



Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1994

M.J.Rogers and the Rarities Committee

With comments by P.M.Ellis and A.M.Stoddart

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 1993 Report (87: 503-571). 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, 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), normally 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 that 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, by special permission of the IRBC, following the subheading IRELAND.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (18, 139, 6)

Fife Largo Bay, age uncertain, 16th-17th October (A.W.Lauder *et al.*).

Highland Gruinard Bay, probably adult, 1st February to 1st May (S.Blamire, D.M.Pullan).

Northumberland Hauxley, age uncertain, 1st September (I.Fisher, S.Sexton *et al.*).

Suffolk Southwold, adult, 6th November (W.J.Brame, J.M.Cawston).

Western Isles Balranald, adult, 17th May (S.Robson).

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, female, recently dead, 15th October, photo. (B.Cockerill, J.R.Mather), skin retained by J.R.Mather.

A fairly average showing, with a typical set of dates, except for 1st September, and an unsurprising mixture of localities.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (0, 16, 1)

Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, since 1992 (Brit. Birds 87: 508), throughout the year, paired with Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, hatched three young by 9th July, two surviving to 15th October, one to 1995, photo. (per S.M.Christophers) (Brit. Birds 88 plate 147).

Northumberland Warkworth Lane Pond, since 1992 (Brit. Birds 87: 508) to 8th January, 8th- 17th April; same, Druridge Pool, 11th January to 21st March, photo. (per B.N.Rossiter).

Scilly Tresco, adult, 11th November to 1995, photo. (R.J.Hathway *et al.*).

This species now joins the very select list of those Nearctic vagrants which have bred in the Western Palearctic, but the chance of a 'pure' pair remains remote. The long-staying habit continues.

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

Shetland Hermaness, Unst, individual last recorded on 13th July 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 508), 26th March to 24th July (per D.Suddaby).

1974 Sussex, West Chichester Harbour, 10th May (Brit. Birds 68: 309), now considered inadequately documented.

The returning individual present for its twenty-first year over a twenty-three-year period.

Madeira/Cape Verde/Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma madeira/feae/mollis* (0, 6, 2)

1991 Humberside Flamborough Head, two, 6th September (J.McLoughlin).

IRELAND

Cork Mizen Head, two, 24th August.

1993 Cork Cape Clear Island, 11th August.

Apart from the two at Flamborough in 1991, all the accepted British & Irish records are concentrated in one 16-day period, during 11th-26th August (12th, 13th & 14th August 1989 at Porthgwarra, Cornwall; 26th August 1990 at Cape Clear Island; 20th August 1991 at St John's Point, Co. Down; and the two Irish records listed above). A 1994 record from Gwynedd remains to be dealt with.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (5, 86, 2)

Man, Isle of Calf of Man, 10th September (J.Bishop, Dr J.P.Thorpe); possibly same, 11th (N.V.McCanch).

1986 Tyne & Wear Tynemouth, 18th August (M.P.Carruthers, A.Hutt, K.D.Shaw).

This is possibly the most troublesome species of all for the Committee, hence the small number reaching these pages. Many submitted descriptions inspire little confidence that 'sluggish' Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* were not involved. Interestingly, the few photographed or specimen records from Britain are from the spring and early summer. Does this tell us anything?

In the Channel Islands, one passed Les Arquettes, Jersey, on 9th May 1994.

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

At sea Sea area Sole, 49°05'N 07°12'W, about 60 km SSW of Bishop Rock, Scilly, 13th August; two, 49°06'N 07°04'W, another two, 49°12'N 07°04'W, also 13th, photo. (P.Flint, J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

IRELAND

1993 At sea The record 20 km south of Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, on 25th August (Brit. Birds 87: 509) involved two individuals.

Entirely typical records of this species, the numbers of which depend largely on the number of pelagic trips launched in search of them. One seen from land remains a major prize.

Swinhoe's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis* (0, 3, 0)

Tyne & Wear Tynemouth, 11th July, heard only (M.G.Cubitt); same or another, trapped 23rd, 25th, same as 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 509), photo. (M.G.Cubitt *et al.*).

The female recorded every summer since 1990 (Brit. Birds 88: 342-348) returned once more to be tape-lured and trapped. No new individuals have been trapped at this site this decade, but one was discovered in similar circumstances at a colony of European Storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus* 2 km off Benidorm, Spain, on the night of 12th/13th July 1994.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (150, 174, 4)

Gwent Newport, male, 15th May (S.N.G.Howell, C.Jones, S.Webb).

Lothian Gorebridge, male, 11th May (R.M.McGregor).

Scilly Tresco, male, 5th-8th May (D.P.Wyatt *et al.*). St Mary's, female, 8th-17th May, photo., remains found about 31st (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

1984 Surrey Send, juvenile, 16th September (L.Norton).

1988 Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig Pool, male 25th June to 2nd July (Brit. Birds 82: 510), now considered inadequately documented.

A small influx in the first half of May, typically concentrated in the Southwest, though the one in Lothian was a good record for Scotland.

In the Channel Islands, one was at St Ouen's Pond, Jersey, from 7th to 10th May 1994.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 335, 18)

Greater London Brent Reservoir, first-summer, 19th May (S.E.Barbato *et al.*).

Gwent Newport, adult, 6th-23rd May (C. & Mrs R.Jones, R. & Mrs A.Jones *et al.*); first-summer, 6th-25th May, possibly since 10th April (J.R.Bennett, B.Burgess *et al.*).

Gwynedd Cefni Reservoir, Anglesey, adult, 2nd June (R.D.Hearn, H.Knott).

Hertfordshire Stevenage, juvenile, 12th August, photo. (R.Pople, A. & Mrs J.Tooby).

Kent Dungeness, first-summer, 5th June (D.Walker *et al.*).

Norfolk Sheringham, adult, 31st May (M.C.Young-Powell).

Shetland Fetlar, juvenile, 22nd October (J. & T.G.Davies, B.H.Thomason).

Suffolk Lackford, adult, 8th May (T.Humpage *et al.*).

Sussex, East Arlington, juvenile, 23rd December; photo. (J.Irons, P.Luffingham).

Sussex, West Thorney Deeps, adult, 19th April (C.B.Collins).

Tayside Kercock, probably first-summer, 3rd August (S.R.Hacker).

West Midlands Brierley Hill, adult, 6th-17th May, photo. (S.Edwards, A.Gwilt *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 145).

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, adult, 25th May (K.J.Grearon).

1989 Suffolk Lackford, second-year, 5th May (S.Bishop).

1993 Clwyd Ddol Uchaf, near Caerwys, immature, 18th June (J.C.Jones, M.G.Neal).

1993 Cornwall Portgaverne, adult, 8th April (D.Wilson).

1993 Kent Ham Fen, second-summer, 28th May (J.N.Hollyer).

IRELAND

Cork Cape Clear Island, adult and two second-years, 3rd May, one second-year remaining to 4th May. Sherkin Island, second-year, 9th May.

A typical scatter of largely May overshoots, but the Shetland record in October is of note.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 32, 7)

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, 11th-29th May (G.Hobin *et al.*); presumed same, Nance, near Towednack, 6th-10th June (S.Hodder *et al.*).

Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig Pool, 28th June (H.A.Williams).

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, 7th-9th July (D.Houghton, P.M.Potts *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 3rd-6th, 29th May (J. & Mrs E.Turner *et al.*); presumed same, St Mary's, intermittently, 8th May to 6th June, photo., St Martin's, intermittently, 20th-30th May; St Agnes, 29th May (per W.H.Wagstaff).

Yorkshire, South Thorpe Marsh, Doncaster, 2nd- 7th June, photo. (S.Chester *et al.*).

IRELAND

Waterford Dungarvan Harbour, two adults, 2nd to at least 17th May.

After a complete blank in 1993, an influx larger than any since at least 1958. The Cornish individual finished up at a site within 1 km of that in 1992.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (2, 74, 1)

Gloucestershire Near Gloucester, 19th March to 18th April, photo. (N.Hunt, A.Jayne *et al.*); same, Sandhurst, 29th July to at least 2nd September (per A.Jayne), presumed same as 1993 Hereford & Worcester below.

Hampshire Blashford, 14th-15th July (R.J.Casalis de Pury).

1993 Hereford & Worcester Besford, near Pershore, 25th October intermittently to 26th December, photo. (D.Stephens, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*); same, Bredon's Hardwick, 27th December (S.J.Huggins, S.M.Whitehouse).

A return to form after the double-figure influxes of 1986 and 1992.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 60, 3)

Buckinghamshire Milton Keynes, 22nd February to 2nd March, photo. (R.S.Hill, A.Stevenson *et al.*), presumed same as Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire.

Cambridgeshire Fen Drayton, 17th February (P.L.Varney *et al.*), presumed same as Buckinghamshire.

Norfolk Feltwell Anchor, since 22nd December 1993, to 13th February (Brit. Birds 87: 511), presumed same as Buckinghamshire. Cley, 21st January (T.C.Davies).

Northamptonshire Thrapston Gravel-pits, 18th February (J.E.Steward); same, Earls Barton, 20th (S.R.Mawby, J.Price-Stevens *et al.*), same as Buckinghamshire.

Shetland Brow Marsh, Spiggie, 28th April (A.J. & I.E.McCall).

Yorkshire, West Anglers Country Park, 26th May (P.Meredith, J.M.Turton).

1990 Highland Bunarkaig, Loch Lochy, 31st May to 1st June (Brit. Birds 86: 457), first noted 30th.

A return to the norm after the high number in 1993. The wintering individual mentioned in last year's Report (Brit. Birds 87: 511) became more mobile and toured the East Midlands until its eventual disappearance in March.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 91, 2)

Cumbria Blencogo, 11th April (T.Holden).

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 17th September (T.J.Edwards, R.Prior *et al.*); same, Littlehampton, 17th (R.J.L.Kemp, E.Standling).

1993 Hampshire Yew Tree Bottom, New Forest, 25th August (P.Palmer, D.P. & I.M.Powell), probably same as Isle of Wight, 26th (Brit. Birds 87: 512).

A poor year for this species after a series of influxes during the last decade.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 61, 1)

Cornwall Buryas Bridge, 27th September (D.S.Flumm, D.Oates), presumed same as Scilly.

Scilly Tresco, 23rd-27th September, photo. (R.J.Hathway *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 146); same, Bryher and Samson, 23rd, St Mary's, 24th (per W.H.Wagstaff).

With the long-staying individuals in Kent now no longer with us, this species reverts to being rare and unpredictable.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (47, 79, 2)

Kent Sheppey, adult, 23rd January to 6th March (J.R.Hunter, P.Worsley *et al.*); sub-adult, 5th-13th February (J.Cantelo, D.S.H.Coates *et al.*).

The present-day situation regarding the status of this species was dealt with recently (Brit. Birds 86: 458-459). In respect of the two records here, the Committee felt that it had no good grounds for presuming them to be escapes, but could not make the same view of two Norfolk records involving adults at Burnham Norton from 4th April to 1st May and at Welney during 9th-22nd December. It is worth noting that the Norfolk Bird Report for 1993 states that, on 16th January that year, four adults and five juveniles arrived at Pentney from the northeast in two family groups and that there were singles there in October and December, with others also at Wroxham, Surlingham, Titchwell and Fordham. Collection birds at Pensthorpe were not known to wander, but at Earsham, near Bungay (Brit. Birds 86: 458), there was still a full-winged flock of 15. There was also a neck-collared individual at Cantley on at least 20th December 1993 and another in the Yare Valley on 11th January 1994. Elsewhere, an unmarked individual was seen at various Dorset localities between 19th November 1992 and 1st September 1993.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

***B. b. nigricans* (1, 62, 4)**

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

Essex Horsey Island, adult, 26th November (C.McClure, R.Neave, S.D.Wood *et al.*).

Suffolk King's Fleet, Felixstowe, adult, 6th November (M.C.Marsh), not same as 1993.

1993 Suffolk Felixstowe, adult, 22nd-24th January (Brit. Birds 87: 513), finder was M.C.Marsh.

IRELAND

Down Killough, adult, 7th March to 5th April, presumed same as 11th-19th April 1992 (Brit. Birds 86: 459).

Dublin Poolbeg, adult, 1st April. This is a different individual from those recorded in Dublin in previous winters (Irish Birds 3: 108 *et seq.*).

Louth Annagassan, adult, 6th April.

1992 Dublin Coolock, 1st January.

1993 Dublin Rogerstown, 3rd January to 21st February; and a different individual, Malahide, 21st February to 9th April.

In West Sussex and Hampshire, the individual which had visited Thorney Island and East Hayling each winter since 2nd November 1986 (Brit. Birds 87: 513) failed to reappear in its usual haunts.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* (15, 26, 2)

Central Region/Strathclyde Endrick Mouth, 5th December (D.C.Orr-Ewing).

Dorset See Hampshire.

Essex Burnham-on-Crouch area, intermittently, 2nd January to 5th February (S.D.Wood *et al.*), presumed same as Sheppey, Kent, 26th-28th December 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 513).

Hampshire Shepherd Spring, 13th March (A.J.Polley); same, Brownsea Island, Dorset, 14th-30th (per M.Cade); same, Needs Oar, 17th (D.Chivers, G.Horacek-Davis); all presumed to relate to West Sussex escape in 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 514).

Norfolk Wells area, first-winter, 24th October to 6th November, photo. (A.I.Bloomfield, J.R.McCallum, R.Waddington *et al.*).

The current run of records continues, with at least one new individual under typical circumstances.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 250, 9)

Cleveland Cowpen Marsh and Greatham Tank Farm, male, female, 30th April, photo. (T.G.Francis, G.Joynt, C.Kehoe *et al.*).

Dorset Stanpit Marsh, first-winter male, 8th-12th March (P.Morrison *et al.*), also in Hampshire.

Fife Stenhouse Reservoir, male, 1st, 9th-10th January. Burntisland, male, 1st-2nd January, 6th, 9th February, two males, 4th January. Lochore Meadows, male, 17th-31st January, 5th-12th February, 3rd April (per D.E.Dickson). Two males involved, both presumed same as 1993 below.

Hampshire Tanner's Creek, first winter male, 13th March (S.G.Keen), same as Dorset.

Lancashire Leighton Moss, male, 7th-9th, 20th December (A.Schofield, J.Searle *et al.*).

1988 Cleveland See below.

1989 Cleveland Seal Sands, Greatham Creek, Saltholme Pools, male, since 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 514), to 23rd January (per G.Joynt).

1992 Grampian Loch of Skene, first-winter male, 16th to at least 22nd November (A.Aitken, J.Vaughan *et al.*).

1992 Strathclyde Campbeltown Loch, male, 2nd February to 14th April, photo. (E.J.Maguire *et al.*).

1993 Fife Stenhouse Reservoir, male, to 13th March (Brit. Birds 87: 514), to 9th March only. Burntisland, two males, 16th October to 29th December; presumed one of same, Lochore Meadows, 17th to at least 23rd November (per D.E.Dickson), both presumed returning 1992-93 individuals.

IRELAND

Cork Whitegate Bay and Rostellan Lake, male, 4th December to 1995, presumed same as 1992/93 and 1993/94 (Brit. Birds 85: 514; 87: 515).

Cork/Limerick Charleville Lagoons, first-winter male, 3rd December to at least 25th February 1995.

Donegal Lough Swilly, adult male, 22nd to 23rd January. Dunfanaghy, adult male, 20th March.

Fermanagh Castle Caldwell, Lower Lough Erne, male, female, throughout January, believed to be the same as those recorded in 1991, 1992 and 1993 (Irish Birds 5: 85, 214).

Londonderry Lough Beg, adult male, 25th to 27th May (perhaps the same as one reported a few days earlier at Belfast Harbour Pools, Down).

Wicklow Blessington, adult male, 25th September to 1st October.

1986 Londonderry Lough Foyle, male, 5th October (Irish Birds 3: 616), should be deleted: this was female, as correctly stated in Irish Birds (4: 86).

1993 Cork Whitegate/Rostellan area, male, since 1992 (Brit. Birds 87: 515), remained to at least 19th February, returned 16th October and remained to 1994. Reenydonegan Lake, female or juvenile male, 12th October.

1993 Wexford Tacumshin, adult male, 14th March.

It is always difficult to identify particular occurrence patterns or new individuals of this species, but 1994 clearly saw no great influx of new blood.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

***A. c. carolinensis* (13, 321, -)**

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

1990 Humberside Hornsea Mere, 7th April to 5th May (T.D.Charlton *et al.*).

This race is no longer considered by the Committee.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (1, 18, 2)

Scilly Tresco, male, 1st April to 1995, photo. (R.J.Hathway *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 152).

