



Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1991

Michael.J.Rogers and the Rarities Committee
With comments by Colin Bradshaw and Peter Clement

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 1990 report (84: 449-505). 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 or tape-recorded (and this evidence seen or heard by the Committee); (5) if trapped or found dead and where specimen is stored, if known; (6) date(s); and (7) 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 parentheses 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, 120, 10)

Gwynedd Holyhead Harbour, first-winter, 24th February to 19th May, photographed (K.G.Croft, C.Fox, D.Worrall *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 169).

Lothian Gosford Bay, Aberlady and Gullane Bay area: at least one first-summer, 31st July to September; two first-summer, at least 25th-30th August (A.Brown, P.Ford, N.Hunter *et al.*).

Orkney Burray, first-winter, 9th-22nd February (M.Gray *et al.*). Stromness, 20th February (M.Gray).

Shetland Whalsay, adult, since 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 452) to 9th April (per D.Suddaby). Bluemull Sound, juvenile, 13th January (M.Heubeck, D.Suddaby *et al.*). West Burrayfirth, adult, 7th-9th February (P.M.Ellis, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Holm of Heogland, Unst, adult, 19th November (M.Heubeck, M.Mellor, R.J.Tulloch).

Strathclyde Machrihanish Bay, 5th May (R.H.Hogg, W.McKechnie).

Western Isles Rubha Ardvule, South Uist, first-summer, 14th June (T.J.Barker, R.S.Slack).

One of the better years for this species, with the long-staying Gwynedd bird filling a hole on many lists that did not stretch back to the 1981 Hartlepool bird. The Whalsay individual failed to return for what would have been its fourteenth successive winter.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* (2, 25, 0)

Shetland Hermaness, Unst, individual last recorded 10th June 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 452), 23rd March to 13th April, intermittently to 4th June (per D.Suddaby).

1990 Dyfed Skokholm, 19th August (G.Thompson).

A record from sea area Viking in 1989 was just outside British waters and has been passed to the Norwegian rarities committee. The Hermaness bird once more returned, albeit sporadically. It has been recorded since 1972, with the exception of 1988-89. Records from Norway suggest, however, that on at least two occasions in the last five years another albatross has been within a few hundred kilometres of this lonely bachelor or spinster.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* (0, 1, 0)

1989 Cornwall Porthgwarra, 12th August (P.A.Flint, D.J.W.Walker); 13th (B.R.Field, P.Harrison *et al.*); 14th (T.M.Blackburn, N.J.Hallam, I.Lewington *et al.*).

This new species for the British list was seen on three successive days, allowing one of the few 'twiches' for a seabird ever (because of the circuitous feeding movements of other species off Porthgwarra, the Committee feels that these records probably relate to the same individual). (British Birds, following Voous 1977, list of Recent Holarctic Bird Species, recognises only one species, regarding *madeira* and *faea* as races of *P.mollis*.)

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (4, 11, 0)

At sea Sea area Fastnet, 50°03'N 06°41'W, about 40 km west of Bishop Rock, Scilly, two, 24th July (W.F.Curtis). Sea area Sole, 48°25'N 08°24'W, near Little Sole Bank, 28th August (A.Webb). Irish Sea, 51°36'N 06°27'W, 3rd August (G.Harper, E.J.Smith).

Once again, all this year's records come from boats either 'Desperately Seeking Seabirds' or en passant.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* (50, 9, 1)

Lancashire Marton Mere, adult, 24th January to at least 12th May, photographed (P.I.Holt, D.J.McCullagh *et al.*) (Brit Birds 84: plates 173 & 176).

Another bird that wiped the complacent grins off the faces

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 299, 1)

Bedfordshire Brogborough Lake, second-summer, 28th November (R.Dumpleton, R.D.Moore).

1989 Wight, Isle of Brading Marsh, juvenile, 3rd November (M.Webb).

1990 Devon Ermington, adult, taken into care exhausted, 27th March, photographed, released Lopwell, 28th (L.Hurrell, R.Swinfen).

1990 Man, Isle of Michael, adult, 30th March to 4th April (A & J.Hopson, A.S.Moore *et al.*).

1990 Scilly St Mary's, six adults: 17th March to 1st April; 19th-24th March, when dead; 29th March to 4th April; 4th April to 2nd May; 8th April to 13th May; 24th April to 4th June; two first-summers: 17th-18th March; 3rd May to 15th June. St Martin's, adult, 17th, 29th March, presumed same, Tresco, 18th March to 9th April (D.J.D.Hickman, I.R.Hunt, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

1990 Surrey Bookham Common, first-summer, 7th-16th April, photographed (D.Connell, D.Element).

1990 West Midlands Hay Head Wood, Walsall, adult, 16th-22nd April (Brit. Birds 84: 454), same, Park Lane Lime-pits, 25th; original finder was J.M.Beechey (per T.Hesketh).

In complete contrast to the previous year, there was a dearth of Night Herons in 1991, although a couple of records are still in circulation and some others have not been submitted yet. The list of continuing acceptances for 1990 illustrates just how good a year that was for this species. A record of an adult and a second-winter at Horning, Norfolk, on 17th January 1982 was considered to relate to birds of captive origin; the former bore yellow rings on each leg.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 31, 0)

1990 Devon Aveton Gifford, 3rd-6th June, photographed (H. & Mrs J.Huggins, P.Sanders *et al.*).

No records in 1991, but another from 1990, which was the best-ever year since at least 1958 for this species.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (23, 713, -)

1989 Gloucestershire Sharpness, 2nd September; same, Purton, to 2nd October (Mr & Mrs J.Gay *et al.*).

1989 Merseyside Seaforth, 18th August (A.Quinn *et al.*), probably same as Clwyd individual, 19th-24th (Brit. Birds 83: 443).

1989 Yorkshire, South Sprotborough Flash, 25th May (H.Parkin).

1990 Cheshire Neumann's Flash, 6th May (D. & R.Elphick), probably same as Clwyd individual, 11th, 23rd (Brit. Birds 84: 455).

1990 Dyfed/Glamorgan, West Penclawdd, up to five, 6th August to at least 29th September (Brit. Birds 84: 456), up to six, Wernffrwd and Penclawdd, 11th-13th August, five of same, Penclacwydd, Dyfed, 13th; one of same, Weobley, West Glamorgan, 11th (W.E.Jones, K.R.Lloyd).

1990 Somerset Burnham-on-Sea, 14th January (R.M.Andrews *et al.*).

1990 Wight, Isle of Lakeside, 16th August (Brit. Birds 84: 456), two, 28th September, 1st October (G.Walls per J.M.Cheverton); presumed one of same, Yar Estuary, 17th, 23rd August (E.D.Bushby, R.Herbert, per J.M.Cheverton). Newtown, 20th October (D.Rickman per J.M.Cheverton). All probably from Hampshire (Brit. Birds 84: 456).

The Committee members heaved a collective sigh of relief when they made the decision that Little Egret should be removed from the list. The Committee still, however, has to deal with the hangover from 1990 which left the members punch-drunk. Several extensions of the 1990 records are added above, and on top of that come the Channel Islands records for 1990: St Saviour, Jersey, up to four, 5th January to 18th March, singles during 12th-15th May; up to six, 2nd July to end of year, and an additional party of sixteen on 5th September.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 42, 1)

Cornwall Lynher Estuary, 30th March (E.Griffiths).

1989 Devon Kingsbridge, 23rd-24th April (S.Bird, B.R.Field, P.McQuillan *et al.*).

1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, 17th October (P.M.Howlett, S.W.Walker).

Only a single record in 1991, contrasting with six in each of the preceding two years.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 58, 22)

Cornwall St Buryan, 27th August (A.Blunden, J.Warwick).

Devon Crediton, 30th August (H.Meller, J.Schofield). Dene Prior, three adults, 22nd September (L.R. & Mrs M.Cox, J.C.Lowen).

Dorset Near Ringstead Bay, 8th August (H.Squire).

Dyfed Skokholm, 27th-28th April (M.Betts). Skomer, 29th July (S.J. & Mrs A.C.Sutcliffe, S.Wilson); same, Marloes, 2nd August (R.M.Bishop, S.J. & Mrs A.C.Sutcliffe).

Essex Epping Forest, 7th July (K.Evans, N.A.May *et al.*). Frinton-on-Sea, 30th September (Dr R.J. & Mrs T.M.Banham).

Gwynedd Near Carmel Head, Anglesey, 22nd June (Dr M.H.J. & Mrs E.A.Finch).

Highland Sanna, Ardnamurchan, 18th May (M.Madders, P.Snow, J.Welstead). Between Avoch and Munloch, 23rd July (C.H.Crooke, B.Etheridge, D.C.Orr-Ewing).

Kent Elmley, 12th May (J.A.Rowlands, D.W.Taylor *et al.*). Dungeness, 1st June (D.Boyle, D.C.Gilbert *et al.*).

Leicestershire Husband's Bosworth, two, 18th July (N.W.Hagley).

Norfolk/Suffolk Santon Downham, 3rd July (C.Kightley, B.Small) (Brit. Birds 85: page 513 fig. 1).

Sussex, West Cissbury, 26th August (C.E.Hope).

Western Isles Uig, Lewis, two, 25th to about 31st July, one of same, 4th August, dead, 5th, both photographed 25th July (P.Cunningham, R.Macintyre, F.Maciver *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 215).

Yorkshire, North Dalby Forest, 9th June (J.G.Sigsworth, D.G.Storey *et al.*).

1990 Dumfries & Galloway Caerlaverock, 24th-25th June (J.B.Doherty, P.Shimmings), probably same as Leighton Moss, Lancashire, individual, 21st (Brit. Bird. 84: 458).

1990 Essex See 1990 Suffolk below.

1990 Greater London See 1990 Suffolk below.

1990 Northamptonshire See 1990 Suffolk below.

1990 Suffolk Enough and Sotterly area, juvenile, 28th-29th July, 16 further localities to at least 1st September (Brit. Birds 84: 458); at least two individuals involved as follows: adult, Hulver and Enough area, 28th-29th July; same, Benacre, 29th; Hemley, 29th; probably same, Minsmere, 17th August; Bromeswell, 21st; possibly same as Greater London individual, 25th; immature, Iken and Snape area, 4th-8th August; presumed same, Blythburgh, 19th; Benacre, 20th; presumed same, Northamptonshire, 27th-28th July, Essex, 25th-26th August; presumed same, Covehithe, 12th September (D.Tutt). (All Suffolk data per P.W.Murphy.)

A remarkable series of records in a year not renowned for southern vagrants. The unpredictability of how far and in what direction this species wanders makes it impossible safely to relate any of the 1991 records to another. Sufficient to say that this is far and away the best year on record.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 59, 0)

Kent Stodmarsh area, 1990 individual (Brit. Birds 84: 458) January to March, 27th-28th April, regularly May, 16th August to end of year; same, Elmley, 17th-18th May, 27th-30th June (per D.W.Taylor).

1989 Yorkshire, South Thorpe Marsh, 24th-29th May (A.Oates, D.Page, P.Sutton); same, intermittently, Fairburn lngs, North/West Yorkshire, Leventhorpe Hall, North Yorkshire, 29th May to 26th June (C.Winn *et al.*).

1989 Yorkshire, North See above.

1989 Yorkshire, West See above.

The long-staying Kent bird was the only record received in 1991. The 1989 Yorkshire bird fits in well with the Northumbrian individual (Brit. Birds 83: 447). Care should be taken in the identification of this species as there are known to be free-flying Puna Ibises *P.ridgwayi* in Britain.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus* (0, 7, 0)

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

1990 Somerset Wet Moor, adult, 3rd-4th January; same, King's Sedgemoor, 15th February (D.J.Chown per B.Rabbitts); same, Curry Moor, 3rd March (A.J.Bundy per B.Rabbitts); presumed returning individual last recorded 23rd December 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 448).

The wanderer returns, for the fifth year.

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

Whilst 1991 records from Norfolk, Avon and Lancashire have been received, it is believed that a number of others remain outstanding. The Committee is anxious to study all records of this species during winter 1990/91 so that a proper assessment may be made of the movements of individuals that may not originate in the wild.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* (1, 52, 1)

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

Lincolnshire Wainfleet All Saints, adult, 10th January (P.I.Holt, J.Lawson *et al.*).

1990 Kent Swalecliffe, adult, 23rd October to 25th November; presumed same, Leysdown, 4th November (C.G.Bradshaw, A.J.Fossey).

The only accepted record so far for 1991, although several others still remain in circulation. The picture is now clouded by the presence of presumed hybrids in Britain. Records of this subspecies must show all the diagnostic features to be acceptable.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 214, 8)

Cornwall Marazion, female, 7th-10th April, photographed (S.Rogers, Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*). Loe Pool, first-winter male, 1st-4th September (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Devon Exmouth and Dawlish Warren, male, since 24th December 1990 to at least 5th January (Brit. Birds 84: 459).

Fife Stenhouse Reservoir, male, female, to 19th December 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 459), male to 4th March, female to 13th January (per D.E.Dickson). Lochore Meadows, male, 15th October to at least 8th December (A.Hibbert, D.Seawright *et al.*), possibly returning Stenhouse Reservoir individual.

Gloucestershire Dudgrove, Cotswold Water-park, male, since 16th December 1990 to 24th January (Brit. Birds 84: 459). Slimbridge, male, at least 10th March, photographed (T.E.Bond *et al.*).

Highland Loch Ussie, Ross-shire, male, 8th December to 18th January 1992 (Dr D.M. & Mrs J.Edge, R.J.Evans *et al.*).

Kent Elmley, male, 1st April to 11th May (L.F.Woollard *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Whisby, male, 21st October to 1st November (D.Bromwich, K.D.Durose *et al.*).

Lothian Gladhouse Reservoir, male, since 17th October 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 460), 27th January (G.N.Buchanan *et al.*).

1990 Cheshire/Ciwyd Burton Marsh, male, 25th April; same, Inner Marsh Farm, 26th (B.S.Barnacal, I.Higginson, C.Wells).

1990 Fife See Fife above.

1990 Lothian See Lothian above.

1990 Merseyside Seaforth, male, 15th September, photographed (C.Kehoe *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 78).

