



Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1990

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 1989 report (83: 439-496). 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 photographed, 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 those of pratincoles *Glareola*, 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, 117, 3)

Orkney See 1989 Orkney below.

Scilly Off Bryher and Samson, first-summer, 6th May (F.K.Hammond, Dr M.E.Witherick *et al.*).

Shetland Whalefirth, Yell, near-adult, 16th-23rd June (W.Stoopendaal, T.Vernooy per T.Prescott *et al.*). Whalsay, adult, since 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 441) to 20th April; again, 23rd November to 1991 (Dr B.Marshall, N.D.Poleson, W.Simpson *et al.*).

Western Isles Balranald, North Uist, adult, 20th May (R.J.Arnfield, N.J.Hallam, R.Riddington).

1988 Humberside Bridlington, adult, 14th March (P.Piringer), presumed same as Filey, North Yorkshire, 11th-12th (Brit. Birds 82: 508).

1989 Orkney Rousay, adult, 28th November to 16th February 1990 (J.B.Ribbands *et al.*).

A remarkable May record from Scilly; the returning Shetland individual is now on some seen-from-window lists.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* (2, 24, 0)

Shetland Hermaness, Unst, individual last recorded 2nd July 1987 (Brit. Birds 81: 539), 27th March to 7th April (M.G.Pennington *et al.*), 26th, 31st May, 10th June (N. & Mrs L.Pleass *et al.*).

The loneliness of the long-staying albatross continues; the only worse possibility for it would be the sudden appearance of another of the same sex.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (5, 75, 3)

Cleveland Hartlepool, 7th September (S.J.Hinley, G.Joynt, S.Ryan).

Lothian Musselburgh, showing characters of *P.a.baroli*, dead, 9th December, now at Royal Scottish Museum (M.Griffin, B.A.Hickman *et al.*).

Western Isles Butt of Lewis, 29th July (K.D.Shaw).

Other reports of this difficult species keep the Committee collectively scratching its head for another year.

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (4, 10, 1)

None in Britain. In Ireland there was one at Bridges of Ross, Co. Clare, on 15th August.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* (50, 8, 1)

None in Britain. In Ireland, one was killed by a dog at Killag, Co. Wexford, on 21st January.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (150, 163, 2)

Dorset Hinton Parva, female, 18th May (Dr G.P.Green).

In Ireland, a female was found exhausted, and subsequently died, at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 16th March.

Another poor year for a species that, not so long ago, seemed set to be an intermittent breeder here.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 240, 46)

Cambridgeshire Ouse Washes, second-summer, 4th May (J.A.Rowlands, R.Spowage).

Cornwall Copperhouse, Hayle, adult, 20th March (L.P.Williams). Loe Pool, first-summer or second-summer, 20th-21st March (S.Bury, A.R.Pay, M.J.Southam), Par, adult, 24th March to 7th April; probable second-summer, 26th March to 10th April (S.M.Christophers, G.R. & M.White *et al.*). St Austell, adult or second-summer, at least 29th March (S.M.Christophers *et al.*). St Clement, Truro, adult, 29th March to 13th April (J.A.Jane, W.A.R.Wolfenden *et al.*).

Devon Lundy, adult, 16th March (A.Gibson, A.M.Jewels, J.Steer). Radford Park, Plymouth, adult, 17th March to 13th April (J.F.Babbington, R.W.White *et al.*). Barnstaple, adult, 5th-6th April, dead 7th, photographed (M.Preston, M.Williams, M.Woollacott).

Dorset Portland, adult, 4th April (M.Cade, P.Howlett *et al.*).

Dyfed Bosherton Ponds, adult, 15th March (C.J.Orsman), possibly same, Westfield Pill, 16th-17th (A.J.Hansen *et al.*), probably same, Rosemarket, 15th April (A. & A.J.Hansen). Skomer, adult, 17th March, found dead, killed by gulls, 21st (A.C. & S.J.Sutcliffe, H.A.Williams *et al.*). St Ishmaels, adult, three days in late March (P. & Mrs M.Edgington). Trecwn, age uncertain, 21st March, photographed (J.R.Hadfield, R.Harris). Near St Nicholas, adult, 29th March (R.Poole). Teifi Marshes, three adults: two 20th March, two and one dead 6th April, two 29th April (M.E.Baines, J.Thomas *et al.*). Ffairfach, adult or second-summer, 16th-21st July (J.Friese, N.R.Matthew, P.Metcalf *et al.*).

Essex Holland Haven, adult, 7th May (C.Atkins).

Glamorgan, West Wern Halog, Gower, first-summer, 26th March (W.E.Jones, K.R.Lloyd). Oxwich, adults, 21st April, presumed same, 4th-7th May, two, 6th (K.Burdett, W.Howard, R.Jarman).

Hampshire Near Ibsley, adult, 24th-25th February (J.M.Clark, J.A.Eyre).

Kent Dymchurch, adult, 25th March (H.Goodwin, D.Walker). Dungeness, adult, 16th April (P.Wells *et al.*); two adults, 29th (D.Sydall, R.R.Thomson, G.Thomson), same, Lade, 29th (N.R.Davies *et al.*).

Lancashire Heysham Harbour, first-summer, 18th March (W.Cross, P.J.Marsh *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Frampton, 25th March to 4th April (A.McKeenan, R.Nowicki).

Norfolk Cley, Salthouse and Kelling, adult, 10th-11th May (J.R.Williamson *et al.*). (Brit. Birds 84: page 453 fig. 1).

Northamptonshire Pitsford Reservoir, juvenile or first-winter, 28th August (E.K.McMahon).

Suffolk Southwold, adult, 13th-20th May (P.H.Wilkinson *et al.*).

Sussex, East Rye, adult, 27th April to 1st May (D.J.Funnell, H.M.J.Taffs, Dr B.J.Yates *et al.*), two, 2nd May (A.F. & Mrs S.J.Burtenshaw *et al.*); adult, 23rd June (D.J.Funnell, Dr B.J.Yates *et al.*).

Sussex, West Littlehampton, adult, 15th-16th April (R.Butler, A.S.Cook, R.J.L.Kemp *et al.*).

West Midlands Hay Head Wood, Walsall, adult, 16th-22nd April, photographed (J.Hollian, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Wight, Isle of Porchfield, adult, 26th-28th March (A.Attrill, D.J.Hunnybun, J.W.Willmot).

Wiltshire Coate Water, adult, 7th May (G.A.J. & P.A.Deacon *et al.*).

Yorkshire, South Denaby Ings, adult, 15th June to at least 5th August (K.A.Dutton, T.Feltham *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Angler's Country-park, Winterset, juvenile, 25th July (D.Grist, Miss V.Holmes, G.J.Speight *et al.*).

1988 Somerset Cheddar, adult, 16th to at least 19th September (Brit. Birds 82: 510), relocated February 1991, apparently ringed Berger Zoo, Arnhem, Netherlands, not Edinburgh as previously reported (per B.Rabbits).

In Ireland, there were records at Carrigrohane on the River Lee, Co. Cork, on 19th March.

One in Northumberland in July was proved to be a free-flyer from Edinburgh Zoo, and some published here could have been escapes, too. The 1988 Somerset record implicates at least one more zoo in the plot. Nevertheless, there was a clear influx in the southwest and south of England and Wales in spring, with some spill-over farther north.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 25, 5)

Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, 20th June (M. & S.F.Davies, G.R. & Mrs H.Welch).

Devon Near Dartmouth, at least 6th-24th June, photographed (D.Howard, P.Sanders, K. & Mrs C.Stone).

Kent Elmley, 7th-14th May, photographed (P.K.J.Chun *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 20th March to 9th April, photographed (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 258). Bryher, 15th May, presumed same, St Martin's, 16th to 1st June (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

With only two others since 1983, there is perhaps as yet no great cause for optimism that this declining heron is likely to reverse its long-term downward trend.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (2, 49, 2)

Norfolk Walpole St Andrew, 25th April (G.M.Kirwan).

Wight, Isle of Calbourne Mill, 12th April (K.Lover).

A minor revival, after the decline in 1988 and absence in 1989.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (23, 589, 113)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, 10th-21st October (R.Higgins *et al.*), also in Somerset.

Cambridgeshire Fen Drayton, 7th May (R.I.Allison, J.S.Hargreaves, Miss J.Morrow).

Clwyd Oakenholt Marsh, 11th May (Dr N.T.Man, G.E.Morris), probably same, 23rd (H.Birch, I.Higginson).

Cornwall About six from 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 443), about 32 additional: Lynher and Tamar Estuaries, St John's Lake, one from 1989 to at least 14th January, another 3rd March to 28th April; 15th July to end of year, two, 21st July to 17th August, end October onwards, three, 28th August to end October, four, 18th-27th August (S.C.Madge *et al.* per S.M.Christophers). Fowey Estuary, one from 1989 to 18th March, another, 28th January to 18th March; two, 10th October to 1991, another, 21st December (per S.M.Christophers). Fal Estuary: Devoran, since 1989 to 23rd April, three, 12th-15th March, presumed one or other, Ruan Lanihorne, 4th January, Tresillian, 14th March, Penryn, 31st (per S.M.Christophers); Ruan Lanihorne, 9th August to 11th September, three, 13th-14th October, one, 1st-27th November, two, 23rd December; up to three, Truro River, intermittently, 19th August to 18th December, presumed same (per S.M.Christophers). Hayle Estuary, three since 1989 to 30th January, another, 1st January, one found dead, two to 2nd May, one to 5th; two, 5th July to 31st August, another, 26th July; one to end of year, another, 30th September (D.S.Flumm, L.P.Williams *et al.* per S.M.Christophers). Gannel Estuary, two since 1989 to 22nd April; one, 25th October to 1991 (S.M.Christophers *et al.*). Camel Estuary, 8th March to 15th April; two, 26th July to 1st August, one to 30th (per S.M.Christophers). Helford Estuary, 21st March. Poldhu and Gunwalloe, 21st April. Croft Pascoe, 27th July. Rame Head, 4th August (all per S.M.Christophers). Par, two, 30th September (D.Jackson). Drift Reservoir, 8th September to 6th October (M.Southam *et al.*), probably from Hayle.

Cumbria Duddon Estuary, 19th-20th July, photographed (R.I.Kinley, D.Thexton *et al.*).

Devon Three from 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 444), about 11 additional, but one also in Cornwall: Kingsbridge Estuary, since 1989 to at least January. Avon Estuary, 8th February (K.Goatly); 17th August (J.C.Lowen). Erme Estuary, 16th April, 5th May, 14th August (A.S.C.Barker, A.J.Pomroy); at least four, possibly six, 18th August to 7th September, one, 4th October (J.F.Babbington, J.C.Lowen, V.R.Tucker *et al.*); one, 21st October (A.J.Pomroy). Tavy Estuary, 6th to at least 23rd May, presumed same as Erme, two from 11th, three, 23rd (P.Edmonds), one presumed also in Cornwall, presumed one of same, Plym Estuary, 7th May (M.Simmonds). River Yealm, two, 15th December to 1991 (A.J.Pomroy). River Otter, 16th January to at least 4th February (J.F.Capper, G.H.Gush *et al.*), probably 1989 Exe Estuary individual; 28th-29th June (E.Brooks, K.Pellow); 10th-21st August, four, 12th, three, 15th, two, 21st (K.Pellow *et al.*). Exe Estuary, 25th August to 22nd September, two, 25th-27th August, 16th September, three, 20th-22nd September, six, 9th September (M.D.Elcoate, R.H.Montgomery, R.C.Thornett *et al.*); one, 29th September (T.H.Smith). Teign Estuary, 10th, 13th August (S.E.Barbato), presumed same as Exe. Taw and Torridge Estuaries, since 1989 to at least June; 5th August; two, 1st September, three, 3rd (D.Churchill, D.Davies, C.Snook *et al.*).

Dorset One since 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 444), about 14 additional: Poole Harbour, principally Brand's Bay and Studland, monthly maxima: four, January; three, February to May; one, June; four, July; 14, August to October; 11, November; seven, December (S.J.Morrison *et al.*). Christchurch Harbour, 2nd, 6th May, 21st July, 11th August, 12th, 24th October, six, 28th August (I.Rabjohns, D.N.Smith *et al.* per M.Cade). Abbotsbury, 19th, 29th June, 12th, 15th-17th, 20th July (S.A.Groves *et al.*). Langton Herring, 8th July, 23rd September (per M.Cade). East Fleet, 15th-16th June (P.M.Harris *et al.*). Radipole, 16th June, photographed, 9th-11th, 30th September (B.Spencer *et al.*). Portland, 22nd September (per M.Cade). All presumed Poole Harbour individuals.

Dyfed Teifi Marshes, 3rd-5th April (M.E.Baines, J.Higgins, W.Lee *et al.*), probably one or other of 1989 Dyfed individuals (Brit. Birds 83: 444, and 1989 Dyfed below). Gann Estuary, 14th April to 10th May (J.W. & Mrs J.E.Donovan, A.H.Hansen), possibly same, West Williamston, 6th May (P.Howe *et al.*). Pen-clawydd, 6th August to at least 29th September, two from 8th August, four, 9th-18th, five, 13th, three, 23rd to 6th September, two, 8th (M.C.Powell, A.Richardson, B.Stewart *et al.*). Kidwelly, 24th November (F.B.Jenkins), presumed same, Dale Pools, 27th (J.W. & Mrs J.E.Donovan).

Essex Old Hall Marshes, 2nd May (M. & Mrs J.Stott). Fingringhoe Wick, 29th July (J.A.Norgate *et al.*).

Glamorgan, West Landimore Marsh, 16th December to 1991 (H.E.Grenfell).

Gloucestershire Cotswold Water Park, three, 6th May (R.G.Baatsen, G.C.Clutterbuck, N.R.Smart *et al.*).

Hampshire Timsbury, 4th February (D.A.Thelwell), probably since 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 444-445). Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour, 13th May (T.D.Codlin, P.M.Potts *et al.*). Pennington Marsh, 23rd-24th June (M.C. & P.Combridge *et al.*). Northwest Solent from Hurst Spit to Sowley Shore, up to four, 5th August to 28th October (M.C. & P.Combridge *et al.*). Tanner's Creek, Lyminster, 21st November (S.G.Keen).

Kent Dungeness, 13th April (W.Gorst, T.Strudwick, C.Thain *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Kirkby-on-Bain, 6th May (P.A.Hyde).

Merseyside Leasowe, 21st May (M.R.Gough), same, Red Rocks, 21st (Dr J.E. & M.G.Turner *et al.*), presumed same as Clwyd.

Norfolk Welney, two, 7th-9th May, one to 10th (J.B.Kemp, D.Revett, K.Warrington), presumed same, Denver Sluice, 7th-9th (Dr J.Lines, M.Rae).

Northamptonshire Stanwick, 12th-13th May (J.I.Blinchow, R.W.Bullock, S.Layton *et al.*).

Northumberland Bamburgh, 23rd June (D.G.Bell, G.Russell *et al.*), same, Budle Bay, 24th, 1st-11th July (D.McKeown *et al.*), same, Tweed Estuary, 18th (J.R.Irving, W.T.Logan, E.Slack).

Orkney Loch of Banks, 14th June to end July, same, Loch of Hundland, 9th August to at least 4th September (C.J.Booth, R.Cryer, P.Reynolds *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 17th-25th December (D.J.D.Hickman, R.Symmons, W.H.Wagstaff).

Somerset West Sedgemoor, at least 13th March (B.D.Gibbs, R.L.Musgrove, S.Rogers). Cheddar Reservoir, 7th to at least 8th October (T.A.Box, B.Rabbitts *et al.*), also in Avon.

Strathclyde Danna, Argyll, 28th May (J.Blatcher, Ms C.Pollock).

Suffolk Minsmere, 16th-17th May (C.Seagrave). Havergate, 2nd to at least 30th August (N.Green *et al.*).

Sussex, East Pett Level, 12th May (C.H.Dean, J.A.B.Gale).

Sussex, West Chichester Harbour, 13th January, presumed since 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 445), 15th February, 4th March, 30th April to 3rd May (C.B. & Mrs M.A.Collins *et al.*), presumed same, Pagham Harbour, 28th April (C.R.Janman); 18th August, 5th September to 6th October, two, 11th, 23rd September, 5th October; 4th November to at least 28th December, two, at least 4th-5th November, 4th-5th December (C.B. & Mrs M.A.Collins *et al.*), presumed one of same, Pagham Harbour, 13th, 15th August, 10th, 25th November (A.F. & Mrs S.J.Burtenshaw, C.M. & Mrs B.James, C.R.Janman *et al.*).

