



Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1996

M.J.Rogers and the Rarities Committee
With comments by K.D.Shaw and G.Walbridge

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 1995 Report (89: 481-531). 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 or video-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 American *Pluvialis dominica* and Pacific Golden Plovers *P.fulva*, Long-billed *Limnodromus scolopaceus* and Short-billed Dowitchers *L.griseus*, however, we are continuing to publish indeterminate records, and this also applies to those of pratincoles *Glareola*, albatrosses *Diomedea* and frigatebirds *Fregata*.
3. The sequence of species, English names and scientific nomenclature follow the '*British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1997).
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) those listed here for 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 a particular 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, following the subheading IRELAND.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (18, 155, 15)

Cleveland/Yorkshire, North Staithes, adult, 14th February (M.A.Blick).

Kent Dungeness, first-summer, 1st May (W.Attridge, S.P.Clancy, D.Walker *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Tattershall Bridge, adult, 29th February to 2nd March when moribund, photo., specimen now at British Museum, Tring (A.Ball, G.P.Catley, K.E.Durose *et al.*).

Norfolk Winterton, adult, recently dead, 11th April (S.A.Wright). Salthouse and Cley, second-winter, 7th-8th October (T.Dean *et al.*).

Northeast Scotland Peterhead Bay, adult, 24th-30th March (K.Gillon *et al.*).

Northumberland Blyth Estuary, adult, 20th March to 8th April, photo. (T.R.Cleeves *et al.*). Newbiggin by the Sea, adult, 12th May (A.Priest, J.G.Steele).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter to second-summer, 21st April (P.J.Donnolly). Stronsay, first-summer, 26th May (J.F. & Mrs S.M.Holloway). Bay of Ireland, Stenness, first-summer, 1st June (E.R.Meek).

Outer Hebrides Sound of Harris, Berneray, adult, 10th February (P.R.Boyer). Tiumpan Head, Lewis, adult, 6th-7th May (P.K.Batchelor, D.R.Watson, R.D.Wemyss).

Shetland Mousa Sound, adult, 5th-6th May (I.Dillon, D.Houghton).

Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, 13th November (the late D.Beaumont, P.A.Lassey, P.J.Willoughby *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North See Cleveland/Yorkshire, North above.

1995 Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, then Humberside, 3rd November (the late D.Beaumont, P.A.Lassey).

A very good year, with a wide spread of records including further evidence of spring migration up the western side of Britain & Ireland (Brit. Birds 90: 115, 292-293). This year is further testament to the fact that the species is usually reported by experienced observers, and there were some excellent 'fly-by' descriptions.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (0, 18, 2)

Cornwall Loe Pool, 19th November to at least 10th December, dead 14th, photo. (A.R.Pay *et al.*). Hayle, 31st December to at least April 1997, photo. (J.F.Ryan, L.P.Williams *et al.*).

IRELAND

1995 Wexford North Slob, 2nd January (Irish Birds 5: 447).

Two more records in the far Southwest for this most unlikely vagrant in terms of life style. European records are extremely rare away from our shores: singles in France in October 1985 and January-February 1995 and one in Iceland in October 1976.

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

IRELAND

1995 Cork Cape Clear Island, adult, 2nd May (Irish Birds 5: 449).

Madeira/Soft-plumaged/Cape Verde Petrel *Pterodroma madeira/mollis/feae* (0, 14, 3)

Northumberland Newbiggin, 13th September (J.G.Steele). Farne Islands, 20th September (M.S.Thomas).

Pembrokeshire Strumble Head, 4th October (S.Berry, K.J.S.Devonald, J.W.Donovan *et al.*).

At sea Sea area Fair Isle, 60° 57'N 03° 05'W, 25th June (R.W.White).

1993 Northumberland Farne Islands, 5th September (W.Makin, J.Riley); same, Hauxley, 5th September (A.J.Booth, M.J.Sharp).

1995 Lancashire Formby Point, then Merseyside, 8th September (Dr B.McCarthy).

IRELAND

1995 Clare Bridges of Ross, 25th August (Irish Birds 5: 449).

1995 Cork Cape Clear Island, one at 12.10 hours and the same or another at 19.45 hours, 27th July (Irish Birds 5: 449).

1995 Kerry Brandon Point, 26th August (Irish Birds 5: 449).

Northumberland is building up an incredible record for these exciting seabirds, but is it coincidence or are one or two 'recognising' previously visited waters? If this was the case, it would not be the first time that a rare seabird has chosen this part of the World.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (5, 92, 0)

IRELAND

1971 Cork Cape Clear Island, 27th August (Irish Bird Rep. 19: 25).

1978 Kerry Brandon Point, two, 30th September (Irish Birds 1: 416).

1995 Clare Bridges of Ross, 25th August (Irish Birds 5: 450).

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (4, 18, 0)

At sea Sea area Sole, 49° 07'N 07° 04'W, about 64 km SW of Bishop Rock, Scilly, two, 11th August (M.J.Gibson, J.F.Ryan, V.A.Stratton *et al.*).

IRELAND

1988 At sea 32 km to 64 km W of Burtonport, Donegal, five, 6th August (Irish Birds 4: 83).

1995 Clare Bridges of Ross, 25th August (Irish Birds 5: 450).

1995 Cork Cape Clear Island, 18th July; 20th July. Inshore, 3 km south of Cape Clear, 12th August. (Irish Birds 5: 450.)

1995 At sea 70 km WSW of Clogher Head, Co. Kerry, 20th August (Irish Birds 5: 450).

Typical record from experienced seawatchers who have 'got their eye in' for this species. Records are, of course, concentrated in the Southwest. It is perhaps a little surprising that this species has not emerged from ferry-crossing journeys and seawatching headlands farther north on our western seaboard. It is not so long ago, however, that – prior to regular pelagic trips which started in 1985 – it was perceived as an extremely rare vagrant.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* (0, 2, 0)

IRELAND

Galway Nimmo's Pier, first-winter, from 1995 to 6th January, see below (Irish Birds 5: 436-439, 450).

1995 Galway Nimmo's Pier, first-winter, 18th November into 1996, see above (Irish Birds 5: 436-439, 450).

The only previous record in Britain & Ireland was in Cleveland in January-April 1989 (Brit. Birds 89: 162-170).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (150, 187, 3)

Hampshire Fleet Pond, male, 11th-19th August, photo. (G.C.Stephenson *et al.*).

Norfolk Heacham, female, 26th April to 18th May, photo. (Dr I.Burrows *et al.*).

Surrey Furnace Pond, Epsom, male, 30th May to 1st June, photo. (A.Greensmith *et al.*).

1981 Cambridgeshire Over, female, freshly dead, 8th June (Brit. Birds 76: 479), was 7th June (per R.J.Allison).

1995 Greater London Hampstead Heath, female, 19th June (Brit. Birds 89: 487), was 18th June (per M.A.Hardwick).

IRELAND

1994 Wexford Great Saltee, 30th April (Irish Birds 5: 329).

May is the peak month, with about 45% of records since 1958. Autumn records are much rarer; indeed, only about 8% of records have been in August.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 362, 13)

Cleveland Locke Park, Redcar, juvenile, 25th September (B.Beck, E.G.Clark, J.B.Dunnnett *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, two adults, 28th April to 9th August (S.Busuttill *et al.*).

Lancashire Great Harwood, adult, 23rd April (J.Metcalf).

Norfolk Thetford, adult, 18th June (A.M.Wilson).

Scilly St Mary's, adult, 21st-22nd April (N.J.Lever, P.Sanders, B.Thomas).

Suffolk Landguard, sub-adult, 12th August (J.Askins).

Sussex, East Rye, first-summer, 1st-19th May (D.J.Funnell, P.M.Troake *et al.*). Cuckmere Haven, adult, 9th-25th May (J.C.Holt, T.J.Wilson *et al.*). Hastings, first-summer, 26th June to 3rd July (R.G.Harris, A.P. & Mrs W.Phillips *et al.*).

Wight, Isle of Bembridge, second-winter, 29th November to 1997 (Mrs M.Burrows, J.M.Cheverton *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East East Park, Hull, first-year, 27th March, photo. (B.Richards *et al.*). Spurn, juvenile, 14th-16th October (A.Blackburn, M.Chadwick, R.Pyefinch *et al.*).

1987 Greater Manchester Rhodes Lodges, juvenile, 24th July (P.Hill, P.Spencer).

1995 Gloucestershire Dowdeswell Reservoir, juvenile, 23rd November to 9th December (Brit. Birds 89: 487), to 7th only.

1995 Yorkshire, West Ilkley, second-year, 25th to at least 27th October, probably since 17th (S.Hepton, S.M.Mulkeen *et al.*).

IRELAND

1993 Cork Ballymacoda, first-year, 2nd June (Irish Birds 5: 450).

1994 Wicklow Kilcoole, juvenile, 13th-16th June (Irish Birds 5: 329).

The long-staying duo in Kent was without precedent during this part of the twentieth century.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 40, 2)

Dorset Hengistbury Head, 19th June (E.D.Lloyd).

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, 27th August (M.E.Clark, P.C. & Mrs S.Marston *et al.*)

IRELAND

1988 Wexford Ferrycarrig Heritage Park, 19th April to 6th May (Irish Birds 4: 84; 5: 450).

The Dorset record is typical. This species has a southwesterly bias and reaches a peak between mid May and the third week in June. August records, by contrast, are exceedingly rare, and there have been only four before: Gloucestershire in 1867, Nottinghamshire in 1871, Lancashire in 1930 and Oxfordshire in 1975.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (2, 80, 3)

Derbyshire Swarkestone, 19th-21st December (R.W.Key, M.P.Radford *et al.*); same as Yorkshire, South.

Dorset Poole Harbour area, 26th August to 31st December (S.J.Morrison, N.Symes *et al.*).

Wight, Isle of Bembridge and Brading Marshes, 14th-27th May (D.T.Biggs, J.M.Cheverton, J.W.Wilmot *et al.*).

Yorkshire, South Thorne area, 12th October to 29th November, 22nd December, photo. (L.J.Degnan, P.K.Greaves, D.Page *et al.*); also in Derbyshire.

IRELAND

1995 Wexford North Slob, 21st-22nd November (Irish Birds 5: 450).

The first for Dorset since 1958, apart from one on the Devon-Dorset border in 1985. Yorkshire, on the other hand, has a good reputation, with eight records, making it joint top county with Norfolk.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (23, 15011, -)

IRELAND

1965 Galway Near Ballyconneely, 15th-16th May (Irish Bird Rep. 16: 17).

1990 Antrim Lough Lame, 1st September (Irish Birds 4: 577).

This species was no longer considered by the Committee after 1990, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records for the earlier period are updated.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 73, 6)

Carmarthenshire Penclacwydd, 30th September (Dr M.Holding, A.Twigger).

Cornwall Argal Reservoir, 22nd October (Mr & Mrs H.K.Butcher).

Hampshire Damerham, 6th January (A.J. & G.C.Tompsett); presumed same, Farlington Marsh, 7th April (R.W.Huxford *et al.*); also in Sussex, East & West. Romsey, at least 31st December (J.Lewis).

Somerset Catcott Lows, two, 2nd June (C.F.S.Avent, J.A.Hazell).

Sussex, East Withyham, 12th January (N.A.Driver, R.Harman); same, Horse Eye Level, 30th January, 17th February to 17th March (R.K.Haggart *et al.*); also in Hampshire and Sussex, West.

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 27th March to 3rd April (T.J.Edwards *et al.*); same as Hampshire and Sussex, East.

1994 Yorkshire, South Wath Ings, 26th May (D.M.Waddington *et al.*); same as Angler's Country Park, 26th (Brit. Birds 88: 500).

1995 Gwent Peterstone Wentlooge, 28th June (T.Walsh).

1995 Shropshire Near Ellesmere, 25th July, photo. (M.J.Webb *et al.*).

The Somerset duo is the first proven multiple record, and it had a Little Egret *E.garzetta* for company.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 108, 2)

Cleveland Coatham Marsh, 18th April (J.Crussell); same, Hartlepool, 19th April (A.Cruickshanks).

Suffolk Ipswich, 26th August (G. & Mrs E.Mortimer).

1995 Yorkshire, North Near Bolton Abbey, 26th April (S. & Mrs J.Radcliffe)

A poor showing compared with some recent years.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (many, 66, 2)

Pembrokeshire Marloes, 16th June (K.J.S.Devonald); presumed same as Scilly.

Scilly Tresco, first-year, intermittently, 16th May to 12th June, photo. (R.J.Hathway *et al.*); same, St Mary's, intermittently, 16th-24th May (T.S.Bird per W.H.Wagstaff).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, 23rd May (J.Cudworth, D.R.Middleton, M.F. & M.G.Stoyle *et al.*).

1995 Sussex, East Rye, 24th-27th October (Dr B.J.Yates *et al.*).

IRELAND

1995 Wexford North Slob, two, 18th-31st October, one staying into 1996 (Irish Birds 5: 451).

This species is going to be 'picked up' the minute it hits our shores, so overlap of records is always a likelihood. The individual in Scilly could well have been the same as one reported in Co. Wexford earlier in the year.

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

C. c. columbianus (0, 8, 0)

IRELAND

1986 Wexford South Slob, adult, 3rd to late March 1985 and 31st December 1985 into 1986 (Irish Birds 3: 296; Brit. Birds 79:532) stayed until at least 15th February 1986 (Irish Birds 5: 451).

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* (47, 84, 3)

Dumfries & Galloway Glencaple, adult, 2nd-3rd January (D.Patterson, P.Williams *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, adult, 5th January to 22nd March (L.P.Alder *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Pulfin Bog, Brandesburton and Tophill Low area, adult, 28th January to 12th April, photo. (D.G.Hobson *et al.*).

The credentials of the Dumfries & Galloway and Gloucestershire birds are probably good, but the Yorkshire one is perhaps a little more doubtful.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

B. b. nigricans (1, 69, 4)

Essex South Woodham Ferrers, adult, 14th January, see 1995 Essex below; presumed same, North Woodham Ferrers, adult, 8th December to 1997 (A.W.Shearring *et al.*).

Kent Gillingham, adult, since 1995 to at least 7th January (Brit. Birds 89: 490).

Lancashire Pilling Lane Ends, adult, 17th December to 11th January 1997 (C.G.Batty *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Holbeach Marsh, adult, 10th November (A.H.J.Harrop).

Norfolk Salthouse and area, adult, 23rd November to 1997 (I.G. & Mrs E.Johnson *et al.*).

Suffolk Aldeburgh, adult, 3rd-11th February (E.Marsh, M.C.Marsh, S.H.Piotrowski *et al.*); same, Falkenham, 25th (M.C.Marsh).

1986 Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, adult, 26th January to 27th February (Brit. Birds 80: 525), to 8th March (R.D.M.Edgar). Chichester Harbour and Thorney Island, 2nd November to at least 8th March 1987 (Brit. Birds 80: 525), first noted 23rd October (R.D.M.Edgar).

1995 Essex South Woodham Ferrers, adult, 26th-27th December, 14th January 1996 (D.Low, A.W.Shearring *et al.*).

1995 Kent Sittingbourne, adult, 15th January to at least 25th February (Brit. Birds 89: 490), first noted 12th January (per D.W.Taylor).

IRELAND

Down Killough Harbour, adult, 20th April; presumed same as April 1995, see below.

1995 Down Killough Harbour, adult, 8th April (Irish Birds 5: 453).

1995 Dublin Rogerstown, adult, 11th February. Poolbeg, adult, 18th February to 10th March, same as 1st April 1994 (Irish Birds 5: 330). (Irish Birds 5: 453.)

1995 Londonderry Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, adult, 8th September; same, Faughenvale, Lough Foyle, 18th December; presumed returning individual from October 1980 (Irish Birds 5: 453).

With a few rejections this year, it is perhaps worth stating that, on circulations of this race, comments were made on the lack of care being taken to prove identification to the exclusion of possible intermediates.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* (15, 32, 1)

Essex Holland Haven, adult, 21st February (E. & J.Huxley); possibly returning individual recorded in Essex, Kent, 1993-94, Kent, 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 490).

1994 Perth & Kinross Vane Farm, then Tayside, adult, 28th September (J.Burrow, D.J.Fairlamb, A.W.Lauder *et al.*).

An adult in Cheshire in November was almost certainly an escape. Others were 'at large' in Devon/Hampshire and in and around Avon.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 284, 17)

Angus & Dundee Montrose Basin, formerly Tayside, male, since 5th November 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 492), to 21st February.

Caernarfonshire Conwy Estuary, male, since 6th November 1995 to 15th March (Brit. Birds 89: 491); returned 7th October to 1997.

Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, male, 3rd-4th May (C.Jones, J.P.Taylor). Fen Drayton, male, 30th December to 5th January 1997 (J.S.Clark *et al.*).