In Ireland, an adult male was at Lough O'Grady, Co. Clare, from 19th to 26th November, and two males returned to Co. Cork, at Ballintubbrib and Rostellan, Cork Harbour, from 1991 to 1992.

There are still several records in circulation, so the picture is incomplete. This species has, however, never shown the western bias usually associated with transatlantic vagrants. The spring female in Cornwall reacted vigorously to the recorded call of a male American Wigeon whilst studiously ignoring the call of a male Wigeon *A.penelope*.

Teal *Anas crecca* (13, 320, -)

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

1985 Dorset Wool and Holes Bay, Poole Harbour, 28th-29th January, 14th February (Brit. Birds 79: 535), probably same, Brands Bay, 20th November (per M.Cade).

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

1990 Berkshire Pingewood, 21st April (B.Uttley).

1990 Cheshire Inner Marsh Farm, 15th March (G.H.Rhodes, C.E.Wells).

1990 Gwynedd Llyn Traffwl, Anglesey, 2nd-3rd December (K.G.Croft).

1990 Norfolk Welney, 15th-16th March (Brit. Birds 84: 460), first recorded 4th (per P.R.Allard). Cley, 21st March to 25th April (M.A.Golley, D.J.Holman *et al.*).

1990 Sussex, West Arundel, 10th-24th March (R.J.L.Kemp *et al.*).

A batch of records from previous years. Records of this race dated after the end of 1990 are not considered by the Committee.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (19, 149, 5)

Cornwall Loe Pool, male, 2nd October (D. & Mrs M.M.Walbridge, G. & Mrs S.Walbridge).

Orkney Rackwick Bay, male, 27th May (K.Fairclough, A.Garven, J.Randall *et al.*); possibly same, Loch of Stenness, 30th (P.S.Wells).

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, female, 16th-17th September (J.Vaughan).

1990 Berkshire Theale, male, 19th April to 1st May (B.Uttley *et al.*), possibly returning individual of 19th May 1988 (Brit. Birds 84: 461).

1990 Norfolk Titchwell, male, to at least 29th September (Brit. Birds 84: 461), to 4th October (per P.R.Allard).

In Ireland, a juvenile was shot at Lough Durnesh, Co. Donegal, on 18th October. Another poor year compared with the late 1980s, although there is a pleasing western bias to the records. Perhaps the 'Colditz spirit' has been bred out of this species.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1, 298, 8)

Cheshire Woolston Eyes, male, 5th-8th February (J.Walsh); same, Rostherne Mere, 9th, Chorlton, 16th to 14th March (per A.M.Broome).

Cornwall Drift Reservoir and Marazion, two males since 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 461) to 6th March, one to 22nd (Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Devon See 1990 Devon below.

Dumfries & Galloway Auchenreoch Loch, female, 19th January to at least 24th February (M.Ilett *et al.*). See also 1990 Dumfries & Galloway below.

Fife Lochgelly Loch, male, 29th April to 2nd May (S.Brown, J.S.Nadin *et al.*).

Hampshire Allington Lane, male, 9th-28th March (D.J.Unsworth).

Highland Inverdrue, male, end of April to end of June; same, Loch Morlich, 16th to at least 24th September, Loch Insh, 11th October to at least 22nd December (Z.Bhatia, D.M.Pullan *et al.*), presumed returning 1989-90 individual below.

Lancashire Carnforth, female, since 26th October 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 462) to 23rd April; same, Leighton Moss, to 26th May (P.J.Marsh *et al.* per M.Jones). Stocks Reservoir, male, since 1990 (see 1990 Lancashire below) to 27th January; same, Dean Clough Reservoir, 24th (per M.Jones); presumed same, Wayoh Reservoir, 26th November to 22nd December (per M.Jones).

Norfolk Acle and Ranworth and Wroxham Broads, male, 10th-25th February (J.R.Appleton, M.Fischer, M.J.Seago *et al.*); presumed same, 17th December to 1992 (per P.R.Allard).

Northumberland Holywell Pond, male, 9th April (I.Fisher), same as Tyne & Wear.

Strathclyde Ardnave Loch, Islay, male, intermittently, 27th January to at least 22nd April (M.A.Peacock, A.J.Stanbury *et al.*). Loch Nell, Argyll, male, 14th to at least 16th February (J.M.Harrison, Dr A.R.Jennings, Mrs J.Mauchline *et al.*).

Tayside Loch of Kinnordy, male, 23rd-25th June (J.Scott *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Marden Quarry, male, 7th April, 6th, 28th May (A.Hutt, R.Johnson per B.N.Rossiter), presumed returning individual last recorded Marine Park Lake, South Shields, 11th-12th December 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 462); same, Marine Park Lake, intermittently, 13th April to 28th October (A.L.Armstrong *et al.* per B.N.Rossiter); also in Northumberland.

Yorkshire, West Allerton Bywater, male, 20th March (G.Carr, S.Gear, M.Simpson); same, Parker's Pond, Ledston, 24th (J.Martin); same, New Swillington Ings, 31st (M.P.Lawlor *et al.*); presumed returning New Swillington individual, 1990 (Brit. Birds 84:462). Winterset Reservoir, male, 26th-28th August, 19th-20th September (S.Denny, P.Smith *et al.*), probably same as New Swillington individual.

1988 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, male, 6th March to 24th April (L.M. & R.L.Lowndes *et al.*).

1989 Highland Loch Morlich, male, 2nd January to 13th February; same, Loch Garten, 8th April (D.M.Pullan *et al.*), same as 1988 Highland individual (Brit. Birds 83: 453).

1990 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, juvenile or first-winter, 26th September (D.Lewis, J.M.Walters), presumed same as at Loe Pool, 29th September to 19th October (Brit. Birds 84: 461).

1990 Devon Kitley Pond, female, 15th December to at least 31st March 1991 (A.J.Pomroy), presumed returning individual last recorded 24th March 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 461).

1990 Dumfries & Galloway Milton Loch, female, at least 24th December (T.Drew, P.Shimmings *et al.*), presumed same, Auchenreoch Loch, 1991 above.

1990 Highland Loch Pityoulish, male, 18th February (Brit. Birds 84: 462), 2nd March; same, Loch Vaa, 24th-25th March, Inverdrue, 16th-19th April, Loch Morlich, 1st-30th November, Loch Insh, 18th December (D.M.Pullan *et al.*); all refer to individual first recorded in 1980. See also 1991 above.

1990 Lancashire Stocks Reservoir, male, since 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 452), intermittently to 18th March, also at Foulridge Reservoir, Wood End Sewage-farm (R.Ashworth, E.G.Davis, P.J.Hornby *et al.* per M.Jones); presumed same, Clowbridge Reservoir, 27th September, Black Moss and Dean Clough Reservoirs and Primrose Lodge, Clitheroe, 2nd December to 1991 (A.A.Cooper, S.E.Duffield, P.I.Holt *et al.* per M.Jones).

1990 Oxfordshire Henley Road Gravel-pit, Dunsden, male, 18th March (R.G.Bowles).

1990 Somerset Wimbleball Lake, male, 15th-31st December (B.D.Gibbs *et al.* per B.Rabbitts); same, Clatworthy Reservoir, at least 16th December (per B.Rabbitts); presumed returning 1989 individual (Brit. Birds 83: 452).

1990 Yorkshire, West Swillington Park Lake, male, 31st March (Brit. Birds 84: 462), 16th May (G.L.Haigh). See also 1991.

The sole Irish record accepted so far for 1991 is of a male at Inch Lake, Co. Donegal, on 5th May.

The large number of records disguises the fact that there are very few new records in 1991, with perhaps eight at most. One is left to speculate why there is such a high percentage of males compared with females, and also when we are going to have the first British-bred Ring-necked Ducks. There were hopes in Tyne & Wear in 1990, but the female seemed more interested in Tufted Ducks *A.fuligula* and the male in displaying to male Pochards *A.ferina*.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0, 4, 0)

Dumfries & Galloway See below.

1990 Dumfries & Galloway Milton Loch, male, 29th December (R.Hesketh *et al.*); same, Auchenreoch Loch, 31st to 25th January 1991 (I.Murray *et al.*).

This bird had the good sense to turn up right next to a cafe so that cold birders could have coffee and bacon butties whilst watching both this and a Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*. It is interesting that the first individual recorded in Ireland also turned up with a Ring-necked Duck; the Committee opts for mass immigration rather than mass break-out.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 154, 10)

Borders St Abb's Head, first-year male, 8th-28th June (R.D.Murray, D.Watson *et al.*); presumed same as Grampian.

Fife Tayport, male, intermittently, 30th January to 18th March (per D.E.Dickson), presumed one of Ythan Estuary, Grampian, individuals.

Grampian Ythan Estuary, male, since 23rd December 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 463), to at least July (per K.D.Shaw); additional male, 17th March (M.Kimber), 31st (A. & W.Brydges, I.Phillips, A.Tate *et al.*), to at least July (per K.D.Shaw); first-year male, 17th March (M.Kimber), presumed also in Borders. Murcar, male, 27th June (L.Austen, R.A.Schofield, K.D.Shaw *et al.*). Blackdog, two males, 15th July into August, photographed (I.Talbot, I.M.Tidmarch *et al.*). Donmouth, male, 9th October (per K.D.Shaw). All presumed same as Ythan Estuary. See also Fife, Lothian. Burghead, male, 25th May (C.H.Crooke, D.C.Orr-Ewing); presumed same, Kingston-on-Spey, 12th June (C.Gervaise, R.Shewan); presumed from Highland.

Highland Brora, Loch Fleet, Lothbeg area, male, 28th-31st March (G.Dutton, A.S.Kennedy *et al.* per A.R.Mainwood); 6th April, 1st-4th May (A.R.Mainwood); 11th June (N.E.Gammon, Mrs P.Walton); presumed same, 8th December (A.Vittery per A.R.Mainwood); probably also in Grampian above.

Lothian Seafeld, Edinburgh, male, 5th to at least 15th December (G.Hopwood *et al.*), presumed one of east Grampian individuals.

Orkney Deerness, male, 19th May to 2nd June (E.R.Meek, E. & L.Tait *et al.*).

Shetland Lerwick, first-year male, 29th March to at least 18th May (C.Donald *et al.*). Noss, first-year male, 10th-28th May (R.Armstrong, D.Suddaby *et al.*); first-year female, 15th May to 7th July (R.Armstrong, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Trondra, first-year male, 7th to at least 18th May (I.Brown, F.Finen, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Trebister Ness, first-year male, 20th August (M.Heubeck), presumed one or other of preceding individuals above. Sumburgh Head, first-year male, 27th June to at least 21st August (M.Heubeck *et al.*), presumed one or other of preceding individuals; female, 3rd July (J.N.Dymond). Lerwick, male, 27th September to 3rd October (A.V.Moon *et al.*). Whalsay, first-year male, 5th October to 1st November (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall, N.D.Poleson), possibly one or other of preceding individuals.

1989 Shetland Fetlar, male, 25th June (L.Andrén, J.Törnquist).

Once again, a difficult task trying to sort out individuals and numbers. There is to be a paper soon in British Birds which will attempt to unravel the knot of King Eider records.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* (7, 4, 1)

Highland Wick, female, 6th February to 17th May, photographed (M.Harvey, D.C.Orr-Ewing, J.Porter *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plates 174, 177 & 178).

For those of us who missed the Islay bird, this was a most welcome visitor, and the long drive did not seem to deter anyone. Yet another rare duck to turn up within viewing distance of a very good cafe.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (75, 290, -)

1990 Dyfed Marros Sands, male, 14th October to 4th November (F.B.Jenkins *et al.*).

1990 Grampian Murcar, male, date uncertain, September (R.J. & S.J.Aspinall).

1990 Humberside Barmston, male, 18th January (P.Piringer).

A late record of one at Rostrevor, Co. Down, on 12th November 1989.

Another species now off the Committee's list makes perhaps its swan-song.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (0, 1, 0)

The record of an adult male at Irvine, Strathclyde, on 4th November to 28th December 1979 (Brit. Birds 76: 528) has now been admitted to Category A.

Hooded Merganser *Mergus cucullatus* (5, 1, 0)

A female at Holme, Norfolk, on 3rd-15th June 1990 and a male at Peasholm Park Lake, North Yorkshire, from 24th September to 23rd December 1989 are both considered to have been escapes.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 142, 7)

Cornwall St Columb Major, 15th April (S.M. & Mrs A.D.Christophers, J.Hawkey). Marazion, 25th May (D.S.Flumm, M.Hutchens).

Dorset Portland, 23rd May (D. & G.Walbridge *et al.*).

Northumberland Kielder Forest, 18th April (M.Davison).

Staffordshire Morridge, 14th May (A & W.J.Brydges, P.C.Fontana, P.Jones *et al.*).

Wight, Isle of Newchurch, 22nd May (J.C. & Mrs R.Gloyn).

1990 Dorset Winfrith Newburgh, 28th March (F.C. & J.C.Marshallsay), probably same as Yetminster, 26th (Brit. Birds 84: 464).

The fourth Irish record was a single at Midleton, Co. Cork, on 20th April. A poor showing, with fewer than in any year since 1984. It is interesting to note that up to 1966 there had been only five records of this species in Britain. Now we consider six in Britain in one year as bad.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 375, 5)

Greater London Rainham Marsh, first-summer male, 8th-16th June (S.R.Pickering *et al.*).

Leicestershire Thornton Reservoir, male, 28th June (D.J.S.Gamble) (Brit. Birds 85: page 520 fig. 2).

Norfolk Titchwell, female, 26th May (W.Parker, A.J.Shearman *et al.*); presumed same, Sandringham Warren, 26th (A.Harris, S.Rasch, J.Redwood).

Scilly St Martin's, female, 29th May to 2nd June (J.A.Flynn, D. & Mrs M.Hawkins *et al.*).

1988 Dyfed Tregaron, female, 25th May to 2nd June (S.Parr, P.N.Prior *et al.*).

1989 Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, male, 13th May (R.L.K.Jolliffe). Little Paxton, first-summer male, at least 28th-30th May (Brit. Birds 84: 467), 31st (R.M.Patient).