Wight, Isle of Lakeside, 16th August (P.J.Barden, K.Lover), presumed from Hampshire.

Yorkshire, North Southwold, 9th May (P.J.Dunn), possibly same as Lincolnshire.

1989 Cambridgeshire Sacrewell, at least one, at least 26th August, probably mid August to mid September (C.Leon, D.K.J.Withrington *et al.*).

1989 Cheshire/Ciwyd Inner Marsh Farm and Burton Marsh, Cheshire, 9th-11th May (S.P.Lloyd, C.J. & S.R.Williams *et al.*), presumed same, 18th-20th (G.H.Rhodes *et al.*), probably same as 1989 Gwynedd (Brit. Birds 83: 444).

1989 Dorset Abbotsbury, two, 23rd May (S.A.Groves *et al.*); 14th, 21st-29th July, two, 21st, 20th August, 9th December (S.A.Groves *et al.*), both probably from Poole Harbour (Brit. Birds 83: 444).

1989 Dyfed Capel Bangor, 12th December (E.Moore), same, Aberystwyth, 16th December to mid January 1990, photographed, Dyfi Estuary to about mid March 1990 (P.A.Gregory, P.M.Miles *et al.*), probably one or other of Nevern Estuary individuals (Brit. Birds 83: 444). Gwendraeth Estuary, Cardiganshire (Brit. Birds 83: 444), locality is in Carmarthenshire.

1989 Hampshire Langstone Harbour, 24th May (C.J.Glover, C.J.Tyas).

1989 Kent Dungeness, 13th August intermittently to 6th September (D.Walker *et al.*), same as East Sussex, Lade, Kent, individuals (Brit. Birds 83: 445). Elmley, 14th August (R.L.Morgan *et al.*), presumed same as Stodmarsh, 17th (Brit. Birds 83: 445).

1989 Norfolk Salthouse, 20th September (E.T.Myers), same as Blakeney Point, 21st (Brit. Birds 83: 445).

1989 Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, 16th to at least 18th August (D.L.Buckingham, B.Rabbitts *et al.*).

1989 Sussex, West Knepp Millpond, Shipley, 26th October (M.Hulme, C.W.Melgar, S.C.Richardson).

1989 Wight, Isle of St Helen's Millpond, up to two, intermittently, 5th-13th August (E.J. & M.Crinage, J.C.Gloyn, D. & J.Nurney *et al.*). Newtown Estuary, 9th-13th August, two 13th (J.W.Willmott *et al.*). Wootton Creek, 11th-15th September (J.C.Gloyn, G.R. & M.S.Sparshott). All probably from Hampshire (Brit. Birds 83: 444-445).

In Ireland, there was one at Clonakilty on 25th March (probably the same as the late report of one there on 25th December 1989); one at Castletownsend on 19th March, joined by a second individual on 31st March; two at Carrigaline on 11th April, one remaining until 24th; two at Ballycotton on 11th May; one at Ballymacoda during 19th June to 25th November, joined by a second on 30th September; one at Roscarbery from 29th September until late October; one at Lough Beg on 1st October; and one in Cork Harbour from 2nd December into 1991 (all Co. Cork); one at Ballray, Co. Louth, on 8th April; one at Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, on 23rd July, joined by a second from 31st July to 18th August; one at Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, on 5th May.

The occasional misidentified distant gull or paper bag probably has little statistical significance in the recent flood of records of this species. It is, however, a lovely bird, so don't knock it. Little Egrets also remain good finds inland and Avon, Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Somerset records are noteworthy among the plethora of coastal reports.

From the start of 1991, records of Little Egret, recently our most numerous rarity, will no longer be considered by the Committee, though records should continue to be submitted to county recorders.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 35, 5)

Cleveland Scaling Dam Reservoir, 19th July (M.A.Blick).

Highland Near Maryburgh, Cromarty Firth, 4th June (A.S. & J.A.Sweetland).

Kent Dungeness, 8th August, photographed (Miss P.Miller, T.Strudwick). Stodmarsh, 23rd August to at least mid October (D.Feast *et al.*), presumed same as Dungeness individual, also in Sussex, below.

Leicestershire Rutland Water, 26th May (D.J.S.Gamble, A.H.J.Harrop, A.J.Mackay *et al.*).

Norfolk Welney, 2nd July (J.B. & L.Kemp, D.Revett); presumed same, 23rd-24th (J.Arbon, J.B.Kemp). Hickling, 15th July (J.H.Marchant, Dr M.J.Proven). Joist Fen and Decoy Farm area, 4th August, possibly since late July (P.J.Dolton, J.M.Garner), all presumed same individual, also in Suffolk, below.

Suffolk Northwest, 27th and 29th July (E., J. & R.Secker), same as Norfolk.

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 5th August (N.A.Driver *et al.*), presumed same as Kent and Isle of Wight.

Wight, Isle of Newtown, 6th August (C.Burland, K.Lover, J.Willmot *et al.*), also in West Sussex and Kent.

1989 Yorkshire, West Bretton Lakes, 10th May, photographed (J.B.Baxter, M.Tunmore, M.J.Watson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 297).

Wandering individuals probably exaggerate the impression, but this was another good year for this eye-catching heron.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 48, 8)

Dorset Radipole, juvenile, 14th-15th September, photographed (B.Spencer, D.Wilson *et al.*).

Essex Old Hall Marshes and Hamford Water, juvenile, 25th-26th August (M.Stott, R.Turner *et al.*), also in Suffolk.

Greater London Kennington, 25th August (G.C.Davey, H.S. & Mrs B.J.Jolliffe), also in Essex and Suffolk.

Hampshire New Forest and Avon Valley area, adult, 7th April to at least 17th June (D.J.Burges, M.C. & P.Combridge, M.J.Mockler *et al.*).

Hertfordshire Tyttenhanger Gravel-pits, adult, 16th April (R.Evershed), presumed same, near Hemel Hempstead, 2nd May (R.Nye), also in Surrey.

Lancashire Leighton Moss, adult, 21st June (M.S.Hill, G.Taylor), possibly also in Orkney.

Norfolk Flitcham, probably first-summer, 6th June (E.Cross).

Northamptonshire Barnwell Brook, juvenile, 27th-28th July, photographed (M.Duerden, J.W.W.Metcalf *et al.*), also in Suffolk.

Orkney Sanday, adult, 23rd-24th June, photographed (F.Muir, R.Thorne) (Brit. Birds 84: plates 237 & 238), possibly same as Lancashire.

Powys/Shropshire Upper Teme Valley area, adult, 30th August to 6th September, possibly since 9th August (P.P.Jennings, Dr R.H.Townsend *et al.*).

Shropshire See Powys/Shropshire.

Suffolk Ellough and Sotterley area, juvenile, 28th-29th July (C.A.Buttle, M.Parker, R.Walden *et al.*), same, 16 further localities, various dates to at least 1st September (per P.W.Murphy), also in Essex and Northamptonshire.

Surrey Pirbright Common, 2nd May (P.M.Troake), also in Hertfordshire.

Another species of which individuals are likely to be seen in a number of localities, even perhaps several counties, but which is clearly enjoying a minor boom.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 55, 2)

Cambridgeshire Ouse Washes, 30th November to 2nd December (A.Davenhill, J.A.Rowlands *et al.*), also in Norfolk.

Kent Stodmarsh area, 1989 individual (Brit. Birds 83: 447), 1st January to mid March, intermittently May to end August, regularly to end of year; same, Sheppey, 20th April (per T.Hodge). Brookland, 14th May (N.R.Davies, M.Tickner), presumed not Stodmarsh individual.

Norfolk Ouse Washes, 19th December, same as Cambridgeshire.

There is a continuing trickle of reports considered not to refer to the regular Kent individuals.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* (0, 6, 1)

In Ireland, there was an adult showing the characters of the nominate North American and Siberian race at the North Slob, Co. Wexford, on 29th December.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (47, 76, 0)

1989 Tayside Menmuir, adult, at least 13th-14th December, photographed (M.Andrews *et al.*).

The only report for 1989, but the species still took 1990 as a year off.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* (1, 46, 5)

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

Essex Kirby-le-Soken, adult, 15th-20th January (Dr S. & Mrs P.A.Cox, M.Hutchings), same, Hamford Water, 1st February (B.D.Gee).

Essex/Greater London King George V Reservoir, adult, 18th March (A.J.Gray, P.J.Vines *et al.*).

Greater London See Essex/Greater London.

Hampshire See West Sussex.

Norfolk Breydon Water, adult, 6th November to at least 22nd December (P.R.Allard, J.Oates *et al.*).

Sussex, West Thorney Deepes and Pilsley Island, Chichester Harbour, adult, 12th October to 1991, also Hayling Island, Hampshire (C.B.Collins *et al.*), presumed returning individual (Brit. Birds 83: 448).

1985 Norfolk Thornham, adult, 19th November (Brit. Birds 80: 525), Thornham/Holme area, 12th-13th December (V.Eve).

In Ireland, there were single adults at Killough on 18th March; at Dundrum Bay on 15th-16th March, and again from 18th December to 19th January 1991 (all Co. Down); at Rogerstown, Co. Dublin, from mid April until 30th April; and at the Bann Estuary, Co. Londonderry, on 30th September. Also, a belated record of an adult at Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, Co. Londonderry, on 25th October 1988, and again at the same site on 3rd-8th October 1989.

An expected pattern, with no particularly noteworthy events.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 195, 17)

Borders Coldstream, male, 4th-5th May (R.R.Elliot, J.F.McConnell *et al.*).

Cheshire/Clwyd Inner Marsh Farm, male, 30th November to 26th December (I.Higginson *et al.*).

Cleveland Hartlepool, first-winter male, 11th-16th March (G.Joynt *et al.*).

Clwyd See Cheshire/Clwyd.

Cumbria Leven Estuary, male, 13th to at least 25th February (D.Jewel, C.Raven *et al.*).

Devon Exmouth and Dawlish Warren, male, 24th December to at least 5th January 1991 (B.B.Heaseman *et al.*).

Fife Stenhouse Reservoir, male, female, 12th to at least 13th November 1989, first-winter male, 13th, same three, Lochgelly Loch, 24th to 1990 (Brit. Birds 83: 448), same three, Stenhouse Reservoir, to 19th January, male, 27th, first-winter male to 4th February; male returned 12th October, all three by 21st November, male, female to 19th December (J.S.Nadin *et al.* per D.E.Dickson).

Gloucestershire Dudgrove, Cotswold Water-park, male, 16th December to 24th January 1991 (N.Pleass *et al.*).

Highland Handa Island, male, 19th May (M.Self).

Humberside Messingham, male, 14th September intermittently to 1st December (G.P.Catley, J.T.Harriman, C.Nimick *et al.*), same, Kirton Lindsey, 4th October, photographed (J.T.Harriman).

Lancashire Martin Mere, male, 11th February to 24th March; another, 4th-8th March; first-winter male, 20th February to 8th March (G.R.Clarkson, T.P.Drew, D.J.Rigby *et al.*).

Lothian Gladhouse Reservoir, male, 3rd February to 18th April, presumed same, Rosebery Reservoir, 10th-27th February, Musselburgh, 18th March; Bavelaw Reservoir, 24th-27th March; presumed same, Gladhouse and Rosebery Reservoirs, 17th October to 1991 (T.Gillies, A.O'Connor *et al.*).

Norfolk Cley, male, 14th-18th March (T.R.Dean *et al.*). Berney Marshes, male, 10th April (P.R.Allard *et al.*).

Northumberland Fenham-le-Moor, Lindisfarne, male, 3rd-15th October (M.Parsons, S.Percival, R.M.Ward *et al.*).

Yorkshire, South Wath Ings, male, 6th September (J.M.Turton *et al.*).

1987 Dorset Stanpit Marsh and Brownsea Island, 3rd-5th May (Brit. Birds 83: 449), 2nd (S.E.Barbato).

In Ireland, there were returning males at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, from 12th October 1989 to March 1990, and again from 6th October 1990 into 1991; at Ballintubbrid, Co. Cork, from 2nd October 1989 to 1990 and again from 1st November 1990 into 1991; and at Greysteel, Lough Foyle, Co. Londonderry, from 4th to 19th November 1989. Also a male at Sligo Harbour, Co. Sligo, on 24th November 1990.

An intriguing trio in Fife enlivens an otherwise fairly standard (but quite widespread) list here. There have been occasional ageing difficulties with 'immature' males showing 'adult' white forewings, which do not fit the established pattern of moult, in which the wings should be the last to change.

Teal *Anas crecca* (13, 295, 19)

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

Avon Chew Valley Lake, 3rd February, presumed same, 29th September to 23rd February 1991 (K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*), presumed returning individual last recorded 7th December 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 449).

Central Loch Lubnaig, 13th February (D.Garratt, R.Saville).

Cornwall Copperhouse Creek, Hayle, 12th-15th February (D.S.Flumm, L.P.Williams *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, 2nd February (G.Richards *et al.*).

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, to 4th March, same, Farlington Marsh to at least 2nd January (Brit. Birds 83: 449).

Kent Sevenoaks, 6th February to 4th March (P.Larkin, T.Laws *et al.*).

Lancashire Martin Mere, 28th October to 1991 (T.P.Drew, D.J.Rigby *et al.*), also in Merseyside; first-winter, 2nd-17th November (J. & T.P.Drew, D.J.Rigby), also Merseyside.

Merseyside Marshside Marsh, 13th January (P.I.Holt *et al.*), presumed same 25th-28th March, 29th December to 1991 (B.McCarthy *et al.*), also in Lancashire; first-winter, 29th December to 1991 (Miss S.Gullane, P.I.Holt *et al.*), also in Lancashire.

Norfolk Welney, 15th-16th March (J.Arbon, L.Butler, J.B.Kemp). Berney Marshes, 17th-22nd March (P.R.Allard *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Daventry C.P., 15th January (G.Pullan).

Northumberland Holywell Pond, 8th-22nd May (T.J.Tams *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Lound, 1st-9th April, photographed (G. & P.Hobson *et al.*).

Shetland Trondra, 12th-17th March (P.Barry *et al.*). Scatness, 16th December to at least January 1991 (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Somerset Wet Moor, 9th March (D.J.Chown). Durleigh Reservoir, at least 4th November (J.G.Hole, S.Rogers *et al.*).

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, 11th November to at least 26th January 1991 (W.J.Low *et al.*).

Strathclyde See 1989 Strathclyde below.

Warwickshire Draycote Water, 4th February (A.R.Dean *et al.*).

1989 Cheshire Rostherne Mere, 28th January to 12th February (M.Bailey, T.P.Drew *et al.*).

1989 Fife Cameron Reservoir, 22nd October (T.C.Smout *et al.*), presumed same as Eden Estuary individual, 16th February 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 515).

1989 Lancashire Martin Mere, 29th September discontinuously to 2nd March 1990 (E.J.Abraham, G.R.Clarkson, D.J.Rigby *et al.*), presumed returning individual last recorded Marshside Marsh, Merseyside, 8th-16th April 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 449), presumed same also in Merseyside, above.

1989 Northumberland Castle Island, River Wansbeck, 17th December (J.R.Todd).

1989 Strathclyde Easter Ellister, 31st March to 3rd April (Brit. Birds 83: 450), presumed same Ardnave Loch, Islay, 25th December, Easter Ellister, 24th-25th January 1990, Loch Indaal, 30th (P.Cashman, Dr M.A.Ogilvie, C.Smout *et al.*).

In Ireland, there were two males at Lough Beg, Co. Cork, on 18th January.

Within a typical sort of list, there are still surprises, such as the Northamptonshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire records in areas where this race is still exceptionally rare.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (1, 16, 1)

Shetland Loch of Spiggie, male, 4th February to 29th April (R.L.Howells, M.Mellor *et al.*).

In Ireland, a late acceptance concerns a female at North Slob, Co. Wexford, during 21st February to 13th March 1989.

