



Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1992

M.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 1991 report (85: 507-554). 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 English Names of Western Palearctic Birds* (1993). 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.
5. Irish records, assessed and accepted by the Irish Rare Birds Committee, are included separately, following the subheading IRELAND.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (18, 130, 2)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, adult, 28th April (M.Gray *et al.*).

Shetland Fetlar, adult, 28th December (H.R.Harrop, M.Heubeck, R.J.Tulloch).

1991 Lothian Gosford Bay, Aberlady and Gullane Bay area, at least one first-summer, 31st July to September, two, 25th-30th August (Brit. Birds 85: 510), singles, 8th September (A.Brown), 16th (F.D.Hamilton), 25th (J.McOwat).

1991 At sea Sea area Thames, 50°81'N 01°55'E, about 6 km east of Ramsgate, Kent, 15th December (J.H.van der Dol, R.H.Lawrence *et al.*).

A year returning to the pattern of more northerly records as befits this Arctic species. The ones summering in Lothian reflect the events of 1987, but fidelity to that site is unlikely to persist as all will be busy with family matters in future summers. Identifying one from a cross-Channel ferry required good teamwork by a good team.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (0, 13, 3)

Cornwall Argal Reservoir, 14th November to 1993 (D.P.Eva *et al.*).

Northumberland Druridge Pools, 26th December to 9th May 1993, photographed (M.Carr, I.Fisher *et al.*).

Oxfordshire Radley Gravel-pit, Abingdon, 26th April to 17th May (N.J.Hallam, M.G.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 299).

With the best-ever year for this species and all being typical long-stayers, the mystery remains as to why and how this species should be prone to straggling to Europe. It is no more fond of the sea than is the Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, so presumably must make its way here by a succession of short hops via Greenland and Iceland's coastal waters. The larger grebes can sometimes be seen on visible migration travelling with parties of ducks or even auks, but this is a nocturnal migrant. The wide spread of occurrence dates over the years holds no clues and does not suggest that Atlantic weather-patterns have any special relevance.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris* (2, 26, 0)

Shetland Hermaness, Unst, individual last recorded 14th June 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 510), 19th April to 30th June (M.Riddy per D.Suddaby).

1990 At sea Sea area Cromarty, 57°49'N 02°50'W, 12.6 km north of Portknockie, Grampian, 5th September, photographed (M.F.Leopold, P.Wolf). Sea area Irish Sea, about 6 km off Strumble Head, Dyfed, 17th September (C.W.Murphy).

The Hermaness bird once more returned, but was only sporadic in its appearances. It has been recorded since 1972 with the exception of 1988 and 1989. A report of one from Fife has yet to be studied by this Committee.

Albatross *Diomedea* (3, 44, 1)

IRELAND

The following record of an albatross, though not specifically identified, was considered most likely to have been a Black-browed.

1991 Cork Adult, Dursey Island, 8th October.

The Irish Rare Birds Committee is currently reviewing all Irish albatross records.

Soft-plumaged Petrel superspecies *Pterodroma mollis/madeira/feae* (0, 3, 0)

IRELAND

1990 Cork Cape Clear Island, 26th August.

1991 Down St John's Point, 20th August.

Petrel *Pterodroma* (1, 5, 0)

IRELAND

1989 Cork Old Head of Kinsale, 14th August.

There is one other Irish record of a *Pterodroma*, off Cape Clear Island, Cork, in September 1974.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (5, 82, 1)

1988 Dyfed Strumble Head, two, 7th October (P.Murray, G.H.Rees).

1990 Northumberland Seaton Sluice, 17th July (M.Hepple, A.Hutt).

1991 Humberside Flamborough Head, 11th September (G.P.Catley, A.Grieve, M.Newsome *et al.*).

IRELAND

1992 Cork Cape Clear Island, 14th August.

The Irish Rare Birds Committee is currently reviewing all Irish Little Shearwater and 'small shearwater' records.

Because of the difficulty in providing convincing evidence of identity on paper, Little Shearwaters take a considerable time to be accepted. It is, therefore, not surprising that all the British records in this report refer to birds from earlier years. It seems that many observers have become fixated on use of the terms 'whirring' and 'auk-like' when describing Little Shearwater's flight. It is the view of the Committee that these are excellent terms for describing auks, but are not really referable to Little Shearwater.

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (4, 13, 0)

1990 Cumbria South Walney, 9th October (T.Dean).

1990 Dyfed Strumble Head, 6th September (P.Bristow, G.H.Rees *et al.*).

Wilson's Storm-petrel is one of the few rewards that come all too infrequently to dedicated watchers from western headlands. The observers of both these birds certainly fall into that category with, collectively, thousands of hours spent seawatching. Identifying a bird such as this is particularly difficult when there is no-one else present with whom to check the features. In view of this, the Walney bird was not only well watched, but also particularly well described.

Double-Crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* (0, 1, 0)

1989 Cleveland Charlton's Pond, Billingham, 11th January to 21st April (T.J.Williams *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 82: plates 180-182).

One of the more underwhelming species added to the British List in the last decade. The finder should be congratulated for not only suspecting the identification initially but also having the persistence required to get others to this unlikely spot for a British first. It performed well to packed crowds and TV cameras and allowed detailed scrutiny of the differences between it and Great Cormorant *P.carbo*.

Frigatebird *Fregata* (1, 4, 0)

IRELAND

The following record refers to an unidentified frigatebird, most probably a female Magnificent *F.magnificens*.

1989 Dublin Dalkey, 18th June.

The totals include the sole fully accepted bird, a Magnificent of the Caribbean race *rothschildi*, on Tiree, Strathclyde, in 1953.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (150, 165, 3)

Cornwall Porthgarra, male, 25th-26th May (R.Green, K.Murray *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, female, 20th April (G.C. & Mrs D.J.S.Stephenson). St Martin's, sex uncertain, 19th May (Miss C.E.Lankester, K.Pellow).

These three records are typical in both date and locality, although, as the range of the species contracts in Europe, vagrants are liable to become less frequent. Neither the well-watched individual at Holkham, Norfolk, nor another seen at Fairburn Ings, West Yorkshire, have yet been submitted.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 306, 15)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, second-summer or adult, 4th June (M.A.Bailey, J.M.B.King).

Cambridgeshire Fordham, second-summer, 2nd-3rd June (B.Jellyman, O.Marks, D.Palmer *et al.*).

Cheshire Budworth Mere, first-summer, 16th May (P.M.Hill, J.M.Mottishaw *et al.*).

Dorset Radipole, adult, 22nd June (G.B.Barrett *et al.*).

Greater London Feltham, adult, 9th-10th June (F.Chandler, J. & P.Jackson, R.Wells *et al.*).

Hampshire Woodmill, Southampton, juvenile, 15th November to at least 9th February 1993 (D.J.Unsworth *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 140).

Strathclyde Craigie Park, Ayr, juvenile, 28th August to 11th September (Mrs A.Griffiths, R.H.Hogg *et al.*). Ailsa Craig, Ayr, juvenile, 11th September (B.Zonfrillo). Near Larkhall, Lanark, juvenile, 9th September (J.Douglas).

Suffolk Felixstowe, first-year, late January to 4th March (P.Mason, R.B.Warren *et al.*).

Sussex, West Pulborough Brooks, adult, 8th April (J.M.Paton, J.Reaney, C.J.Walder *et al.*).

Tayside See 1991 Tayside below.

1989 Glamorgan, South Roath Park, Cardiff, juvenile, 26th November to 1990 (Brit. Birds 83: 443), to 17th February (per P.Bristow).

1990 Devon Newton St Cyres, adult, 28th-30th March (S.Colombé, T.Willison).

1990 Dyfed Skomer, first-summer, remains of, 27th April (S.J. & Mrs A.C.Sutcliffe, H.A.Williams *et al.*).

1990 Glamorgan, South See 1989 Glamorgan, South, above.

1990 Yorkshire, North Hilla Green Bridge, second-summer, 24th May (G.L.Batten, J.Giggall, C.Sollitt *et al.*).

1990 Yorkshire, West Otley, adult, about 14th July to at least 11th August (A.G.Gough, S.Lovric *et al.*).

1991 Tayside Findatie area, juvenile, 4th November to at least 24th January 1992 (D.E.Dickson, J.Stevenson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 194).

IRELAND

1991 Wexford First-winter, South Slob, 30th November.

1992 Cork Three first-years, Ballymaloe, 17th May, two on 18th and one on 19th May. First-year, Lough Aderry, 19th May.

In 1992, Night Herons made something of a return to their usual recent status, after the dearth in 1991. Records showed a typical spread, with two overwintering, spring overshoots and displaced juveniles in autumn. Although the trio of records of juveniles in Strathclyde could suggest genuine vagrancy, the presence of unringed, free-flying juveniles and adults at the Edinburgh Zoo colony must bring these and the overwintering Tayside bird under suspicion. Whether this dilemma can ever be sorted out is debatable, and many British records could relate to these feral individuals. Perhaps the only logical recourse is to accept as wild all that are seen well enough to ascertain that they are not colour-ringed.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (0, 3, 0)

A report of an immature from St Peter Port, Guernsey, in September has yet to be assessed by the Committee.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 31, 1)

Cornwall Towednack, 13th-19th May (M.J.Rogers, D.Walsh *et al.*).

A single, first noted from the garden of the Committee's Honorary Secretary, seemed a just reward for his having to spend the rest of the spring at the typewriter. It has to be stated that the behaviour of some who came to see it was far from exemplary.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (2, 51, 18)

Cambridgeshire Burwell, two, 20th May (D.Palmer), presumed to come from Welney, Norfolk. See also Norfolk.

Hertfordshire Stockers Lake and Maple Cross area, eight, 3rd-4th May (G.Elton, A.Stride *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 293; 86: plate 141), two presumed to move to Norfolk.

Humberside Messingham, 6th-10th May, photographed (G.P.Catley, N.Drinkall, J.T.Harriman *et al.*).

Kent Stodmarsh, 7th-8th May (D.C.Gilbert *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Near Mablethorpe, four, 7th May (R.J. & Mrs H.Hill, P.Towler), presumed to come from North Yorkshire.

Norfolk Welney, 9th-20th May, five, 9th-15th, two, 18th-20th, all roosted nearby in Cambridgeshire (T.M.Brooks, J.B.Kemp, J.C.Lowen *et al.*), two presumed to visit Burwell, Cambridgeshire, three presumed to come from Suffolk, and two presumed to come from Hertfordshire.

Suffolk Ousden, three, 3rd May, two photographed (E.Cantillon, C.R., N.P. & R.F.Nunn), presumed to move to Welney, Norfolk.

Yorkshire, North Nunnington, five, 6th May, photographed (O. & Mrs J.Turner), four presumed to move to Lincolnshire.

The fact that the Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Suffolk records came by chance from observant farmers at localities well away from the haunts of birdwatchers suggests that still more may well have featured in this influx. Nonetheless, the Committee felt obliged to adopt a statistically conservative approach to the available data. The four in Lincolnshire had dark legs, whereas all members of the Hertfordshire party were apparently in prime breeding condition. At least one more remains to be reported to the Committee.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (23, 717, -)

1990 Cheshire Rostherne Mere, 1st May (D.A.Clarke, J.P.Day, P.G.H.Wolstenholme), previously not accepted (Brit. Birds 85: 553). Neumann's Flash, 6th May (Brit. Birds 85: 511), was at Lostock.

1990 Fife Lochore Meadows, 5th June (W.Gilfillan *et al.*), also in Highland.

1990 Highland See above.

1990 Man, Isle of Many localities, at least two, 17th March to 13th May (Dr J.P.Cullen, F.Moore *et al.*).

The task of assessing these gets easier as we know that fewer and fewer back-records will come in each year. The Committee hopes that these admittedly beautiful birds have become so established that they will never become rarities again. There is no doubt, however, that the unexpected discovery of one of these birds away from the South Coast 'hot-spots' will still make many an observer's month, if not year.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 45, 6)

Grampian Ythan Estuary, 10th-15th June, photographed (S.M. & W.G.Johnston *et al.*).

Hampshire Needs Oar Point, 17th July, photographed (J.M.Clark, Dr G.P.Green *et al.*).

Leicestershire/Northamptonshire Stanford Reservoir, 5th-21st July, photographed (S.Tilley, I.M.Wilson *et al.*).

Northumberland Holywell Pond, 4th July (T.R.Cleeves, J.E.Ferguson *et al.*).

Somerset Durlough Reservoir, 11th-14th July (S.Rogers *et al.*).

Warwickshire Brandon Marsh, 8th July (M.Taylor *et al.*).

1990 Highland Bunkargaig, Loch Lochy, 31st May to 1st June, photographed (A.Mee, D.M.Pullan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 139). Loch Droma, 3rd June (J.McGhie, D.Willis *et al.*), not same as Loch Lochy; metal ring, right leg, untraced.

A return to numbers more typical of recent years after the scarcity in 1991. Given the regular, if small, numbers wintering in the Netherlands and Belgium, it seems only a matter of time before one winters somewhere in Britain. The Northumberland individual was photographed but no photographs were submitted to the Committee, nor were details of at least two other reports.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 81, 1)

Avon Bath, 13th June (P.J.Basterfield).

1991 Norfolk Stiffkey, 16th-17th June (S.J.Harrap, R.G.Millington *et al.*).

A further addition to the remarkable series of records in 1991 and then a return to the pre-1987 numbers. In a spring with so many eastern vagrants, this perhaps suggests that our ones tend to be southern in origin.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 57, 4)

Cheshire Neumann's and Marston Flashes, 2nd-3rd October (R.B.Dyke, D.M.Walters *et al.*), presumed same as Cumbria.

Cleveland Haverton Hole, 5th May (M.A.Blick, C.Sharp *et al.*).

Cumbria Near Kirkbride, 30th September (R.Bottomley), also in Cheshire.

Kent Stodmarsh area, since 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 513) to 4th April, 1st August to end of year; same, Sheppey, 21st-28th March, 29th April to 31st May, 18th-22nd July (per D.W.Taylor).

Norfolk Cley and Kelling Quag, 6th May (D.A.Bridges, M.N.Sidwell, Miss B.Vevers *et al.*).

Suffolk Carlton Marshes, 6th-8th May (R.C.Smith *et al.*); same, Minsmere, 6th (M.Farrow, G.R.Welch *et al.*), not same as Norfolk.

1987 Buckinghamshire Willen Lake, 29th May (Brit. Birds 81; 544), now considered not acceptable.

1988 Bedfordshire South Mills, 13th May (Brit. Birds 82: 560), now considered not acceptable.

The unacceptable 1987 and 1988 records, together with one from Cambridgeshire in 1989, are now considered to have been insufficiently well-documented to exclude the possibility of confusion with the Hertfordshire Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi*, which is known to have absented itself periodically from its usual haunts. An excellent year for new birds, with at least four individuals appearing. This was mirrored in other northern European countries, with records in Belgium, Finland and Sweden.

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* (0, 8, 0)

IRELAND

A returning adult of the North American race *C.c.columbianus* was recorded as follows.

1991-92 Wexford Adult, North Slob, 3rd March and 17th December to 2nd February 1992.

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

Because of the confusion over origins of the ones seen in Britain, the Committee has opted to provide details of all occurrences in the species comment only. This allows details to be placed on record, but not included in the statistics, which are intended to relate to wild individuals.

The Finnish re-introduction scheme produced the 'neck-ringed' individual at Slimbridge from 1990 onwards; introduced stock in Sweden has already bred with wild individuals and produced young, which have not been ringed. The effect of these schemes is that we can no longer assume that birds displaying 'traditional' features of wild Lesser White-fronted Goose are genuine 'wild' birds. It is important, so that patterns can be assessed and monitored, that all records of this species are submitted, even when they are suspected of being feral.

An adult was at Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes, Avon, from 18th October 1991 to 15th February 1992. An adult was at Read's Island, Humberside, from 8th May to about 12th October 1992, when it was shot dead. In Kent, two adults and an immature were in the Westbere area from 5th to 19th May 1991 and an adult was in the Sheppey/Elmley/Swale area from 24th February to 16th May 1992. In Lancashire in 1991, single adults were at Rufford on 7th October, Martin Mere from 4th October to 6th November and on 27th November, Little Crosby on 3rd December and Cockerham on 8th December: these could have referred to just two individuals; also, ringed first-winter (captive-reared, released Swedish Lapland) at Aldcliffe Marsh from 22nd November 1991 to at least 22nd April 1992. In Lincolnshire, an adult with an injured leg was at Saltfleetby on 31st October 1992, and other single adults were at Musselburgh, Lothian, on 15th-17th June 1992, at Stanhoe, Norfolk, from 9th to at least 23rd November 1991, and at Blithfield, Staffordshire, on 5th and 13th October 1991. In addition, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust summer survey identified 29 free-flying individuals, including 24 in East Anglia. The principal site was the Otter Trust at Bungay, Suffolk, where a flock of 15 full-winged birds is kept. There were four at Lackford Wildfowl Reserve, two on the River Bure broads and singles at three other Norfolk sites. Elsewhere, there were two in Gloucestershire and singles in Kent, Clwyd and Cumbria. We have also heard of a free-flying flock in Dorset, and would welcome further details of this.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* (1, 54, 0)

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

Hampshire See Sussex, West.

Suffolk See 1991 Suffolk below.

Sussex, West Thorney Island and other localities, Chichester Harbour, adult, since 1991 to 15th February, presumed same, 11th October to 1993; also visited Hayling Island, Hampshire; another adult, 30th January possibly to 8th February, presumed same as second 1991 individual (C.B.Collins *et al.*). See 1991 Sussex, West, below.

1990 Hampshire Farlington Marsh, adult, at least 8th January (I.Lakin, R.White *et al.*).

1990 Kent Swalecliffe area, adult, 23rd October to 25th November (Brit. Birds 85: 514), observers were J.A.S. Patterson *et al.*

1991 Suffolk Felixstowe, adult, 8th December to 26th May 1992 (M.C.Marsh *et al.*).

1991 Sussex, West Thorney Island and other localities, Chichester Harbour, adult, since 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 459) to 3rd January; presumed same, 25th October intermittently to 1992, accompanied by four juveniles resembling *B.b.bernicla*; adult, 13th-21st January, presumed returning 1989 individual (Brit. Birds 83: 448), accompanied on 21st by four juveniles resembling *B.b.nigricans* (C.B.Collins).

IRELAND

1989 Wicklow Adult, Kilcoole, 18th April.

1991-92 Down Adult, Newcastle and Minerstown, 24th February to 4th March 1991 and presumably the same individual at Newcastle from 30th December to at least 2nd April 1992. It was also seen at Killough from 11th to 19th April 1992.

1991 Dublin Adult, Bull Island, 16th to 22nd April. Adult, Rogerstown, 29th December.

1991 Londonderry Adult, Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, 25th October. Considered to be the same individual as seen in previous years.

1992 Dublin Adult, Rogerstown, 28th November. Adult, Corballis, 22nd November.

1992 Londonderry Adult, Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, 7th to 28th October. The same individual as in previous years.

Most, if not all, of these records very probably refer to returning individuals.

There was an adult at Havre des Pas, Jersey, on 28th October 1991 to 6th February 1992, presumed to be returning individual last recorded 4th-12th December 1984 (Brit. Birds 79: 543). As mentioned last year and demonstrated in the 1991 entry for Sussex, there now appear to be 'hybrid' juveniles visiting Britain and, consequently, descriptions must now eliminate these and show all the characters of this race. 'Hybrid' young have also been reported in Zuidholland and Zeeland, Netherlands (Dutch Birding: 15: 61-63).

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* (15, 25, 0)

Cumbria Rockcliffe Marsh, first-winter, 22nd March to 19th April (A.Baldwin, D.Bailey, C.Wilson *et al.*), presumed same as Dumfries & Galloway.

Dumfries & Galloway Caerlaverock since 1991, then Mersehead to 7th March, also in Cumbria; presumed same, Caerlaverock, as adult, 5th October to 7th November, near Dumfries, 10th November to 10th January 1993 (P.N.Collin *et al.*).

1991 Dumfries & Galloway Caerlaverock, first-winter, 2nd October to 1992 (P.N.Collin *et al.*).

A welcome return for this lovely goose, not recorded in Britain since 1988, but, in typical fashion, returning in successive years. Let us hope that this presages a run of records similar to that in the mid 1980s.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 227, 10)

Dorset Littlesea, The Fleet, male, 31st October; same, Lodmoor, 15th to at least 22nd November (D.J.Chown, I.Prophet, J.Williamson *et al.*).

Fife Burntisland, male, 10th October to 1993, presumed returning individual last recorded Lochore Meadows, 8th December 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 514); first-winter male, 30th October to 3rd November; female, 30th October to 1993, presumed returning individual last recorded Stenhouse Reservoir, 13th January 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 514) (D.E.Dickson, J.S.Nadin *et al.*). Stenhouse Reservoir, male, 28th November, same as Burntisland (J.S.Nadin).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, first-winter male, 15th September (D.B.Paynter *et al.*).

Grampian Loch of Strathbeg, male, 6th-8th June (P.D.Bloor, Dr I.M.Phillips *et al.*).

Highland Loch Ussie, male, since 1991 to 18th January (Brit. Birds 85: 514).

Lancashire Martin Mere, male, 17th-20th October (P.Massey *et al.*).

Leicestershire Eyebrook Reservoir, female, 26th March to 7th April, age/sex uncertain, 4th-22nd October (A.H.J.Harrop, T.Mitcham, J.Wright *et al.*).

Shetland Sae Water, Voe, male, 9th-12th June (K.A.Mason *et al.*).

Strathclyde An Phaophail, Tiree, male, 21st May (I.D.Bullock, A.Knight).

1991 Cumbria Leven Estuary, male, 26th February (D.Jewell), presumed returning individual last recorded 13th-25th February 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 459).

1991 Fife Lochore Meadows, male, 15th October to at least 8th December (Brit. Birds 85: 514), also at Burntisland (B.H.Little *et al.*).

