 22nd-27th September, trapped 22nd (M.Dowie, P.Howlett, R.J. & Mrs S.Johns *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Bempton, 13th September (V.A.Lister, R.A.Matthews *et al.*).

1988 Kent Pegwell, 21st 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, 21st to 31st October, trapped 21st, subsequently reviewed and accepted as Subalpine Warbler *S.cantillans* (Brit. Birds 78: 575).

1969 Cornwall Porthgarra, 17th October (Brit. Birds 63: 286), now considered not acceptable.

1979 Shetland Fair Isle, male, 4th-5th 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 Caerthillan, male, 30th March to 8th April (J.Hawkey *et al.*).

Dorset Portland, male, 20th April (Dr K.M.Godfrey *et al.*); male, 3rd-4th May (I.C.Pembroke *et al.*); male, 9th May (P.W.Kent, G.Walbridge *et al.*).

Dyfed Skomer, male, 26th-27th March (M.J.Keene, S.J.Sutcliffe, H.A.Williams).

Essex Holland-on-Sea, male, 18th April (M.Daniels, T.H.Watson).

Highland Rhum, male, 22nd May (A.P.Mossop). Durness, male, 28th August (S.J.Aspinall B.Clark, D.M.Pullan).

Man, Isle of Calf of Man, male, trapped, 8th May (I.Fisher, A.Sapsford).

Norfolk Weybourne, first-summer male, 3rd May (Dr M.P.Taylor, J.Wallis).

Northumberland Holy Island, male, 20th-21st May (K.W.Regan, M.J.Sharp, M.G.Watson *et al.*).

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.*). Out Skerries, female, trapped, 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.*). Eswick, male, 27th May to 1st August, probably showing the characters of *S.c.albistriata* (T.D.Rogers *et al.*). Toab, female, 4th June (M.Reid, D.N.Smith). Fetlar, female, 15th June (W.Horn, M.J.Preece *et al.*). Out Skerries, female, 24th September (M.J.Preece, E.Tait).

Suffolk Landguard, first-summer male, trapped, 30th May (J.R.Askins, G.B.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 Norwick, Unst, first-winter, trapped, 12th September (H.J.Burgess, G.Gray, M.G.Pennington).

1987 Humberside Flamborough Head, trapped, 29th August (A.S.Butler, R.C.Hart, P.A.Lassey *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 81: plate 297, erroneously captioned September).

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 Porthgarra, 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.*).

Norfolk Weybourne, male, trapped, 18th October (K.B.Shepherd). Blakeney Point, 15th-16th October (G.E.Dunmore, P.Feakes, S.C.Joyner *et al.*). Holkham Meals, 21st-22nd October (K.A. & M.K.Naylor, I.C.Whitehouse *et al.*); another, 27th (A.I.Bloomfield *et al.*). Waxham, 12th-14th November (J.R. & N.W.Whitelegg).

Northumberland Druridge Links, 28th October (J.Rutter, S.Sexton *et al.*). Craster, 29th-30th October (A.J.Booth, M.J.Sharp).

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.*).

Suffolk Landguard, 18th-22nd October, trapped 18th (S.H.Piotrowski *et al.*). Lowestoft, 20th-21st October (R.Wincup *et al.*). Benacre, 19th November (C.Buttle, A.Riseborough, R.Walden). Iken, 19th November (C.Mortimer, Dr N.J.Skinner *et al.*).

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

Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, 8th-9th October, trapped 8th (P.J.Dunn, J.Harwood *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.T.Knowler), presumed same, 22nd (Brit. Birds 82: 549).

1988 Dorset Hengistbury Head, trapped, 23rd October (G.Armstrong, P.N.Prior).

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 Shetland Eswick, Nesting, 13th October (T.D.Rogers).

1988 Tayside Mains of Usan, 23rd-24th October (G.Addison, R.D.Goater *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 Lincolnshire Pye's Hall, 12th-13th October (W.P.Brooking, J.R.Mawer, S.J. & W.J.Meek *et al.*).

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)

Cornwall Land's End, 28th August (R.Andrew, D.S.Flumm, P.Harrison). Porthgwarra, 17th-30th September (C.C.Barnard, J.Hawkey *et al.*).

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)

Borders Dungleigh, female, trapped, 13th September (T.W.Dougall, D.Patterson).

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.*).

Humberside Rudston, first-winter, 14th to at least 25th September (J.E. & J.M.Dale *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 276).

Somerset See Dorset/Somerset above.

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

1988 Dorset The Nothe, Weymouth, age uncertain, 18th October (J.Brodie Good, M.Cade, R.Morris).

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.*).