Remaining unpredictable and rare, this is one of the harder wildfowl to get to grips with in years when the occasional long-stayers fail to show up.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (19, 146, 2)

Norfolk Cley, male, 22nd June to 12th July (M.A.Golley *et al.*), probably same, Titchwell, 20th-30th August, 20th to at least 29th September (J.B.Kemp, R.Q.Skeen, K.Warrington *et al.*).

1988 Berkshire See 1989 Berkshire.

1988 Cambridgeshire Fen Drayton, female paired with Shoveler *A.clypeata* (Brit. Birds 83: 359), 6th August to 8th October, possibly since June; male-type hybrid, 17th December (R.M.Patient *et al.*).

1989 Berkshire Theale, male, 19th May (Brit. Birds 83: 450), was in 1988.

1989 Warwickshire Brandon Marsh, female, 20th August to at least 12th November (F.Stokes, J.Walton, T.W.Willey *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was an adult male at Ballymacoda, Co. Cork, from 16th November into 1991.

Whether escapes are more likely in June, or more likely than true vagrants to pair up with Shovelers *A.clypeata*, are matters for speculation with no firm evidence. We leave you to draw your own conclusions.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1, 272, 24)

Cornwall Drift Reservoir and Marazion, first-winter male, last recorded 28th December 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 451), again, Marazion, 20th January, 20th February, Drift Reservoir, 19th February, 4th-5th March (S.M.Christophers, Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*). Drift Reservoir, males, 4th-27th December, two, 5th-27th (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*), one of same, Marazion, 28th December to 1991 (R.Hathway *et al.*). Loe Pool, two males, 29th September to 23rd October, two, 18th November to 1st December, one to 6th, same as Drift Reservoir/Marazion individuals, female or juvenile, 29th September to 19th October (S.Bury, Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*). Stithians Reservoir, first-winter male, 24th-27th September (F.H.Honeychurch, Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Devon Huntsham Barton, male, 18th December 1989 to at least 3rd March (Brit. Birds 83: 451). Kitley Pond, female, 10th-24th March, photographed (A.J.Pomroy).

Dorset Poole Park, male, 10th to at least 22nd November (Mrs J.V.Bale, Dr G.P.Green *et al.*), presumed returning individual of 9th December 1989 to 1990 (Brit. Birds 83: 451); same, Littlesea, 16th-17th December (S.J.Morrison).

Durham Shibdon Pond, 31st May (per T.Armstrong), also in Tyne & Wear.

Dyfed Llyn Fanod, female, 13th January intermittently to early March (P.E.Davies, P.A.Gregory, L.James *et al.*).

Hereford & Worcester Lower Bittell Reservoir, Worcestershire, male, 28th March (K.G.Clifford, G.J.Mant, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Highland Loch Pityoulish, male, 18th February (N.A.Bell, I.Crowther, C.P.Musgrave).

Lancashire Carnforth, female, 26th October to 1991 (R.Homan, P.J.Marsh, T.Wilmer *et al.*), same, Leighton Moss, at least 13th November (per P.J.Marsh).

Northamptonshire Pitsford Reservoir, female, 16th, 22nd-23rd September (D.J.Burges, R.D.Gossage *et al.*), same, Billing Gravel-pits, 30th September (R.W.Bullock, M.L.Overton, A.J.Whitehouse).

Northumberland Cresswell Pond, female, 6th January (A.D.McLevy), same, Holywell Pond, intermittently, 10th March to 3rd May (P.A.Buskin, J.R.Todd, K.W.York *et al.*), also in Tyne & Wear.

Nottinghamshire Clumber Park, male, 26th April intermittently to 14th May (R.Overton *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, male, 8th-17th October (B.Orr *et al.*).

Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, male, 8th March (T.A.Box, J.G.Hole, B.Rabbits). Westhay Moor, male, 28th May (B.Rabbits).

Strathclyde Bogton Loch, Dallmelington, Ayrshire, male, 9th-10th October (E.M.Hissett *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Marden Quarry, female, 28th January to 18th February, intermittently 29th May to 17th October; same, Tynemouth Park, 24th-29th September (C. & T.K.Bradshaw, M.S.Hodgson *et al.*), presumed returning individual last recorded Druridge Ponds, Northumberland, 1st August 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 452), also in Durham. Marden Quarry, male, intermittently 28th January to 18th February (C.Bradshaw, A.Hutt *et al.*), presumed same as Northumberland individual last recorded 29th November 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 452), also in Durham and Northumberland. Marine Park Lake, South Shields, male, intermittently, 11th April to 7th May, 31st October, 11th-12th December (Brit. Birds 84: plate 257) also in Durham; female, intermittently, 25th February to 12th April (T.I.Mills *et al.* per T.Armstrong) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 190), also in Northumberland.

Western Isles Linciate, Benbecula, male, 11th April (P.S.Read).

Yorkshire, West Swillington Park Lake, male, 31st March (M.J.Hobbs, J.C.Lowen, A.J.Musgrove). Angler's Reservoir, Winterset, male, 31st August to 11th September (J.M.Turton *et al.*).

1986 Dyfed Skokholm, female, 12th October (J.Hayes, S.J.Sutcliffe *et al.*).

1989 Derbyshire/South Yorkshire Rother Valley Country Park, male, 8th-28th September (D.Hursthouse), presumed returning individual, last recorded Catcliffe Flash, South Yorkshire, 8th June to 9th November 1988 (Brit. Birds 83: 453).

1989 Shetland Loch of Collaster, Sandness, female, 22nd January to 13th February (M.Mellor, D.Suddaby).

1989 Yorkshire, South See Derbyshire/South Yorkshire.

In Ireland, there are belated records of four juveniles at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 17th October 1987; a male at Inch Lake, Co. Donegal, on 28th May 1989; and a female at Vartry Reservoir, Co. Wicklow, from 8th January to 26th February 1989. In 1990, there were an adult male and four females at Carrigadroghid Reservoir, Co. Cork, from 10th February to 19th March, joined by a second adult male from 25th February; a male at The Gearagh, Co. Cork, from 5th April to 10th May and again on 22nd November (these possibly involving one of the Carrigadroghid birds); a female at Rostellan, Co. Cork, from 27th December to 2nd January 1991; a female at Blanket Nook, Co. Donegal, on 7th April; and an adult male at North Slob, Co. Wexford, on 14th January.

One or two of these were sometimes rather tame, but associated with perfectly wild Tufted Ducks *A.fuligula* and Pochards *A.ferina*, which came for bread with the local Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos* (as Ring-neckeds do in the USA), and could not logically be ruled out on that score.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0, 2, 1)

Nottinghamshire Lound, male, 22nd-23rd April, photographed (G. & P.Hobson *et al.*).

In Ireland, the returning male was present at a number of sites in Co. Armagh and Co. Down from 13th February until 14th April 1988; from 4th September 1988 to 3rd May 1989; from 13th December 1989 to 27th April 1990; and again from 7th December 1990 to at least February 1991.

After the first in 1987, this neat duck is becoming almost expected in these listings, but noticing one and then settling its identity remains a creditable achievement.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 149, 4)

Fife Tayport, male, intermittently to 31st March (N.Mann per D.E.Dickson), same as Ythan Estuary, Grampian, individual, 25th November 1989 to at least January (Brit. Birds 83: 454), same, 28th November (R.McCurley per D.E.Dickson), also in Grampian, below.

Grampian Ythan Estuary, male, first recorded 25th November 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 454) to 25th February (S.A.Reeves *et al.*), presumed same, Donmouth, 8th March to 15th April (per K.D.Shaw), 23rd December to 1991 (I.Carter, A.Webb *et al.*), also in Fife, above. Additional male, last recorded 6th June 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 454), 1st April to 10th June, photographed (B.J.Stewart *et al.*), presumed same, 19th July to 13th October (K.D.Shaw *et al.*); further male, 19th to at least 25th May, photographed (P.Larkin, I.Merrill *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 256), probably one of Donmouth individuals below. Donmouth, two males, 2nd April (S.Holloway). Murcar, male, 6th June, 16th July (K.A. & K.D.Shaw), probably one of Donmouth individuals above; possibly same, Girdleness, 2nd-31st August (I.M.Phillips, S.A.Reeves *et al.*); male, 6th October to 5th November (M.G.Pennington, J.L. & M.Swallow *et al.*), probably other of Donmouth individuals above, probably same, Donmouth, 22nd November to 3rd December (G.M.Buchan).

Orkney Deerness, male, 27th to at least 29th May (Mrs Manson, E.R.Meek *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 19th July to at least 13th December (P.V.Harvey *et al.*), presumed returning individual last recorded 5th November 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 454).

1988 Highland Loch Fleet, male, 23rd March (C.G.Bradshaw *et al.*).

1989 Gwynedd Aber Dyssini, female, 13th August (S.N.G.Howell, J.P.Martin *et al.*), presumed same as Black Rock Sands, 28th January to 23rd September 1989 (Brit. Birds. 83: 454).

Returning and wandering individuals weave a difficult maze, through which careful observers manage to tread a moderately clear path, but there is inevitably some risk of duplication. Shetland observations show some tricky characters when it comes to ageing immature males.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* (0, 6, 0)

An individual showing the characters of the North American and East Siberian race *M.n.americana* was recorded as follows:

1989 Dumfries & Galloway Loch Ryan, male, 16th February (P.M.Hill, J.M.Mottishaw).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (75, 274, 14)

Cleveland Hartlepool, male, 17th September (D.Cowton, M.N.Diswell).

Clwyd Llandulas, first-winter male, 2nd-15th December (R.D.Corran, C.Rowley *et al.*)

Dyfed Skokholm, male, 25th October (M.Betts).

Fife St Andrew's, two males, at least 16th, 19th, 25th February; first-winter male, at least 16th, 19th February; female, at least 16th, 19th February (G.M.Cresswell, J.S.Nadin, D.R.Stewart per D.E.Dickson *et al.*). Largo Bay, males, two, 25th March, four, 19th April, three, 21st, 26th; females, two, 19th April, one, 21st, 26th (J.S.Nadin, M.Ramage per D.E.Dickson). All adults presumed returning 1989 Fife and Lothian individuals (Brit. Birds 83: 455-456).

Grampian Murcar, first-winter male, 28th April to 3rd May (K.D.Shaw, M.G.Watson *et al.*); male, 2nd-4th June (K.D.Shaw *et al.*). Culbin Bar, male, 6th November to 16th December (A.Mee, D.M.Pullan, I.J.Rowlands). Burghead Bay, male, 13th-16th December (P.Coulson, R.J.Evans, D.M.Pullan). Latter two presumed returning 1989 Grampian and Highland individuals (Brit. Birds 83: 455).

Humberside Flamborough Head, male, 21st January (M.Newsome, B.Richards, P.J.Willoughby *et al.*).

Lothian Gosford Bay, male 30th March to 14th May, two, 7th-8th April; first-winter male, 28th March to 14th May, probably same as Fife individual, February, above; female, 30th March to 14th May (A.Brown, P.R.Gordon *et al.*). Musselburgh, male, female, 5th-7th May, probably from Gosford Bay (P.Bould *et al.*). Fisherrow and Musselburgh, two males, female, 15th-28th December (A.Brown, J.O'Connor, J.Peters *et al.*). Prestonpans, two males, 23rd December, probably from Musselburgh (I.Gordon, D.J.Kelly). All adults presumed returning individuals (Brit. Birds 83: 455-456).

Northumberland Holy Island, male, 18th April (P.Howlett, F.M.Hunter). Seaton Sluice, male, 3rd-4th November (R.Fairhurst, K.W.Regan *et al.*).

Shetland Voe of Cullingsburgh, Bressay, male, 31st May to 7th June (D.Suddaby, D.G. & Mrs J.C.Wellings *et al.*), presumed same Noss Sound, 15th-28th August (A.F.Silcocks *et al.*).

Strathclyde Loch Indaal, Islay, male, 11th-13th May (Dr M.A.Ogilvie *et al.*).

Tayside Lunan Bay, male, 12th September (K.D.Shaw).

In Ireland, there are belated records of two males and one female at Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, on 5th November 1988 and a female at Broad Strand, Co. Cork, from 1989 until 25th March 1990. Other 1990 records involve an adult male at Bundoran, Co. Donegal, on 10th November; two males at Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, on 30th November, one remaining to 19th December; and a male at Tyrella beach, Co. Down, on 16th December.

Alan Brown suggests that the cautious treatment of all the 1990 Fife and Lothian adults, as returning individuals, reflects the minimum of ten adults in the Forth in 1989 and the known movements of those in that area. Both 1989 and 1990, however, saw new first-years arrive and the general picture is impossible to assess with certainty.

Records of this species after the end of 1990 will no longer be considered by the Committee, but will continue to be welcomed by the county recorders.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 131, 11)

Cornwall Buryas Bridge and other localities, west Cornwall and Land's End area, 2nd October to 17th November (Dr J.F.Ryan, M.P.Semmens *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 239).

Devon Haldon Forest, 3rd May (R.Khan). Kenton, 16th November (D.Smallshire).

Dorset Yetminster, 26th March (B.J.Matthews, R.Newton).

Dyfed Skokholm, 20th May (M.Betts *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes, 21st May, same, St Mary's, 21st May to 4th June, photographed (D.J.D.Hickman, J.Pellow *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plates 240 & 241). St Mary's, 13th-14th July (D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*).

Suffolk Benacre, 29th April (R.Walden). Wantisden, 6th May (M.C.Marsh, S.H.Piotrowski). Reydon and Easton Broad, 16th June (R.Walden).

Sussex, East Pett and Icklesham area, 7th July (D.P.Butterfield, I.D.Hunter, S.J.R.Rumsey *et al.*).

1988 Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 17th April (D.R.Bromwich, P.M.Troake).

Early (Dorset), late (Cornwall and Devon) and average ones are all here, although numbers eased off a little after the 15 in 1989.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (many, 18, 3)

Humberside Sammy's Point, Kilnsea, immature, 23rd October (B.Richards, R.Winspear *et al.*).

Kent St Margaret's, immature, 22nd October (A.J.Greenland, I.P.Hodgson, R.S.Kelly *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Wyberton, immature, 27th October (J.Wheldon), Frampton Marsh, 27th (P.A.Hyde per G.P.Catley).

Norfolk King's Lynn and Messingham Heath area, immature, 1st January to 1st February (H.Birkbeck, R.G.Dawson, J.B.Kemp *et al.*), same, Titchwell, 10th January (T.Strudwick), Haddiscoe Island and Halvergate Marshes area, 10th February to 15th March (K. & M.Robertson *et al.*), also in Suffolk. Hickling Broad area and northeast Norfolk, immature, 30th October to 14th December (D.Herrievan, J.R.Williamson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 242), presumed same as Humberside and Lincolnshire.

Suffolk Minsmere, 4th, 15th February, 12th March (I.Robinson *et al.*), Walberswick, 11th March (A.Gooding), same as Norfolk.

1985 Norfolk Titchwell and Brancaster, 16th-19th November (Brit. Birds 80: 531), Holme, 16th (per V.Eve).

As observers' descriptions of individual birds can differ considerably, the Committee is not always confident that it can trace wanderers from county to county, but there are obvious possibilities here. Remember that, to some extent arbitrarily, Scottish reports 'don't count' because of likely confusion with the introduced stock now breeding north of the border.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (11, 11, 0)

1989 Kent Dover, male, dead, 20th April (R.Jacobs, C.Matthews per I.P.Hodgson).

The first since 1987 and only the second since 1983, this individual was recorded in strange circumstances, being found dead in a building at Dover Castle. The date is surprisingly early June and late autumn being more typical), but pre-1958 records include a February report.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 352, 17)

Cleveland Seal Sands, male, 10th May (S.D.Keightley *et al.*).

Cornwall Croft Pascoe, first-summer female, 27th-28th May, photographed (Dr J.F.Ryan, M.Southam, R.Wilkins *et al.*).

Derbyshire Unstone, female, 21st-27th May, photographed (M.A.Beevers, J.Bradbury, Miss J.E.Foulkes *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 243), presumed same, Langley Mill Flashes, near Stoneyford, 16th-17th July (Dr P.Bagguley *et al.*).

Dorset East Stoke, Wareham, male, 7th-8th May (J.H.Blackburn, Dr J.F.Wright *et al.*).

Essex Bradwell-on-Sea, female, 27th May (G.Smith *et al.*). Sandon, Boreham and Little Baddow area, first-summer female, 19th June to 10th July (J.R.Ekins, J.Miller *et al.*). Hadleigh Downs, female, 12th August (C.Todd). See also Greater London/Essex.