Cornwall Marazion, first-winter male, 5th-14th October, photo.; presumed same, Hayle, 15th-30th, photo. (D.J.Chown, N.Grace *et al.*). Stithians Reservoir, male, 23rd November to 1997 (S.M.Christophers *et al.*).

Devon Isley Marsh, Taw Estuary, male, 10th October intermittently to 1997 (A.M.Jewels, I.Kendall *et al.*).

Dorset Sturminster Marshall, first-summer female, 2nd-11th May (Dr G.P.Green, K.E.Vinicombe, G.Walbridge *et al.*). Abbotsbury, female, 26th September (S.A.Groves).

Highland/Moray & Nairn Loch Flemington, male, 16th March to 9th April (R.A.Mavor, R.Proctor *et al.*).

Lancashire Marshside Marsh, male, 24th April to 5th May, photo. (T.Baker, W.D.Forshaw *et al.*).

Lothian Aberlady and Gosforth Bays, male, intermittently, since 29th October 1995 to 22nd March (Brit. Birds 89: 491).

Moray & Nairn See Highland/Moray & Nairn above.

Norfolk Welney, first-winter male, 22nd-28th April (J.B.Kemp *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, male, 12th-18th October (P.J.Donnelly *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides Loch Leodasay, North Uist, and area, male, age uncertain, 10th November to 1997 (P.R.Boyer, B.Rabbitts).

Perth & Kinross Carsebreck Lochs, male, 27th April (M.V.Bell).

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter female, 10th-13th September, photo. (M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Shetland Garth's Loch, Scatness, male, 1st-5th October (P.M.Ellis *et al.*).

Suffolk Levington Creek, male, 4th November; same, Trimley Lake, 8th (P.J.Holmes *et al.*).

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, first-winter male, 13th October to 1997 (T.J.Edwards, A.House, C.W.Melgar *et al.*).

1994 Staffordshire Belvide Reservoir, male, 13th-21st April (S.Nuttall *et al.*).

IRELAND

1989 Cork Ballintubbrid, male, 2nd October (Brit. Birds 84: 460), was 2nd November to 1990 (Irish Birds 4: 432).

1991 Cork Rostellan, male, 19th-30th October (Irish Birds 5: 453).

1994 Down Belfast Harbour Estate, male, 25th May (Irish Birds 5: 453).

1994 Wexford Tacumshin, male, 31st December (Irish Birds 5: 331).

1995 Cork Lee Reservoirs, near Macroom, two males, 5th March. Kilcolman NNR, male, 14th-27th March. Inchydoney, first-year male, 26th October into 1996. Ballintubbrid, male, 1st December into 1996. (Irish Birds 5: 453).

1995 Cork/Limerick Charleville Lagoons, male, since 3rd December 1994 (Brit. Birds 88: 501-502) to 12th March (Irish Birds 5: 331, 453); same, Lough Gur, Limerick, 22nd January; same, Charlesville Lagoons, 3rd December into 1996 (Irish Birds 5: 453).

1995 Down Quoile Pondage, male, 29th May to 1st June. Belfast Harbour Estate, male, 31st May, 'presumed returning individual'. (Irish Birds 5: 453; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 26.)

1995 Wexford North Slob, first-winter male, 10th-26th February (Irish Birds 5: 453).

Once again, spring passage birds, from April to mid June, feature strongly and, since their northernmost breeding grounds are not occupied until late May, one is tempted to ask: Were they heading home?

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

A. c. carolinensis (13, 428, -)

IRELAND

1973 Dublin North Bull, 18th October (Brit. Birds 67: 316) was on 18th November.

1979 Kerry Tarbert Bay, 13th January to 6th February (Irish Birds 1: 558).

This race was no longer considered by the Committee after 1990, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records for the earlier period are updated.

Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (1, 20, 0)

Scilly Tresco, male, since 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 492), throughout year (per W.H.Wagstaff).

IRELAND

1995 Cork Lissagriffin, male, 19th August to 12th October, presumed returning 1994 individual (Brit. Birds 88: 502; Irish Birds 5: 331,453).

So far, no little hybrids from this lone male, unlike his female predecessor of 1976-83.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (19, 190, 9)

Clyde Douglas, male, 12th-19th May (A.A.Murray *et al.*).

Derbyshire Middleton Moor, male, 24th-27th August, photo. (E.A.Fisher, K.R.Gould *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: page 463 fig. 1); possibly same, 10th-11th November (R.W.Key, T.Marshall *et al.*).

Essex Abberton Reservoir, male, 14th-21st September, photo. (D.Rhymes, C.McClure *et al.*).

Greater London See 1995 Greater London below.

Greater Manchester Pennington Flash, male, 19th September to 13th October, photo. (Dr P.Brewster, P.M.Robinson, Mrs A.J.Smith *et al.*).

Highland Munloch Bay, Ross & Cromarty, male, 30th March (A.M. & P.Wilson).

Lothian Bavelaw, male, 21st-22nd May (C. & Mrs E.A.B.Hurley *et al.*).

Norfolk Welney, female, 28th October (J.Arbon, J.B.Kemp).

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, male, 22nd to at least 29th September (P.D.Hyde, M.J.Inskip *et al.*).

1994 Norfolk Cley, female, 12th May (S.J.M.Gantlett, P.Walton *et al.*).

1995 Greater London Brent Reservoir, female, 9th December to 30th January 1996 (A.M.Self *et al.*).

1995 Oxfordshire Otmoor, male, 10th-12th June (J.Baker *et al.*).

1995 Shetland Fetlar, male, age uncertain, 26th October (D.Suddaby); possibly same as Urafirth, 30th October to 2nd November (Brit. Birds 89: 492).

1995 Yorkshire, East Tophill Low, then Humberside, first-winter, 26th November, 2nd to at least 8th December (G.P.Catley, F.X.Moffatt, T.Richardson *et al.*).

IRELAND

1994 Waterford Blackwater Callows, female, shot, 'autumn' (Irish Birds 5: 454).

1995 Cork Ballymacoda, male and female, 26th February. Ballyhonack Lake, female, 16th November. (Irish Birds 5: 454.)

1995 Cork/Limerick Charleville Lagoons, 27th December to 1st January 1996 (Irish Birds 5: 454).

1995 Down Crossgar, male, shot, 7th January (Irish Birds 5: 454; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 27).

This year and 1995, with ten, were the best years in the 1990s; this species was 'commoner' in the 1980s. It is widespread in its distribution and the records in recent years conform to the usual April-June and September-October peaks. In the USA, the main spring passage is during April and early May through the Central States, and those on this side of the Atlantic conform roughly to the same pattern.

Redhead *Aythya americana* (0, 0, 1)

Nottinghamshire Bleasby, male, 8th-27th March, photo. (M.C.Dennis, B.Ellis, J.A.Hopper *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 164).

The first record for the Western Palearctic and another major prize for the so-called 'Nottingham triangle' and its tenacious observers. Similarities to Lesser Scaup *A.affinis* in terms of distribution and vagrancy potential were strong factors in this species' fairly short, smooth journey to Category A. If the parallel is to continue, more records will soon follow, and it gives observers yet another reason to sift through those flocks of Common Pochards *A.ferina*.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (1, 362, -)

IRELAND

1981 Armagh Oxford Island, male, 1st June (Irish Birds 2: 383).

1988 Down Corbet Lough, female, 24th January to 27th February (Brit. Birds 82: 516), stayed to 4th March (Irish Birds 5:454).

1990 Mayo Lough Cullin, female, 14th February; male, 18th February; female, 5th November (Irish Birds 4: 433).

1991 Cork Hilltop Hotel pond, Youghal, female, 23rd February to 11th April (Irish Birds 5: 454).

1993 Cork The Gearagh, male, 4th-6th October, 'presumed returning individual' (Irish Birds 5: 454).

1993 Fermanagh Lough Acrussel, Enniskillen, male, 18th February to 24th March (Irish Birds 5: 215, 454).

This species was no longer considered by the Committee after 1993, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records for the earlier period are updated.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0, 10, 7)

Caithness St John's Loch, male, 1st-17th February, 25th to 10th March; presumed same, 28th December to 1997; same, Loch Watten, 18th-19th February (E.W.E.Maughan, N.Money, J.Smith *et al.*).

Cheshire Frodsham, first-summer male, 16th May to 9th September, photo. (G.J.Bellingham *et al.*).

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, female, 17th-18th November, photo. (D.S.Flumm, G.Hobin *et al.*). Stithian's Reservoir, first-winter male, 23rd November to 23rd December; same, Argal Reservoir, 28th December to 1997 (S.M.Christophers *et al.*).

Hertfordshire Tyttenhanger Gravel-pits, male, 7th-18th April, photo. (M.Ilett, B.Reed *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 162).

Nottinghamshire Kingsmill Reservoir, male, 15th April, photo. (M.C.Dennis, I.Draycott *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Anglers Country Park and adjacent waters, first-summer male, 15th-21st April, photo. (J.M.Turton *et al.*).

IRELAND

1995 Tyrone Washing Bay, Lough Neagh, male, 25th-26th March (Irish Birds 5: 454), 'likely to have been' the one in Armagh/Down in 1994, which stayed until 7th April (Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 29).

The pace continues to quicken, with 17 individuals in the first ten years, compared with only four for Ring-necked Duck *A.collaris* in its first ten years (1955-64). Identification was discussed recently by Peter Lansdown (Brit. Birds 89: 532-533).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 86, 1)

Angus & Dundee Broughty Ferry, male, 19th March (M.S.Scott); same as Fife, presumed returning individual.

Dumfries & Galloway Loch Ryan, female, since 3rd September 1995 to at least 4th March (Brit. Birds 89: 493).

Fife Tayport, males, 22nd January to 24th March, two, 22nd February (H.Bell, D.E.Dickson, M.Ramage *et al.*); presumed one of same, 26th November (D.E.Dickson); one presumed returning 1995 individual (Brit. Birds 89: 493) other presumed same as Northeast Scotland. See also Angus & Dundee above and Northeast Scotland and Northumberland below.

Kent North Foreland area, female, 15th-26th October, photo. (M.H.Davies *et al.*).

Lothian Aberlady Bay, female, 27th June to 10th July, photo. (I.M.Thomson *et al.*); presumed returning 1995 individual (see 1995 Lothian below).

Northeast Scotland Ythan Estuary, male, 5th March to 28th June, photo. (S.Way *et al.* per A.Webb); presumed returning 1995 individual (Brit. Birds 89: 493); also in Fife. Peterhead, male, 4th May (M.Innes); presumed same as Ythan.

Northumberland Holy Island, male, 6th-29th September, photo. (Dr J.R.Irving, S.V. & Mrs A.McCormick *et al.*); presumed same as Fife.

Shetland Raewick, Redayre and Tresta area, male, since 10th November 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 494) to 6th May, returned 14th September to 1997 (per K.Osborn). Mousa Sound, male, since 20th November 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 494) to 26th April, returned 17th November (P.M.Ellis *et al.*).

1995 Angus & Dundee Carnoustie, then Tayside, male, 4th-18th June (D.Whitton *et al.*).

1995 Lothian Aberlady Bay, male, 15th-19th July (Brit. Birds 89: 494) was female.

1995 Shetland Boddam, female, 10th-14th June, photo. (I.S.Robertson *et al.*).

IRELAND

1980 Donegal Returning Rosbeg individual reported in March and April (Irish Birds 2: 95; Brit. Birds 74: 463) stayed until 30th May (Irish Birds 5: 454).

A fairly usual spread, with several 'returnees', including the female at Aberlady, showing that it is not only males which show site fidelity. The Kent record is not unique: a first-winter was seen at Shellness on 27th December 1955.

Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* (5, 8, 1)

Shetland Fetlar, male, wing only, 31st March, photo. (D.Houghton, D.Suddaby), retained by D.Houghton.

All the indications were that dismemberment had happened only recently, perhaps when on shore, the breaks in the bone being fresh, there being no signs of desiccation and the remains still smelly. In all probability, death occurred in British territorial waters. The first record since the long-staying South Uist male was last seen in August 1984.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* (7, 5, 2)

Ayrshire Girvan, two first-summer females, 13th-27th April, photo. (C.J.Murphy *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 163).

An outrageous 'while-driving' find for the alert leader of Murphy's Wildlife Holidays. The first since 1991; the last male was in 1987 and the last adult male in 1965.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (75, 386, -)

IRELAND

1986 Kerry Ballinskelligs, first-year male, 1st June. Rossbergh, male, 2nd June (Irish Birds 5: 455).

1988 Armagh Oxford Island, 20th March (Irish Birds 4: 88).

1988 Donegal Murvagh, male, 19th March (Irish Birds 5: 455).

1988 Down Dundrum Bay, two males, 17th January, considered same as those on 30th-31st October (Irish Birds 4: 88; Brit. Birds 82: 518; Irish Birds 5: 455).

1990 Cork Broad Strand, female, 18th November to 1991 (Irish Birds 4: 435).

This species was no longer considered by the Committee after 1990, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records for the earlier period are updated.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 237, 10)

Cornwall Trevoze Head, 25th May (S.M.Christophers). Newbridge area, 27th-29th May (D.S.Flumm *et al.*).

Dorset The Verne, Portland, 26th April (C.E.Richards).

Hampshire Fleet Pond, two, 25th May (G.C.Stephenson).

Oxfordshire The Ridgeway, Ardington, 31st August (P.J.Basterfield).

Scilly St Mary's, St Agnes and Tresco, 22nd-29th April (N.J.Lever *et al.*).

Suffolk Benacre and Covehithe, 23rd March (C.A.Buttle, R.Perkins, A.Riseborough *et al.*).

Wiltshire Newton, 3rd June (P.Combridge).

Yorkshire, East Kilnsea, 24th April (D.R.Middleton).

1987 Derbyshire Burnaston, 26th May (R.Brown).

1994 Greater London/Hertfordshire Stockers Lake, 26th June (M.Conlan, R.Drew, L.Steedman).

1995 Kent Cheriton, 20th April (D.A.Gibson).

IRELAND

1995 Wicklow Near Wicklow town, 10th April; presumed same near Bray, 11th April (Irish Birds 5: 456).

Incomplete descriptions (see Brit. Birds 88: 505) continue to test the powers of the Committee to arrive at fair and proper decisions.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (many, 23, 0)

IRELAND

1973 Fermanagh Near Garrison, shot, 11th January (Irish Bird Report 21: 12; Brit. Birds 89: 496), now accepted as Bald Eagle *H.leucocephalus* (Irish Birds 5: 456).

1991 Westmeath Lough Ennell, immature, 'about 20th November' (Irish Birds 5: 456).

Currently being re-established in Scotland. No vagrants outside Scotland were reported in 1996.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (0, 2, 0)

IRELAND

1973 Fermanagh Near Garrison, juvenile, shot, 11th January, record previously accepted as White-tailed Eagle *H. albicilla* (Irish Bird Report 21: 12; Brit. Birds 89: 496), but now reviewed, specimen in The Ulster Museum (Irish Birds 5: 456).

1987 Kerry Ballymacelligot, near Castleisland, juvenile, captured exhausted 15th November, rehabilitated, returned to USA and released (Irish Birds 5: 456).

These two birds have been accepted by the Irish Rare Birds Committee as being natural vagrants and, therefore, constitute the first records for the Western Palearctic (an adult on Anglesey on 17th October 1978 was considered by the BOURC to be of uncertain origin and was placed in Category D: Ibis 122: 567; Brit. Birds 73: 530).

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 561, 7)

Cambridgeshire Barleycroft Gravel-pits, female, 28th July to 18th August, 3rd-6th September (J.L.F.Parslow *et al.*); same, Fen Drayton, 1st September, photo. (J.S.Clark).

Devon Prawle, first-summer male, 27th May (J.R.Smart), present, 26th May to 7th June, photo.

Greater London Walthamstow Reservoirs, juvenile, 14th September (D.G.Lambert).

Greater Manchester Chat Moss area, first-summer male, 10th, 18th-22nd August, photo. (P. & Mrs I.Berry, Mrs A.J.Smith, D.Steel *et al.*).

Lincolnshire South Witham, male, 30th April (E.Simms).

Orkney Stronsay, first-summer female, 19th-20th May (T.Cranston, J.F.Holloway, J.Steele).

Shetland Fetlar, first-summer male, 18th August (T.G.Davies, D.Suddaby).

1992 Sussex, East Powdermill Reservoir, two first-summer males, female, age uncertain, 9th June (Brit. Birds 86: 473), one first-summer male to 14th (per R.J.Fairbank).

1995 Dorset Ballard Down, female, 3rd-4th June (Brit. Birds 89: 496), finders were E.Brodie, T.Elborn.

1995 Scilly Tresco, female, 6th June (R.J.Hathway).

1995 Sussex, East Rye, female, 8th May (D.J.Funnell); possibly same as Dungeness, Kent, 10th (Brit. Birds 89: 496).

IRELAND

1991 Galway Near Clifden, female, 23rd May (Irish Birds 5: 88).

1995 Cork Ballymacoda, first-summer male, 15th April (Irish Birds 5: 457).

A typical geographic spread, although proportionally more autumn records than usual.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 118, 4)

Caithness Dunbeath, white-phase, 25th February (N.Money).