1991 Hampshire Lower Test Marshes, male, 9th February to 15th April (M.L.Edgeller, M.Rafter, D.J.Unsworth *et al.*).

1991 Lothian Gladhouse Reservoir, male, to 27th January (Brit. Birds 85: 514), to 22nd February; presumed same, Rosebery Reservoir, 3rd February (R.W.J.Smith, L.L.J.Vick).

1991 Northumberland Cresswell Pond, male, 22nd-29th December, photographed (J.Brooke, I.Fisher, S.Sexton *et al.*).

IRELAND

1991 Cork Adult male, Rosscarbery, 1st November.

1991-92 Fermanagh Male and female, Castle Caldwell, Lower Lough Erne, 16th January to 26th March 1991. The same individuals were again present from 8th October 1991 to 3rd April 1992.

1992 Clare Adult male, Lough O'Grady, 22nd May to 1st June. Probably the same individual as recorded in 1991.

1992 Kerry Adult male, Ballydavid, 21st to 22nd June.

The trio in Fife prompt the suspicion that breeding may have taken place somewhere other than on the west side of the Atlantic and this could, in turn, suggest that they are not of genuinely wild origin. Even so, could the Grampian male have been that on Shetland making a refuelling stop en route to Iceland? Further records from Grampian remain under consideration. A 1991 record from Pett Level, East Sussex, on 1st June was considered to relate to two probable escapes.

At the BBRC identification meeting, evidence was presented showing that some of the supposedly diagnostic features separating this species from Eurasian Wigeon *A.penelope* are unreliable. This will be published in 'From the Rarities Committee's files' in the near future.

Common Teal *Anas crecca* (13, 323, -)

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

1989 Sussex, West Arundel, 21st April to 1st May (Brit. Birds 83: 450), 2nd (A.S.Cook).

1990 Humberside Blacktoft Sands, 2nd-10th July (C.Featherstone, A.Grieve *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Cley, 21st March to 25th April (M.A.Golley, D.J.Holman *et al.*).

1990 Sussex, West Arundel, 10th-24th March (Brit. Birds 85: 515), presumed returning 1989 individual above.

1990 Yorkshire, North/West Fairburn Ings, 30th March to 8th May (R.Horner, J.Lunn *et al.*).

A batch of records from past years; this race is no longer considered by the Rarities Committee.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (19, 156, 6)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, female, 29th July to 13th August (K.L.Fox, K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

Cheshire Inner Marsh Farm, male, 27th-28th May (G.Hogan, G.H.Rhodes, M.G. & Dr J.E.Turner *et al.*).

Cornwall Upper Tamar Reservoir, male, first-winter male and female, 11th January (S.M.Christophers, E.J.Cook).

Lancashire Martin Mere, male, 3rd-6th September (D.J.Rigby, C.G.Tomlinson *et al.*).

1988 Cambridgeshire Fen Drayton, female, 20th August to 8th October (Brit. Birds 84: 461), aged as first-summer, reared three, probably four, hybrid young, probably present since June.

1988 Yorkshire, North Bolton-on-Swale, female or immature, 29th September to 9th October (D.Beaumont *et al.*).

1991 Dorset Abbotsbury, first-winter, 30th October to 2nd November (M.A.Hallett *et al.*).

A male at Arundel Wildfowl Reserve, West Sussex, from 2nd to at least 27th November 1991 was considered likely to have been of captive origin; it had some white primaries. Partial albinism occurs much more commonly among captive-bred birds than in the wild. The presence of presumed hybrid offspring in Cambridgeshire in 1988 is another compounding problem.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1, 313, 8)

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, male, since 1991 (see 1991 below), intermittently to 4th March, 14th October to 1993, presumed same, Marazion, at least 14th February, Loe Pool, intermittently, 19th April to 22nd November, Stithians Reservoir, 19th-29th September, 2nd October, Bussow Reservoir, 13th October (J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Cumbria River Kent, Kendal, male, 25th November to 1993, photographed (J.Lishman *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 143), presumed same as Wayoh Reservoir, Lancashire, last recorded 22nd December 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 515).

Devon Topsham, male, 27th May (D.Wood).

Grampian Loch of Strathbeg, male, at least 10th-14th May (J.D.Poyner *et al.*).

Greater London Lonsdale Road Reservoir, male, 20th April (B.P.Aris, M.J. & Mrs A.P.Earp *et al.*).

Hampshire Timsbury Gravel-pit, male, since 1991 (see 1991 below), to 5th April, 14th October to 1993 (per J.M.Clark).

Kent Dungeness, male, 3rd May (P.G.Akers *et al.*).

Norfolk Acle, Ranworth and Wroxham Broads, male, 17th December 1991 to 1992 (Brit. Birds 85: 515), 5th January (C. & J.R.Appleton, M.Fischer *et al.*), to 9th April (per G.E.Dunmore), presumed same, Ranworth Broad, 31st December to 1993 (B.W.Jarvis *et al.*).

Warwickshire Lea Marston, male, 17th-19th April (P.Clarke, D.A.Jennings *et al.*).

Wester, Isles Loch Stiapavat, Lewis, male, 17th March (P.Cunningham, R.D.Wemyss *et al.*).

1989 Yorkshire, West Pugney's Gravel-pit, Wakefield, male, at least 24th April (Brit. Birds 83: 452), presumed same, Swillington Ings, 27th May to 19th June (D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*), subsequently recorded 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 462; 85: 516), 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 516 and below).

1990 Devon Roadford Reservoir, male, January to at least 11th March (Mrs J.P.Smallley, T.H.Smith *et al.*).

1990 Hampshire Timsbury Gravel-pit, male, returning 1989 individual (Brit. Birds 83: 452), to at least 28th January, 22nd December to 1991, also Alresford Pond, 27th January (per J.M.Clark).

1991 Buckinghamshire Willen Lake, male, 12th May (A.V.Harding, E.J.Reed, A.Webb *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 142).

1991 Cornwall Argal and College Reservoirs, female, 9th-28th February (B.Cave *et al.*). Drift Reservoir and Marazion, two males since 1990 to 6th March, one to 22nd (Brit. Birds 85: 515), one to 30th, other to 17th April, both, Loe Pool, 1st, 20th April, one, 10th, one or other, 10th August to 30th November, presumed one of same, Drift Reservoir, 14th December to 1992 (per S.M.Christophers, J.F.Ryan).

1991 Dyfed Milford Haven, male, 23rd to at least 25th April (J.W.Donovan, P.Kerrison *et al.*), possibly same as Cornwall.

1991 Hampshire Allington (Lane) Gravel-pit, male, 9th-28th March (Brit. Birds 85: 515), same, Timsbury Gravel-pit, 1st January to 8th March, returned, Linbrook Lake, Blashford, 16th-27th November, Timsbury Gravel-pit, 28th to 1992 (per J.M.Clark).

1991 Norfolk Acle, Ranworth and Wroxham Broads, male, 10th-25th February (Brit. Birds 85: 515), Belaugh Broad, 26th (per P.R.Allard).

1991 Northumberland Cresswell Pond, male, 21st September (P.W.Davidson, R.Fairhurst per B.N.Rossiter), same, Druridge Pools, 22nd-26th (per B.N.Rossiter), same as Tyne & Wear (Brit. Birds 85: 516).

1991 Strathclyde Martnaham Loch, female, 6th-16th April (W.A.Davidson, R.H.Hogg *et al.*). Bogton Loch and Waterside, River Doon, male, 19th January to 20th April (P.McEwan, G.Mitchell, A.Stevenson *et al.*), returned, Bogton Loch, 16th October to 6th November (J.Hazlett *et al.*), previously recorded, Bogton Loch, 9th-10th October 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 462).

1991 Yorkshire, South Worsborough Reservoir, male, 4th October (G.Jackson, G.Lee, K.D.Robertson *et al.*), same, Thrybergh Reservoir, 7th-24th, photographed (K.J.Hayhow, R.J.Scott), same as West Yorkshire.

1991 Yorkshire, West Parker's Pond, Ledston, male, 24th March (Brit. Birds 85: 516), 1st April (J.Martin).

IRELAND

1991 Armagh Male, Oxford Island, 23rd April, and presumably the same individual at Ellis's Gut from 5th to 6th May (both Lough Neagh).

1991 Londonderry Female or first-winter male, Ballyronan, Lough Neagh, 24th October.

1992 Cork Male, Gearagh, 31st October.

1992 Kerry Male, Killarney, 17th April.

An interesting source for speculation is the annual frequency of widely dispersed and brief spring records of what must be passage migrants, but whence, and whither and in what direction might they be travelling? None but the Milford Haven, Dyfed, record in 1991 seems even possibly related to those elsewhere; might that one have called in at Inch Lake, Co. Donegal, on 5th May (Brit. Birds 85: 516)? It is also of interest to note the high proportion of spring records elsewhere in Europe (Brit. Birds 86: 38), and might the Iceland bird on 10th-11th May 1990 have been en route from British waters?

This species ceases to be considered by the Rarities Committee for any record on or after 1st January 1994.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0, 4, 1)

Dorset Hatch Pond, Poole Harbour, first-winter male, 28th November, 4th-5th December, photographed (M.Constantine, I.M.Lewis, S.Robson, S.F.Smith *et al.*), same, Littlesea, 6th, 10th-11th December (S.J.Morrison).

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1991-92-93 Down The male of previous years visited several Co. Down sites up to 23rd February 1991. It returned on 17th November and remained to 17th March 1992. It returned again on 15th November and remained into 1993. This individual first appeared in this area from February to April 1988 and has returned every winter since then.

The price of a captive-bred Lesser Scaup has decreased considerably over the past few years, which must indicate that more are being bred. There seems no reason, however, to doubt the credentials of the one in Northern Ireland. As mentioned in the 1990 report (Brit. Birds 84: 463), identification of this duck, particularly in non-adult-male plumage, is difficult, and the observers of the Dorset bird should be congratulated.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 165, 4)

Borders St Abb's Head, second-year male, 22nd April to 18th May (R.G.Young *et al.*), probably returning 1991 first-year male (Brit. Birds 85: 519), presumed also in Grampian, Northumberland.

Fife Tayport, male, 19th January to at least 8th March (D.E.Dickson, M.Ramage *et al.*), presumed returning 1991 individual (Brit. Birds 85: 519) and one or other of Ythan Estuary, Grampian, individuals.

Grampian Annachie, male, 23rd March (T.W.Marshall). Ythan Estuary, male, 24th March to end of May (T.W.Marshall, S.A.Regneussan *et al.*), same as Annachie; another male, 3rd to end of May (Dr I.M.Phillips, K.D.Shaw *et al.*), one or other also in Fife. Girdleness, second-year male, 11th-12th January (Dr I.M.Phillips, S.A.Reeves, K.D.Shaw *et al.*), presumed same, Sandend, 31st May to 8th June (D.Barr, M.J.H.Cook, P.T.Hirst), probably same as Borders, Northumberland; male, 21st-23rd September (Dr I.M.Phillips, G.Ruthven). Lossiemouth, male, 27th September to 3rd October (R.Proctor, I.Sutton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 464 fig. 1), probably same as Embo, Highland.

Highland Brora area, male, since 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 519), to 1st March, 24th December to 1993 (per A.Vittery); same, Embo, 5th-11th October (R.J.Evans per A.Vittery), also Lossiemouth, Grampian. Sinclair's Bay, first-winter male, 12th May (J.Smith), presumed same, Wick, 25th August (A.Banwell, L.G.R.Evans, P.J.Heath *et al.*).

Northumberland Cheswick Rocks, male, probably second-year, 27th-28th June, photographed (A.Janes, M.J.Sharp *et al.*), presumed same as Borders, Grampian.

Shetland Uyeasound, Unst, male, 12th January (M.Heubeck, M.Mellor, R.J.Tulloch), presumed same, Skuda Sound, 8th March (M.G.Pennington), Whalefirth, on at least 28th April (S.Smith per D.Suddaby), Cullivoe, 1st June to 4th July (J.N.Dymond *et al.*), Muckle Flugga, 27th August (H.R.Harrop, R.J.Tulloch *et al.*), off Gutcher, 10th-28th November (per D.Suddaby), returning to Uyeasound area 28th December to 1993 (H.R.Harrop, M.Heubeck, R.J.Tulloch). Sullom Voe, male, 21st-23rd August (H.R.Harrop, R.J.Tulloch *et al.*). Tresta area, male, 9th January to 31st May, 26th November to 1993 (per D.Suddaby), same, Trondra, 26th August to 3rd September (H.R.Harrop, M.Heubeck, J.Swale *et al.*), presumed same as 1990-91 below.

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, male, 12th-15th June (J.Vaughan *et al.*).

1990 Shetland Tresta Voe, Radayre and Raewick, male, since 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 454), to 3rd July, 21st November to 1991 (per D.Suddaby).

1991 Grampian Ythan Estuary, male, 14th December (T.W.Marshall), presumed one or other last recorded July (Brit. Birds 85: 519).

1991 Highland Wick Bay area, male, 19th-20th May, photographed (E.W.E.Maughan *et al.*), possibly same as Brora (Brit. Birds 85: 519).

Most of those recorded this year relate to known individuals. The St Kilda bird, at least, however, seems to be new, while one of the Scottish birds crossed the border into Northumberland. The statistics are being rationalised and a paper on King Eider occurrences will be published in British Birds shortly.

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

1982 Norfolk Cley, 18th September (Brit. Birds 77: 517), now considered inadequately documented.

1990 Humberside Reighton Sands, near Speeton, male, 11th November (T.Isherwood).

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1990 Down Male, Dundrum Bay, 5th January.

This species left the Committee's list in 1990.

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

1983 Buckinghamshire Willen Lake, female, 28th-29th December (Brit. Birds 81: 550), now regarded as probable escape.

An almost inevitable decision after events of the past two to three years. In the Netherlands, there are records of this species in most years which are regarded as referring to escapes.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 158, 12)

Dorset Portland, 15th May (D., G. & Mrs S.Walbridge). East Knighton, 16th May (C.Auld, R.Price, N.Symes *et al.*). Near Creech Heath, 6th June, photographed (R.J.Arnfield, A.E.Blake) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 144), presumed same, Durlston, 5th-6th (per M.Cade) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 145).

Essex Stow Marsh, 17th May (A.W.Shearring). East Tilbury, 24th May (F.Frampton, G.Glombeck, P.Warner *et al.*). Shoeburyness, 2nd June (A.R.Perkins). Great Wakering, 21st August (A.R. & Miss J.Perkins).

Humberside Tophill Low, 11th April (R.Lyon, F.X.Moffatt).

Kent Stodmarsh area, 24th May (Mrs S.B.Carter, T.Hatton, R.S.Kelly *et al.*).

Lancashire Pendle, 23rd May (P.Massey).

Norfolk Stiffkey, 24th August (S.M.Starling).

Wight, Isle of Godshill, 19th May (Mrs M.Beisley, D.B.Wooldridge).

1988 Cleveland South Gare, 16th April (M.A.Blick, D.Page, N.A.Preston).

1989 Kent Sandwich Bay, 29th May (P.W.J.Findley, W.E.Fletcher *et al.*).

1989 Lincolnshire Frampton and Holbeach Marshes, 9th June (C.R. & Mrs K.R.Casey, M.H.Champion *et al.*).

1989 Yorkshire, West Swillington, 2nd May (A.J. & I.A.Ross).

1990 Hampshire Hawkhill Inclosure, New Forest, 9th May (D.J.Burges).

1990 Scilly Bryher and Tresco, 13th May (J.W.Hale, D.H.Payne *et al.*).

1991 Cornwall Hayle, 16th April (A.R.Birch, L.P.Williams).

1991 Kent Broadstairs, 4th August (B.Short *et al.*).

1991 Yorkshire, North Near Hillen, 7th May (G.J.Todd).

The distinctive jizz of Black Kite is difficult to convey on paper, and records can be equally difficult to judge: there are several still awaiting a final decision from the Committee. Despite this, there were more in 1992 than in 1991, mostly spring overshoots.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (many, 21, 0)

1989 Humberside Humberstone, 26th April (J.B.Baranowski, C.Gorman *et al.*). Spurn, 8th May (I.Crowther, C.P.Musgrave *et al.*). Messingham, Scawby and Brigg area, 21st-22nd May (W.Gillatt, J.Petyt *et al.*). All presumed same as 1989 Humberside and Lincolnshire individual already published (Brit. Birds 83: 457).

No acceptable records of wild individuals once again.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 386, 107)

Avon Stanton Wick, first-summer male, 30th May to 3rd June (A.H.Davis *et al.*).

Berkshire Dinton Pastures Country-park, Hurst, first-summer male, 3rd June (N.Edwards, D.E.Horton *et al.*).

Cambridgeshire Ouse Washes, male, first-summer male, 16th May (O. & M.Marks, B.S. & G.Martin, P.Mason); female, 16th (O. & M.Marks, B.S. & G.Martin). Fen Drayton, first-summer female, 28th May to 1st June (B.S.Martin, J.L.F.Parslow, R.M.Patient); first-summer female, 8th-13th June (D.Bilcock, J.L.F.Parslow, R.M.Patient).

Cleveland Haverton Hole, male, 12th June (C.Dodsworth, S.J.Hinley).

Cornwall Porthgarra, male, 21st May (J.F.Ryan *et al.*). Kynance Cove, female, probably first-summer, 13th June (J.Bannerjee, J.A.Rowlands). Crows-an-Wra, first-summer male, 20th-28th June (D.S.Flumm, G.B.Hocking, S.P.Jones *et al.*).

Cumbria Nenthead, near Alston, first-summer male, 8th June (R.Bottomley), seen to fly into Co. Durham.

Devon Lundy, female, 19th-24th May (A.M.Jewels, I.Kendall, P.Mayer *et al.*). Lee Bay, first-summer male, 22nd-23rd May, photographed (J.Nobbs, A.Perry). Braunton Burrows, male, 31st May to 2nd June (M. & Mrs B.Blackmore, J.M.Breeds).

Dorset Hengistbury Head, first-summer male, 3rd-4th June (A.Hayden *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 146 & 147).

Durham See Cumbria.

Dyfed Rhandirmwyn, female, 29th May (A.R.Pickup *et al.*). Bosherton Lake, female, 2nd June (R.J.Ellis, R.J.Haycock).

Essex Abberton Reservoir, first-summer male, 21st-24th May (R.Allen, M.Cock, J.Frank *et al.*), probably same, Fingringhoe, 23rd (R.P.Hull). Latchington, first-summer male, 23rd-29th August (C.J. & Mrs M.J.Mackenzie-Grieve *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Cotswold Water Park, two first-summer females, 29th May to 2nd June, photographed (R.G.Baatsen, P.Chaney *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 467 fig. 2), also in Wiltshire.

Grampian Kirkton, first-summer female, 31st May to 13th June, taken into care injured, photographed (A.G.Clarke, I.Gordon *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 153).

Greater London Walthamstow, female, 2nd June (S.Fenwick).

Hampshire Bishop's Dyke, male, 17th May (K.A.Arber, P.Gammidge, Dr P.Whitfield), presumed same, Ashley Walk, 25th-26th (M.C. & P.Combridge, Dr A.M.Hanby, G.C.Stephenson *et al.*). Near Burley, first-summer female, 10th-15th June (N.W.Orr), presumed same, Picket Post, 21st (M.C. & P.Combridge), presumed same, Fritham Plain, 27th (T.M.J.Doran). Houghton, male, first-summer male, 24th May, male to 25th (Dr A.M.Hanby, G.C.Stephenson *et al.*). Southampton, first-summer male, 19th May (D.A.Christie).

Highland Duthil, near Carrbridge, male, 29th May (D.E. & J.Horrabin).

Humberside Spurn, female, 15th May (D.P.Boyle *et al.*); first-summer male, 29th May (J.S.Barclay, A.M.Pratt *et al.*). Tophill Low, male, 28th May (W.H.Lealman, G.Norris). Flamborough Head, first-summer male, 30th May (J.McLoughlin).

Kent Rushenden, first-summer male, 14th May (J.A.Rowlands). Stodmarsh, at least seven: female, 20th May (C.D.Abrams, D.B.Rosair); at least two females, 22nd May (C.D.Abrams, J.K.Archer, J.M.Warne); three first-summer males, three females, 23rd-25th (C.D.Abrams, J.Cantelo, R.J.Fairbank *et al.*), male, age uncertain, 27th, presumed one of same (M.J.Baldock); male, age uncertain, 10th June, presumed additional (C.H.Hindle, D.W.Silliphant, D.Tutt *et al.*). Sandwich Bay, female, 3rd June (P.A.Brown); male, 10th (I.Hunter, S.D.Stansfield); female, age uncertain, 15th (S.D.Stansfield); male, age uncertain, 25th (P.W.J.Findley *et al.*). Northbourne, first-summer male, 23rd May (D.Anning). St Margaret's Bay, female, 15th June (C.S.Johnson).

Lancashire Blackpool, first-summer female, 29th May to 3rd June (M.Jones, K.McEllan, D.Pitman *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 148 & 149).

Leicestershire Rutland Water, male, 7th-13th June (J.A.Sharpe, C.J.Watts *et al.*).

Merseyside Marshside Marsh, first-summer female, 25th May (Dr B.McCarthy).

Norfolk Winterton, female, 26th April to 3rd May (J.Maslin, I.N.Smith *et al.*); female, 28th May (I.N.Smith), presumed same, Horsey, 29th (J.R.Whitelegg, P.G.H.Wolstenholme). Horsey, female, 14th May (C.Pitt, F.E.Pitts), presumed same, Gorleston, 14th (B.W.Jones); probably same, Bradwell, 15th (P.R.Allard). Happisburgh, female, 14th May (T.R.Barker, M.Fischer, P.J.Heath). Blakeney Point, first-summer male, 14th May (M.S.Cavanagh, A.M.Stoddart); female, 14th May (M.S.Cavanagh, A.M.Stoddart), presumed same, Cley, 14th (A.P.Benson, D.A.Bridges). Titchwell, first-summer male, 14th May (C.Ward), probably same, Holme, 14th (G.F.Hibberd). Welney, male, 26th-31st May (J.Arbon, J.B.Kemp *et al.*). Holme, male, 28th-29th May (W.Boyd, G.F.Hibberd, N.Lawton *et al.*); female, 28th May (G.F.Hibberd), presumed same, Brancaster, 29th (R.Q.Skeen *et al.*). Blakeney Point, female, 29th May (M.J. & R.Hills). Holkham Meals, female, 29th May (V.Eve). How Hill and Reedham Water, first-summer male, 15th-20th June (M.Dane, P.J.Heath *et al.*). Hickling, two males, 28th June (J.S.Hampshire, B.W.Jarvis *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Thrapston, first-summer male, 23rd May to 4th June, photographed (Dr R.J.Chandler *et al.*).