1990 Cleveland Seal Sands, male, 10th May (Brit. Birds 84: 466), to 20th.

1990 Gloucestershire See 1990 Wiltshire below.

1990 Hampshire Farlington Marshes, female, 4th May (G.C.Stephenson).

1990 Kent Dover, male, 27th June (A.J.Greenland).

1990 Merseyside Seaforth, male, 22nd May, photographed (D.Gaunt, G.A.Harrison, S.R.Jennings).

1990 Norfolk Cley, female, 20th May (Brit. Birds 84: 467), observers were T.C.Davies, M.A.Golley, S.J.Harris. Cley, first-summer male, 23rd June (Brit. Birds 84: 467), same, Kelling, 24th (per P.R.Allard).

1990 Wight, Isle of Scratchell's Bay, male, 31st May (S. & B.K.Abbott).

1990 Wiltshire Cotswold Water-park, first-summer male, 27th-29th May (Brit. Birds 84: 467), departed into Gloucestershire, 29th (per G.R.Avery).

One on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 31st May is only the sixth record for Ireland.

Rainham Marsh now joins the favoured sites for this delightful species. Numbers were comparatively low in 1991, although there are still several reports in circulation; it certainly did nothing to prepare us for the onslaught of 1992. Observers should note that it will make the Committee's job a lot simpler if adequate descriptions are submitted with all records for 1992, even though they may appear to be 'as common as Kestrels *F.tinnunculus*' this year.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 96, 2)

1990 Grampian Strathdon, 21st April (D.Calder, B.L.Cosnette).

Long-staying singles in Ireland, with one near Ballyconnelly, Co. Galway, from 1st to 10th April, and a first-winter at Akeragh Lough, Co. Kerry, from 5th November into 1992.

The Grampian bird was an exciting find for a raptor worker on his spring censuses. The problem of large falcons in the south of England is taxing the Committee and the British postal service. With the recent increasing availability of falconers' hybrids, descriptions of this species need to be virtually perfect.

Sora *Porzana carolina* (5, 6, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 15th October to 1st November, probably since 4th October (B.C.Forrester, J.R.Hough, P.Morrison *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 44, page 521 fig. 3).

This bird followed the pattern of some previous records both by arriving in September-October and by totally confusing the first few observers who saw it. Once it was sorted out, it seemed easy, but which of us has sufficient experience of the small crakes to be sure enough to be the first to put a name to one? This bird behaved beautifully (as did most of the birders and some of the photographers) for the rest of its stay.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (many, 7, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile female, trapped 28th September, found dead 2nd October, photographed (S.J.M.Gantlett, P.V.Harvey, D.Suddaby *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 227), mounted specimen retained by D.Suddaby.

1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, probably first-winter male, dead, 16th June (P.M.Howlett *et al.*), now at National Museum of Wales.

Rumour reaches the Committee that several birders on Fair Isle were praying that this would be a Little Crake *P.parva* when it was caught, as they had seen the Sunderland Baillon's Crake in 1989. In contrast to that bird, the identification of this individual was by no means straightforward. What a sad end for a very good bird.

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* (1, 1, 1)

Shetland Exnaboe and Sumburgh, first-summer moulting to second-winter, 17th-26th September, photographed (M.Davison, P.M.Ellis *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 40).

The third record for Britain and Ireland allowed many to catch up with a species that most thought had gone for ever. Not satisfied with that, it then took off and did the same for Dutch birders (Dutch Birding 13: 226).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 168, 3)

Bedfordshire Dunstable, 26th-27th April, photographed (W.Drayton, P.J.Reese, P.Trodd *et al.*), probably same as Staffordshire individual.

Humberside Southfield Reservoir, 7th May (C.Featherstone); presumed same, Flamborough Head, 11th (B.J.N.Hill, M.Newsome, B.Richards); also in Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire Covenham Reservoir, 6th May (K.E.Wilson *et al.*), also in Humberside.

Staffordshire Croxhall Gravel-pits, Alrewas, 28th April to at least 13th May (Mr & Mrs R.A.Wilson *et al.*), probably same as Bedfordshire individual.

Suffolk Trimley Marshes, 7th-25th July, photographed (R.Beecroft *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 224).

Only small numbers compared with 1987 and 1990, but more reminiscent of the general pattern for this species. There are still some records in circulation.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (30, 48, 0)

1990 Dorset Abbotsbury, 3rd May (S.A.Groves *et al.*).

1990 Scilly St Agnes, 3rd-4th April, died 4th (A.W. & Mrs P.Hale).

No records for 1991 and just the sweepings from the previous year.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 36, 1)

Western Isles Balranald, North Uist, at least 5th May (N.Briden, N. & Mrs R.Lester, Dr P.B. & Mrs J.A.Maxted *et al.*).

1990 Durham Cronkley, 25th March (D.Sharrod).

A local crofter had claimed to have seen the North Uist bird since late March, and this would fit in more with the established pattern of occurrence of this species.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (0, 9, 1)

Grampian Don Estuary, adult or first-summer, 18th-19th August, photographed (D.J.Bain, K.D.Shaw, G.Smith *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 43).

The first since the Walney bird of 1988. Like that one, the Don Estuary bird showed some features suggestive of Lesser Sand Plover *C.mongolus*, and it was only when all the features had been critically analysed that the observers were happy with the identification.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (3, 144, 5)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 6th October to 2nd December, trapped 7th October (P.J.Donnely, A.E.Duncan *et al.*); first-winter, 3rd-4th November, trapped 3rd (D.Patterson *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes, juvenile, 26th September to 16th October, photographed (per W.H.Wagstaff) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 41).

Shetland Pool of Virkie, Quendale and Ringasta, juvenile, 9th-27th October (P.M.Ellis, M.Mellor, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Loch of Spiggie and Ringasta, juvenile, 20th October to 3rd November (P.M.Ellis, J.D.Okill, G.W.Petrie *et al.*).

Unfortunately, many of the reports of this species are still in circulation. The first North Ronaldsay individual is one of the longest-stayers on record, as well as being the first to be ringed in Britain, and was rapidly followed by a second record from the same island.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (3, 13, 2)

Norfolk Cley and Blakeney, juvenile, 3rd-6th December (R.Aberdein, S.J.M.Gantlett, M.A.Wilkins *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, adult, 14th July to 9th August (P.J.Donnely, M.Gray, E.R.Meek *et al.*).

1990 Lancashire Pilling, adult, 22nd July to at least 6th August, photographed (D.Jackson, M.Jones, P.G.D.Morgan *et al.*).

A number of records of this species are still in circulation. The pattern of adults appearing in July seems to be well established, although not all 'Lesser Golden Plovers' appearing at this time are *P.fulva*, as there are several well-documented records of American Golden Plover *P.dominica* in the summer months. In Europe, records of Pacific Golden Plovers in 1991 ranged from 12th May to 25th June, and then two juveniles in the Netherlands in September. This, plus the juvenile in December, suggests that this species is being overlooked in the autumn.

American or Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica/P.fulva* (6, 159, 8)

Norfolk Titchwell, 28th July, photographed (S.J.Hughes *et al.*).

1990 Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, 22nd-24th September (S.J.Holloway).

The totals include those specifically identified. The Committee is currently reviewing past records of both species.

Sociable Plover *Chettusia gregaria* (5, 29, 1)

Cambridgeshire Somersham, 5th to at least 20th October, photographed (D.Harlow *et al.*).

1980 Wight, Isle of Newtown, 5th October (P.A.Gandy).

Whilst the photographs of the first individual were adequate to identify the species, neither of those reported here could be reliably aged.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 61, 1)

1989 Cleveland Dorman's and Saltholme Pools, adult, 7th-10th May, photographed (G.C.Joynt *et al.*); presumed same, Greenabella Marsh, 23rd-25th July, photographed (G.C.Joynt *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 374).

A juvenile at Glashagh Bay, North Fanad, Co. Donegal, on 29th September 1991.

No acceptable records in Britain for 1991 yet. The spring bird in Teesside replaces the 1989 Norfolk bird as the first individual recorded in spring in Britain.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (6, 26, 2)

Cornwall Landulph Marsh, adult, 25th August (D.Clegg, S.M.Macmahon, S.C.Madge *et al.*).

Humberside Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea, adult, 28th-29th July (A.Gibson, D.R.Middleton *et al.*).

The last six records have been between 17th July and 25th August, and have involved adults.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 312, 2)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 5th to 19th October (R.M.Andrews, I.D.Broadbent, A.J.Musgrove *et al.*).

Western Isles North Bay, South Uist, juvenile, 1st-3rd October (P.R.Boyer, T.J.Dix).

1985 Norfolk Titchwell, adult, 31st August, 1st, 5th September (Brit. Birds 79: 545), same, Holme, intermittently, 4th-22nd September (W.J.A.Boyd, V.Eve *et al.*).

1990 Cleveland Saltholme Pool and Greatham Creek, adult, 23rd July to 3rd August, photographed (B.J.K.Caswell, G.C.Joynt *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 225); presumed same as Tyne & Wear individual below.

1990 Scilly St Mary's, adult, 29th August (D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*).

1990 Tyne & Wear Whitburn, adult, 15th-27th August, photographed (G.K.Gordon *et al.*); also in Cleveland.

A below-average year for this species, even with some additional records still outstanding.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 153, 2)

Merseyside Marshside Marsh, juvenile, 12th September (Dr B.McCarthy, B.Woolley).

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, 5th-16th September, trapped 5th (P.V.Harvey, O.J.Leyshon *et al.*).

A further poor year, though another rare wader trapped in the Northern Isles.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 133, 3)

Gloucestershire Frampton-on-Severn, 8th-10th June (G.R.Avery, M.L.King, C.W.Martin *et al.*); presumed same, Slimbridge, 10th (L.P.Alder).

Kent Swale, 18th-20th May (T.P.Laws, M.A.Warburton *et al.*).

Norfolk Breydon, 21st-22nd May (P.R.Allard *et al.*).

1990 Cheshire Inner Marsh Farm, 8th-13th May (I.Higginson, W.Roberts, Dr J.E. & M.G.Turner).

1990 Cleveland Greatham Creek, 23rd June, photographed (J.Grieveson, G.C.Joynt *et al.*).

The worst year for this species since 1981. Spring 1991 was, however, a bad time here for all Scandinavian and North Russian birds.

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus* (1, 22, 1)

1990 Kent Cliffe, adult, 11th-22nd July, trapped 13th (P.Larkin, A.Petty *et al.*), probably same as 1990 Suffolk individual (Brit. Birds 84: 471).

A juvenile at Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, on 19th September was the only record for 1991.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 66, 2)

Norfolk Welney, 6th September (J.B.Kemp *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 30th October (P.J.Donnolly, D.Patterson *et al.*).

1989 Dorset Stanpit Marsh, 25th August (M.Reid).

There has been a trend towards better descriptions and multi-observer records of this difficult species in the past few years. The critical features were noted in the 1988 report (Brit. Birds 82: 525).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 151, 1)

Kent See 1990 Kent below.

Lothian Aberlady, adult, 12th-13th May (P.R.Gordon *et al.*).

1990 Cornwall Crows-an-Wra, juvenile, 26th-27th September (R.E.Danson).

1990 Kent Dungeness, 2nd December to 19th January 1991 (R.R.Thompson, G.Thomson *et al.*).

1990 Somerset West Sedgemoor, 15th to at least 16th October (J.Leece, J.Porter); probably same, Durleigh Reservoir, 18th-23rd (B.D.Gibbs *et al.*).

Only a small proportion of records are in spring. The poorest year since 1972.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 27, 1)

A juvenile on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, on 18th September, but no records from Britain.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 60, 1)

Kent Elmley, 24th-29th April, photographed (M.C.Buckland, D.Hennessey *et al.*).

1990 Clwyd Oakenholt Marsh, 7th May (I.Higginson, F.Linch, Dr R.J.Raines).

The numbers of this elegant wader fluctuate from year to year, but Elmley is establishing itself as the premier spot in Britain. The year 1990 was particularly good, and there are further records still under consideration.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 175, 5)

Orkney Loch of Tankerness, juvenile, 15th September (K.E.Hague).

1990 Dyfed Kidwelly Marsh, first-winter, 27th September to 18th November, photographed (F.B.Jenkins *et al.*).

In Ireland, Co. Cork had four records, with a juvenile on Cape Clear Island on 25th-28th August (Brit. Birds 85: plate 226) and singles at Youghal, Kinsale Marsh and Ring, Clonakilty, in September.

The Orkney record is the first for that archipelago.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 33, 2)

Norfolk Wissington, 1st-4th June (C.Donner *et al.*).

Northumberland Blyth Estuary, adult, since 1990 to 5th January (Brit. Birds 84: 473).

Shetland Mid Yell Voe, Yell, male, song heard, 25th May (G.W.Allison *et al.*).

1990 Northumberland Cresswell Pond, adult, 17th August (Miss W.A.Kelly), presumed same as Blyth individual.

The Northumbrian Terek sneaks into a third year's report, but disappeared in a particularly nasty spell of cold weather that could have signalled a permanent end to this bird's tenure at Blyth. The Shetland individual arrived in the middle of a bird race and gave one member of the Rarities Committee an unfair advantage over the other competitors.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 92, 4)

Shetland Lerwick, adult, 22nd-26th September (D.Coutts, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Somerset Burnham-on-Sea, 17th-18th May (B.Rabbitts *et al.*).

Strathclyde Balgray Reservoir, Barrhead, 27th September to 1st October (J.Coyle, J.McOwat, J. & Mrs V.Wilson *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Welbeck Southern Washlands Nature Reserve, 30th June to 7th July (P.Smith *et al.*).

The Yorkshire individual was associating with a Common Sandpiper *A.hypoleucos* and three full-grown young. It may merely have been playing uncle, or we may have some fairly odd-looking sandpipers in Britain soon.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 232, 4)

Devon Axe Estuary, 7th-12th October (P.Abbott, P.A.Dennis *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: page 528 fig. 4).

Dyfed Penclacwydd, 29th September (R.G.Hogarth, M.J.Pointon *et al.*).

Leicestershire/Northamptonshire Stanford Reservoir, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 29th-30th September, photographed (I.M. & J.M.Wilson *et al.*).

Suffolk Benacre, 14th-19th September (A.Riseborough, Dr N.J.Skinner, C.Walker *et al.*).