IRELAND

Cork Lissagriffin, 3rd September to at least mid October.

1993 Cork Ballycotton, male, 26th to 28th January; same individual at Loughaderry from 30th January to at least 9th February.

The latest new arrival in Scilly looks set to continue the long-staying tradition.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (19, 168, 5)

Cleveland Reclamation Pond and Haverton Hole, female, intermittently, 30th August to 29th September (M.J.Gee, C.Kehoe *et al.*).

Devon Roadford Reservoir, male, 17th-21st October (I.Kendall, S.G.Madge, P.Stone *et al.*).

Kent Stoke Lagoon, female, 18th-30th May, consorting with male Northern Shoveler *A.clypeata* (T.E.Bowley, D.L.Davenport *et al.*).

IRELAND

Wexford Lady's Island Lake, male, 9th November.

Wicklow Kilcoole/Newcastle, female, 11th to 21st September.

1987 Down Quoile Pondage (Irish Birds 3: 617) was male.

A decline in fortunes from the higher totals of the 1980s, but the traditional habits of autumn occurrence and making friends with Northern Shovelers *A.clypeata* remain.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1, 334, -)

1991 Humberside Hornsea Mere, male, 25th May (T.D.Charlton, C.R.Hine).

1992 Highland Loch Morlich, female, 29th October to 5th December (S.Blamire, T.M.Brereton, D.M.Pullan *et al.*).

1992 Humberside Hornsea Mere, male, 5th April to 2nd May (T.D.Charlton *et al.*), presumed same as 1991 above.

1993 Cleveland/Durham Crookfoot Reservoir, male, 9th-10th May (B.J.K.Caswell, G.Joynt), presumed same as Cleveland and Durham, May 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 515).

1993 Scilly Tresco, male, 23rd September (R.J.Arnfield, R.J.Hathway *et al.*).

1993 Yorkshire, West Pugneys Country Park, male, 7th September (P.Smith), presumed returning 1991 West Yorkshire individual (Brit. Birds 85: 516).

IRELAND

1990 Armagh Ellis's Gut, Lough Neagh, male (Brit. Birds 87: 516), refers to Co. Down.

1990 Down See 1990 Armagh, above.

1993 Kerry Killarney, male, January to March and November to March 1994.

The female at Loch Morlich was discovered on the same day as the regular male reappeared (Brit. Birds 87: 516), but neither then nor during subsequent observations did they seem to show any particular interest in each other, despite the fact that both departed at about the same time. The Humberside individual in both 1991 and 1992 provided yet another example of short-staying apparent passage migrants in spring. There are as yet few clues as to where these birds are summering. This species is no longer considered by the Committee.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0, 7, 2)

Gloucestershire Lechlade, male, 10th November to 28th December, photo. (C.Menendez, S.N.Thomson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 150 & 151).

Lancashire Pine Lake and Dockacres Gravel-pit, first-winter male, 18th-31st December, photo. (W.C.Aspin, P.J.Marsh, J.F.Wright *et al.*).

With two further records, this species looks destined to become an annual feature in these Reports.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 74, 4)

Fife Tayport, male, 2nd January to 26th February; same, Lucky Scalp, River Tay, 2nd March; presumed same, Tentsmuir Point, River Tay, 16th October to 1995 (O.Campbell *et al.*), presumed returning 1993 individual (Brit. Birds 87: 517). Presumed same as Ythan Estuary, Grampian, below. Methil, female, 20th September (D.E.Dickson *et al.*).

Grampian Ythan Estuary, male, 26th March (C.H. & the late A.G.Clarke, C.Hill *et al.*); same, Murcar, 6th July (G.Buchanan, A.Webb, R.White); presumed same, Girdle Ness, 12th June (Dr I.M.Phillips, K.D.Shaw); also in Fife. Kingston, male, 2nd May (M.J.H.Cook); presumed same, Lossiemouth, 9th October to 1995 (C.A.Gervaise, R.A.Mavor, R.Proctor *et al.*).

Shetland Mousa Sound, first-winter male, 8th January to at least 29th April (P.M.Ellis *et al.*); presumed same, as first-summer, Sumburgh Head, 16th July to at least 21st August (M.Heubeck *et al.*). West Voe of Sumburgh, female, 16th to at least 24th January (M.Mellor *et al.*); presumed same, Wadbister Voe, 24th November (A. & J.Clifton). Raewick, Redayre and Tresta area, male, since 10th November 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 517), to 11th September (per K.Osborn).

1993 Fife Tayport, male, to 6th March (Brit. Birds 87: 517), 13th March (per D.E.Dickson).

1993 Highland Brora, male, to 17th February (Brit. Birds 87: 517), 19th March, 5th-8th May (A.Vittery).

The male regularly visiting Brora, Highland, was apparently missing this year, as was one of the regulars on the Ythan Estuary. A further Shetland record remains under consideration.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

M. n. americana (0, 5, 0)

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

1992 Highland Burghead Bay, male, at least 8th December (Brit. Birds 87: 518), locality is in Grampian.

1993 Grampian Findhorn, male, 23rd February (R.J.Evans); presumed same, Burghead, 12th March (M.C.Dennis *et al.*), presumed same as December 1992 (Brit. Birds 87: 518).

1993 Highland Dornoch, male, 21st April (Brit. Birds 87: 517), 6th-7th March, 4th April (I.A.MacDonald per A.Vittery).

Observers are reminded that excellent views and descriptions are required to substantiate claims of this race.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (5, 2, 2)

Cleveland Coatham Marsh, first-summer male, 1st-7th June, photo. (D.J.Britton, I.Foster, E.M.Laverick *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Colwick, male, 17th-26th March, photo. (S.Boot, M.C.Dennis *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 148 & 149).

The publication of these records does not constitute any official endorsement of their status as wild birds, but merely that in both cases their identification was established beyond doubt. The last British record, however, from south Uist, Western Isles, from 14th to 18th March 1980 (Brit. Birds 74: 464) and most of the Western Palearctic records from 1980 onwards suggest that the date of discovery of the Colwick individual does no harm to its credentials as a wild bird.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 193, 26)

Avon Walton-in-Gordano, 14th May (R.J.Prytherch).

Cleveland Billingham, 17th August (M.A.Blick).

Cornwall St Buryan area, 18th-21st May (G.Hobin *et al.*).

Dorset Portland, 4th May (G.Walbridge, J.Williamson). Abbotsbury, 10th May (S.A.Groves). Edmondsham, 16th June (H.G.Wood Homer).

Essex Rayleigh, 9th May (R. & Mrs S.Peppiatt). Colne Point, 10th May (N.Harvey).

Hampshire Pig Bush, New Forest, 9th May (G.Maclean, P.Pearson).

Kent Bough Beech Reservoir, 24th April (C.Bond, M.C.Buckland, J.Tilbrook *et al.*); 9th May (C.Newton, S.R. & Mrs J.R.Perry). Pegwell Bay, 12th May (D.C.Gilbert). Dover, 13th May (J.T.Smith). St Margaret's Bay, 15th May; 30th May (A.J.Greenland).

Lancashire Preston, 24th April (J.G. & P.M.Hall), presumed same as Merseyside.

Lincolnshire Boston, 4th June (P.A. & Mrs P.J.Hyde).

Merseyside Seaforth, 24th April, photo. (P.Kinsella, T.Vaughan, S.Young *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 164), also in Lancashire.

Norfolk Beeston, 29th April (D.Bryant, N.Owens, J.C.Wasse *et al.*); same, Blakeney, 29th (J.Gallagher). Cromer, 2nd May (B.J.Murphy). Attleborough, 15th May (C. & Master J.Knott).

Scilly St Mary's, 22nd April (G.M.Haig); same, Tresco, 22nd-24th (R.J.Hathway *et al.*).

Strathclyde Pinwherry, Ayrshire, 6th June (P.McEwen, A.Stevenson).

Surrey Capel, 15th May (W.Attridge, D.C.Fraser).

Tyne & Wear Tynemouth, 28th April (T.J.Tams), probably same as North Yorkshire.

Wiltshire Little Durnford, 4th June (G.D.Pictor, Miss G.M.Young). Aldbourne, 12th June (G.L.Webber).

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, 28th April, photo. (P.J.Dunn), probably same as Tyne & Wear.

1989 Humberside Hornsea Mere, 12th May (T.D.Charlton, J.Dale).

1991 Dorset Near Cranborne, 23rd May (W.Hayloff, S.S.King, G.Shepherd).

1991 Humberside Hornsea Mere, 11th May (T.D.Charlton, T.Isherwood, A.Shepherd).

1993 Devon Teignmouth, 18th August (R.Normand).

1993 Hampshire Wendleholme, Warsash, 28th April (R.K.Levett).

The best year ever, with an impressive number of spring overshoots in the South and Southeast, but sightings remain as brief and elusive as ever. Eliminating duplication is difficult with such mobile birds, but the ongoing upward trend is clear enough. Nevertheless, observers should resist the temptation to jump to conclusions with this species, as both Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* and dark Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* need to be eliminated carefully. Many claims continue to be superficial and unconvincing.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (many, 23, 1)

Northumberland Rayburn Lake, Morpeth, first-winter, 21st March (A.D.McLevy).

This bird's proximity to Scotland and the reintroduced population there raises the question as to where any arbitrary geographical dividing line should be drawn.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (3, 4, 0)

1993 Essex Holliwell Point, second-summer male, 13th-15th June (E.Jackson, D. & P.J.Low, J. & Mrs I.Miller, J.C.Sutherby).

1993 Leicestershire Saddington Reservoir, male, 15th September (D.J.S.Gamble).

1993 Shetland Exnaboe area, juvenile, 15th-16th September, photo. (D. & J.Coutts, J.N.Dymond, H.R.Harrop, M.Mellor *et al.*).

1993 Tayside Locality withheld, male, probably second-summer, 5th-7th May (J.Craib, R.Etheridge, Mrs W.Mattingley).

Undoubtedly amongst the highlights of 1993, these four accepted records place the species well and truly back on the British scene after 40 blank years and more than double the all-time total. Their lucky observers will be widely envied. This influx sits neatly in the context of larger-than-normal numbers in northern Europe in 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 4; 88: 268). Those in spring are clearly overshoots, whereas those in autumn, both miraculously on the same day, were caught up in a strong easterly flow which was responsible for the arrival of many large birds of prey, notably Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus*. The Tayside individual is perhaps of greatest interest in that it exhibited territorial behaviour and drew attention to itself by its display and call. One further report from 1993, in Humberside in September, remains under consideration. It has also been brought to our attention that the adult male reportedly shot 'in east Dorset' on 11th April 1938 (Brit. Birds 32: 150), and still in identifiable condition at the County Museum, Dorchester, is in fact labelled as having been obtained at Whatcombe, near Blandford Forum. On a technical note, the BOURC is currently considering the question of transferring this species from Category B to Category A.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (11, 6, 0)

1992 Greater London Hampstead Heath, male, 31st May (M.A.Hardwick).

1968 Cornwall St Ives, 31st May (Brit. Birds 62: 466), was first-summer male, correct date 30th.

The following records are now considered to have been inadequately documented:

1969 Cornwall Porthgwarra, 11th October (Brit. Birds 63: 274).

1971 Scilly St Agnes, 28th October (Brit. Birds 65: 331).

1973 Glamorgan, West Vale of Neath, 7th November (Brit. Birds 67: 319).

1973 Staffordshire Cannock Chase Reservoir, now Chasewater, 4th November (Brit. Birds 67: 319).

1973 Sussex, West Steyning, 4th November (Brit. Birds 67: 319).

1983 Humberside Atwick, 14th June (Brit. Birds 79: 541).

Following the review of post-1958 records, the six listed above have been considered inadequately documented. The review therefore considerably alters the status of this species in Britain and further emphasises its occurrence here largely as a spring overshoot rather than an autumn vagrant. Of the 17 currently acceptable records, only three now fall in October/November, with a clear majority falling in May/June, a pattern more consistent with what one might expect from a species with such a southerly distribution. This places the 1992 record neatly into the established pattern and it is noteworthy that its occurrence coincided with the second of two large waves of Red-footed Falcons *F.vespertinus* in that month.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 522, 19)

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, female, 24th May (C.Kehoe).

Cornwall St Columb Major, first-summer male, 6th-12th June (S.M.Christophers, A.Grundon *et al.*).

Humberside Spurn, female, 12th-13th May (F.Baudet, J.Cudworth *et al.*).

Kent Stodmarsh, first-summer female, 9th-11th May (R.Boulden, D.C.Gilbert).

Lancashire Leighton Moss, female, 27th-28th May, photo. (P.J.Marsh *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 165).

Lincolnshire Kirkby Moor, female, 14th-19th May, photo. (G.P.Catley, A.Parker *et al.*). Donna Nook, female, 22nd-25th May (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Wright *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: page 510 fig. 1); same, North Coates, 26th (per G.P.Catley).

Suffolk Great Livermere, female, 25th-29th May, photo. (T.Humpage, T.Stopher *et al.*). Minsmere, female, 29th May to 3rd June (S.Dove, A.Lapworth, A.Smith *et al.*).

Sussex, East Icklesham, female, 30th May to 12th June (I.Hunter).

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, first-summer female, 6th May (R.H.Appleby).

Yorkshire, South Royd Moor Reservoir, female, 28th May (J.E.Dale, N.E.Parker, M.Wells *et al.*).

1990 Strathclyde Southend, Kintyre, female, 19th August (E.J.Maguire).

1992 Hampshire King's Somborne, first-summer male, 21st-22nd June (J.G.Grafton, T.J.Norriss).

1992 Highland Loch Flemington, male, 15th-16th May (M.Harvey, A.F.McNee, G.Prest).

1992 Norfolk Winterton, first-summer male, female, first-summer female, 14th May (G.M.Cresswell).

IRELAND

Cork Cape Clear Island, second-year male, 4th May.

Londonderry Lough Beg, male, 22nd to 29th May.

Tipperary Rockwell, female, 15th May.

Waterford Helvick Head, female, 5th May.

Wexford Near Kilmore Quay, female, 3rd to at least 20th May.

Wicklow Five-mile-point/Kilcoole, female, 15th to 16th May. Blessington, female, 19th May.

At sea Fastnet Rock area, female, came aboard fishing boat 32 km off Co. Cork, 3rd May, cared for and released at Youghal on 17th May.

An average showing, and no surprises in either dates or locations. Of particular interest, however, is the great preponderance of females, for which no obvious reason presents itself. Previous influxes, including the invasion of 1992 (Brit. Birds 87: 223-231), have contained no such imbalance between the sexes. The late acceptances for 1992 raise that year's total to an astonishing 125. The field identification of this species has recently been reviewed by Brian Small (Brit. Birds 88: 181-189).

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 106, 5)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first- or second-year female, white-phase, 5th March to 2nd May (J.Cutt, P.J.Donnelly, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*); presumed same, Stronsay, 12th-18th April (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway).

Shetland Easter Quarff, female, white-phase, 18th February (H.R.Harrop, M.Mellor). Mid Yell, first-winter male, white-phase, 14th February (P.V.Harvey, D.Suddaby); presumed same, Haroldswick, Unst, 20th (M.J.Macleod, M.G.Pennington), Westings, Unst, 28th (per M.G.Pennington), Sandwick, 14th April (M.Heubeck). Nesbister, 16th March (C.J.Fraser), presumed same as one or other of above.

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, white-phase, 14th April (J.Vaughan).

IRELAND

Mayo Clare Island, adult female, found moribund, mid May.

1992 Donegal Bunbeg, 14th March.

Despite some long stays in the Northern Isles, appearances were often brief and widely separated in time and location, thus hindering attempts to determine the true number of individuals involved. Several records from earlier years remain under consideration. Further to the list of records of white-phase individuals in the 1993 Report (Brit. Birds 87: 520), it is now known that the one at Glen Tanar, Grampian, on 18th April 1973 (Brit. Birds 67: 318) was also white-phase.

Little Crake *Porzana parva* (68, 30, 1)

Dorset Stanpit Marsh, juvenile moulting to first-winter male, 17th August, photo. (J.Hall, D.N.Smith *et al.*).

This species remains unpredictable in its occurrences, this being the first since 1987.