Greater London/Essex Rainham Marsh, first-summer female, 31st May to 17th June, photographed (S.Connor *et al.*).

Hampshire Fernycrofts and Beaulieu Road, first-summer male, 30th May (B. & R.J.Small).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, female, 4th-15th June, photographed (P.R.Davey, K.M.Wilson *et al.*).

Norfolk Cley, female, 20th May (D.C.Davies, M.A.Golley, S.Harris *et al.*); first-summer male, 23rd June (M.A.Golley).

Northamptonshire Kislingbury Gravel-pits, first-summer female, 6th May (D.A.Campbell, D.A.Christie).

Shetland Sand, male, 29th July (D. & Mrs R.K.Suddaby).

Somerset Wet Moor, female, 5th May (D.J.Chown, J.Porter), probably same, Westhay Moor, 13th-14th (A.R.Ashman).

Sussex, East Balsdean, female, 20th May (G.A.Sutton *et al.*).

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, first-summer male, 27th-29th May (M. & N.Bronless, R.Simpson *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Bransdale Moor, female, 29th June (A.McDermid, A.D., Mrs J. & Miss L.Watson).

1989 Berkshire/Hampshire Mortimer and Mortimer West End, male, 4th June (J.A.Lucas).

1989 Cambridgeshire Little Paxton, first-summer male, at least 28th-30th May (R.A.Hume, L.Rose *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 296).

1989 Hampshire See 1989 Berkshire/Hampshire.

1989 Kent Warehorne, female, 9th May (N.R.Davies); Brookland, first-summer female, 12th-14th May (N.R.Davies, M.Tickner *et al.*).

1989 Norfolk Sheringham, female, 23rd May (S.J.M.Gantlett, R.G.Millington *et al.*).

A sub-adult male at Lough Money, near Downpatrick, Co. Down, on 4th-8th June 1989 was only the fifth record for Ireland.

A typical spread. This species has a strange tendency to reappear at particular sites, such as Cotswold Water Park (after one in 1988 and two in 1989) and at Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire, where the 1989 male duplicated a 1987 occurrence by being discovered during an RSPB 'community birdwalk' before breakfast. There were noteworthy spring influxes in Denmark and France in 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 5).

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 93, 2)

Orkney Hoy, 24th May to at least 7th June (M.Barker, M.Gray *et al.*).

Shetland Trondra and Tingwall, 16th-17th April (P.M.Ellis, J.D. & Mrs G.Okill *et al.*)

Two big white ones – the easy sort.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 145, 23)

Devon Buckland Beacon and Haytor, Dartmoor, 25th to at least 27th March, photographed (R.J.Campey, J. & Mrs D.Llewellyn). Taw Estuary and Northam Burrows, 31st March to 3rd April (L.P. & S.D.Bruce, D.Churchill, F.A.Dobinson), possibly same as Dartmoor individual. West Charleton Marsh, 27th April (D.A.Cope), possibly same as above.

Dorset Burton Mere, at least 31st March to 1st April, photographed (M.Cade, R.Lambert, P.Seagrave).

Dyfed Penally, 19th to at least 27th March (J.Friese *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 294). Skokholm, 7th-8th May, photographed (M.Betts, Mrs E.Gynn *et al.*).

Norfolk Titchwell, first-winter, 5th November (N.Sills, R.Q.Skeen).

Scilly Tresco, 18th March to 16th April (R.Gleadle, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

In Ireland, a remarkable influx involved at least 15: six at Ballycotton on 17th March; two at the Douglas Estuary on 24th-25th March; three at Rostellan on 19th March, with two there on 25th-30th March; one at Bateman's Lake on 1st April and two at Garretstown on 7th-8th April (all Co. Cork); one at Aughrus Point, Co. Galway, on 17th-20th March; one at The Cull on 17th March to 8th April and one at Lady's Island Lake/Tacumshin on 7th-8th April (both Co. Wexford).

The November report from Norfolk is more unexpected than the early ones in spring. In the Netherlands, the year 1990 was the fourth best this century for breeding pairs (Brit. Birds 84: 5), with 22 breeding attempts.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (30, 46, 0)

1977 Leicestershire Rutland Water, 3rd July, photographed (T.P.Appleton, C.Park, T.Pridmore).

The photograph was presumably a long time at the chemist's, but it is better to record the occurrence late than not at all.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (3, 137, 8)

Cornwall Sennen, juvenile, 29th October to at least 10th November (R.J. & Mrs B.G.Lowe *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Frampton-on-Severn, first-winter, 9th-20th April (A.Jayne *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 30th August to 2nd September, photographed (P.D.Bloor *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, juvenile, 11th-13th October (Brit. Birds 84: plate 75), same, St Martin's, 13th-17th (R.Boatsen, S.Langsbury, N.Pleass *et al.*).

Shetland Fetlar, adult or first-summer, 7th-14th May (I.Hawkins *et al.*). Foula, adult or first-summer, 1st-2nd September (P.M.Ellis, J.D.Okill *et al.*). Scatness, juvenile, 20th September (P.M.Ellis, M.Mellor).

Strathclyde Barassie, juvenile, 7th October (R.H.Hogg, P.P.McEwan, G.Mitchell).

1987 Cornwall Davidstow Airfield, adult, 17th-22nd October (Brit. Birds 81: 556), 23rd (H.R.Harrop *et al.*).

There were no spring reports during 1958-68, but then 12 during 1969-88; the Gloucestershire and Fetlar, Shetland, records are therefore not altogether exceptional, but certainly unusual.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (3, 9, 3)

Dorset Stanpit Marsh, adult, 25th-27th July, photographed (G.Armstrong, E.J.King *et al.*).

Norfolk Cley, adult, 7th-8th August (S.J.M.Gantlett, M.A.Golley, R.G.Millington *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was one at Ring Marsh, Co. Wexford, on 1st-2nd July.

Alternate identification papers tend to come up with new ideas and dire warnings about the wisdom or ease of separating this species from the previous one. The late-summer peak may now be obscuring occasional late-summer Americans if people tend towards exaggerating the importance of date.

Sociable Plover *Chettusia gregaria* (5, 27, 1)

Cambridgeshire See Norfolk.

Norfolk Welney, first-winter, 15th-30th October, photographed, also, intermittently, at nearby Cambridgeshire localities (Mrs L.Butler, J.B.Kemp, K.Warrington *et al.*).

A classic date for this visitor: unpredictable, but, when it does come, usually conforming to a definite late-autumn pattern.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (0, 1, 0)

1989 Shetland Scatness and Pool of Virkie, adult, 15th September (P.M.Ellis, P.V.Harvey *et al.*).

Many wader-watchers will be disappointed as another chance of potential glory has gone, with one more species added to the British List by someone else. The lucky few who saw this bird, though, will remember it until the lifetime guarantees on their Carl Zeiss binoculars finally run out. What a bird!

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 58, 2)

Avon Oldbury-on-Severn, adult, 12th-14th August (K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

Glamorgan, Mid Ogmere Estuary, juvenile, 6th-17th September (D.A.Hunter, C.Hurford *et al.*).

1989 Cornwall Camel Estuary, juvenile, 1st-4th September (G.Day, J.R.Smart *et al.*).

1989 Norfolk Cley, 14th-17th May (R.H.Chittenden, S.J.M.Gantlett *et al.*).

More good birds, well studied and carefully reported, as this challenging species always demands.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 298, 12)

Cleveland South Gare, adult, 13th July (M.A.Blick, I.Boustead).

Norfolk Cley, adult, 3rd-14th August (M.A.Golley, Ms B.Veevers, Ms P.F.Walton *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, adult, 14th September (I.Fisher, A.D.Mitchell *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes, juvenile, 17th September, photographed (R.Fletcher, J.Wilson *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, adult, 24th-30th August (S.Gillings *et al.*).

Sussex, West Sidlesham, adult, 20th-26th August (A.S.Cook, D.J.Smith *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 72).

Tyne & Wear Whitburn, adult, 15th-27th August (G.K.Gordon *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 73).

Yorkshire, West Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, adult or first-summer, 19th-20th July (M.L.Denton, T.Duckworth, J.M.Pinder *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was an adult at Tacumshin and Lady's Island Lake during 21st-28th July (both Co. Wexford); an adult at Ballycotton on 8th-13th August; a juvenile there on 14th-19th October; and a different juvenile at Lough Beg on 14th October (all Co. Cork).

Very much an average sort of year, with a scatter of late-summer reports not breaking into double figures in Britain.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 149, 4)

Grampian Annachie Lagoon, Peterhead, juvenile, 6th-17th September (G.Christer, D.Smith, C.Westlake *et al.*); another juvenile, 15th-18th (C.Barton, A.G.Clarke *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 71).

Highland Dunnet Bay, juvenile, 23rd-25th September (S.Manson, E.W.E.Maughan, J.Smith).

Suffolk Benacre, juvenile, 23rd September (J.Austin, C.A.Buttle, B. & Mrs J.Small) (Brit. Birds 84: page 470 fig. 2).

In Ireland, there is a belated report of a juvenile at Sherkin Island, Co. Cork, on 14th-15th September 1989.

Two in succession anywhere would be remarkable, but in Grampian it is particularly so. The list slips back to 1987 levels, after a couple of years when Baird's was more frequent than White-rumped.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 125, 6)

Grampian Kingston, 17th June (D. & P.Agnew, M.J.H.Cook, B. & R.J.Lowe).

Humber-side Hornsea Mere, adult, 22nd July (G.R.Bennett *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, adult or first-summer, 26th-27th July (P.R.Davey, K.M.Wilson *et al.*).

Norfolk Cley, 6th June (M.A.Golley *et al.*), probably same, Titchwell, 7th (C.Williams). Cley, 28th July to 6th August (E.T.Myers *et al.*), same, Blakeney Point, 5th-6th (A.M.Stoddart).

In Ireland, there was an adult at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 5th May.

In the 1987 report, comment was made that this used to be a July/August bird, rather than the late-spring one of recent years. Here we may have a tendency towards a reversion to the older pattern – or was it just a single wandering individual involved in those two months?

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus* (1, 21, 1)

Suffolk Trimley St Mary, adult, 7th-19th August, photographed (S.H.Piotrowski *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 260).

A normal sort of date for this elegant Nearctic shorebird.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 65, 0)

1989 Humberside Sammy's Point, 28th-29th May (D.Dean, R.S.Smith, D.Sneap *et al.*).

Numbers fluctuate quite a lot with this difficult (in every sense) wader, but it is rare that a year fails altogether, as did 1990.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 138, 10)

Cheshire Frodsham, adult, 8th-13th August (R.Gordon, W.S.Morton, Mrs A.J.Smith *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 77).

Devon Braunton, at least 22nd October (L.P. & Mrs S.D.Bruce *et al.*).

Hereford & Worcester Westwood Great Pool, Droitwich, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 9th-20th October (S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Norfolk Lynn Point, juvenile, 25th September to 16th October, photographed (J.B.Kemp *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 261).

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 14th-15th September (C.Donald, S.Jackson, C.J.Wilkins *et al.*).

Strathclyde Slidery, Arran, juvenile, 15th-17th September, photographed (J.Rhead *et al.*).

1989 Shetland Baltasound, Unst, first-winter, since 6th December 1988 to 29th April (Brit. Birds 82: 526).

In Ireland, there was a juvenile at Garretstown, Co. Cork, on 14th October; a juvenile at Lough Beg, Co. Londonderry, on 14th October; a juvenile at North Slob, Co. Wexford, on 29th October to 13th November; and a first-winter at Belfast Harbour Estate, Co. Down, on 27th October to 31st December.

Of these, the inland, Hereford & Worcester record is the most unexpected by far.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 26, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 10th-24th October, photographed, same, St Agnes, 15th, Tresco, 20th (I.Gardner *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: page 259 fig. 3).

A 'typical' late-autumn island-hopper in Scilly, although even there it is a very rare bird.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 52, 7)

Cheshire Sandbach, 20th-21st May (A.M.Broome, D.Norbury, Mr Swallow *et al.*)

Devon Bantham, 5th May (D.J.Astins, J.F.Babbington, D.E.Balmer *et al.*).

Dyfed Pen-clacwydd, 19th May, photographed (B.Stewart *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, adult, 5th August (T.Strudwick).

Norfolk Lakenheath Flash, 16th May (G.Talbot, R.J.Walker). Burnham Norton, 22nd-24th May (V.Eve, D.Henshilwood, M.E.S.Rooney).

Sussex, West Sidlesham Ferry, adult, 30th June to 9th July (D.Howie, C.R.Janman *et al.*).

This is a slight surge above the usual two or three per year, although the pattern is more or less predictable.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 170, 4)

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 15th June, photographed (P.R.Davey, P.Palmer, K.M.Wilson *et al.*).

Surrey Staines Reservoirs, adult, 21st August to 8th September (D.J.Morris *et al.*).

1989 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, juvenile, 30th September to 4th October (A.Harris, F.H.Honeychurch *et al.*), presumed same, 5th, 8th-9th November (M.K.Ahmad *et al.*), presumed same, Hayle, 5th October to 7th November, 10th-20th November (per S.M.Christophers).

In Ireland, there was one at Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 12th-20th October, and a juvenile at Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, on 7th-12th November. Also, a late record for 1989 of a juvenile at Strand Lough, Co. Down, on 9th-14th September.

June is one of the least likely, although not quite unprecedented, months in which to find one of these elegant waders.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (6, 21, 1)

Western Isles Malaclete, North Uist, juvenile, 20th October (T.J.Dix, W.D.Oldham).

Just the one, of course, but way out of the usual range in southern Britain and Ireland.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 32, 1)

Norfolk Breydon Water, 30th-31st May (P.R.Allard *et al.*).

Northumberland North Blyth, adult, 22nd-29th November 1989, January to at least April 1990 (Brit. Birds 83: 464), 11th January to 13th May, same, Castle Island, River Wansbeck, 9th May (per B.N.Rossiter), Shankhouse, near Cramlington, 17th (L.J.McDougall), Blyth Estuary, through September (A.M.Bankier *et al.* per B.N.Rossiter), through December to at least 5th January 1991 (H.Garrod *et al.* per B.N.Rossiter).

No-one would really have predicted a long-stayer, hopping from place to place, although wintering had happened before.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 89, 3)

Cumbria See 1989 Cumbria.

Oxfordshire Farmoor Reservoir, adult, 3rd-4th July (N.J.Hallam, S.Heath, P.Townsend).

Yorkshire, West Elland Gravel-pits, adult, 31st May to 25th June (N.C.Dawtre, A.Zabukas *et al.*).

1989 Cumbria Barrow-in-Furness, adult, 3rd November to 1st May 1990 (C.Raven *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 244).

In Ireland, there was one on Mid Calf Island, Co. Cork, on 11th July.

Recent years, with wintering, then autumn appearances, and now summer ones, have shown an erratic, unpredictable 'pattern'.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 227, 4)

Cornwall Hayle, adult, 18th-28th August (S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 79).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, female, 7th-10th June, photographed (T.J.Davis *et al.*).

Lancashire Bank's Marsh, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 23rd September (P.Abrams, R.Lambert). Martin Mere, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 27th September to 1st October (G.R.Clarkson, D.J.Rigby, A.Shaw *et al.*), presumed same as Bank's Marsh.

1988 Shetland Norwick, Unst, 11th-19th October, photographed (Brit. Birds 82: 527), now considered juvenile moulting to first-winter.

1989 Gwynedd Glan Conwy, 4th October, believed present 22nd September to 31st October, late November to 8th December (P.G.Lansdown *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was one at Duncrue Street Marsh, Co. Antrim, on 9th-11th September.

No particular resurgence for this wader that showed signs of a considerable increase in the 1970s and 1980s, but which has since slumped somewhat.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 54, 1)

Cornwall Polperro, adult, 7th May (D.G.Morrison), presumed same, Mount's Bay, 8th-19th, photographed (M.Southam *et al.*).

With its jet-black hood and slaty back, this is a beautiful gull in summer plumage; surprisingly, the southwest of England is not a great place for the species, which has a rather odd, more northerly distribution across the middle of Britain.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 15, 3)

Shetland Lochs of Spiggie and Hillwell, second-winter/second-summer, 10th-11th May (P.M.Ellis, Dr C.F.Mackenzie *et al.*).