1989 Somerset Cheddar Reservoir, 14th October (R.Palmer *et al.*).

A similar pattern to the previous year. Most of these were multi-observer records, but, in at least one case, getting an acceptable description was as difficult as milking bulls.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 55, 6)

Norfolk Walcott, first-winter, 25th December to 1992 (M. & Miss K.Fischer *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 197 & 206).

Orkney Stenness, adult, 16th-22nd May (E.R.Meek *et al.*).

Sussex, East Seaford, adult, 6th April (G.W.Gowlett, N.J.Thomas); also in West Sussex.

Sussex, West Shoreham-by-Sea, 6th April (R.J.Fairbank, R.Simpson); same, Widewater, Lancing, 6th (C.J.Corrigan, Miss H.Jacobs); also in East Sussex.

Two juveniles at the Bann Estuary, Co. Londonderry, on 19th October and first-winter at Drogheda, Co. Louth, from 21st November to 1st December.

In Britain, this gull has never shown the westerly bias displayed by Ring-billed Gull *L.delawarensis*, and 1991 conforms to this pattern, with the first record for Norfolk and the first from Sussex since 1923. The Norfolk bird was first noted by the young daughter of a keen birder, who asked 'Daddy, what's that funny gull?' and caused him to choke on his cup of coffee when he saw what it was. Not the first bird to be found in such a way.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 18, 3)

Cleveland Reclamation Pond, Teesmouth, adult, 19th-23rd June, photographed; presumed same, 28th August to 1st September (G.C.Joynt *et al.*); presumed same, Longnewton Reservoir, 4th September (M.A.Blick).

Norfolk Breydon, adult, 30th June (K.R.Dye *et al.*); also observed from Burgh Castle, formerly Suffolk (W.J.Brame, J.M.Cawston, E.W.Patrick).

Shetland Skellister, South Nesting, adult, 27th May, photographed (N. & Mrs E.K.McMahon) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 220 & 221).

An excellent set of records which could – just conceivably – relate to a single individual. Some records are still in circulation (whilst others were not received in time even to be circulated).

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 62, 0)

Devon Plymouth, adult, 7th January to 24th February (V.R.Tucker *et al.*); presumed same, Plym Estuary area, 24th April to 7th May (R.W.White *et al.*).

Merseyside Seaforth and New Brighton, adult, intermittently 20th March to 20th April (C.Kehoe *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 222), presumed one or other April 1990 individuals (Brit. Birds 84: 475).

1990 Cornwall St John's Lake and Millbrook, to 9th September (Brit. Birds 84: 474), to 23rd (S.C.Madge).

Presumably the Merseyside record relates to one of the 1990 adults, whilst the Devon record probably relates to the second-winter bird from the same area in 1990.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (0, 613, -)

1987 Dyfed Aberystwyth, adult, 20th December (H.W.Roderick).

Now no longer considered by the Committee (thank heavens!).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (0, 11, 1)

In Ireland, first-winters showing the characters of the race *L.a.smithsonianus* as follows: Cobh, Co Cork, 16th November to mid December 1986; Cork City dump 23rd February 1990, joined by another on 28th February and another on 3rd March; Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 3rd March 1990; two, Killybegs, Co. Donegal, 3rd March to 16th April 1990; Belfast Harbour Estate, Co. Down, 27th March 1990, another 29th March to 17th April, another 31st March; Galway dump, Co. Galway, 4th-17th March 1990, another 13th January 1991.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* (0, 10, 1)

An adult showing the characters of the race *L.g.kumlieni* was on the Skerries, Co. Dublin, on 9th-10th March.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 35, 0)

Gloucestershire Frampton Sands, first-winter, 30th December 1990 to 1st January (Brit. Birds 84: 476).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (52, 186, 3)

Cleveland Reclamation Pond, Teesmouth, 5th June (J.B.Dunnnett, S.J.Hinley *et al.*).

Humberside Hornsea, 13th July (D.R.Middleton).

Suffolk Landguard, 28th May (J.Askins, N.Cant, N.Odin).

A noticeable improvement on 1990 and there are still some records in circulation. The Teesside bird was gratefully received in the gathering gloom by one member of the Rarities Committee as it filled in an embarrassing space on his British list.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 177, 7)

Cambridgeshire Grafham Water, 30th-31st July (B.A.E.Marr, P. & Mrs M.Smout).

Dorset Radipole, 30th June (M.Cade *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, 27th July (L.P.Alder).

Leicestershire Eyebrook Reservoir, 27th July (A.S.Brett, K.E. & H.R.Carter, R.E.Davis *et al.*).

Norfolk Breydon Water, Hickling and Filby Broads, Cantley Reservoir, 6th July to 1st August, two, at least 12th, 15th July, photographed (P.R.Allard, D.A.Dorling *et al.*), also in Suffolk. Bacton, 1st September (M.Fischer).

Suffolk Minsmere, 28th July, photographed (G.A.Goffin, M.A.Steel, J.P. & P.Thompson *et al.*); presumed also in Norfolk.

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 6th May (B.K.Higham, P.A.Lassey).

Another average year, with two birds once again in the Hickling area. Maybe one year they'll breed. With records from both Grafham Water and Eyebrook this year, and Rutland Water in 1988, this species must represent one of the best chances for reservoir-watchers to find a rarity.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (1, 4, 0)

1987 Glamorgan, West Mumbles, Swansea, first-winter, 21st December, metal ring on left leg (N.Pinder).

A well-described individual from south Wales. Two days prior to this record, an 'orange-billed tern', also in first-winter plumage, was observed at Dawlish Warren, Devon, and identified as Lesser Crested *S.bengalensis*. The documentation did not enable the Committee to accept the identification nor confidently to equate it with that at Mumbles. The observer of the Dawlish bird was adamant, however, that it was unringed.

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

Northumberland Farne Islands, female, 14th May to 18th August, presumed returning 1990 individual (Brit. Birds 84: 476), again paired with Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, breeding not proved (D.C.Richardson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 223). Hauxley, 16th June (A.H.Banks), presumed Farnes individual.

1990 Tyne & Wear Whitburn, 6th July (B.Unwin), presumed Northumberland individual (Brit. Birds 84: 476).

The eighth year in succession that 'Elsie' (a cryptic name) has returned to the Farne Islands. So far, there has been no sign of the 1989 hybrid.

A 'large orange-billed tern' at Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, on 30th May 1989 was accepted as such, but could not be regarded as specifically identified.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 18, 2)

In Ireland, an adult at Millisle, Co. Down, from 6th January to 8th February, and one at Wexford Harbour, Co. Wexford, on 28th December.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* (3, 10, 2)

Essex West Thurrock, 2nd June (W.J.Brame, D.C.S.Davies *et al.*); same, Hanningfield Reservoir, 2nd (D.Acfield, J.T.Smith *et al.*), also in Kent.

Kent Broadness, 2nd June (P.Larkin, B.Wright), same as Essex.

Scilly Tresco and Crow Sound, 6th July to 13th August, photographed (F.Hicks, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 45).

Another good year, with two new individuals. The Scilly bird shows that not only will the boatmen deliver you to the rare birds, but they will also occasionally find one for you.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 524, 8)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, adult, 29th July (J.J.Packer).

Cambridgeshire Grafham Water, juvenile, 10th-13th September (J.L.F.Parslow, A.D.W.Tongue *et al.*).

Cornwall Tamar Estuary, juvenile, 17th September (E.Griffiths).

Dorset Stanpit Marsh, juvenile, 1st-3rd September (L.Chappell, E.Lloyd, P.Morrison *et al.*).

Essex West Thurrock, 2nd June (P.J.Vines *et al.*), same as Kent.

Grampian Annachie Lagoon, St Fergus, adult, 14th-22nd July (T.W.Marshall *et al.*).

Kent Near Sittingbourne, 31st May (D.Sydall, R.R.Thompson); presumed same, Broadness, 2nd June (P.Larkin, B.Wright), same as Essex.

Leicestershire Swithland Reservoir, juvenile, 21st September (R.E.Davis, D.Dixon, J.A.Forryan *et al.*).

1990 Lancashire Leighton Moss and Dockacres Gravel-pits, adult or second-summer, 15th-16th July, photographed (M.G.Anderson, J.W.Bateman, A.D.McLevy *et al.*).

Two records from Ireland, with singles at Oxford Island, Co. Armagh, on 18th August 1990 and Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, on 17th August 1991.

Rather more juveniles than in 1990, but several omissions from the list of accepted records are caused by late submissions.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* (2, 24, 1)

Orkney Sule Skerry, 25th January (M.Gray).

The first live individual recorded from Orkney, which has previously had four corpses, including two found by this observer, who must have been relieved to find a live one at last.

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus* (0, 1, 0)

Devon Lundy, adult, 14th April to at least 20th June (A.M.Jewels *et al.*), presumed returning 1990 individual below.

1990 Devon Lundy, adult, 27th May to 26th June, photographed (R.J.Campey, K.A.Mortimer, J.Waldon *et al.*).

This species joins Elegant *Sterna elegans* and Aleutian Terns *S.aleutica* as one of the least-to-be-expected Pacific Ocean vagrants to this side of the planet.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (22, 32, 2)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, freshly dead, 25th September, photographed (A.E.Duncan, C.Hill, L.A.Lamont *et al.*).

Surrey Oxted, caught, ringed, 17th October, photographed (P.Jones).

The Orkney record is not without precedents: previous records were in 1936 and 1956, but this is the first in Scotland since 1970. The Surrey record (only the third inland) mirrors the 1990 individual found dead in Bedfordshire in December. Of the 34 individuals recorded since 1958, 15 are known to have died here.

Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 19, 0)

1988 Shetland Collafirth, 9th June (B.Robertson per J.N.Dymond).

A crofter's sighting on a roadside fence-post; otherwise, a typical date and of typical duration.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 98, 4)

Grampian St Fergus, female or first-winter male, 29th April to 3rd May (L.T.A.Brain, T.W.Marshall, K.D.Shaw *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, second-winter male, 30th March (J.Cudworth, K.Fisher *et al.*); same as Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire Wainfleet and Friskney area, first-winter male, 24th December to 1991 (Brit. Birds 84: 478), was second-winter, last recorded 18th March (per G.P.Catley).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, second-winter male, 23rd March (R.G.Drew, M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart); same, Stiffkey, 23rd, Burnham Overy, 24th, Burnham Norton, 25th (per G.E.Dunmore), same as Lincolnshire.

Orkney North Ronaldsay, second-winter male, 27th April to 5th May (J. & P.J.Donnely, A.E.Duncan *et al.*). Sanday, female or immature male, 12th April (T.Leslie, R.F.H.Thorne *et al.*); 10th May, photographed (Dr A.Mills, W.Sinclair, R.F.H.Thorne); female or immature male, 10th June (C.Freeborn). Stronsay, immature male, 22nd April (R.Goodwin, J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway *et al.*). All probably same as North Ronaldsay.

Shetland Fetlar, two females from 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 478) throughout year; presumed one of same, Unst, occasionally, May to October (per P.M.Ellis). Ollaberry, second-winter female, 22nd April, photographed (P.M.Ellis, B.W.Stephen). Fair Isle, age/sex uncertain, 11th May (J. & Mrs A.Stout).

1990 Lincolnshire See Lincolnshire above.

The Lincolnshire/Humberside bird of late 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 478) certainly got around; it is conceivable that all records, with the exception of the Fetlar residents and the Grampian records, refer to the same much-travelled individual; its movements from 10th June onwards seem to have carefully avoided Fetlar.

Needle-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus* (2, 5, 3)

Kent Maidstone, 26th May, photographed (D.W.Taylor *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 305).

Shetland Noss, 11th-14th June (S.J.Brown. L.A.Gilbert *et al.*).

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, 1st June (M.J.Inskip, G.J.Mant).

Perhaps the same individual involved in all three records; but, if so, it seems to have taken a leisurely pace, for such a fast flier, from Kent to Shetland. The previous record was in Orkney in May/June 1988 and the final comment in the rarities report for that year said 'Late May/early June is the key period for its next fly-through'. How right that was, three years later.

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

With the abolition by the BOURC of a separate Category E for offshore records, last year's statement (Brit. Birds 84: 478) is now countermanded; the species is upgraded to Category A (but still does not feature in the statistics given above, since it was an 'At sea' record, from an offshore gas platform).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (150, 292, 5)

Gwent Monmouth, 11th April (B.J.Gregory).

Scilly Tresco, 7th July (per W.H.Wagstaff); same, St Martin's, 8th (P.J.Robinson). St Mary's, 10th October, briefly taken into care stunned, photographed (W.H.Wagstaff, K.A.Wilson *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 13th April (D.P.Dunk, R.D.M.Edgar, N.Lannaway).

Yorkshire, South Sheffield, 25th April (B.C.Sheldon).

1988 Sussex, East Beachy Head, 27th March (P.M.Leonard, A.Tagg).

1990 Kent North Foreland, 24th March (R.Boulden). St Margaret's, 1st July (A.Malone).

The poorest showing since 1971, although one or two records are still under consideration. There are now 14 March records, mostly in the latter half of the month, but the trend towards earlier records in March and April is continuing. The Committee has commented before (Brit. Birds 82: 535) that claims of this species often still fail to establish the size of the bird and take into account the possibility of aberrantly plumaged Swifts *A.apus*.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* (0, 9, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, 1st November (H.R.Harrop, C.J.Orsman, A.Prior *et al.*).

A chance sighting late one afternoon for a fortunate few remaining on Fair Isle. The tenth for Britain and Ireland and the third in November (others have been in the period May to August).

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 326, -)

1989 Kent St Margaret's, five, 28th May (Brit. Birds 83: 472), presumed four of same, Sandwich Bay, 29th (I.D.Hunter).

1990 Dorset Portland, 1st May (G.Walbridge).

1990 Merseyside Hilbre, 6th June (D.Bates).

This species was dropped from the Committee's list at the end of 1990.

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 82, 2)

Dyfed Near St Nicholas, adult, 2nd to at least 11th August, photographed (D.A.J., Mrs J.L & Miss R.Nelmes *et al.*).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, 29th July (R.A.Stroud *et al.*).

1989 Devon East Budleigh Common, 28th May to 14th June (Brit. Birds 83: 472), also 17th (R.Dunn).

A typical showing; another record, from Suffolk, was received too late for inclusion in this report.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 327, 21)

Dorset Portland, 5th May (S.J.Pearce, G.Walbridge). Stanpit Marsh, 17th October (L.Chappell).