Orkney Rendall, female, 1st June (M.Grant, J.B.Ribbands). North Ronaldsay, first-summer males, 28th May to 10th June, two, 28th, photographed (D.Patterson, K.A.Wilson *et al.*); first-summer female, 2nd June (P.J.Donnelly, K.A.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 469 fig. 3).

Scilly St Martin's, first-summer female, 19th, 23rd May; same, St Mary's, 20th-21st (Miss C.E.Lankester, K.Pellow *et al.*).

Shetland At least seven: Burravoe, Yell, male, 29th May (M.Heubeck, D.Suddaby *et al.*), probably same, Voe, 3rd-4th June (A.Hawick, K.Osborn *et al.*). Vesta Virdin, Sullom, first-summer male, 29th May (J. & T.P.Drew), presumed same, Channerwick, 30th (M.Mellor *et al.*); presumed same, Sandwick, 31st (L.Dalziel *et al.* per D.Suddaby). Roe Brecks, Sullom, female, 1st-3rd June (J. & T.P.Drew *et al.*), probably also at Bixter. Tingwall, female, 5th June (M.Heubeck), probably also at Bixter. Bixter, female, 10th-11th June (N.E. & Mrs B.Wall *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 150 & 151); another female, 10th-11th (H.R.Harrop, K.Osborn, A.Williams *et al.*), one or other, 12th (per D.Suddaby). Fair Isle, first-summer male, 26th-27th May (K.Bowey, P.S.Castle, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*); first-summer male, 29th-30th (Dr R.Riddington, S.C.Votier *et al.*); female, 29th May to 2nd June (Dr R.Riddington, T.Sweetland *et al.*).

Somerset At least seven: Dunball, first-summer male, 19th, 21st May (B.J.Hill). Westhay Moor, second-summer male, 18th-22nd May, presumed same, 20th-23rd June; male, 20th May (B.J.Hill, B.Rabbitts, A.M. & B.R.Slade). Shapwick Heath, female, 27th May (D.J.Davies). Westhay Heath, two first-summer males, 26th May to 22nd June (T.A.Box, B.R.Ellis, B.D.Gibbs *et al.*), presumed one or other, Chilton Moor, 12th June (D.Smallshire); female, 4th June (T.A.Box per B.Rabbitts), presumed same, Chilton Moor, 8th (Miss M.Bolas); presumed same, Westhay Moor, 14th (J.J.Packer, A.M.Slade per B.Rabbitts).

Suffolk Cavenham Heath, male, 21st-22nd April (M.J.Austin, P.V.Hayman *et al.*). Falkenham, female, 14th May (P.Harvey). Orfordness, female, 24th-25th May (M.D.Crewe *et al.*). North Warren, first-summer female, 25th-29th May (W.J.Brame, J.M.Cawston, R.Macklin *et al.*). Landguard, first-summer male, 30th May (N.Odin, B.J.Small *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 472 fig. 4). Hengrave area, first-summer female, 7th to at least 9th June (A.Howe *et al.*). Capel St Andrew, first-summer male, 9th June (R.F.Tomlinson). Brandon, female, 9th June (A.M.Stevenson, J.L.Thomas). Trimley Marshes, female, 15th June (R.Beecroft).

Sussex, East Pett Level, female, 5th June (C.H.Dean). Powdermill Reservoir, Seddlescombe, two first-summer males, female, age uncertain, 9th June (J.D. & R.J.Prytherch).

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, first-summer male, 16th-21st May (P.E.Castle *et al.*); two first-summer females, 31st May to 2nd June (P.E.Castle *et al.*), same as Gloucestershire (Brit. Birds 86: page 467 fig. 2). Haxton Down, first-summer male, 2nd June (B.Maxfield).

Yorkshire, North Filey, first-summer female, 26th-30th May, photographed (P.J.Dunn *et al.*); female, 30th-31st May (J.Harwood, J.A.Pollintine, A.Stonier *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 152). Between Muston and Filey, first-summer female, 30th to at least 31st May (P.Jones, A.Shirlock, J.Wood), probably same as Filey. Scargill Reservoir, male, 26th to at least 31st May (J.E.Atkinson, R.Evison, J.McLoughlin *et al.*). York, female, age uncertain, 25th June (D.Denson, V.Green, R.Hilton *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Pugney's Country-park, Wakefield, first-summer male, 11th June (S.Daniels, J.M.Turton *et al.*), presumed same, 19th-25th (G.Carr, J.Laws *et al.*).

1987 Suffolk Cavenham Heath, immature male, 2nd October (M.Wright).

1988 Cumbria Longtown, female, 8th September (D.Johnston).

1988 Kent Sandwich Bay, female, 20th June (C.N.Davison, W.E.Fletcher, M.J.Pollard).

1990 Essex Barling, first-summer male, 5th May, photographed (A.R.Perkins).

1990 Hampshire Beaulieu Road, first-summer male, 28th May (M.A.Hardwick *et al.*), presumed same as 30th (Brit. Birds 84: 467).

1991 Cambridgeshire Chesterton, female, 23rd May (R.Thewlis).

1991 Norfolk Sandringham Warren, female, 26th May (Brit. Birds 85: 520), observers included M.Harris.

1991 Somerset Somerton, female, 13th September (R.W.Surmon).

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1992 Galway Five, Ballyconnelly, 28th April.

Unprecedented numbers arrived in two major waves, during 14th-17th May and 28th-30th May. The majority of records were in the Southeast and East Anglia, and comparatively few north of a line from Filey to Morecambe Bay, with the exception of the Northern Isles.

The Committee was disappointed by the low standard of too many of the descriptions, which occasionally were of the 'There were a lot about and this was one' school. In contrast, one of the best descriptions was from a group of golfers who described themselves as 'not really birdwatchers'. If all descriptions had been as comprehensive as that one, there would have been more accepted records this year.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 101, 5)

Durham See 1991 Durham below.

Grampian Bennachie Hills, white-phase, 28th November (D.J.Gill).

Orkney St Ola, Mainland, white-phase, 25th January (S.J.Williams), presumed same, 11th-12th, 20th-24th April (D.Suddaby *et al.*), same, Widewall, South Ronaldsay, 31st (H.Mackenzie).

Shetland Fetlar, white-phase, 22nd February (F.Coutts, B.Thomason, A.Wilson), presumed same, 11th-12th, 20th-24th April (D.Suddaby *et al.*), same, Burravoe, Yell, 14th April (S.Smith).

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, first-year white-phase, 26th February to at least 25th March, presumed same, 25th April (T.J.Dix, Miss C.Lee, J.Vaughan *et al.*).

1990 Shetland Trondra and Tingwall, 16th-17th April (Brit. Birds 84: 468), was first-winter male.

1990 Strathclyde Islay, first-summer male white-phase, 17th April (Dr M.A.Ogilvie, M.A.Peacock).

1991 Durham Eggleston, Teesdale, first-winter white-phase or intermediate, 8th December to 19th January 1992 (D.Raw *et al.*).

1991 Strathclyde Port Charlotte, Islay, juvenile female white-phase, taken into care injured, 3rd November, released, found dead Macarthur's Head, 10th, photographed (E.Wilson *et al.*).

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1991 Galway The bird recorded in Brit. Birds 85: 521 was present from 31st March to 22nd April.

1991-92 Kerry The bird recorded in Brit. Birds 85: 521 was present from 15th November to 13th March 1992.

1992 Londonderry One, Magilligan Point, 18th to 19th April. This bird was, apparently, present in this area of Lough Foyle since early February.

Subsequent events in Kent, yet to be published by us, suggested a degree of prescience in last year's report. The Durham individual was an exciting find, but was on a heavily kept stretch of grouse moor which is an important area for other breeding raptors. The finders realised that, with a large-scale 'twitch', relations between the gamekeepers and bird-watchers would deteriorate to such an extent that important survey work could not continue, so reluctantly had to avoid giving the record publicity.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (many, 8, 1)

Sussex, East Icklesham, female, trapped, 11th August (G.Barnes, S.J.R.Rumsey, T.Squire *et al.*).

With four in the last four years, this species has become unexpectedly more frequent. The latest two are the first in autumn since at least 1957. A recent paper (Brit. Birds 86: 303-311) has covered identification at this time of year.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (many, 20, 0)

1973 Cleveland Goathland Moor, then Yorkshire, 18th August (Brit. Birds 68: 334), now considered inadequately documented.

1973 Yorkshire See above.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 175, 7)

Cornwall Marazion, 15th-17th May (R.W.Hirst, M.J.Rogers *et al.*).

Devon Wrafton, juvenile or first-winter, 6th-9th December, second individual, 6th, photographed (L.P. & S.D.Bruce).

Norfolk Hickling, two, 16th May (A.D.Boote, Mr & Mrs M.J.Seago *et al.*). Breydon and Berney Marsh, 20th-23rd May (P.R.Allard, J.Burton *et al.*).

Sussex, East Bewl Water, 19th May (R.Dixon, P.C.Bance *et al.*).

1989 Hampshire Farlington Marsh, 8th November (C.Cockburn).

1990 Dorset Stanpit Marsh, 12th May, photographed (D.A.Custard, I. & P.Rabjohns *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 154), previously published as not accepted (Brit. Birds 85: 553).

1990 Western Isles Howmore, South Uist, two, 5th July (M.Wills).

1991 Humberside Southfield Reservoir, 7th May, Flamborough Head, 11th (Brit. Birds 85: 522), same, Blacktoft Sands, 7th, 12th (N.Douglas, A.Grieve *et al.*), also in North and South Yorkshire.

1991 Yorkshire, North Filey Dams, 11th May, photographed (D.Bedford, I.Robinson *et al.*), same as Humberside.

1991 Yorkshire, South Wath Ings, 7th May (H.Crooks, J.H.Goddard, J.M.Turton *et al.*), same as Humberside.

An old Channel Islands occurrence, never officially reported, has, however, been portrayed in British Birds (81: plate 202): it was photographed in Guernsey in April 1988.

Another quiet year, after the feasts of 1987 and 1990, was rather surprising when exceptional numbers were in Atlantic France, and a breeding colony was established in the Netherlands. The December record is unusual, with only two previous records in that month.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (30, 48, 1)

Dorset Portland, 31st May (M.Cade, C.Ingham, G. & Mrs S.K.Moyser *et al.*).

A typical date and short stay. Where are the long-stayers of yesteryear?

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (5, 20, 1)

Cornwall Davidstowe area, first-winter, 2nd-11th October (C. & D.K.Lamsdell, P.J.Okcs, J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

An immature that was tentatively reported as Collared Pratincole *G.pratincola* initially before being reidentified as this species.

Killdeer Plover *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 39, 0)

1990 Western Isles Eoligarry, Barra, 10th October (A.Stewart).

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1991 Cork Adult, Ballycotton, 7th January to 2nd March.

None for this year, but late-autumn and winter records are typical.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (0, 10, 1)

Essex East Tilbury, 10th-14th August, photographed (S.Huggins, A.J.Kane, C.Rose *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 155).

Kent Cliffe, 14th August (T.P.Laws *et al.*), presumed same as Essex.

These records are presumably of the same bird as the Cley, Norfolk, individual, which was not officially reported to the Committee in time for this report, despite its having been photographed (Brit. Birds 86: plate 156); a report needs to be submitted, with a request for an assessment to be made, before the Committee is entitled to pass judgment on a record.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (3, 157, 6)

Dorset Ferrybridge, first-summer, 20th-22nd May, photographed (M.A.Hallett, G.Walbridge *et al.*). Stanpit Marsh, adult, 22nd-24th May (L.Chappell *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Welford, adult, 15th October (R.D.Gorsage, E.K. & N.McMahon *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, first-summer, 26th to at least 29th May (J. & R.Rettke-Grover, W.E.Oddie *et al.*), same, Green Island, 7th June (W.H.Wagstaff).

Strathclyde Colonsay, adult, 3rd to at least 5th October (J. & P.M.Clarke, D.C.Jardine).

1990 Derbyshire Rother Valley Country-park, juvenile, 12th-15th October (M.N.Reeder *et al.*).

1991 Bedfordshire Cranfield, juvenile, intermittently, 16th to at least 25th November (D.J.Odell, P.Smith *et al.*), also in Buckinghamshire.

1991 Buckinghamshire Broughton, juvenile, intermittently, 12th-25th November, photographed (A.V.Harding, E.J.Reed, C.Ward *et al.*), same as Bedfordshire.

1991 Northamptonshire Pitsford Reservoir, juvenile, 12th-13th October (E.K. & N.McMahon, S.R.Mawby, M.H.Rogers *et al.*).

1991 Scilly St Agnes, juvenile, 26th September to 16th October (Brit. Birds 85: 525, plate 41), same, St Mary's, 22nd-25th September, 14th October (D.J.D.Hickman, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

1991 Shetland Fair Isle, adult, 15th August (P.V.Harvey, N.E.Milius *et al.*).

1991 Warwickshire Grandborough, juvenile, 18th October (T.Marlow, G.M.Pullan *et al.*), same, Draycote Water, 22nd-23rd (T.Marlow, S.Seal, T.W.Willey *et al.*), near Willoughby, 26th (N.F.Osborne).

IRELAND

1991 Cork Adult, Douglas Estuary, 24th August to 1st September. Juvenile, Clonakilty/Inchydoney, 18th to 27th October.

1991-92 Tyrone Annaghroe, 28th December and 8th February.

1992 Down Strand Lough and Killough Harbour, 2nd to 13th August.

The Irish Rare Birds Committee intends to review all past Irish records of 'Lesser Golden Plovers' *P.dominica/P.fulva*.

A reasonable spread of records, with the usual westerly bias.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (3, 17, 4)

Hampshire Needs Oar Point, adult, 27th-28th June, photographed (D.J.Unsworth *et al.*).

Norfolk Breydon, adult, 28th May (P.R.Allard).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, adult, 1st-3rd August (P.J.Donnely, D.Jackson, K.A.Wilson *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, adult, 2nd-3rd July (N.J.Riddiford, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

1990 Kent Sandwich Bay, adult, 20th-22nd June (K.B.Ellis, J.N.Hollyer *et al.*).

1991 Northumberland Druridge Pools, adult, 22nd-23rd June, photographed (M.G.Anderson, T.I.Mills, J.G.Steele *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 163).

Further typical dates, all in summer, when five were seen in Sweden; but, surely, we are overlooking this species in autumn?

American or Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica/P.fulva* (6, 182, 10)

Clwyd Oakenholt Marsh, adult, 23rd July (C.Bennett, N.J.Holton).

The totals include those specifically identified. The results of the Committee's comprehensive review will be published in British Birds next year.

Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria* (5, 31, 0)

1991 Berkshire Brimpton Gravel-pits, adult, 10th April (D.A.Henshilwood).

This individual, at a fairly unlikely locality, must have stunned the observer: what a good find for your local patch.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 62, 3)

Norfolk Hickling, 8th-9th May (J.Hampshire, D. & T.Nicholson).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 15th-18th June, photographed (P.Bush *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 13th-15th May (P.V.Harvey, S.C.Votier *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 157).

Three more spring records. Could these, plus those in Norfolk and Cleveland in 1989, refer to just one or two individuals?

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (1, 5, 1)

IRELAND

1992 Wexford Juvenile, North Slob, 3rd to 6th September. This is the first Irish record.

None in Britain, but the juvenile in Co. Wexford was one of the highlights of the year.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (0, 1, 1)

Norfolk Cley, adult, 29th July to 3rd August (S.J.M.Gantlett, M.A.Golley, R.G.Millington, E.T.Myers *et al.*).

The second record for Britain and Ireland was this summer-plumaged adult at Cley, Norfolk. The first was on 22nd-29th July 1986 at Blacktoft, Humberside (Brit. Birds 81: 557; 82: 391-395). The sixth for Sweden was seen on 24th July 1992; could it have been the Cley bird?

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 318, 3)

1989 Humberside Blacktoft Sands, adult, 9th-14th August (A.Grieve *et al.*).

1991 Dyfed Teifi Estuary, adult, 5th August (J.Green).

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1991 Antrim Duncrue Street Marsh, Belfast, 26th September.

1991 Wexford Adult, Tacumshin, 13th August.

1992 Cork Adult, Youghal, 4th September.

1992 Kerry Adult, Blackrock Strand, 18th to 20th August.

1992 Londonderry Juvenile, Bann Estuary, 31st October.

Three in Ireland, but no acceptable records for Britain in 1992 of this species, which appears to be getting rarer here. Does this perhaps suggest temporary population changes in the New World, changed weather patterns or the demise of individuals 'stranded' on this side of the Atlantic for several years?

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 158, 1)

Norfolk Cantley, adult, 18th-20th August (D.J.Holman, J.R.Lansdell *et al.*).

1989 Kent Elmley, juvenile, 27th September to 8th October (M.Dengate, M.J.Wilkinson *et al.*).

1989 Shetland Haroldswick, Unst, 6th-7th September (M.G.Pennington), presumed same as Pool of Virkie, 8th-11th (Brit. Birds 83: 462).

1990 Suffolk Easton Bavents, juvenile, 27th October to at least 1st November, photographed (C.R.Naunton) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 159).

1991 Devon Northam Burrows, juvenile, 29th September to 3rd October, photographed (M.Preston, M.F.Woolacott *et al.*).

Another species that seems to be getting less common in Britain, although there are some records for 1992 which have yet to be submitted.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 137, 4)

Cleveland Greatham Creek and Seal Sands, 3rd-6th June (P.A.A.Baxter, M.Leakey *et al.*).

Humberside Read's Island, Ferriby, 6th June (G.P.Catley).

Norfolk Hickling, 7th June (A.J.Prater). Cley, 1st-2nd July (C.J.Butterworth *et al.*).

1991 Norfolk Breydon, 8th March (P.R.Allard).

Some records are still to be submitted, but, nevertheless, 1992 was a better year than 1991 and more in keeping with previous years. This species was, however, obviously not influenced by the weather conditions that brought record numbers of other eastern birds to our shores this spring.

Stilt Sandpiper *Micropalama himantopus* (1, 25, 0)

1990 Kent Cliffe, adult, 11th-22nd July (Brit. Birds 85: 526), was trapped 12th and now shown not to have been same as 1990 Suffolk individual (Brit. Birds 84: 471) (P.Larkin).

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1989 Kerry Adult, Akeragh Lough, 4th to 9th September.

1991 Cork The bird recorded in Brit. Birds 85: 526 was present at Rosscarbery from 19th to 20th September and it was seen at Clonakilty on 21st September.

None in Britain or Ireland in 1992, but an interesting change in the statistics for 1990. This species has a pattern of haphazard occurrence here.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (33, 413, -)

1979 Norfolk Hickling, 12th September to 1st October (P.R.Allard, S.E.Linsell, M.J.Seago *et al.*).

This species left the Committee's list in 1982.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 68, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, adult, 26th, 31st August (C.Bradshaw, M.Wood *et al.*).

This bird brought a degree of disbelief to a Canadian birder on the island at the time, when everyone present formed a 'picket line' and swept across the island until the snipe was refound.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 154, 4)

Northamptonshire Pitsford Reservoir, adult, 10th-12th August, photographed (P.A.Britten, S.R.Mawby *et al.*).

Sussex, West Sidlesham Ferry, adult, 21st-23rd May (T.J.Edwards *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 165).

1990 Dumfries & Galloway Caerlaverock, juvenile to first-winter, 15th October to 16th January 1991 (P.N.Collin, S.D.Cooper *et al.*).

1991 Devon Fremington Pill, 19th January to 19th April (D. & S.Churchill, F.A.Dobinson *et al.*), possibly same as Braunton, at least 22nd October 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 471).

1991 Dumfries & Galloway See 1990 above.

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1990-91 Down The first-winter at Belfast Harbour Estate since 27th October 1990 remained to 14th April 1991.

1992 Cork Juvenile, Inchydoney, 27th September to 23rd October.

1992 Dublin Juvenile, Rogerstown, 17th to 26th October; same individual at Swords Estuary, 31st October to 6th November.

A slight recovery, following only one new individual in 1991.

Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* or *L. griseus* (31, 255, 4)

1990 Warwickshire Draycote Water, adult, 23rd-26th August (P.J.Finden, R.E.Harbird, B.L.Kington *et al.*).

A summer-plumaged adult which never came close enough to be specifically identified. The totals include those specifically identified.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 28, 0)

1973 Yorkshire, North Bolton-on-Swale, 6th August (Brit. Birds 67: 321), now considered to be inadequately documented.

IRELAND

1988 Mayo Lough Learn, The Mullet, 10th October.

1991 Cork The bird recorded in Brit. Birds 85: 527 was present from 18th to 24th September.

None in 1992.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 62, 4)

Lincolnshire Bardney, 18th-19th May (K.D.Durose *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 164).

Norfolk Gunton Park, 20th-22nd May (A.P.Benson, D.A.Bridges, K.Hewitt *et al.*). Holkham, 7th-9th June (V.Eve *et al.*).

Sussex, East Icklesham, 4th July (I.Hunter, T.Squire).

1990 Grampian Cotehill Loch, 15th-16th May (C.Barton, A.G.Clarke *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Pentney, 17th May (A.Banwell), probably same as Lakenheath Flash, 16th (Brit. Birds 84: 472).