Somerset Sutton Bingham Reservoir, adult, 9th-10th July (D.J.Chown, N.Grace *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: page 474 fig. 4).

Sussex, East Brighton Marina, adult, 29th December (M.Kenefick, T.J.Wilson).

Previous records have been totally unpredictable, and these follow that random scatter in both date and place.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 52, 10)

Cheshire/Ciwyd Inner Marsh Farm, adult, 2nd December (C. & D.Roberts).

Ciwyd See Cheshire/Ciwyd.

Cornwall Marazion, first-winter, 8th February (B.Cave), same or another, 15th (M.Southam), same or another, 7th-25th March (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 245); another first-winter, 11th-17th (S.M.Christophers, Dr J.F.Ryan, M.Southam *et al.*). Sennen, first-winter, 14th January (D.S.Flumm, M.R.Kenefick), presumed later at Marazion above. Gunwalloe, first-winter, 22nd February (A.R.Pay). Loe Pool, first-winter, 15th March (B.Cave). Swanpool, Falmouth, first-winter, 20th-21st March (B.Cave). Cornish records listed above probably refer to three individuals. St John's Lake and Millbrook, first-summer, 4th May, presumed same, as second-winter, 22nd July to 9th September (R.W.Gould, S.C.Madge, K.Pellow *et al.*), also in Devon.

Devon Plymouth Hoe, 21st February, presumed same, Erme Estuary, 24th-28th (D.J.Astins, D.E.Balmer *et al.*), presumed same, Plym Estuary, 4th-7th April, 17th April to 8th May (M.K.Ahmad, P.A.St Pierre, R.W.White *et al.*), same as St John's Lake, Millbrook, Cornwall, individual.

Merseyside Seaforth, adults, 6th-17th April (S.A.Rothery *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 246); 12th April to 1st May (J. & J.Oates *et al.*). New Brighton, adult, 22nd, 24th, 29th April (E.J.Abrahams, A.M.Broome, Dr J.E.Turner *et al.*), probably same as second Seaforth individual.

Warwickshire Kenilworth, first-winter, 10th-28th March (M.J.Mason *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83 plates 198, 202 & 203), same, Draycote Water, four dates, 18th-29th March (A.R.Dean *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was a first-winter at Nimmo's Pier, Co. Galway, on 22nd April, and another at Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, on 10th June.

With six in 1988 (but just two in 1989), there has been a slight sign of increase for a few years, but 1990 sees an entirely new scale of occurrence. At least one more remains under consideration, and there are several noteworthy reports listed here. The Warwickshire individual, found by a young birdwatcher on his local park lake and then, equally creditably, looked for and discovered at a huge reservoir roost, was perhaps the most unusual.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* (0, 9, 1)

In Ireland, adults of the North American race *L.g.kumlieni* have been accepted for Galway dump, Co. Galway, on 12th January to 18th February 1989, and Ballycotton, Co. Cork, on 25th February 1990.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 33, 2)

Gloucestershire Frampton Sands, first-winter, 30th December to 1st January 1991 (G.R. & Mrs M.Avery, R.T.Philips, N.R.Smart).

Shetland Lerwick Harbour, first-winter, 10th-20th December (G.Petrie *et al.*).

Lerwick we can take, but the Severn estuary? See how it cleverly stayed to get onto two year-lists.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (52, 185, 1)

1968 Lothian Aberlady, 22nd March (Brit. Birds 62: 473), now not considered acceptable.

In Ireland, there was one at Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 30th June to 2nd July.

A somewhat negative report. It seems this really is a very rare bird, after all.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 170, 6)

Greater Manchester Sale Water Park, 16th July (J.Baldwin, I. & R.McGeorge, K.Parker *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, 15th July (J.R.Hopkins, A.D.Hughes, D.Walker *et al.*).

Norfolk Cley, 22nd July (M.A.Golley, R.G.Millington).

Strathclyde Martnaham and Kerse Lochs and Doonfoot, 4th-6th August (D.Given, B.Orr, J. & J.Woods *et al.*).

Sussex, East Hastings, 31st March (A.S. & M.R.Grace).

Sussex, West Weirwood Reservoir, 19th August (S.B.Rix).

1988 Norfolk Holme, 26th May (W.Rutherford).

There are one or two others still being considered, but this is already a reasonable year, following the familiar pattern.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* (0, 4, 0)

Cleveland Hartlepool, 10th June (C.Bielby, A.McLee), Reclamation Pond, 9th-11th July (J.B.Dunnett *et al.*), Seaton Snook, 12th, 13th July, photographed (M.A.Blick *et al.*), all presumed same as Northumberland.

Northumberland Farne Islands, female, 30th April to 19th August, presumed returning 1989 individual (Brit. Birds 83: 468), paired with Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, one young hatched, not reared to fledging stage (A.P.Cotton, D.C.Richardson *et al.*).

A few years ago, one of these would have had everyone heading for the coast overnight, but now it has become a fixture in this annual report, although the numbers in brackets have not moved on.

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

Cornwall Par, 9th October (R.Lane *et al.*).

In Ireland, there were two in Wexford Harbour, Co. Wexford, on 18th October 1987, and both birds were present from 21st January into May 1988 (this corrects previous statements, Brit. Birds 81: 567; 83: 468).

One lonely newcomer, almost as usual; another species now treated annually but not long ago quite unexpected.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* (3, 9, 1)

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, 18th October (R.H.Appleby).

There were November records in 1931 and 1953 and October dates in 1958 and 1982, but October still seems late, somehow, for this long-distance wanderer.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* (16, 9, 0)

1966 Norfolk Scolt Head Island, 14th-19th June, 11th July (Brit. Birds 60: 332), now considered probably same as Suffolk individual below.

1966 Suffolk Minsmere, 11th June (Brit. Birds 60: 332), see 1966 Norfolk above.

The 1966 reports were long considered by some people to relate to one individual and this clarifies the position for the record.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 516, 6)

Avon Aust, 3rd May (P.J.Chadwick), also in Somerset.

Cornwall Landulph, 21st April (R.M.Belringer).

Essex West Thurrock, juvenile, 27th August to 6th September (T.W.Broom, M.K.Dennis, S.R.Pickering *et al.*), same, Tilbury, 30th-31st August (A.J.Kane, C.Rose *et al.*).

Orkney North Loch, Sanday, 24th May (C.Freeborn).

Somerset Burnham-on-Sea, 2nd May (B.J.Hill), also in Avon.

1980 Norfolk Titchwell, juvenile, 20th to at least 31st October (Brit. Birds 74: 477), same, Holme, discontinuously, 17th October to 3rd November (per V.Eve).

1987 Leicestershire Rutland Water, 9th June (M.Lester, D.J.Odell, M.J.Palmer *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was a juvenile at Charleville Lagoons, Co. Cork/Co. Limerick, on 28th October, and an adult at Tacumshin, Lady's Island Lake and Ring Marsh, Co. Wexford, on 21st-24th July.

Another poor year, with an especially unproductive autumn, as this species makes a very strong bid to retain its place on the list of species considered by this Committee. At one time, it risked being knocked off through being too common, but late 1960s and late 1970s peaks were both followed by marked recessions.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrhaptus paradoxus* (many, 6, 1)

Shetland Hillwell and Quendale area, male, 19th May to 4th June, Spiggie, 22nd, photographed (M.Heubeck, M.Mellor, K.Osborn, D.Suddaby *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 262).

The first of several major rarities to occur during a magical purple patch in late May/early June, it was subsequently overshadowed by such astonishing vagrants as Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* and Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (both still under review).

The majority of the nineteenth-century irruptions occurred during May and the last British record was in May 1975 (on the Isle of May!).

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (6, 24, 2)

Devon Lundy, age uncertain, 24th February, photographed (C.Bray, M.Gade, A.Gibson *et al.*).

Sussex, West Shoreham Airport, first-summer, 4th April to 1st May, photographed (R.J.Fairbank, R.A.Ives, D.I.Smith *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 297).

The Lundy individual is the earliest-ever record for Britain and Ireland.

Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (4, 8, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 10th October, dead 11th (L.Amery *et al.*).

Five of the nine since 1958 have been found dead or dying. This one survived just long enough to find its way onto many life-lists.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (22, 31, 1)

Bedfordshire Sandy, recently dead, 6th December (M.Kemp, W.E.Oddie, I.Pruden *et al.*), skin retained by M.Kemp.

An odd record in several ways, this is only the second in December since 1958 and the first to turn up so far inland.

Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 17, 1)

Dorset Caught aboard fishing vessel about 2.4 km off Portland Bill, taken to Portland Bird Observatory, ringed and released, 20th March (M.Cade, M.Rogers *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 265).

Recovered sufficiently close inshore to avoid becoming a 'Category E' record, this is the earliest ever.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 95, 3)

Humberside Thornton Curtis, first-winter male, 13th December, photographed (D.A.Robinson *et al.*), also in Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire Wainfleet and Froskney area, 24th December to 1991 (J.Atkinson, P.R.Davey, M.Worth *et al.*), same as Humberside.

Shetland Fetlar and Unst, two females, from 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 470) through most of year (per D.Suddaby). Fair Isle, male, 12th-18th May (P.V.Harvey, S.Thomson Jnr). Scatness and Sumburgh area, first-winter male, 22nd September (P.J.Heath, H.Loates *et al.*), presumed same, Virkie, 25th November to end of year (J.McKee *et al.*).

The Lincolnshire/Humberside individual was the first to be recorded in England since 1981 and consequently attracted much attention from the media as well as from birders.

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius* (1, 1, 0)

1984 Dorset Portland, 10th June (G.Walbridge).

Flushed several times at close range and in daylight; the good fortune of the above observer will be widely envied. The only previous record was also in June: in Nottinghamshire in 1883.

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* (0, 0, 0)

The above statistics correct those published previously (Brit. Birds: 76: 503-504); since the individual concerned was caught on an offshore gas platform, and reached land only with human assistance, this constitutes a 'Category E' record and so should not be counted in the statistics.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (150, 282, 7)

Cornwall The Lizard, 29th April (Dr J.F.Ryan).

Dorset Rope Lake Head, 26th March (S.J.Morrison, P.Williams *et al.*).

Hertfordshire Hilfield Park, 30th April (G.D.Goater), same, Watford, 30th (R.L.Harris).

Kent Sandwich Bay and Kingsdown, 26th April (P.W.J.Findley, W.E.Fletcher, R.A.Morton).

Lancashire River Brock, near Preston, 4th June (M.Bennett).

Lincolnshire Stamford, 20th-21st March (J. & N.Murray, P.J.Precey).

Sussex, East Crumbles, Eastbourne, 25th March (D., J.F. & Mrs D.R.Cooper *et al.*).

1989 Highland Thurso, 20th-21st July (D.Omand), possibly same as Boat of Garten, 24th (Brit. Birds 83: 470).

Another three March records, following those in 1988, but not unexpected in this remarkably early spring.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 312, 12)

Devon Hartland Point, 14th July (M.Darlaston, A.Rennells).

Essex Great Wakering, 19th July (A.R.Perkins).

Humberside Spurn, 23rd May (T.Collins, B.R.Spence *et al.*), probably same, 29th (J.Cudworth).

Merseyside Red Rocks, at least 25th April (Dr J.E. & M.G.Turner).

Scilly St Mary's, 22nd May (C.I.Bushell *et al.*); presumed another, 27th (P.Pearson, A.S.Rhodes *et al.*). Bryher and Tresco, adult, 23rd October to 9th November (D.R.Collins, H.Taffs, P.Trodd *et al.*), same, St Mary's, 31st October, 2nd November, St Agnes, 24th October (per W.H.Wagstaff).

Shetland Vidlin, two, 9th-21st May (D.Coutts, K.Pearson, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Suffolk Aldeburgh, 26th May (J.A.Davies).

Sussex, East Pett Level and Icklesham, 20th May (C.H.Dean, I.D.Hunter).

1986 Surrey Milford, 11th May (Dr E.F.J.Garcia).

1988 Norfolk North coast localities, juvenile, 3rd-4th September (Brit. Birds 82: 535), Holme, 4th (per V.Eve).

1989 Shetland Kergord, 24th May (Brit. Birds 83: 472), observers were P.R.Flint *et al.*; another, Scalloway, 21st-22nd July (Brit. Birds 83: 472), observers were L.Dalziel *et al.*

In Ireland, there was one at Murrinstown, Co. Wexford, on 26th May.

The late stay of the adult in Scilly recalls that of the juvenile there in 1985, though the 1990 individual stayed eight days longer, to become the second-latest ever. From the start of 1991, records of this species will no longer be considered by the Committee and should be submitted to the relevant county recorders.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 80, 2)

Bedfordshire Near Arlesey, 3rd May (N.Blake).

In Ireland, one at Duncormack, Co. Wexford, on 2nd July.

The Bedfordshire individual is the earliest since the formation of the Rarities Committee in 1958.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 311, 12)

Cornwall Predannack, 6th May, photographed (A.R.Pay *et al.*). Treen, 23rd October (D.J.Rigby *et al.*), possibly same, St Just, 24th-25th (Dr J.F.Ryan, M.Southam *et al.*).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, 7th-10th May (M.I.Eldridge, M.Kavanagh, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 3rd October (P.J.Donnelly, M.Gray *et al.*); 5th-12th October (A.E.Duncan, M.Gray).

Scilly St Agnes, 14th October (E.Jones, C.J.McInery, C.R.Wills *et al.*). St Mary's, 21st October (P.I.Holt).

Shetland Fair Isle, 9th May (C.Donald, R.Proctor); 27th May to 6th June (R.J.Arnfield, T.M.Baldwin, C.Donald *et al.*). Whalsay, 1st October (A.F.T. & G.J.Fitchett *et al.*).

1983 Shetland Fair Isle, 2nd-5th October (J.M.Dickson, D.Suddaby, T.J.Toohig *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was one at Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, on 19th-21st May.

Another unremarkable year for this species.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 182, 28)

Cornwall St Erth, 8th April (T.Polglase, P.A. & Mrs J.Rutter *et al.*). The Lizard, 10th April (D. & Mrs R.Powell), presumed same, Kynance Cove, 10th (R.A.Ford), possibly same as St Erth individual.

Devon Coryton, 2nd-3rd April (J.Hale).

Dorset Swanage, 11th-12th November (G. & J.Barnes, S.J.Morrison).

Dyfed Skokholm, 30th April (H.Morgan).

Essex Gunner's Park, Shoeburyness, 11th May (J.Miller, J.Saward, R.Young). Hadleigh, 2nd October (A.R.Mead). Layer-de-la-Haye, 11th-17th November (J.H.Smith, A.P.Thompson *et al.*).

Highland St John's Loch, Caithness, 18th May (J.Smith *et al.*).

Humber Spurn, 5th May (N.A.Bell, C.P.Musgrave).

Kent Stodmarsh, 14th-22nd April, photographed (D.Sydall, R.R.Thompson *et al.*). Dungeness, two, 22nd April (S.J.Colsell, A.Stroud *et al.*); 4th May (R.Gomes, D.Walker *et al.*). Thanet, 28th April (K.D.Lord).

Lothian Tynninghame, two, 27th October (D.Brown, D.Garratt, T.Piggott *et al.*).

Norfolk Cromer, 4th May (S.C.Votier). Cley, 11th May (R.Aberdein, S.J.M.Gantlett). Overstrand, 25th October (B.J.Murphy).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 18th October (M.Gray *et al.*).

Shetland Pool of Virkie and Sumburgh, 2nd-4th May (K.Osborn, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, 13th-14th April (D.R.Newton *et al.*), same, Walberswick, 13th (C.S.Waller *et al.*). Reydon, 8th May (D.R.Eaton).

Sussex, West Selsey Bill, 29th April (C.R.Janman, O.Laugharne).

In Ireland, there was one at Firkeel, Co. Cork, on 13th October, and two juveniles at Newcastle, Co. Down, during 9th-11th November.

The second-best annual total, notably boosted by the nine in April.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 71, 42)

Cleveland Boulby Cliffs, 20th October (M.A.Blick, I.Boustead).

Dorset Portland, two, 14th October (M.Cade, R.Newton, E.T.Welland *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, 18th-20th October (G.P.Catley *et al.*). Skegness, trapped, 20th October, photographed (A.G.Ball, N.Vessey).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, 18th October (G.M.Cresswell, S.C.Joyner, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*).