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

1986 Cheshire Burton Point, at least 25th August (Brit. Birds 87: 521), entered Clwyd daily, 18th-28th (E.J.Abraham).

1986 Clwyd See above.

This species is no longer considered by the Committee.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* (92, 15, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 5th-6th November (Mrs E.A.Riddiford, Dr R.Riddington, N.C.Ward *et al.*).

Always a major prize, this ranks high on the list of highlights of autumn 1994 and fits well into the established late-autumn/early-winter pattern.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 196, 1)

Kent Dungeness, 11th July (D.Okines).

Norfolk Titchwell, since 17th September 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 521), to 1995, photo. (B.J.Robson *et al.*).

IRELAND

1993 Cork Dunworly Bay, adult, 12th April.

1993 Wexford Lady's Island Lake, adult female, 10th to 24th April.

With only one new bird, this was the worst showing since 1982. The Norfolk individual looks set to become a permanent resident.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (31, 48, 2)

Gloucestershire See Hereford & Worcester.

Hereford & Worcester Bredon's Hardwick, 4th May (R.W.Price, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*), flew into Gloucestershire (per A.Jayne); presumed same, near Hereford, 20th May (S.Coney, C.Wells).

Norfolk Titchwell, 1st-3rd, 14th July, photo. (B.J.Robson, C.Samuels *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 166); presumed same, Cley, intermittently, 4th-20th (per G.E.Dunmore).

A swift response to the request in the Report for 1992 (Brit. Birds 86: 476), but this species remains rare and shows no signs of regaining its levels of occurrence of the 1970s. The one in Norfolk was the first in that county this century.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* (0, 5, 0)

1993 Suffolk Havergate, 4th, 19th September (C.A., M.L. & W.R.Cornish, S.Denny).

1993 Sussex, East Pevensey Levels, 29th-30th August (D. & J.F.Cooper, R.D.M.Edgar, R.J.Fairbank *et al.*).

The Committee could find no direct evidence to link either of these records with that of the 1993 Norfolk individual, which was last seen on 17th August (Brit. Birds 87: 522). It is clearly possible for only one erratically wandering bird to have been involved, but it seems equally reasonable to treat those in East Anglia as relating to the same bird and that in Sussex as a separate occurrence.

Collared/Oriental/Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola pratincola/maldivarum/nordmanni* (36, 99, 2)

1993 **Sussex**, West Pagham Harbour, 21st September (T.J.Edwards).

The totals include those specifically identified.

Killdeer Plover *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 40, 0)

1993 **Shetland** Hillwell and Brake area, 17th-18th March (Brit. Birds 87: 522), full dates 13th-20th.

The one on Anglesey in December 1993 referred to in last year's Report (Brit. Birds 87: 522) lingered into 1994 (Brit. Birds 88: plate 161), but still remains to be properly documented.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (0, 28, 2)

Cornwall Hayle, adult, 26th August (C.Batty, A.S.Disley) (Brit. Birds 88: page 513 fig.4).

Humberside South Ferriby and Read's Island area, adult, 10th-11th July (G.P.Catley, S.Routledge).

1990 **Clwyd** Oakenholt Marsh, adult, 2nd-4th August, photo. (I.Higginson *et al.*).

1990 **Lancashire** Pilling, adult, 22nd July to at least 6th August (Brit. Birds 85: 525), 24th (P.J.Marsh, T.Wilmer *et al.*).

IRELAND

1993 **Dublin** Swords Estuary, adult, 3rd to 5th August.

1993 **Wexford** The Cull, adult, 21st to 24th July; same individual at Tacumshin, 24th July to 2nd August.

It is quite possible that the one in Humberside was the same individual as that in the same area on similar dates in 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 524), whilst the Clwyd occurrence echoes that of a specifically indeterminate bird at the same locality on 23rd July 1989 (Brit. Birds 86: 477). The first British records also involved presumed repeat performances at Aberlady, Lothian, on 10th-16th July 1976 and 9th July 1977. The pattern of summer and early-autumn adults is now well established, but are we missing juveniles later in the autumn?

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (6, 173, 8)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, adult, 23rd-27th October (R.M.Andrews, S.Preddy *et al.*).

Devon Northam Burrows, juvenile, 19th-27th October (I.Kendall *et al.*).

Hampshire Lower Pennington, juvenile, 20th November (M.C. & P.Combridge).

Lincolnshire Holbeach Marsh, adult, 24th July (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Wright).

Strathclyde Cumnock, Ayrshire, 12th-17th March (M.Williamson *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Whitburn, adult, 18th-21st September, photo. (D.M.Foster *et al.*); same, St Mary's Island, 24th-25th (C.Knox, J.G.Steele *et al.*). St Mary's Island, juvenile, 25th September to 11th October, photo. (I.Fisher, J.R.Todd *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 158); same, Whitburn, intermittently, 8th October to 30th November (D.M.Foster *et al.*).

1993 **Humberside** South Ferriby, adult, 24th July (Brit. Birds 87: 524); presumed same, Blacktoft Sands, 30th (Mr & Mrs A.D.Alexander, J.Davison, T.K.Sykes).

IRELAND

Cork Clonakilty/Inchydoney, juvenile, 22nd October.

1993 **Cork** Kinsale Marsh, juvenile, 10th to 14th October.

1993 **Kerry** Rough Point, Castlegregory, adult, 17th to 19th July.

1993 **Londonderry** Bann Estuary, first-summer or adult, 17th to 20th August.

A fairly average scatter, though spring records are still unusual, and the two overlapping individuals in Tyne & Wear would be noteworthy anywhere but are especially so on the East Coast. The Lincolnshire bird is a further reminder that early-autumn adult 'Lesser Golden Plovers' are not automatically Pacifics. Some of the identification pitfalls of this species were highlighted recently by Graham P. Catley (Brit. Birds 88: 195, 209-210).

Pacific/American Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva/dominica* (6, 210, 12)

IRELAND

Cork Ballycotton, 29th to 30th August; 14th to 15th October.

The totals include those specifically identified.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 69, 2)

Devon Lundy, juvenile, 9th-10th October (G.K.Gordon *et al.*).

Hampshire Keyhaven Marsh, adult, 17th-18th July (D.N.Smith, P.A.Stancliffe *et al.*).

An average showing.

Details of one in adult summer plumage in Orkney in June 1993 have recently been published as an exemplary submission to the Committee (Brit. Birds 88: 196-200).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (0, 2, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, recently dead, 31st August, photo., now at National Museum of Scotland (Dr R.Riddington, J.A.Stout *et al.*).

The first juvenile for Britain and Ireland (and indeed for Europe) was long expected, but perhaps not at this location or under these circumstances. The prize for discovering a live juvenile remains to be claimed.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* (0, 2, 0)

1970 Cornwall Marazion, 7th-8th June, photo. (J.H.Johns, P.D.Round *et al.*); previously accepted as Least Sandpiper *C.minutilla* (Brit. Birds 64: 351).

This record has been under review for a considerable period, but the fact that it was well photographed and that birdwatchers (including members of the Committee) are now far more familiar with the species ensured its eventual unanimous acceptance as the first for Britain and Ireland, and indeed Europe. One of the photographs helpfully showed a raised foot and was therefore a vital clue in the assessment process. The only other accepted British record, a juvenile at Saltholme Pool, Cleveland, from 28th August to 1st September 1982 (Brit. Birds 78: 546; 85: 429-436), now becomes the second.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 332, 9)

Cheshire Frodsham, adult, 11th August (E.J.Abraham, W.S.Morton, D.Roberts).

Kent Cliffe, adult, 12th-14th August, photo. (R.C.Peters *et al.*).

Leicestershire Rutland Water, adult, 21st-24th July, photo. (T.P.Appleton, A.H.J.Harrop, A.Lees *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: page 510 fig. 2).

Strathclyde Barassie, adult, 27th-29th August (R.H.Hogg *et al.*). Turnberry Point, adult, 17th September (R.H.Hogg).

IRELAND

Cork Lissagriffin, 7th September. Inchydoney, adult, 8th September. Rosscarbery, juvenile, 14th October.

Wicklow Kilcoole/Newcastle, adult, 10th to 17th September.

1993 Cork Ballycotton, adult, 20th to 24th July. Kinsale Marsh, juvenile, 1st to 10th October.

1993 Wicklow Kilcoole, adult, 13th to 14th August.

An unimpressive showing of the now-expected early-autumn adults, though inland records are rare.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 163, 6)

Cumbria South Walney, juvenile, 14th-15th September (W.Makin, P.Zaltowski *et al.*).

Leicestershire Eye Brook Reservoir, juvenile, 17th-26th September, photo. (A.H.J.Harrop, L.Proctor, J.Wright *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88 page 511 fig. 3).

Northamptonshire Stanwick Gravel-pits, adult, 31st July to 1st August, photo. (C.J.Coe, F.C.Smith *et al.*).

Western Isles St Kilda, age uncertain, 16th-20th August (T.J.Dix, J.Vaughan, J.A.Wolstencroft).

1990 Suffolk Easton Bavents, juvenile, 27th October to at least 1st November (Brit. Birds 86: 480), 27th October only.

1993 Norfolk Titchwell, adult, 25th August (Brit. Birds 87: 526), 27th (C. & D.K.Lamsdell).

1993 Orkney North Ronaldsay, juvenile, 4th-11th October (M.Gray *et al.*).

IRELAND

Cork Inchydoney, juvenile, 6th September.

Kerry Blackrock Strand, juvenile, 3rd to 5th September.

An average number, though, as with the previous species, note the inland occurrences.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (5, 16, 1)

1973 Cheshire See below.

1973 Clwyd Shotton, Flintshire, 14th-24th October (Brit. Birds 67: 323), was on Shotwick Fields, flew across Cheshire boundary briefly on 16th (E.J.Abraham).

IRELAND

Wexford Tacumshin, adult, 7th to 20th August (Brit. Birds 88: plate 159).

None in Britain in 1994 but the first Irish record.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 150, 7)

Cleveland Saltholme Marsh, 5th-7th May, photo. (D.Clayton, G.Joynt, J.Grieverson *et al.*). Greatham Creek and Greenabella Marsh, 22nd-26th July (N.A.Preston, A.J.Wheeldon *et al.*). Seal Sands, juvenile, 27th September to 3rd October (T.G.Francis, R.M.Ward *et al.*).

Hampshire Pennington Marsh, 2nd-7th May (J.M.Clark, J.A.Eyre, D.Gumn *et al.*).

Kent Shellness, 3rd May, photo. (R.E.Jackson). Elmley, 19th-22nd July (J.A.Rowlands *et al.*).

Strathclyde Balephetrish Bay, Tiree, 13th May (P.A.Fraser, C.J.Murphy).

1992 Cleveland Greatham Creek and Seal Sands, 3rd-6th June (Brit. Birds 86: 480), delete P.A.A.Baxter. Additional record: Greenabella Marsh, 23rd June (P.A.A.Baxter *et al.*).

IRELAND

1993 Kerry Rough Point, Castlegregory, adult, 17th to 18th July.

A typical set of May and July records, though autumn juveniles remain hard to come by and are therefore highly prized. With the late acceptances detailed here, Cleveland is making a bid to rival Norfolk as the premier county for this species. Norfolk had its first blank year since 1988.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 73, 4)

Norfolk Sheringham, 17th September (D.P.Appleton, K.B.Shepherd *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 1st October (M.Gray). Honeysgeo, South Ronaldsay, 20th October (T.Dean).

Shetland Geosetter, 29th September (N.Alford, N.R.Stocks).

Four records is higher than the average, and there were five in 1993.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 171, 3)

Cornwall Crowdy Reservoir and Davidstow Airfield, age uncertain, 17th-23rd September, photo. (A. & P.Blonden, G.P.Sutton *et al.*).

Norfolk Pentney, 28th April (J.D.Geeson *et al.*).

Tayside Montrose Basin, adult, 10th-29th July (G.M.Addison, M.S.Scott *et al.*); presumed same, as returning individual, 17th-24th September (M.Groves, D.Whitton *et al.*).

1968 Norfolk Snettisham, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 7th-30th September (D.J.Holman *et al.*), previously accepted as unspecified dowitcher (Brit. Birds 62: 468).

IRELAND

1987 Kerry Akeragh Lough, 13th September to 26th October.

1993 Clare Lough O'Donnell, 30th October.

1993 Cork Ballycotton, juvenile, 24th September, joined by another juvenile on 25th September.

A poor year. Spring ones are still good finds.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 68, 5)

Kent High Halstow area, 8th-16th May, 12th, 25th June, 3rd July (P.G.Akers, P.Larkin); presumed same, Cliffe, 7th July to 22nd August, photo. (D.Mercer *et al.*, per D.W.Taylor), possibly same as Surrey.

Northamptonshire Earls Barton Gravel-pits, 19th-23rd April, photo. (G.P.Douglas, S.R.Mawby *et al.*).

Surrey Old Woking, 4th-7th May (J.Gates *et al.*), possibly same as Kent.

IRELAND

Wexford North Slob, two, 17th August, one remaining to 21st August.

The records here are well in line with the average of recent years, apart from small influxes in 1984 and 1990.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (12, 17, 1)

Cumbria Carr Beds, Rockcliffe, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 15th-28th October, 12th-13th November, photo. (A.Cremin *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 163).

1992 Cambridgeshire Welches Dam, 24th May (R.M.Patient, B.J.Small *et al.*).

These, including the late acceptance, are the first in Britain since the record three in 1985. The Cumbria individual may well have been the same as one present at Zeebrugge, Belgium, from 27th November to 2nd December (Brit. Birds 88: 272). This remains a very rare bird, given to prolonged absences.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 193, 2)

Dorset Coward's Marsh, Christchurch, first-winter, 30th November to 3rd December; same, Stanpit Marsh, 3rd-6th, and Wickfield area to mid month, photo. (A.Hayden *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 162).

Norfolk Cley, 13th-15th May, photo. (T.C.Davies *et al.*).

A very poor showing indeed, and not a single one in autumn.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 99, 4)

Cambridgeshire Fen Drayton, first-winter, since 7th October 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 529), to 1st May (per R.Allison).

Kent Near Ashford, adult, 14th-15th June, photo. (Dr C.Powell *et al.*).

Norfolk Welney, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 18th September to 27th January 1995 (J.B.Kemp *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Holme Pierrepont, first-winter, 17th December to 5th January 1995, trapped 28th December, photo. (B. & J.Ellis, A.W.Mason, D.C.Wood *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 121 & 122).

1992 Yorkshire, West (Brit. Birds 87: 529); two previously overlooked records probably related to this same individual: Wath Ings, South Yorkshire, 24th-25th May 1982 (Brit. Birds 76: 498), and Ingbirchworth Reservoir, South Yorkshire, adult, 13th-28th September 1983 (Brit. Birds 77: 527) (per J.M.Turton).

IRELAND

Kerry Dunquin, 22nd June.

This species, along with Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, remains strangely rare (particularly in autumn) and, for the time being at least, is occurring largely as a winterer.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* (0, 1, 1)

Grampian Burghead, juvenile, 27th November to 27th December, photo. (P.T.Hirst, J.M.Stenning *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 160).

The second for Britain and the Western Palearctic, following the one at the Dyfi Estuary, Dyfed/Gwynedd, from 13th October to 17th November 1981 (Brit. Birds 80: 540; 88: 255-262). Not a wholly surprising re-occurrence given the length of the species' migration and its previous history of vagrancy to both the Western Palearctic and the Nearctic. The nearest part of its breeding range lies west of the Yenisey, and is therefore closer than that of both Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* and Red-necked Stint *C.ruficollis*.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 251, 3)

Devon Lower Tamar Lake, first-winter, 4th-6th September, photo. (D.Churchill, J.Hawkey *et al.*).

Norfolk Locality in Broadland, age uncertain, 16th-20th September (P.J.Heath, B.W.Jarvis *et al.*).

Somerset Steart, first-winter, 10th-15th September, photo. (B.Jones, N.Milbourne, R.Musgrave *et al.*).

After 1993's complete blank, a small September scattering, but still well below average by the standards of the 1970s and 1980s.

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

Tayside Kinnaber, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 16th October (R.D.Goater).

IRELAND

Armagh Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, second-winter, 25th August.

No documentation has yet been received for claims in Devon and Merseyside.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 28, 2)

Cornwall Hayle, adult, 21st October (M.C., P. & Mrs S.M.Combridge *et al.*).

Devon Topsham, adult, 25th June (P. & Mrs C.Leigh *et al.*).