With the total now standing at nine, 1990 has become the best-ever year for this species.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 182, 10)

Grampian Cult's Reservoir, Aberdeen, 18th-19th May, photographed (D.J.Bain, L.T.A.Brain, K.D.Shaw *et al.*). Loch of Strathbeg, juvenile, 15th August (J.Dunbar, J.D.Poyner).

Lancashire Marton Mere, 5th May, photographed (A.Conway, C.Kehoe, A.Pryce *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 161).

Norfolk Cley, 28th-29th May (L.G.R.Evans, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, juvenile, 26th August to 22nd September (R.Flood, P.M.Griggs *et al.*).

Western Isles Loch Ordais, Lewis, juvenile, 29th September to 8th October, photographed (R.D.Wemyss *et al.*).

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, 28th April (N.P.Adams, M.L.Buckland).

1986 Leicestershire Watermead Gravel-pits, first-winter, 14th September (J.Wright).

IRELAND

1991 Antrim Duncrue Street Marsh, Belfast, 24th September to 12th October.

1991 Cork The following corrections should be made to the dates of the birds referred to in Brit. Birds 85: 527. Youghal, 7th to at least 20th September; Ring, Clonakilty, 5th October; Kinsale Marsh, 6th to 27th October. All three were juveniles.

1992 Cork Kinsale Marsh, 3rd to 4th May. Adult, Douglas Estuary, 19th June into 1993.

1992 Londonderry Adult, Lough Beg, 22nd April to 10th May.

An excellent year for the species, with, surprisingly, seven in spring and only three in autumn. The Marton Mere individual was seen on a bird-race; it had previously been identified as a Wood Sandpiper *T.glareola*, but the above observers reidentified it and then continued with the race.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (6, 22, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, 13th-15th September (P.V.Harvey, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 158).

The first ever for both Fair Isle and Shetland, found at a small puddle by the school.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 36, 1)

Suffolk Southwold, 27th May, photographed (C.R.Naunton).

1990 Hampshire Farlington Marsh, 13th-27th May (M.Collins *et al.*).

This single was the only record for 1992. Once again, the paucity of records in a spring noted for eastern vagrants is interesting. Are waders less susceptible to such weather conditions than other groups of birds?

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 98, 3)

Somerset Burnham-on-Sea, juvenile, 27th September to 7th October (B.J.Hill, B.Rabbitts *et al.*); juvenile to adult, 27th October to 1993 (P.A.Amies, B.J.Hill, B.Rabbitts *et al.*).

Tayside Loch Rannoch, 30th April to 26th May, photographed (A.A.Murray, W.Thompson, T.Vorsterman *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 162).

1990 Cornwall Lynher Estuary, 28th September (E.H.Williams).

1990 Warwickshire Draycote Water, 29th-30th May (R.Mays, C.D.Toll).

The long series of sightings at Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, has created a difference of opinion as to whether there were one or two individuals involved; the Committee would be interested in information on this subject. The Tayside bird has followed the recent pattern of summering individuals. It seems obvious that any wintering 'Common Sandpiper *A.hypoleucos*' is worth a careful second look.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 244, 3)

Devon Lundy, juvenile, 27th August to 1st September (A.M.Jewels *et al.*).

1988 Lancashire Leighton Moss, female, 24th-25th May, photographed (P.J.Marsh, K.Scovell *et al.*).

1990 Grampian Findhorn Bay, female, 16th May (S.Dowden, D.M.Pullan, I.T.Rowlands).

1991 Cheshire Woolston Eyes, first-winter, 19th October to 4th November (D.Bowman, J.R.Dickinson, D.Riley *et al.*).

1991 Dumfries & Galloway Caerlaverock, first-winter, 3rd October (P.N.Collin *et al.*).

1991 Fife Eden Estuary, age uncertain, 23rd-24th September (D.Fotheringham, D.Ogilvie).

1991 Lancashire Martin Mere, first-winter, 30th September to 3rd October (R.Pyefinch *et al.*).

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1991 Antrim First-winter, Duncrue Street Marsh, Belfast, 25th September.

1991 Wexford Lady's Island Lake, 28th to 29th September.

1992 Cork First-winter, Ballycotton, 30th August to 5th September.

1992 Down Belfast Harbour Estate, 6th to 7th October.

This species tends to be one of the earliest of the vagrant American waders each autumn. How many are juveniles is difficult to assess, as many past records do not establish the age. There are, however, at least three other August juveniles, on 27th (Cambridgeshire 1979), 26th (Cleveland 1985) and 19th (Lincolnshire 1985), so the Lundy record is not without precedent.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 61, 0)

Norfolk Walcott and Paston area, first-winter, since 25th December 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 528) to 8th January.

1990 Dorset Ferrybridge, adult, 18th March (Brit. Birds 85: 553), now considered acceptable (B.Spencer).

1991 Lothian Musselburgh, adult, 26th May (P.R.Bould, B.A.Hickman, Dr L.L.J.Vick).

IRELAND

1991 Londonderry The two juveniles referred to in Brit. Birds 85: 529 have been found unacceptable by the Irish Rare Birds Committee after a review.

1991 Louth The bird referred to in Brit. Birds 85: 529 was present from 29th November to 7th December.

The Norfolk individual continued to delight observers in 1992, but this is the first year since 1987 without an acceptable 'new' bird.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 24, 3)

Cornwall Crowdy Reservoir, adult, 2nd August (D.Clegg, J.M.Randall).

Lothian Musselburgh, first-summer, 3rd-4th June (T.Gillies, K.Gillon, Dr L.L.J.Vick *et al.*).

Norfolk Titchwell, adult, 21st July (D. & M.D.Abdullah, I.Turner).

1991 Cleveland Reclamation Pond, adult, 19th-23rd June (Brit. Birds 85: 529), finder was J.B.Dunnett.

1991 Humberside Flamborough Head, second-summer, 11th August (D.Beaumont, P.A.Lassey, M.Newsome *et al.*).

1991 Sussex, East Newhaven, adult, 4th January (Brit. Birds 85: 553), now considered acceptable (N.J.Thomas).

1991 Yorkshire, North Bolton-on-Swale and Scorton, adult, 7th November to 6th December (N.Morgan, R.Taylor).

1991 Yorkshire, South Thrybergh Country Park, adult, 8th December (E.A.Fisher, D.R.Pickering) (Brit. Birds 86: page 488 fig. 5), presumed same as North Yorkshire.

Another good year for this species.

There have been 15 new individuals in the last six years, compared with 13 Laughing Gulls *L.atricilla* in the same period.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 65, 4)

Cornwall Polruan and Fowey, first-winter, 8th March (S.C.Madge). Camel Estuary, adult, 29th March (S.M.Christophers, P.A.Maker). St John's Lake, adult, 22nd April (S.C.Madge), probably returning individual last recorded Plym Estuary area, Devon, 5th May 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 529).

Warwickshire Draycote Water, first-summer, 24th May (T.Marlow, G.M.Pullan).

1979 Lincolnshire Grimsby Docks, probably first-winter, 17th March (Brit. Birds 73: 512), identification no longer supported by G.P.Catley.

1980 Hampshire Farlington Marsh, first-summer, 15th July (Brit. Birds 75: 506), now withdrawn by observers; observation of 23rd July not affected.

1990 Cheshire/Ciwyd Inner Marsh Farm, adult, 2nd December (Brit. Birds 84: 474), was not accepted (Brit. Birds 85: 553).

1990 Ciwyd See above.

1990 Dorset Portland, first-winter, 2nd March (D. & Mrs M, G. & Mrs S.Walbridge).

1990 Highland Strath Bay, Gairloch, adult, 31st July to 1st August (D.M.Pullan, I.T.Rowlands *et al.*).

1990 Scilly St Mary's and St Martin's, first-winter to adult, 21st March intermittently to 14th October (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

1991 Staffordshire Westport Lake, first-winter, 24th December (W.J.Low).

IRELAND

1992 Antrim Adult, Randalstown, Lough Neagh, 2nd October.

Sorting out returning individuals for this species is quite difficult, especially as most records are grouped in the Southwest. The late acceptances show what a good year 1990 was for this species, with perhaps as many as 11 individuals present.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (0, 614, -)

1985 Yorkshire, North Filey, second-winter, 25th July (P.J.Dunn).

Reports after 1987 are not considered by the Committee.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (0, 13, 0)

IRELAND

One showing the characters of the North American race *L.a.smithsonianus* was recorded as follows:

1991 Antrim First-winter, Belfast Rubbish-tip, 13th March.

The previous 12, all of which were in Ireland, were listed last year (Brit. Birds 85: 529).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* (0, 14, 1)

Individuals showing the characters of the North American race *L.g.kumlieni* were recorded as follows:

Highland Inverness, adult, 2nd January (S.J.Aspinall, R.H.Dennis), presumed same as 1991 Grampian.

1991 Grampian Banff Bay and Harbour, adult, at least 5th January (M.G.Pennington, Dr I.M.Phillips, S.A.Reeves *et al.*), presumed returning individual last recorded 12th April 1989 (Brit. Birds 83: 466).

IRELAND

1991 Donegal Two adults, Killybegs, 16th February.

1991 Sligo Adult, Sligo Dump, 2nd February.

1992-93 Cork Adult, The Lough and Dunkettle, 28th December to 31st January 1993.

With the recent interest in the races of Iceland Gull, including *L.g.thayeri*, shall we soon see the submission of records of immatures?

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (2, 52, 1)

Cleveland Hartlepool, adult, 11th October, photographed (M.A.Blick, B.J.K.Caswell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 160).

1975 Cleveland Seaton Carew, first-winter, 8th August (Brit. Birds 69: 341), now considered inadequately documented.

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1991 Galway Adult, Nimmo's Pier, 6th to 13th January.

This delightful gull was found following a prolonged period of good seawatching. Presumably the winds that drove hordes of Pomarine Skuas *Stercorarius pomarinus* onto the Northeast coasts also brought this bird into the shelter of Hartlepool Bay.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 36, 1)

Highland Brora, first-summer, 26th March (I.Smitton, A.Vittery).

1991 Grampian Inverallochy, Fraserburgh, first-winter, taken into care injured, 29th December, photographed (L.T.A.Brain, Mrs M.Buchan *et al.*).

It is now seven years since the last accessible mainland bird, in Cleveland in 1986. These are two typical records.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (52, 187, 3)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 27th May (M.Gray).

Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, two adults, 18th August (P.R.Beaumont, S.Cochrane, P.J.Dunn *et al.*).

1960 Lothian Aberlady, then East Lothian, 11th September (Brit. Birds 54: 188), now considered inadequately documented.

1966 Lothian Dalmeny, then West Lothian, 3rd September (Brit. Birds 60: 321), now considered inadequately documented.

1968 Lothian Aberlady, then East Lothian, 22nd March (Brit. Birds 62: 473), now considered inadequately documented.

1969 Central Region Skinflats, then Stirlingshire, 6th September (Brit. Birds 63: 280), now considered inadequately documented.

1973 Cleveland Greatham Creek, then Durham, 21st June (Brit. Birds 67: 327), now considered inadequately documented.

1973 Durham See 1973 Cleveland above.

1989 Northumberland Cresswell, 1st July (A.D.McLevy).

1990 Dumfries & Galloway Loch Ryan, first-winter, 12th October (B.W.Litherland).

1991 Norfolk Burnham Norton, 14th July (M.E.S.Rooney).

This is the first Orkney record of Gull-billed Tern and only the second for the Northern Isles. Observers would be well advised not to rely on bill shape, but to concentrate more on relative proportions and wing pattern if a record of this notoriously difficult-to-prove species is to be accepted.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 191, 5)

Bedfordshire Priory Country Park, 17th April (D.Kramer), presumed same as Buckinghamshire and Suffolk.

Buckinghamshire Willen Lake, 17th April (M.J.Bodley, P.Price, T. & W.R.Tunncliffe *et al.*), presumed same as Bedfordshire and Suffolk.

Cheshire Neumann's Flash, Marbury and Great Budworth Meres, 30th-31st May (A.W.P.Hearn, D.J.W.Taylor, D.M.Walters *et al.*).

Dorset Hengistbury Head, 15th August (D.N.Smith).

Humberside Messingham, 23rd June (J.T.Harriman).

Suffolk Lackford, intermittently, 5th-18th April (A.Tate *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 170-172), presumed also in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Yorkshire, North Bolton-on-Swale, 27th May, same, Mickletown Ings, West Yorkshire, 27th (N.Morgan *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West See above.

1989 Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig, 11th April (A.Clarke).

1989 Yorkshire, West Ardsley Reservoir, 23rd May (J.Holliday, J.Martin, D.Woodhead).

1991 Dorset Weymouth and Portland area, adult and juvenile, 13th-15th September (C.E.Richards *et al.*).

1991 Suffolk Covehithe and Benacre, 5th July (J.M.Cawston, E.W.Patrick). Lackford, 23rd July (J.Dorling).

IRELAND

1991 Cork Adult, Rosscarbery, 12th July.

The Lackford, Suffolk, individual wandered over much of southeast England during its stay. An average year and geographical spread for a species which very rarely strays north of Yorkshire.

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

Northumberland Farne Islands, female, 1st May to 21st July, presumed returning 1991 individual (Brit. Birds 85: 530), again paired with Sandwich Tern *S.sandvicensis*, one young raised to flying stage (R.Elliot, G.Taylor, M.Thornton *et al.*), presumed same, Long Nanny, 19th May, photographed (I.Fisher, C.Norman) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 167), Newbiggin, 22nd July (A.Priest), also in Suffolk.

Suffolk Minsmere, 4th-6th August (P.Chesbrough, M.L.Cornish *et al.*), presumed same as Northumberland.

1991 Suffolk Benacre, 25th August (H.Parsons, S.E.Pearson, M.J.Thompson), presumed same as Northumberland (Brit. Birds 85: 530-531).

1991 Yorkshire, North Filey, 24th August (C.C.Thomas *et al.*), presumed same as Northumberland (Brit. Birds 85: 530-531).

The ninth year in residence (and she also returned in 1993) for the Farne Islands' bird, once again raising a hybrid young which may yet return to baffle us.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 20, 1)

Merseyside Formby Point, adult, 16th August (Dr B.McCarthy).

IRELAND

1991-92-93 Down The bird recorded in Brit. Birds 85: 531 was present to 8th March. What was probably the same individual was present in the same area from 8th November 1992 into 1993.

The Irish Sea is very much the hot-spot for this species, which regularly appears on both coasts. Although a winter-plumaged individual is easy to identify when it is the only tern on the beach in January, an observer who picks one out of a passage of terns in August is to be congratulated.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* (20, 85, 0)

1964 Cleveland Coatham Sands, then North Yorkshire, 30th August (Brit. Birds 58: 363), now considered inadequately documented.

1964 Yorkshire, North See above.

It is amazing that in the best-ever year for White-winged Black Terns *C.leucopterus* no Whiskered hitched a lift with a flock of its relatives. This was not mirrored in the rest of Europe, with records the highest ever in Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Latvia, and breeding numbers the highest ever in Poland. This is the third consecutive blank year in Britain and Ireland.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 540, 42)

Berkshire Theale, second-summer, 18th May (P.E.Standley, B.Uttley *et al.*).

Cheshire Neumann's Flash, second-summer, 8th May (P.E.Kenyon).

Cumbria Carr Beds, near Rockcliffe, two, 18th-19th May, photographed (A.Cremin *et al.*).

Devon Plymstock, adult, 26th-28th July, photographed (P.T.Molyneux *et al.*).

Dorset Lodmoor, adult, 29th September (U.Lötberg). Stanpit, adult, 22nd August (L.Chappell).

Essex Hanningfield Reservoir, three, 18th May (J.Miller, J.T.Smith). Abberton Reservoir, adult or second-summer, 29th July (D. & Mrs A.A.Adams, B.Smith); juvenile, 24th-31st August (A.Kettle, R.V.A.Marshall, J.Norgate *et al.*). Canvey Island, juvenile, 11th September (J.Saward).

Fife Fife Ness, 31st May (D.Simpson, S.Taylor).

Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig, three, 18th May, photographed (C.Hurford, P.Jones, K.Luxford *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 168 & 169).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, two juveniles, 9th August (L.P.Alder).

Grampian Loch of Strathbeg, 23rd May, photographed (K.Munday *et al.*).

Greater London William Girling Reservoir, juvenile, 13th-14th September (B.Reed *et al.*).

Hampshire Fleet Pond, juvenile, 22nd August (J.M.Clark, J.Dixon, G.C.Stephenson *et al.*).

Hereford & Worcester Westwood Pool, Droitwich and Wilden Lagoons, Kidderminster, adult, 11th September (G. & W.F.Peplow, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Kent Swale, two, 18th-19th May, photographed (C.G.Bradshaw *et al.*). Dungeness, first-winter, 24th September (D.Okines, D.Walker).

Leicestershire Rutland Water, juvenile, 11th-13th September (A.H.J.Harrop, C.Lythall *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Covenham Reservoir, juvenile, 23rd August to 2nd September (G.P.Catley, D.Jenkins, A.C.Sims *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Daventry Reservoir Country Park, 18th May (D.G.Carrington *et al.*). Pitsford Reservoir, three, 19th May, photographed (R.W.Bullock, D.J.Lewis *et al.*); juvenile, 12th-13th September (P.A.Britten, S.F.Coles, A.D.J.Cook *et al.*). Earl's Barton, juvenile, 14th August (P.A.Britten, K.Taylor, M.Williams *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Lound, 16th May, photographed (G.Hobson, R.Marshall *et al.*); adult, 11th September (G.Barlow, P.Palmer).

Somerset Combwich, juvenile, 4th-7th October, presumed same, Durleigh Reservoir, 8th-23rd (C.F.S.Avent, B.Rabbitts *et al.*).

Staffordshire Belvide Reservoir, adult, 8th August (J.K.Higginson *et al.*).

Strathclyde Baron's Haugh, adult, 3rd-7th August, photographed (S.Clifton, I.English, R.G.Nisbett *et al.*).

Sussex, East Pett Level, adult, 26th August (J.A.B.Gale), presumed same, Rye, 28th to 4th September (R.G.Harris *et al.*).

Sussex, West Chichester Harbour, adult, 14th-15th May (C.B.Collins).

1989 Kent Dungeness, juvenile, 5th-11th September (Brit. Birds 83: 469), observer was D.Walker.

1990 Lancashire Leighton Moss and Dockacre Gravel-pits, adult or second-summer, 15th-16th July (Brit. Birds 85: 531), 15th only.

1991 Devon Slapton Ley, second-summer, 1st-2nd June (J.F.Babbington, R.W.White).

1991 Essex/Suffolk Gibbonsgate Lake, near Flatford Mill and River Stour, near Cattawade, two, 2nd-4th June, photographed (R.Allan, Dr M.F.M.Bamford, D.R.Moore *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 494 fig. 6, plate 166).

1991 Gwent Llandegfedd Reservoir, 29th-31st May, photographed (J.R.Bennett *et al.*).

1991 Hampshire Blashford Gravel-pit, juvenile, 22nd-25th September (A.I.Prophet *et al.*).

1991 Highland Loch of Mey and St John's Loch, 7th-12th June (J.Smith).

1991 Suffolk See Essex/Suffolk above.

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1991 Wexford The bird referred to in Brit. Birds 85: 531 was an adult and was first seen at Lady's Island Lake from 9th to 10th August; it then moved to Tacumshin and was there to at least 17th August. Juvenile, Tacumshin, 17th-24th August, it or another at Lady's Island Lake on 14th and 29th September and at the Cull on 14th and 28th September, Kilmore Quay on 5th October and Tacumshin on 6th October. It seems certain that two juveniles were involved in this series of sightings.

1992 Clare Adult, Lough O'Grady, 1st June.

An astounding year for this species broke both spring and annual records. At least 21 occurred in spring, with 15 arriving on 18th-19th May, including three groups of three; a further 21 or more were seen in autumn. Interestingly, the sole Irish record was the latest of the spring crop, and the only June record.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* (2, 25, 1)

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, 26th May (T.J.Dix), same, 6th June (J.Vaughan).

Still a very rare bird, though logic suggests that it should winter in northern waters in some numbers. Where are they all?

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

Devon Lundy, 30th March to 29th April (R.H.C.Bonser, N.J.Hallam, A.M.Jewels *et al.*), presumed returning 1991 individual (Brit. Birds 85: 532).

There is something peculiarly British about the term 'presumed returning individual'. If another turns up on Lundy, it will be as unlikely as the second coming of the Dodo *Raphus cucullatus*.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* (0, 1, 0)

1989 Man, Isle of Calf of Man, trapped, 31st October, photographed, found dead 1st November, now at Manx Museum (A.Sapsford, K.Scott).

The first record for the Western Palearctic. A short-distance migrant within its native range, northern birds move south to winter well within the range. Not included by Robbins (Brit. Birds 73: 448-457) among the 38 most-likely candidates for an autumn transatlantic flight, but mentioned as a probable for a successful crossing.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (6, 28, 2)

Norfolk Cley, juvenile, 7th July (P.E.Beard), same, Blakeney Point, 7th-11th (R.Gilbert, D.McNeil *et al.*).

Suffolk Aldeburgh; juvenile moulting to first-winter, 29th October to 12th November (Mr & Mrs J.R.Pilkington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 173 & 174).

1990 Devon Dawlish Warren, 20th-28th March, dead 29th (K.R.Grant *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 83: plate 298).

1990 Kent Sandwich Bay, dead, 25th March, skin retained by E.Robson (W.E.Fletcher *et al.*).

Two records in a year is about the average, though 1991 was blank. At least two of the previous March records have been of birds which have subsequently died (or been found dead), presumably from starvation. The July record is only the third in mid summer.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 20, 0)

1986 Orkney Papa Westray, 24th June to 11th July, trapped 1st July, found dead 12th, photographed, remains retained by E.R.Meek (M.Gray, E.R.Meek *et al.*).