Humber Spurn, 27th-30th October (L.J.Degnan *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 11th-20th October (S.P.Botham, P.M.Troake *et al.*).

Norfolk Cley, 13th-19th October (D. & R.Frost *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 7th-20th October, two, 10th-15th, three, 12th (K.Fairclough, M.Gray. D.Patterson *et al.*).

Scilly St Martin's, 28th-30th October (V.Jackson, D.F.Walsh *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, six: 28th-30th April (H.R.Harrop, H.A.Williams *et al.*); 17th-31st May (P.V.Harvey); 30th September to 5th October (T.R.Cleeves, P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 9th-26th October, killed by Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* (S.Kolodziejewski, A.Mullins *et al.*); 10th-11th (J.A.Flynn *et al.*); 15th-22nd (P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Fetlar, four: 28th September (A.J.Stanbury, B.H.Thomason *et al.*); another two, 29th (I.D.Bullock, A.J.Stanbury *et al.*); another, 30th; three to 5th October, two to 12th, one to 13th (I.D.Bullock, A.J.Stanbury *et al.*). Virkie and Ward Hill, 28th September to 12th October (P.M.Ellis, H.Loates, G.W.Petrie *et al.*). Scatness, 12th October (D.Suddaby).

1989 Scilly St Mary's, 7th May (G.M. & Mrs S.H.Haig).

1990 Dorset Portland, 7th May (G.Walbridge).

1990 Norfolk Weybourne, 15th-25th September (K.B.Shepherd *et al.*).

1990 Yorkshire, North Robin Hood's Bay, 21st May (T.J.Barker).

As reflected in the rarities reports for the last three years, this is a typical spread of records; the only point of note is the small-scale influx into Shetland in late September and early October.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (0, 1, 0)

1990 Scilly St Mary's, 6th-10th June, photographed (D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 266).

The first record for Britain and Ireland and the Western Palearctic; one of the species predicted by Chandler S.Robbins as a likely candidate for transatlantic vagrancy (Brit. Birds 73: 448-457). It is perhaps more likely that it had crossed the Atlantic the previous autumn. It was associating with House Martins *Delichon urbica* and Swallows *Hirundo rustica* hawking insects over Porthellick Pool and disappeared when the other hirundines left.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 214, 2)

Derbyshire Ogston Reservoir, 5th-8th May (A.D. & N.G.Burton, A.Davison *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 28th May to 1st June (T.J.Edwards, J.A.Flynn *et al.*).

1988 Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 14th November (P.Davey *et al.*).

1990 Gwynedd Mynydd Rhiw, Llyn Peninsula, 29th August (D.G.P.Chatfield).

1990 Kent Foreness, 17th November (F.Solly, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Winterton, 5th May (P.Cawley).

In the Channel Islands, there was another late acceptance for 1988 of one at Grouville Pond and St Ouen, Jersey, on 9th April.

In stark contrast to the totals in 1987-90, with over 120 records (including a group of seven together in 1987), this is a return to the previous levels of the 1970s and early 1980s. The 1988 and 1990 November records are not unusual and conform to the spread of records in the years of high occurrence.

Two 1991 records which were submitted late remain under consideration by the Committee.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 117, 12)

Borders Coldingham Bay, trapped, 12th October, photographed (R.S.Craig, A.Kerr) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 232).

Cornwall Near Land's End, 15th October (P.H.Aley).

Dorset Verne Common, 12th April (C.E.Richards). Portland, 13th October (D. & G.Walbridge).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 10th October (A.E.Duncan, K.Scott *et al.*). Stronsay, 14th-15th October; another, 14th, photographed (J.F.Holloway, N.J. & Mrs S.B.Morgan *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, four: 10th-13th October, trapped 11th (P.A.Maker, K.Pellow, H.A.Williams *et al.*); 11th-23rd, trapped 15th (P.V.Harvey, S.Kolodziejewski *et al.*); 20th (C.J.Orsman); 1st November (H.R.Harrop).

1990 Dorset Portland, two, 22nd October (P.Coe, G.Walbridge), presumed same as 14th (Brit. Birds 84: 480).

1990 Grampian Cruden Bay, 20th October (B.J.Best, L.Brain, A.L.Broom).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 19th October (P.A.Lassey, J.M.Pearson); 24th-25th October (J.C.Laplough, P.A.Lassey, N.A.Pearson).

1990 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 27th-28th October (P.J.Donnelly *et al.*).

The fifth record for Ireland was one at Cobh, Co. Cork, on 23rd-24th January.

Well below the 1990 showing of 46 records, a return to the slightly above-average numbers of the 1980s. Leaving aside midwinter records, one of which extended into spring, the Dorset bird was only the fourth in spring. The Irish record is now the third for the midwinter period.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 22, 6)

Man, Isle of Calf of Man, 4th-9th May (N.V.McCanch, J.Reid *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, three: 17th-22nd September (H.R.Harrop *et al.*); 18th-24th (H.R.Harrop, D.J.Scanlan, H.A.Williams *et al.*); 22nd (S.M.Dean, C.C.Thomas, H.J.Whitehead *et al.*). Skaw, Unst, first-winter, 20th-21st September, trapped 20th, photographed (C.Donald, M.G.Pennington, R.Proctor *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 230 & 231). Kergord, 22nd September (C.Donald, F.Maroevic, R.Proctor *et al.*).

1990 Cornwall Land's End, 20th-21st October (J.McCallum, G.C.Stephenson, J.M.Walters *et al.*).

1990 Dorset Portland, 20th October (G.Walbridge).

Fair Isle maintains its place of prominence for this elusive Siberian skulker, but for the third year running there are as many records away from there (albeit two elsewhere in Shetland); and note the second in spring. The autumn 1990 records in Cornwall and Dorset provide a much-needed sign that there is hope for the rest of us.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 200, 12)

Norfolk Burnham Norton, 17th May (V.Eve *et al.*). Salthouse, 24th May (D.R.Bennett, N.W.Hagley). Blakeney Point, 29th-30th September (T.A.Atkinson, T.Davison, G.F. & R.M.R.James *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 29th May (D.M.Lamacraft *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 11th October (P.J.Donnolly, M.Gray).

Scilly St Mary's, 17th October (P.M.Griggs, M.J.Taylor *et al.*); presumed same, 22nd-26th (M.A.Hardwick *et al.*). St Agnes, 21st-26th October, photographed (I.M.Beggs, A.R.Dean, P.A.Dukes *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 233).

Shetland Fair Isle, 14th-16th May (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 18th-23rd May (D.J.Unsworth, H.A.Williams *et al.*); another, in song, 18th-23rd (P.V.Harvey, D.J.Unsworth *et al.*); 22nd-28th September (D.Fairhurst, H.R.Harrop, P.Scholes *et al.*).

Sussex, East Cuckmere Haven, in song, 29th May to 1st June (N.Lever, W.J.M.Scott *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 303).

1990 Norfolk Burnham Norton, 11th-12th May (V.Eve).

A good year, with 1988 the best since 1985, a fairly typical pattern of May and September-October occurrences reflecting passage over the eastern North Sea. There must be precious few observers who have heard this species singing in Britain.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (3, 15, 0)

A male showing the characters of the southwest Asian and southeast European race *M.f.feldegg* was recorded as follows:

1985 Suffolk Landguard, 30th June (T.Holzer *et al.*).

Observers should continue to take special care to eliminate black-headed individuals of the race *thunbergi* from consideration when identifying *feldegg*.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 51, 5)

Leicestershire Eyebrook Reservoir, first-summer male, 18th May, photographed (C.M.Husband, I.Merrill *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 240).

Northumberland Hauxley, female, 15th-16th May (C.Bradshaw, I.Fisher, M.J.Sharp *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 14th-15th October (M.Gray, D.Patterson, K.Scott *et al.*).

Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter, 23rd September (A.Brown, P.M.Ellis, J.D.Okill *et al.*). Fair Isle, first-winter, 26th September (H.J.Fearn, T.Ford, T.M.Melling *et al.*).

The best year bar one for records of this species; it includes the first and second in spring. The well-watched individual on St Agnes, Scilly, in October 1978 remains under active consideration. An identification paper is in preparation by Peter Clement and Tim Inskipp for a future issue.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 91, 1)

Shetland Sumburgh, 14th-15th June, trapped 14th (Dr C.F.Mackenzie, J.D.Okill, K.Osborn *et al.*).

A poor showing in comparison with recent years (maximum of ten in 1989). June records are not unusual, but this record is the latest in 'spring' and equals one on Fair Isle on 15th June 1974. Once considered to be a potential colonist.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (1, 142, 2)

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

Norfolk Happisburgh, female or immature, 27th-28th October (K.Bailey, G.Cresswell, M.Fischer *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, female or immature, 15th-23rd October (M.D. & Mrs A.C.Wilson, R.A & Mrs E.Wilson *et al.*).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, male, 21st April; male, 7th May (P.A.Lassey, M.Newsome, P.J.Willoughby *et al.*); female or immature, 20th October (M.Newsome, D.I.M.Wallace); female or immature, 26th-29th (D.Beaumont, P.Hansbro, P.A.Lassey *et al.*).

1990 Northumberland Bamburgh, male, 21st October (I.Chadwick, M.K. & M.S.Hodgson).

1990 Orkney North Ronaldsay, female or immature, 14th-16th October (A.Duncan, M.Gray *et al.*).

1990 Tyne & Wear Marsden, female or immature, 7th-9th October (A.L.Armstrong, P.T. & Mrs M.Bell *et al.*).

An individual showing the characters of one or other of the above races or of *S.t.variegata* was recorded as follows:

1990 Norfolk Stiffkey, male, 14th-16th October, photographed (A.Bloomfield, A.Jenkins).

Following the decision by the Committee to delete this and other species from its list from the end of 1990, the Committee met again in April 1992 and, in response to requests from county recorders and others, reconsidered its view on the consideration of records of certain races showing distinctive or characteristic features (Brit. Birds 85: 330-331).

There was a good showing in 1990, boosted to 18 by the additions here; 1991, by contrast, was a poor year. Several other records have yet to be submitted or are still in circulation around the Committee.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (1, 6, 1)

Scilly St Agnes, 15th October (A.R.Dean *et al.*); same, Gugh, 15th-26th, photographed (D.Bridges, C. & J.R.Lamsdell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 235 & 238).

1990 Scilly St Mary's, 18th October to 2nd November, photographed (G.M.Haig *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 100).

Two in as many years in Scilly brings the total to eight for Britain (five of which have been in October). The 1990 record was regrettably submitted too late for inclusion in the rarities report last year and was not, despite completely unfounded hearsay, experiencing difficulties with the Committee.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 19, 5)

Cornwall Dodman Point, male, 1st-5th November (S.M.Christophers, J.Hawkey, D.Jackson *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, first-summer male, trapped, 20th June, photographed (B.R.Spence *et al.*). Also in North Yorkshire.

Lothian Thornton Loch, first-winter male, 27th-30th October, photographed (S.J.Dodgson, P.R.Gordon *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 234 & 237).

Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter male, 9th-13th October, photographed (P.M.Ellis, A.McCall, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Lerwick, first-winter male, 17th October (N.J.Riddiford *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, first-summer male, 22nd-23rd June, photographed (R.Crofton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 304), presumed same as Humberside individual above.

With the presumption that the Spurn and Scarborough birds were the same individual, five records in one year follows the recent increase in records, makes 1991 the best year ever, and brings the total for Britain and Ireland to 27. Following the second record outside the September to December period in July 1990, the well-watched bird in June in Humberside and North Yorkshire was a surprise.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 25, 5)

Dorset Portland, first-winter female, 9th-12th October, trapped 11th (M.Cade, D.J.Chown, M.Rogers *et al.*).

Kent Langdon, male, 24th November (I.P.Hodgson, M.Stephenson *et al.*).

Lancashire Fleetwood, female, 5th-19th November, photographed (D.Rusling, R.Scholes *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, female or first-winter, 10th-13th October (K.Atkin, K.E.Wilson *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, female, 26th October (H.R.Harrop, P.V.Harvey).

These five records (equalling those of 1989) reflect an increasing trend. This species has now appeared in every year since 1984, prior to which there was a five-year gap.

The period October-November is typical for Desert Wheatears in Britain. Details of the December 1990 bird (Brit. Birds 84: plates 181 & 182) have not yet been submitted to the Committee.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (29, 15, 0)

1990 Borders St Abbs, freshly dead, 26th September, photographed (R.Goff, J.D.Lough, D.Patterson), mounted specimen retained by R.Goff.

This record brings the total for 1990 to three, an all-time high since at least 1958. Another report, also from Scotland, in late September 1991, was submitted late and is still in circulation to the Committee.

Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* (1, 3, 0)

1976 Hampshire Alice Holt, male, 28th December (Brit. Birds 70: 429; 72:121), now considered to be inadequately documented, so no longer accepted.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (1, 16, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 7th-8th October, photographed (S.Browne, T.Wheeler *et al.*).

The eighth record for Scilly. Of the 18 records in Britain and Ireland, all except one have been from 30th September to 31st October (the first, in Co. Mayo, was in May 1956).

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (1, 37, 3)

Scilly St Agnes, 22nd-26th September, trapped 24th, photographed (C.J., P.G. & S.R.Williams *et al.*); 16th-17th October (G.M.Haig, J.Herbert *et al.*). St Mary's, 17th-20th October (R.Parry, M.D. & Mrs A.C.Wilson, R.A. & Mrs E.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 236, 239, 251 & 252).

The first St Agnes record is slightly early and the first for September; the October records are expected, on predictable dates for this almost-annual visitor (given a favourable wind).

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* (0, 12, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 12th-13th October (K.Colcombe, I.Saville *et al.*).

The sixth record for Scilly at what is seemingly a typical time, but the first to stay for more than a day (a feature appreciated by many observers). This species has now appeared in the archipelago in three of the last five years – almost a Western Palearctic hot-spot for the species. Descriptions of another, or possibly the same individual (opinions are divided as to how many individuals were involved), on Tresco and again on St Mary's on dates following the above record, are still in circulation to the Committee.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 41, 2)

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 28th September to 5th October, trapped 28th (T.G.Francis, N.C.Green, D.Suddaby *et al.*); another, 10th October, photographed (N.C.Green, H.R.Harrop, P.V.Harvey *et al.*).