Cornwall Land's End, 22nd April (D.S.Flumm, P.Harrison). Gwithian, 20th-21st May (D.S.Flumm, P.A.Rutter). Porthgwarra, 4th July (D.S.Flumm *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).

Scilly Tresco, 5th May (P.Davies *et al.*). Gugh, 7th-16th May (J.W.Hale *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 267). Bryher, 21st May (N.J.Warren).

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, 12th-27th October, probably since about 1st (G.C.Crittenden, Mrs J.Forbes *et al.*).

1988 Scilly Tresco, juvenile, 26th-27th October (P.I.Holt *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 10th-18th 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 *Vireo olivaceus* (1, 54, 2)

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

Scilly St Martin's, 11th-17th October (R.Ness, M.J.Palmer *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 89).

1985 Scilly St Martin's, 27th October (Brit. Birds 82: 555), first-named observer should read G.J.Speight.

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 *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 130, 10)

Northumberland Farne Islands, trapped, 3rd October (P.M.Gosling *et al.*).

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

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

1980 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 13th-30th October, trapped 13th (Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*).

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

1988 Shetland Baltasound, Unst, 1st October (P.R.Durnell, D.J.Unsworth, A.Whyte). Boddam, 12th 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 *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 50, 0)

1980 Norfolk Santon Warren, female, 7th June (R.Walton *et al.*).

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

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

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

Kent Larkfield, Maidstone, male, age uncertain, 24th January to 10th April (P.A.Doherty, C. & Mrs C.Miller *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plates 186 & 188; 83: plate 271).

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)

Shetland Frakkafield, Lerwick, 27th-28th May (Father P.Barry *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 275).

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)

Dorset Weston, Portland, male, 3rd December to March 1990 (G.Walbridge *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 193).

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).

Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, first-winter, trapped, 12th September (S.Cochrane, P.J.Dunn *et al.*).

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

1988 Scilly St Mary's, 17th October (R.A.Hargreaves, D.Nurney *et al.*), probably same, 19th (A.S.Cook, S.R.Goddard, D.J.Stone *et al.*), not same as that on 15th (Brit. Birds 82: 557).

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.*); another, 27th (C.D.R.Heard *et al.*). St Agnes, 12th October (P.A.Dukes). Bryher, 24th October (T.I.Mills).

Shetland Fair Isle, 14th May (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); autumn, eight: 10th September (P.J.Holt *et al.*); two, 10th-14th (P.V.Harvey, M.P.Wilmott *et al.*); 18th-19th (A.F.Silcocks *et al.*); 22nd-30th (R.J.Arnfield, A.F.Silcocks *et al.*); first-winter, 6th-13th October, trapped 7th (P.Howlett, G.Nunn, S.Taylor *et al.*); 23rd-26th (P.Howlett *et al.*); 6th November (P.V.Harvey). Grutness, 23rd September (P.V.Harvey, M.Heubeck *et al.*). Skaw, Unst, two, 23rd-25th September (K.Osborn, M.G.Pennington *et al.*). Fetlar, 23rd September to 6th October (T.Davis, W.Horn, M.J.Preece *et al.*). Voe, 8th November (C.Donald, R.Mackenzie, K.Osborn).

Wiltshire Bromham, female, trapped, 27th March, released 28th (R.Pike, R.Turner).

1987 Shetland Fair Isle, 21st September (Brit. Birds 81: 592), probably same, 24th (A.Banwell *et al.*); additional record, 20th-21st October (J.Allen, K.Osborn).

1988 Dorset Weston, Portland, 3rd October (G.Walbridge).

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

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.

The best-ever year – exceeding the 41 in 1984 and the 43 in 1987.

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 Kilmore, 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)

Dyfed Roch, Haverfordwest, first-winter female, 2nd January to 23rd April (J.W.Donovan, J. & S.Scammell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 289).

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.