With none in Britain before 1970, this species has missed only two years since 1979. Records are always well scattered, both in location and in time of year.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 69, 3)

Cornwall Marazion area, adult, 3rd-5th May (D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*).

Essex Hadleigh Marsh, adult, 27th August (P.D.Green, A.R.Perkins, C.Todd).

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, adult, 4th-6th October (E.S.Clare *et al.*).

1961 Sussex, East Portobello, Brighton, immature, 20th June (Brit. Birds 55: 574), now considered inadequately documented.

A typical scatter, in both number and location, but well short of the record numbers in 1990.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

***L. g. kumlieni/thayeri* (0, 20, 11)**

Individuals showing the characters of one or other of the western races *L.g.kumlieni* or *L.g.thayeri* were noted as follows:

Grampian Banff, adult, 27th March (D.P.Appleton), probably also present 4th, 29th January, 3rd-9th April, presumed same as 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 531).

Shetland Virkie, adult, 3rd February (D.Coutts, I.Sandison). Lerwick, adult, 8th, 14th February (D.Coutts, C.Donald, I.Sandison); same, Scalloway, 11th, photo. (P.Sclater *et al.*). Lerwick, adult, 9th-10th February (P.M.Ellis *et al.*); first-winter, 10th February to 10th March, photo. (P.Sclater *et al.*); first-winter, 7th-29th March, photo. (D.Suddaby *et al.*); second-winter, 25th January, 6th-10th February (L.Dalziel, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Bigton, remains of adult, 6th February, photo., now at National Museum of Scotland (P.M.Ellis, M.Heubeck *et al.*).

Western Isles St Kilda, adults, 25th January to 6th February, two, 28th to 2nd (T.J.Dix, K.Douglas).

1979 Cornwall Penzance, adult, 3rd-15th March, photo. (W.R.Hirst, L.P.Williams).

1992 Lincolnshire North Hykeham, adult, 18th December (K.E.Durose).

1993 Highland Inverness, adult, 27th February (Brit. Birds 87: 531), first-named observer was S.G.Addinall.

IRELAND

Cork Adrigole, adult, 25th March.

Kerry Blennerville, adult, 8th to 27th March.

1992 Cork The Lough, adult, 9th to 11th January.

1993 Cork The Lough, adult, 24th December to February 1994, probably the same individual in the three successive winters (see 1992 Cork above and Brit. Birds 86: 489).

1993 Dublin Skerries, third-winter, 12th September to 26th March 1994.

A remarkable surge of records which, particularly in the case of non-adults, may have something to do with observers scrutinising Iceland Gulls more closely. Nevertheless, an influx is clearly indicated here. Identification of these races can be fraught, to say the least, and the Committee has had considerable difficulty in drawing a line between 'pure' *glaucoides* types and those showing traces, however subtle, of plumage features suggesting an origin from within the *kumlieni/thayeri* part of the cline. For this reason, a number of other records since 1990 remain under consideration. Assessment of some of the above was helped greatly by photographic evidence. The recent paper by Weir *et al.* (Brit. Birds 88: 15-25) reminds us that periodic invasions of Iceland Gulls to the northwestern Palearctic may occasionally contain a high proportion of pale-winged *kumlieni*.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (2, 61, 5)

Cleveland Hartlepool, first-winter, 11th April (M.J.Gee, C.Kehoe *et al.*).

Cumbria Workington, first-summer, 26th-30th June, photo.(A.F.Gould *et al.*).

Lancashire Rossall Point and Fleetwood Marina, adult, 12th-17th March, photo. (A.Heath, R.Scholes, M.A.Stephens *et al.*), also in Merseyside.

Merseyside Seaforth, adult, 23rd March, photo. (A.Pryce, G.Thomas, S.White *et al.*), presumed same as Lancashire.

Tyne & Wear Sunderland, adult, 26th February to 7th March, photo. (A. & J.Brooks *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 153 & 154).

Western Isles Drimdsdale, South Uist, second-summer, 12th-14th May, photo. (T.J.Dix, S.Robson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 156).

1993 Highland Inverness, first-winter, 30th January to at least 25th March (D.McGinn, A.F.McNee, G.Prest).

An above-average showing, with some typical late-winter/spring dates. The one in Cumbria echoes the first-summer individual which lingered in Dorset (then Hampshire) from 16th June to 20th August 1974 (Brit. Birds 68: 320). Although the North Sea continues to produce a high percentage of records, it is clearly also worth looking for this delightful gull in the West.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 39, 0)

1993 Shetland Whalsay, first-winter, 13th December, was presumed same as Collafirth and Lerwick (Brit. Birds 87: 532).

The first blank year since 1987.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (52, 195, 2)

Hampshire Milford-on-Sea, 12th May (P.Combridge).

Scilly Gugh, 3rd May (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

1993 Dorset Stanpit Marsh, 5th October (Brit. Birds 87: 532), also 6th (L.Chapple).

1993 Norfolk Burnham Norton, 6th August (V.Eve, M.E.S.Rooney).

Typical brief appearances from this 'hard to get to grips with' rarity. The Committee would still be interested in comments on the South Coast records in the 1960s (Brit. Birds 88: 379-380).

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 202, 2)

Cheshire Neumann's Flash and Marbury, 12th June (P.M.Hill, P.E.Kenyon, M.Miles); same, Fiddler's Ferry, 12th (K.G.Massey, J.Williams).

Dyfed Skomer, 28th May (P.Oakes, M.S.Wallen).

1993 Humberside Southfield Reservoirs, Goole, 13th May (C.Featherstone, H.Grewar *et al.*), presumed same as Warwickshire, 10th, Derbyshire, 11th, Nottinghamshire, 12th (Brit. Birds 87: 532).

Touring individuals, particularly inland, are becoming a regular feature. The individual in Cheshire repeats occurrences there in 1993 (Brit. Birds 86: 490) and 1988 (Brit. Birds 83: 467). Such repeat visits echo similar events in east Norfolk in 1991 and 1993 and raise the question of how many (or few) may be involved.

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

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, 12th May (T.G.Francis, M.J.Gee, C.Kehoe). Seaton Snook, 18th May (R.M.Ward); 26th May (G.Joynt). Teesmouth, 21st May (A.J.Wheeldon *et al.*). North Gare, 28th May (M.J.Gee, C.Kehoe *et al.*). All presumed same as Farne Islands, Northumberland.

Northumberland Fame Islands, female, intermittently, 29th April to 24th August, presumed returning 1993 individual (Brit. Birds 87: 533), again paired with Sandwich Tern *S.sandvicensis*, one egg hatched, no young reared (K.Gillon *et al.*, per B.N.Rossiter) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 157); presumed same, Hauxley, 4th June (A.D.McLevy *et al.*), Cresswell Pond, 3rd July (P.W.Davidson, M.S.Hodgson, K.Robson *et al.*).

1993 Humberside Beacon Ponds, Easington, 15th-20th June (A.L.Dawson, C.Dennison *et al.*), presumed same as Northumberland (Brit. Birds 87: 533).

An orange-billed tern at Ross Back Sands, Northumberland, on 12th June was almost certainly this same individual. 'Elsie', as she is nicknamed, hatched an egg on 10th July, but the chick died on 15th, on which date another chick strongly reminiscent of the 1989 and 1992 hybrid offspring was located. It later became clear that one of this bird's parents was a 'Sandwich Tern' with more yellow on its bill than normal. The chick fledged on 28th July and moved away from the islands on 7th August. The adult was presumably the returning 1989 or 1992 hybrid and the young a second-generation hybrid. Both birds were seen together at Musselburgh, Lothian, on 28th August.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 21, 2)

Dyfed Fishguard, first-winter, 10th-11th January, photo. (D.J.Astins, B.Atkinson, S.Earl *et al.*).

Lothian Musselburgh area, first-winter, 16th December to 1995, photo. (C.N.Davison, K.Gillon *et al.*).

IRELAND

1993 Wexford Wexford Harbour, 17th March to 2nd April (Brit. Birds 87: 533), stayed to 1st May.

Two new individuals break the recent dearth of records. Coincidentally, the only previous Scottish record was at exactly the same site in 1985 (Brit. Birds 79: 557).

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* (3, 16, 1)

Cumbria Foulney Island, 3rd-5th June, photo. (J.Fairhurst, B.Makin, C.Raven *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Fairburn Ings, 3rd June (J.Glendingning), presumed same as Cumbria.

The unbroken run since 1988 continues. The West Yorkshire bird was seen at 07.30 and then – presumably the same individual – appeared in Cumbria at midday, thus illustrating how far and fast some of our rarities can move in a day.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* (20, 88, 7)

Buckinghamshire Willen Lake, two, 16th-21st May, photo. (N.J.Phillips *et al.*), probably same as Norfolk.

Essex Abberton Reservoir, 3rd-12th May, photo. (D.Rhymes *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 155).

Gwent Llandegfedd Reservoir, adult, 15th-28th July, photo. (C.Hatch, J.Waddington *et al.*).

Hereford & Worcester Bredon's Hardwick, 1st May (R.W.Price, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, 5th-6th May, photo. (J.R.Hunter, R.J.Price *et al.*), also in East Sussex.

Norfolk Rockland Broad, two, 15th May (D.Lester *et al.*), probably same as Buckinghamshire.

Sussex, East Rye, 7th-8th May (D.J.Funnell *et al.*), same as Kent.

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 2nd May (B.Milton *et al.*).

An above-average showing. Previous records of duos were in West Glamorgan in 1974, Sussex in 1979, Avon in 1983 and Hampshire in 1988. Most probably related to pairs if, as BWP suggests, pair-bonding persists from year to year. No documentation has been received of two said to have been at Cley, Norfolk, on 22nd May.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 606, 20)

Cumbria Barrow-in-Furness, adult, 17th July, photo. (M.Cope, C.Raven *et al.*), presumed same as Barton-on-Humber, Humberside, below.

Devon Dawlish Warren, adult, 6th-7th August (R.L. & Mrs J.M.Smith *et al.*).

Essex Hanningfield Reservoir, adult, 31st July (J.Miller *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Frampton-on-Severn, juvenile, 31st October (N.Smart).

Grampian Loch Spynie, adult, 20th July (C.Gervaise *et al.*).

Hertfordshire Wilstone Reservoir, juvenile, 24th-27th August (G.J.White, R.Young *et al.*).

Humberside Barton-on-Humber, adult, 16th July (G.P.Catley, S.Routledge), presumed same as Cumbria. Southfield Reservoir, adult, 5th August (C.Featherstone). North Cave, juvenile, 21st-24th October, photo. (G.Dayes, S.Martin *et al.*).

Leicestershire Watermead Park, adult, 12th July, photo. (R.E.Davis, R.M.Fray, P.Morris *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Messingham, juvenile, 25th July, photo. (J.T.Harriman *et al.*).

Lothian Gladhouse Reservoir, juvenile, 15th October (Dr L.L.J.Vick).

Norfolk Lakenheath Flashes, adult or second-summer, 5th June, photo. (M.G.Kerby, S.H.Mustoe, D.R.Watson *et al.*). Sheringham, Cley and Blakeney area, adult or second-summer, 4th-11th November (K.B.Shepherd *et al.*). Locality in Broadland, adult, 19th-23rd November photo. (B.W.Jarvis *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Lound, adult, 5th August (W.Collingham, G. & P.Hobson *et al.*). Colwick Park, Netherfield and Holme Pierrepont, juvenile, 24th September to 9th October (A.S.Boot, M.C.Dennis *et al.*).

Shetland Hillwell and Loch of Spiggie, 7th-14th June, photo. (J.N.Dymond, M.Mellor, A.Sinclair *et al.*).

Shropshire Ellesmere, juvenile, 6th November to 1st December (R.M.Stokes, M.Webb *et al.*).

Suffolk Walberswick, 6th-7th June (S.H.Piotrowski, C.S.Waller *et al.*). Minsmere, adult, 4th August (J.King, R.Moore *et al.*).

1993 Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, 28th-29th May, photo. (J.R.Baxter, J.B.Kemp, K.J Warrington *et al.*).

1993 Lancashire Marton Mere, second-summer, 25th-26th June (Brit. Birds 87: 536), to 28th (per M.Jones).

An average number, but containing the earliest ever juvenile and some particularly noteworthy late-autumn individuals lingering in the mild weather, one of which remained into December and became Britain's latest ever.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* (2, 27, 2)

Lothian Musselburgh, 6th February (Dr B.D. & Dr M.Griffin).

Shetland Wadbister Voe, recently dead, oiled, 12th February, photo. (M.Heubeck *et al.*), now at National Museum of Scotland.

Another tantalising duo, including a standard Shetland corpse, but also a further live individual at the same site as one in 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 536).

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (6, 31, 1)

Dorset Hengistbury Head, 20th April (D.N.Smith).

A fairly typical date, but only the second Dorset record, the first being in 1989. The patterns of occurrences and ages of Great Spotted Cuckoos in Britain & Ireland were recently reviewed by Peter Lansdown and illustrated by Ren Hathway (Brit. Birds 88: 141-149).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (22, 35, 2)

Dyfed Near St David's, 30th October (K.J.S.Devonald, T.J.Price).

IRELAND

Antrim Carncastle, found moribund, 31st October.

The first two since 1991 and the first in Wales this century.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 22, 0)

IRELAND

1993 Cork Inchydoney, found injured, died, 27th April.

The first since one in Dorset in 1990, and only the fourth this century in Ireland.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 112, 3)

Orkney Egilsay, male, female, 8th October (A. & P.Sansom). Papa Westray, age and sex uncertain, 23rd October to 3rd December (M.Gray, Mr & Mrs W.Irvine *et al.*); presumed same, North Ronaldsay, as second-winter male, 10th-17th December (M.Gray, T.Outlaw, H.Swanney *et al.*).

Shetland See 'At sea' below.

At sea Sea area Forties, 58°34'N 01°35'W, first-winter male, taken into care exhausted on board vessel, 18th October, photo., released Fetlar, Shetland, 25th, last noted 17th February 1995 (P.M.Ellis, J.Garriock *et al.*).

1993 Western Isles Bornish, South Uist, 23rd June (Brit. Birds 87: 538), observers were G.W.Dodds *et al.*

IRELAND

1993 Donegal Aranmore Island, 24th June (Brit. Birds 87: 538), was immature male, present from 22nd June to mid July 1994.

A fairly typical number of records for recent years. The male released on Fetlar may have a lonely time as there were no records of females there in 1994, for the first time in over 30 years.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* (1, 9, 0)

1993 Norfolk Burnham Norton, 25th July (J.Charman, P.R.Colston *et al.*).

IRELAND

1913 Down St John's Point, male, collected, 30th October. The specimen is in the National Museum, Dublin.

This brings the 1993 total to two, with one seen in 1992, but a seven-year gap to the previous records in 1984 of this very difficult species. The Irish record predates the previous first for Britain & Ireland.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (150, 348, 10)

Kent Capel Le Ferne, 23rd April (D.A.Gibson). Capel Le Ferne and Folkestone, 19th-20th May, photo. (B.Cox, J.A.Flynn, D.A.Gibson *et al.*).

Norfolk Beeston, 27th-29th April (Miss J.R.Damon, D.A.Riley *et al.*); presumed same, Titchwell, 30th (A.Culshaw, N.Harwood, G.Shorrock).

Northumberland Bamburgh, 26th April (D.G. & Mrs S.A.Bell); same, Farne Islands, 26th (M.Cottam).

Shetland Noss, 2nd-30th July (C.Barton, C.Donald, E.Stuart *et al.*).

Strathclyde Ailsa Craig, recently dead, 10th July, photo., now at National Museum of Scotland (B.Zonfrillo). Lunga, Treshnish Isles, Argyll, 11th July, photo. (R.Craig, A.Mawdsley, J.W.Proudlock *et al.*).

Suffolk North Warren, 23rd April (R.N.Macklin).

Tyne & Wear Jesmond, 13th, 15th June (M.P.Frankis).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 27th April (H.M. & W.H.Lealman, H.J.Whitehead).

1992 Hereford & Worcester Upton Warren, 24th May (P.S.Anstis *et al.*).

1992 Strathclyde Balgray Reservoir, 2nd May (Brit. Birds 87: 539), to 16th.

1993 Kent Capel Le Ferne, 29th June (D.A.Gibson). Cheriton, 20th September (D.A.Gibson).

A below-average total for recent years, but the one in Shetland was the longest-staying individual so far. The identification pitfalls of this species were discussed by Alan Dean (Brit. Birds 87: 174-177) and subsequent correspondence has indicated variability in the shape of the belly-patch (Brit. Birds 88: 52, 335).