1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, trapped, 18th October (P.M.Howlett, S.Hughes, S.W.Walker *et al.*).

Fair Isle maintains its grip on the species, but all things are possible; who would have predicted the next record (the eleventh) away from there would be off the west coast of Wales?

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 140, 2)

Gwynedd Bardsey, male, trapped, 22nd May (S.W.Walker *et al.*).

Shetland Norwick, Unst, 27th September (H.J.Burgess, M.G.Pennington).

1990 Berkshire Windsor Great Park, in song, 22nd May to 16th June, trapped 27th (C.Herbert *et al.*).

One at St Ouen, Jersey, on 18th August 1984 was only recently submitted to the Committee.

A typical showing, though September records are particularly noteworthy.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 30, 1)

Humberside Spurn, 2nd-6th September, trapped 2nd, photographed (P.J.Alker, B.R.Spence *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 106).

Has appeared every year but two since 1980; early records were mostly in Shetland, there have been seven in Scilly, and this is the third for the Spurn area on what are fairly typical dates.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 250, 1)

Northumberland Farne Islands, male, 26th April (D.C.Richardson *et al.*).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, male, trapped, 16th May, photographed (J.C.Laplough, P.A.Lassey, G.A.Speck *et al.*).

1990 Man, Isle of Calf of Man, first-summer male, trapped, 21st May, photographed (P.Naylor, J.Sanderson, A.Sapsford).

1990 Norfolk Blakeney Point, male, 20th-21st May (Brit. Birds 84: 492), also 22nd (per P.R.Allard).

The lowest showing since 1978; almost everyone hoping to add this species to their British list in 1991 will have been disappointed. The average number of records since 1970 has been ten a year, with a maximum of 32 in 1988.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (1, 23, 1)

Norfolk Muckleburgh Hill, male, metal ring on left leg, 27th April (S.J.M.Gantlett, B.Ram *et al.*).

1990 Cornwall The Lizard, male, 18th-26th March (B.Cave, A.R.Pay *et al.*).

The total for 1990 now moves to five and equals 1988 as the best year for records of this species. The first March record in 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 492) cannot have been far from the second at the same time, also in Cornwall: a small arrival? The Committee would be interested in hearing from anyone with knowledge of where the Norfolk individual might have been ringed.

Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* (0, 5, 1)

Wight, Isle of Bembridge, 27th October to 9th November, trapped 27th, photographed (J.C.Gloyn, J.High *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 104).

The sixth for Britain and the second record for the Isle of Wight, and very close to the previous occurrence in October 1988; all records have been in the period 20th October to 2nd January. Details of the individuals in Humberside and Kent have only recently been submitted and are still in circulation around the Committee.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 187, 9)

Grampian Collieston, first-winter, 1st-2nd September (I.M.Phillipps, S.A.Reeves *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, in song, 20th June (D.Boyle *et al.*).

Norfolk Horsey, 14th August (G.P.Catley). Blakeney Point, 1st September (A.M.Stoddart *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 22nd August (G.W.Dodds, R.A.Yaxley *et al.*).

Shetland Fetlar, 10th June (G.W.Allison, I.D.Bullock, A.Stanbury *et al.*). Fair Isle, first-winter, 25th August to 2nd September, trapped 25th (R.Crofton, P.V.Harvey, W.R.Stewart-Jones *et al.*). Whalsay, 17th September (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall).

Yorkshire, North Riley, trapped, 10th October (T.L.Hobson).

1989 Cleveland Hartlepool, 31st August (Brit. Birds 83: 483), finder was M.J.Gee (not Gill).

1990 Norfolk Holme, 8th September (D.Hamps, G.F.Hibberd *et al.*).

A typical spread of records from Shetland down the East Coast to Kent. How long before a singing individual in June stays long enough to attract a female? It must have been nice to be on Whalsay on 17th September (see also Arctic Warbler *P.borealis*).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 144, 6)

Cleveland Hartlepool, 31st August to 2nd September, photographed (M.J.Gee *et al.*).

Orkney Holm, first-winter, 16th-20th September, trapped 16th (R.G.Adam *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, two, 12th September, first-winter, trapped (J.M. & R.G.Bayldon, P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Sumburgh, 17th September, trapped, photographed (P.M.Ellis, K.Osborn *et al.*). Whalsay, trapped, 17th September (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall).

A good year in comparison with recent years, but well below the 1981 maximum of 17. The Cleveland bird was at the same site and on the same date as a Greenish Warbler two years previously, bettered only by the one on Whalsay on 17th September in the same bush and at the same time as a Greenish Warbler.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (3, 540, -)

1990 Devon Hallsands Ley, trapped, 20th October, photographed (A.D. & J.Evans). East Soar, 1st November (R.Burridge, A.C.Cole *et al.*).

1990 Humberside Spurn, 21st October (T.Dixon, M.G.Neal), presumed same as Kilnsea, 20th (Brit. Birds 84: 494).

1990 Sussex, East Beachy Head, 10th November (G.W.Gowlett).

1990 Tyne & Wear Marsden, 21st October (B.S.Bates *et al.*). Whitburn, 21st October, photographed (J.P.Cook *et al.*).

These records take the 1990 total to 34. The species was removed from the Committee's list at the end of 1990.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 105, 16)

Cleveland South Gare, 12th-14th October, photographed (N.A.Preston *et al.*).

Devon Prawle Point, trapped, 10th November, photographed (A.K.Searle, N.L.Trigg).

Fife Isle of May, trapped, 10th October, photographed (J.Calladine, Dr J.D.Wilson *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, 9th October (M.Sherwin); trapped, 15th October (J.Cudworth, M.F.Stoyle *et al.*). Grimston, trapped, 12th October, photographed (S.G.Wilson).

Kent Sandwich Bay, first-winter, trapped, 5th October, photographed (K.B.Ellis, S.D.Stansfield). Dungeness, first-winter, trapped, 9th October (D.Boyle, K. & R.Palmer, D.Walker *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 21st-23rd October (K.Arber, B.J.Small *et al.*).

Shetland Out Skerries, first-winter, trapped, 10th October, found dead, 11th (Dr B.Marshall, D.Suddaby, E.Tait *et al.*), skin retained by D.Suddaby. Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped but not ringed, 10th October (P.V.Harvey, P.A.Maker, S.Rogers *et al.*). Kergord, first-winter, 11th-12th October, trapped 12th (C.Donald, P.Sclater *et al.*).

Suffolk Hollesley, trapped, 12th October (P.Catchpole, J.Glazebrook).

Sussex, West Selsey Bill, 21st October (T.J.Edwards, O.Mitchell, D.I.Smith *et al.*).

Tayside Auchmithie, Castlesea Bay, 11th October (M.S.Scott).

Tyne & Wear Tynemouth, 11th-14th October, photographed (C.Bradshaw *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 242).

1990 Gwynedd Bardsey, trapped, 18th October (S.W.Walker *et al.*).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, first-winter, trapped, 13th October, photographed (P.A.Lassey, V.A.Lister, J.M.Pearson *et al.*); 20th October (P.A.Lassey, D.Quinn); first-winter, trapped, 27th October (P.A.Lassey, D.I.M.Wallace, P.J.Willoughby).

1990 Tyne & Wear Seaburn, 18th October (B.S.Bates).

A good year; perhaps, with the addition of those records currently still in circulation around the Committee, 1991 records will equal, if not exceed, the record 21 in 1988. Similar patterns of arrival were detectable in both years, with about a dozen individuals arriving during 9th-12th October, a pattern shared with Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* and two (possibly birds moving on from earlier points of arrival) on 21st; only two were not associated with these dates, at Prawle Point and at Sandwich Bay.

The Committee would again like to make the point that, despite the publication of several identification papers in recent years, descriptions of this species received by the Committee do not always successfully distinguish between this and Dusky Warbler *P.fuscatus*; head pattern, bill size and colour tones remain more problematical than many claimants appear to appreciate.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 94, 3)

Norfolk Sheringham, 27th-31st October (P.J.Heath *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 27th October (S.Breasley *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 27th-30th October (D. & J.F.Cooper, J.Curson, R.J.Fairbank *et al.*).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 21st October (P.J.Willoughby *et al.*).

1990 Kent Minnis Bay, 20th-21st October (N.Hando, T.N.Hodge *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Holme, 5th-11th November (Brit. Birds 84: 495), 12th (per P.R.Allard); another, 7th (W.J.A.Boyd, P.Fisher, G.F.Hibberd *et al.*).

Following the recent pattern of good years (1987 and 1990) followed or preceded by poor years (1986, 1988 and 1989), 1991 was another poor year, in stark contrast to Radde's Warbler *P.schwarzi*, but a number of records remain in circulation around the Committee. From the pattern shown by these records, it is clear that a small-scale arrival took place on 27th October.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 107, 3)

Humberside Spurn, first-winter, trapped, 24th October, photographed (D.J.Bowes *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 241).

Scilly Bryher, first-winter, 22nd September to 6th October (C.Thompson, K.A.Wilson *et al.*).

1990 Cornwall Porthgarra, 25th-27th October (G.C.Stephenson *et al.*).

Also one in Ireland, a first-winter trapped on Great Saltee, Co. Wexford, on 2nd-3rd September.

A small but fairly typical scatter of records.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* (0, 10, 1)

Kent Dungeness, 18th October 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 495) intermittently to 16th January; another, 23rd-31st January (B.Chambers, R.E.Turley, D.Walker *et al.*).

The second individual differed from the one present (from mid October) up to a week previously by lacking a ring. Nine of the 11 British records have been in Kent. These two, and two other records in 1990, are the first since 1982, but several records from earlier years remain under consideration.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 46, 9)

Bedfordshire Priory Country Park, Bedford, adult, 18th September, photographed (D.Kramer *et al.*).

Hampshire Farlington Marshes, two males, at least 27th January (S.R.Colenutt *et al.*).

Kent Sandwich Bay, adult and first-winter, 9th-10th October, first-winter trapped 9th, photographed (K.B.Ellis, P.W.J.Findley *et al.*). Pegwell Bay, male, 14th October (M.P.Sutherland).

Lincolnshire Chapel St Leonards, male, 14th-15th October (K.Atkin *et al.*), female, 15th (C.J.Jennings, E.J.Mackrill, R.K.Watson).

Norfolk Titchwell, adult, 9th-10th May (T.R.Dean *et al.*).

1989 Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, adult and juvenile, 1st November (C.M. & Mrs B.James *et al.*).

1990 Dorset Radipole, adult, 28th October (Dr T.Elkins, Mrs C.Stanmore, Miss P.Whitehouse *et al.*).

1990 Kent Locality withheld, east Kent, male at nest, 21st April to 1st May (observer's name withheld).

1990 Scilly Tresco, male, female, juvenile, 17th-18th October, photographed (S.L.Rivers, A.E.Shrimpton *et al.*).

1990 Wight, Isle of St Catherine's Point, 17th April (D.Swensson).

The comments in the 1990 rarities report, asking if the first breeding attempts were far off, seem to have been answered before the question was posed.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 31, 2)

Humberside Easington, first-winter, trapped, 26th October, photographed; released Kilnsea 26th, stayed to 2nd November (M.Coverdale, I.Crowther, J.Hewitt *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 12th October, photographed (T.D.Codlin, D.Dixon, D.Powell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: page 546 fig. 5).

1989 Cornwall Zennor, 27th to at least 30th October, photographed (D., D.P. & W.Leadley, D.Poyser *et al.*).

A fairly typical showing within the normal period of occurrence. The bird in Scilly was in the adjoining field to that containing the Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 106, 1)

Norfolk Potter Heigham, adult, 1st-8th September (P.Cawley, N.Maxwell, E.J.Phillips *et al.*).

With this record, the species maintains its long run of annual appearances.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 484, -)

1988 Scilly St Mary's, 24th April to 4th May (J.A.Norton, K.A.Turner, A.S.Vials *et al.*).

1988 Sussex, West See 1989 below.

1989 Dorset Abbotsbury, 9th May (S.A.Groves *et al.*).

1989 Sussex, West Sidlesham, 16th May (Brit. Birds 83: 487), was in 1988.

1990 Devon Prawle Point, juvenile, 30th September to 14th October (R.Cordery, D.Rhymes, D.Smallshire *et al.*).

1990 Sussex, West Littlehampton, 22nd April (Brit. Birds 84: 497), also 23rd (per R.J.Fairbank).

1990 Wight, Isle of St Catherine's Point, juvenile, 12th August (A.R. & Mr & Mrs M.P.Birch, Miss S.Teo) (Brit. Birds 85: page 547 fig. 6).

These records take the 1988 total to 28, the 1989 total to 21 and the 1990 total to 22. This species was removed from the Committee's list at the end of 1990.

Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (45, 352, 2)

Hampshire Copythorne, 22nd-26th October (S.J.Aspinall, C.Chatters, Mrs Clifford).

Staffordshire Cocknage Wood, Stoke-on-Trent, 14th October to 9th November, photographed (B.G.Allcock, W.J.Low *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 101 & 109).

The first acceptable records since 1987, despite several 'back-garden possibles' from well-meaning members of the public.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 202, 9)

Cornwall Towednack, juvenile, 17th-19th September (M.J.Rogers *et al.*); presumed same, St Ives, 24th September to 30th October (V.A.Stratton *et al.*). Kelynack, juvenile, 6th October (D.Garner, S.Glenn).

Devon Hope Cove, juvenile, 3rd-4th September (R.BurrIDGE, A.C.Cole, P.Sanders).

Fife Isle of May, juvenile, 14th September to at least 2nd October, trapped 2nd, photographed (J.G.Brown, C.Redfern *et al.*).

HumberSide Spurn and Kilnsea, juvenile, 27th October (M.Coverdale *et al.*).

Scilly Bryher, juvenile, 30th September (K.M.Wilson *et al.*); presumed same, St Martin's, 1st October (per W.H.Wagstaff). St Mary's, juvenile, 3rd-15th October (D.L.Buckingham, K.A.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 102).

Western Isles Ardivachar Point, South Uist, juvenile, 27th September to at least 8th October (T.J.Dix, W.D.Oldham, A.T.Simmons *et al.*).