Cornwall Treveal, white-phase, 2nd April (J.M.Reid).

Devon Lundy, white-phase, 20th April, photo. (J.D.Avon *et al.*).

Orkney Point of Ayre, Deerness, intermediate-phase, 18th December (K.E.Hague).

IRELAND

1958 Antrim Belfast Lough, 23rd March (Irish Bird Rep. 6: 10).

1981 Londonderry Ballykelly, 15th October (Irish Birds 2: 556).

1982 Londonderry Lough Foyle, adult female, 10th October (Brit. Birds 77: 519), was juvenile (Irish Birds 2: 386).

1994 Down Quoile Pondage, white-phase, 17th March (Irish Birds 5: 458).

A fairly typical year in terms of locations, dates and colour phases.

American Coot *Fulica americana* (0, 1, 1)

Kent Stodmarsh, first-summer, 16th-29th or 30th April, photo. (A.C.M., C.H. & M.J.Hindle *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plates 157 & 158).

The first British record, following the one in Co. Cork during 7th February to 4th April 1981 (Brit. Birds 77: 12-16). Fully and modestly reported, as we all know that every very-rare-bird find involves a combination of luck and skill. Rumours of its reappearance were unfounded.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* (92, 16, 1)

Cornwall Lizard, 26th-29th October, photo. (A.R.Pay *et al.*).

Over 70% of records since 1958 have been in the October-December period, mainly in the South. It is interesting, however, to note that this species was once more 'common and widespread', with Yorkshire and even the eastern Scottish counties well represented.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 209, 0)

Norfolk Titchwell, since 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 497), throughout year (per G.E.Dunmore).

1995 Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, two, 11th May, photo. (E.S.Clare, V.Machin *et al.*).

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1987 Down Belfast Harbour Estate, 19th May to 30th June (Brit. Birds 81: 554-555), 19th-31st May only (Irish Birds 3: 620).

1994 Wexford Tacumshin, 4th-6th June (Irish Birds 5: 337, 458).

1995 Cork Cloheen Marsh, Inchydoney, male and female, 22nd-29th May (Irish Birds 5: 459).

1995 Waterford Tramore, male and female, 4th May (Irish Birds 5: 458).

The Titchwell long-stayer is reminiscent of the Kent Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* of 1975-92 which apparently lost all instinct to migrate.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (31, 50, 0)

Norfolk Burnham Norton, 5th June (A.Collins); same, Holkham Gap, 5th June (S.Babbs, A.S.Cook).

Northamptonshire Earl's Barton, 13th-25th May, photo. (M.Ketley, N.Lamb *et al.*).

Suffolk Dunwich, 8th June (M.C.Marsh, S.H.Piotrowski *et al.*); same, Minsmere, 9th June (B.J.Small).

Warwickshire Draycote Water, 12th-13th May (P.J.Finden *et al.*).

The same individual (with tail feathers missing on the right-hand side) was involved in all the sightings and was reported to have been in the Netherlands in May and June; it was also probably the one which visited north Norfolk in 1994 and 1995 (and 1997), hence the revision to the statistics.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (5, 24, 2)

Angus & Dundee Monikie, juvenile, 14th-16th August, video-record (R.McCurley, G.M.Smith *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 159).

Cumbria See Lancashire below.

Lancashire Leighton Moss and Mid Foulshaw area, first-summer, 25th-28th August, photo. (S.J.Dodgson, K.Gillon *et al.*); also Kent Estuary, Cumbria.

Descriptions confirmed that these two records related to different individuals. August and early September is the best time for this species, but it can turn up anywhere.

Killdeer Plover *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 44, 1)

Cornwall Lamorna, 11th January (B.Blouwers *et al.*).

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1995 Cork Ballycotton, 8th-22nd October (Irish Birds 5: 458).

1995 Wexford Tacumshin, 1st-8th April (Irish Birds 5: 458).

A surprise find on a cottage lawn.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (0, 11, 1)

Sussex, West Pilsey Island, female or first-summer, 28th July (C.B. & Mrs M.A.Collins *et al.*).

1992 Norfolk Cley, 5th-8th August (Brit. Birds 87: 524), finder/identifiers were T.C.Davies, P.Wolstenholme.

No real pattern to the records yet, although half have been at the end of July/August. With several Western European records of Lesser Sand Plover *C.mongolus*, that species' appearance here is surely only a matter of time.

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus* (2, 2, 1)

Shetland Skelberry, female, 3rd-4th June, photo. (H.R.Harrop, M.Heubeck, I.S.Robertson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plates 160 & 161).

The first since the Scilly and Aberlady birds in May and July 1988 (Brit. Birds 83: 549-551). The Western European records are concentrated in the last 20 years and in the nineteenth century, with three records in France, two in Germany and one in Norway.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (6, 189, 10)

Cleveland Cowpen Marsh, Greatham Creek and Saltholme Pools, first-summer, 31st August to 2nd September, photo. (T.Francis, J.Grieverson, G.Iceton *et al.*).

Cornwall Sennen, first-summer, 1st-10th April, photo. (T.George, J.F.Ryan *et al.*). Stithians Reservoir, first-winter, 1st December (S.M.Christophers, E.J.Cook).

Leicestershire Rutland Water, juvenile, 2nd-3rd November (T.P.Appleton, R.P.Fray); presumed same, Eye Brook Reservoir, 4th to at least 8th December (A.S.Brett, R.P.Fray, E.J.Locker *et al.*).

Northumberland Holy Island, adult, 17th September to 27th October, photo. (P.R.Davey, D.Watson *et al.*).

Orkney Deerness, adult, 8th-22nd September, photo. (K.E.Hague, E.R.Meek *et al.*); another adult, 9th-11th (K.E.Hague *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, adult, 5th August (T.S.Bird, R.J.Hathway, B.Thomas); St Agnes, adult, 9th September (M.S.Scott *et al.*). St Mary's, juvenile, 13th September to 2nd October, photo. (M.S.Scott, J.P.Siddle *et al.*); presumed same, St Agnes, 1st October (R.J.Hathway, M.S.Scott).

1968 Cornwall St Just, 6th October (Brit. Birds 62: 467), now considered inadequately documented.

1976 Scilly See Pacific Golden Plover below.

1978 Cornwall See Pacific Golden Plover below.

1978 Kent See Pacific Golden Plover below.

1981 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, adult, 23rd September to 12th October (Brit. Birds 75: 500), now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1982 Kent Elmley, adult, 16th-29th May, photo. (Brit. Birds 77: 521), now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1982 Scilly Gugh and St Mary's, adult, 17th August to 10th September (Brit. Birds 76: 492), now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1983 Outer Hebrides South Uist, then Western Isles, adult, 31st July to 6th August (Brit. Birds 78: 545 as 2nd-6th August), now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1984 Kent Oakhamness Island, Medway, adult, 22nd July (Brit. Birds 78: 544), now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1984 Yorkshire, East Blacktoft Sands, then Humberside, adult, 27th June (Brit. Birds 79: 544), now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1984 Yorkshire, South Wath Ings, adult, 18th July (Brit. Birds 78: 545), now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1995 Bedfordshire Willington and Harrowden, juvenile to first-winter, 21st October (D.H.Ball, S.G.Williams *et al.*).

1995 Cornwall Crowdy Reservoir, juvenile, 16th October (I.Kendall, D.J.Rigby).

1995 Derbyshire Middleton Moor, first-summer, 19th-30th August, photo. (E.A.Fisher, K.R.Gould *et al.*).

1995 Devon Northam Burrows, juvenile, 20th October (I.Kendall *et al.*).

1995 Lothian Aberlady Bay, juvenile, 7th October (G.J.Clark).

1995 Nottinghamshire Holme Pierrepont, 10th-11th May (Brit. Birds 89: 498), to 12th (per J.A.Hopper).

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1984 Galway Rahasane Turlough, 15th-17th October (Irish Birds 3: 111).

1995 Kerry Blackrock Strand, juvenile, 9th-18th September (Irish Birds 5: 458).

1995 Wexford Tacumshin, probably first-summer, 23rd April to 1st May (Irish Birds 5: 458).

Sorting out the proper identity of records prior to the 'split' in 1986 has taken some time. A comprehensive paper on the subject is in preparation.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (0, 36, 3)

Dorset Lodmoor, age uncertain, 11th-12th March (D.J.Chown *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: page 470 fig. 2); first-winter, 29th November to 21st December (D.J.Chown, S.Colombe *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, juvenile to first-winter, 5th-10th October (J.F.Holloway *et al.*).

1975 Yorkshire, East Bempton Cliffs, then Humberside, 1st September (Brit. Birds 69: 335; 80: 534), previously accepted as Pacific Golden Plover, now considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover.

1976 Scilly St Mary's, adult, 29th July to 17th August (Brit. Birds 70: 420), previously accepted as American Golden Plover *P.dominica* (Brit. Birds 80: 534), now considered to be *P.fulva*.

1978 Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, juvenile, 7th November (Brit. Birds 72: 520), previously accepted as American Golden Plover *P.dominica* (Brit. Birds 80: 534), now considered to be *P.fulva*.

1978 Kent Westbere, adult, 18th June (Brit. Birds 77: 521), previously accepted as American Golden Plover *P.dominica* (Brit. Birds 80: 534), now considered to be *P.fulva*.

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1991 Cork Inchydoney, adult, 19th October (Irish Birds 5: 459).

Very different from the last three years, when all the records were of adults in July, August and September.

American/Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica/fulva* (6, 244, 13)

1981 Cornwall; 1982 Kent; 1982 Scilly; 1983 Outer Hebrides; 1984 Kent; 1984 Yorkshire, East; 1984 Yorkshire, South See American Golden Plover above.

1975 Yorkshire, East See Pacific Golden Plover above.

The totals include those of specifically identified individuals.

Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* (5, 33, 0)

1995 Dorset Brand's Bay, 18th October (Brit. Birds 83: 498), observers were R. & Mrs J.Grove.

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

Cleveland Bran and Seal Sands, Greenabella Marsh, adult, 13th October to 5th November, photo. (M.J.Gee, R.M.Ward *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 166).

The second record, following the adult in Shetland on 15th September 1989 (Brit. Birds 84: 469; 85: 426-429). That bird was seen by only a handful of Mainland birders, so this one, found on a WeBS count, was much appreciated. There are other Western European records, from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 77, 4)

Scilly Tresco, juvenile, 1st-6th September (R.J.Hathway, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*). St Agnes, juvenile, 27th-30th September (Dr M.J.Whittingham *et al.*); presumed same, intermittently, 3rd-14th October, photo. (M.J.McKee, K.D.Shaw, A.Webb *et al.*); presumed same, Tresco, intermittently, 2nd-13th October, photo. (D.B.Rosair *et al.*).

Shetland Pool of Virkie and Scatness, juvenile, 11th-22nd September (A.Brown, H.R.Harrop, A.McCall *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea, adult, 2nd June, photo. (N.A.Bell, J.Grist *et al.*).

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1995 Clare Shannon Airport Lagoon, juvenile, 25th-27th August (Irish Birds 5: 459).

1995 Cork Ballycotton, two adults, 29th July, one to 5th August (Irish Birds 5: 459).

1995 Wexford Tacumshin, adult, 11th-15th July (Irish Birds 5: 459).

Scilly has a good reputation for this species now, with seven since 1983. 'Island hopping' is not uncommon with American waders on that archipelago.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 368, 16)

Angus & Dundee Montrose Basin, adult, 30th July, probably since 28th (R.D.Goater). Westhaven, Carnoustie, adult, 20th-21st August, photo. (S.R.Green, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, juvenile, 29th September to 2nd October, photo. (G.Hobin, C.Oliver, J.F.Ryan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 167).

Hampshire Needs Ore Point, adult, 8th-9th September (R.P.Bowman, D.J.Unsworth *et al.*).

Kent Elmley, adult, 28th July (M.C.Buckland, R.Gomes *et al.*); adult, 3rd September (J.A.Rowlands) (Brit. Birds 90: page 472 fig. 3). Pegwell Bay, adult, 26th July (D.C.Gilbert).

Norfolk Breydon, adults, 16th July to 14th August, two, 20th-27th July (P.R.Allard *et al.*), three, 28th-29th, 4th-5th August (I.Smith *et al.*), four, 30th July to 3rd August (R.Fairhead, D.Fairhurst *et al.*), one to 14th; see also Suffolk. Salthouse, juvenile, 2nd-8th November, photo. (D.Nye *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Earl's Barton Gravel-pits, juvenile, 14th September (P.Britten).

Orkney Deerness, juvenile, 8th-14th September (K.E.Hague *et al.*).

Suffolk Breydon, south shore, adults, 16th July, two, 29th (R.Fairhead); same as Norfolk.

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, adult, 2nd October (G.A.J.Deacon).

Worcestershire Bredon's Hardwick, juvenile, 15th-16th September (S.J.Huggins, W.F.Peplow, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

1995 Northeast Scotland Annachie Lagoon, then Grampian, adult, 30th July (Brit. Birds 89: 500), to 1st August (per A.Webb).

1995 Gwent Goldcliff Pwll, adult, 11th-17th August (C.Jones, I.D.Smith *et al.*); possibly same as Severn Beach, Avon, 20th-31st (Brit. Birds 89: 500).

1995 Sussex, West Sidlesham Ferry, adult, 5th-8th August, photo. (C.A. & J.C.Holt *et al.*).

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1975 Londonderry Lough Beg, 14th October (Irish Birds 1: 81).

1977 Londonderry Lough Beg, 2nd-11th November (Brit. Birds 73: 507) was in 1979 (Irish Birds 1: 567).

1979 Londonderry See 1977 Londonderry above.

1980 Down Kinnegar, 19th October (Irish Birds 2: 100).

1991 Antrim Duncrue Street Marsh, adult, 26th September (Irish Birds 5: 459).

1992 Dublin Rogerstown, juvenile, 24th-31st October (Irish Birds 5: 459).

1993 Cork Harbour View, first-year, 5th October (Irish Birds 5: 459). Kinsale Marsh, juvenile, 1st-10th October (Brit. Birds 88: 514), was on 10th only (Irish Birds 5: 219).

1995 Cork Ballycotton, 24th-26th September. Lissagriffin, 9th-12th October. (Irish Birds 5: 459.)

1995 Londonderry Bann Estuary, adult, 30th July. Lough Beg, first-winter, 4th-10th December. (Irish Birds 5: 459; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 39.)

1995 Wexford Tacumshin, two: first-summer or adult, 2nd-4th August; 28th-30th October. Nethertown, adult, 2nd-6th October. Lady's Island Lake, first-year, 29th October. The Cull, first-winter, 6th November, joined by another first-winter on 7th-8th November. (Irish Birds 5: 459.)

Multiple records are not unique: duos are fairly frequent, and there were three together in Cleveland in October 1980, a very good year for this species. This unprecedented four in 1996 were at the peak time. No fewer than eight have been found on 30th July, including one at Breydon in 1978, and there is no date from 19th July to 10th September when a White-rumped Sandpiper has not been found somewhere in Britain & Ireland.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (4, 181, 6)

Hampshire Needs Ore Point, juvenile, 13th-24th September (P.J.Hack *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Daventry Reservoir, juvenile, 29th September to 2nd October (G.M.Pullan *et al.*); same as Warwickshire.

Outer Hebrides Ardivachar Point, South Uist, juvenile, 24th October (B.Rabbits).

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile, 1st-2nd October (N.J.Hallam, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, juvenile, 2nd-7th November (B.Hill, M.J. & R.Hollis, I.C.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Sussex, West Sidlesham Ferry, juvenile, 1st October (T.J.Edwards, L.G.R.Evans).

Warwickshire Draycote Water, juvenile, 28th September, photo. (C.D.Baggott *et al.*); also in Northamptonshire.

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1992 Donegal Tory Island, juvenile, 20th September (not 20th October as given Irish Birds 5: 339; Irish Birds 5: 459).

1995 Kerry Blackrock Strand, juvenile, 15th-17th September (Irish Birds 5: 459).

1995 Louth Baltray, juvenile, 31st August to 3rd September (Irish Birds 5: 459).

1995 Wexford North Slob, juvenile, 19th-20th November (Irish Birds 5: 459).

A classic 'juv in Sept' species which traditionally used to have a southwesterly bias to the records. In line with some other American waders, however, there has been a shift since the late 1970s, with proportionally more records from the North and West. Records from these areas tend to be a couple of weeks later. November records are still exceptional.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (5, 17, 1)

Caernarfonshire Dinas Dinlle and Foryd Bay, 25th-28th August, photo. (S.Hugheston-Roberts, R.Jones, R.I.Thorpe *et al.*).