This belated acceptance takes the total of records since the formation of the Committee in 1958 to 20 (i.e. an occurrence rate of one every 21 months). Prior to 1958 there were 64 records, so this clearly reflects a downward trend. The third record for Orkney; the previous ones were in June 1965 and November 1970.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 102, 2)

Shetland Fetlar, two females, from 1991 (Brit. Birds 85: 532), to 29th March, one to 13th May, other, Unst, 8th April to 17th May (per D.Suddaby), probably one of same, Dales Voe, Mainland, 27th May (T.R.Cleeves, K.D.Shaw).

Western Isles Balranald, North Uist, male, 30th-31st May, taken into care injured, died 9th June, now at Glasgow Museum (T.J.Dix, S.Farish *et al.*).

1990 Grampian/Highland Ben Macdui area, female, 17th May to 28th August, 16th December (R.Smith), presumed returning individual of 21st June to 4th September 1987 (Brit. Birds 83: 470).

1991 Grampian/Highland Ben Macdui area, female, 15th April (R.Smith), presumed returning 1990 individual.

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1992 Mayo Achill, 19th February.

The fate of the male in the Western Isles is particularly regrettable as the preponderance of females continues. He had been ringed at Stavanger, Norway (exact date not yet known), so the possibility of further recruitment from the north to our ageing and declining outpost still exists. In addition to the above records, an adult female came aboard a Spanish fishing vessel about 320 km east of Newfoundland and was eventually brought ashore at Aberdeen on 2nd July; she was found to be in good health, was released on 3rd, and was last seen on 4th June. A report from North Uist, Western Isles, remains to be assessed by the Committee.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (0, 5, 0)

1991 Fife St Andrews, 8th-10th November, photographed (Dr R.W.Byrne, D.E.Dickson, Dr J.Graves *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 180 & 181).

The fourth record (fifth individual) for the British Isles since the first in 1982, and the first for Scotland; previous records were from Cornwall and Scilly; and have been in October or November. A further record from 1983 remains under consideration.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (150, 303, 16)

Cornwall Loe Bar, 11th April (J.S.Gilbert, P.Kemp).

Devon Bideford, 25th April (M.C.Dennis, A.S.Hall).

Dorset Branksome Chine, 26th April (J.H.Blackburn).

Kent Foreness, 22nd-23rd April (S.D.W.Mount *et al.*); second individual, 23rd (T.M.Blackburn, M.McCarthy, D.McKee *et al.*); presumed one of same, Minnis Bay, 23rd (T.N.Hodge *et al.*). Dungeness, 2nd May (P.G.Akers); probably same, Folkestone, 2nd-3rd (I.A.Roberts, J.P.Siddle *et al.*), Dover, 3rd (per D.W.Taylor), Minnis Bay and Reculver, 4th (T.N.Hodge, C.Osborne).

Suffolk Dunwich, 23rd May (B.J.Small) (Brit. Birds 86: page 500 fig. 7).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 18th August (D.P.Dunk).

Wight, Isle of Ventnor, 23rd April (A.Butler).

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

1990 Essex Shoeburyness, 22nd March (P.Collins).

1990 Hampshire Titchfield, in office building, 26th March, photographed (D.S.Foot, C.Savage *et al.*).

1990 Kent St Margaret's, 4th October (I.P.Hodgson).

1991 Cornwall Lamorna, 6th July (B.D.Blowers).

1991 Suffolk Landguard, 11th July (A.Bimpson *et al.*).

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1992 Dublin Dun Laoghaire, 19th to 20th March. Five, Killiney, 20th March. Howth Head, 27th May.

There were also belated records from the Channel Islands, with singles at St Clement, Jersey, on 1st October 1987 and another on Jersey on 27th March 1990.

The British total of nine is a good average and a great improvement on last year. The complete absence of any in autumn is noteworthy. Details of a long-staying individual in May and early June in Borders have not yet been received.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 327, -)

1989 Kent Foreness, 24th May (S.D.W.Mount).

A belated acceptance is of one in the Channel Islands, at L'Etacq, Jersey, on 22nd July 1989. This species was dropped from the list of species considered by the Committee at the end of 1990.

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 85, 2)

Cumbria North Walney, 27th June (T.Jones, C.Raven *et al.*).

Strathclyde Gott Bay, Tiree, 20th May (J.E.R.Allen, Dr D.Lewis).

1991 Suffolk Orfordness, juvenile, 8th-12th September, photographed (D.Crawshaw, M.D.Crewe *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 175).

Two records is about the average number per year of this very colourful rarity, and they are on fairly typical dates. The Strathclyde bird is the twentieth in Scotland since 1958. Details of one in Kent in June have not yet been received for consideration.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* (0, 1, 0)

1987 Devon Lundy, 24th-25th April (C.McShane, K.J.Mitchell, A.J.Wood).

The first record for the Western Palearctic. A relatively short-distance migrant within its native range and not greatly anticipated on this side of the Atlantic, although it has made it to the Bahamas in the past. It was not included among Chandler S.Robbins's 38 most-likely candidates for an autumn transatlantic flight (Brit. Birds 73: 448-457). A record from south Devon two days prior to this one remains under consideration.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 353, 19)

Cornwall Rame Head, 30th September to 2nd October (S.Bird, R.Eynon, V.R.Tucker *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, trapped, 12th January, photographed (J.Cudworth, G.E.Dobbs *et al.*).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, 4th May (S.C.Joyner, A.M.Stoddart).

Scilly St Mary's, 21st to at least 25th April (G.C.Stephenson *et al.*); 20th-24th September (P.D.Hyde *et al.*); 3rd-12th October (D.E.Balmer, I.Lakin, M.A.Newell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 113). Bryher, 20th May (Miss C.E.Lankester, K.Pellow).

Shetland Baltasound, Unst, 1st May (L.Leask, M.J.McLeod, M.G.Pennington *et al.*). Fair Isle, 18th-19th May (P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Sumburgh, 24th-25th May (R.A.Matthews, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Northdale, Unst, 23rd-30th September (T.Hutchinson, M.Jones *et al.*). Scatness, 24th-25th September (G.J.Hinchon *et al.*), same, Sumburgh Head, 26th-28th (per D.Suddaby). Virkie, two, 27th September, presumed one of same, 29th (J.N.Dymond *et al.*). Fair Isle, 2nd October (N.J.Riddiford). Whalsay, 7th October (K.Osborn). Fetlar, 3rd-16th October (B.Thomason).

Suffolk Landguard, 23rd-25th September (M.L.Cornish, N.Odin *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 16th May (J.W.Cooper, W.Hill, J.Hilcox *et al.*).

1991 Dorset Hengistbury Head, 29th October (G.Armstrong *et al.*).

1991 Hertfordshire Tyttenhanger Gravel-pit, 7th-10th May (G.J.White *et al.*).

1991 Humberside Flamborough Head, 14th-20th September (J.C.Lamplough, P.A.Lassey, M.Newsome *et al.*).

1991 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 7th-20th October, two, 10th-15th, three, 12th (Brit. Birds 85: 534) as stated, but differing individual 8th, giving total of four.

1991 Sussex, West East Head, Chichester Harbour, 26th June to 4th July (S.J.Aspinall, G.Cockburn, B.F.Forbes *et al.*).

Another good showing with most in the expected peak times of May and September-October. Midsummer and midwinter records are exceptional, so the West Sussex and Humberside records are particularly notable; the Humberside record was of a bird of one of the grey eastern (but indeterminate in the field) races, and is also only the second in January. Records of this species will cease to be considered by the Committee from the end of December 1993.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 224, 11)

Bedfordshire South Mills, 19th May (P.Oldfield).

Berkshire Theale, 2nd May (H.Netley).

Dorset Portland, 29th April (M.Cade, G.L.Webber, I.Weston).

Essex Hainault Forest, 23rd May (M.K.Dennis).

Hereford & Worcester Upton Warren, 1st-2nd May, photographed (S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Kent Folkestone, 23rd May (I.A.Roberts).

Norfolk Sheringham, 7th October (K.B.Shepherd, S.C.Votier).

Suffolk Southwold, 29th May (T.North).

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 3rd May (S.Phipps).

Wight, Isle of Havenstreet, 4th May (J.C.Gloyn, D.J. & M.Hunnybun, G. & M.Sparshott *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 31st May (L.Gillard).

1988 Avon New Passage, 22nd April (N.T.Lacy).

1989 Humberside Flamborough Head, 15th April (D.G.Hobson).

1990 Avon Chew Valley Lake, 20th October (R.Palmer *et al.*).

1991 Cornwall Marazion, 14th April (E.J.Cook, R.J.Lee).

1991 Dorset Portland, 17th June (G.Walbridge).

1991 Kent Stodmarsh area, 14th-18th June (D.C.Gilbert *et al.*).

1991 Scilly Bryher, 24th April (R.G.W.Heselden) (Brit. Birds 86: page 503 fig. 8).

1991 Suffolk Thorpeness, 15th May (J.Briant, R.Glover).

A relatively poor showing compared with the high numbers of the 1987-90 period, and all except one were in spring. The late acceptance of the five 1991 records moves the total for that year on to seven.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (120, 500, -)

1968 Cleveland Teesmouth, then Co. Durham, three, 27th October (Brit. Birds 62: 483), now considered inadequately documented.

1968 Durham See above.

This species was removed from the list of species considered by the Committee at the end of 1982.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 130, 16)

Dorset Portland, 5th October (G.Walbridge).

Greater London Woodford Green, 23rd-26th October (K.Murray *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 12th October (G.P.Catley).

Norfolk Great Yarmouth, 13th October (P.C.Noakes *et al.*). Holkham Meals, 5th-10th October (V.Eve, M.E.S.Rooney, R.Q.Skeen *et al.*); another, 15th (J.B.Kemp).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 27th September (M.Gray).

Shetland Fair Isle, at least five: 1st-15th October, photographed (J.R.Higgott, C.J.Orsman *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 177); 3rd to at least 5th October (D.Suddaby *et al.*); 4th-7th October (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); another two, possibly three, 4th (R.Minshull, N.J. & Mrs E.A.Riddiford). Fetlar, two, 3rd-4th October (A.Aitken, B.Thomason). Lerwick, 4th October (K.Hudson, K.Osborn).

1988 Shetland Strand, 29th October (D.R.Bird, P.V.Harvey).

1990 Shetland Vidlin, 3rd-5th October (Brit. Birds 84: 481), to 8th. Kergord, two, 3rd-4th October (Brit. Birds: 84: 481), two to 5th, one to 7th (per D.Suddaby).

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1992 Cork Durse Island, 5th October.

Another below-average showing in contrast to the numbers of records in the late 1980s and in 1990 in particular, for which, with the late acceptances given here, the total now moves to 48. All records here (several remain to be reported) conformed to the almost predictable late-September to November period of occurrence. Given a favourable following wind from the east, this species is almost guaranteeable somewhere along the East Coast. Long gone are the days when this and the following species were mentioned in the same hushed tones of reverence and wonder.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 28, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, trapped, 15th October, photographed (P.V.Harvey, C.J.Orsman, A.Prior *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 176).

The date is towards the end of the expected period of occurrence at Britain's premier Pechora stopping-off point; in recent years, there has been a significant trend of occurrences away from Fair Isle, but this must be seen as a return to the earlier pattern of records. Perhaps, one day, radio-tracking will reveal some of their secrets, particularly where they go to after Fair Isle or where else they lurk in autumn, safe in secret hiding places.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 219, 42)

Cleveland Cowpen Marsh, 24th May (G.Iceton *et al.*).

Dorset Lodmoor, 1st-2nd October (D.J.Chown *et al.*). Portland, 4th October (G.Walbridge).

Dyfed Skokholm, 17th September (M.Betts); 27th (M. & P.Betts, J.E. & J.W.Donovan).

Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig, 3rd May (C.Baker, S.J.Moon).

Greater London Barn Elms Reservoir, 28th September (R.B.Hastings *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, 22nd-25th May (D.P.Boyle *et al.*); 23rd-30th (D.P.Boyle, B.R.Spence *et al.*).

Kent Foreness, 17th May (K.D.Lord, S.D.W.Mount).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, in song, 26th-28th May (P.M.Troake, R.K.Watson, K.M.Wilson).

Merseyside Red Rocks, 15th May (M.G. & Dr J.E.Turner, E.Williams). Seaforth, in song, 25th May, photographed (J.Dempsey, C.Kehoe, S.White *et al.*).

Norfolk Happisburgh, 14th May; 14th-18th; 15th-17th (G.M.Cresswell, M.Fischer *et al.*). Cley, 14th-15th May (A.P.Benson, S.J.M.Gantlett *et al.*). Blakeney Point, 14th May (M.S.Cavanagh, A.M.Stoddart); 26th-28th, two, 27th-28th (G.M.Cresswell, S.C.Joyner, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*). Welney, 21st May (J.B.Kemp). Breydon, 23rd May (P.R.Allard). Weybourne, 26th May (T.Wright). Sheringham, 3rd October (K.B.Shepherd).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 31st May to 1st June (K.A.Wilson *et al.*); 30th September (A.Banwell, M.Gray, F.Maroevic *et al.*). Stronsay, 2nd October (J.W.N.Andrews, J.F.Holloway).

Scilly St Mary's, 4th October (A.Blagden, C. & D.K.Lamsdell, R.Overton *et al.*). Tresco, 13th-16th October (S.J.Broyd *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 112).

Shetland Fair Isle, ten: at least 17th May (S.C.Votier *et al.*); 19th-23rd, trapped 21st (P.V.Harvey, S.C.Votier *et al.*); 24th-25th (S.C.Votier *et al.*); 27th (K.Bowey, P.V.Harvey); 27th-28th (S.C.Votier *et al.*); 27th-28th (K.Bowey, P.V.Harvey, S.C.Votier *et al.*); 29th (S.C.Votier); 30th-31st (I.Brown, T.Sweetland *et al.*); presumed another, 31st (R.Taylor); 30th September to 1st October (N.C.Green, D.Rhymes *et al.*). Fetlar, in song, 4th-25th June, photographed (J. & Mrs I.Miller, A.Stanbury, B.Thomason *et al.*). Catfirth, 21st September (C.Byers, P.V.Hayman *et al.*).

Suffolk Shingle Street, 11th October (M.D.Crewe).

1988 Devon Ernesettle, 14th October (E.Griffiths).

1990 Cornwall Marazion, 14th May (M.P.Semmens).

1990 Greater Manchester Ladybrook Valley, Cheadle Hulme, 14th October (G.Lightfoot).

1991 Cambridgeshire Northey Fen, Nene Washes, 26th May (M. & S.Davies, R.Davis, Mrs H.J.Welch *et al.*).

1991 Dyfed Skomer, 6th-8th September (Miss K.E.Lawrence, J.Parke, S.J. & Mrs A.C.Sutcliffe *et al.*).

1991 Scilly St Mary's, at least 11th-12th December (D.J.D.Hickman, W.H.Wagstaff).

1991 Tyne & Wear Ryhope, 20th May (S.J.Ling *et al.*).

Following on from the good numbers in 1991, which, with the four late acceptances given here, achieved a total of 16, a record high, the year 1992 can be considered outstanding, with over 40 records. Almost three-quarters of this total occurred in May and just over one quarter were in September and October. Inland records are exceptional, but the Greater London record is the sixth, and the second at that locality. The comment in last year's report regarding those who have heard this species sing in Britain may now be redundant; this year's deluge of records has enabled several observers in Merseyside and Shetland to be added to the list.

Several records, particularly in spring, remain to be reported and the Committee would welcome details of any record not included above.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 56, 3)

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 13th-16th September, photographed (N.Benson, D.N.T.Rimes, M.Rose *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 179).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 5th September (P.V.Harvey, Dr R.Riddington, S.C.Votier). Seafield, Lerwick, first-winter, 30th September (P.V.Hayman, K.Hudson, K.Osborn).

Three records, at very traditional sites, are the average for this scarce wagtail. Two records in Scilly (in 1978 and 1979) and one in the Western Isles in September 1992 remain under consideration.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 92, 5)

Norfolk Gramborough Hill, Salthouse, 26th September (R.C.Abel, M.J.Saunt *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-summer, trapped, 25th May, photographed (M.Gray, A.Mitchell, D.Patterson). Deerness, first-winter, trapped, 1st September (C.J.Corse *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-summer, trapped, 5th June (P.V.Harvey, Dr R.Riddington, R.Taylor *et al.*); first-winter, 18th-20th September, trapped 18th (J.Coutts, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 192).

A good showing, in contrast to the previous two years, including the third for Orkney. The Norfolk bird was very obliging, sitting in a small bush for most of its stay and frequently offering good views. Details of one at Holkham, Norfolk, have yet to be reported to the Committee.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (1, 173, 15)

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

Humberside Dane's Dyke, Flamborough, female or immature, 19th October (D.Bywater). Spurn, first-winter female, trapped, 8th October, photographed (J.Cudworth *et al.*); female or immature, 8th-22nd, trapped 8th (T.Collins, J.Cudworth, P.Hazard *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, female or immature, 1st-4th October, photographed (J.W.N.Andrews, J.F.Holloway, M.Johnson); male, 3rd-4th October, photographed (J.W.N.Andrews, J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway).

Scilly St Martin's, female or immature, 7th October (C. & D.K.Lamsdell).

Shetland Sumburgh, male, 30th September to 14th October (M.Edgecombe *et al.*). Fair Isle, female or immature, 6th October (M.G. & Dr J.E.Turner). Grutness, first-winter male, 7th-16th October (J.Clifton *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, male, 12th-19th October (P.J.Dunn, L.Gillard, A.Norris *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 508 fig. 10).

1989 Norfolk Holkham Meals, female or immature, 10th-17th September (D.J.Holman *et al.*).

1990 Dorset Hengistbury Head, male, 7th October (P.Brash, M.J.Gibbons *et al.*).

1990 Kent Foreness, female or immature, 9th-10th November (K.Evans, K.D.Lord).

1990 Northumberland Newbiggin, male, 20th October (M.Henry, S.Sexton).

1991 Borders St Abb's Head, female or immature, 26th-29th October (D.Graham, R.D.Murray *et al.*).

1991 Cornwall Kenidjack, female or immature, 10th-15th October (S.M.Christophers *et al.*); male, 15th-21st November (J.F.Ryan, M.P.Semmens *et al.*). The Lizard, first-winter male, 15th October (A.R.Pay *et al.*).

1991 Dyfed Skokholm, female or immature, 11th-15th October (M.Betts).

1991 Grampian Rattray Head, male, 28th September (T.W.Marshall, S.A.Reeves).

1991 Humberside Spurn, female or immature, 29th to at least 30th September (J.McLoughlin *et al.*). Easington, female or immature, 13th to at least 17th October (A.J.Booth, D.Hursthouse, J.McLoughlin *et al.*).

1991 Norfolk Blakeney Point, first-winter male and female or immature, 29th-30th September (G.M.Cresswell, M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*); female or immature, 21st October (P.J.Heath, A.M.Stoddart). Breydon, female or immature, 7th-11th October, photographed (P.R.Allard, K.R.Dye *et al.*). Titchwell, female or immature, 11th-13th October (R.Q.Skeen *et al.*). Sheringham, female or immature, 22nd-24th October (M.Young-Powell *et al.*).

1991 Shetland Fair Isle, five females or immatures: two, 26th October (P.V.Harvey, C.J.Orsman *et al.*); 27th (H.R.Harrop, P.V.Harvey *et al.*); 30th (H.R.Harrop); trapped, 9th November, photographed (H.R.Harrop, C.J.Orsman *et al.*). Skaw, Unst, first-winter male, 20th-22nd September (C.Donald, R.Proctor *et al.*). Grutness, female or immature, 11th October (P.M.Ellis *et al.*). Boddam, female or immature, 20th October (M.Mellor).

1991 Suffolk Lowestoft, females or immatures, 5th October; 21st-25th (the late P.Gill *et al.*). Walberswick, female or immature, 26th October (A.A.K.Lancaster).

The comments in last year's report (Brit. Birds 85: 537) regarding 1991 should now be deleted, as, with the inclusion of these late submissions and acceptances, both 1991 and 1992 were very good years. The revised totals for recent years mean that there were 21 in 1990, 24 in 1991 (equalling the record year of 1987) and ten in 1992, following a lean spell of three in 1989 and four in 1988.

Several other records remain under consideration. The Committee receives a considerable number of reports of vagrant races of this species that do not state clearly whether the pale rump is streaked or unstreaked, which has added to delays in some record assessments.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (1, 7, 1)

1991 Scilly Gugh, 15th-26th October (Brit. Birds 85: 537), correct observers were D.A.Bridges, C. & J.R.Lansdell.

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1992 Cork Mizen Head, 10th to 17th October (Brit. Birds 86: plate 178).

The Co. Cork record is the most westerly ever and the first for Ireland. One British report remains under consideration by the Committee.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 24, 1)

Fife Fife Ness, female, 18th-21st September (Dr R.W.Byrne, A-M.Stout *et al.*).

Compared with the five records in 1991, this is a poor showing and a return to the solitary occurrences of previous years; has now occurred in every year since 1985.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (15, 33, 4)

Buckinghamshire Chearsley, male, 25th April (J.E.Rose, M.S.Wallen *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 296).

Gwynedd Bardsey, male, in song, 6th May (P.Jenks, A.Leitch, A. & R.Normand *et al.*).

Kent Denge Marsh, male, 16th May (K.Alexander, T.Manship, D.Wilson *et al.*),

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1992 Cork First-year male, Cape Clear Island, 26th to 27th May; showed characters of the western race *O.h.hispanica*.

Also a late acceptance of one in the Channel Islands, at Noirmont, Jersey, on 13th-14th May 1990.

Four in one year is good by any standards (and follows the blank year of 1991); the males in spring make for easy identification and acceptance. In addition to these, one record is still under consideration, and details of a further one in Hampshire have yet to be reported.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 31, 0)

1988 Cornwall Near Sennen Cove, female, 5th November (C.C.Barnard, L.P.Williams).

This takes the number of records for 1988 to three, all typically in the late autumn. Also a first-winter in the Channel Islands, at L'ree Bay, Guernsey, on 24th November 1991.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* (0, 2, 0)

1985 Strathclyde Skerryvore Lighthouse, first-summer male, 4th-7th June, dead 8th (Brit. Birds 79: 585).

1987 Gwynedd Moel-y-Gest, male, 4th June (Brit. Birds 81: 594).

These two records, previously published in Category D, are now admitted to the British and Irish List (Brit. Birds 86: 229) and enter the statistical record. The other two records, in Orkney in 1966 and East Sussex in 1977, remain in Category D.