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

This species is no longer considered by the Committee, but, for the benefit of county and regional records committees, M.J.Rogers recently reviewed the identification pitfalls and assessment problems relating to this species (Brit. Birds 88: 221-223).

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 89, 1)

Cornwall Penlee, 29th May (R.J.Bedford, J.S.Holmes).

1992 Kent Monkton, 15th June, photo. (A.E.Eley).

One to three individuals of this spectacular species have occurred annually since 1989.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* (0, 3, 1)

Western Isles St Kilda, 21st September (T.J.Dix, J.Vaughan).

A wonderful find in a spectacular setting. Previous records were in Dorset in 1961, Shetland in 1978 and Scilly in 1985, all in April.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 394, -)

1993 Gwynedd South Stack, Anglesey, 25th May (the late A.G.Clarke).

1993 Scilly St Mary's, 12th October, present since 6th (D.J.Holman *et al.*).

1993 Shetland Banna Minn, West Burra, 26th-27th May (Brit. Birds 87: 541), named observers should include H.R.Harrop.

These additional records bring the 1993 total to 20. This species is no longer considered by the Committee.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens* (37, 5, 0)

1992 Dorset Portland, 2nd May (I.R.Dickie, K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

A marvellous find and somewhat overdue, the first British record to come before the BOURC and predated only by an inexplicable series of records in Ireland: 30 in January 1956, five in March 1956, two in May 1956 and five in March 1958.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 242, 20)

Essex Barling, 23rd-27th May, photo. (P.Green, A.R.Perkins, C.Todd *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 167).

Humberide Messingham, 23rd April (W.Gillatt).

Kent Stodmarsh, 8th May (G.F.A.Burton *et al.*). North Foreland, 28th October (M.H.Davies).

Norfolk Winterton, juvenile, 1st-8th November, photo. (P.K.Batchelor, B.J.Murphy, J.C.Wasse *et al.*), presumed same, 15th (P.J.Ransome); presumed same, Cley, 12th-14th (M.Kenefick *et al.*); presumed same, Sheringham, 14th (K.B.Shepherd, M.P.Taylor). Brancaster, Burnham Norton, Holme and Titchwell area, three adults, 6th-11th November (D.Crisp, B.J.Robson, M.E.S.Rooney, R.Q.Skeen *et al.*), possibly same as Nottinghamshire.

Northumberland Doxford Lake, 18th-19th November; same, Long Newton, 20th (R.Harvey *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Clumber Park, two, 29th October, 1st November, three, 30th-31st October, 2nd-3rd November, photo., all probably adults (I.Draycott, A.J.Mackay *et al.*), possibly also in Norfolk.

Scilly Tresco, 28th February to 28th March, photo. (R.Gleadle, R.J.Hathway, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, 27th May (D.Fairhurst, D.T.Ireland *et al.*). Landguard, 26th October (I.R.Hartley, D.Rafe, J.Tobias *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 3rd May (J.F.Cooper). Cuckmere Valley, 19th May (R.Izzard, N.J.Thomas).

Wight, Isle of West High Down, 18th May (F.Hamilton, R.Perolls).

1993 Essex East Tilbury, 26th September, now considered same as Isle of Grain, Kent, 25th (Brit. Birds 87: 542).

IRELAND

Cork Cape Clear Island, 3rd May. Ballycotton, 4th September.

1992 Wicklow Arklow, 20th April.

An above-average year, the only higher totals being 64 in 1987 and 32 in 1990, when small groups also occurred in late autumn.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* (1, 0, 1)

Suffolk Landguard, first-winter, 4th-10th November, trapped 10th, photo. (M.C.Marsh, N.Odin, B.J.Small *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: page 528 fig.5), taken by Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* on 10th, tail feathers retained by R.I.Thorpe.

A number of earlier claims of this 'difficult' species remain under consideration. This one, well watched, photographed and examined in the hand before its ultimate fate as a meal for the local Kestrel, proved the ideal candidate for acceptance and one which will greatly assist the Committee in its assessments of some of the others. We hope that the backlog can be cleared without further long delays. This record is still to be considered by the BOURC regarding a change of category, from B to A, on the British List.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 185, 6)

Essex Pitsea, 13th January to 26th February, trapped 19th February, photo. (S.Woods *et al.*).

Fife Isle of May, 3rd November (A.Robinson).

Hampshire Warsash, 7th November (D.A.Christie).

Scilly St Mary's, 14th October (E.D.Lloyd). St Martin's, 24th October (R.J.Arnfield).

Shetland Tingwall, 24th September to 1st October, trapped 24th September, photo. (G.W.Petrie, P.Sclater *et al.*).

1992 Kent Capel Le Ferne, 12th-15th October, photo. (D.A.Gibson, J.P.Siddle *et al.*).

1993 Kent Sandwich Bay, 6th October (Brit. Birds 87: 542), now considered inadequately documented.

1993 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 24th September (M.Gray *et al.*).

1993 Shetland Culswick, 2nd and 5th October (Brit. Birds 87: 542), 2nd only, observer C.D.R.Heard only. Additional records: Dale of Walls, 3rd October (Dr C.F.Mackenzie), presumed same, 5th (C.D.R.Heard). Norwick, two, 30th September, one to 3rd October (J.Coutts, J.M. & T.P.Drew, D.J.Rigby). Fair Isle, second individual, 3rd October (D.Suddaby). Fetlar, 6th October (Brit. Birds 87: 542), observer was B.H.Thomason.

After the flood of records in recent years (the additional records bring the 1993 total to 35), this was a very poor year. Winter records are no longer considered particularly unusual.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 32, 8)

Scilly Tresco, 27th-28th October (C.Bradshaw, R.J.Hathway, D.J.Holman *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, at least four: 15th-16th September, trapped 15th (Dr R.Riddington, G.Thompson *et al.*); 16th-18th September (N.Ward *et al.*); 16th-19th September (G.Thompson *et al.*); 1st-9th October (N.C.Green, G.Thompson *et al.*). Foula, 18th-28th September, photo. (M.J.McKee, C.Turner). Out Skerries, 13th-14th October, trapped 14th, photo. (P.M.Ellis, Dr B.Marshall) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 185 & 186).

Yorkshire, North Filey, first-winter, trapped, 9th October, photo. (J.M. & R.G.Bayldon, P.J.Dunn, C.C.Thomas *et al.*).

1993 Shetland Fair Isle, 27th September to 5th October, trapped 29th, photo. (A.J.Leitch, S.J.Read *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 183 & 184).

This is a record annual total, the previous highest being six in 1991. The two individuals outside Shetland (including the first for Scilly) bring additional hope to rarity-seekers away from the Northern Isles.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (3, 277, 15)

Cornwall Sennen, 14th October (P.H.Aley, P.A.St Pierre, R.W.White). Pentire Point, 18th October (G.J.Conway).

Essex Shoeburyness, 21st-22nd May, photo. (I.Prentice *et al.*).

Kent Elmley, 1st October (J.A.Rowlands).

Norfolk Sheringham, 2nd October (S.C.Votier). Brancaster, 6th November (V.Eve).

Orkney Graemeshill Loch, in song, 16th-18th May (R.G.Adam, K.E.Hague). North Ronaldsay, 7th May (M.Gray, E.J. & M.G.Scott); 13th May (A.E.Duncan *et al.*); 27th October (S.D.Stansfield).

Scilly Tresco, 10th October (R.M. & R.P.Fray, A.J.Mackay *et al.*). Gugh, 14th-15th October (M.J.McKee, D.J.Price, C.Turner *et al.*); presumed same, St Mary's, 15th to at least 21st (O.J.Leyshon *et al.*).

Warwickshire Lawford Heath, 22nd-28th October (R.E.Harbird, D.J.Scanlan *et al.*).

Western Isles St Kilda, 21st-24th May (T.J.Dix, J.Vaughan *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Weybourne, 19th May, photo. (R.H.Chittenden *et al.*).

1993 Humberside Spurn, 16th September (M.Barnett *et al.*).

1993 Merseyside Red Rocks, 1st-2nd October (Dr J.E.Turner, E.Williams).

1993 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 10th September (M.Gray *et al.*).

IRELAND

Cork Durse Island, 13th October.

This is an above-average total, but a far cry from that of 46 in 1992. The Warwickshire record is only the eighth inland. The additional records bring the 1993 total to ten.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

***M. f. feldegg* (0, 6, 0)**

In addition to the records already listed as no longer considered acceptable (Brit. Birds 87: 543), as the outcome of a review by the BOU Records Committee, the records shown below were assessed as no longer acceptable in a subsequent review by the Rarities Committee:

1958 Dorset Portland, male, 9th October (Brit. Birds 53: 171).

1960 Shetland Vaila, male, 15th May (Brit. Birds 63: 291).

1974 Sussex, West Thorney Island, male, 23rd July (Brit. Birds 68: 329).

1978 Scilly Tresco, male, 26th June (Brit. Birds 73: 518).

The only records still considered acceptable are Fair Isle, Shetland, 7th-9th May 1970, Lothian on 28th April 1984, Northumberland on 7th June 1985, Suffolk on 30th June 1985, Dyfed on 7th May 1986 and Oxfordshire during 4th June to 10th July 1988.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 67, 7)

Cleveland Haverton Hill Ponds, Billingham, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 14th, 18th-19th August, video-recorded (M.A.Blick *et al.*).

Essex/Greater London King George V Reservoir, first-winter, 22nd August (R.M.Callf, A.Middleton, P.J.Vines).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 21st September (Dr D.H.Hatton, Dr C.C.McGuigan *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 1st-4th September (N.J.Riddiford, G.Thompson *et al.*). Quendale, first-winter, 19th September (L.C.Cook, H.R.Harrop *et al.*). Out Skerries, first-winter, 23rd-24th September (M.S.Ponsford, K.E.Vinicombe, M.J. & M.P.Willmot *et al.*). Skaw, Unst, first-winter, 26th September to 8th October, trapped 28th September (C. & J.Baxter, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

1992 Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, first-winter, 22nd-24th September (T.J.Dix, J.Vaughan).

1993 Greater London Beddington Sewage-farm, juvenile moulting to first-winter, 24th-28th August, photo. (A.Greensmith, J.S.Walsh *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 169).

IRELAND

1993 Donegal Aranmore Island, 4th October.

The most recorded in a single year. Although there were no spring records in Britain & Ireland, there were reports of successful breeding in Sweden and four pairs nesting in Poland (the first breeding record) (Brit. Birds 88: 40).

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* (29, 9, 1)

Lincolnshire Saltfleetby, adult, 14th-18th November, photo. (P.M.Troake *et al.*).

Singles in consecutive years following a two-year absence. The two 1990 records were preceded by an 11-year absence. This is only the third autumn record since 1958.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 103, 8)

Dorset Portland, first-summer, trapped, 11th June, photo. (K.Pritchard, M.Rogers, R.J.Taylor).

Kent Dungeness, first-summer, in song, trapped 18th May (G.M.Haig, D.Walker *et al.*); first-summer, in song, 2nd-9th June, trapped 6th, photo. (D.Walker *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, 22nd May (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Wright). Saltfleet, first-winter, trapped 17th September, photo. (S.A.Britton, P.G.Chapman, J.R.Mawer *et al.*).

Lothian Gullane, in song, 25th-26th May (D.G.Andrew, Lady Leighton).

Shetland Sumburgh, trapped 17th June, photo. (H.R.Harrop, A.McCall, G.W.Petrie *et al.*). Seafield, Lerwick, first-winter, 25th-26th August (P.V.Harvey, K.Osborn *et al.*).

1992 Norfolk Holkham Meals, first-winter, 18th September (V.Eve, M.E.S.Rooney).

1993 Shetland Helendale, 20th May (Brit. Birds 87: 546), to 23rd.

Two in one year in both Kent and Lincolnshire, but none on Fair Isle is very unusual. This is the highest total since 1989.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (3, 10, 2)

Norfolk Great Yarmouth, female or first-winter, 18th-20th October, photo. (P.R.Allard *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 174 & 175).

Suffolk Landguard, male, 26th October, photo. (M.C.Marsh, N.Odin *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 176).

Two individuals in each of two consecutive years, following a four-year gap. There have now been more records of this superb species on the east coast of England than in Shetland. Singles were also reported in Denmark on 6th-9th October and in Sweden on 14th August (Brit. Birds 88: 275).

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

S. t. maura/stejnegeri (1, 214, 13)

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

Dorset Portland, first-winter female, 7th-9th November, trapped 8th (M.Cade *et al.*).

Kent St Margaret's Bay, male, 14th-15th October (P.A.Laurie).

Lincolnshire Donna Nook, female or first-winter, 22nd September (G.P.Catley).

Norfolk Cromer, male, 4th-5th September, photo. (G.P.H. & M.P.Lee *et al.*). Blakeney Point, female or first-winter, 24th October (M.P.Shurmer). Burnham Overy, female or first-winter, 4th-7th November (R.I.Harold, M.E.S.Rooney).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, female or first-winter, 10th-11th November (P.J.Donnely, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 8th-9th May (J.Reid, Dr R.Riddington, G.Thompson *et al.*). Spiggie, first-winter male, 28th September to 2nd October (J.J.Sweeney *et al.*). Sumburgh, female or first-winter, 30th September to 1st October (N.Alford, N.R.Stocks, D.Suddaby *et al.*). Whalsay, first-winter male, 21st October (C.Donald). Easter Quarff, first-winter male, 4th November (P.M.Ellis).

Sussex, West Selsey Bill, female or first-winter, 8th-9th October (M.J.W.Hay, K.W.Maycock, O.Mitchell *et al.*).

1991 Cleveland Seaton Carew, female or first-winter, 9th-13th October (G.Iceton *et al.*).

1991 Yorkshire, North Kettlewell Point, female or first-winter, 12th-27th October, photo. (T.J.Barker, R.S.Slack, A.White).

1992 Norfolk Burnham Norton, male, 6th May (V.Eve, M.E.S.Rooney). Cromer, male, 8th June (M.P.Lee, T.Wright). Holme, male, 7th-8th June (D.J.Holman, R.Q.Skeen, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*). Kelling, female or first-winter, 13th October (A.Wilkinson).

1993 Cornwall Land's End, first-winter male, 12th-14th October (D.J.Holman *et al.*).

1993 Grampian Near Banchory, male, in territory, 2nd-24th June, photo. (G.W.Rebecca, K.D.Shaw, A.W.Thorpe *et al.*).

1993 Scilly St Agnes, male, 13th-15th May (T.M.Melling *et al.*).

These records continue the high totals of the previous two years. Careful examination of the colour of the axillaries is important to confirm records of males in spring. The September 1994 male at Cromer, Norfolk, was the earliest-ever in autumn by one week. The westward spread is demonstrated, for instance, by the recent breeding records in Finland (Linnut 28 (6): 16; Brit. Birds 88: 275).

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (1, 8, 1)

Shetland Whalsay, 20th-21st September, photo. (M.S.Ponsford, K.E.Vinicombe, M.J. & M.P.Willmott *et al.*).

This was the first record for Shetland and, like several other individuals in Britain, this one frequented a golf course. Observers should always be wary of the pitfall of unusually pale Northern Wheatears *O.oenanthe* when considering the identification of this tricky species.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 27, 4)

Cleveland Seaton Snook, first-winter male, 6th November, photo. (B.Beck, G.Joynt *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 195).

Kent Sheerness, first-winter male, 23rd October (Dr A.M.Hanby, J.A.Rowlands *et al.*).

Orkney Sanday, first-winter male, 22nd October (K.Fairclough, E.R.Meek).

Suffolk Fagbury Cliffs, first-winter female, 24th-27th October, trapped 26th, photo. (N.Odin, S.H.Piotrowski, M.Smith *et al.*).

A very good showing, only the five in 1991 and four in 1988 are comparably high totals. This species has now been recorded annually since 1985.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 33, 5)

Cornwall Torpoint, first-winter female, 27th November to 16th December, photo. (S.G.Christmas, K.Pellow, L.A.C.Truscott *et al.*); presumed same, near Hayle, 21st-24th December (P.A.Rutter, L.P.Williams).

Dorset Portland, first-winter male, 11th October, photo. (P.J.Coe, G.Walbridge *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 168).