Still a very rare bird here. In recent times, the majority of records have been of adults in August or early September.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 163, 5)

Highland Alturlie Bay, Inverness-shire, 29th May (P.Barry, C.Pell).

Norfolk Breydon, 24th July (P.R.Allard). Cley, 24th-25th July (I.G.Johnson, A.M.Stoddart *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Fairburn Ings, 12th May (N.C.Dawtre, D.J.Prest *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: page 477 fig. 4).

1993 Sussex, West Sidlesham Ferry, 1st May (Brit. Birds 87: 527), to 2nd (per R.J.Fairbank).

IRELAND

Londonderry Bann Estuary, adult, 21st, 24th May.

1995 Londonderry Bann Estuary, 1st August (Irish Birds 5: 459; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 41).

1995 Louth Dundalk Docks, adult, 8th-11th May. Baltray, adult, 20th-23rd May. (Irish Birds 5: 459.)

That in West Yorkshire was only the eighth inland record ever.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (33, 680, -)

IRELAND

1965 Antrim Duncrue Street Marsh, Belfast, 15th September (Irish Bird Rep. 14: 38).

1975 Londonderry Lough Beg, 21st September (Brit. Birds 89: 501), five recorded (Irish Bird Rep. 23: 16).

This species was no longer considered by the Committee after 1982, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records for the earlier period are updated.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 83, 11)

Hertfordshire Rye Meads, 30th September to 1st October (P.Roper *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, three: 3rd-6th September (P.J.Donnelly *et al.*); 23rd September (E.R.Meek, S.D.Stansfield); 17th October (S.D.Stansfield).

Shetland Fair Isle, three: juvenile, 18th-19th September, moribund 20th, photo. (S.C.Votier *et al.*); first-winter, 20th-21st, presumed same, dead, 24th, now at National Museum of Scotland (Dr R.Riddington, J.Taylor, M.Wallace *et al.*); age uncertain, 20th, presumed same 30th (Dr R.Riddington, R.Walker *et al.*). Out Skerries, adult, 20th-22nd, 28th September (J.F.Cooper, P.M.Ellis, K.D.Shaw *et al.*); probable juvenile, 28th (P.M.Ellis, G.W.Petrie, P.Sclater). Scatness, 18th-19th September (M.S.Chapman, P.M.Ellis *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Kilnsea, age uncertain, 20th September (G.P.Catley, D.Hursthouse *et al.*).

1995 West Midlands Sandwell Valley, 22nd August (Brit. Birds 89: 501), to 23rd (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Wright).

A record year, with only two rejections. Experienced observers seem to have 'got the measure' of this species: two or three flushes are sufficient if all the relevant features are 'in the memory banks'.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 183, 6)

Angus & Dundee/Northeast Scotland River North Esk, Kinnaber, then Grampian/Tayside, since 22nd October 1995 to 21st February (Brit. Birds 89: 501).

Cheshire Budworth Mere, 24th April (P.M.Hill, J.Walsh, D.M.Walters *et al.*).

Cornwall Copperhouse Creek, Hayle, first-winter, 24th January to 16th March, photo. (S.Kolodziejski *et al.*) (plate 165).

Essex Holland Haven, adult, 1st-3rd August, photo. (Dr S.Cox, N.St J.Cumming, S.Smith *et al.*).

Northeast Scotland See Angus & Dundee/Northeast Scotland above.

Nottinghamshire Lound Gravel-pits, first-winter, 21st-28th October, photo. (M.Gibson, D.Tinker, M.Vickers *et al.*).

Shetland Scatness, 17th-18th May, photo. (P.V.Harvey, A.McCall *et al.*).

IRELAND

Down Dundrum Inner Bay South, adult, 11th September.

1988 Down Belfast Harbour Estate, first-winter from 14th November 1987 to 3rd January (Irish Birds 3: 624; 4: 94; Brit. Birds 81: 559) stayed until 28th January (Irish Birds 5: 462).

1993 Cork Lissagriffin, juvenile, 26th September (Irish Birds 5: 462).

1994 Wexford Tacumshin, juvenile, 27th to at least 30th October; see also 1995 Wexford (Irish Birds 5: 339-340, 462).

1995 Wexford Tacumshin, 26th February and 26th March to 1st April; presumed same, Lady's Island Lake, 8th-9th April; presumed same individual as juvenile at Tacumshin in October 1994 (Irish Birds 5: 339, 462).

The Committee has now reached agreement on acceptance criteria for fly-bys of this species: extreme caution is required.

Long-billed/Short-billed Dowitcher *L. scolopaceus/griseus* (18, 277, 6)

IRELAND

1979 Down Castle Espie, 7th September (Irish Birds 1: 564).

The totals include those of specifically identified individuals.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 32, 1)

Shetland Foula, 2nd September (A.R.Mainwood); presumed same, 14th-15th, photo. (M.J.McKee, A.R.Mainwood) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 152).

1995 Scilly St Mary's, 12th October (Brit. Birds 89: 502), first named observers were N.Anderson and Miss F.Rowen.

IRELAND

1995 Clare Kilbaha, Loop Head, 9th October (Irish Birds 5: 462).

The second record for Foula, following one in 1993. Fair Isle (1975) and St Kilda (1980) have also hosted this species, but Cornwall and Scilly dominate, with 16 records between them.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 80, 5)

Caernarfonshire Conwy Estuary, 14th June (S.Dixon, I.Higginson).

Kent Dungeness, 29th April (S.Huggins); juvenile, 14th-18th August (P.G.Akers, M.Ausden, Dr G.Hirons *et al.*).

Norfolk Hickling, 10th-12th June, presumed same, 17th to at least 19th (A.J.Kane *et al.*).

Sussex, East Horse Eye Level, 26th August (A.R. & M.J.Eales), possibly same as Kent.

1994 Outer Hebrides Loch Sandaray, North Uist (formerly Western Isles), adult, 8th-9th October (J. & P.R.Boyer, T.J.Dix).

A fairly typical year. Any month from April to October is a possibility for this delightful *Tringa* and records are well spread geographically. Juveniles, however, are comparatively uncommon.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (12, 19, 1)

Kent Stoke Lagoon, 22nd March to 2nd April (T.E.Bowley, D.L.Davenport, J.C.Martin).

1995 Essex Deal Hall, Dengie, 10th May (L.Steward, J.C.Sutherby); presumed same as Norfolk, Suffolk (Brit. Birds 89: 502).

'New arrivals' of this species appear to be extremely rare and records in Western Europe may well often concern a single individual, even over several years. A Devon report remains in circulation.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 208, 5)

Cheshire Gatewarth, intermittently, 11th-22nd April; same, Houghton Green, 23rd April to 1st May, photo. (J.Clark *et al.*).

Kent Elmley, 18th June (J.A.Rowlands *et al.*).

Lothian Musselburgh, 14th July (B.A.Hickman).

Somerset Steart, juvenile, 27th October (P.I.Holt).

1995 Nottinghamshire Holme Pierrepont and Netherfield, 25th November to 15th December (Brit. Birds 89: 502), now presumed same as Knighton Reservoir, Shropshire/Staffordshire, 11th-16th November (Brit. Birds 89: 502).

IRELAND

Down Cloghy Bay, Outer Ards, first-winter, 24th March to 20th April.

1987 Cork Inchydoney, 17th May (Irish Birds 5: 462).

1992 Cork Douglas Estuary, adult, 19th June into 1993 (Brit. Birds 86: 484), 16th May to 9th April 1993 (Irish Birds 5: 90, 220).

1993 Cork See 1992 Cork above.

1995 Down Castle Espie, Strangford Lough, 27th August; same, Comber Estuary, 28th April (Irish Birds 5: 462; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 45).

1995 Wexford Tacumshin, two juveniles, 4th November, one remaining until 22nd November (Irish Birds 5: 462).

There has been a definite shift with this species. During 1958-91, only 16% of records were in spring, but this has since increased to 50%. We are indebted to David Quinn for pointing out the identical plumage feature linking the two 1995 records.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 41, 2)

Clyde River Leven, 22nd-30th September, photo. (I.P.Gibson *et al.*).

Devon Bowling Green Marsh, Topsham, 2nd June (J.Gale, B.B.Heasman) (Brit. Birds 90: pages 480-481 figs. 5-7).

The Devon record is on a classic date from a classic site. The Clyde record is just after the secondary autumn peak and was an excellent find for one of the country's most dedicated wader-counters. It was the first for the Scottish Mainland since 1977.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 110, 2)

Devon Lopwell Dam, since 4th November 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 503) to 7th May (per P.Edmonds). Newton Abbot, 13th December 1995 to at least 13th February (Brit. Birds 89: 503), to 25th February (per M.R.Langman).

Scilly St Agnes, 6th-12th May, photo. (R.C.James *et al.*).

Shetland Fetlar, 17th-18th May (J. & T.G.Davies *et al.*).

IRELAND

1995 Armagh Lowry's Lough, juvenile, 3rd-15th September (Irish Birds 5: 463).

A poor year, again similar to the last two: two or three spring records and long-stayers.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 262, 2)

Fife Eden Estuary, first-winter, 12th-13th October (J.M.Dean, R.A.Lambert *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Daventry Reservoir, juvenile to first-winter, 30th September (S.R.Mawby, A.M.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: page 482 fig. 8); also in Warwickshire.

Warwickshire Draycote Water, juvenile to first-winter, 1st October (S.Roper *et al.*); same as Northamptonshire.

1995 Cornwall St German's, age uncertain, 26th September (A. & P.Blonden, E.H.Williams).

Another poor year. This species is not the guaranteed 'year-tick' that it once was.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 68, 7)

Devon Porthworthy Dam, adult, 13th-21st September (M.K.Ahmad, J.R.Smart *et al.*).

Durham Sunderland, first-winter, intermittently 19th February to 11th April, photo. (D.Parnaby *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 168).

Highland Dornoch, Sutherland, first-summer to second-winter, 13th August to 12th October, photo. (A.Vittery, A.Wight *et al.*).

Kent Pegwell Bay, first-summer, 21st August (D.C.Gilbert *et al.*).

Shetland Fetlar, first-summer to second-winter, 24th July (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, adult, 9th August (N.P.Adams, W.N.Clinch, G.A.J.Deacon).

Worcestershire Upton Warren, second-winter, 26th August to 4th September, photo. (J.T.Belsey, R.E.Harbird, R.A.Hill *et al.*).

1995 Kent Dungeness, first-summer, 14th July to 13th August, photo. (A.P.Blunden, D.Walker *et al.*).

IRELAND

1995 Cork One: The Lough, second-winter or adult, 15th January, Cork City Dump, 20th January, Douglas Estuary, 2nd April, and Dunkettle, 4th April (Irish Birds 5: 464).

1995 Down Belfast Harbour Estate, first-summer, 12th April to at least 18th June (Irish Birds 5: 464; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 48).

A good year. The high proportion of first-summer is interesting; 1984 and 1995 were also good for first-summer, with three in each year. Good years for birds of this age could reflect either one or two individuals moving around, or an influx in the previous autumn.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 30, 3)

Gloucestershire Hempstead, adult, 4th-7th January (R.J. & Mrs J.C.Phillips, J.D.Sanders, N.R.Smart *et al.*).

Shetland Foula, first-summer, 6th-7th July (R.W.Furness, A.R.Mainwood *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Tophill Low, second-winter, 13th November (T.M.Richardson).

After a blank year last year, this species continues its reputation as the 'Martini Gull': anytime, any place, anywhere. The Yorkshire individual was present for an hour, and was well documented.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 79, 10)

Cornwall Sennen Cove, first-winter, 11th January (J.F.Ryan); presumed same, 27th February (T.George). Newquay, first-winter, 26th March (S.M.Christophers). Millbrook Lake, first-winter, 5th April (S.C.Madge, E.J.Wilson). Kingsmill Lake, first-summer, 21st-23rd June (D.Clegg); presumed same as Tavy Estuary, Devon. Sennen, first-winter, 14th to 25th December when moribund, photo. (T.George, J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Derbyshire Carsington Water, first-summer, 26th June (S.L.Thorpe).

Devon Plym Estuary, first-winter, 3rd-4th May (J.R.Smart); present 28th April to 5th May. Tavy Estuary, first-summer, 1st-15th June, photo. (P.J.Barden, P.Edmunds); also in Cornwall.

Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, first-winter, 27th-30th April, photo. (W.J.Low *et al.*).

1994 Devon Plym Estuary, adult, 20th March (D.Clegg, G.E.Holmes, S.W.McMahon), previously not accepted (Brit. Birds 88: 557) now considered acceptable.

IRELAND

Down Groomsport, Belfast Lough, adult, 12th-23rd November.

Londonderry Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, adult, 19th October to 3rd November.

1983 Dublin Sandymount, adult, 6th to end of March (Irish Birds 2: 564; Brit. Birds 77: 529) stayed until 3rd April (Irish Birds 5: 464).

1995 Dublin Swords Estuary, adult, 1st-10th April (Irish Birds 5: 464).

Derbyshire and Staffordshire each produces a second record in three years.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

L. a. smithsonianus (0, 16, 1)

IRELAND

Down Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast Lough, first-winter, 27th December.

Fifteen of the 17 records have been in Ireland.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

L. g. kumlieni (1, 47, 4)

Cheshire Gatewarth, adult, 9th March (J.Clarke, C.Dove, J.Walsh).

Cornwall Newquay, adult, 11th March (S.M.Christophers).

Derbyshire Ogston Reservoir, adult, 14th-24th February (R.J.Lowe).

Suffolk Minsmere, adult, 7th January (B.J.Small, M.Smith, D.F.Walsh).

1979 Staffordshire Westport Lake, first-winter, 30th December to 12th January 1980 (R.J.Higgins, W.J.Low *et al.*).

1980 Staffordshire See 1979 Staffordshire above.

1990 Yorkshire, North Bolton-on-Swale, adult, 17th-25th March (Brit. Birds 89: 505), first noted 15th.

1993 Orkney North Ronaldsay, adult, recently dead, 28th January, photo., now at National Museum of Scotland (M.Gray, Miss L.Wells *et al.*).

1995 Lancashire Seaforth, then Merseyside, adult, 18th, 25th February, 3rd-15th March, photo. (A.J.Conway, T.Vaughan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 169).

1995 Outer Hebrides Stornoway, then Western Isles, adult, 7th-21st February, photo. (R.D.Wemyss).

IRELAND

1995 Cork The Lough, adult, 16th January to 9th March; probably the same, Aghada, 29th January, 'presumed returning individual' (Irish Birds 5: 465).

1995 Donegal Killybegs, two, adult and second-winter, 18th February (Irish Birds 5: 465).

1995 Galway Galway Dump, adult, 16th-19th March (Irish Birds 5: 465).

A specimen at The British Museum, Tring obtained at Blackness, Shetland, on 24th November 1869, has now been identified as the first British record (Ibis 139: 200).

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (2, 71, 1)

Cornwall River Lynher, adult, 27th-28th February (R.W.Gould, S.C.Madge, G.J.Tamblin *et al.*); see also Devon.

Devon Cattedown, Plymouth, adult, 13th-24th March, photo. (M.K.Ahmad, J.F.Babbington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 170); presumed same as Cornwall.

1995 Caernarfonshire Porthmadog and Black Rocks, then Gwynedd, adult, 14th-16th, 22nd January (I.Rhys-Jones, J.Wilkinson *et al.*); presumed same as 1994 Cardiganshire (Brit. Birds 89: 506).

1995 Northumberland Seahouses, adult, 14th July (B.Faulconbridge, A.Heath); presumably same as 1995 Cleveland, North Yorkshire (Brit. Birds 89: 505-506).

IRELAND

1983 Sligo Sligo Harbour, adult, 6th-9th May; same as Donegal (Irish Birds 2: 567-568; 3: 476; Brit. Birds 77: 534).

The Southwest continues its recent good form. There is more of an 'all year around' aspect to records, as the Northumberland individual proves.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 40, 0)

1961 Sussex, East Portobello, Brighton, 19th November (Brit. Birds 55: 574), now considered inadequately documented.

IRELAND

1989 Down New Forge, Belfast, 2nd March (Irish Birds 5: 465).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* (52, 204, 2)

Carmarthenshire Penclacwydd, first-summer, intermittently, 4th July to 17th August, photo. (Brit. Birds 90: plate 171); same, Machynys, at least 13th and 28th July (R.Bevan, N.C.Williams, R.S.D.Williams *et al.*); also in Gower.

Dorset Portland, 5th May (H.G.Wood Homer *et al.*).

Gower Gower Peninsula, formerly West Glamorgan, 6th July (per H.E.Grenfell); same as Carmarthenshire.

1960 Sussex, West Selsey Bill, 4th May (Brit. Birds 54: 187), now considered inadequately documented.

IRELAND

1982 Londonderry Roe Estuary, adult, 5th or 7th to 10th October (Brit. Birds 77: 536), first date 7th (Irish Birds 2: 359-360, 401).