1989 White-billed Diver Winterton, Norfolk, 22nd January; Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 7th February; Gott Bay, Tiree, Strathclyde, 21st February; Horgabost, Harris, Western Isles, 9th August; Flamborough Head, Humberside, 27th December. **Black-browed Albatross** Budleigh Salterton, Devon, 23rd August. **Sooty Albatross** Skomer, Dyfed, 24th March. **Albatross** Budleigh Salterton, Devon, 12th July; Cley, Norfolk, 20th August. **Little Shearwater** Pendeen, Cornwall, 29th August; Shellness, Kent, 31st August; Isle of May, Fife, 8th November. **Magnificent Frigatebird** Porthcurno, Cornwall, 26th August. **Little Egret** Kingsbury, Warwickshire, 10th August; Sheringham, Norfolk, 20th September. **Great White Egret** Lannacombe Bay, Devon, three, 31st July. **Black Stork** Pont Pen-y-Benglog, Gwynedd, 8th September. **Blue-winged Teal** Drift Reservoir, Cornwall, female, 13th September. **Ring-necked Duck** Lower Tamar Lake, Cornwall/Devon, 29th August. **King Eider** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 8th November; Methil, Fife, 3rd December. **Black Scoter** Burghead, Grampian, 18th March. **Black Kite** Craggan, Highland, 28th March; near Loch Garten, Highland, 31st March; Overtown, Strathclyde, 1st April; New Forest, Hampshire, 21st April; Reculver, Kent, 7th May; Wroxham, Norfolk, 14th May; Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd, 22nd May; Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex, 9th June; Candacraig, Grampian, 10th June; Worth Matravers, Dorset, 11th June; Minsmere, Suffolk, 27th June; Tetney, Humberside, 8th August; Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 12th August; Guildford, Surrey, 22nd August; Zennor, Cornwall, 25th September. **White-tailed Eagle** Burley-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, 27th July; Leverton Marsh, Lincolnshire, two, 15th August. **Booted Eagle** Bearsden, Strathclyde, 27th August. **Lesser Kestrel** Lundy, Devon, 7th May. **Red-footed Falcon** Hulcote, Northamptonshire, 25th February; Regent's Park, Greater London, 13th April; West Mersea, Essex, 6th May; Stenness, Orkney, 13th May; Sandwich Bay, Kent, 15th May; Woodbridge, Suffolk, 16th May; Felixstowe, Suffolk, 19th May; Colne Point, Essex, 25th May; Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire, 3rd June; Lambton Park, Durham, 10th June; Rye, East Sussex, 24th June; Bradwell Common, Buckinghamshire, 29th June; Kemerton, Hereford & Worcester, 7th September; Havergate, Suffolk, 14th September; Pitstone, Buckinghamshire, 30th September; Holkham, Norfolk, 30th September; Norwich, Norfolk, 17th October. **Gyrfalcon** Balranald, Western Isles, 8th April. **Little Crake** Bembridge, Isle of Wight, 17th April. **Collared Pratincole** Attenborough, Nottinghamshire, 27th September. **Pratincole** Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, 2nd July. **American Golden Plover** Malltraeth, Gwynedd, 2nd-11th February. **American or Pacific Golden Plover** Sheringham, Norfolk, 28th July; Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 26th September. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** East Tilbury, Essex, 24th September; Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 8th November; Copperhouse Creek, Cornwall, 11th November. **Western Sandpiper** Glan Conwy, Gwynedd, 3rd December. **Least Sandpiper** Radipole, Dorset, 3rd August. **Baird's Sandpiper** Pett Pools, East Sussex, 15th August; Tillingham, Essex, 13th September; Tresco, Scilly, 19th September. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Aberlady, Lothian, 29th October. **Great Snipe** Portland, Dorset, 10th September; Snettisham, Norfolk, 12th-13th October; Cley, Norfolk, 25th October. **Hudsonian Godwit** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 24th July. **Curlew** *N.a.orientalis*, Hayle, Cornwall, 23rd May. **Marsh Sandpiper** Dawlish Warren, Devon, 22nd October. **Terek Sandpiper** Yealm Estuary, Devon, 7th October; Keyhaven Marsh, Hampshire, 27th October. **Wilson's Phalarope** Holkham, Norfolk, 30th September; Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset, 2nd October; Chew Valley Lake, Avon, 29th October. **Laughing Gull** Hipperholme, West Yorkshire, 2nd November. **Franklin's Gull** Selsey Bill, West Sussex, 6th May; Otter Estuary, Devon, 18th August; Hurleston Reservoir, Cheshire, 7th October. **Bonaparte's Gull** Portland Harbour, Dorset, 12th February; Fraserburgh, Grampian, 23rd April. **Slender-billed Gull** Arundel, West Sussex, 23rd January; Norwich, Norfolk, 29th May. **Gull-billed Tern** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 13th July; Blakeney Point and Sheringham, Norfolk, 11th-12th August. **Caspian Tern** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 15th July. **Elegant Tern** Musselburgh, Lothian, 9th August. **Whiskered Tern** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 30th June. **White-winged Black Tern** Rainham Marsh, Essex, 16th April; Pevensey Bridge Level, East Sussex, 10th May; Barn Elms Reservoirs, Greater London, 5th August. **Hawk Owl** Clanville, Wiltshire, 31st October. **Pallid Swift** Elmley, Kent, 16th July; Sumburgh, Shetland, 8th August. **Alpine Swift** Swindon, Wiltshire, 25th May; Upton Country Park, Dorset, 25th August. **Bee-eater** Cleghorn, Strathclyde, 21st-22nd April; Dungeness, Kent, 24th May. **Roller** Felindre, West Glamorgan, 29th August. **Calandra Lark** Lydden, Kent, 16th July. **Short-toed Lark** Ravenglass, Cumbria, 22nd January; Beaulieu Road, New Forest, Hampshire, 6th May; Warnford, Hampshire, 10th September; Spurn, Humberside, 1st October. **Thekla Lark** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 18th July. **Crag Martin** Howbeg, South Uist, Western Isles, 8th June; New Mills, Derbyshire, 10th September. **Red-rumped Swallow** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 28th April; Fair Isle, Shetland, 20th May.