A welcome addition to the British and Irish List.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (29, 16, 0)

1991 Highland Brora, 27th-29th September, possibly since 23rd (A.Vittery *et al.*).

Of the six records since 1980, all except one (in 1984) have been within ten days of this record. Three days, possibly longer, must be considered a long time for a White's Thrush to stay around in Britain; of the 16 individuals since 1957, only three have stayed for more than one day.

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

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter female, 1st-8th October, trapped 1st, photographed (A.E.Duncan, Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 184).

The fifth for Britain and Ireland and the first since an immature female on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, in October 1986. An previous records have been for but a single day, so this obliging and lingering individual was admired by several boatloads of pilgrims.

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (1, 40, 0)

1991 Scilly St Agnes, 22nd-26th September; 16th-17th October. St Mary's, 17th-20th October (Brit. Birds 85: 538). All were first-winters.

Autumn 1992 was poor for transatlantic vagrants, hence the lack of records of this species or Swainson's Thrush *C. ustulatus*, the first year since 1981 that neither has appeared.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* (0, 13, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 4th October (N.C.Green, D.Rhymes, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 182).

It seems that at least one Eyebrowed now usually accompanies the first flocks of Redwings *T. iliacus* into the British Isles. The Scilly connection of the two previous autumns seems to have come to a (temporary?) halt, but there was a gap in 1988 and 1989 when none appeared. Of the 14 records since 1958, six have been in Scilly, and all but four have been in October.

Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 19, 2)

Orkney Finstown, female, 23rd October (W.K.Barclay, K.Fairclough *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter female, 22nd October (P.Bristow, D.R.W.Gilmore, J.P.Hunt *et al.*).

The second record for each locality, the Scilly individual being the highlight of an extended quiet spell at a time of year which usually produces an abundance of rarities. Both, as usual, were of the black-throated race *atrogularis*. One can only speculate on how many go undetected on the East Coast or even inland.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* (3, 10, 1)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 23rd-25th September, trapped 23rd, photographed (A.E.Duncan, M.Gray, I.Jones *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 183 & 185).

The first in Britain since three on Fair Isle, Shetland, in October 1988, but there has been one since then in Ireland, on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, in October 1990. All but four of the 14 records have been in Shetland, mostly in the second half of September or the first half of October.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 43, 2)

Shetland Scatness, 17th September (G.J.Hinchon, N. & T.J.Lawrence *et al.*). Fair Isle, 27th September (J.P.Martin, M.D. & L. Sutton *et al.*).

The one at Scatness is only the fifth record in Shetland away from Fair Isle, where 41 of the 54 British records have occurred; the current unbroken run of appearances on Fair Isle now stretches back to 1984. All except four (one in May and three in November) have occurred within the period 8th September to 18th October. The comment under Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi*, another of Fair Isle's great specialities, applies equally well, if not more so, here.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (0, 12, 1)

Cambridgeshire Wicken Fen, in song, 10th-11th June (C. & T.J.Bennett, G.Hewson, D.Palmer).

Numerically this is the rarest *Locustella* on the British List, but has probably been seen by more observers than all individuals of the previous two put together. The first since 1989. There have been recent increases in the number of records in the Netherlands and an expansion of range in Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden (Brit. Birds 86: 44).

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

Shetland Fair Isle, 9th-10th June (P.V.Harvey, R.Taylor, S.C.Votier *et al.*).

Sussex, East Icklesham, trapped, 13th, 18th October (T.Squire *et al.*).

The first records since 1988 and the third in June (and fourth in spring); the Sussex bird is a notable first for the South Coast. Details of one at Flamborough, Humberside, have not yet been submitted.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (9, 11, 0)

1991 Fife Isle of May, dead, 30th September (J.Calladine, C.Redfern *et al.*).

1991 Lincolnshire Theddlethorpe Dunes, trapped, 3rd September, released 4th, photographed (A.Ashley, A.D.Lowe, M.Thompson *et al.*).

1991 Northumberland Low Hauxley, first-winter, trapped 31st August, 1st September, photographed (M.Davison, I.Fisher, N.Foggo *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 188).

Three within one 31-day period, all examined in the hand. Identification and assessment made for hard work all around, especially to exclude the possibility of hybrids with Reed Warbler *A.scirpaceus* or Marsh Warbler *A.palustris*.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 144, 4)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, in song, 18th May (J.Aldridge, R.M.Curber *et al.*).

Kent St Mary's Marshes, 21st May (A.Jones).

Shetland Fair Isle, 9th June (Dr R.Riddington, R.Taylor, S.C.Votier *et al.*).

Suffolk Aldeburgh, in song, 31st May (D. & J.Newton *et al.*).

1990 Lincolnshire Waithe, in song, 19th May (K.Atkin, H.Bunn).

1991 Lancashire Leighton Moss, in song, 4th-13th June (J. & J.Wilson *et al.*).

A very typical spread of records, with May and June outstripping all other months for this frequently garrulous, gurgling, gravel-voiced songster.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 31, 5)

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, 7th-8th June (I.Boustead, T.G.Francis *et al.*).

Cumbria South Walney, in song, trapped, 17th June, photographed (T.Dean, I.R.Kinley, C.Raven *et al.*).

Fife Isle of May, 2nd September (J.Calladine, N.Mann, C.Wernham).

Humberside Spurn, in song, 10th-22nd June, trapped 11th (D.P.Boyle, J.T.Harriman, B.R.Spence *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 294; 86: plate 193).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 14th-16th September, trapped 16th (P.V.Harvey, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

A record year (one ahead of the four records in each of 1981 and 1987) and the first records in spring. There was a small-scale arrival in early June, though it is conceivable that only two individuals were involved at the time; the Cumbria record is particularly unusual.

Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda* (0, 1, 1)

Humberside Spurn, in song, 8th-9th June, trapped 8th (D.P.Boyle, G.Grainger, B.R.Spence *et al.*).

The first was a long-staying individual on moorland in South Yorkshire from mid May to late July 1982 and was, at the time, considered likely to be a very singular event. This individual (and a third in 1993) shows that even the unexpected can occur or recur. Although found on the morning following the arrival of migrants of Scandinavian origin, it is possible that the bird had been in Britain (or elsewhere in northwest Europe) for up to two weeks before being discovered, perhaps arriving at the same time as other migrants from the Mediterranean on 24th May.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 252, 23)

Cornwall Near Sennen, male, 15th May (M.P.Semmens, S.Worley). Treen, female or first-summer, 27th-30th September (D.S.Flumm, J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Devon Lundy, male, 6th May (R.Bower, H.J.Radley *et al.*).

Dyfed Skomer, male, 14th May (M.Everett, R.Bradbury, J.Poole); male, 22nd May, photographed (J.Potter, M.S.Wallen *et al.*). Skokholm, male, 15th May (S.Barclay, M.Betts, H.J.Radley *et al.*), possibly same as Skomer, 14th.

Gwynedd Bardsey, first-summer male, trapped, 28th May (C.Brown, P.Jenks, A.Leitch *et al.*).

Merseyside Moreton, female, at least 9th May (P.G.Gutteridge, M.G. & Dr J.E.Turner).

Northumberland Newbiggin-by-Sea, male, 13th May (A.Priest, J.G.Steele *et al.*).

Shetland Sumburgh, female, 20th May, photographed (A. & J.Clifton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 187). Fair Isle, first-summer male, 21st-25th May, trapped 21st, 25th (P.V.Harvey, R.M.Porter, S.C.Votier *et al.*); male, 27th May (T.J.Baldwin, P.V.Harvey, K.Huxley *et al.*); female, 27th (J.N.Dymond *et al.*); male, 28th (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); male, 2nd June (P.S.Castle, T.Sweetland, S.C.Votier *et al.*); male, 3rd June (R.Taylor); male, 12th June (S.C.Votier *et al.*). Breiwick, Eshaness, male, 1st June (W.Fox).

Western Isles North Lochynort, South Uist, male, 21st May (J.Metcalf).

Wight, Isle of Bembridge, first-summer male, 23rd-27th April (J.C.Gloyn, D.J. & M.Hunnybun, M.J.Sparshott *et al.*).

1991 Scilly St Agnes, female, 9th May (A.J.Merritt *et al.*).

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1992 Cork Male, Cape Clear Island, 20th April.

1992 Kerry Female, Bolus Head, 12th June.

1992 Wexford Female/first-year male, trapped, Great Saltee, 16th May.

A good year, with over 20 records in spring and a complete contrast to the two in 1991 and 11 in 1990; the best year remains 1988, with 32 records. The abundance of records in Shetland in years of high occurrence is again reflected here.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (1, 24, 7)

Devon Prawle Point, female, trapped, 7th May, photographed (N.L.Trigg *et al.*).

Greater London Surbiton, female, trapped, 2nd June, photographed (D.J.Montier, Mrs M.Waller).

Merseyside Formby Point, first-summer male, 28th-31st May, trapped 28th, photographed (J.D.Fletcher, D.Ogle *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 189).

Norfolk Weybourne, female, trapped 14th May, released 15th (M.D. & M.J.Preston *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-summer female, 25th-27th May, trapped 25th, photographed (P.J.Donnelly, A.E.Duncan *et al.*). Stronsay, male, 29th-31st October, photographed (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway, Mr & Mrs N.Kent).

Shetland Cunningsburgh, male, 24th July to 11th November (J.Nicolson, Mr & Mrs L.Smith, D.Suddaby) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 186).

The best year for Sardinian Warblers, exceeding the five in 1988 and five in 1990; the trend is clearly upward, except for the complete and inexplicable absence in 1989. Of the 25 previously accepted records, 21 were males, so the four (trapped) females this year go some way towards restoring the balance. The Greater London record, surely one of the most astonishing and unpredictable occurrences of the year, is the first inland. The long-staying individual in Shetland recalls two previous individuals (both also males) at Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, one from 30th June to 15th September 1979 and the second from 6th July to 31st August 1986.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* (0, 3, 1)

Norfolk Holme, first-winter, 31st August to 4th September (A.Banwell, G.F.Hibberd, R.G.Millington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 104).

Only the fourth for Britain, and the first on the mainland - a fact much appreciated by the many who went to see it and by the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust which organised a very efficient queuing and viewing system and boosted its funds from the contributions made by the happy throngs of satisfied birders. Previous records were on Mainland, Shetland, from mid August to mid September 1977, on Lundy, Devon, in June 1979 and on Whalsay, Shetland, in October 1990.

Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* (0, 8, 1)

Devon Mount Gould, Plymouth, 19th-26th October (P.Aley *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 103).

1991 Humberside Flamborough Head, first-winter, 13th October to 5th November, trapped 13th (P.A.Lassey, P.J.Willoughby *et al.*).

1991 Kent Seasalter, 3rd-5th November, photographed (J.T.Shilling *et al.*).

The year 1991 becomes the best for this species, with three records; this year's bird is the earliest by one day; all have been in the period 19th October to 2nd January.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 201, 29)

Cumbria Arnside, in song, 9th June (J.Gregory, R.Irving *et al.*). South Walney, trapped, 30th June, photographed (T.Dean, R.Woodland, P.Zaltowski *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 190).

Devon Wembury Point, 22nd September (P.F.Goodfellow). East Soar, 27th September (P.Saunders *et al.*).

Dorset Portland, in song, trapped, 10th June (M.Cade, M.Rogers *et al.*).

Fife Isle of May, 29th May (J.Conner, N.Mann *et al.*); first-winter, trapped, 28th August (J.Calladine, N.Mann).

Grampian Rattray Head, in song, 31st May (L.T.A.Brain, T.W.Marshall, A.Webb *et al.*). Girdleness, first-winter, 23rd-24th August (S.A.Reeves, R.A.Schofield, K.D.Shaw *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, in song, 1st June (D.P.Boyle, B.R.Spence *et al.*).

Man, Isle of Calf of Man, trapped, 12th June, photographed (N.V. & Mrs M.McCanch).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, in song, 30th May (G.E.Dunmore, S.C.Joyner, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*). Waxham, in song, 31st May (T.R. & Mrs J.Barker, T.Nicholson *et al.*). Blakeney Point, 5th-7th September (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*).

Orkney Sanday, 28th May (E.R.Meek). Stronsay, 26th-28th August, photographed (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway).

Shetland Fetlar, 3rd June (A.Aitken, A.Stanbury, B.Thomason). Fair Isle, 1st June (P.S.Castle, C.J.Cox, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*); another, trapped, 2nd June, presumed same, 9th (P.V.Harvey, R.Taylor *et al.*); 12th August (S.C.Votier *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 516 fig. 11); first-winter, 24th-26th August, trapped 24th (P.V.Harvey, S.C.Votier *et al.*); first-winter, trapped, 30th (C.Bradshaw, P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Whalsay, first-winter, trapped, 21st August; first-winter, trapped, 22nd (J.L.Irvine, Dr B.Marshall). Geosetter, 23rd August (H.R.Harrop); first-winter, trapped, 19th September (J.N.Dymond, G.J.Hinchon, T.J.Lawrence *et al.*).

Suffolk Landguard, in song, trapped, 28th May (M.C.Marsh, N.Odin, S.H.Piotrowski *et al.*). Trimley St Mary, in song, 7th June (A.G.Gough, S.Lovric *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Prior's Park, 11th September (M.P.Carruthers).

1983 Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 26th September to 4th October (Brit. Birds 78: 576), as Green Warbler *P.nitidus*, now regarded as conspecific (Brit. Birds 86: 229).

1987 Scilly Gugh, first-winter, showing the characters of *P.t.plumbeitarsus*, sometimes known as Two-barred Warbler, 22nd-27th October, photographed (C.Bradshaw, J.H.W.Ridley *et al.*).

1990 Shetland Whalsay, first-winter, 5th-7th October, trapped 5th (G.K.Gordon, Dr B.Marshall, A.S.Vials *et al.*).

1990 Yorkshire, North Filey, 25th-28th August (J.Sanderson, H.J.Whitehead *et al.*).

1991 Kent Kingsgate, in song, 8th June (F.Solly, M.P.Sutherland *et al.*).

A record year, with 15 of the 29 records in spring, exceeding the previous best year, 1987, by seven records. As recently as 1987 and 1988, comments emphasised that the best time to see this species in Britain was the second half of August, for at that time there were only about a dozen June records and four in May. Analysis of spring 1992 records shows arrival periods of 28th May to 3rd June and again during 7th-12th June; autumn records conform to the late-August period, with arrivals during 21st-28th August, but there were as many during September. Whilst this spread of records undoubtedly reflects the prevailing southerly and southeasterly conditions (which included warm blasts of air from the Sahara), this species is clearly on the increase, and, with eight of the spring 1992 records being of singing males, how long will it be before the first ones breed?

The decision by the BOU Records Committee to regard the distinctive forms *P.t.nitidus* ('Green Warbler') and *P.t.plumbeitarsus* ('Two-barred Warbler') as races of Greenish Warbler will be followed by British Birds; the BOURC does, however, note that further research on this group is urgently required.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 151, 9)

Northumberland Farne Islands, 29th September (W.Makin).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, three: first-winter, 30th August to 1st September, trapped 30th, photographed (J.Cameron, A.E.Duncan, Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*); 31st August (M.Gray *et al.*); first-winter, trapped, 21st September, photographed (G.M.Buchanan, A.E.Duncan, I.Jones *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 191).

Scilly St Agnes, 20th September (P.D.Hyde *et al.*); another, 28th (S.G.Addinall, K.D.Shaw *et al.*).

Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter, 5th-6th September, trapped 5th (J.Clifton, P.M.Ellis *et al.*). Lerwick, 28th-30th September (T.P.Drew *et al.*). Scalloway, 3rd-5th October (K.Hudson, K.Osborn *et al.*).

1991 Tyne & Wear Sunderland, 12th October (S.J.Ling, J.S.McDowell).

The nine 1992 records follow on from the good year in 1991; September is undoubtedly the month to see Arctic Warblers in Britain, along the East Coast from Shetland south to Norfolk and in Scilly; totals are lower in August and October, and there are also two records in July and November; spring records are unknown.

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (3, 548, -)

1982 Humberside Flamborough Head, 10th-13th October (P.A.Doherty *et al.*).

1985 Humberside Flamborough Head, 22nd-26th October, trapped 22nd; another, 23rd-24th (A.S.Butler, R.C.Hart, J.McLoughlin).

1989 Humberside Flamborough Head, three: 8th-9th October (G.P.Catley, D.G.Hobson, P.A.Lassey), probably two, 10th-11th (P.A.Lassey), three, 12th, one to 14th (P.A.Lassey, J.M.Pearson).

1990 Humberside Grimston, 18th October (A. & T.Isherwood).

1990 Tyne & Wear Marsden, trapped, 18th October (J.Strowger, S.Westerberg *et al.*).

The 1982 record takes the total for that year to an incredible 128; it was years such as that, and the 59 in 1987 and 64 in 1988, that persuaded the Committee that this species, despite its obvious charm and appeal as the spirit of late autumn, and the great distance it had travelled to reach Western Europe, was no longer the great rarity that it once was, and so it was removed at the end of December 1990 from the list of species considered.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 131, 3)

Cleveland South Gare, 3rd October, photographed (R.C.Hart *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 194).

Shetland Sumburgh, first-winter, trapped, 4th October (J.Coutts, P.M.Ellis, J.D.Okill *et al.*).

Sussex, East Icklesham, first-winter, trapped, 30th September (T.Squire *et al.*).

1988 Humberside Flamborough Head, trapped, 16th October, photographed (T.Dolan, P.A.Lassey, J.M.Pearson *et al.*); another, 17th (P.A.Lassey).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, trapped, 13th October (R.Barnes, P.A.Lassey, V.A.Lister *et al.*); 20th October (Brit. Birds 85: 545), observers did not include D.Quinn.

1991 Bedfordshire Priory Country Park, first-winter, trapped, 12th October (D.Kramer, E.Newman) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 100).

1991 Grampian Girdleness, 11th October (N.Picozzi, B.J.Stewart, M.A.Sullivan *et al.*).

1991 Humberside Flamborough Head, 10th October (J.McLoughlin *et al.*).

1991 Norfolk Holkham Meals, 11th October (S.R.Mawby, M.Rodgers); 26th-28th October (C. & D.K.Lamsdell, M.E.S.Rooney *et al.*). Happisburgh, 12th October (P.J.Heath, B.W.Jarvis *et al.*).

1991 Suffolk Landguard, first-winter, 8th-9th October, trapped, photographed (H.R. & Mrs M.J.Becroft *et al.*).

The three accepted 1992 records, all in the five-day period 30th September to 4th October (about a week earlier than usual), represent the poorest total since the solitary 1986 record. For the first time since the completely blank 1983, there was none in Scilly. This is in complete contrast to 1991, when, with the addition of the acceptances given here, there was a record 22, one ahead of the previous best in 1988. In the period 8th-12th October 1991, no fewer than 18 arrived or were found in nine counties stretching from Shetland to Kent, including the second inland record (in Bedfordshire). In addition to the above, a record at Cruden Bay, Grampian, on 12th November 1989 was accepted as either this species or Dusky Warbler *P.fuscatus*. One further 1992 record remains under consideration by the Committee, pending photographic evidence.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 105, 13)

Cornwall Kenidjack, 6th-13th November (J.Chesher, J.F.Ryan *et al.*). Harlyn Bay, 14th-20th December (S.M.Christophers *et al.*).

Essex Walton-on-the-Naze, 10th-12th October (Dr S.Cox, A.J.A.Dally, D.A.Holland *et al.*).

Humberside Cowden, 7th October (W.F.Curtis). Spurn, first-winter, trapped, 21st October (D. P. Boyle *et al.*).

Kent St Margaret's, 12th October (J. & P.Chantler, I.P.Hodgson).

Shetland Scalloway, 1st October (K.Osborn). Ness, 1st-2nd October (P.M.Ellis, J.McKee *et al.*). Whalsay, first-winter, 2nd-3rd October, trapped 2nd; first-winter, trapped, 4th (Dr B.Marshall *et al.*). Dale of Walls, 4th October (Dr C.F.Mackenzie).

Suffolk Westleton, 20th November (H.E.Axell).

Sussex, East Combe Haven, Bexhill-on-Sea, 26th October (M.P.Sutherland).

1988 Humberside Flamborough Head, trapped, 25th October, photographed (P.A.Lassey, M.Newsome, P.J.Willoughby *et al.*).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 21st October (Brit. Birds 85: 545), first observed 20th (D.Quinn). Blacktoft Sands, 10th-11th November (A.Grieve, A. & S.Norris, P.A.Ward *et al.*).

1991 Dorset Hengistbury Head, 29th October (D.N.Smith).

1991 Humberside Flamborough Head, 13th-15th October, trapped 15th, photographed (J.C.Laplough, P.A.Lassey, M.Newsome *et al.*); 26th October to 2nd November, trapped 26th, photographed (P.A.Lassey, P.J.Willoughby *et al.*).

1991 Lothian Scoughall, 30th October (D.J.Bates).

1991 Norfolk Blakeney Point, 10th October (D.M.Jones, B.J.Robson). Sheringham, 27th-31st October (Brit. Birds 85: 545), trapped 27th, 29th, photographed (D.H.Sadler).