The Carmarthen record echoes that in West Glamorgan in July 1993. For seawatching records and shoreline fly-bys, the Committee continues to require detailed notes on structure, flight and upperwing/underwing patterns. With Great Snipe *Gallinago media* increasing its percentage of acceptance, this species is now competing to be the 'most rejected species'. All observers should need no further reminder to treat this species with respect, as casual reporting just does not make it.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 207, 5)

Buckinghamshire Caldecotte Reservoir, 13th April (A.Ferguson).

Norfolk Breydon, 9th June (K.R.Dye, E.W.P.Jones, I. & S.Smith); presumed same as Suffolk.

Suffolk Minsmere, two, 3rd June, one or other, 5th, 8th, 10th, one, photo. (D.Rous, G.R.Welch *et al.*); one or other also in Norfolk.

Sussex, East Brighton, 20th May (Prof. D.T.Parkin).

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, 13th June (N.P.Adams, V.J.Austin).

1960 Sussex, West Selsey Bill, 6th May (Brit. Birds 54: 188), now considered inadequately documented.

1969 Sussex, West Worthing, 30th April (Brit. Birds 63: 280), now considered inadequately documented.

1971 Sussex, West Worthing, 16th May (Brit. Birds 65: 337), now considered inadequately documented.

1995 Wight, Isle of St Catherine's Point, 15th May (S.R.Colenutt).

The Buckinghamshire record is noteworthy as April records are very rare for this 'midsummer specialist'. Norfolk, Suffolk and Kent are, of course, the dominant counties.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis* (0, 5, 1)

Northumberland Farne Islands, female, 16th May to 13th August, paired with Sandwich Tern *S.sandvicensis*, one young reared (per B.N.Rossiter); presumed returning individual.

Scilly Tresco, adult, 2nd-4th August (R.J.Hathway *et al.*).

The record in Scilly, like that in Dorset in April 1995, demonstrates that two annual journeys of the Northumberland bird are not the explanation for all records. The Farne's female was on her thirteenth visit. The oldest known Sandwich Tern *S.sandvicensis* survived for 23 years and 7 months (BWP), so there could be a few more years of increased income for the Farne's boatmen.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 26, 0)

Dorset The Fleet and other coastal localities, first-winter, since 26th December 1995, to 10th February (Brit. Birds 89: 507).

IRELAND

1984 Down Groomsport, 19th-20th March; same, Quoile Pondage, 1st May to 1st June (Brit. Birds 79: 557), at Quoile Pondage 12th-13th May only (Irish Birds 3: 317).

1987 Waterford Dungarvan, adult, 3rd-10th March (Irish Birds 4: 100).

1995 Waterford Dungarvan, adult, 30th October to 2nd December (Irish Birds 5: 466).

It is suspected that figures for earlier years are much overstated owing to this species' long-staying 'form'; further research is required.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (20, 100, 1)

Lancashire Babydock Gravel-pits, Carnforth, second-summer, 6th June, photo. (P.J.Marsh *et al.*).

1988 Sussex, East Rye, 28th May (Brit. Birds 82: 533), to 29th (per R.J.Fairbank).

Since the first record in Dorset in 1836, this species has been noted in six Welsh recording areas and no fewer than 30 in England, from Cornwall to Northumberland and Kent to Cumbria, but only once in Scotland, in 1894.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 643, 16)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, second-summer, 9th-11th June (R.M.Andrews *et al.*).

Cleveland Reclamation Pond and Saltholme Pools, second-summer, 29th June to 7th July, photo. (J.B.Dunnett, R.C.Taylor *et al.*).

Cornwall Marazion, adult, 9th-11th July (Dr I.C.S.Scott, J.R.Smart *et al.*). Torpoint, adult, 13th July (A.J.Musgrove).

Cumbria Longtown, juvenile, 30th August to 6th September, photo. (C.Wilson, P.R.Wilson *et al.*).

Dorset Radipole, second-summer, 10th July (S.Money *et al.*). Lodmoor, juvenile, 12th August (per P.M.Harris).

Greater London Charlton, adult, 4th-5th July, photo. (D.McKenzie *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plates 172-174). Brent Reservoir, adult, 27th July (A.M.Self *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, adult, 17th June (P.G.Akers, D.Sherlock *et al.*).

Northumberland Newton Pool, second-summer, 26th June (R.J.Lockwood, H.Maggs *et al.*); same, Long Nanny, 26th (S.Bloomfield, R.Harris, M.Ridley); same, Holywell Pond, 28th-29th (J.Alexander, T.R.Cleeves); same, Wallsend Swallow Pond, 29th (P.Gardner, A.G.Hetherington *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire South Muskham, juvenile, 1st-3rd September, photo. (A.J.Scrimshaw *et al.*).

Somerset Durleigh Reservoir, juvenile, 21st August to 10th September (R.Musgrove, C.Sawyer *et al.*).

Suffolk Southwold, adult, 26th June, photo. (P.Goldsmith, L.J.Townsend *et al.*); same, Trimley, 27th June to 2nd July (K.Barrett *et al.*). Covehithe, adult, 16th July (Dr P.J.Dare).

Yorkshire, North Burton Riggs, Scarborough, juvenile, 10th-11th August, photo. (J.Hewitt, G.M.Lindley, P.Senior *et al.*).

1993 Yorkshire, West New Swillington Ings, juvenile, 13th September (Brit. Birds 87: 536), finder/identifier was P.R.Morris.

1994 Hertfordshire Wilstone Reservoir, juvenile, 15th September (W.Pegram).

1995 Hampshire Titchfield Haven, juvenile, 16th September (B.S.Duffin, D.Treacher).

About average numbers, but the absence of May records, virtual absence in September and concentration in June-August were unusual features.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* (2, 30, 1)

Highland Kilchoan Bay, Ardnamurchan, Inverness-shire, 27th March (T.M.Melling).

An excellent find by an experienced observer while on a family holiday, showing once again that you never know the moment ... All but five past records have been in the Northern Isles or on North Sea coasts.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (22, 39, 0)

1995 Northumberland Morpeth, 22nd October, photo. (B.K. & P.Davison).

Another blank year, but this species has been recorded in 13 of the last 20 years, the 28 records in that period accounting for nearly half of the total number recorded. By contrast, a Black-billed Cuckoo *C.erythrophthalmus* would be a major prize: the last to be recorded was on St Mary's, Scilly, back in October 1990.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 23, 1)

Orkney Firth, 18th-26th October, photo. (C.J. & Mrs J.Booth, G.Steven *et al.*).

Only the fourth post-1958 autumn occurrence; the three previous being on St Agnes, Scilly, on 29th September 1969, picked up dead on Holm, Orkney, on 27th November 1970 and picked up injured (later died in care) at Crundale, Kent, on 22nd October 1971.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 116, 2)

Highland Cam Sgulain, Inverness-shire, 3rd August (J.Ratcliffe); presumed same, Ben Macdui area, 17th August (D.J.Selbie); presumed same, as second-year male, 25th, photo. (M.J.McKee).

Moray & Nairn/Northeast Scotland Ben Avon area, 2nd July (W.Brice, D.Swanson *et al.*); presumed same, Ben a'Bhuird area, 10th July (B.Yates *et al.*); presumed same as Highland.

Orkney Keelylang Hill, Mainland, male, 27th October (Miss C.Davies, G.Harcus, E.R.Meek *et al.*).

Perth & Kinross Near A'bhuidheanach Bheag, 12th July (D.J.Selbie); presumed same as Highland.

It is understood that the sightings in the Cairngorm area extended from 13th June to 18th September, but, as most sightings precluded putting an age or sex to the bird, it is just possible that two were involved. Shetland's first blank year since 1962.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* (150, 373, 7)

Dorset Portland, 15th April (G.Walbridge).

Glamorgan Aberthaw, 19th May (R.Eynon, S.P.Hinton).

Norfolk Breydon, 19th May (G.M.Coupland). Bacton, 20th May (M.Fischer).

Staffordshire Belvide Reservoir, 14th July (P.Tipler).

Sussex, West Upper Beeding, 19th-20th May (N.Buckthorpe, B.Jordan, A.D. & I.J.Whitcombe *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, 14th July (G.Featherstone).

1994 Oxfordshire Near Aston Upthorpe, 23rd April (R.S.R.Fitter).

IRELAND

1995 Down Minerstown, 2nd April. Newcastle, 18th-23rd July, joined by second on 22nd July (Irish Birds 5: 466; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 59).

A poor showing by recent standards. The often-high rejection rate of this species is quite simply accounted for by all-too-frequent scanty submissions. The species may be obvious, but its plumage, structure and flight need to be properly described to eliminate, in particular, any possibility of confusion with aberrantly plumaged Common Swifts *Apus apus*.

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

Orkney North Ronaldsay, moribund, 26th October, photo., now at National Museum of Scotland (M.Gray, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*).

The first for Scotland and consequently the most northerly recorded to date, but sadly its demise means that it did not find its way onto many Orkney life-lists.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (154, 512, -)

IRELAND

1990 Clare Black Head, 27th May (Irish Birds 5: 466).

This species was no longer considered by the Committee after 1990, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records are updated for the earlier period. The separation of European Bee-eater from Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *M.superciliosus* was recently discussed by Peter Lansdown (Brit. Birds 90: 336-338).

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* (0, 4, 1)

Silly St Agnes, 17th-18th April, photo. (J. & Mrs P.Hale, J.S.Hampshire, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

Only the fifth record, but the fourth in April. Since the first record, in Dorset in 1961, none has reached mainland Britain.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (40, 472, -)

IRELAND

1991 Down St John's Point, 28th September (Irish Birds 5: 467; Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1995: 60).

This species was no longer considered by the Committee after 1993, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records are updated for the earlier period.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* (13, 6, 1)

Suffolk Landguard, 2nd, 9th October, photo. (P.J.Holmes *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 180).

The first since one on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, on 5th-6th June 1982 and only the seventh post-1958 record. What most of us would like to know, though, is its whereabouts during the 'missing' six days, because it could be a long wait for the next one. They do seem to show a curious affinity for car parks, though, so perhaps we have a head start.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (0, 4, 0)

1995 Sussex, East Beachy Head, 8th October (D.A.Parmenter, C.A.Walker).

Only the fourth and, like its predecessors, did not hang around long enough to be seen by anyone other than its fortunate finders. Seen mainly from below, from which angle the diagnostic white tail spots are extremely difficult to see, it was nonetheless well described.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 280, 18)

Berkshire Bray Gravel-pits, 5th May (C.D.R.Heard); also in Surrey.

Cornwall Lamorna Cove, 21st-22nd March (B.Blowers *et al.*). Pen Enys Point, St Ives, 12th April (J.M.Reid).

Cumbria Ormsgill Reservoir, 24th-26th April, photo. (D.Satterthwaite *et al.*).

Derbyshire Carr Vale, Bolsover, 12th April (M.A.Beevers, A.Thompson).

Devon Exminster Marshes, 17th April (J.Waldon). South Huish, 18th-25th April (R.Burridge, N.Whitehall *et al.*). Lundy, 26th April (J.R.Diamond).

Dorset The Fleet, first-summer, 11th April; same, Radipole, 12th (B.Spencer *et al.*). Portland, 2nd June (M.Cade, R.Newton *et al.*).

Greater Manchester Denton area, 19th-20th May (R.Adderley, R.Haughton, L.Worthington *et al.*).

Lancashire Rimrose Valley, Netherton, 25th-26th June, photo. (E.McCann *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 175).

Norfolk Blakeney, 24th-25th April (B.J.Burton, G.E.Dunrnore *et al.*); presumed same, Holme, 27th (N.M.Lawton).

Nottinghamshire Clumber Park, 2nd May (R. & Mrs B.Overton *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, Bryher and St Mary's, 24th April to 15th May (S.R.Jack, N.J.Lever *et al.*).

Suffolk Lowestoft, 28th October (D.G.Beamish).

Surrey Staines Reservoirs, 6th May (M.Hoit); same as Berkshire.

Wight, Isle of St Catherine's Point, 7th May (D.J.Hughes, D.Swensson).

Yorkshire, East Kilnsea and Spurn, 9th July (M.J.Pilsworth, R.Thompson *et al.*).

1995 Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire Brinsley Flash, 1st July (B.Watkinson, D.Wood).

1995 Moray & Nairn Loch Spynie, then Grampian, 12th-13th May (Brit. Birds 89: 511), to 14th (per R.Proctor).

1995 Kent Capel-le-Ferne, 7th May (D.A.Gibson). Dungeness, 6th May (Brit. Birds 89: 511), to 7th (per D.W.Taylor).

1995 Nottinghamshire See 1995 Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire above.

IRELAND

1994 Wexford Between North Slob and Wexford town, 27th October (Irish Birds 5: 467).

This year, only one late-autumn vagrant. The March bird in Cornwall echoes the early one in Scilly in 1994. There are March records in Devon and Norfolk in 1952, and in Pembrokeshire in 1977, far in advance of the main Barn Swallow *H.rustica* migration. The two additional 1995 records advance the total for that year to 14.

Cliff Swallow *Hirundo pyrrhonota* (0, 5, 0)

IRELAND

1995 Kerry Dunmore Head, 16th November (Irish Birds 5: 439-440, 467).

This becomes the fourth record for Britain & Ireland. The earlier ones were in Scilly in October 1983, Cleveland in October 1988 and Humberside in October 1995; the fifth followed soon after, in Scilly in December 1995 (Brit. Birds 81: 449-452; 83: 504-506; 89: 512).

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* (1, 5, 1)

Norfolk Sheringham and Weybourne area, first-winter, 14th-16th October (D.P.Appleton, K.B.Shepherd, T.Wright *et al.*).

1993 Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 20th-22nd October, photo. (P.Clement, L.G.R.Evans, J.R.Hough *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plates 141-148).

These become the third and seventh records. The Norfolk bird is the first to be accepted which was not trapped, photographed or found dead (cf. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*). Full details of the Scilly bird in 1993 and the identification process involved were assembled by Doug Page (Brit. Birds 90: 404-408). A further claim, from Scilly in 1996, is under consideration.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (120, 1020, -)

1976 Sussex, East Beachy Head, two, 28th August (Brit. Birds 71: 513), to 31st.

1977 Sussex, East Cuckmere Haven, two, 29th September to 1st October (Brit. Birds 71: 513), only one to 1st (per R.J.Fairbank).

This species is no longer considered by the Committee, but the statistics are up to date for pre-1958 and 1958-95.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 195, 6)

Devon Prawle, 15th October (P.A.Dennis, P.M.Mayer, A.R.Trout).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, 21st-22nd September (G.W.Allison, G.Anderson *et al.*); presumed same, 22nd-23rd (G.M.Cresswell, M.I.Eldridge, P.Morris *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 25th September (K.Holland, S.D.Stansfield).

Scilly St Mary's, 23rd October (S.Rock, T.J.Tams, A.Whyte).

Shetland Aithsetter, 28th September to 1st October (P.V.Harvey, A.J.McCall *et al.*). Kergord, 20th October (P.Sclater).

1993 Yorkshire, North Hawkser, 31st October (T.J.Barker, R.S.Slack).

Continuing the trend of successive recent poor years. The Holkham bird becomes the earliest-ever autumn record, by two days, predating one on Fair Isle, Shetland, on 23rd September 1990.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* (13, 45, 4)

Cornwall St Levan, 23rd-26th October, photo. (C.D.R.Heard, A.H.Pulsford *et al.*).

Shetland Foula, 16th September (M.J.McKee, A.R.Mainwood). Fair Isle, 19th-21st September, photo. (S.C.Votier *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 177). North Voe, 27th-29th September, died 29th (N.J.Lever, L.Lock, R.W.White *et al.*).

The second year in succession for one in Cornwall, and Foula features yet again, for the fourth year running.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 317, 9)

Cornwall Porthgarra, 10th October (A.M.Wilson).

Derbyshire Hillyfields, 23rd-24th April (E.A.Fisher, K.R.Gould).

Greater London Beddington, 7th-12th October (J.Allan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: page 493 fig. 9),

Norfolk Burnham Norton, 17th May (A.Collins); presumed same, 18th (J.R.McCallum).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 19th May (S.D.Stansfield).

Scilly St Mary's, 30th October (P.K.Greaves).

Shetland Loch of Spiggie, 23rd September (L.C.Cook, H.R.Harrop). Fetlar, 22nd October (J. & T.G.Davies).

Somerset Dunster, 10th-11th April (J.White).

- 1991 Sussex, East** Cuckmere Haven, 29th May to 1st June (Brit. Birds 85: 536), first noted 28th (per R.J.Fairbank).
- 1993 Devon** East Prawle, 17th October (D.L.Buckingham).
- 1994 Devon** East Prawle, 2nd November (D.L.Buckingham).
- 1995 Cornwall** Nanquidno, 16th October (M.C.Hall, S.M.Lister).
- 1995 Norfolk** Breydon, 10th September (J.Lansdell *et al.*).
- 1995 Shetland** Boddam, 8th September (C.Donald). Foula, 12th-16th September (T.P.Drew, D.J.Rigby).