Hereford & Worcester Castleton, Herefordshire, male, 7th November (S.P.Coney, P.J.Eldridge, K.A.Mason).

Lancashire Blackpool, first-winter male, 11th-21st November, photo. (E.Stirling *et al.*).

Norfolk Weybourne, male, 5th November; same, Cley, 6th, photo. (P.Feakes *et al.*).

This total is echoed only by those of 1989 and 1991. The inland record is very unusual. Autumn singles were also reported from France, the Netherlands (two) and Sweden (Brit. Birds 88: 276).

Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* (1, 4, 1)

Norfolk Burnham Overy, first-winter male, 18th September (T.Cowan, I.Macey, A.Nicholson *et al.*).

The Committee also wishes to thank S.Huggins and P.Clement for their additional documentation of this remarkable record. This was the earliest of the six British & Irish records; previous records were in 1954, 1977, 1984, 1985 and 1992.

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (1, 41, 1)

Orkney North Hoy, 16th October (T.Prescott, M.D.Sutton).

IRELAND

1991 Clare Loop Head, first-year, trapped, 12th October.

The first since 1991 and the first for Orkney. Observers will need to study future occurrences carefully, since *C.m.bicknelli* is shortly to be split as a separate species by the BOURC (Ibis in press). A paper by Dr Alan Knox, illustrated by Alan Harris, will be published shortly in British Birds.

Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 26, 4)

Dorset Bournemouth, male, *T.r.atrogularis*, 7th January (E.D.Lloyd).

Essex The Naze, first-winter male, *T.r.ruficollis*, 29th September to 7th October, photo. (T.Mendham, B.Smith, S.D.Wood *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 170-173).

Shetland Fair Isle, two first-winter males, *T.r.atrogularis*: one 16th-17th October, probably since 15th (M.Newall, Dr R.Riddington, N.C.Ward *et al.*); and the other 17th (Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

1993 Kent Lydd, female, *T.r.atrogularis*, 2nd May (M.J.Lawson, P.Simpson, G.Taylor *et al.*).

The superb bird in Essex will be considered by the BOURC as the first record of *T.r.ruficollis* for Britain & Ireland. The Kent record was the first-ever in spring, and two at once on Fair Isle is unprecedented.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (11, 19, 0)

The fresh corpse of a first-winter male was found in Felixstowe, Suffolk, on 2nd November, amongst on deck containers on a recently arrived ship, but at present its port of origin is unknown. In any case, the bird may well have died when outside British waters.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* (3, 11, 1)

Shetland Fair Isle, adult, trapped 21st September, photo., dead 23rd, now at National Museum of Scotland (S.A.Bacon, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

Last recorded in 1992; 11 of the 15 records have been in Shetland.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 48, 6)

Norfolk Mundesley, 21st September (J.Appleton, P.J.Heath *et al.*).

Shetland Foula, 19th September, photo. (M.J.McKee, C.Turner). Whalsay, first-winter trapped 20th September, photo. (Dr B.Marshall, K.E.Vinicombe, M.P.Willmott *et al.*). Fair Isle, 10th-13th October; another, 15th (G.Thompson *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, first-winter, trapped 10th October, photo. (D.P.Appleton, P.J.Dunn, D. & J.W.Sykes *et al.*).

The occurrence of two outside Shetland in one year is exceptional and brings the English total of these trusting little birds to six (and one in Wales).

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (0, 16, 1)

Fife Clatto Reservoir, in song, 16th-25th July, photo. (S.T.Buckland, C. & Mrs A.M.Smout, S.Taylor *et al.*).

The first Scottish record away from Shetland. The dates echo the records in Suffolk from 13th July to 3rd August 1984 and Norfolk during 8th-21st July 1989.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (47, 564, -)

1975 Sussex, East Locality withheld, 4th-5th September (Brit. Birds 72: 536), was 4th-5th October.

South Coast reedbeds used by dispersing first-winter Aquatic Warblers in late summer and autumn are of great conservation value, as this species is now globally threatened. Records are, however, no longer considered by the Committee.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* (2, 23, 9)

Cleveland Newburn Bridge, first-winter, 17th-18th September, trapped 18th, photo. (T.G.Francis, G.Iceton, P.Reid *et al.*). Marske, first-winter, trapped, 18th September (T.G.Dewdney, J.G.Green, B. & D.Richardson).

Orkney Holm, trapped 18th July (R.G.Adam, E.R.Meek *et al.*). Sanday, 22nd October (K.Fairclough, E.R.Meek). South Cara, South Ronaldsay, 23rd October (T.Dean).

Shetland Fair Isle, adult, 22nd-26th September, trapped 22nd (Dr R.Riddington *et al.*); 24th-25th September, photo. (I.Wilson *et al.*). Quendale, 28th September to 1st October, photo. (P.M.Ellis, G.J.Fitchett *et al.*). Skaw, Unst, first-winter, 30th September to 1st October, trapped 30th (H.C.Towll, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

1988 Scilly Tresco, 27th-28th October (S.J.Broyd *et al.*).

1993 Norfolk Sheringham, first-winter, trapped 24th September, photo, (K.B.Shepherd, S.C.Votier *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 182).

By far the highest annual total. The July individual in Orkney had surely arrived earlier in the spring. The fifth to seventh French records were also reported, two in August and one in October, and a further individual was reported from the Netherlands in September (Brit. Birds 88: 276).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (9, 18, 1)

Shetland Kergord, age uncertain, 23rd-27th May, trapped 27th, photo. (P.M.Ellis, W.Jackson, A.McCall, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Only the third spring record, previous ones having been in Humberside on 28th May 1984 and Orkney on 19th May 1993. The species occurred in only three years during 1958-83, but was recorded in seven years during 1984-94.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 155, 6)

Kent Dungeness, in song, 24th-25th May (C.Lock, R.J.Price *et al.*). Elmley, in song, 12th-25th June, photo., carrying nest material 19th (R.Gomes, J.A.Rowlands *et al.*).

Norfolk Cley, in song, 11th May to 26th June, photo. (T.C.Davies *et al.*). Rockland Broad, in song, 22nd May (D.Lester).

Shetland Hillwell, 12th May (J.N.Dymond *et al.*). Geosetter, in song, 22nd May, (A. & L.Amery, B.Brydges, H.R.Harrop).

1993 Kent Elmley, in song, 27th May to at least 5th June (Brit. Birds 87: 553), to 11th.

1993 Suffolk Minsmere, in song, 28th-29th May (M.A.Currie, D.T.Ireland, N.Lambert).

A fairly typical showing. The Elmley bird occupied the same patch of reeds as that in 1993 and may possibly have been the same individual, whilst that at Geosetter followed one on the same date there in 1993.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 49, 7)

Devon Start Point, 19th October (C.W.Stone).

Grampian Collieston, 11th-13th November, trapped 11th, photo. (T.W.Marshall, S.A.Ragnarsson, A.W.Thorpe *et al.*).

Kent Reculver, 14th September (M.J.Baldock, C.A.Osborne *et al.*).

Norfolk Cromer, 4th-5th September, photo. (A.P.Benson, K.B.Shepherd, T.Wright *et al.*).

Shetland Out Skerries, 27th August (J.F. & Mrs D.R.Cooper). Fair Isle, 11th September (Dr R.Riddington, N.C.Ward *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, in song, 5th June (D. & J.F.Cooper).

1993 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 14th September (the late A.G.Clark, I.A.Roberts, N.E.Robinson).

Another excellent year, bettered only by 1993, for which the additional record brings the total to 13.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 301, 23)

Cleveland South Gare, male, 22nd May (M.A.Blick, T.G.Francis *et al.*).

Cornwall Nanjizal, male, 2nd May (R.Andrews, S.G.Rowe, V.A.Stratton). Land's End, female, 4th May (Dr A.M.Hanby).

Devon Lundy, female, 2nd to at least 7th May (J.K.Allen, A.Shepherd, K.Wimbush).

Dyfed Skomer, first-summer, sex uncertain, 14th May (R.W.Allen, P.Goddard *et al.*). Skokholm, sex uncertain, 29th May (M.Betts, D.Hemsley *et al.*).

Greater London Walthamstow Marsh, in song, 15th May, photo. (D.Mitchell *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Theddlethorpe Dunes, male, trapped 28th June, photo. (M. & Mrs F.E.Boddy).

Man, Isle of Calf of Man, first-summer male, trapped 12th May, photo. (N.V.McCanch).

Norfolk Blakeney Point, male, 21st May (G.P.Bull, S.G.Keen *et al.*). Rollesby, male, 31st May (D.Parsons *et al.*). Holkham Meals, male, 31st May (M.E.S.Rooney, R.Q.Skeen).

Orkney South Ronaldsay, in song, 15th-17th May (J. & R.McCutcheon *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, male, 13th May (R.J.Higgins, J.P.Martin *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, four: first-summer male, 10th-12th May (Dr R.Riddington, N.Ward *et al.*); first-summer male, 12th May (J.Reid, G.Thompson, N.Ward *et al.*); first-summer, probably male, 12th-20th May (J.Reid, Dr R.Riddington, D.Riley *et al.*); first-summer female, trapped 30th May, photo. (J.Reid, Dr R.Riddington, N.Ward *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, male, 24th-25th May (M.A.Currie, D.Fairhurst *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, female, 31st May; male, 13th June (R.H. & Mrs M.E.Charlwood).

Tayside Near Maryton, first-summer male, in song, 12th-17th May (M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, female, 24th May (T.J.Dix *et al.*).

1992 Sussex, East Beachy Head, male, 21st-22nd May (R.H. & Mrs M.E.Charlwood).

An above-average year; over 20 individuals have been recorded in only five previous years: 1987, 1988, 1989, 1992 and 1993. The Greater London record is very unusual.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (1, 37, 7)

Gwynedd Bardsey, male, 2nd-7th June, trapped 2nd (A.F.Silcocks *et al.*).

Norfolk Burnham Overy, male, 21st April (V.Eve, R.I.Harold, M.E.S.Rooney *et al.*). Holme male, 15th-16th May, photo. (R.Grimmett *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 23rd-28th June (M.Campbell, G.Thompson *et al.*).

Suffolk Landguard, male, trapped 20th May, photo. (M.C.Marsh *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, male, 28th August to 29th September (R.E. & Mrs S.Smith *et al.*).

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, male, 23rd May, photo. (T.J.Dix, D.Lee, J.Vaughan *et al.*).

An exceptional yew comparable only with the total of eight individuals in 1992; this species has now been recorded every year since 1990.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 239, 8)

Grampian Collieston, first-winter, 24th-27th August (P.Cosgrove, P.Doyle *et al.*); first-winter 24th-29th (T.W.Marshall *et al.*).

Kent Cliffe, in song, 1st June (P.A.Laurie).

Merseyside Seaforth, 15th September (P.Kinsella *et al.*).

Norfolk Wells, 1st-5th September, photo. (A.I.Bloomfield *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 177).

Shetland Fetlar, 18th August (N.Acheson, D.Leech). Quendale, 14th-15th September (J.N.Dymond *et al.*).

Tyne & Wear Priors Park, 16th-21st September, trapped 18th, photo. (C.Bradshaw, M.G.Cubitt, T.J.Tamms *et al.*).

1993 Kent Folkestone Warren, two, in song, 15th June to 1st July, photo., sound-recorded (D.A.Gibson *et al.*).

A fairly typical total. Confusion can still arise with the next species, even for very experienced observers.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 173, 11)

Cornwall Kenidjack, 12th October (J.F.Ryan *et al.*); presumed same, 15th (N.M.Butler, M.I.Piercy *et al.*).

Humberside Flamborough Head, 22nd September (P.Willoughby).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 21st September (A.Baxter *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, 24th August, photo. (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway *et al.*). North Ronaldsay first-winter, trapped 4th September (A.J.Leitch, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*); first-winter, trapped 7th, retrapped 9th (A.J.Leitch *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, four: 18th September (C.J.Orsman, N.Ward); 20th-22nd, trapped 20th, dead 23rd (Dr R.Riddington, N.Ward *et al.*); 21st-22nd (G.Thompson, N.Ward *et al.*); 26th October (Dr R.Riddington, G.Thompson, N.Ward).
Sandwick, 21st, 24th September (P.M.Ellis).

A very good year, matched only by 1984 and bettered by 17 in 1981 and 13 in 1993. There are still no spring records in Britain (although there is one from early July), but singles were reported from Estonia in June (Brit. Birds 88: 42) and Lithuania in May (Brit. Birds 88: 277).

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 143, 4)

Kent St Margaret's Bay, 14th October (I.Ball, R.Heading).

Scilly St Mary's, 14th-16th, 19th October, photo. (M.R. & T.J.Benton, S.P.Dudley *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 178 & 179).

Suffolk Kessingland, 2nd November (C.D.Darby, D.R.Eaton, R.Fairhead *et al.*).

Sussex, West Worthing, 26th-27th October (R.J.Fairbank, Father K.Wood *et al.*).

1988 Tayside Fishtown of Usan, trapped 23rd October, photo. (per M.S.Scott).

1990 Humberside Grimston, 19th October (A. & T.Isherwood).

1993 Scilly St Agnes, 3rd October (C.J.Timmins).

A similar total to those of the two previous years, but a decline from 1987-91, when nine to 24 were seen annually.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 132, 21)

Devon East Prawle, 8th October (P.M.Mayer, A.R.Trout). Dawlish Warren, 21st-29th November (I.Lakin, K.Rylands *et al.*). Broadsands, Torbay, 1st-5th December (P.A.Dennis, M.Langman *et al.*). Kenwith Nature Reserve, Bideford, 28th December to 1995, photo. (D. & S.Churchill, D.Curtis, A.M.Jewels *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 180).

Dorset Easton, Portland, 5th November (P.M.Harris *et al.*). Verne Common, 26th November (C.E.Richards).

Humberside Flamborough Head, 22nd-25th October (D.Hall, D.M.Walters, J.Williams *et al.*). Grimston, 5th-6th November (A. & T.Isherwood *et al.*).

Lancashire Heysham, trapped 4th November, photo. (T.Wilmer *et al.*).

Norfolk Holkham, 17th-20th October (M.E.S.Rooney *et al.*). Waxham, 23rd October (P.J.Heath *et al.*). Wells, 24th October, photo. (A.I.Bloomfield, J.R.McCallum). Mundesley, 3rd November (M.Fiszer). Great Yarmouth, 6th November (P.R.Allard, J. & K.Banford).

Northumberland Bamburgh, first-winter, trapped 22nd October, photo. (J.C.Day, M.K. & M.S.Hodgson). Newbiggin, 13th-14th November, photo. (J.W.Rutter, S.Sexton, J.G.Steele *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, 21st October (J.F.Holloway); 28th October (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway).

Scilly St Agnes, 18th-22nd October, photo. (P.A.Fraser *et al.*).

Shetland Noness, 7th-8th November, trapped 7th, photo. (P.M.Ellis).

Western Isles Rangehead, South Uist, caught in building, 10th October (T.J.Dix).

1993 Humberside Flamborough Head, 2nd-8th November, trapped 2nd, photo. (P.A.Lassey, J.M.Pearson *et al.*).

A record year, the previous highest annual total being 19 in 1990. Observers should take great care when distinguishing this from the previous species in their submissions to the Committee: separation is not so straightforward as was thought only a short while ago (see Brit. Birds 87: 436-441).

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 124, 4)

Norfolk Sheringham, first-winter, 3rd-6th September, trapped 6th, photo. (K.B.Shepherd, M.Young-Powell *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 11th-13th May (S.D.Stansfield, H.Thurgate *et al.*). Copinsay, 25th May (T.Dean, Mrs J.Robinson-Dean).

Scilly St Mary's, 25th August to 7th September (R.L.Flood, V.A.Stratton, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

An average showing. The last spring records were in 1988. Records of this species must be well documented, with attention to detail, in order to ensure acceptance by the Committee.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* (0, 17, 1)

Kent Dungeness, 3rd-4th April, photo. (R.J.Price, P.Short, D.Walker).

Only three records have occurred outside Kent. Even in the hand, this species can be difficult to identify with absolute certainty.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 76, 18)

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, four, 4th November (Mrs S.M.Morrison *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, five: 4th-18th March (D.P.Boyle, R.J.Price *et al.*); two, 7th October (P.G.Akers, R.J.Price, C.Westlake); male, 28th, metal ring on left leg (P.G.Akers, R.J.Price); 1st November (G.Hollomby, D.Walker).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 27th April (J. & Mrs J.Clarke *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Attenborough, adult, 23rd October (C.H.Mills).