Olive-backed Pipit Norwich, Norfolk, 27th & 29th November. **Red-throated Pipit** Holme, Norfolk, 18th March; Skomer, Dyfed, 12th April; Holme, Norfolk, 15th May; North Rona, Western Isles, 20th May; Ferndown, Dorset, 16th July; Castle Sween, Strathclyde, 24th September; Nene Washes, Cambridgeshire, 31st October; Snettisham, Norfolk, 11th November. **Yellow Wagtail** *M.f.feldegg* Wetsleddale, Cumbria, 30th May. **Thrush Nightingale** Cumblewick, Shetland, 13th June. **Siberian Rubythroat** Sandridge, Kent, 10th October. **Black-eared Wheatear** Cromer, Norfolk, 17th August. **Black Wheatear** Stromness, Orkney, 22nd May. **Dusky Thrush** Hemington, Northamptonshire, 9th-10th February. **American Robin** Folkestone, Kent, 22nd December. **Fan-tailed Warbler** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 18th July; Torquay, Devon, 4th September. **Moustached Warbler** Barn Elms Reservoirs, Greater London, 3rd May. **Great Reed Warbler** Radipole, Dorset, 19th July. **Booted Warbler** Fair Isle, Shetland, 9th September. **Pallas's Warbler** St Margaret's, Kent, 23rd October. **Radde's Warbler** St Abbs, Borders, 11th May. **Dusky Warbler** Northiam, East Sussex, 21st November. **Bonelli's Warbler** Norwich, Norfolk, 5th May. **Short-toed Treecreeper** Northward Hill, Kent, 30th July. **Penduline Tit** Pett Pools, East Sussex, two, 7th October. **Lesser Grey Shrike** Penmaen-mawr, Gwynedd, 4th June. **Nutcracker** Ringwood, Hampshire, 15th October. **Arctic Redpoll** Norwick, Unst, Shetland, 19th October. **Two-barred Crossbill** Howgate, Strathclyde, 17th January. **Parrot Crossbill** Eskbank, Lothian, four, 12th March; Loch Fleet, Highland, 17th April. **Trumpeter Finch** Monks Risborough, Buckinghamshire, 5th August. **Little Bunting** Perranporth, Cornwall, 26th-27th February; Loch of the Clans, Croy, Highland, 20th March; Swindon Village, Gloucestershire, 15th April; Ryeford, Gloucestershire, 18th May. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** The Loons, Mainland, Orkney, 16th May. **Black-headed Bunting** Wadebridge, Cornwall, 13th June; Hirta, Western Isles, 5th July.