1987 Yorkshire, West Normanton, adult, 23rd-24th June, photographed (Miss S.Pettitt).

1990 Dorset Portland, adult, since 30th August 1989 to at least February (Brit. Birds 84: 498), to 14th April (per G.Walbridge).

1990 Kent Biddenden, first-summer, at least 12th-13th May; photographed (Mr Franklin, T.Hatton, M.Wicks *et al.*).

1990 Lancashire Near Skelmersdale, juvenile, 17th October (E.J.Smith).

1990 Scilly St Agnes, first-summer, 5th-6th August (J.W. & P.Hale *et al.*).

Also, a juvenile on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 29th August to 22nd October (Brit. Birds 85: plates 228 & 229).

A typically random set of records, mostly of autumn juveniles at coastal sites and adults in summer and throughout the winter; the origins of the latter are, naturally, a matter of speculation.

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* (0, 1, 0)

1990 Cornwall Kenidjack, 20th-27th September, photographed (A.R.Birch, Dr J.F.Ryan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 253).

The first record for Britain and Ireland and the Western Palearctic. The first of several transatlantic vagrants to arrive in Britain and Ireland at this time, after a period of fast-moving depressions, closely followed by a Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* the next day at Cot Valley, Cornwall, another on 23rd on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, and an Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapillus*, also on Dursey Island on 24th-25th September (Brit. Birds 84: 499, 501, plates 95, 96, 274).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (1, 65, 4)

Lothian Barns Ness, 13th-14th October (D.Garratt *et al.*).

Suffolk Lowestoft, 6th October (P.J.Ransome, R.Wilton *et al.*).

1990 Tyne & Wear Seaburn, 27th-29th October (B.S. & J.M.Bates, P.Gill, T.I.Mills *et al.*).

Two in Ireland: a single at Crookhaven, Co. Cork, on 22nd September, and another at Hook Head, Co. Wexford, on 12th October.

Oddly, and completely unpredictably (but not without precedent), all three records in Britain were from sites on the East Coast. The 1990 record takes the total for that year to nine, third behind 14 in 1985 and 11 in 1988. The one in Suffolk was in the same location as that three years (and one week) earlier. Two 1991 records were submitted late and are still in circulation around the Committee.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 171, 58)

Bedfordshire New Wavendon Heath, 21st-28th March (B.Nightingale *et al.*); another, 23rd-24th (M.J.Palmer, P.Smith, P.Trodd *et al.*).

Essex Hockley Woods, 10th March (the late R.Hare), presumed same, 16th (I.Prentice).

Kent Church Wood, Canterbury, four: two, 24th February; three, 3rd March; one, 9th (C.D.Abrams, J.Cantelo). Sevenoaks, 2nd March (J.V.Waterman).

Lincolnshire Kirkby Moor, three, 20th January, one to 27th (S.P.Botham, G.P.Catley, S.Routledge *et al.*). North Somercotes, male, 26th January to 5th February, trapped 26th, photographed (G.P.Catley, S.Lorand, J.M.Sizer). Loughton Forest, 20th February to 8th March (G.P.Catley, W.Gillatt, J.T.Harriman).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, seven, 12th January, including four since December 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 499) (M.I.Eldridge, A.H.J.Harrop, A.M.Stoddart); nine, 2nd February, including seven since 12th January; twelve, possibly fifteen, 16th February (A.H.J.Harrop); ten, possibly fourteen, 17th (per S.J.M.Gantlett *et al.*). Bradwell, 27th January to 1st March, photographed (P.R.Allard, R.Williamson *et al.*). Carrow, Norwich, 30th January (R.C.McIntyre). River Wensum, Norwich, at least one, 14th-22nd February, photographed (R.H.Chittenden *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 216). Rollesby Broad, at least one, 8th March (J.R.Williamson); eight, 9th (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart). Mousehold Heath, Norwich, twenty, 10th-16th March, up to five to 22nd (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart).

Shetland South Wick, 28th September (R.J.Curtis). Fair Isle, 15th-16th November (H.R.Harrop, N.J.Riddiford). Fetlar, 5th December (B.H.Thomason).

Suffolk West Stow, King's Forest, two, 26th January to at least 16th February (J.M.Cawston, E.W.Patrick, R.Tomlinson); possibly one of same, 1st April (S.Bishop, R.M.Brown, T.Kerridge).

1976 Norfolk Holkham Meals, 1st April (J.B.Kemp).

1982 Orkney Deerness, 5th March (R.G.Adam).

1989 Norfolk Thorpe End, Norwich, 25th January to 25th March, photographed (B.W.Jarvis, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*).

1990 Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, 21st September (S.J.Holloway).

All or virtually all of these records concern individuals of the race *exilipes*. The pattern of these records is similar to that for 1990; indeed, some were of the same birds remaining into 1991; most records were from Norfolk, and mainland observers north of Humberside await their first multiple arrivals.

The identification paper by P.G.Lansdown, N.J.Riddiford and Dr A.G.Knox (Brit. Birds 84: 41-56) sets out the criteria by which all records (especially of *exilipes*) will be assessed.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 68, 2)

Dumfries & Galloway Loch Dee, male, 3rd April (B.Mearns).

Kent Round Green, Goudhurst, female, 17th March to 2nd April (R.Davison, K.Derrett, T.Quittenden *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 179).

Norfolk Lynford Arboretum, female, since 24th November 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 499), to 1st June (per G.E.Dunmore).

1990 Devon Haldon Forest, male, 8th-9th October (R.Khan).

1990 Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, 28th August (J.Badley and members of YOC).

1990 Somerset Stock Hill, Mendip, juvenile, 13th October (P.W.Luxton).

Probably all three records are of birds that had been present since the early part of the winter (if not earlier, in late summer or early autumn). The additions here take the 1990 total to 18, the second-best after 1987, when there was a small-scale influx into Shetland and Orkney. Several other records for 1991 and earlier years remain under consideration.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* (10, 380, 1)

Durham See 1990 Durham below.

Lincolnshire Willingham Forest, at least nine to at least 10th January (Brit. Birds 84: 500), sixteen, 21st, presumed same as December 1990 (per G.P.Catley). Laughton Forest, nineteen, 2nd December 1990 to at least 1st March (Brit. Birds 84: 500), to 13th (per G.P.Catley). Kirkby Moor, up to twenty since December 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 500) to at least January.

Northumberland Kielder Forest, male, 19th January (D.C.Jardine), probably same, 24th (P.Doyle).

Suffolk Brandon, male, presumed since 1990, 2nd January to 5th February (per P.W.Murphy); 11th (P.J.Dolton); additional male, 2nd February (P.J.Dolton), probably also since 1990; female, probably since 1990, 2nd to at least 30th January (per P.W.Murphy); 11th February (P.J.Dolton).

Yorkshire, North See 1990 North Yorkshire below.

1990 Durham Castle Eden Dene, seven, 16th December to 10th March 1991, additional nine, 19th December to 1st March 1991 (B.Unwin *et al.*).

1990 Kent Sandwich Bay, male, trapped, 27th October, photographed (P.Brown, J.N.Hollyer, R.Morton).

1990 Norfolk Stiffkey, female, 18th October (V.Eve *et al.*). Upper Sheringham and Weybourne, 13th October to 8th December: two males, three females, 13th October; female, 21st nine individuals, 24th; fourteen, 10th November; eight, 11th; male, 25th; male and four females, 8th December (K.B.Shepherd).

1990 Suffolk Brandon, nine, including at least two males, 20th November (A.Howe *et al.*); four, including one male, 24th November (T.P.Kerridge). See also Suffolk above.

1990 Yorkshire, North Near Winksley, five males, seven females, 29th December to 4th January 1991 (D. & N.Beeken, P.K.Bowman, P.V.Irving).

Most of these records are clearly of birds that had arrived in Britain the previous autumn; the previous such influx in 1983 resulted in some remaining to breed in 1984 and 1985, but, despite the high numbers involved in this 1990 influx, most, if not all, seem to have returned to whence they came. The additional records for 1990 take the total for that year to 159 (well over half the total prior to 1990). A large number of records spanning the entire 1990-91 winter period remain under consideration; some accepted records from certain areas not included here have been held over until the picture is complete.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (0, 28, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, 30th September (M.I.Dowie, T.G.Francis, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

The first for Fair Isle and the third for Shetland and Scotland; the second was in 1990.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (1, 14, 0)

1990 Dorset Portland, male, since 3rd December 1989 to March (Brit. Birds 84: 501), stayed to 8th April (per G.Walbridge).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 205, 5)

Humberside Easington, 29th October to 3rd November (A.J.Booth, J.McLoughlin *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter male, 23rd-27th September, trapped 23rd (A.E.Duncan, M.Gray *et al.*); female, trapped, 10th October (M.Gray *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 8th June (P.V.Harvey, H.A.Williams).

Sussex, West Littlehampton, 30th October to 1st November, photographed (A.S.Cook, R.J.L.Kemp, S.J.Patton *et al.*).

1990 Cornwall Land's End, 14th-17th October, photographed (S.R.Colenutt, J.H.Ross *et al.*).

1990 Dorset Portland, male, 7th April (G.Walbridge).

An average year. The total for 1990 now moves to 16, the best year since 1987 (the record-holder with 19). The April 1990 record is bettered only by March records in Grampian in 1905 and Gwynedd in 1981 and equalled by one on this date at St Abb's, Borders, in 1979.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (93, 433, 24)

Devon Lundy, trapped, 14th October (J.Arnold, C.Matthew, S.Wing).

Highland Noss Head, Wick, 12th October, photographed (E.W.E.Maughan, D.C.Orr-Ewing).

Humberside Flamborough Head, 1st October (R.Barnes, N.Gricks, J.C.Lowen).

Kent Sandwich Bay, first-winter, trapped, 9th October, photographed (D.Shaw, S.D.Stansfield).

Lothian Scoughall, trapped, 13th October, photographed (I.M.Darling, R.F. & J.P.Durman *et al.*).

Norfolk Cromer, 27th April (M.P.Lee).

Northumberland Farne Islands, three: 26th September (D.M.Lamacraft, D.C.Richardson, C.T.Smith *et al.*); 10th October (G.W.Dodds, R.A.Yaxley *et al.*); 12th-14th October (G.W.Dodds *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, three: 2nd-6th October (M.Gray, K.N.Scott *et al.*); 12th-14th (P.J.Donnely, M.Gray, K.N.Scott *et al.*); 14th (P.J.Donnely, A.Scott, A.Swanney).

Scilly Tresco, 12th October (S.J.Hibbett *et al.*); probably same, 14th (C.McClure *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 28th April (H.R.Harrop, P.V.Harvey, H.A.Williams); autumn, five: 28th-30th September (A.Brown, R.J.Johns *et al.*); 8th-11th October (J.R.King *et al.*); 11th-17th (J.A.Flynn, H.R.Harrop *et al.*); 11th-14th (J.Regan, A.J.Wheeldon, R.Wilson *et al.*); 11th-12th (J.A.Flynn, H.R.Harrop *et al.*). Fetlar, 17th-18th September (I.D.Bullock *et al.*). Spiggie, 14th October (M.Mellor, J.Morton).

Surrey Milford, 13th-27th April, trapped 20th, photographed (S.J.Abbott, Dr E.F.J.Garcia, J.J.Wheatley *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 217).

Wiltshire Chippenham, 28th March to 9th April, photographed (M.Coller, B.R.Mitchell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 218 & 219).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 29th September to 2nd October, trapped 29th (T.L.Hobson *et al.*).

1990 Devon South Milton Ley, first-winter, 3rd-4th December, trapped 3rd (R.Burridge, A.C.Cole *et al.*).

1990 Dorset Portland, 25th April (J.A.Lucas, G.Walbridge).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 18th October (P.A.Lassey); probably same, 21st (M.Newsone).

Also one in the Channel Islands, photographed at Longueville Marsh, Jersey, from 31st December 1990 to 1st January 1991.

These records fit very well with the current trend of recent years (maximum of 49 in 1989), but the total of five spring records (with two remaining for two weeks) is exceptional; the two winter 1990/91 records also conform to the recent pattern.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 139, 6)

Shetland Fetlar, female or immature, 24th-25th September (I.D.Bullock, M.Davidson *et al.*). Fair Isle, five females or immatures: 6th September (P.V.Harvey, D.M.Lowe *et al.*); 12th (H.R.Harrop, P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 12th-13th (J.M. & R.G.Bayldon, H.R.Harrop *et al.*); 12th-15th (H.R.Harrop, N.A.Littlewood *et al.*); 17th-20th (D.Fairhurst, H.R.Harrop, H.A.Williams *et al.*).

Another Shetland (predominantly Fair Isle) speciality conforming to type; a return to more usual numbers after the low of only two in 1990.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 82, 1)

Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter, 26th-31st August (P.M.Ellis, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

1987 Dyfed Near Aberystwyth, male, about 30th May, photographed (Mrs B.Brown).

1988 Highland Near Dundonnell, male, 13th-19th June (D.M.Pullan *et al.*).

1990 Highland Scourie, male, 23rd-28th June (A.K.Quick).

The pattern of late-May and June occurrences is again reflected well here, adds to those of recent years and further supports the theory that these birds are of natural origin; the records in April and May in the early 1970s still need some explaining.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* (0, 1, 0)

1988 Norfolk Holkham Meals, male, 21st-30th October, photographed (M.J.Saunt, J.R.Williamson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plate 81).

1989 Humberside Flamborough Head, first-summer male, 23rd-25th May, photographed (A.M.Allport, J.C.Lamplough, P.A.Lassey *et al.*).

Although the species is in Category A of the British and Irish list on the strength of the record of an immature in Co. Cork in 1985, this does not alter the views of either this Committee or the BOURC that the Fair Isle, Shetland, occurrence on 3rd-7th August 1964 and that at Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, on 8th September 1973, previously listed under Category D, relate to likely escapes from captivity. The Rarities Committee is of the opinion that both the Humberside and Norfolk records above, of which the latter attracted much public interest and discussion, also relate to probable escapes, principally on the grounds that both individuals showed clear signs of abnormal moult.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (0, 14, 2)

Devon East Soar, 17th-21st September (A.F.Doidge, P.A.Dukes *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 107).