Scilly Tresco, three juveniles, 20th August to 21st October (R.J.Hathway *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, male, 11th-23rd September (D.Fairhurst, A.R.J.Paine *et al.*).

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

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, two adults, 15th October (C.M. & Mrs B.James).

At sea Sea area Dogger, 54°01'N 02°01'E, juvenile, died in care, 23rd September, photo. (M.Higgleton).

1992 Cleveland Teesmouth, trapped 17th July (Brit. Birds 87: 560), to 18th (per G.Joynt).

1993 Cleveland Hargreaves Quarry, 8th-9th May, trapped 8th, photo. (C.Brown, G.Joynt *et al.*).

1993 Cornwall Land's End, three, 11th-13th October (Brit. Birds 87: 559), four, probably five, 12th (D.J.Holman *et al.*).

1993 Sussex, East Icklesham, trapped 25th October (D.Kelly, T.Squire, B.Stroub *et al.*).

Another excellent year surpassing 1993, for which the additional records bring the total number of individuals to at least 13. The previous highest annual total was 15 in 1989. The third breeding attempt was reported in Norway (Brit. Birds 88: 42), but records here have been confined largely to the southern half of Britain.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 37, 2)

Greater London Richmond, male, long dead, 21st March, photo. (S.Ellison, J.Evans), now at Natural History Museum, Tring.

Shetland Fair Isle, female, 23rd-24th August, trapped 23rd, photo. (Dr R.Riddington, N.C.Ward *et al.*).

Two unusual but not unprecedented records (most are in October). Greater London is an unusual locality.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 114, 5)

Fife Elie, adult, probably male, 15th-20th September, photo. (D.S.Fotheringham, E.Ravenscroft *et al.*).

Kent Sandwich Bay, adult female, 2nd-28th August, trapped 18th, photo. (J.N.Darroch, J.Morton *et al.*).

Northumberland Hexham, 14th May (B.N.Rossiter).

Norfolk Sheringham, first-winter, 16th-17th September (D.P.Appleton, K.B.Shepherd *et al.*).

Shetland Foula, first-winter, 24th-27th September, photo. (M.J.McKee, C.Turner).

An above-average total and the best year since 1982, when there were also five.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

***L. e. pallidirostris* (1, 6, 4)**

Individuals showing the characters of the eastern race *L.e.pallidirostris* were recorded as follows:

Cumbria South Walney, first-winter, 2nd November, photo. (W.Makin, C.Raven, P.Zaltowski *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter male, 14th September to 16th October, trapped 5th, photo (A.J.Leitch, S.D.Stansfield, Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 188 & 189). Papa Westray 11th-26th November, photo. (Mrs A.Hourston, J.Rendall *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 187).

Shetland Boddam, probably first-winter, 7th-10th November, photo. (H.R Harrop, R.Reeves, I.S.Robertson *et al.*).

Only in 1992, when two were seen, had there previously been more than one recorded in a year. Now that the plumage features of this subspecies are becoming more widely known, will it become much more regularly recorded? An exemplary account by Dr J.F.Ryan of the one in Cornwall in April 1992 was published recently (Brit. Birds 88: 288-290).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 486, -)

1980 Devon Lundy, male, 6th-8th July, trapped 6th (Brit. Birds 74: 488), full dates 6th June to 1st August (per A.M.Jewels).

1990 Humberside Flamborough Head, 5th May (M.Newsoms, P.J.Willoughby).

This species is no longer considered by the Committee. For the benefit of county and regional records committees, Peter Clements, recently reviewed the identification pitfalls and assessment problems relating this species (Brit. Birds 88: 291-295).

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 240, 26)

Cornwall Sennen, 19th June; presumed same, Porthgwarra, 20th (J.F.Ryan *et al.*). Langore near Launceston, first-winter, 16th October to 6th December, photo. (L.Lock, Rev. & D.S.Manders *et al.*).

Devon Lundy, juvenile, 3rd-4th October (G.K.Gordon *et al.*).

Dorset West Bexington, 10th June (D.J.Chown, I.McLean *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: page 547 fig. 8). Portland, juvenile, 23rd-28th September (W.Barrett, A.Plumb *et al.*).

Grampian Fraserburgh, 15th July, photo. (G. & Mrs L.Noble).

Greater London Walthamstow, 22nd June (D.Mitchell).

Humberside Spurn, 4th June (D.R.Middleton, B.R.Spence *et al.*).

Kent Aylesford, first-year, at least 22nd March to 21st April, photo. (C. & Z.V.R.Hills, D.Morgan).

Norfolk Sea Palling, 9th June, photo. (P.G.Millsted *et al.*).

Northumberland Newbiggin, juvenile, 3rd September, photo. (K.Scattergood, W.Simpson) (Brit. Birds 88: page 545 fig. 6).

Orkney Eday, adult, 6th August (P.R.Catchpole, M.G.Cockram).

Powys Rhayader, juvenile, 22nd-27th September (M.F.Peers, M.Shrubb *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes and Gugh, juvenile, 18th-22nd October (E.S.Clare *et al.*, per W.H.Wagstaff); same, St Mary's, 23rd October to 2nd December (D.J.Holman *et al.*).

Shetland Foula, adult, 3rd-5th August (W.Watt *et al.*). Troswick, adult, 11th August, photo. (M.Heubeck *et al.*). Fair Isle, juvenile, 22nd September to at least 3rd November, trapped 2nd October (C.J.Orsman, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

Somerset Upper Holway, 29th June to 3rd July, two, possibly three, 29th (N.Ffrench, B.D.Gibbs *et al.*).

Strathclyde Irvine, 6th-14th May, photo. (W. & Mrs A.Smith *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 11th-15th June, photo. (D. & J.F.Cooper) (Brit. Birds 88 plates 191 & 192).

Sussex, West Sidlesham, adult, 18th September (A.D.Whitcombe *et al.*).

Tayside Garrybank, adult, 1st-6th August, photo. (R.J.Young). Meigle, adult, 4th-21st August (F.Brown, T. & Mrs M.Green, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

1991 Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 10th-27th October, photo. (D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*).

1992 Devon Torcross, juvenile, 25th-27th September (L.Lock *et al.*).

1993 Cornwall Nanjizal, juvenile, 19th October (N.Hando) (Brit. Birds 88: page 546 fig. 7); presumed same as St Leven, 19th (Brit. Birds 87: 560).

1993 Scilly St Agnes, juvenile, 13th October (D.J.Holman); present 22nd September to 25th November (per W.H.Wagstaff).

IRELAND

Antrim Antrim, 24th July to 3rd August.

Cork Cape Clear Island, juvenile, 25th September to 19th October.

By far the largest annual total, with only 17 in 1983 and 16 in 1991 not even coming close. The multiple record in Somerset is the first such occurrence of adults since the Committee came into existence. These records follow huge influxes in Bulgaria, including a roost of 3,000 on 2nd June (Brit. Birds 88: 43), and Hungary, where 550-600 pairs nested (Brit. Birds 88: 278). Whilst some observers may find juveniles of this species dull and uninteresting, the Committee wishes that more reporters would emulate the fine examples set by Bill Simpson and Nik Hando (figs. 6 & 7).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (1, 77, 1)

1991 Cleveland North Gare, 12th October (Brit. Birds 86: 525), to 13th (per G.Joynt).

IRELAND

Cork Mizen Head, 8th to 10th October.

None in Britain and just this one in Ireland, in a poor year here for North American passerines.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 263, 10)

Grampian Cruden Bay, 13th November (J.Oates, Dr I.M.Phillips *et al.*).

Norfolk Brancaster, 17th-18th April (B.Robson, R.Q.Skeen, D.Thurlow *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, two first-winters, 9th-22nd November, both trapped 11th, one to 24th, retrapped 23rd, photo. (S.D.Stansfield *et al.*).

Shetland Baltasound, Unst, 16th January (H.J.Burgess, M.G.Pennington, I.Spence). Quendale, 27th-28th October (P.M.Ellis, P.V.Harvey, H.R.Harrop). Out Skerries, 28th October (P.M.Ellis). Skaw, Unst, 2nd November (H.R.Harrop).

Tayside Easthaven, 22nd October (M.S.Scott).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 16th October (J.W.Cooper, R.F.Dickens, S.Gwillian *et al.*).

1993 Shetland Fair Isle, 20th-23rd May, trapped 21st (P.A.Jenks, A.J.Leitch, T.Lumsden).

A similar total to those of the previous two years and a decline from the large influxes of 29 in 1990 and 63 in 1991. The Out Skerries individual made its landfall on the observer.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 77, 0)

1990 Norfolk Sandringham Warren, male, 29th September (Brit. Birds 86: 526), correct dates 30th September to at least 6th October, possibly to 14th (D.J.Holman, J.A.Rowlands *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 84: plate 92); not same as juvenile male, 29th-30th, not accepted (Brit. Birds 87: 570).

1991 Clwyd Near Llanfihangel Glyn Myrfyr, male, 3rd-26th March, photo. (M.Davies, M.G.Neal *et al.*).

The problem of distinguishing individuals of this species from Common Crossbills *L.curvirostra* with exceptionally broad whitish wing-bars is still very real.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* (10, 470, 1)

Shetland Kergord, first-winter female, 19th-20th October, photo. (P.M.Ellis, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

1991 Northumberland Harwood Forest, two females, 17th March (J.Hallowell, A.D.McLevy).

The first record after two blank years and in stark contrast to the large influxes of 208 in 1990 and 51 in 1991. Care must be taken in describing the structure of the bill of this species in sufficient detail to eliminate both large-billed Common Crossbills *L.curvirostra* and Scottish Crossbill *L.scotica*.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (1, 17, 2)

Avon Eastville Park, Bristol, 16th-17th November, photo. (R.M.Andrews, R.Erickson-Hull, J.P.Martin, A.J.Musgrove *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: page 550 fig.10).

Dyfed Ramsey Island, 31st October to 4th November, photo. (K.Dobbs, D.Woodhead *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 194, page 549 fig. 9).

There have now been records in two successive years after a gap of five years since the previous record in 1987.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (0, 31, 1)

Sussex, East Bewl Water, 10th-20th December, photo. (M.Scott-Ham *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 193).

Another strange winter record of an American wood-warbler. This follows Black-and-white Warblers *Mniotilta varia* in Devon on 3rd March 1978 and in Norfolk during 3rd-15th December 1985; Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* in Kent during 24th January to 10th April 1989; Yellow-rumped Warbler *D.coronata* in Devon during 4th January to 10th February 1955; Ovenbirds *Seiurus aurocapillus* in Lancashire (wing only) on 4th January 1969, and in Co. Mayo (freshly dead) on 8th December 1977; and Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* in Kent during 6th January to 23rd April 1989.

Song Sparrow *Zonotrichia melodia* (0, 6, 1)

Merseyside Seaforth, 15th-17th October, photo. (A.Pryce, T.Vaughan *et al.*).

The first since 1989 and the first in autumn. Its proximity to dockyards was perhaps no coincidence.

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* (0, 0, 0)

The identification of the first-winter male which stayed at Pennington Flash, Greater Manchester, from 8th March (when it was trapped) until 24th April (Brit. Birds 88: plate 128) is not in dispute. Its probable origin is, however, still under active investigation by the BOU Records Committee, and is the subject of considerable debate amongst the birding fraternity, especially the hundreds who travelled to see the bird. The patterns of occurrences of rare passerines in Britain & Ireland in relation to vagrancy versus escape from captivity were recently explored by Dr David Parkin and Dr Alan Knox (Brit. Birds 87: 585-592). Whatever its origin, and its eventual categorisation, this well-watched individual – potentially the first wild one for Britain & Ireland – gave pleasure to many observers.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* (2, 22, 5)

Orkney Sanday, male, 22nd October (K.Fairclough, E.R.Meek). North Ronaldsay, male, 28th October (P.J.Donnolly).

Shetland Out Skerries, first-winter female, 22nd-23rd October (P.M.Ellis, D.Suddaby, E.Tait). Sumburgh, male, 23rd October (J.Clifton, H.R.Harrop, A.McCall *et al.*). Fair Isle, male, probably first-winter, 7th November (M.A.Newall, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

1990 Tyne & Wear Big Waters Nature Reserve, female, about 18th February to 16th March, photo. (C.Bradshaw, A.Hutt, K.W.Regan *et al.*).

1991 Orkney North Ronaldsay, female, 12th-13th October; first-winter female, 1st-5th November (M.Gray *et al.*).

The best year ever, the previous best being the four in 1987 and the three in 1988. The very real problems of eliminating the possibility of exceptionally pale Yellowhammers *E.citrinella* or, even more likely, Pine Bunting x Yellowhammer hybrids meant that a great deal of research and deliberation was necessary before the additional 1990 and 1991 records could be accepted. A great deal of useful information on the finer points of the identification of this species has, however, now come to light, particularly the need to check carefully the colour of the fringes to the outer webs of the primaries, especially on females. Interestingly, 1994 saw the first Polish record, involving a male which hybridised with a female Yellowhammer (Brit. Birds 88: 44). Autumn vagrants were also reported in Finland (one) and the Netherlands (four to six individuals) (Brit. Birds 88: 279).

Yellow-browed Bunting *Emberiza chrysophrys* (0, 3, 1)

Scilly St Agnes, 19th-22nd October, photo. (J.Lowes, M.Oksien, S.L.Rivers, J.F.Wright *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plate 190).

The age and sex of this bird remain uncertain, but it was probably first-winter. The first for Scilly. Previous records were of singles in Norfolk on 19th October 1975, Shetland on 12th-23rd October 1980 and Orkney on 22nd-23rd September 1992.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 278, 15)

Cambridgeshire Fowlmere, sex uncertain, 26th January to 10th March, photo. (S.L.Cooper *et al.*).

Cleveland Locke Park, Redcar, 25th September, photo. (M.R.K.Askew *et al.*).

Devon Lundy, 12th October (A.M.Jewels).

Dyfed Skokholm, sex uncertain, 23rd May (J.Gale, Miss P.A.Wild).

Lincolnshire North Coates, male, 23rd-24th May (D.Bradbeer *et al.*).

Norfolk Salthouse, sex uncertain, 22nd-23rd May, photo. (J.V.Bhalerao *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, female, 21st-23rd May (A.Baxter *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 11th-14th October, photo. (Mr & Mrs T.Atkinson, M.P.Edgecombe, S.Howard *et al.*).

Shetland Boddam, male, 14th May (E.J., J. & P.McOwat). Fair Isle, male, 15th May (J.Reid, N.Ward *et al.*); male, 26th-28th May (Dr R.Riddington, N.Ward *et al.*); first-winter, probably female, trapped 17th October (Dr R.Riddington, N.Ward *et al.*). Loch of Spiggie, 28th September (C.Barton, I.Gordon, I.A.Roberts).

Western Isles Hirta, St Kilda, sex uncertain, 17th May (T.J.Dix, J.Vaughan).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 25th September (J.Sanderson, J.M.Turton).

1990 Cleveland South Gare, male, 26th April (Brit. Birds 84: 501), was 22nd April.

1993 Cleveland South Gare, 16th-19th September (Brit. Birds 87: 563), to at least 22nd (per G.Joynt).

1993 Devon Lundy, 20th October (G.K.Gordon).

1993 Greater London Beddington Sewage-farm, female, 9th February to 13th March, photo. (A.Greensmith, J.S.Walsh *et al.*).

1993 Humberside Beacon Ponds, Easington, male, 11th May (A.L.Dawson *et al.*).

1993 Norfolk Holkham Meals, 18th May (Brit. Birds 87: 564), was 18th September.

1993 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 29th October (M.Gray).

1993 Scilly St Mary's, 9th-12th October (P.Higson *et al.*).

IRELAND

1993 Cork Old Head of Kinsale, adult male, 9th October.

An average total, but a second winter record, in Cambridgeshire, follows the first, in Greater London in 1993. The one in Co. Cork came 34 years to the day after Ireland's first ever. The additional 1993 records bring the total number of individuals for that record year to a remarkable 50.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (93, 527, -)

1992 Humberside Flamborough Head, 4th October (R.Hearn, M.Thomas *et al.*).

1993 Greater London See 1993 Surrey below.

1993 Merseyside Meols, 12th October (S.R.Davidson).

1993 Orkney North Ronaldsay, 13th September (M.Gray *et al.*); first-winter, trapped 29th October (A.D.Mitchell *et al.*). Stronsay, 30th October to at least 31st December (Brit. Birds 87: 564), to 10th February 1994.