1988 White-billed Diver Flamborough Head, Humberside, 9th April; 19th November. **Black-browed Albatross** Point Lynas, Gwynedd, 21st November. **Little Shearwater** Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 13th August; Hornsea, Humberside, 14th September; Pendeen, Cornwall, 9th October; Fife Ness, Fife, 11th October; Hornsea, Humberside, 2nd November. **White-faced Petrel** Turnberry Point, Strathclyde, two, 4th September. **Night Heron** Blackmill, Mid Glamorgan, 30th January; Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire, 23rd June. **Glossy Ibis** Radipole, Dorset, 24th April. **American Wigeon** Valley Strand, North Uist, Western Isles, 4th January; Studland, Dorset, 12th February; Loch Stipavat, Lewis, Western Isles, 23rd February. **Surf Scoter** Tayport, Fife, female or immature, 20th November. **Black Kite** Stanhope, Durham, 11th April; Cardiff, South Glamorgan, 3rd May; Regent's Park, Greater London, 24th May; Portchester, Hampshire, 26th May; Heacham, Norfolk, 13th June; Samson, Scilly, two, 5th August; Ramsgate, Kent, 21st October. **White-tailed Eagle** Minsmere, Suffolk, 10th May. **Red-footed Falcon** Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 4th September; Nene Washes, Cambridgeshire, 30th September; Kinver Edge, Staffordshire, 3rd October. **Collared Pratincole** Bridlington, Humberside, 7th August. **Pratincole** Birchgrove, West Glamorgan, 1st July. **American Golden Plover** Hanningfield Reservoir, Essex, 16th September. **American or Pacific Golden Plover** Needwood Airport, Staffordshire, 10th April. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Hilbre, Merseyside, 27th September. **Least Sandpiper** Steart, Somerset, 16th August. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Northwick Warth, Avon, 30th September. **Great Snipe** Needwood Airport, Staffordshire, 6th November. **Upland Sandpiper** Sandside Bay, Highland, 3rd September. **Terek Sandpiper** Steart, Somerset, two, 15th August. **Bonaparte's Gull** Gwithian, Cornwall, 31st December. **Gull-billed Tern** Farlington Marshes, Hampshire, 5th July. **Caspian Tern** Folkestone, Kent, 14th July. **Lesser Crested Tern** Holme, Norfolk, 26th June. **Whiskered Tern** Severn Beach, Avon, 18th May. **White-winged Black Tern** Havergate Island, Suffolk, 10th August; Spurn, Humberside, 9th September. **Rufous Turtle Dove** St Merryn, Cornwall, two, 30th April. **Common Nighthawk** Woolston Eyes, Cheshire, 10th September. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Andover, Hampshire, 25th December. **Alpine Swift** Toyd Down, Hampshire, 30th June; Trumpington, Cambridgeshire, 24th August. **Short-toed Lark** Needwood Airport, Staffordshire, 30th October. **Oriental Skylark** Needwood Airport, Staffordshire, 10th April; Hurst Beach, Hampshire, 12th December. **Red-rumped Swallow** Llandoverly, Dyfed, 17th August; Titchfield Haven, Hampshire, 19th September. **Red-throated Pipit** Nanquidno, Cornwall, 24th October; St Agnes, Scilly, 6th-7th November. **Alpine Accentor** Bradwell, Essex, 24th April. **Isabelline Wheatear** Elegug Stacks, Dyfed, 21st August. **Black-eared Wheatear** Bray, Berkshire, 18th June. **Rock Thrush** St Mary's, Scilly, 1st November. **Savi's Warbler** *L.i.fusca* Pett Level, East Sussex, 23rd-25th October. **Olivaceous Warbler** Lower Itchen Meadows, Hampshire, 10th September. **Subalpine Warbler** Sammy's Point, Humberside, 5th November. **Pallas's Warbler** Fetlar, Shetland, 22nd October. **Woodchat Shrike** Castlemorton Common, Hereford & Worcester, 16th April; Lundy, Devon, 19th September. **Rose-coloured Starling** Donderry, Cornwall, 2nd October; St David's, Dyfed, late October. **American Redstart** St Mary's, Scilly, 17th October. **Pine Bunting** Needwood Airport, Staffordshire, 28th October. **Little Bunting** Truro, Cornwall, two, 12th-13th April.

1987 Black-browed Albatross Bournemouth, Dorset, 23rd July; sea area Dover, 7th August; Filey, North Yorkshire, 11th October; Breil Head, Humberside, 18th October. **Little Shearwater** Sea area Thames, 15th July; sea area Sole, 26th August; Bardsey, Gwynedd, 5th September. **Whistling Swan** Edderthorpe Flash, South Yorkshire, 4th December; Brandon Creek, Cambridgeshire/Norfolk, three, 6th December. **Black Kite** Winspit, Dorset, 2nd May. **White-tailed Eagle** Holme, Norfolk, 6th August; Erewash Valley, Nottinghamshire, 16th August. **Red-footed Falcon** Corton, Suffolk, 10th May; New Forest, Hampshire, 25th May. **American Golden Plover** Dungeness, Kent, 27th May. **White-rumped Sandpiper** East Tilbury, Essex, 19th September. **Stilt Sandpiper** Minsmere, Suffolk, 16th

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.

1986 Black-browed Albatross Filey, North Yorkshire, 15th November. **Little Shearwater** Reay, Highland, three, 25th May. **American Wigeon** Barsham, Suffolk, 28th February. **Crane** Durlston, Dorset, 15th May. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Langenholme Point, Essex, 26th April. **Bonaparte's Gull** Cleveley's, Lancashire, 23rd August. **Little Swift** Wye, Kent, 2nd July. **Roller** Ketton, Leicestershire/Stamford, Lincolnshire, 4th July. **Arctic Redpoll** Caversham, Berkshire, 14th March. **Rustic Bunting** Lundy, Devon, second individual, 13th October.

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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