Scilly St Mary's, 11th-15th October, photographed (D.Bennett, M.A.Hardwick, G.J.Mant *et al.*).

The Devon bird is the earliest in England and Scotland by a day (and the only earlier record in Ireland is one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, from 13th to 24th September 1982); it is also the first to occur on the British mainland. The bird on St Mary's was the ninth for Scilly and the first there since 1985.

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 'seasonal reports' or 'recent reports' in this 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.

1991 White-billed Diver Papa Westray, Orkney, 29th May to 3rd June. **Pied-billed Grebe** Gouthwaite Reservoir, North Yorkshire, 27th October. **Black-browed Albatross** Between Stromness and Scrabster, Orkney, 9th July; Berry Head, Devon, 23rd August. **Little Shearwater** At sea, Sea area Sole, 8th August; Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 23rd August; North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 8th September; St Ives, Cornwall, 18th September; Lavernock Point, South Glamorgan, 24th September; Bardsey, Gwynedd, 1st October; Fife Ness, Fife, 19th October; Pendeen, Cornwall, 3rd November. **Black Stork** Walthamstow, Greater London, 11th May; Glen Isla, Tayside, 14th August; Cury, Cornwall, 16th August. **Lesser White-fronted Goose** Portsmouth Harbour, Hampshire, 21st-29th November. **American Wigeon** Ashleworth Ham, Gloucestershire, 5th-20th April; Swindon, Wiltshire, 22nd-26th April. **Blue-winged Teal** Cantley, Norfolk, 13th July. **Lesser Scaup** St John's Loch, Highland, 23rd-24th April. **Steller's Eider** Burghead, Grampian, 2nd November. **Black Kite** Benacre, Suffolk, 2nd February; Holkham, Norfolk, 21st May; Walsall, West Midlands, 1st June; Hastings, East Sussex, 9th June; Horsey Gap, Norfolk, 2nd August; Stanion, Northamptonshire, 13th, 27th August; Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire, 20th August; St Columb Major, Cornwall, 2nd October. **Lesser Kestrel** Colwick, Nottinghamshire, 30th March. **Red-footed Falcon** Eswick, Shetland, 15th June; near Hampreston, Dorset, 20th June; Bradgate Park, Leicestershire, 13th July. **Saker** Pendeen, Cornwall, 16th October. **Gyrfalcon** Beinn Glass, Strathclyde, 8th May; Fiddler's Ferry, Cheshire, 7th November. **Black-winged Stilt** Poole Harbour, Dorset, 12th September. **Pratincole** Great Crosby, Merseyside, 14th July. **American Golden Plover** Flookburgh, Cumbria, 19th January. **American or Pacific Golden Plover** Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, 26th October. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Two Tree Island, Essex, 1st June. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Yeo Estuary, Avon, 1st October. **Baird's Sandpiper** Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall, 7th August. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Dale, Dyfed, 17th September. **Great Snipe** Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 29th September. **Long-billed Dowitcher** Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire, 25th October. **Marsh Sandpiper** Heswall, Merseyside, 7th April; Frodsham, Cheshire, 22nd May. **Spotted Sandpiper** Exe Estuary, Devon, 9th October. **Wilson's Phalarope** Gann Estuary, Dyfed, 2nd September; Eden Estuary, Fife, juvenile, 24th September; Seaforth, Merseyside, 2nd October. **Laughing Gull** Cley, Norfolk, 15th October. **Franklin's Gull** Newhaven, East Sussex, 4th January; Marazion, Cornwall, 3rd March. **Bonaparte's Gull** Copperhouse Creek, Cornwall, 22nd October; Bardsey, Gwynedd, 1st November. **Gull-billed Tern** New Passage, Avon, 7th August; Hilbre, Merseyside, 22nd September. **Caspian Tern** Croy Bay, Strathclyde, 1st September. **Lesser Crested Tern** West Worthing, West Sussex, 9th May; Rye, East Sussex, 16th June. **Whiskered Tern** Dungeness, Kent, 27th May. **Rufous Turtle Dove** Tresco, Scilly, 17th October. **Tengmalm's Owl** Harefield, Greater London, 7th December. **Needle-tailed Swift** Near Lakenheath, Norfolk, 13th June. **Alpine Swift** Holwell, Hertfordshire, 18th May; Trentham, Staffordshire, 2nd July; Hoy, Orkney, 20th July; Felixstowe, Suffolk, 26th July; Sandy, Bedfordshire, 29th July; Flintham, Nottinghamshire, 2nd August. **Bimaculated Lark** Reskajeague, Cornwall, 22nd October. **Red-rumped Swallow** Thornbury Castle, Avon, 12th May; Waxham, Norfolk, 12th September. **Olive-backed Pipit** Skomer, Dyfed, 25th April; Fetlar, Shetland, 2nd November. **Pechora Pipit** Fair Isle, Shetland, 12th September. **Red-throated Pipit** Grutness, Shetland, 6th June; Fair Isle, Shetland, 9th October; St Margaret's, Kent, 12th October. **'Siberian' Stonechat** Porthgwarra, Cornwall, two, 8th April. **Desert Wheatear** Port Henderson, Highland, 26th September. **Black Wheatear** Barton Mills, Suffolk, 10th September. **Siberian Thrush** Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire, 30th September. **Dusky Thrush** Hove, East Sussex, two, 8th February; Cairngorm, Grampian, 2nd November. **Black-throated Thrush** Brighstone, Isle of Wight, 8th-10th February. **Lanceolated Warbler** Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 29th September. **Moustached Warbler** Lundy, Devon, 15th May. **Greenish Warbler** Thursley Common, Surrey, 8th September; St Margaret's, Kent, 23rd September; Culver Down, Isle of Wight, 5th October. **Radde's Warbler** Bryher, Scilly, 25th September; Stiffkey, Norfolk, 10th October; Holkham Meals, Norfolk, second individual, 27th October. **Dusky Warbler** Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 27th October. **Bonelli's Warbler** Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, 3rd-4th April; Hastings, East Sussex, 7th and 28th July. **Penduline Tit** Dungeness, Kent, 26th August. **Nutcracker** Sevenoaks, Kent, 29th March; Coverack, Cornwall, November; Hollingbury, East Sussex, 27th December. **Spotless Starling** Newhaven, East Sussex, 14th May. **Rose-coloured Starling** Wick, Highland, 12th-13th October; Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, 5th November. **Arctic Redpoll** Norwich, Norfolk, 4th-5th January; Pontefract, West Yorkshire, 15th January; Roydon, Norfolk, 16th January. **Parrot Crossbill** Grantown-on-Spey, Highland, three, 25th June. **Yellow-browed Bunting** Mynydd Rhiw, Gwynedd, 19th October.

Rustic Bunting Red Rocks, Merseyside, 21st October. **Little Bunting** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 29th October.

1990 Black-browed Albatross Prawle Point, Devon, 23rd July. **Little Shearwater** Pendeen, Cornwall, two, 22nd September. **Night Heron** Portland, Dorset, 1st May; Sevenoaks, Kent, 21st October. **Little Egret** Rostherne Mere, Cheshire, 1st May; West Bromwich, West Midlands, 14th July. **Black Stork** Sennen, Cornwall, 11th September; Binstead, Isle of Wight, 27th September. **White-tailed Eagle** New Milton, Hampshire, 22nd October; Hatfield, Hertfordshire, 22nd October. **Short-toed Eagle** Totton, Hampshire, 27th April; Ashey Down, Isle of Wight, 7th May. **Red-footed Falcon** Dersingham and Snettisham, Norfolk, 10th May; North Wootton, Norfolk, 15th May; Harpenden, Hertfordshire, 30th May. **Black-winged Stilt** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 12th May. **Pratincole** Strood, Kent, 2nd September. **Long-billed Dowitcher** Camel Estuary, Cornwall, 13th October. **Marbled Godwit** Blacktoft Sands, Humberside, 23rd July. **Marsh Sandpiper** Dorman's Pool, Cleveland, 23rd May. **Laughing Gull** Ferrybridge, Dorset, 18th March; Corby, Northamptonshire, 6th December. **Bonaparte's Gull** St Mary's, Scilly, adult, 14th June; Inner Marsh Farm, Cheshire/Clwyd, 2nd December. **'Kumlien's Gull'** Towan Head, Cornwall, 30th-31st December. **Gull-billed Tern** Atherfield Point, Isle of Wight, two, 13th September. **Caspian Tern** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 14th May. **White-winged Black Tern** Hinkley Point, Somerset, 3rd May. **Eagle Owl** At sea, Sea area Humber, 8th December. **Common Nighthawk** Newport, Gwent, 30th October. **Plain Swift** Scolt Head, Norfolk, 15th June. **Alpine Swift** River Wansbeck, Northumberland, 27th May. **Bee-eater** Barnard's Green, Hereford & Worcester, two, 16th July; Isle of Man, 1st August. **Roller** Berriedale, Highland, 17th July. **Short-toed Lark** Land's End, Cornwall, 21st October. **Crested Lark** Elmley, Kent, 10th March. **Red-rumped Swallow** Corscombe, Dorset, 8th August; Brighstone, Isle of Wight, 19th October. **Pechora Pipit** St Kilda, Western Isles, 23rd September. **Red-throated Pipit** Wern Halog, West Glamorgan, 26th September; St Mary's, Scilly, second individual, 17th October; Chester-le-Street, Durham, 26th October. **'Siberian' Stonechat** Holyhead, Gwynedd, 8th October; Hastings, East Sussex, 20th October. **Black-eared Wheatear** Rame Head, Cornwall, 7th November. **Red-throated Thrush** Easington, Humberside, 7th October. **Great Reed Warbler** Chapel Rossan Bay, Dumfries & Galloway, 10th June. **Subalpine Warbler** Portland, Dorset, 9th May. **Sardinian Warbler** Newquay, Cornwall, 25th February. **Greenish Warbler** Near Wellington, Shropshire, trapped, 13th September. **Arctic Warbler** St Kilda, Western Isles, 26th September. **Pallas's Warbler** The Lizard, Cornwall, 18th October. **Woodchat Shrike** St Martin's, Scilly, 3rd May; Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, 22nd October. **Siberian Jay** At sea, North Sea, 2nd January. **Nutcracker** Penhow, Gwent, 15th, 26th September, 6th November; Croydon, Surrey, 4th October. **Arctic Redpoll** Rueval, South Uist, Western Isles, 1st October. **Two-barred Crossbill** Wark Forest, Northumberland, 21st February. **Parrot Crossbill** Colt Crag, Northumberland, four, 24th December. **Common Yellowthroat** Mynydd Rhiw, Gwynedd, 29th April. **Rustic Bunting** Fetlar, Shetland, 6th June; Tresco, Scilly, 3rd-4th October. **Little Bunting** The Lizard, Cornwall, 1st May; Benbecula, Western Isles, 6th, 20th October; Keyhaven Marsh, Hampshire, 3rd November.

1989 Bulwer's Petrel Spurn, Humberside, 9th September. **Little Shearwater** Seahouses, Northumberland, 10th September. **Madeiran Petrel** Pendeen, Cornwall, 22nd September. **Double-crested Cormorant** Rutland Water, Leicestershire, 3rd March. **Night Heron** South Clifton, Nottinghamshire, 14th May; Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, 5th July. **Great White Egret** Hayle, Cornwall, 17th October. **Black Stork** Corwen and Denbig Moors, Clwyd, 16th July. **Ring-necked Duck** Loe Pool, Cornwall, 12th September; Pendine, Dyfed, 18th September; Minsmere, Suffolk, nine, 14th October; Lochgilphead, Strathclyde, 29th October. **Black Kite** Silverdale, Lancashire, 21st May; Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire, 28th May; Easington, Humberside, 17th September. **Gull-billed Tern** Worthing, West Sussex, 16th June. **Eastern Kingbird** Inner Hope, Devon, 9th May. **Bee-eater** Blacktoft Sands, Humberside, 31st May. **Red-rumped Swallow** West Bexington, Dorset, two, 21st May. **'Siberian' Stonechat** Bishop Auckland, Durham, 16th February. **Lanceolated Warbler** Mappleton, Humberside, 15th September. **Sardinian Warbler** Up-Sydling, Dorset, 16th May.

1988 Black-browed Albatross At sea, Sea area Plymouth, 9th July. **Little Shearwater** Cowden, Humberside, 8th September. **Blue-winged Teal** Lakenheath, Suffolk, 14th May. **Ring-necked Duck** Windsor Great Park, Berkshire, 12th-13th April; Sutton Bingham Reservoir, Dorset/Somerset, 26th-27th October. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Weir Wood Reservoir, West Sussex, 25th July. **Terek Sandpiper** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 1st May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 24th September. **Bee-eater** Rye, East Sussex, 31st July. **Short-toed Lark** Tresco, Scilly, 9th-13th October. **Red-rumped Swallow** Rye, East Sussex, two, 23rd April. **Gray Catbird** Cot Valley, Cornwall, 28th October. **Isabelline Wheatear** Portland, Dorset, 23rd October. **Pied Wheatear** Barmston, Humberside, 20th October. **River Warbler** Thorne Moors, South Yorkshire, 14th June. **Arctic Warbler** St Agnes, Scilly, 12th-13th October. **Dusky Warbler** Machir Bay, Islay, Strathclyde, 30th October. **Parrot Crossbill** Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, 16th April. **Rustic Bunting** Dungeness, Kent, 30th October.

1987 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Nevern Estuary, Dyfed, 29th-30th August. **Bluethroat** *L.s.magna* Flamborough Head, Humberside, 4th April. **Parrot Crossbill** Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, 26th October.

1986 Gyrfalcon Dyfi Estuary, Dyfed, 28th September.

1985 Lesser White-fronted Goose Exe Estuary, Devon, 30th December. **Alpine Swift** St Martin's Down, Isle of

Wight, 1st July. **Arctic Redpoll** Vane Farm, Highland, 26th-29th January.

1983 Common Nighthawk Churchill, Avon, 23rd October.

1982 Little Bunting Haywards Heath, East Sussex, two, 27th July.

1974 Semipalmated Sandpiper Unst, Shetland, 20th June. **Laughing Gull** Kenfig, Mid Glamorgan, 29th September.

1972 Arctic Redpoll Holy Island, Northumberland, 2nd October.

Michael J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 3AZ.