1993 Shetland Whalsay, 3rd October (J.L.Irvine).

1993 Surrey Beddington Sewage-farm (Brit. Birds 87: 565), locality is in Greater London.

The additional records bring the 1993 total to 45. This species is no longer considered by the Committee.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 157, 5)

Merseyside Hilbre, female or first-winter, 7th September (G.Broad, S.Brown *et al.*).

Shetland Skaw, Unst, female or first-winter, 27th-28th August, photo. (Dr C.F.Mackenzie *et al.*). Fair Isle, female or first-winter, 9th September (Dr R.Riddington *et al.*); female or first-winter, 18th (J.Reid *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, female or first-winter, 18th September (R.E.Harbird, D.J.Scanlan *et al.*).

1993 Suffolk Landguard, female or first-winter, 14th September (Brit. Birds 87: 565), report related to 4th September.

An average total for recent years. This species is still most often encountered in Shetland, and the Merseyside record is especially unusual. The fourth French record this century was also reported, on 24th-27th October (Brit. Birds 88: 280).

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 108, 3)

Devon Starcross, male, 8th June (G. & Mrs P.Wills).

Highland Durness, male, 30th July (M.Fitch). Brora, male, 1st-4th October, photo. (A R. & H.T.Mainwood, A.Vittery *et al.*).

1993 Devon Lundy, male, 24th May to 4th June (A.M.Jewels, D.Parker *et al.*).

1993 Gwynedd Cemlyn Bay, Anglesey, male, 12th June (R.K.Treeby, D.Wright *et al.*).

A return to more-typical numbers after 13 in 1992 and 12 in 1993.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (0, 23, 0)

1991 Humberside Bridlington, first-winter male, 5th-6th November, photo. (I. & Mrs J.Atha, T.D.Charlton *et al.*).

The elderly owners of the small suburban garden were understandably reluctant to allow access to more than a handful of local birders. This record was later than most, almost all of which have been in October. The only previous record in Eastern Britain was in Essex during 20th December 1975 to 4th January 1976.

Appendix 1. Category D species accepted (see Ibis 136: 253)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

P. r. roseus (-, 3, 1)

Grampian Ythan Estuary, adult, 31st May to 28th June, photo. (S.M.D.Alexander, P.Shepherd *et al.*).

1988 Shetland Pool of Virkie, adult, 27th-31st May, photo. (P.V.Harvey, Mrs L.Marshall *et al.*).

1990 Norfolk Breydon, immature, 6th October, photo. (P.R.Allard, J.Oates *et al.*).

1992 Yorkshire, North Bolton-on-Swale, adult, intermittently 4th-17th January (B.Miller, N.Morgan).

Widely kept in captivity and some captive-bred individuals may wander. The Committee has not yet received confirmation that the Grampian bird was also seen in Lothian and Dumfries & Galloway, and the widely publicised North Kent and Essex individual has yet to be fully processed.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* (0, 10, 1)

Essex Old Hall Marshes, 16th January to at least 11th April (C.McClure, S.D.Wood *et al.*).

The Committee would welcome identification details of currently undocumented records at the Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire, in 1971 and at Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire, in 1976.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* (0, 3, 1)

Essex Old Hall Marshes, male, 28th May to 12th June (D.Rhymes, C.Shields, S.D.Wood *et al.*).

This species was transferred from Category A to Category D in 1993 (Ibis 135: 495).

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (0, 5, 2)

Glamorgan, Mid Kenfig Pool, 7th June, photo. (S.J.Moon, G.H.Thomson, H.A.Williams).

Somerset Steart, 23rd June (J.R.Diamond, B.D.Gibbs).

1990 Leicestershire Rutland Water, 16th-20th June (A.H.J.Harrop *et al.*).

1990 Warwickshire Kingsbury Water Park, 13th July to at least 19th August (J.P.Martin *et al.*), presumed same as Leicestershire.

1990 Yorkshire, South Potteric Carr, 14th September (Brit. Birds 87: 567), to 27th October, possibly same as Warwickshire.

1991 Greater London Barn Elms Reservoirs, 3rd-30th August (per C.Lamsdell).

It is just possible that the current Glamorgan and Somerset records related to the same individual.

Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* (0, 4, 1)

Shetland Out Skerries, female, 2nd-5th September, trapped 3rd, photo. (J.F. & Mrs D.R.Cooper, J.D.Okill *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 88: plates 181 & 196).

1974 Shetland Foula, 9th-13th June (Brit. Birds 70: 444) was 9th-13th July (Ibis 134: 213).

All four previous records have been in June/July, but a September occurrence is perhaps a better candidate for genuine vagrancy.

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; (c) those mentioned in 'The ornithological year' or 'Recent reports' in British Birds if full details were unobtainable; or (d) certain escapes.

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.

1994 White-billed Diver Loch Barraglom, Western Isles, 28th January. **Little Shearwater** St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 22nd May; Portland, Dorset, 31st July; Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 4th August; Cemlyn Bay, Gwynedd, two, 11th September; Hinkley Point, Somerset, 18th September; Brora, Highland, 21st October. **Little Bittern** New Hythe, Kent, 24th May; Westhay Moor, Somerset, 27th May. **Night Heron** Loch of Strathbeg, Grampian, 3rd May; Kennack Sands, Cornwall, 30th May. **Squacco Heron** Plymouth, Devon, 4th May. **Great White Egret** Hamford Water, Essex, 8th May; Stodmarsh, Kent, 8th May; Winterton, Norfolk, 15th May; Linford, Buckinghamshire, 3rd August; Butley Creek, Suffolk, two, 6th August; Barnstaple, Devon, 6th November. **Black Stork** Chudleigh Knighton, Devon, 2nd February; Chilham, Kent, 22nd June; Stanwell, Greater London, 30th June. **American Wigeon** St Mary's, Scilly, 20th October. **King Eider** North Berwick, Lothian, 1st April; Mull, Strathclyde, 2nd May. **Black Kite** Cleeve Hill, Gloucestershire, 29th April; Pevensey Levels, East Sussex, 29th April; Rostherne Mere, Cheshire, 30th April; Buntingford, Hertfordshire, 30th April; Pilling, Lancashire, 1st May; Benfleet, Essex, 10th May; Beachy Head, East Sussex, 10th May; Dungeness, Kent, 12th May; Galmpton, Devon, 13th May; Lancing, West Sussex, 13th May; near Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 28th May; Skomer, Dyfed, 29th May; St Margaret's, Kent, 29th May; Epping, Essex, 6th June; Halstead, Kent, 6th June; Mackerye End, Hertfordshire, 9th June; Shoeburyness, Essex, 11th June; Sheppey, Kent, 12th June; Great Haldon Forest, Devon, 23rd June; Topsham, Devon, 23rd June; Haytor, Devon, 19th, 25th October. **Red-footed Falcon** St Albans, Hertfordshire, 3rd May; Layer-de-la-Haye, Essex, 9th May; Howden, Humberside, 10th May; Skelmersdale, Lancashire, 14th May; Filey, North Yorkshire, 14th May; Trowell, Nottinghamshire, 29th May; Godshill, Isle of Wight, 31st May; Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, 3rd July; Shrewton, Wiltshire, 14th September; Cruden Bay, Grampian, 5th November. **Little Crane** Shell Carrington Nature Reserve, Greater Manchester, 20th-23rd April; Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire, 30th June; Tresco, Scilly, 9th October. **Black-winged Pratincole** Thursley Common, Surrey, 29th April. **Pratincole** Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, 29th August. **Killdeer Plover** Isle of Lewis, Western Isles, 27th March. **Pacific Golden Plover** Horsehow Point, Lincolnshire, 14th July. **Sociable Lapwing** Brockhampton, Hampshire, 27th July. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Vault Bay, Tiree, Strathclyde, 7th May. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** St Mary's, Scilly, 8th October. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Druridge Pools, Northumberland, 28th July. **Great Snipe** Sanday, Orkney, 13th October. **Upland Sandpiper** Bowness-on-Solway, Cumbria, 11th September. **Marsh Sandpiper** Timber Mill Creek, Essex, 5th July; Cley, Norfolk, 16th July; Faversham, Kent, 5th September. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, 10th September. **Terek Sandpiper** Coatham Marsh, Cleveland, 15th September. **Franklin's Gull** Fraserburgh, Grampian, 6th January; Mid Foulshaw, Cumbria, 16th January; Bainton Green, Cambridgeshire, 10th May; Stanwick, Northamptonshire, 10th May. **Bonaparte's Gull** Draycote Water, Warwickshire, 12th March; Plym Estuary, Devon, 20th March; Seaforth, Merseyside, 26th March; Titchwell, Norfolk, 9th May; Chew Valley Lake, Avon, 18th September. **Ross's Gull** Tayport, Fife, 23rd February; Marsden, Tyne & Wear, 18th July. **Ivory Gull** Gouthwaite Reservoir, North Yorkshire, 16th March. **Gull-billed Tern** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 27th August; Fiddler's Ferry, Cheshire, 2nd October. **Whiskered Tern** Wakering, Essex, 8th May; St Mary's, Scilly, two, 11th May; Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, West Glamorgan, 11th September; Colne Point, Essex, 14th September. **White-winged Black Tern** Beckton, Greater London, 15th September; Eye Brook Reservoir, Leicestershire, 21st September. **Great Spotted Cuckoo** Winchester, Hampshire, 15th July. **Snowy Owl** near Fettercairn, Grampian, 12th July. **Tengmalm's Owl** Thompson, Norfolk, 14th August. **Chimney Swift** Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 5th November. **Alpine Swift** Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 25th July; Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, 11th August. **European Roller** Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 28th May. **Calandra Lark** Dungeness, Kent, 6th March. **Red-rumped Swallow** Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, 28th May; Wareham, Dorset, 6th November. **Olive-backed Pipit** Pennington Flash, Greater Manchester, 10th October. **Pechora Pipit** Strand, Shetland, 10th October; Minsmere, Suffolk, 5th November. **Thrush Nightingale** Yea Estuary, Avon, 2nd September. **'Siberian' Common Stonechat** Red Rocks, Merseyside, 20th March. **Black-eared Wheatear** Yaverland, Isle of Wight, two, 17th September; Benacre, Suffolk, 27th September. **Desert Wheatear** Arun Valley, West Sussex, 23rd-30th April. **White's Thrush** Okehampton, Devon, 24th-25th November. **Siberian Thrush** Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, 4th October. **American Robin** Walton-le-Dale, Lancashire, mid November; Bembridge, Isle of Wight, 5th December. **Greenish Warbler** Farndale, North Yorkshire, 18th-25th May; Felixstowe, Suffolk, 22nd May. **Arctic Warbler** Walberswick, Suffolk, 5th September; Moreton, Merseyside, 13th September. **Radde's Warbler** Worthing, West Sussex, 5th October. **Bonelli's Warbler** St Mary's, Scilly, 15th

October. **Nutcracker** Finchley, Greater London, 30th September. **Rosy Starling** St Martin's, Scilly, 20th July; Bolt Head, Devon, 15th August; Kilnsea, Humberside, 24th September. **Hooded Warbler** St Mary's, Scilly, 24th August. **Black-faced Bunting** Minsmere, Suffolk, 30th March. **Rustic Bunting** Felixstowe, Suffolk, 25th October. **Black-headed Bunting** Lay Hill, Somerset, 20th August.

1993 Little Shearwater North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 1st November. **Night Heron** Cofton, Devon, 28th June. **Black Stork** Bankfoot, Tayside, 27th August. **Bufflehead** Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire, 28th December. **Black Kite** Rew Down, Isle of Wight, 29th April; Upton Snodbury, Hereford & Worcester, 2nd June; Ramsey Island, Dyfed, 22nd June; Minsmere, Suffolk, two, 16th September. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Dawlish Warren, Devon, 14th October. **Great Snipe** Minsmere, Suffolk, 13th September; Shoeburyness, Essex, 2nd-4th November; Findhorn Bay, Grampian, 27th November. **Laughing Gull** Plymouth, Devon, 2nd March; Slapton Sands, Devon, 23rd October. **Bonaparte's Gull** Marton Mere, Lancashire, 27th April. **Gull-billed Tern** Point of Air, Clwyd, 5th June; Point Lynas, Gwynedd, 22nd June. **Forster's Tern** Point of Air, Clwyd, 5th August. **Alpine Swift** Start Point, Devon, 7th April. **Red-throated Pipit** Lypstone, Devon, 18th October. **Yellow Wagtail** *simillima* Aust, Avon, 16th December to January 1994. **Black-eared Wheatear** St Agnes, Scilly, 2nd September; Salthouse, Norfolk, 4th September. **Dark-throated Thrush** Tresco, Scilly, 16th October. **Blyth's Reed Warbler** Dungeness, Kent, 2nd November. **Marmora's Warbler** Kynance, Cornwall, 28th August. **Greenish Warbler** Wormiston, Fife, 13th-14th May. **Short-toed Treecreeper** Dungeness, Kent, 31st August to 19th September, 1st-11th December. **Rosy Starling** Theberton, Suffolk, 29th August; Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, 25th September; Totnes, Devon, 12th November.

1992 Bulwer's Petrel Point of Air, Clwyd, 11th September. **Gull-billed Tern** Holkham, Norfolk, 20th September. **Black-eared Wheatear** Folkestone, Kent, 1st October. **Bonelli's Warbler** Minsmere, Suffolk, 13th October.

1991 Booted Eagle North Foreland, Kent, 14th August. **Pacific Golden Plover** Vidlin, Shetland, 1st October. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Fareham, Hampshire, 12th-16th February. **'Siberian' Common Stonechat** Porthgwarra, Cornwall, two, 8th April. **Booted Warbler** Stronsay, Orkney, 23rd-27th August. **Great Grey Shrike** *meridionalis* Carlton Colville, Suffolk, 18th May to 8th July. **Nutcracker** Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, 9th November. **Parrot Crossbill** Brandon, Suffolk, 29th March.

1990 Greater Flamingo *roseus* Walberswick, Suffolk, four, 26th November. **White-tailed Eagle** Broomfleet Ponds, Humberside, 3rd February. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Broomfleet Ponds, Humberside, 17th-21st September. **European Bee-eater** Battle, East Sussex, 18th June.

1989 Common Scoter *americana* Pennington, Hampshire, 22nd July. **Red-footed Falcon** Broomfleet Ponds, Humberside, 20th June. **White-cheeked Tern** Dungeness, Kent, 13th May, St Margaret's, Kent, 13th May. **Lesser Grey Shrike** Bishop Monkton, North Yorkshire, 1st November.

1988 Little Bunting Farne Islands, Northumberland, 13th November.

1984 'Siberian' Common Stonechat Gulval, Cornwall, two, 2nd April. **Blyth's Reed Warbler** Holkham Meals, Norfolk, 28th-29th May.

1981 Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* Skomer, Dyfed, 11th April.

1979 'Siberian' Common Stonechat Landguard, Suffolk, 17th April; Selsey Bill, West Sussex, 28th April; Red Rocks, Merseyside, 26th May.

Appendix 3. List of records not accepted but identification proved

This list provides a permanent record of those occurrences which, usually on the grounds of likely escape from captivity, find no place in any category, but which may, at some future date, merit further consideration. It does not include (a) any record of a species for which natural vagrancy is wholly unlikely, or (b) those records of presumed escapes already mentioned in the main text of this or earlier Reports. The decisions have been taken by this Committee unless otherwise shown.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii* South West Mosses, Lancashire, 5th December 1970 to 17th January 1971; presumed same, 8th December 1971 to 9th January 1972, 30th November 1972 to January 1973, late December 1973 to 12th January 1974. **Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo* The Fleet, Dorset, at least 29th September 1975; Spurn, Humberside, 13th-23rd September 1993, presumed same, Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire, 25th, Stewartby, Bedfordshire, 2nd October, localities in Essex, 5th-10th. **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* Scunthorpe, Humberside, 21st October 1988; Gullane, Lothian, 24th April 1988; Brighstone, Isle of Wight, 24th-25th February 1993, possibly since November 1992. **Verditer Flycatcher** *Muscicapa thalassina* Crail, Fife, 3rd-4th October 1993. **White-cheeked Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus* Buckie, Grampian, end January to 12th April 1994. **Long-tailed Rosefinch** *Uragus sibiricus* Minsmere, Suffolk, 21st April 1994.