Northumberland Low Hauxley, trapped, died, 18th October, photographed (S.W.Anderson, A.M.Bankier, M.Davison). Newbiggin, 21st-23rd October (A.H.Banks, P.R.Jones, J.G.Steele *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 104, page 481 fig. 5).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 29th September to 5th October, trapped 29th (A.E.Duncan, M.Gray, Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*). Stronsay, 1st October (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway).

Silly Tresco, 13th October (L.Lock *et al.*). St Mary's, 15th October (R.A.Hargreaves, D.Nurney); two, 24th (C.D.R.Heard *et al.*); presumed another, 26th (B.D.Gee); 2nd-5th November (S.Nichols *et al.*). St Agnes, 19th October (J.D.Geeson, P.J.Milford); presumed another, 24th-25th (D.Bradshaw, B.Wooton *et al.*). St Martin's, at least 1st-2nd November (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 23rd September to 1st October (T.G.Francis, D.Page *et al.*); 25th-28th September (H.R.Harrop, R.Proctor, J.J.Sweeney *et al.*); 26th September to 1st October (P.V.Harvey, D.Page *et al.*); 1st-2nd (D.Suddaby *et al.*); 16th (I.Fisher *et al.*); 18th (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 20th (I.Fisher *et al.*); 24th-28th (K.Bowey, I.Fisher, P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 24th-31st (K.Bowey, I.Fisher, P.V.Harvey). Sumburgh, 26th-30th September (J.M.Dickson *et al.*); 27th October (Dr C.F. & R.Mackenzie). Whalsay, 3rd-4th October (D.Suddaby *et al.*); 29th (J.L.Irvine). Kergord, 3rd-7th October, two, 3rd-4th, one trapped 4th (A.F.T. & G.J.Fitchett, A.F.Silcocks *et al.*). Vidlin, two, 3rd-5th October (S.J.Huggins *et al.*). Geosetter 6th October (P.J.Heath, D.Suddaby).

Yorkshire, North Kettlewell Point, 21st October (T.J.Barker, R.S.Slack, A.Wilson). Whitby, 21st (T.J.Barker, R.S.Slack, A.Wilson).

Ireland received its second, third and fourth records during 1990: at Dursley Island, Co. Cork, on 14th October, and on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 14th October, with another there on 29th October.

This unexpected avalanche is twice as many as in any previous year and more than half the previous British and Irish total; it is all the more remarkable when one considers that Sweden, for instance, managed only its third-ever record around this time.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 19, 1)

Shetland Scalloway, 25th September (I.Sandison, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Somewhat surprisingly, this is only the second Shetland record away from Fair Isle. Several other 1990 records, away from Shetland, are still in circulation.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 191, 8)

Cornwall Treen, 28th October (P.H.Aley, P.J.Bawden, S.J.Cox).

Devon Chelson Meadow, Plymouth, 13th-14th October (R.W.White *et al.*).

Merseyside Red Rocks, 16th-18th September (Dr J.E. & M.G.Turner, E.Williams).

Scilly St Mary's, 16th-20th October, photographed (G.K.Gordon, P.Higson *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 29th May (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 2nd October (P.Bristow, H.R.Harrop, J.P.Hunt *et al.*).

1989 Norfolk Cley, 2nd-3rd May (S.J.M.Gantlett, R.G.Millington *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 13th October, and one on Fota Island, Co. Cork, on 2nd November. Also, an additional Irish record concerns one at Hook Head, Co. Wexford, on 5th-6th November 1988.

As with the last species, several other claims for 1990 are still to be processed.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 48, 3)

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 27th-30th August (C.Donald, P.V.Harvey *et al.*); first-winter, 11th-13th September (P.V.Harvey, S.C.Votier *et al.*). Quendale, first-winter, 29th-30th September (A.F.T. & G.J.Fitchett *et al.*).

The Quendale individual is the fourth Shetland record away from Fair Isle. Grey-and-white forms of Yellow Wagtail *M.flava*, some of them with harsh calls resembling Citrine (and perhaps involving birds of an eastern race), continue to be a major hurdle for claims of this species.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* (29, 6, 2)

Cornwall Rough Tor, 4th November (B. & Mrs A.Boothroyd).

Wight, Isle of The Needles, 27th May to 6th June, photographed (R.P.Attrill, S.R.Colenutt, D.J. & M.Hunnybun *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 296).

The Isle of Wight individual was the first British record for 12 years, so caused a major pilgrimage across the Solent. The Cornish record is only the second in autumn since 1958.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 89, 2)

Fife Isle of May, first-summer, 19th-20th May, trapped 19th, photographed (I.English *et al.*).

1989 Cleveland Hartlepool, 23rd May (M.J.Gee, G.Joynt *et al.*).

The second record for Ireland occurred on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 26th October – at the same site and almost as late as the first Irish record there in 1989; these are far and away the latest records for Britain and Ireland.

May is the usual month.

White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis* (0, 1, 1)

Dyfed Skokholm, female, 27th-30th May (M.Betts, J.W.Donovan, D.A.Thelwell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 295).

At most other times, a second record for Britain and Ireland would be major news, but this one was somewhat overshadowed by several other major rarities that hit the headlines around this time.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (1, 124, 10)

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

Cornwall Kenidjack, male, 18th-19th October (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Grampian Cruden Bay, female or immature, 21st October (S.Cable, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Skegness, female or immature, 21st-25th October, photographed (K.Durose *et al.*); another, 23rd-25th (K.Atkin *et al.*).

Northumberland St Mary's Island, female or immature, 18th October (G.P.Bull, M.P.Frankis, A.S.Jack).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-summer male, 28th-30th April, trapped 28th (C.Donald, P.V.Harvey, R.Proctor); first-winter male, 26th-28th September (S.J.M.Gantlett *et al.*). Scatness, female or immature, 18th-21st October (M.Mellor *et al.*).

Tayside Carnoustie, female or immature, 22nd October (M.S.Scott).

In Ireland, there was one at Galley Head, Co. Cork, on 20th October.

A welcome return to form by this pallid wanderer.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (1, 4, 1)

Humberside Kilnsea, first-winter, 21st-23rd October (J.Grist, J.McLoughlin *et al.*).

The third to be found in October.

The well-watched individual on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, during October is still under consideration.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 17, 2)

Norfolk Holme, first-winter male, 19th-21st October, video-taped (R.L.K. & R.Jolliffe *et al.*).

Sussex, East Newhaven, male, 7th-9th July (C.J.Fox, C.R.Janman, Dr A.B.Watson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plates 98 & 99).

The one in Norfolk was discovered on a typical date and place, but the Sussex individual is the first July record for Britain and Ireland; one cannot help wondering by what route it arrived here and where it went after such an apparently short stay.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (15, 31, 2)

Western Isles Howmore, South Uist, male, 23rd April (T.J.Dix, R.J. & Mrs A.Evans).

Wight, Isle of Brighstone, male, 21st May (J.C.Gloyn, D.J. & M.Hunnybun, I.Ridett *et al.*).

This species gets no commoner here, even though its close congener Pied Wheatear *O.pleschanka* shows a steady increase in the number of observations.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 22, 3)

Suffolk Easton Bavents, age/sex uncertain, 29th November to 14th December, probably since 27th, photographed (D.Eaton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plates 181 & 182).

1989 Greater London Barn Elms Reservoirs, first-summer male, 13th-14th April, photographed (B.Aris *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 290).

The first and second records for Ireland involved a first-summer male at Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford, during 11th-21st March and an adult male at Red Strand near Galley Head, Co. Cork, during 27th October to 2nd November (Brit. Birds 84: plate 101).

The year 1990 thus becomes the second-best-ever after 1989, which leads with five.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (29, 12, 2)

Orkney Stronsay, 3rd October, photographed (J.Cooper, J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: page 484 fig. 6).

Shetland Sumburgh, 22nd September, photographed (L.Dalziel, I.Sandison, D.Suddaby *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 247).

Two typically short stays by this tantalising thrush. This is the first time since 1958 that more than one has occurred in any year, which could provide a ray of hope for those who tried and failed to see this species in 1990. The fact remains, however, that this is one rarity that appears to be getting rarer in real terms.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* (0, 1, 0)

1987 Scilly St Agnes, first-winter, 7th October (P.A.Dukes, R.McCann *et al.*).

The last of the not-predominantly-Mexican North American thrush species to be recorded here, this one was seen by only a comparatively few of the Scilly regulars. The severe weather at the time – which elsewhere in the country produced an unprecedented influx of Sabine's Gulls *Larus sabini* – meant that no bribes could persuade the St Mary's boatmen to venture across the narrow strait to St Agnes (a road-bridge seems the only answer).

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (1, 12, 4)

Scilly St Mary's, 10th-24th October, photographed (S.J.Broyd *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 264), another 13th-17th, 23rd (P.T.Bell, R.G.Mielcareck *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 30th September to 6th October (H.R.Harrop, J.P.Hunt *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 267).

In Ireland, there was one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 8th October.

The sixth and seventh records for Scilly, but the first for Fair Isle.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (1, 33, 4)

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, found dead, 14th October (B.Hughes, G.Richards *et al.*), skin retained by Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust.

Scilly St Agnes, 7th-8th October, photographed (P.D.Hyde *et al.*). St Mary's, 19th-25th October (S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 6th-7th October. All records have been in October apart from one, found dying, in Morayshire on 26th November 1965.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* (0, 11, 1)

Scilly Tresco, female or first-winter male, 21st October (S.J.Broyd *et al.*).

The fifth record for Scilly, four of which have been in October; the other Scilly record was on 5th December 1964. Most of the British records have been one-day jobs.

Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni* (1, 7, 1)

Greater London Woodford Green, male, showing characters of nominate race, 19th January to 9th March (K.Murray, P.Vines *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 195; 84: plate 263).

The first British and Irish record of this attractive race did in fact attract huge numbers of admirers during its long stay.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 17, 2)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 26th-28th September, trapped 26th, photographed (A.D.Mitchell *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Kellington, male, probably first-winter, 28th January to 4th February, photographed (Mrs J.Harrison *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plates 248 & 249).

Yorkshire gardens appear to have a special attraction for this species – this is the third such record since 1986 and they have all been in January. The North Ronaldsay record is the first for Orkney (whereas Shetland has had eight).

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* (3, 9, 1)

None in Britain. In Ireland, there was one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 8th October. The only previous Irish record was at Rockabill Lighthouse, Co. Dublin, on 28th September 1908.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 38, 2)

Shetland Fair Isle, 23rd September (C.Donald, I.J.Hawkins, T.Prescott *et al.*); first-winter, trapped, 30th September (P.V.Harvey, R.B. & Mrs L.H.Hastings *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 269).

During the 1970s there were many who predicted that this species would be more widely discovered in the future. If so many had appeared on Fair Isle, they argued, then there must be plenty passing elsewhere through Britain and, surely, the expanding corps of birders would start digging them out? Well, there have subsequently been two fished out of nets (in Hampshire and in Tyne & Wear) and also a single on the Isle of May. Fair Isle, meanwhile, maintains its virtual monopoly on this species.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (9, 8, 0)

1989 Orkney North Ronaldsay, trapped 4th October (A.E.Duncan, J.Vaughan *et al.*).

The six records during the 1980s were all of trapped individuals, and the last accepted sight record was in 1975. Any finder of this species, without a net, will need to submit meticulous field notes.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 133, 5)

Humberside Sammy's Point, Kilnsea, 6th-9th May (A.J.Booth, N.Stewart *et al.*).

Lothian Aberlady, in song, 17th May (J.R.W. & P.R.Gordon, A.Mathieson).

Northumberland Caistron, in song, tape-recorded, 12th-20th June (E.J.Steele *et al.*).

Suffolk Iken, in song, 14th June (G.C.Backhurst, D.J.Pearson).

Tyne & Wear Big Waters, trapped 24th October (M.P.Frankis, A.J.Johnson, D.McKeown).

The Tyne & Wear individual is only the third ever in October and the first such record for 12 years (the only later record was one at Thurlestone, Devon, on 15th November 1972).

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* (2, 12, 1)

One on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 17th October was the third for Ireland. There have been no accepted records in Britain since 1985.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 29, 1)

Northumberland Inner Farne, 19th October (G.W.Allison *et al.*).

This is the first for Northumberland, although there have been previous East Coast records from Norfolk and Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire has had four.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 239, 9)

Cornwall Caerthillian, male, 30th March to at least 1st April (B.Cave, J.A.Jane, J.E.Millett *et al.*).

Dyfed Skomer, male, 3rd May (J.W. & Mrs J.E.Donovan, Mrs A.C.Sutcliffe, C. & S.Wye *et al.*); male, 26th May (C.J.Orsman *et al.*). Skokholm, female, 11th May (M.Betts *et al.*).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, male, 20th-21st May (M.I.Eldridge *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, female, trapped 28th May (A.E.Duncan, Dr A.M.Hanby *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, female, 10th May (R.E.Innes, C.D.R.Jones).

1987 Devon Lundy, male, 31st May to 4th June (R.J.Campey, K.E.Mortimer).

1989 Lancashire Lancaster, male, 9th May (D.Carter, A.Dawson).

1989 Scilly St Mary's, 2nd-5th October (P.Maker, J.P.Martin, S.Rogers *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was a female at Killough, Co. Down, on 20th May and a male on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, during 2nd August to 17th September.

The above list includes the third to occur in March, but is otherwise a predictable set of records.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (1, 18, 4)

Cornwall Stratton, male, 8th-22nd March (G.Day *et al.*). Cot Valley, male, 16th October (B.F.Forbes, O.Mitchell, D.I.Smith); probably same, near Treen, 23rd-25th (J.D.Bryden, B.J.Robinson *et al.*).

Sussex, East Icklesham, female, trapped 3rd July (J.Willsher *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, 27th October (J.M.England, R.Hopper *et al.*).

1988 Devon Lundy, female, 8th June (P.Campbell, R.J.Campey *et al.*).

The years 1988 and 1990 become the best, with five and four respectively; the latter total includes the first for March.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* (0, 2, 1)

Shetland Whalsay, male, 3rd-19th October, trapped 3rd (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall, M.Williamson *et al.*).

Only the third British record, and the first to occur in autumn, it proved to be a welcome consolation prize for those who had travelled north hoping to see the White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* in Orkney.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 178, 8)

Dorset Portland, 15th-16th June, trapped 15th (M.Cade, M.Rogers *et al.*).

Dyfed Skomer, 19th June (C.J.Orsman, H.A.Williams).

Kent Reculver, 25th August (M.J.Baldock, T.N.Hodge *et al.*).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, 25th August (M.I.Eldridge).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped 16th August (C.Donald, J.N.Dymond, P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Norwick, Unst, first-winter, trapped 27th August (P.M.Ellis, M.G.Pennington, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Suffolk Between Minsmere and Sizewell, 27th-30th August (D.R.Newton, I.Robinson, B.Small *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: page 493 fig. 7).

Yorkshire, North Port Mulgrave, near Staithes, 9th September (N.R.K.Askew, I.Bousted *et al.*).

Typical dates.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 142, 2)

Shetland Fair Isle, 26th-27th August (C.Donald, P.A.Gregory, P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Northdale, Unst, 6th-9th October (K.Osborn *et al.*).

1989 At sea Sea area Humber, 53°49'N 02°45'E, 26th September (J.F.Babbington).

Another poor showing, following the two in 1989. Unlike Greenish Warbler *P.trochiloides*, this species shows no sign of any increase in the number of records and has still never been recorded here earlier than July.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (3, 508, 27)

Borders Coldingham, female, trapped 19th October, photographed (D.Patterson).

Essex Gunner's Park, Shoeburyness, 11th November (I.J. & P.C.Burfield, J.D.Pilgrim, D.F.Walsh *et al.*).

Fife Crail, 22nd-26th October (T.C.Smout *et al.*).

Grampian Muchalls, near Aberdeen, 21st October (K.A.Shaw, J.L. & Mrs M.Swallow). Cruden Bay, 22nd October (T.W.Marshall).

Highland Dornie, Skye & Lochalsh, 29th October (B.S.Neath).

Humberside Kilnsea, 20th October (V.A.Lister *et al.*).

Kent Foreness, two, 7th November (M.H.Davies, K.D.Lord, F.Solly).