1991 Suffolk Dunwich, trapped, 27th October, photographed (H.E.Axell, Sir A.G.Hurrell, D.J.Pearson).

The fortunes and annual tides of Radde's *P.schwarzi* and Dusky Warblers reaching Britain continue to conflict and confuse. There were 13 Dusky and three Radde's in 1992, of which only the five Dusky Warblers in Shetland arrived within the same five-day period as the Radde's. In 1991, for which, with the addition of these late acceptances, the total for Dusky now moves to ten, only one (in Norfolk) occurred with the main arrival of Radde's during 8th-12th October (though a second in Humberside occurred a day later). Conversely, the main period for Dusky Warbler in 1991 was around 26th-27th October, when seven arrived. The best years for Dusky have been 1987 and 1990, with 19 and 20 records respectively, whilst the peak years for Radde's have been 1988 and 1991, with totals of 22 and 21 respectively. The one at Harlyn Bay, Cornwall, is the latest by almost a month and the first December record in Britain (one in Ireland which was found dying in Co. Limerick on 5th December 1970 had been ringed the previous May on the Calf of Man).

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 113, 6)

Man, Isle of Calf of Man, adult, 18th-19th September, trapped 18th, 19th, photographed, found dead 19th, skin retained by observers (N.V. & Mrs M.McCanch).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 27th September (P.J.Donnelly, F.Maroevic) (Brit. Birds 86: page 523 fig. 12).

Shetland Fair Isle, 30th September (A.A. & J.Clifton *et al.*). Exnaboe, adult, 11th-15th October, possibly since 4th, trapped 14th (J.Gregory, K.Osborn, J.Polson *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Prior's Park, 6th October (J.Bishop, Dr C.Bradshaw, M.P.Carruthers *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 19th September, presumed same, 27th-28th, photographed (J.M.Turton *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 111).

1972 Cleveland Wilton, then North Yorkshire, 20th August (Brit. Birds 66: 349), now considered inadequately documented.

1972 Yorkshire, North See above.

1989 Yorkshire, North Filey, 13th September (J.E.Rogan, J.M.Turton).

1990 Cornwall The Lizard, 13th September (B.Cave, A.R.Pay).

1991 Dyfed Skokholm, 31st August (M.Betts).

1991 Kent Minnis Bay, 27th October to 9th November (N.A.Hando, C.A.Osborne, D.W.Taylor *et al.*).

The best year since 1984, but 1976, with 11 records, remains well ahead of all other years. A good autumn, with all records in the period mid September to mid October, but there has been none in spring since two in Norfolk in April and May 1988. A late record of one in Norfolk in November remains to be assessed by the Committee.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* (2, 14, 1)

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, male, 24th May (T.J.Dix, J.Vaughan).

The first since 1986. Of the total of 17 records for Britain, 13 have been in May, two in June and singles in September and October; all except this bird and three individuals in Caernarvon (1957), Cumbria (1964) and Scilly (1984) have been on the East Coast. Further reports from Dungeness, Kent, and Suffolk in early May are still being assessed by the Committee.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* (0, 16, 0)

1979 Dorset Portland, trapped, 7th May (A.J.Bundy, D.E.Paull, M.Rogers *et al.*).

1983 Kent St Margaret's, trapped, 24th September (J.R.H.Clements, A.J.Greenland).

1984 Kent Dungeness, trapped, 15th, 19th April (S.D.McMinn *et al.*).

1988 Kent Sandwich Bay, 19th-25th October, trapped 19th (K.B.Ellis, W.E.Fletcher, N.V.McCanch *et al.*).

1990 Kent Sandwich Bay, trapped, 7th November, photographed (C.Solly, S.Stansfield, J.H.van der Dol).

These belated acceptances take the British total to 16, of which 13 have been in Kent.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 59, 2)

Gwynedd Llyn Rhos Dhu, Anglesey, 21st October (N.E.Gammon, C.Kightley, Mrs P.Walton *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Knaresborough, male, alloy ring, right leg, 19th-20th September (R. & Mrs S.Evison, J.R.Mather *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 195).

1988 Humberside Blacktoft Sands, male, female, 11th-12th November (A.Grieve, I.Robinson *et al.*).

1989 Humberside Blacktoft Sands, 17th, 30th March (A.Grieve, C.Gutheridge), possibly since 1988.

1991 Kent Dungeness, 30th-31st December (B.Banson, J. & R.Beale, D.Walker *et al.*).

After the promising increase in records in the late 1980s and 1990-91, with peaks of 12 in 1989 and ten in 1991, this is, by comparison, a poor showing; the incipient colonist seems to have had a (temporary?) change of heart. Details of one in Cleveland in July have not yet been reported.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 35, 0)

1991 Kent North Foreland, first-winter, 28th October (K.Lord, M.P.Sutherland).

1991 Orkney North Ronaldsay, male, 28th October to 2nd November (M.Gray *et al.*).

The year 1992 was the first since 1986 for which the record sheet remains blank for this species, a sad state of affairs compared with the heady days of 1988, with seven records, or even the four in 1991 (three of which arrived in the period 26th-28th October).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 108, 1)

Devon Otterton, 9th July (Mr. E.J.Brookes, D. & Mrs J.Cullen, P.W.Ellicott *et al.*).

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1991 Waterford Dungarvan, 20th to 24th September.

A less-than-average showing.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* (1, 3, 2)

Individuals showing the characters of the eastern race *L.e.pallidirostris* were recorded as follows:

Cornwall Cape Cornwall and Kenidjack Carn, 21st-23rd April, photographed (A.R.Birch, R.Hathway, J.F.Ryan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: page 503 fig. 9; plates 196 & 197).

Suffolk Easton Bavents and Southwold, age uncertain, 4th-7th October, photographed (W.J.Brame, J.M.Cawston, E.W.Patrick *et al.*).

1989 Dorset Portland, first-winter, 1st November (G.Walbridge, J.Williamson *et al.*).

The first since 1986 and the total for the British Isles now moves to six. The Cornish individual is the first in spring; September-November are the other months of occurrence.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 485, -)

1990 Devon Prawle Point, 21st March (D.E.Balmer, P.St Pierre *et al.*).

This record takes the 1990 total to 23; it is also the fourth March record in Devon for that year and the seventh ever (all of which were in 1990). This species was dropped from the list of species considered by the Committee at the end of 1990.

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 215, 5)

Cornwall Sennen, juvenile, 20th September (S.Hey).

Devon Lundy, adult, 11th-13th August, photographed (J.Alford, A.M.Jewels *et al.*).

Essex Bradfield, adult, 9th-11th June (R. & K.Dowsett *et al.*).

Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig and Sker area, juvenile, 20th September to 4th October (O.J.Leyshon, L. & Mrs E.Murley *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, adult, 4th-10th July, photographed (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway *et al.*).

1987 Yorkshire, West Wakefield, adult, 23rd June, photographed (Miss S.Pettitt per S.P.Singleton).

1991 Cornwall Penzance, juvenile, 7th-10th October (M.V.Sneary *et al.*).

1991 Cumbria South Walney, juvenile, 6th-8th September (T.Dean, C.Raven, J.Robinson-Dean).

1991 Devon Hope Cove, juvenile, 3rd-4th September (Brit. Birds 85: 548), 7th (J.Martin).

1991 Highland Thurso, juvenile, 13th November (J.Smith *et al.*).

1989 At sea Sea area Humber, 53°02'N 02°15'E, 48 km northeast of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, adult, 7th June, photographed (C.W.Smith).

Three summer adults and two autumn juveniles: a below-average showing. At least five other records have yet to be submitted to the Committee, however, and several others remain under consideration. The first year since 1976 that none has appeared in Scilly. The late acceptances for 1991 take the total for that year to 13, exceeded only by the 17 in 1983.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (1, 73, 1)

Strathclyde Arinagour, Coll, 3rd October (I.D.Bullock).

1988 Highland Thurso, 8th November (P.M.Miller).

1990 Humberside Kilsea, 30th September to 1st October, trapped 30th, photographed (A.Dixon, B.R.Spence *et al.*).

1991 Cleveland North Gare, 12th October (B.J.K.Caswell, M.N.Sidwell *et al.*).

1991 Cornwall The Lizard, 30th September to 10th October (B.Cave *et al.*).

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1991 Wexford The bird referred to in Brit. Birds 85: 548-549 was present from 12th to 14th October.

A poor year by recent standards - six in 1991, ten in 1990 and 12 in 1988 - no doubt reflecting the adverse conditions for a successful transatlantic crossing at the end of September and beginning of October. The bird in Highland in November 1988 is the latest ever (by about ten days) and it is tempting to speculate on its exact arrival date; otherwise, all records have been in the period 21st September to 29th October.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 239, 9)

Norfolk Gunton Park, 17th-19th February (A.P.Benson) (Brit. Birds 86: page 526 fig. 13). East Harling, 28th January to 6th February (Mrs J.Dean *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 16th February (D.Patterson, K.N.Scott, K.A.Wilson). Stromness, Mainland, 25th-28th April (E.R.Meek, Mr & Mrs S.Mowat). Shapinsay, 24th-27th October (P. & Mrs L.Hollindrake).

Shetland Fetlar, 19th February (B. & C.Thomason). Fair Isle, 29th April (P.V.Harvey); 18th October (P.V.Harvey, C.J.Orsman, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*). Cunningsburgh, 18th-20th October (C.Donald, H.R.Harrop, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

1982 Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, 21st February to at least 13th April, trapped, not ringed, 21st March, photographed (G.P.Catley, M.Mellor *et al.*).

1989 Suffolk Martlesham, 11th-28th January, photographed (J.A.Davis, M.C.Marsh *et al.*).

1990 Humberside Grimston, 8th-9th December (A & T.Isherwood).

1990 Yorkshire, North Filey Brigg, first-winter, 19th-20th October, trapped 20th (P.J.Dunn, R.E.Harbird, H.J.Whitehead *et al.*).

1991 Bedfordshire New Wavendon Heath, 21st-28th March, another, 23rd-24th (Brit. Birds 85: 549): observers of first should include M.J.Palmer; second present 24th only; correct locality Aspley Heath.

1991 Kent Sevenoaks, 2nd March (Brit. Birds 85: 549), was not considered acceptable.

1991 Lincolnshire Linwood Warren, two, 21st-27th January (K.D.Durose, S.P.Botham).

1991 Norfolk Sandringham, 17th January (M.E.S.Rooney). Mousehold Heath, twenty, 10th-16th March (Brit. Birds 85: 549), 17th (R.M.Patient).

1991 Suffolk Blaxhall Heath, 29th March (B.J.Small).

1991 Surrey Godstone 10th-11th March (R.J. & S.J.Aspinall, R.P.Bosanquet *et al.*).

1991 Tyne & Wear Dunston-upon-Tyne, 13th February (K.Bowey).

Four of the records were of birds seen on one day only, and five occurred during April and October, all indicating passage movement. Details of at least one other have not yet been reported to the Committee.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 75, 0)

1987 Shetland Fair Isle, female, 28th August (A.D.Warren and YOC group).

1990 Derbyshire Upper Derwentdale, male, 11th November (K.R.Gould).

1990 Kent Bedgebury, juvenile or first-winter female, 7th October to 11th November (Brit. Birds 84: 499), another, at least 13th October, photographed (K.A. & Mrs M.A.Hook *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Sandringham Warren, male, 29th September (J.R.Williamson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 92).

1990 Yorkshire, North Dalby Forest, male, 3rd December (W.F.Curtis).

The late acceptances for 1990 take the total of records in this most recent invasion year to 22, second only to the numbers (mostly juveniles) involved in the localised invasion of the Northern Isles in August 1987.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* (10, 478, 0)

1990 Durham Hamsterley Forest, up to ten, 7th November to 10th March 1991 (A.L.Armstrong, B.Unwin *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Sprowston, male, 29th November to 1st December, two females, 29th November, 2nd December, female, 1st, male photographed (C. & J.R.Lansdell).

1990 Northamptonshire Wakerley Great Wood, male, 25th November to at least 9th January 1991 (S.P.Botham *et al.*); female, 22nd November to at least 16th March 1991 (R.F.Burrows, P.Campbell *et al.*).

1990 Nottinghamshire The Dukeries, three males, two first-winter males, two females, 14th December to 16th February 1991 (D.Hursthouse *et al.*).

1990 Tyne & Wear Chopwell Woods, at least 27, 17th November to at least 26th December, males, trapped: 20th November; three, 21st; two, 5th December; females, trapped: 20th, 21st November (K.Bowey, S.Westerberg *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 90).

1991 Cleveland Birk Brow, up to 47, 1st-18th March, at least 22 photographed (M.A.Blick, D.J.Britton, J.Youngs *et al.*), probably included six, Lockwood Beck Reservoir, since 11th November 1990 (Brit. Birds 84: 500).

1991 Durham See 1990 above.

1991 Northamptonshire Wakerley Great Wood, male, 2nd March (A.H.J.Harrop), probably since 1990 above.

1991 Nottinghamshire See 1990 above.

1991 Yorkshire, North Oakdale, Osmotherly, seven, including male, 31st March (P.Kerr), presumed four of same, including three males, female, 13th April (M.J.Hobbs, J.C.Lowen, A.J.Musgrove *et al.*).

None in 1992; these acceptances take the totals for the invasion to 267; the March and April records given here are the final records of a large-scale irruption that began with the arrivals in Shetland in the last week of September 1990. Several more records relating to that period remain under consideration.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* (0, 6, 1)

Highland Balnakeil, near Durness, male, 4th June, photographed (Dr M.H.Blattner *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 198 & 199).

The first since 1987 and the seventh ever; five have now occurred at the end of May or beginning of June. This record, so far north for an overshooting migrant in late spring, recalls similar records in Sutherland (June 1971) and Orkney (1981).

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* (8, 2, 1)

Shetland Lerwick, male, probably first-year, in song, 25th March to at least 25th April (P.Barry *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 201, 205).

The first since May 1975 and only the tenth record (eleventh individual) for Britain and Ireland, of which only six have been this century. During the early part of this bird's stay, the interest in its occurrence was such that it made the national news, becoming doubly newsworthy when it was reported (apparently without foundation) that the bird was having difficulty finding food, through lack of its favoured pines on Shetland, and birdwatchers were becoming concerned for its welfare. Pine Grosbeaks periodically undertake fairly large-scale invasions into southern Scandinavia from farther east. The last sizeable invasion involving thousands was in 1976-77, but a smaller-scale arrival took place in 1989-90, and in such years there has been widespread, but unfulfilled, expectation (and predictions) of birds arriving on the east coast of Britain. The one in 1992 arrived in a year when there were no reported invasions into southern Scandinavia.

Northern Parula *Parula americana* (0, 14, 1)

Scilly St Mary's, 8th-10th October (D.Helliar, B.J.Mathews, B.J.Widden *et al.*).

The first since one on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, in September 1989 and two in England (Cornwall and Dorset) in 1988. Of the total of 15 records (the first was in 1966), five have been in Scilly, four in Cornwall and three in Dorset. Usually a confiding species, this individual was, at times, very difficult to see as it foraged in thickly ivy-clad trees.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (0, 2, 1)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter male, trapped, 24th August (A.E.Duncan, A.Mitchell, K.A.Wilson *et al.*).

1990 Shetland Helendale, Lerwick, male, 3rd-4th November (Brit. Birds 84: page 500, plate 97), age/sex uncertain.

In the hand, this individual was provisionally identified as a first-winter male of the eastern race *aestiva*. It is the earliest of the three British records (and is also the earliest autumn date for a transatlantic crossing by an American passerine) by two days, and recalls the first on Bardsey, Gwynedd, in August 1964. The dates reflect the early departure of Yellow Warblers from the breeding areas in the forests of northern Canada and Alaska, none of which makes it any easier to understand the second record in Britain, in Shetland in the first week of November 1990.

Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* (0, 1, 1)

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, 10th September (T.J.Dix, J.Vaughan).

The second British record of this, the most unlikely of the American warblers to have reached this side of the Atlantic; the first was on St Agnes, Scilly, in September 1970.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (0, 2, 0)

1981 Suffolk Landguard Point, 30th June to 8th July (Brit. Birds 75: 531; 86: plate 201).

1991 Norfolk Waxham, 15th-17th May (B.W.Jarvis *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plates 306 & 307).

The 1981 record, previously published in Category D, is now admitted to the British and Irish List (Brit. Birds 86: 229) and enters the statistical record. For all that their journey from the New World has to be assumed to be natural, the geographical coincidence suggests that both had hitched a lift somewhere along the way to the North Sea. Nonetheless, the timing of both occurrences conforms to that of numerous other North American seed-eaters over the years. Will the next be in the year 2001?

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (1, 16, 2)

Lincolnshire Willingham, 5th December to 28th March 1993, trapped 5th December, photographed (N.Bray, S.A.Britton, G.P.Catley *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plates 202 & 203).

Suffolk Trimley St Mary, 31st May to 8th June (W.J.Brame, E.W.Patrick *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plate 295; 86: plate 204).

Much of what is said in the comment under the previous species may be applied to the Suffolk record, since it was remarkably close to Felixstowe docks. The first since 1989 and the eighteenth and nineteenth for Britain and Ireland. The dates of the Suffolk bird coincide with those of the ten previous spring records, and the one in Lincolnshire (which lived in a small clump of hawthorns in a clearing in the middle of a huge Forestry Commission plantation and survived some extremely cold midwinter nights) is the third to overwinter here.

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

Strathclyde Hamilton, male, 3rd-4th May, photographed (I. & Mrs J.Sheddon *et al.*).

The sharp eyes of the observers feeding the sparrows in their back garden detected this bird, the sixteenth for Britain and Ireland and the fifth in Scotland. May is the peak month for records of this species, and gardens are the habitat in which they occur most frequently.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* (2, 17, 2)

Greater London Dagenham Chase, male, 12th February to 17th March (K.Barrett, L.Harrison *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 85: plates 204, 207).

Northumberland Cresswell, male, 29th January to 19th February, photographed (I.Fisher *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 127).

These two prolonged stayers provided ample opportunities for observers to get fully acquainted with the species; the Northumberland individual proved somewhat elusive on occasion, but the Dagenham one never failed to put on a good show, much to the delight of over 2,000 birders and other admirers. The total now stands at 21 for Britain (there are no records for Ireland), and 11 of these have been in the Northern Isles. The record of a female at Big Waters Nature Reserve, Tyne & Wear, in 1990 remains under review (Brit. Birds 86: 378-386).

Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* (0, 2, 1)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 22nd-23rd September (P.J.Donnolly *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: 411-414).

The third for Britain, and the earliest by about two weeks; the previous records were in Norfolk (1975) and Shetland (1980). This record immediately preceded a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* and was a week ahead of the female Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* in what was an outstanding autumn for North Ronaldsay.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 214, 14)

Cornwall Near Nanjizal, female, 7th-8th October, photographed (N.Hando, G.C.Stephenson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 206).

Humberside Spurn, 27th-29th September (P.Bowman, D.P.Boyle *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, 22nd March, photographed (A.H.J.Harrop, A.C.Sims *et al.*).

Northumberland Holy Island, male, 31st May, photographed (M.J.Sharp *et al.*). Farne Islands, male, 3rd October (W.Makin *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, 3rd October (J.Andrews, J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway). North Ronaldsay, 29th October to 2nd November (P.J.Donnolly, A.Mitchell *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, female, 25th May (P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Grutness, male, 2nd June, same, Sumburgh, 3rd (A. & J.Clifton, J. & Mrs I.Miller *et al.*). Sumburgh and Scatness, 27th-29th September (A.V.Moon, J.Warne, S.A.Webb *et al.*). Sumburgh, 4th October (P.M.Ellis *et al.*). Skaw, Unst, trapped, 4th October (C.Donald, K.Osborn, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

Suffolk Landguard, first-winter male, trapped, 3rd October, photographed (R.Duncan, N.Odin *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 205).

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, male, 27th May (J.Vaughan).

1990 Shetland Sumburgh and Grutness, female, 28th-30th May (Brit. Birds 84: 501), finders included S.Baldwin, N.A.Driver, D.Taylor.

1991 Cornwall Sennen, 14th October (Dr A.M.Hanby, B.Short, J.Young *et al.*).

1991 Highland Baligill, Sutherland, in song, 16th-18th May, photographed (E.W.E.Maughan, J.Smith, J.Walker).

1991 Shetland Noss, female, 27th May (R.Armstrong).

1991 Tyne & Wear Sunderland, 12th to at least 17th October (T.I.Mills *et al.*).

A good year, and follows a slowly rising trend with previous peaks of 17 in 1990 and 19 in 1987. The Lincolnshire record is the earliest ever in Britain and predates two others in that month; apart from this record, the four others in spring arrived in the period 25th May to 2nd June, and eight of the nine autumn records were in the period 27th September to 8th October.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (93, 463, 13)

Borders St Abb's Head, 3rd October (A.Kerr, D.Patterson).

Cornwall St Columb Major, adult, 18th January to 2nd February, trapped 2nd, photographed (R.Burridge, S.M.Christophers, M.George).

Grampian Balmedie, 1st October (H.Gregory, Dr I.M.Phillips).

Northumberland Cocklawburn Dunes, 29th September (G.W.Dodds).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 28th September to 6th October (A.Banwell, K.M.Wilson *et al.*); 2nd-3rd October (P.J. & Mrs M.J.Donnolly, Mrs A.Tulloch); 4th-9th October, trapped 4th (A.E.Duncan, L.Wells *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 22nd-23rd October (D.Rhymes *et al.*).

Shetland Whalsay, at least two: 21st-24th September (M.I.Eldridge, J.L.Irvine, A.M.Stoddart), probably same, 29th-30th (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart); 25th September (M.I.Eldridge, Dr B.Marshall, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*). Out Skerries, trapped, 3rd October (E.Tait). Fetlar, 3rd-10th October (A.Aitken, B.Thomason). Fair Isle, 15th October (Dr R.Riddington, J.M.Turton *et al.*).

Surrey Frensham Little Pond, in song, 14th-17th April (S.P.Peters *et al.*).