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- 1975 Cork** Cape Clear Island, 8th October (Brit. Birds 69: 352), was on 9th (Irish Bird Rep. 23: 27).
- 1990 Kerry** Dunquin, 28th September (Irish Birds 4: 451).
- 1995 Wexford** Tacumshin, first-year, 9th-11th December (Irish Birds 5: 467).

Rumours that 'flyovers' of this species will not be accepted are not true, but a recognisable pipit must be seen and at least three repeated calls must be fully and adequately described. The Somerset record becomes the earliest ever in spring since at least 1958, predating that at Staines Reservoirs, Surrey, on 17th-18th April 1964. Inland records are rare, so two in a year is noteworthy. The additional records for 1993, 1994 and 1995 advance the totals for those years to 11, 17 and 19, respectively.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (3, 2, 1)

Scilly St Agnes, first-winter, 30th September to 2nd October, photo. (P.I.Holt *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plates 150 & 151); same, Tresco, 7th-13th October, photo. (M.G.Telfer *et al.*); same, St Mary's, 23rd-28th October (L.Amery, H.Fearn, J.A.Wolstencroft *et al.*).

Only the sixth, and the first since one on St Mary's, Scilly, in October 1988. Credit must go to its original, well-travelled finder who located the St Agnes bird on call. Filmed, photographic and written evidence show beyond doubt, by virtue of distinctive features of the fringes to the tertials, that the records from all three islands related to the same individual.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 90, 8)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, first-winter, 15th September (R.M.Andrews, N.Milbourne, P.Vowles *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 27th August (I.Blagdon, S.D.Stansfield).

Scilly Tresco, juvenile to first-winter, 17th-20th August (R.J.Hathway *et al.*). St Mary's, first-winter, 29th August to 3rd September, photo. (P.Sanders, M.S.Scott *et al.*); another first-winter, 1st-3rd September (M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-summer male, 26th April (Dr R.Riddington, J.Watt *et al.*); juvenile to first-winter, 16th-25th August (Dr R.Riddington, G.Tyler, S.C.Votier *et al.*). Quendale, juvenile to first-winter, 24th August to 3rd September (H.R.Harrop, P.V.Harvey).

1978 Scilly St Agnes, first-winter, 12th October, (P.D.Goriup, C.J.Hall, Z.Karpowicz *et al.*).

1980 Norfolk Welney, first-winter, 16th-17th November (D.J.Holman, T.P. & Mrs C.Inskipp, Miss S.Rogers *et al.*).

1983 Hampshire Titchfield Haven, first-winter, 22nd September (R.A.Chapman).

1990 Kent Bough Beech Reservoir, female, probably first-year, 29th May (D.P.Appleton, C.Bond, D.Tipling *et al.*).

1993 Cornwall Hayle, first-winter, 19th September (F.H.C.Kendall, V.A.Stratton *et al.*).

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1993 Cork Ballycotton, first-winter, 21st September (Irish Birds 5: 469).

Another good year, bettered only by last year's record total of ten. The Fair Isle record is the first in April, and consequently the earliest. As this species continues its spread westwards, it is probably only a matter of time before the first 'pure' pair of Citrines breeds in Britain. Postal losses and an unhappy succession of other delays to the assessment of the older records are regretted, but they are now all finally resolved.

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (0, 0, 1)

Nottinghamshire Nottingham, first-winter, 20th February to 18th March, photo. (P.Smith *et al.*).

This becomes the first acceptable record for Category A of the British List. It is amazing that this occurrence should coincide with the first full-scale invasion of Bohemian Waxwings *B.garrulus* into Britain since 1965. The only previous record, on Noss, Shetland, on 25th-26th June 1985, was placed in Category D by the BOURC (Brit. Birds 86: 538; Ibis 135: 221), but its status is currently being reviewed by that Committee. The only other record for the Western Palearctic was in Iceland in April-July 1989 (Bliki 16: 7-10). Separation of these two waxwings was recently summarised by Peter Lansdown (Brit. Birds 89: 546-548).

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 115, 5)

Angus & Dundee Fishtown of Usan, 17th-28th August (G.M.Addison, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, 13th May (M.J.Gee, R.C.Taylor *et al.*).

Dorset Abbotsbury, in song, trapped 25th May, photo. (S.A.Groves, S.Hales, D.Hallett).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-summer, trapped 20th May (M.A.Newell *et al.*); first-summer, 23rd May to 1st June, trapped 24th, photo. (M.A.Newell, Dr R.Riddington, S.C.Votier *et al.*).

1995 Yorkshire, East Spurn, then Humberside, 18th May (P.J.Alker, N.A.Bell, J.Cudworth).

An average year. Records of this species show a very strong East Coast bias, 91% having occurred in eastern counties of Britain, so the Dorset record-only the eleventh for the western half of Britain and Ireland-is noteworthy.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

***S. t. maura/stejnegeri* (1, 244, 6)**

Orkney North Ronaldsay, male, 23rd-28th September (J.Bishop, J.Nove, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*); female or first-winter, 26th September (S.D.Stansfield).

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter male, 21st-24th September (M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Shetland Out Skerries, first-winter male, 19th-21st September (P.M.Ellis, Dr B.Marshall *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, female or first-winter, 23rd September (P.A.Lassey, P.J.Willoughby).

Yorkshire, North Filey, male, 6th-7th May, trapped 7th, photo. (P.J.Dunn, T.Hobson *et al.*).

1993 Cleveland South Gare, female or first-winter, 23rd-24th October (M.A.Blick, M.N.Sidwell *et al.*).

1993 Cornwall Land's End, first-winter male, 12th-14th October (Brit. Birds 88: 534), found and identified by I.Kendall.

1993 Yorkshire, East Sammy's Point, Easington, then Humberside, first-winter male, 1st-3rd October (A.Dawson, L.J.Degnan, D.Page). Spurn, female or first-winter, 24th-31st October, trapped 31st (Brit. Birds 87: 549), not this but second individual trapped 31st (per L.J.Degnan *et al.*).

1994 Durham Whitburn, male, 16th-22nd September, photo. (R.Ahmad, C.N.Gibbins *et al.*).

1994 Kent St Margaret's, male, 14th-15th October (Brit. Birds 88: 531), first noted 12th (per D.W.Taylor).

1994 Shetland Skaw, Unst, female or first-winter, 14th October (Dr C.F.Mackenzie).

1995 Shetland Fetlar, female, 9th-12th May (I.Barton, J.Mallord, D.Suddaby).

IRELAND

1992 Cork Crookhaven, 5th October (Irish Birds 5: 97).

Another relatively poor year. The steady increase in the number of spring occurrences may reflect change in breeding or wintering distribution (or both) or merely improved identification techniques. The additional records for 1993, 1994 and 1995 increase the totals for those years to 23, 17 and eight, respectively.

In the Channel Islands, a female or first-winter was at St Martin's, Guernsey, on 12th October.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (1, 9, 1)

Cornwall Church Cove, 29th October (Dr I.H.Brown, J.P.Martin).

Independently submitted descriptions left the Committee in no doubt as to the correctness of the identification. Seven of the total of 11 have been discovered in October. A report from Kent remains to be assessed.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 31, 1)

Dorset West Weares, Portland, male, age uncertain, 25th October (I.Hunt).

Very well described by the lone observer, who was unable to contact other birders in time for them to get to the site before the bird had gone. The year 1995 was the first blank one since 1984.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 39, 4)

Gwent Peterstone Wentlooge, first-winter male, 16th-20th December, photo. (S.D.S.Bosanquet, C.Jones *et al.*).

Norfolk Lodge Marsh, Wells, first-winter male, 11th November (J.R.McCallum). Salthouse, first-winter male, 14th-18th November, photo. (S.Harris *et al.*); possibly same as Wells.

Staffordshire Barton Gravel-pits, first-winter male, 23rd-30th November, photo. (E.S.Clare, G.Hayes *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 178).

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1995 Cork Garryvoe, first-winter male, 26th-27th November (Irish Birds 5: 469).

Another good year, with a typically late-autumn/early-winter bias. November is the peak month for arrivals, accounting for 51% of the post-1958 total. The Welsh record is only the second, and the record well inland in Staffordshire mirrors that in Hereford & Worcester in November 1994.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* (6, 20, 2)

Scilly Bryher, age and sex uncertain, 28th September to 2nd October, photo. (D.B.Rosair *et al.*).

Sussex, East/West Locality withheld, female, 19th-20th May (observers' names withheld).

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1995 Clare Kilbaha, Loop Head, 14th-16th September (Irish Birds 5: 469; Brit. Birds 89: plate 197).

The observers of the Sussex bird expressed their regret at being unable to release the news, which was for totally justifiable scientific reasons. Scilly heads the table with the fourth record for that archipelago, closely followed by Norfolk and Shetland with three each.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (1, 19, 1)

Outer Hebrides Near Lochskipport, South Uist, 6th October (B.Rabbitts).

Catharus thrushes have been few and far between in recent years, perhaps surprising considering the number of Nearctic landbirds that have reached our shores in successive autumns. This year's bird on South Uist provided a good start to a new life for its ex-Somerset émigré observer. Separation of Swainson's from Grey-cheeked Thrush *C.minimus* was recently reviewed by Peter Lansdown (Brit. Birds 90: 290-291), while field identification of the recently separated Bicknell's Thrush *C.bicknelli* is currently not recommended (Brit. Birds 89: 1-9).

Veery *Catharus fuscescens* (0, 3, 0)

1995 Outer Hebrides Newton, North Uist, then Western Isles, 20th-22nd October (P.J.Benstead *et al.*).

Only the third. The previous records were at Porthgarra, Cornwall, on 6th October 1970 (Brit. Birds 65: 45-49) and on Lundy, Devon, in October-November 1987 (Brit. Birds 83: 284-287).

Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 33, 4)

Avon Victoria Park, Bristol, first-winter, sex uncertain, *T.r.atrogularis*, 8th-9th February (M.T.Elliot *et al.*).

Cambridgeshire Werrington, first-winter male, *T.r.atrogularis*, 29th January to 17th March, photo. (A. & Mrs A.Beeken *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 179).

Norfolk Holkham Park, first-winter female, *T.r.atrogularis*, 13th March to 4th April, photo: (D.J.Holman, J.Magee, I.Rowland *et al.*).

Worcestershire Redditch, first-winter male, *T.r.atrogularis*, 17th January to 18th February, photo. (P. & Mrs J.Adams, M.J.Inskip, G.H.Peplow *et al.*).

1995 Yorkshire, South Redmires Reservoirs, first-winter, sex uncertain, *T.r.atrogularis*, 13th November (R.D.Hill).

While the dates in themselves are not unusual, the fact that four different birds should turn up simultaneously at this season is without precedent in Britain. The three long-stayers echo that in Norfolk in 1976. The venues of two of these individuals became the scene for mass twitches into what are essentially residential areas, resulting in an obvious loss of basic privacy to the local inhabitants. In such cases, our sincere thanks must go to the finders and their neighbours for the hospitality and patience shown over such an extended period. There were four also in 1987 and 1994, and a record five in 1993.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* (11, 20, 0)

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1981 Kerry Near Waterville, male, 13th December (Irish Birds 2: 225).

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* (0, 4, 0)

In the Channel Islands, one was in song at St Ouen, Jersey, on 25th June. The last record in Britain was at Lodmoor, Dorset, on 24th-28th June way back in 1977 (though there was one on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, in April 1985), so it would be a pat on the back for anyone who could find another. A spell of mild winters on the Continent might help the cause.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola* (3, 12, 2)

Dorset Portland, juvenile/first-winter, trapped 13th September, photo. (M.Cade *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile/first-winter, trapped 17th September, photo. (S.A.Stirrup, S.C.Votier, T.J.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: page 498 fig. 10).

The Dorset individual is only the third for England and occurred 20 years to the day after the earliest previous record, at Cley, Norfolk, on 13th September 1976, the only other to have been found on mainland Britain. Fair Isle maintains its near-monopoly, with the island's tenth record.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 58, 3)

Lincolnshire Rimac, 22nd September (G.P.Catley, A.C.Sims *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped 13th September, photo. (M.A.Newell, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, trapped 21st September (B.R.Spence, N.P.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Recorded for the fourth successive year on, or just off, the English east coast. But how many more go undetected?

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (0, 24, 2)

Northumberland Near Bellingham, in song, 16th-30th June, photo. (R.Craig, R.Forster *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 181).

Staffordshire Doxey Marshes, Stafford, in song, 20th June to 22nd July, photo. (A.Butter *et al.*).

1995 Cambridgeshire Wicken Fen, in song, 7th-10th July (J.A.Brightwell, R.E.Scott *et al.*).

1995 Greater Manchester Scotsman's Flash, 11th-12th July (Brit. Birds 89: 516), correct dates 11th June to at least 12th July.

1995 Shetland Foula, 14th September (D.J.Rigby).

The one inland in Staffordshire echoes that in Greater Manchester in 1995. That the bird was bearing a metal ring still strong in lustre suggests that it had been ringed (where?) earlier in the year. The two additional 1995 records increase what was already a record annual total in that year to seven.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* (2, 33, 5)

Cleveland Redcar, 31st October (E.M.Laverick, N.A.Preston *et al.*).

Cornwall Marazion, age uncertain, 16th November to at least 28th December, trapped 16th November (B.Pattenden *et al.*).

Norfolk Lodge Marsh, Wells, 23rd September (A.I.Bloomfield, J.R.McCallum).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped 19th September, photo., ringed in Lithuania (C.Jones, Dr R.Riddington, R.Walker *et al.*). Fetlar, 1st October (J. & T.G.Davies *et al.*).

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1982 Wexford See 1984 Wexford below.

1984 Wexford North Slob, trapped 3rd December, died 4th (Brit. Birds 80: 560), was in 1982 (Irish Birds 3: 481).

The Cornish bird shared its reedbed with an injured Sedge Warbler *A.schoenobaenus*, but, though they both went their separate ways, they more than likely suffered the same fate as the Irish bird mentioned above, disappearing at the onset of a particularly cold weather snap. The Lithuanian bird controlled on Fair Isle represents a classic example of reverse migration, and of the value of trapping and ringing rarities (a paper by Chris Mead on this subject is in preparation for British Birds). Some of the problems of identifying pale individuals were recently reviewed by Dr Colin Bradshaw (Brit. Birds 90: 142-147).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (9, 20, 7)

Norfolk Warham Greens, 25th-27th September, photo. (M.A.Golley, R.G.Millington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 182).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 22nd-27th September, photo. (M.Gray, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*). Holm, first-winter, 16th-19th October, trapped 16th (R.G.Adam *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 4th-6th June, trapped 4th, photo. (Dr R.Riddington, S.C.Votier *et al.*); 11th-13th June, trapped 12th, photo. (S.C.Votier *et al.*); first-winter, trapped 24th September, photo. (J.Gregory, P.V.Harvey, S.C.Votier *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 21st-24th September (D.Bywater, D.J.Scanlan, C.C.Thomas *et al.*).

1989 Dorset Portland, trapped 12th June, photo. (M.Cade, M.Rogers).

An excellent year, equalling the record totals for 1912 and 1993. Acceptance of two field identifications does not signify a 'free-for-all' for claims of this species, which will continue to require the most detailed descriptions of all aspects of plumage, structure, behaviour and, when appropriate, call. The acceptance of the 1989 Dorset record is noteworthy as the only mainland record away from the East Coast.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 166, 5)

Kent Elmley, in song, 30th May to 16th June, photo. (J.A.Rowlands, G.Sparkes *et al.*).

Norfolk Sheringham, trapped 21st May, photo. (A.P.Benson, D.H.Sadler, K.B.Shepherd).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 19th-21st May, photo. (A.Baxter, J.Brown, S.Chambers *et al.*)

Shetland Fair Isle, 20th May (J.H. & M.Wood, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*). Foula, 7th-10th June (A.R.Mainwood).

1977 Greater Manchester Pennington Flash, in song, 17th-19th May, tape-record (R.W.Rhodes *et al.*).

Comparisons of tape-recordings of the Kent individual with those of the 1993 bird, which apparently returned to the same reed patch in 1994 (Brit. Birds 88: 538-539), clearly indicated that the one in 1996 was a newcomer.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 61, 6)

Norfolk Gorleston, 3rd-4th September, photo. (D.Jupp *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 20th-21st August, photo. (S.J.McElwee, M.S.Thomas *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 22nd-24th August (S.C.Votier *et al.*).

Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 28th September to 1st October, photo. (R.J.Fairbank, J.King, C.W.Melgar *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, 20th-22nd September (N.A.Littlewood, M.J.Pilsworth, M.F.Stoyle *et al.*); another, 20th-23rd, trapped 21st, photo. (B.R.Spence *et al.*).

The identification of this species continues to pose problems for the unwary, even some 'experienced' observers. Record assessment is not made any easier by the frequent apparent difficulty experienced by observers in conveying the species' uniqueness on paper. The Committee requires a balanced description that adequately describes the subtleties in plumage, bare parts, and structure and behaviour (jizz) that combine to make what is, in reality, usually a distinctive species.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 367, 14)

Caernarfonshire Bardsey, male, trapped 16th June, photo. (R.Coombes, A.F.Silcocks).

Cornwall Near Rosudgeon, first-year male, 7th-13th April (J.F.Ryan, C.C.White).

Dorset Portland, male, 11th April (A.J. & P.R.Farr, G.Walbridge *et al.*); male, 7th-27th October, trapped 7th, photo. (M.Cade, Prof. P.J.Morgan *et al.*).

Fife Fife Ness, male, 21st September (K.Cohen, N.Elkins); presumed same, Crail, at least 23rd (W.McBay, A.Marcol).

Greater London Hampton, male, 15th August, photo. (D.Housley).

Lincolnshire Theddlethorpe Dunes, female, age uncertain, 15th September, photo. (M. & Mrs F.E.Boddy).

Northumberland Holy Island, first-summer male, 4th-13th May (P.R.Davey, I.Kerr, J.R.Todd *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes, male, trapped 18th April, photo. (G.R. & Mrs M.Avery, E.J.Furlonger).

Shetland Whalsay, male, 25th April (J.Coutts, C.Simpson *et al.*). Fair Isle, female, 24th May (S.C.Votier *et al.*); male, 24th May (N.J.Riddiford, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*). Foula, male, 25th May to 18th June (P.Catry, A.R.Mainwood).

Yorkshire, East Kilnsea, male, 12th May (P.Antrobus, D.M.Walters, J.Williams).

1994 Norfolk Salthouse Heath, male, 24th May (S.J.M.Gantlett *et al.*).

1995 Scilly Tresco, female, 3rd May (R.J.Hathway *et al.*).

1995 Shetland Scalloway, male, 29th-31st May (W.Jackson, R.B.Johnson).

1995 Suffolk Fagbury Cliff, female, trapped 31st May (E.Marsh, G.Mortimer, S.H.Piotrowski).

1995 Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, then Humberside; first-winter female, 19th September (P.A.Lassey, M.Newsme).

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1994 Wexford Great Saltee, trapped 25th May (Irish Birds 5: 347).

1995 Cork Dursey Island, male, 16th-17th May (Irish Birds 5: 470).

1995 Wexford Great Saltee, male, trapped, 24th May (Irish Birds 5: 470).

A relatively poor showing by recent standards, but still far better than the mere two recorded in 1991. The Greater London record in August is only the tenth to be found in that month. The additional 1995 records advance the total for that year to a record 36.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (1, 50, 2)

Cornwall Lizard, male, 13th-14th April (S.F.Jackson, P.Williams).

Scilly St Agnes, female, 29th-30th March (J. & Mrs P.Hale).

1995 Norfolk Holme, male, 18th-19th May, photo. (A.P.Bunting, B.Stroud *et al.*).

A rather poor year by recent standards. The additional 1995 record advances the total for that year to six.

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli* (0, 5, 0)

1995 Caernarfonshire Aberdaron, then Gwynedd, male, 21st June (D.Evans, M.Hughes, I.Rhys-Jones *et al.*).

Only the fifth record for Britain of this attractive *Sylvia*. Previous records were on Mainland, Shetland, in August-September 1977, on Lundy, Devon, in June 1979, on Whalsay, Shetland, in October 1990 and at Holme, Norfolk, in August-September 1992 (Brit. Birds 74: 279-283; 74: 528-530; 84: 472-493; 86: 515).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 281, 8)

Fife Isle of May, trapped 4th September (S.W.Anderson, R.G.Nesbitt)

Norfolk Holkham Meals, *P.t.plumbeitarsus*, 15th-16th October (A.I.Bloomfield, J.B.Kemp, J.R.McCallum *et al.*).

Northeast Scotland Rattray Head, 24th August (T.W.Marshall, Dr I.M.Phillips *et al.*).

Pembrokeshire Skomer, 27th June (T.P.Drew, J.Hayden, L.Smith *et al.*).

Shetland Sumburgh, 13th-14th August, trapped 13th (J.N.Dymond, P.M.Ellis *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Sammy's Point, Easington, 6th-8th September, photo. (P.Allen, M.J.Pilsworth *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, 7th-12th September (D.Bywater *et al.*); 21st-26th, photo. (J.Harwood *et al.*).

1995 Cheshire Red Rocks, 9th September (J.G.Jones, M.G. & Dr J.E.Turner).

1995 Kent St Nicholas at Wade, 3rd-6th September (M.J.Baldock *et al.*). Ramsgate, 24th September (D.C.Gilbert).

1995 Norfolk Holkham Meals, 3rd September (Brit. Birds 89: 519); another, 3rd (O. & Mrs M.Marks *et al.*); presumed another, at least 13th (G.A.J.Deacon *et al.*).

1995 Shetland Mid Dale, Walls, 24th September to 1st October (F.J.Maroevic *et al.*).

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1995 Waterford Brownstown Head, 15th-17th October (Irish Birds 5: 470).

1995 Wexford Great Saltee, male, singing, trapped, 13th-16th June (Irish Birds 5: 470).

An average year in terms of numbers, localities and arrival dates. The Norfolk occurrence of the distinct eastern form *P.t.plumbeitarsus* (sometimes treated as a separate species, 'Two-barred Warbler') is only the second, following one on Gugh, Scilly, during 22nd-27th October 1987. Not surprisingly, the arrival dates for both have been noticeably later than those of *P.t.viridanus*. With these additional records, 1995 now tops the previous best year, 1992, with 31; in complete contrast to last year, though, all were in autumn.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 198, 11)

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, 19th-23rd September, photo. (T.Francis, I.Lawson, D.W.Simpson *et al.*).

Fife Isle of May, 20th September (J.M.Wilson *et al.*). Crail, 22nd-24th September (M.Culshaw, D.E.Dickson).

Kent Bishopstone, 1st-7th October (C.Morris, S.O'Donnell, Miss C.E.Tedder *et al.*).

Northumberland Marden Quarry, 21st September (A.Curry *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes, 7th-14th October, photo. (A.Webb *et al.*).

Shetland Foula, 21st June (S.Bearhop, P.Catry, A.R.Mainwood). Fair Isle, first-winter, 8th September, photo. (S.C.Votier *et al.*). Voe, 27th September to 6th October, photo. (N.J.Lever, R.W.White, T.J.Wilson *et al.*).

Suffolk Corton, 16th-18th October (J.K.Archer *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, 7th September (C.E.Dobbs, C.Nimmick, K.Parker).

1995 Shetland Vidlin, 31st August (F.J.Maroevic, P.Sclater *et al.*).

1995 Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, 17th-19th September (A.M.Allport, P.A.Lassey *et al.*).

Another good year. The late-June record on Foula, Shetland, mirrors that on Fair Isle in 1995 and two previous records from early July. Whilst the Committee recognises that, from time to time, some silent individuals can pose problems concerning separation from Greenish Warbler *P.trochiloides*, this has sometimes been overstated. Field identification is always possible with care and given good views, by a combination of plumage features, bare-part detail and structure, but there is no substitute for previous experience. Some 'problem birds' were recently discussed by Dr Colin Bradshaw and Dr Roger Riddington (Brit. Birds 90: 180-184, plates 36-39).

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (3, 859, -)

1986 Sussex, West Church Norton, 13th November (Brit. Birds 80: 562), to 14th (per R.J.Fairbank).

This species is no longer considered by the Committee, but the statistics for pre-1958 and 1958-95 are up to date.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 157, 7)

Devon Lundy, trapped 30th October (R.A.Duncan, A.M.Taylor *et al.*).

Kent North Foreland, 22nd October (R.Boulden, P.Milton, J.M.Warne *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 15th-16th October, trapped 16th, photo. (M.Gray *et al.*).

Shetland Geosetter, 19th October (P.Dean *et al.*) .Voe, 19th October (N.Milligan) Sandwick, 19th-20th October (P.M.Ellis *et al.*).

Suffolk Lowestoft, 12th-13th October (D.G.Beamish, J.Harris, R.C.Smith *et al.*).

1995 Kent St Margaret's, at least 4th November (G.M.Haig, B.A.Ryan).

Another good year, the dates fairly typical. The additional 1995 record advances the total for that year to nine.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 164, 8)

Cornwall Porthgwarra, 24th-25th October (J.F.Babbington, D.J.D.Hickman *et al.*).

Kent North Foreland, 17th October (R.Boulden). Foreness, 15th November (M.H.Davies).

Norfolk Weybourne, 23rd-29th September, trapped 23rd, photo. (Dr M.P.Taylor *et al.*). Holkham Meals, 11th-21st November, trapped 11th (R.Baker, A.I.Bloomfield, J.R.McCallum *et al.*); another, 13th to at least 17th (A.I.Bloomfield, J.R.McCallum *et al.*); presumed same, 21st (R. & Mrs S.Sturgess).

Scilly Tresco, 14th October (S.J.Broyd, J.A.Lucas).

West Midlands Sheepwash Country Park, Tipton, 16th-18th November (G.Williams *et al.*).

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1995 Cork Cape Clear Island, 19th-30th October (Irish Birds 5: 471).

The Weybourne bird was in close proximity to, and only two days after, the earliest-ever autumn Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*, but it is not the earliest ever recorded in autumn: that was an adult at Bamburgh, Northumberland, on the unseasonal date of 18th August 1980. The West Midlands record is noteworthy, too, and joins the ever-growing list of vagrant *Phylloscopus* warblers that have penetrated to inland counties; it also serves to illustrate the undoubted impact that the increasing number of Country Parks is having in Britain.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 134, 2)

Scilly St Mary's, 22nd-31st August (R.L.Flood, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Suffolk Landguard, first-winter, 2nd-25th October, trapped 2nd, photo. (M.J.Grantham *et al.*).

1994 Wight, Isle of Culver Cliff, 13th September (D.J.Hughes).

1995 Northumberland See Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P.orientalis* below.

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1991 Cork Crookhaven, 1st September (Irish Birds 5: 471).

For the time being, it will be the Committee's policy to publish as this species acceptable records of *P.bonelli/P.orientalis* even if the bird is silent. Naturally, if the diagnostic call-note of *P.orientalis* is heard, the record will be treated as relating to that species.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis* (0, 1, 0)

1995 Northumberland Whitley Bay, 20th-29th September (Brit. Birds 89: 520) as Bonelli's Warbler *P.bonelli*; now specifically re-identified as *P.orientalis*.

Following a recent review by the BOURC, this form has been awarded specific status as distinct from Western Bonelli's Warbler *P.bonelli* (Ibis 139: 197-201; Brit. Birds 90: 70). This becomes the first record for Britain, but an earlier one, on St Mary's, Scilly, in September-October 1987, is currently being assessed by the BOURC.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 104, 9)

Devon South Milton Ley, first-winter, 21st-22nd October, trapped 21st, photo. (R.Burridge *et al.*).

Dorset Hengistbury Head, two juveniles, 9th October (C.I.Husband, D.N.Smith *et al.*).

Glamorgan Kenfig Pool, male, and at least one other, 11th November to 1997 (N.Donaghy, D.R.W.Gilmore, S.J.Moon *et al.*).

Greater London Brent Reservoir, first-winter, 16th-22nd November, photo. (R.S.Beddard, J.P.Charteris, A.M.Self *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, male, 19th-21st October (J.Badley, R.J.Price). See also 1995 Kent below.

Suffolk Trimley Marshes, two juveniles, 20th November intermittently to 1997 (T.Oliver, M.Wright *et al.*).

1988 Scilly St Mary's, juvenile, 18th October (C.Raven *et al.*); additional to St Agnes, 17th-18th (Brit. Birds 82: 553).

1995 Kent Dungeness, adult and two juveniles, 27th October to 22nd March 1996 (J.Badley, R.J.Price *et al.*).

1995 Scilly Tresco, juvenile and at least one other, 8th-15th November (R.J.Hathway, N. & Mrs B.Stabb *et al.*).

An inherent problem with this somewhat elusive species is that of proving how many individuals are present at anyone locality. One further report, from Cambridgeshire, remains to be dealt with fully. Despite the steady flow into Britain, there is still no real sign of attempted colonisation. The additional 1995 records increase the total for that year to a more-presentable nine.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 42, 3)

Caernarfonshire Bardsey, first-winter, 25th-26th October, trapped 26th, photo. (A.F.Silcocks *et al.*).

Lancashire Stocks Reservoir, first-winter, 5th-11th November, photo. (N.Mason, T.M.Melling *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 185).

Norfolk Horsey Gap, first-winter, 12th-13th October, photo. (A.D.Boote, J.Oates *et al.*); presumed same, Holme, 14th-21st October, photo. (J.Andrews, M.Eccleshall *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 184).

With all the talk of 'splits', on current knowledge it would be a brave person indeed who assigned any first-winter of this species to a particular race, even in the hand.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 120, 2)

Fife Crail, 5th September (G. & Mrs E.Leisk).

Norfolk Burnham Overy, adult, 5th-18th September, photo. (R.Harold *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 186).

1995 Kent St Margaret's, adult, 13th-17th August (Brit. Birds 89: 521), to 20th (per D.W.Taylor).

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1962 Cork Cape Clear Island, 14th-26th October (Brit. Birds 57: 10) was 14th-26th September.

That such a high proportion of autumn occurrences are adults is hard to explain. With such low annual totals, it is remarkable that this species has occurred in every year since 1963.

In the Channel Islands, one was on Alderney on 12th October.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* (1, 11, 1)

Essex Holland-on-Sea, first-winter *L.m.pallidirostris*, 18th-23rd November, photo. (Dr S.Cox, M.L.Hawkes, S.J.Patient *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 183).

1994 Essex Great Wakering, first-winter *L.m.pallidirostris*, 26th-30th October (Mrs P.Prentice, J.Wright *et al.*).

The BOURC recently split the northern and southern forms of Great Grey Shrike *L.exucbitor* (Ibis 139: 197-201; Brit. Birds 90: 70), but some authorities, notably the Dutch (CSNA), also treat the distinctive, migratory form *pallidirostris*, colloquially known as 'Steppe Grey Shrike', as a distinct species (Dutch Birding 19: 21-28). Identification was discussed by Peter Clement and illustrated by Tim Worfolk (Birding World 8: 300-309) and a paper by Norbert Lefranc and Tim Worfolk on the taxonomy and identification of these shrikes has been in preparation for British Birds for some time. The additional 1994 record takes the total for that year to five. All 13 records refer to *L.m.pallidirostris*.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (101, 580, -)

1980 Sussex, West Selsey, 17th October (Brit. Birds 74: 488) present 16th-18th (per R.J.Fairbank).

1990 Sussex, West Littlehampton, 22nd-23rd April (Brit. Birds 85: 547), to 24th (per R.J.Fairbank).

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1995 Cork Cape Clear Island, male, 23rd May to 1st June (Irish Birds 5: 472).

This species is no longer considered by the Committee, but the statistics for pre-1958 and 1958-95 are up to date.

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 303, 10)

Angus & Dundee Montrose Basin, juvenile, 27th August (R.D.Goater).

Argyll Near Campbeltown, adult, 30th July to 2nd August, photo. (J. & Mrs S.Pryor).

Cornwall Sennen, juvenile, 7th-25th September; presumed same, St Just, 27th September to 13th October, photo. (J.F.Ryan *et al.*).

Devon Bickington, adult, since 1995 to 6th February (Brit. Birds 89: 521). South Milton Ley, juvenile, 15th-22nd September (R.Burridge *et al.*).

Dorset Easton, Portland, juvenile, 23rd October (D.J.Chown).

Kent Deal, juvenile, 16th-21st September, photo. (D. & Mrs F.Summerfield).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 24th October (S.D.Stansfield *et al.*). Sanday, juvenile, 10th-15th November, photo. (J. & Mrs J.Evans).

Pembrokeshire Pembroke Dock, adult, 13th-14th January, photo. (M. & Mrs C.Rowe).

Surrey Bookham, adult, 23rd-25th September, photo. (Mrs F.Prince).

1994 Somerset Wellington, two adults, 19th July, photo. (S.Oliver); presumed same as Upper Holway, Taunton, 29th June (Brit. Birds 88: 546).

1995 Angus & Dundee Near Spittal of Glenshee, then Tayside, adult, 29th-30th June, photo. (G. & Mrs L.Kerr).

1995 Dorset Wareham, juvenile, 17th October (Miss N.Grace, R.J.Taylor).

1995 Lothian Port Seton, adult, 5th July (J. & Mrs D.Armstrong).

1995 Outer Hebrides South Boisdale, South Uist, then Western Isles, age uncertain, 18th-24th June (J. & P.R.Boyer, W.A.K.Neill *et al.*).