Lothian Skateraw, female, 21st-23rd October, trapped 21st, photographed (C.Hill, C.C.McGuigan, A.O'Connor *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, 24th October (J.F.Holloway). Stromness, 26th October (M.Gray).

Scilly St Mary's, 23rd October (D.J.D.Hickman, D.Hutton, P.G.Lansdown *et al.*).

Shetland Whalsay, 14th October (Dr B.Marshall). Eswick, 15th-16th October (T.D.Rogers *et al.*). Sumburgh, 21st-22nd October, trapped 21st (P.M.Ellis, J.D.Okill, G.W.Petrie *et al.*).

Suffolk Dunwich, female, trapped 4th November, photographed (Sir A.G.Hurrell *et al.*). Benacre, 1st-2nd December (B.Botwright, R.C.Smith).

Sussex, East Balsdean, 12th November (M.H.Port, J.Reaney, G.A.Sutton).

Tyne & Wear Prior's Park, 19th-22nd October, trapped 19th (C.Bradshaw, M.P.Carruthers *et al.*).

Wight, Isle of Alum Bay, 27th October (S.R.Colenutt, M.Hunnybun *et al.*). St Catherine's Point, 28th October (S.R.Colenutt, D.Swensson).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 19th October (P.J.Dunn). Filey Brigg, 19th (R.S.Baker, P.M.Scanlan, I.S.Williams *et al.*); 19th-23rd (D.J. & P.M.Scanlan *et al.*); 28th-29th November (S.Cochrane, P.J.Dunn *et al.*). Scarborough, 18th October (R.H.Appleby).

1989 Fife Fife Ness, 29th-30th October (N.Mann *et al.*).

1989 Scilly St Agnes, 18th-23rd October, photographed (G.C.Bond, R.Butts, the late J.C.Eyre-Dickinson *et al.*).

1989 Surrey Windlesham, 18th October (S.Abbott).

1989 Wight, Isle of St Catherine's Point, 12th November (S.R.Colenutt, J.C.Gloyn, G.C.Stephenson *et al.*).

The Highland individual is only the second record for the west coast of Scotland. Although exceptional inland, the Surrey individual does recall the one on Wandsworth Common, Greater London, on 29th October 1985. It might be sad to see the end of this species as 'a BB rarity' (see Brit. Birds 83: 411-412), but, in truth, it is no longer the rarity that it once was.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 92, 8)

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, first-winter, 21st-22nd October, photographed (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Walton *et al.*). Theddlethorpe Dunes, trapped 24th October (M. & Mrs F.E.Boddy).

Lothian Barn's Ness, 15th October (A.Brown).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, 19th October (A.Bloomfield, M.E.S.Rooney).

Northumberland Craster, 27th October (T.R.Cleeves, M.Hepple *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 8th October, photographed (D.Jefferies, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*); 26th-28th October, photographed (A.P.Goddard, J.Miller *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was one at Ballagan Point, Co. Louth, on 21st October.

Another species which is becoming expectable: it has now been found annually on the Isles of Scilly for the last seven years.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 76, 15)

Humberside Easington, 23rd October (D.Hursthous, C.Slator).

Lincolnshire North Cotes Point, 19th October (H.Bunn). Saltfleet, 19th-20th October (G.P.Catley, S.Routledge *et al.*).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, 19th-20th October (M.E.S.Rooney). Wiveton, 24th-27th October (E.T.Myers *et al.*). Burnham Norton, 7th November (M.E.S.Rooney). Holme, 5th-11th November (S.C.Harrap *et al.*).

Northumberland Inner Farne, 18th-19th October (G.W.Allison, N.B.Baskerville, S.R.Wotton *et al.*). Druridge Bay, trapped 20th October (M.L. & T.A.Cadwallender, B.Little).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped 30th September (P.V.Harvey, B.A.Ryan, D.J.Tipling *et al.*); 19th October (I.Fisher, J.Hunter, J.McKee *et al.*). Frakkafield, 29th October to 1st November (A.McCall, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear St Mary's Island, 18th October (P.Hartley, J.Todd *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, first-winter, 20th-21st October (C.C.Thomas *et al.*).

The second-best yearly total and including only the second-ever in spring: one in Ireland on Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, on 8th-9th May. Interestingly, the first spring record, on the Calf of Man in May 1970, was found dying in Ireland, near Limerick, in the following December.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 104, 2)

Kent Isle of Grain, 26th-27th August, photographed (P.Larkin, K.J.Thornton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 251).

Scilly St Agnes, 19th October (J.F. & Mrs D.R.Cooper *et al.*).

If migrants of this species called more often, we might have a chance of discovering whether the wide span of occurrence dates reflects their racial origin.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* (0, 1, 0)

Norfolk See 1989 Norfolk.

1989 Norfolk Holkham Meals, 13th October to 6th May 1990 (R. & Mrs J.Aley, D.Hatton, P.Varney *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plates 92-94, 196).

A classic example of the mixed blessings at a big 'twitch' – the large number of observers meant that, when it disappeared, it was often quickly relocated, but then there was a desperate squeeze as one arrived at the scene of the latest sighting.

Though widely assumed to have been a male, there was in fact nothing to suggest that it was not a bright female.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* (0, 7, 3)

Kent Reculver, female, trapped 29th July (C.Hindle *et al.*). St Margaret's Bay, trapped 14th October (J.R.H.Clements, I.P.Hodgson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 270). Dungeness, 18th-24th October, 6th November to 16th January 1991, trapped 18th, 20th October, 6th November (D.Boyle, D.Walker *et al.*) (Brit. Birds plates 252, 271 & 272).

Several past records may be held up in the adjudication process, but these three were all conclusively established.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 35, 4)

Cambridgeshire Ely, at least two, including one first-winter, 13th October (R.D.P.Milwright, Dr M.Stahl).

Norfolk Cley, adult, 13th October (R.Aberdein, S.Chidwick, R.Robinson).

Suffolk Minsmere, adult, 4th April (M.Forbes, N.Gartshore, R.J.Price *et al.*).

The first breeding attempts are, surely, not far off?

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 29, 1)

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, first-winter, showing characters closest to *L.i.phoenicuroides*, 14th-15th October, photographed (G.P.Catley, C.A.Ellis, S.C.P.Williams *et al.*).

With continued worries about the possibility of hybrids with Red-backed Shrike *L.collurio*, this can be a difficult species to describe conclusively; in the past, even photographs have left members unconvinced.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 103, 3)

Essex Old Hall Marshes, male, 26th June to 5th July (J.Miller, R.Price, M.Stott *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Kirton Marsh, male, 12th May, photographed (R. & Mrs K.Heath, S.Keightley, G.M.Orton *et al.*).

Shetland Whalsay, sex uncertain, 26th September to 20th October (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall *et al.*).

This species moves towards its third decade of at-least-annual occurrences.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 460, 20)

Cornwall Morvah, 8th-12th April (S.G.Rowe, Dr J.F.Ryan, V.A.Stratton *et al.*). Predannack, 13th-14th May (S.Bury, A.R.Pay, S.Pilbeam).

Devon Jennycliff, Plymouth, 17th March to 7th April, photographed (C.J.Vines *et al.*). Thurlestone, 19th-20th March (H. & Mrs J.Huggins, P.Sanders *et al.*). Hope's Nose, at least 22nd March, photographed (D.W.Greenslade *et al.*). Prawle Point, 7th May (S.M.R.Young *et al.*).

Dorset Portland, 17th March to 8th April, trapped 19th March (M.Cade, M.Rogers, P.Seagrave *et al.*).

Dyfed Skokholm, 12th June (H.Morgan, M.Westland *et al.*).

Essex Foulness, 7th May (Mr & Mrs A.W.Ellis).

Humberside Spurn, 29th-31st May, trapped 29th, photographed (I.Crowther, R.Gilbert *et al.*).

Orkney Flotta, 8th-9th June (Miss S.Ellis, K.Fairclough, M.Gray).

Scilly St Martin's, adult, 21st August to 7th September (D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, trapped 11th September (J.N.Dymond, P.V.Harvey, R.Proctor *et al.*).

Sussex, West Littlehampton, 22nd April (R.M.Shaw *et al.*). Thorney Island, 11th May (C.B. & Mrs M.A.Collins, C.J.Tyas). Rackham Marsh, adult, 14th September (R.J. & Mrs A.Sandison).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 25th May (P.J.Dunn); juvenile, trapped 27th August, photographed (P.J.Dunn, R.E.Harbird *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 273).

1988 Cornwall The Lizard, 6th May (E.Grace per S.M.Christophers).

1989 Berkshire Theale, 21st May, photographed (B.T.Bennett, R.Crawford, P.Hickman *et al.*).

1989 Oxfordshire Near Little Wittenham, 24th May (I.Lewington, D.Wells *et al.*).

In Ireland, there was one at Clonea, Co. Waterford, on 18th March and one at Howth Head, Co. Dublin, during 17th to 31st March.

There are no previous March records, so the above six, from Devon, Dorset and Ireland, are particularly noteworthy.

County recorders will continue to welcome records of this species though, with effect from the start of 1991, it is no longer 'a BB rarity'.

Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (45, 352, 0)

1971 Borders Near Eddleston, five, 25th August (Brit. Birds 65: 340), now considered not acceptable.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 193, 5)

Cornwall Illogan, Redruth, adult, since 26th October 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 487) to 30th March. Davidstow Airfield, juvenile, 15th-17th September (M.J.Barlow, D.A. & Mrs I.M.E.Conway, S.W.Holmes).

Dorset Portland, adult, since 30th August 1989 to at least February (Brit. Birds 83: 487).

Dyfed Skomer, juvenile, 28th September (C.Orsman, S.J.Sutcliffe, H.A.Williams).

Fife Crail, juvenile, 27th October to 2nd November, photographed (D.E.Dickson *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, adult, 12th July, photographed (J.F.Holloway, K., N. & Mrs K.Kent).

1989 Devon Torcross, juvenile, 29th September to 2nd October (per P.W.Ellicott).

In Ireland, there was a juvenile on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 8th October. Also two additional records for 1989 concern an adult at St John's Point, Co. Down, during 24th June to 8th July and a juvenile at the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, on 25th October.

There have been several previous records on isolated winter dates, but the above Portland and Redruth individuals are only the third and fourth to be proved to overwinter successfully here.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (1, 56, 8)

Cornwall Cot Valley, 21st-30th September (H. & M.Frankham, E.Walker *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 250).

Devon Lundy, first-winter, 16th-18th October, trapped 16th, photographed (T.J.Chinn, I.Smith *et al.*).

Humberside Kilnsea, 30th September to 1st October, trapped 30th, photographed (A.Dixon, B.R.Spence *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 29th September (B.Cave).

Ireland had its best-ever year for this species, with individuals on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, on 23rd September; on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 30th September; at Dunquin, Co. Kerry, on 29th-30th September; and at Belmullet, Co. Mayo, on 7th October.

The Humberside individual is the first for that region and only the second in the Northeast.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* (0, 2, 0)

The individual on Tresco, Scilly, from 10th to 13th October 1987 (Brit. Birds 81: 588) can no longer be regarded with certainty as a first-winter, ageing in the field in autumn being considered unsafe, as it is for Red-eyed Vireo *V.olivaceus* (Brit. Birds 82: 555).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 142, 25)

Essex Tollesbury Wick, 16th-17th December (A.Beardswell, J.Torino, C.Undrill *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, 18th-21st October (G.P.Catley).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, 18th October (G.M.Cresswell, S.C.Joyner, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*); 18th-21st October (M.S.Cavanagh, P.J.Heath, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*); 20th October (M.S.Cavanagh, M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*), Cley, 29th October (M.A.Golley). Holkham Meals, 30th November to January 1991, two, 2nd to at least 15th December, three, 7th-8th, 15th and 29th (A.Bloomfield, D.Foster, M.E.S.Rooney *et al.*); four, 8th December, three to at least 15th (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*). Syderstone Common, two, 24th December (A.Bloomfield, J.R.McAllum).

Orkney Stronsay, 21st October, at least one other, 23rd (J.F.Holloway).

Shetland Fair Isle, 23rd April (P.V.Harvey). Fetlar, 28th September, photographed; two, 6th October (I.Hawkins). Whalsay, 30th September to 4th October (P.M.Ellis, A.Heavisides *et al.*); another, same dates (A.F.T. & G.J.Fitchett *et al.*); another, same dates (P.J.Heath, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Norwick, Unst, three, 6th October (K.Osborn).

Suffolk Southwold, 26th November (M.Forbes, A.Riseborough, T.Shields *et al.*).

1989 Tayside Carnoustie, 27th December 1988 to at least 19th April (Brit. Birds 82: 555) to 30th (per M.S.Scott).

This bumper influx is second only to the 33 during 1984. Observers can be a little more confident in the identification of this species, following the publication of the paper by Peter Lansdown, Nick Riddiford and Dr Alan Knox (Brit. Birds 84: 41-46). A number of old, unaccepted, sight records have been reviewed, but no grounds emerged for changing their status.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 50, 15)

Kent Bedgebury, juvenile or first-winter female, 7th October to 11th November, photographed (K.R.Burch, C.Hindle, K.A. & Mrs M.A.Hook *et al.*).

Norfolk Lynford Arboretum, female, 24th November to at least April 1990, photographed (C.G.R.Bowden, P.J.Dolton).

Northamptonshire Wakerley Great Wood, male, 21st-29th November (M.H.Rodgers *et al.*); female, 24th December (M.C.Hall, S.M.Lister).

Orkney Hoy, female, 31st July to 6th August (M.Gray *et al.*). Evie, two juveniles, 18th August, photographed, three, 19th-21st (C.J.Booth, P.Reynolds *et al.*). Sandwick, juvenile, 26th-27th August, photographed (Miss A.Cook, E.R.Meek, Miss L.F.Thomson *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, female, 25th-31st July, photographed (C.Donald, P.V.Harvey, R.Proctor *et al.*); juvenile, 16th August, photographed (Miss J.Estaphanos, R.Schofield, C.M.Sharpley); juvenile, 23rd August (C.Donald, P.V.Harvey *et al.*); female, 20th October (P.V.Harvey). Kergord, juvenile, trapped 22nd September, photographed (G.W.Petrie *et al.*).

This represents the second-best year (after 1987), and this time England shared in the influx.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* (10, 221, 106)

Cleveland Lockwood Beck Reservoir, at least six: three males, first-winter male, two females, 11th November to 1991 (M.A.Blick, G.Boyce *et al.*).

Humberside Humberstone Fitties, female, 20th-23rd October, photographed (K.Atkin, H.Bunn, G.P.Catley).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, five, including at least one male and two females, 18th October, male, female, 19th-20th (G.P.Catley, S.Routledge). Gibraltar Point, male, two females, 19th-25th October, female photographed, two females, 26th (M.R.Briggs, K.M.Wilson *et al.*). Kirkby Moor, four, 4th November, forty-four, 11th, up to thirty-five to end November, up to twenty to 1991 (S.P.Botham, K.Durose *et al.*). Willingham Forest, fourteen, 2nd, 20th December, sixteen, 4th, seventeen, 16th, at least nine to at least 10th January 1991 (S.P.Botham, K.Durose *et al.*). Laughton Forest, ten males, nine females or immatures, 2nd December to at least 1st March 1991 (W.Gillatt, J.T.Harriman *et al.*).

Norfolk Holme, two males, two females, at least 21st October (R.Burrows, D.J. & T.Girling *et al.*). Holkham Meals, female, 4th November (A.Bloomfield, D.Foster). Lynford Arboretum, female, 5th December (P.J.Dolton).

Northumberland Brownsman, Farne, female, 20th October (P.J.H.Bush, A.P.Cotton, J.W.Dodds).

Shetland Fair Isle, female, 23rd-24th September, trapped 24th, photographed (P.V.Harvey, R.Proctor, N.J.Riddiford *et al.*). Whalsay, female, 14th October (Dr B. & Mrs L.Marshall).

Yorkshire, South Hollingdale Plantation, two males, 4th November (D.Hursthouse, T.Rogers).

At sea Sea area Humber, 53°50'N 00°26'E, 32 km east of Spurn Point, Humberside, male, female, 19th October (A.F.Johnson).

1982 At sea Sea area Forties, 53°35'N 02°03'E, first-winter male, first-winter female, both dead, 14th October, now at British Museum (G.P.Crossland).