1989 Humberside Flamborough Head, 18th September (P.A.Lassey).

1990 Dorset Verne Common, 25th April (C.E.Richards).

1990 Scilly St Mary's, 13th-18th October (Brit. Birds 84: 502), 12th (S.Berry, J.Howarth *et al.*).

1991 Devon South Milton Ley, first-year, trapped 23rd November, released 24th (R.Burridge, M.George *et al.*).

1991 Northumberland Newbiggin, two, 10th October (C.Annan, A.Priest); another, 10th (T.J.Tams).

1991 Yorkshire, North Filey, 12th-13th October (S.Cochrane, D.J. & P.M.Scanlan, H.J.Whitehead).

A fairly typical showing, though 13 is slightly below the average of the last few years. The late 1989 record published here takes that year's total, the highest ever, to 50. The recent pattern of wintering in secluded spots, and occasional records in spring, is again shown in the 1992 records. Is this a very scarce wintering bird in Britain and northwest Europe or are these just records of late migrants which have run out of impetus and the urge to go anywhere else? This species will be dropped from the list considered by the Committee at the end of December 1993.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 146, 4)

Norfolk Holme, female or immature, 19th-20th September (A.Banwell, W.Boyd, G.F.Hibberd *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 105).

Northumberland Farne Islands, female or immature, 18th-20th September (P.Allen, P.Bush *et al.*) (Brit. Bird 86: plate 200).

Orkney Stronsay, female or immature, 21st September (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway, M.Sutton *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, female or immature, 17th-20th September (R.G.Bayldon, P.V.Harvey *et al.*).

1991 Tyne & Wear Ryhope, female or immature, 22nd September (S.J.Ling) (Brit. Birds 86: page 535 fig. 14).

Four records are about an average showing, but those away from the Northern Isles provided one of the surprises of the year. The vast majority are always in September. One further September 1992 report, from Shetland, remains under consideration.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 83, 12)

Cornwall Gwithian, male, 20th May (P.A.Rutter).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, male, 15th-27th July, trapped 17th, photographed (Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*).

Scilly St Martin's, male, 18th-23rd May (P.Larkin, D.Osborn).

Shetland Fair Isle, five: female, 9th June (P.V.Harvey *et al.*); male, female, 10th (P.V.Harvey, R.Taylor); another male, 10th (J.Coutts, R.Taylor, S.C.Votier); male, 14th (J. & P.Shilton). Aithsetter, female, 30th September to 4th October, trapped 3rd (P.M.Ellis, A.McCall *et al.*).

Somerset Shapwick Heath, male, 21st April (P.W.Luxton).

Suffolk Trimley St Mary, male, 4th June (A.Banwell *et al.*).

Western Isles Drimsdale, South Uist, male, 13th-21st August (T.J.Dix, G.Flogdell, A.M.Macaskill).

A typical spread of records conforming to the pattern of late-May to June arrival, plus one late-summer and two autumn records; the timing of the late-spring arrival pattern compares well with that of other migrants from Southeast Europe and must surely be a strong indication of their origin. The exception to the rule, the April record in Somerset, is only the third for that month, the two previous being in 1979 in Norfolk and in Scilly. Details of at least four others have not yet been reported to the Committee. The previous best year was 1988, with eight.

An indeterminate bird on Blakeney Point, Norfolk, on 10th-11th September 1989 posed considerable identification problems for those who saw it, and for the Committee; a 'warm apricot' wash to the rump and a deep 'chup' call-note suggested, however, that it was this species rather than a Red-headed Bunting *E.bruniceps*.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (0, 16, 1)

Dorset Portland, 14th-18th September (A.S. & R.G.Brett, G.D.Lewis *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 207).

The seventeenth for Britain and Ireland, but only the second on the British mainland (the first was in Devon in September 1991); all have been in the period 13th September to 12th October.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (0, 1, 0)

1988 Strathclyde Ardnave, Islay, male, 24th April (C.R.McKay).

This is the first record for Britain and Ireland, and the second for the Western Palearctic (the first was an adult female in Norway on 1st June 1987, Brit. Birds 82: 354). This species is currently greatly increasing in both numbers and range in the USA. The Islay record has been placed in Category A of the British and Irish List by the BOURC (Ibis in press).

Northern Oriole *Icterus galbula* (0, 18, 0)

Essex See 1991 Essex, below.

1991 Essex Westcliff-on-Sea, first-year male, 2nd December to 24th March 1992, photographed (J.Miller, R.Mullins, C.Todd *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: plate 208).

Another strange bird-at-the-birdtable discovery; this is the eighteenth for Britain and Ireland, and the third record in the midwinter period. It is the first since (and strongly recalls) the long-staying individual at Roch, Dyfed, from January to April 1989.

Almost next-door to the site of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* which occurred in December and January 1975 at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, it adds one more to the inexplicable list of Nearctic passerines wintering in southeastern England, which includes the 1989 Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* and Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* in Kent.

Appendix 1. Category D species accepted (see Brit. Birds 64: 429)

Monk Vulture *Aegypius monachus* (0, 1, 0)

1977 Powys Builth Wells area, 29th November, and various localities in Dyfed to 20th February 1978, photographed (Robert A. Richardson, N.A. & the late Mrs L.A. Tucker, K.E. Vinicombe *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 86: 229).

1978 Dyfed See above.

1978 Powys See above.

Formerly rejected by the BOURC as almost certainly an escape from captivity, but possibility of natural occurrence now acknowledged (Ibis 135: 221).

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (0, 1, 0)

1985 Shetland Noss, 25th-26th June, photographed (Ms S. Crosthwaite, Mr & Mrs P. Leward, C.R. McKay) (Brit. Birds 86: 229).

Whilst natural vagrancy is possible, this is also a not uncommon cage-bird (Ibis 135: 221).

Appendix 2. List of records not accepted

This list contains all current records not accepted after circulation to the Committee. It does not include (a) those withdrawn by the observer(s) without circulation, after discussion with the Honorary Secretary; (b) those which, even if circulated, were not attributed by the observer(s) to any definite species; or (c) those mentioned in 'Seasonal reports', or 'Recent reports' in British Birds if full details were unobtainable. Birds considered to be certain escapes are also omitted.

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

1992 White-billed Diver Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 12th May; Waxham, Norfolk, 6th December. **Black-browed Albatross** Portland, Dorset, 7th October. **Albatross** Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, 31st May. **Little Shearwater** St Abbs, Borders, 15th April; Gwennap Head, Cornwall, 9th August; St Osyth, Essex, 11th September; Strumble Head, Dyfed, 1st November. **Wilson's Storm-petrel** Rame Head, Cornwall, 14th August. **Night Heron** Alderley Edge, Cheshire, 17th May. **Cattle Egret** Poole Harbour, Dorset, 19th March; Grove, Buckinghamshire, 4th May. **Great White Egret** Poole Harbour, Dorset, 10th July. **American Wigeon** Tiree, Strathclyde, female, 21st May; Langsett Reservoir, South Yorkshire, 16th March. **King Eider** Yellowcraig, Lothian, 6th February. **Steller's Eider** Minsmere, Suffolk, 28th September. **Barrow's Goldeneye** Loch Linnhe, Strathclyde, 6th April. **Black Kite** Minsmere, Suffolk, 10th April; Salhouse, Norfolk, 25th April; Gresham, Norfolk, 9th May; Paston, Norfolk, 10th May; Stowmarket, Suffolk, 13th June; Bolberry Down, Devon, 27th September. **White-tailed Eagle** Langton Herring, Dorset, 14th April. **Eleonora's Falcon** Horsey, Norfolk, 15th June. **Red-footed Falcon** Minsmere, Suffolk, 5th May; Heaton, West Yorkshire, 13th May; Stanford Reservoir, Leicestershire, 16th May; Niton, Isle of Wight, 16th May; Thursley Common, Surrey, 18th May; Stewartby, Bedfordshire, 22nd May; Slinfold, West Sussex, 25th May; Chaddesden, Derbyshire, 26th May; Colwick, Nottinghamshire, 1st June; St Abb's Head, Borders, 2nd June; Fingringhoe, Essex, 10th June; Kew Gardens, Greater London, 17th June; Harrod, Bedfordshire, 22nd June; Dunkery Beacon, Somerset, 25th June; Tregaron, Dyfed, 8th July; Old Hall Marshes, Essex, 20th July; Tunstall Forest, Suffolk, 24th July. **Gyr Falcon** Bowness Common, Cumbria, 13th February; Brae, Shetland, 17th February; Sea area Forties, 3rd October. **Baillon's Crane** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 31st January. **Pacific Golden Plover** Fair Isle, Shetland, 4th June; Pagharn Harbour, West Sussex, 15th August; Nocton Fen, Lincolnshire, 24th August. **Baird's Sandpiper** Chasewater, Staffordshire, 4th May. **Long-billed Dowitcher** Unst, Shetland, 25th May. **Dowitcher** Spurn, Humberside, 26th August; Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway, 12th October. **Marsh Sandpiper** Theale, Berkshire, 21st July. **Greater Yellowlegs** Montrose Basin, Tayside, 8th May. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Aveton Gifford, Devon, 20th September. **Bonaparte's Gull** Papa Westray, Orkney, 1st June; Brora, Highland, 8th June. **Iceland Gull** (*kumlieni*) Swillington Ings, West Yorkshire, 5th January; Aigburth, Merseyside, 8th May. **Ross's Gull** St Ives, Cornwall, 11th November. **Gull-billed Tern** Dunbar, Lothian, 17th April; Spurn, Humberside, 10th June; Titchwell, Norfolk, 27th June; Ferrybridge, Dorset, 19th July. **Caspian Tern** Thornton Reservoir, Leicestershire, 20th June. **Lesser Crested Tern** Abberton Reservoir, Essex, 14th August. **White-winged Black Tern** Rutland Water, Leicestershire, 19th May; Alton Water, Suffolk, 29th August. **Alpine Swift** New Brighton, Merseyside, 6th March; Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, 18th March; Watford, Hertfordshire, 7th May; Southbourne, Dorset, 23rd May. **Short-toed Lark** Isle of May, Fife, 24th May; Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 27th May. **Lesser Short-toed Lark** Caldecotte Lake, Buckinghamshire, 2nd May. **Crag Martin** Blakeney, Norfolk, 18th May. **Red-rumped Swallow** Paignton, Devon, 19th May; Witton Brook, Cheshire, 8th August. **Red-throated Pipit** Benacre, Suffolk, 2nd May; Blakeney Point, Norfolk, third individual, 28th May. **Citrine Wagtail** Dunwich, Suffolk, 7th July. **Alpine Accentor** Walberswick, Suffolk, 23rd May. **Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin** Woodbury Common, Devon, 19th August. **Isabelline Wheatear** Wadebridge, Cornwall, 3rd May. **Blue Rock Thrush** Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 25th July. **Siberian Thrush** Kirkwall, Orkney, 1st October. **American Robin** Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, 27th September. **Paddyfield Warbler** Out Skerries, Shetland, 20th September; Tresco, Scilly, 14th October. **Olivaceous Warbler** Isle of Oxney, Kent, May to August. **Booted Warbler** Foula, Shetland, 4th-5th September. **Greenish Warbler** Out Skerries, Shetland, 29th August; Coombe Hill, Buckinghamshire, 9th September; Avonmouth, Avon, 26th September. **Radde's Warbler** St Mary's, Scilly, 10th October. **Bonelli's Warbler** Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 13th October. **Collared Flycatcher** Worlington, Suffolk, 21st April. **Lesser Grey Shrike** Lulworth Cove, Dorset, 15th June. **Rosy Starling** Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, 27th April; East Mersea, Essex, 2nd June; Gower, West Glamorgan, 29th November. **Trumpeter Finch** Bletchingley, Surrey, 11th August. **Rustic Bunting** Titchmarsh, Northamptonshire, 29th July; Out Skerries, Shetland, 27th September. **Little Bunting** Out Skerries, Shetland, 19th September, three, 27th; Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, 19th October; Skomer, Dyfed, 23rd October. **Black-headed Bunting** Fair Isle, Shetland, 18th June.

1991 White-billed Diver Brora, Highland, 5th December. **Black-browed Albatross** Little Minch, 5th July. **Little Shearwater** Between Isle of Man and Dublin, 5th September; Kettlewell Point, North Yorkshire, 7th September; Pendeen, Cornwall, 22nd September; Heysham, Lancashire, 24th September. **Night Heron** Cardiff, South

Glamorgan, 15th December. **Black Stork** Barking, Greater London, 29th April. **Ross's Goose** Rockland St Mary and Claxton, Norfolk, 8th-19th February. **American Wigeon** Montrose Bay, Tayside, 22nd October. **Blue-winged Teal** Blacktoft Sands, Humberside, 23rd November. **Canvasback** Armathwaite, Cumbria, 21st-22nd September. **King Eider** Strumble Head, Dyfed, 2nd October. **Black Kite** St John's Lake, Cornwall, 3rd May; King's Lynn, Norfolk, 23rd-28th May; Mountnessing area, Essex, 14th June; Laxford, Highland, 6th August. **Red-footed Falcon** West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, 20th June; near Wilstone Reservoir, Hertfordshire, 29th June. **American or Pacific Golden Plover** Skokholm, Dyfed, 11th October; Seaforth, Merseyside, 20th October. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, 24th-25th October. **Baird's Sandpiper** Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall, 7th, 19th August. **Dowitcher** Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, 20th September. **Marsh Sandpiper** Stewartby, Bedfordshire, 18th September. **Wilson's Phalarope** Landulph Marsh, Cornwall, 27th September. **Laughing Gull** Shibdon Pond, Tyne & Wear, 11th February; South Shields, Durham, 12th February; Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, 28th May. **Franklin's Gull** Holmpton, Humberside, 3rd September. **Bonaparte's Gull** Loch Hallan, South Uist, Western Isles, 13th June. **Gull-billed Tern** Pett Level, East Sussex, 3rd July. **Whiskered Tern** Landguard, Suffolk, 3rd June. **White-winged Black Tern** Pendeen, Cornwall, 17th August. **Brünnich's Guillemot** Faversham Creek, Kent, 6th October. **Great Spotted Cuckoo** Sammy's Point, Humberside, 10th April; Harworth, South Yorkshire, 17th May. **Short-toed Lark** Unst, Shetland, 19th September. **Calandra Lark** Farmoor Reservoir, Oxfordshire, 19th August. **Red-flanked Bluetail** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 9th October. **'Siberian' Stonechat** Fulstow, Lincolnshire, 8th March; Gwithian, Cornwall, 13th December. **Dusky Thrush** Martin's Haven, Dyfed, 27th October. **Dark-throated Thrush** Rendall, Orkney, 4th October. **Greenish Warbler** Hunstanton, Norfolk, 10th October. **Arctic Warbler** Hollingbury Camp, East Sussex, 6th October. **Dusky Warbler** Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 10th October. **Collared or Semi-collared Flycatcher** Holkham Meals, Norfolk, 4th September. **Nutcracker** Endon, Staffordshire, November; West Mersea, Essex, 2nd December. **Arctic Redpoll** Thorpe Marsh, South Yorkshire, 6th March. **Two-barred Crossbill** Wakerley Great Wood, Northamptonshire, 5th January; Lynford Arboretum, Norfolk, 15th April. **Parrot Crossbill** Harwood Forest, Northumberland, 13th January; Sheringham, Norfolk, 12th March; Mundford, Norfolk, 21st April. **Nashville Warbler** Cot Valley, Cornwall, 3rd October. **Fox Sparrow** Sennen, Cornwall, 23rd October. **Rustic Bunting** St Mary's, Scilly, 22nd October. **Little Bunting** Willen Lake, Buckinghamshire, 23rd March; Tynemouth Head, Tyne & Wear, 14th October. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** Whitburn, Tyne & Wear, 1st September.

1990 Pied-billed Grebe Baggly Moor, Shropshire, 1st September. **Albatross** Strumble Head, Dyfed, 12th September. **Little Shearwater** Portland, Dorset, 19th April. **Double-crested Cormorant** Drift Reservoir, Cornwall, 20th August; St Mary's, Scilly, 1st-4th November. **Black Stork** Watford, Hertfordshire, 2nd May. **Glossy Ibis** Cardiff, South Glamorgan, 31st May. **Ring-necked Duck** South Shields, Tyne & Wear, 6th April; Hule Moss, Borders, 7th October. **Surf Scoter** St Andrews, Fife, 7th October. **Black Kite** Well, Hampshire, 7th May; Sittingbourne, Kent, 13th May. **White-tailed Eagle** Stone Creek, Humberside, 22nd October. **Red-footed Falcon** Overstrand, Norfolk, 20th May. **Saker Falcon** Weybourne, Norfolk, 23rd October. **Gyr Falcon** Thurso Bay, Highland, 19th November. **Sora Crane** Skomer, Dyfed, 7th October. **American Golden Plover** Swinefleet, Humberside, 18th April. **American or Pacific Golden Plover** Okehampton, Devon, 28th January. **Terek Sandpiper** Breydon, Norfolk, 16th June. **Spotted Sandpiper** Lynher Estuary, Cornwall, 10th October. **Laughing Gull** Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, 29th October. **Slender-billed Gull** Eling Great Marsh, Hampshire, 7th August. **Ivory Gull** Yell, Shetland, 28th January. **Gull-billed Tern** Rame Head, Cornwall, 16th June. **Great Spotted Cuckoo** Woolston Eyes, Cheshire, 18th March. **Alpine Swift** Crayford, Kent, 25th March. **European Bee-eater** Loch of Strathbeg, Grampian, 12th-13th July. **Short-toed Lark** Blakeney Point, Norfolk, 12th October. **Red-throated Pipit** Southfield Reservoir, Humberside, 4th April; The Lizard, Cornwall, 8th April. **Lesser Grey Shrike** Frodsham, Cheshire, 13th November, wrongly listed as Isabelline Shrike (Brit. Birds 84: 504). **White-cheeked Starling** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 17th-19th May (identification accepted, but considered to be a certain escape, Brit. Birds 86: 229). **Rosy Starling** Foreness, Kent, 10th September. **Two-barred Crossbill** Wakerley Great Wood, Northamptonshire, 15th December. **Parrot Crossbill** Harwood Forest, Northumberland, 25th November. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** Aldridge, West Midlands, 24th April.

1989 Pied-billed Grebe Duddon Estuary, Cumbria, 18th September. **Little Shearwater** Mappleton, Humberside, 9th July; Pendeen, Cornwall, 26th August; Uisaed Point, Strathclyde, 30th August, 25th September, 23rd October. **American Wigeon** Vane Farm, Tayside, 9th January to 18th February; Loch Fleet, Highland, 29th January. **Ring-necked Duck** Lower Tamar Lake, Devon, 29th August. **Black Kite** Conder Green, Lancashire, 11th July. **Red-footed Falcon** Thelwall, Cheshire, 21st May; Kenfig, Mid Glamorgan, 1st June. **Black-winged Pratincole** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 11th October. **Pacific Golden Plover** Steart, Somerset, 28th October. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Landulph Marsh, Cornwall, 8th September; Hayle, Cornwall, 2nd October. **Baird's Sandpiper** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 26th September. **Bonaparte's Gull** Plym Estuary, Devon, 5th January. **Gull-billed Tern** Lancing, West Sussex, 4th June; Flamborough Head, Humberside, 3rd July, 7th August. **White-winged Black Tern** Slapton Ley, Devon, 18th April; Kenfig, Mid Glamorgan, 26th July. **European Bee-eater** Yateley, Hampshire, 27th July; Kenfig, Mid Glamorgan, 27th August. **Red-rumped Swallow** Church Norton, West Sussex, 28th August. **Common Whitethroat** *icterops* Bardsey, Gwynedd, 24th May. **Pallas's Leaf Warbler** St Margaret's, Kent, 13th October. **Bonelli's Warbler** West High Down, Isle of Wight, 14th September. **Short-toed Treecreeper** Langney

Point, East Sussex, 3rd May. **Penduline Tit** Dungeness, Kent, 18th October. **Savannah Sparrow** Sea area Fastnet, 27th October. **Little Bunting** St Mary's, Scilly, 22nd September; Verne Common, Dorset, 7th October.

1988 White-billed Diver Ness of Duncansby, Highland, 21st January. **Little Shearwater** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 9th August. **Night Heron** Newtown, Isle of Wight, 25th April. **Blue-winged Teal** Long Drag Pools, Cleveland, 29th August; Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset, 16th October. **Black Kite** Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 17th April. **Red-footed Falcon** Allerton Bywater, West Yorkshire, 18th-25th May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Sidlesham Ferry, West Sussex, 20th-30th November. **Wilson's Phalarope** Bude, Cornwall, 30th September to 1st October. **Gull-billed Tern** Flamborough Head, Humberside, 27th May. **Bridled Tern** Cresswell, Northumberland, 31st July. **White-winged Black Tern** Dungeness, Kent, 7th May. **Mottled Swift** Winterton, Norfolk, 24th October; Spurn, Humberside, 25th-27th October. **Red-rumped Swallow** Bowness-on-Solway, Cumbria, 1st May. **Black-eared Wheatear** Salthouse, Norfolk, 17th October. **Greenish Warbler** Craigmill Den, Tayside, 16th October.

1987 White-billed Diver Sandside Head, Highland, 31st January; Sandside and Melvich Bays, Highland, 14th-16th August. **Little Shearwater** Sea area Sole, 16th September. **Barrow's Goldeneye** Wheldrake Ings, North Yorkshire, 3rd November. **Red-footed Falcon** Dungeness, Kent, 3rd September. **American Golden Plover** Appleby Magna and Nailstone, Leicestershire, 18th, 22nd October. **Black Guillemot** *islandicus* Flamborough Head, Humberside, 25th November. **Isabelline Wheatear** Pennington Marsh, Hampshire, 24th October. **Greenish Warbler** Strumble Head, Dyfed, 23rd August. **Bonelli's Warbler** Howick, Northumberland, 24th August.

1986 White-billed Diver Holy Island, Northumberland, 23rd February. **Long-billed Dowitcher** Hull Docks, Humberside, 9th August.

1985 Arctic Redpoll Vane Farm, Tayside, 26th-29th January (Brit. Birds 85: 554), not Highland.

1984 Red-footed Falcon Sheffield Lane Top, South Yorkshire, 8th July.

1983 Short-toed Treecreeper Dungeness, Kent, 30th September.

1982 Arctic Redpoll Scarborough, North Yorkshire, early February.

1980 'Siberian' Stonechat Sefton Meadows, Merseyside, 27th May.

1975 Arctic Redpoll Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, 2nd-15th March.

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