These records are the first to be accepted since 1987 and also represent far and away the biggest influx yet recorded. Perhaps what is most intriguing, though, is that, for the first time, this coincided with an influx of Two-barred Crossbills *L.leucoptera* and also an influx of Arctic Redpolls *Carduelis hornemanni*.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (0, 1, 1)

Shetland Helendale, Lerwick, male, 3rd-4th November (Miss M.Leslie, D.Suddaby *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 97).

The previous record, 26 years ago, was from Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, in late August (Brit. Birds 58: 457-461), so for the second to appear in November was most unexpected; its sudden departure on 4th also came as a shock to many.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (0, 26, 2)

Scilly St Mary's, 22nd-25th October (J.M. & Mrs H.C.Gardner, K.Pellow *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 254).

Shetland Sumburgh, 6th October (S.J.Dodgson, G.K.Gordon *et al.*).

The Shetland individual was only the second for Scotland; the first was on Whalsay, Shetland, during 30th September to 3rd October 1985.

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus* (0, 3, 1)

None in Britain. In Ireland, there was one on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, on 24th-25th September (Brit. Birds 84: plates 95, 96, 274). The only previous live one was on Out Skerries, Shetland, in 1973.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (1, 14, 0)

Dorset Portland, male, since 3rd December 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 490, plate 193) to March.

Hampshire Church Crookham, male, since 26th December 1989 to 7th March (Brit. Birds 83: 490, plate 192).

The only previous long-stayers were in April-May 1975 at Haresfield, Gloucestershire, and on Bardsey, Gwynedd; any who missed the above birds could be in for a long wait.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* (2, 16, 1)

Northumberland Bamburgh, male, 21st October (I.Chadwick, M.K & M.S.Hodgson).

The problem of eliminating the possibility of a non-yellow Yellowhammer *E.citrinella* has been highlighted by the presence of an apparent female Pine Bunting at Big Waters Nature Reserve, Tyne & Wear, during 1990; that bird is still under review.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 189, 14)

Cleveland South Gare, male, 26th April, photographed (D.Harlow, D.J.Britton *et al.*).

Devon Lundy, first-winter, trapped 9th October (J.B.Kelsall, J.M.B.King, B.Stewart).

Fife Isle of May, 24th-25th September (J.Calladine).

Kent Kingsgate, 25th-28th October (K.C.Evans, C.Hindle *et al.*).

Northumberland Newbiggin, 18th-21st October (C.Bradshaw, T.R.Cleeves, L.Hall).

Scilly Tresco, at least 19th October (G.C.Bond, J.Miller, L.Steward *et al.*); another, 20th-22nd (S.J.Broyd, J.Miller *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 94).

Shetland Sumburgh, female, 28th May, same, Grutness, 29th-30th (H.Loates, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Sumburgh, male, 30th May, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 268). Fair Isle, 3rd-5th October (R.B. & Mrs L.H.Hastings *et al.*).

Western Isles St Kilda, female, 10th-11th June, photographed (S.Holloway, P.M.Walsh).

Yorkshire, North Filey Dams, male, 9th-10th May, photographed (J.Harwood, I.Robinson *et al.*).

Continuing Ireland's recent run of the species, there was one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 22nd-25th October and one at Toe Head, Co. Cork, on 28th-30th October.

One of the best-ever years for this species – even St Kilda got in on the act.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (93, 409, 21)

Cleveland South Gare, 19th October (S.J.Hinley, D.A.Illingworth *et al.*).

Devon Dawlish Warren, 13th April (P.J.Hopkin). Lundy, trapped 12th October (J.Arnold, J.M.B.King, B.Stewart *et al.*); another, 12th-14th, photographed (Dr S.F.Tanner, N.R.Wall *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, trapped, 29th April (D.Walker *et al.*).

Northumberland Brownsman and Staple Island, Fame Islands, 18th-26th October (D.C.Richardson *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 3rd October (P.J.Donnolly, M.Gray). Stronsay, 5th October, photographed (J.F.Holloway, E.R.Meek).

Scilly St Mary's, 13th-18th October (G.Etherington, P.I.Holt *et al.*); 20th (M.Deans, R.A.Walthew *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 255). St Martin's, 23rd-26th October (D.M. & Mrs L.F.C.Love, P.Trodd).

Shetland Fair Isle, 15th May (C.J.Cox, R.Proctor *et al.*); 22nd September; 18th-19th October; 19th-25th October (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 19th-20th October (P.V.Harvey, B.H.Thomason, A.S.Wilson *et al.*). Out Skerries, 22nd September (R.Fowling, A.Grace *et al.*). Norwick, Unst, 24th September (M.J.Pennington).

Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, 28th-29th October, photographed (D.J. & P.M.Scanlan, C.C.Thomas *et al.*).

1989 Humberside Sammy's Point, 17th September (R.C.Hart, J.C.Lowen). Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea, 28th-30th October, trapped 30th (J.Cudworth, S.Lindop *et al.*).

1989 Scilly Tresco, 11th-13th October (N.W.Addey, C.Dobson, R.A.Filby *et al.*); another, 13th (H.M.J.Taffs *et al.*).

In Ireland, two at Loop Head, Co. Clare, on 13th October.

The long-term trend is towards a definite increase in the number of records, which, with this species in particular, is no doubt strongly linked to observer-awareness.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 137, 2)

Shetland Fair Isle, females or immatures: 27th-29th August (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 9th-14th September (J.N.Dymond, G.Oldroyd, R.Proctor *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: page 503 fig. 8).

The poorest showing for 20 years.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 78, 1)

Dyfed Marloes, male, 28th-30th May, photographed (Mr & Mrs E.Deakin, J.W.Donovan *et al.*).

Late May is the peak time for this species. While an increasing number of species seem to be vexed by the escape problem, the recent occurrences of this bunting all seem to support a wild origin.

Appendix. 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 British Birds, 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.

1990 White-billed Diver Haverigg Point, Cumbria, 19th October. **Black-browed Albatross** Dungeness, Kent, 25th April. **Little Shearwater** Lossiemouth, Grampian, 20th September; Pendeen, Cornwall, 21st September. **Night Heron** Hull, Humberside, 10th May. **Great White Egret** Exe Estuary, Devon, 12th August. **Black Stork** Bratton Clovelly, Devon, 14th March; Kirkambeck, Cumbria, 15th May; Almondsbury, Avon, 3rd September. **Lesser White-fronted Goose** Poole Park, Dorset, 17th January. **American Wigeon** Titchwell, Norfolk, 12th September; Belper, Derbyshire, 22nd October. **Blue-winged Teal** Logan, Dumfries & Galloway, 1st September. **Ring-necked Duck** Chew Valley Lake, Avon, 4th February. **King Eider** Fife Ness, Fife, 21st April. **Black Kite** Yetminster, Dorset, 29th March; Newton Abbott, Devon, 2nd April; Compton Dando, Avon, 7th May; Apuldram, West Sussex, 10th May; Barnwell, Northamptonshire, 25th June; Aston Abbots, Buckinghamshire, 25th July; Sompting and Steyning area, West Sussex, 18th August. **White-tailed Eagle** Great Maplesford, Essex, 31st January; Cley, Norfolk, 15th May. **Lesser Kestrel** Cheddleton, Staffordshire, 18th January-24th April; Cley, Norfolk, 20th March; Longford, Gloucestershire, 10th July. **Red-footed Falcon** Rye, East Sussex, 18th April; Witham Mouth, Lincolnshire, 13th May; North Chideock, Dorset, 20th May; St Osyth, Essex, 7th June; Scolt Head, Norfolk, 23rd June; Foreness, Kent, 27th June; Great Wakering, Essex, 11th July; Snettisham, Norfolk, 13th July; Tregardock, Cornwall, 17th July-10th August. **Gyrfalcon** Isle of May, Fife, 1st October; Howford, Highland, 10th October; Grutness, Shetland, 11th October; Strumble Head, Dyfed, 12th October. **Little Crake** At sea, Sea area Humber, 18th October. **Pratincole** Kegworth, Nottinghamshire, 7th October. **American Golden Plover** Lydd, Kent, 28th-29th May. **Pacific Golden Plover** Abberton Reservoir, Essex, 25th July. **Killdeer** St Agnes, Scilly, 6th August. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, 3rd November. **Baird's Sandpiper** Whiteholme Reservoir, West Yorkshire, 12th July; Hartland Point, Devon, 26th-28th October. **Stilt Sandpiper** Landguard Point, Suffolk, 17th August. **Great Snipe** Balmedie, Grampian, 22nd October. **Dowitcher** South Mills, Bedfordshire, 5th-8th November. **Marsh Sandpiper** Rudyard Lake, Staffordshire, 5th July; Eden Estuary, Fife, 27th-28th August; Hodbarrow, Cumbria, 11th September. **Greater Yellowlegs** Easington Lagoons, Humberside, 16th May. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Arundel, West Sussex, 4th May. **Bonaparte's Gull** Portreath, Cornwall, 26th January; Oakenholt Marsh, Clwyd, 27th January; Newlyn, Cornwall, 15th February; Loe Bar, Cornwall, 18th February; Bowness-on-Solway, Cumbria, 28th February, 5th March; Oldbury-on-Severn, Avon, 23rd June. **Grey-headed Gull** Folkestone, Kent, 14th July. **Slender-billed Gull** Northam Burrows, Devon, 16th July. **Ross's Gull** Fingringhoe, Essex, 26th October. **Gull-billed Tern** Selsey Bill, West Sussex, 10th April, two, 27th; Scolt Head, Norfolk, 8th July; Cley, Norfolk, 23rd July; Deben Estuary, Suffolk, 29th September. **Forster's Tern** Gosford Bay, Lothian, 17th March. **Whiskered Tern** Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 30th June; Keyhaven Marsh, Hampshire, 8th September; Elton Reservoir, Greater Manchester, 17th September; Strumble Head, Dyfed, 3rd October. **White-winged Black Tern** Cley, Norfolk, 27th August; Colwick, Nottinghamshire, 29th August; Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 2nd September. **Brünnich's Guillemot** At sea, North Sea, 9th January. **Great Spotted Cuckoo** Hope Cove, Devon, 23rd February. **Black-billed Cuckoo** Bryher, Scilly, 14th October. **Red-necked Nightjar** Brampford Speke, Devon, 26th March. **Pallid Swift** Holme, Norfolk, 14th October. **Alpine Swift** Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, 29th May; Colliford Reservoir, Cornwall, 20th June; Haldon, Devon, 11th July. **Bee-eater** Moor Green, Gloucestershire, 17th June; Ipswich, Suffolk, 20th July. **Short-toed Lark** Meall Dearg, Highland, 12th June; Lamba Ness, Shetland, 19th August. **Red-rumped Swallow** Winterton, Norfolk, 30th April; Cippenham, Berkshire, 1st May; Sidlesham Ferry, West Sussex, 18th May; Lydney, Gloucestershire, 31st August. **Olive-backed Pipit** Stronsay, Orkney, 24th October. **Pechora Pipit** Skomer, Dyfed, 20th May. **Red-throated Pipit** Motcombe, Dorset, 23rd August; Greshornish, Skye, Highland, 28th August; Holyport, Berkshire, 27th-30th October. **Black-headed Yellow Wagtail** King's Lynn, Norfolk, 23rd May. **Citrine Wagtail** Eyebrook Reservoir, Leicestershire, 9th April; Sandwich Bay, Kent, 13th May; Hodbarrow, Cumbria, 1st August. **Alpine Accentor** At sea, North Sea, 22nd October. **White-throated Robin** Pensarn, Clwyd, 8th September. **Siberian Stonechat** Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd, 17th-18th October. **Black-eared Wheatear** Rossendale, Lancashire, 30th June. **American Robin** Newquay, Cornwall, 9th February; Ardargie, Tayside, 6th December. **Olivaceous Warbler** Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 9th September. **Greenish Warbler** Cromer, Norfolk, 24th August; Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 9th September. **Arctic Warbler** Radipole, Dorset, 1st September; Haverhill, Suffolk, 11th October. **Dusky Warbler** Theddlethorpe Dunes, Lincolnshire, 23rd October; St Abbs, Borders, 24th October; St Mary's, Scilly, 24th October.

Bonelli's Warbler Holkham Meals, Norfolk, 9th September; Sheepwash Urban Park, West Midlands, 12th September. **Isabelline Shrike** Frodsham, Cheshire, 13th November. **Rose-coloured Starling** Coulsdon, Surrey, two, 28th March. **Citril Finch** Near Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, four, 27th November. **Parrot Crossbill** Balephetrish, Tیره, Strathclyde, 5th September; Theddlethorpe Dunes, Lincolnshire, 26th October. **Pine Grosbeak** Torridon Forest, Highland, 17th July. **Little Bunting** Cley, Norfolk, 11th February; Upchurch, Kent, two, 27th-30th March; West High Down, Isle of Wight, 29th April.

1989 Soft-plumaged Petrel Dungeness, Kent, 12th March; Prawle Point, Devon, 18th August. **Bulwer's Petrel** Towan Head, Cornwall, 23rd July. **Wilson's Petrel** Holmpton, Humberside, 8th October; St Mary's, Scilly, 24th December. **Ring-necked Duck** Crowan Reservoir, Cornwall, 26th December. **Canvasback** Glan Conwy, Gwynedd, 2nd October. **Black Scoter** Alnmouth, Northumberland, 19th February. **Baillon's Crake** Cley, Norfolk, 21st May. **Baird's Sandpiper** Frodsham, Cheshire, 6th-7th September; River Lynher, Cornwall, 14th November. **Stilt Sandpiper** Croxton Pond, Humberside, 20th July. **Marsh Sandpiper** Rhyl, Clwyd, 22nd August. **Laughing Gull** Portland, Dorset, 20th November. **Gull-billed Tern** Weymouth, Dorset, 17th September. **Whiskered Tern** Alvecote Pools, Warwickshire, 17th June. **Alpine Swift** Water End, Hertfordshire, 4th September. **Bee-eater** Dungeness, Kent, 28th August. **Isabelline Wheatear** Burry Port, Dyfed, 6th May. **Blyth's Reed Warbler** Skokholm, Dyfed, 25th September. **Bonelli's Warbler** Harlyn Bay, Cornwall, 8th April; Sevenoaks, Kent, 12th August. **Arctic Redpoll** Towyn, Clwyd, 16th April. **Little Bunting** Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 22nd April; Sanday, Orkney, 24th September. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Cot Valley, Cornwall, 13th November.

1988 Albatross At sea, North Sea, two, 26th May. **Bulwer's Petrel** Meols/Moreton, Merseyside, 9th October. **Hooded Merganser** Ixworth, Suffolk, 7th May. **Gyrfalcon** Bembridge, Isle of Wight, 8th March. **Great Bustard** Heacham, Norfolk, two, 1st May. **Cream-coloured Courser** At sea, North Sea, 21st September. **Pallid Swift** Reculver, Kent, 13th November. **Bee-eater** Lochinver, Highland, 31st May. **Crag Martin** Oldbury, West Midlands, 9th August. **Olivaceous Warbler** Kelling, Norfolk, 4th May. **Subalpine Warbler** Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 5th September. **Orphean Warbler** Benington Marsh, Lincolnshire, 16th October. **Nutcracker** Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, two, 29th September.

1987 Gyrfalcon Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, 3rd February. **Black-winged Stilt** St Mary's, Scilly, seven, 27th April. **Terek Sandpiper** West Kirby, Merseyside, 5th April. **Pallas's Warbler** Durlston, Dorset, second individual, 21st-22nd October. **Bonelli's Warbler** Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 21st June. **Song Sparrow** Point of Air, Clwyd, 17th December.

1986 Ivory Gull Cley, Norfolk, 2nd or 3rd October.

1985 Black-winged Stilt Plymouth Hoe, Devon, 2nd July.

1984 Sooty Tern Spurn, Humberside, 30th September.

1983 Lesser Golden Plover Barbrook Reservoir and Middleton Tailings-lagoon, Derbyshire, 6th August; Ogston Reservoir, Derbyshire, 29th October.

1982 Rufous Turtle Dove Barn's Ness, Lothian, 2nd October.

1981 Whiskered Tern Scotsman's Flash, Greater Manchester, 10th August.

1978 Isabelline Wheatear Cley, Norfolk, 12th September.

1976 Desert Warbler Crowle Moors, Humberside, 27th August.

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