1995 Shetland Out Skerries, first-winter, 8th-29th September (E.Tait *et al.*).

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1958 Antrim Near Island Magee, first-winter, 28th September (Irish Bird Rep. 6: 23).

1993 Donegal Tory Island, juvenile, 9th-15th October (Irish Birds 5: 349).

No repetition of the previous two years' major influxes, which coincided with northern surges by this irruptive species into eastern Europe (Brit. Birds 88: 43, 278; 89: 42, 264). The additional 1994 record takes the total for that year to 30, but 1995 leapfrogs to 31 and consequently becomes the record year.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* (0, 5, 1)

Cumbria Waterside, male, 13th July to 1997, photo. (R.Bottomley *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 191).

Even after the Pembrokeshire and Orkney males in May and August 1993, yet another still does not seem to make sense for this basically sedentary species, albeit that the three records before that (1966, 1972, 1977) were all in the West (one in June and two in October). The dates suggest that they are not travelling north with other migrant species, so are they all ship-borne hitch-hikers?

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (1, 100, 6)

Cornwall Porthcurno, 28th-30th September (M.Anderson, A.P.Blunden). Porthgwarra, 9th-14th October, photo. (J.S.Hampshire *et al.*).

Devon Dawlish Warren, 4th November (I.W.Lakin *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 28th September to 2nd October (C.G.Bradshaw, M.May *et al.*); another, 13th-14th October (R.Kirk, R.J.Watts *et al.*). St Mary's, 11th-20th October, photo. (A.Davies, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

1995 Cornwall Trevilley, 8th-14th October, photo. (P.F.Donald, J.Summers *et al.*).

1995 Scilly St Mary's, 9th October (B.Glynn); another, 10th October, photo. (R.M.Fray, K.Stone *et al.*); both additional to 7th-14th October (Brit. Birds 89: 522).

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1990 Wexford Tuskar Rock Lighthouse, killed at light, about 10th October (Irish Birds 4: 458).

1995 Clare Kilbaha, Loop Head, two: trapped, 7th-8th October; trapped, 28th-30th October. Loop Head Lighthouse, dead, 21st October. (Irish Birds 5: 472).

1995 Cork Cape Clear Island, two: trapped, 14th-20th September; 11th October (Irish Birds 5: 472).

1995 Galway Inishmore, Aran Islands, 3rd October (Irish Birds 5: 472).

1995 Wexford Hook Head, two, 7th-8th October, one remaining until 15th October (Irish Birds 5: 472).

The total for 1995 now rises to 13, bettered only by the 14 in 1985. The fairly high figure in 1996 accords with the relatively good autumn for Nearctic passerines.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 461, 236)

Angus & Dundee Rossie Moor, two, 16th January (M.S.Scott). Near Tarfside, at least four, 2nd-3rd February (M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Caernarfonshire Great Orme, 11th April (M.Hughes).

Cambridgeshire Woodwalton Fen, up to three, 26th January to 8th April (R.M.Patient *et al.*).

Cheshire Thurstaston Common, 9th-10th January (B.S.Barnacal, G.J.Bellingham *et al.*).

Cleveland Guisborough, at least seven, 31st March (M.A.Blick *et al.*). Birk Brow, three, 9th April (R.C.Taylor, J.M.Youngs).

Clwyd Marford, two, 6th-11th March (J.P.Martin *et al.*).

Cumbria Carlisle, 19th January to at least 3rd March (A.Cremin, D.G.H.West *et al.*).

Derbyshire Foremark Reservoir, first-winter male, trapped 13th January, photo. (A.Davison, N.Topliss, M.Williams *et al.*); male, 29th January (A.Davison *et al.*); additional to 31st December 1995 (see 1995 Derbyshire below). Williamthorpe Reservoirs, two, 15th January (S.Mann); additional to 14th December 1995 (see 1995 Derbyshire below). Unstone Green, 13th February (R.A.Frost). Ladybower Reservoir, five, 30th March (R.Hutchinson, S.L.Thorpe); one of same, Hurst Clough, 30th (R.A.Frost, M.E.Taylor). Derwentdale, 3rd April (J.Wright); another, 7th (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Wright).

Dorset Studland Heath, 20th February (S.J.Morrison); another, 24th-26th (M.Constantine *et al.*).

Essex Near Chingford, 1st February (A.Middleton). Thorndon Park, see 1995 Essex below.

Fife Lochore Meadows, first-winter, 11th February (K.D.Shaw); age uncertain, 12th (D.E.Dickson, K.D.Shaw).

Gloucestershire Highnam Woods, 16th-21st February, presumed same, 20th-21st March (P.Philp *et al.*).

Greater London Hainault Forest, 30th March (M.K.Dennis).

Greater Manchester Pennington Flash, four: first-winter, trapped 27th February, retrapped 14th March, photo. (P.J.Alker, D.P.Broome, P.M.Robinson); first-winter male, trapped 27th February, photo. (P.J.Alker, D.P.Broome, G.Workman); first-winter male, 3rd March (A.Makin, I.McKerchor, P.M.Robinson); presumed same three and one other, intermittently, 7th-24th March, one photo. (P.M.Robinson *et al.*). Pearson's Flash, Wigan, first-winter male, 5th-9th March, trapped 7th, photo. (P.J.Alker, D.P.Broome, E.King *et al.*); male, 9th March (I. & P.Berry, P.Rhodes). Atherton, male, 26th-29th March (P.M.Robinson *et al.*). Hindley, male, 19th-24th April, trapped 19th, photo. (I.Makin, B.Yates *et al.*). Shell Carrington N.R., 3rd April (Dr P.Brewster).

Hertfordshire Broxbourne, 18th February to 15th March (B.Reed *et al.*).

Lancashire Skelmersdale, 1st January (E.J.Smith); another, 1st-3rd (R.Gibson, E.J.Smith). Mere Sands Wood, male, 1st to at least 23rd March (M.S.Garner, S.Jennings *et al.*); age/sex uncertain, 27th March, photo. (S.Young *et al.*).

Leicestershire Rushpit Wood, Rutland Water, first-winter, 5th-21st January (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Wright *et al.*); presumed one of two individuals since 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 523).

Lincolnshire Swanholme Park, Lincoln, male, and another, since 1995 to at least 6th January (Brit. Birds 89: 523). Barton-upon-Humber, 19th February (G.P.Catley). Laughton Forest, 5th March (G.P.Catley).

Lothian Whiteadder Reservoir, 20th-21st January (E.Forbes, A.Henderson *et al.*).

Norfolk North Wootton, male and another since 1995 to 4th January (Brit. Birds 89: 523). Langham, 11th January to 22nd March, at least eight, intermittently, 28th January to 1st March, several photos. (J.Miller, D.Nye, A.M.Stoddart, S.Young *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 192). Ranworth, three, 13th January (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart). Hickling, male and two others, 21st January (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart). Ingoldsthorpe and Dersingham area, two first-winters, 30th January (J.B.Kemp); presumed one of same, 11th February; adult, 11th February (A.H.J.Harrop, J.Wright). Sheringham, at least eight, including at least four males, 3rd February (A.P.Benson, I.P.Prentice *et al.*); four of same, 4th (A.M.Stoddart). Lower Bodham, two, 4th-10th February (I.P.Prentice). Belton Common, 4th-6th February; another two, 9th March to 4th April (J.Burton, T.Leggett). Wroxham area, up to eight, 7th February to 2nd April (N.Bowman). Letheringsett, 9th-12th February (S.C.Votier). Mousehold Heath, Norwich, male, 17th February; two others, 17th-18th; presumed one of same, 24th March (M.I.Eldridge, A.M.Stoddart). Filby, three, 20th-21st February (T.A.Corcoran, J.Oates). Stonepit Heath, Holt, at least nine, 23rd February (D.P.Appleton, M.Young-Powell); another, 10th March (M.Young-Powell). New Costessey, 25th to at least 28th February (D.P.Appleton *et al.*). Cromer, up to four, since 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 523), to at least February (Brit. Birds 90: plate 193). Kettlestone Common, 5th March (A.Collins). Sparham, at least two, 30th March (J.R.Williamson *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Wakerley Great Wood, 6th January (see 1995 Northamptonshire below); another, 15th January (S.R.Mawby). Northampton, first-winter, 28th January, photo. (A.F.Coles, D.Jackson *et al.*). Daventry Reservoir, first-winter, 4th January (D.Carrington, G.M.Pullan).

Northeast Scotland Amhall Moss, at least five, 8th to at least 14th January (J.Oates, Dr I.M.Phillips, M.S.Scott *et al.*). Aboyne, two, 8th January (Dr I.M.Phillips, K.D.Shaw). Garlogie, at least ten, 13th-14th January (J.Oates, Dr I.M.Phillips, M.S.Scott *et al.*); up to forty-eight, 21st to at least 23rd March, five trapped, 22nd, 23rd, many photos. (P.Cosgrove, P.Doyle, M.S.Scott, A.Webb *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 176). Near Inverurie, male and another, 26th March (Dr I.M.Phillips).

Northumberland Alnmouth, 11th February (J.W.Rutter, S.Sexton *et al.*). Druridge Bay, 17th-30th March (J.W.Rutter, S.Sexton *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Lound, 4th-15th January (P.Palmer *et al.*). Mapperley Park, 21st February (J.P.Martin *et al.*). Bestwood Country Park, at least two, 13th-18th April (W.Simpson *et al.*).

Orkney Stronsay, 23rd October (J.F.Holloway).

Outer Hebrides Eoropaidh, Lewis, 21st May (D.R.Watson).

Pembrokeshire Goodwick, 6th February to 17th March (K.J.S.Devonald, J.W.Donovan *et al.*).

Perth & Kinross Vane Farm, 2nd-4th January (J.McOwat, G.Ruthven, K.D.Shaw), two, 4th (W.Hartham, M.S.Scott); another, 17th-22nd February (F.D.Hamilton, M.S.Scott, K.L.Spalding).

Scilly Bryher, 10th May (W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 13th-17th May, photo. (Dr R.Riddington, S.C.Votier *et al.*). Scatness, 27th May (P.V.Harvey *et al.*). Foula, 1st-7th October (J.M. & T.P.Drew, T.M.Reid).

Staffordshire Westport Lake, male and first-winter, 22nd-25th February, one or other to 28th; at least one first-winter, 11th-13th March; adult, 21st-28th March, photo. (W.J.Low *et al.*). Chasewater, two, 23rd March, one to 24th (G.Evans, I.C.Whitehouse, M.Yapp *et al.*). See also 1995 Staffordshire below.

Suffolk Thorpeness, two, 14th January, one to at least 10th March; another two, 10th March (B.J.Small *et al.*); presumed two of same, 28th March, one to at least 5th April (R.Fairhead *et al.*). Martlesham Heath, 14th March, photo. (D.C.Marsh). See also 1995 Suffolk below.

Worcestershire Lodge Hill Farm, Wyre Forest, up to four, 14th-26th January, including male, 14th probably to 26th (R.E.Harbird, F.Henderson, J.K.Higginson, E.G.Phillips, A.G.Warr *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, trapped 29th May, photo. (P.J.Alker, M.J.Pilsworth *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Farnham, at least one, 24th-25th March (G.T.Foggitt, P.V.Irving *et al.*); two, 26th (J.McLoughlin). Near Haygate, 10th March (D.C.Jardine). Filey, 8th April (A.Stonier, C.C.Thomas *et al.*).

Yorkshire, South Broomhill, Barnsley, first-winter, since 31st December 1995 to 3rd January (Brit. Birds 89: 524). Thorne Moors, 21st January (R.J.Sprakes, R.Wainwright). Sheffield Botanical Gardens, 17th February to 6th March, two, 27th February (H.Adlesee, S.Minns, Dr D.Wood *et al.*); another, 1st March (Dr D.Wood *et al.*). Blackburn Meadows, Rotherham, male and first-winter, 17th-23rd February (E.A.Fisher *et al.*). Wadsley Common, 24th February (A.D.Hirst, J.Robinson). Blaxton, Doncaster, 25th February (D.Page). Finningley Park, Doncaster, two first-winters, trapped 14th February (D.Hazard); first-winter, trapped 28th February (D.Hazard, P.Shawcroft). Broomhead Reservoir, 11th March (J.Wright).

Yorkshire, West Golden Acre Park, Leeds, 14th-15th January, two 14th (P.R.Morris *et al.*). Winterset Reservoir, first-winter, trapped 18th January, photo. (A.Porter, G. & P.Smith); first-winter, trapped 8th February, photo. (A.Porter, G. & P.Smith); male, two first-winter males, trapped 9th March, photo. (J.M.Gardner, P.Smith *et al.*). Netherwood Country Park, first-winter, 25th February to 17th March, trapped 17th, photo. (G.M.Lindley, S.Roebuck, D.M.Waddington *et al.*). Haw Park Wood, Winterset, 13th March (J.M.Turton).

1985 Yorkshire, North Filey, 29th December to 4th January 1986, trapped 2nd, photo. (P.J.Dunn, H.J.Whitehead).

1986 Yorkshire, North See above.

1995 Derbyshire Williamthorpe Reservoirs, 14th December (S.Mann, A.Sas, T.Sexey); another, 20th-22nd (S.Mann, R.Stevens *et al.*). Barbook Plantation, Ramsley Reservoir, female, trapped 10th December (M.Middleton, R.D.R.Williams); male, 19th to at least 24th December (R.A.Frost, K.R.Gould, M.G.Taylor *et al.*); first-winter, 17th to at least 19th December (E.A.Fisher, K.R.Gould, S.L.Thorpe *et al.*); another first-winter, 24th-25th (E.A.Fisher, K.R.Gould, S.L.Thorpe *et al.*). Foremark Reservoir, three, 31st December (R.Hutchinson).

1995 Essex Thorndon Park, at least four, 17th December to 28th January 1996 (G.C.Bond, C.McClure, D.Rhymes *et al.*).

1995 Greater London Hainault Forest, 26th December (M.K.Dennis).

1995 Northamptonshire Wakerley Great Wood, 23rd December, presumed same, 6th January 1996 (P.Britten, N. & Mrs E.McMahon, K.Taylor).

1995 Northeast Scotland Rattray Head, 11th November (T.W.Marshall).

1995 Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter male, 4th-10th November, trapped 4th, photo. (I.Barton, M.A.Newell, Dr R.Riddington).

1995 Staffordshire Tittesworth Reservoir, 10th December to 5th January 1996, photo. (R.Higginbottom, J.Oakes, P.Wain). Rudyard Lake, 17th December (A.Brydges).

1995 Suffolk King's Forest, 19th November (W.J.Brame). West Stow, 24th December (C.Gregory). Minsmere, up to three, 29th December to at least 10th March 1996 (B.J.Small *et al.*).

1995 Yorkshire, North Hawkser, 11th November (R.S.Slack). Scalby, Scarborough, 5th December (R.H.Appleby, M.Francis). Dalby Forest, trapped 16th December (D.C.Jardine).

1995 Yorkshire, South Gilroyd, Barnsley, 17th December (G.J.Speight *et al.*). Broomhill, Barnsley, male, 27th December (D.M.Pearce, S.D.Stansfield). Thrybergh Country Park, Rotherham, 30th December (A.Roadhouse, D.Warburton).

The very high standard of documentation was again most impressive, particularly in the case of the complex situation at Garlogie, Northeast Scotland, documented by Martin Scott. Quite how many were at Langham and Cromer in Norfolk may never be established, but the same must apply to many other areas in Britain. A full analysis of this unprecedented invasion is in preparation by Steve Votier, Dr Roger Riddington and Jimmy Steele for publication in *British Birds* in due course.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (over 200, 2210, -)

IRELAND

1975 Cork Cape Clear Island, 28th September (Irish Bird Rep. 23: 27, 32-33).

1977 Cork Cape Clear Island, 10th-21st October (Brit. Birds 71: 526) was in Wexford, see below.

1977 Wexford Great Saltee, 10th-21st October (Irish Birds 1: 270).

This species was no longer considered by the Committee after 1982, but, to be consistent, Irish as well as British records for the earlier period are updated.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* (1, 10, 4)

Norfolk Whitlingham Lane, Norwich, first-winter male, 9th-15th November, photo. (S.Cox *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter male, 5th-14th October, photo. (A.Webb, A.J.Young *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plates 187 & 188). Tresco, first-winter female, 20th-25th October, photo. (M.Nash *et al.*).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, first-winter female, 2nd-3rd October, photo. (R.H. & Mrs M.E.Charlwood, R.D.M.Edgar, Miss S.McKenzie *et al.*).

The first since 1987, and a record showing for this charismatic little 'humbug'. That two have turned up in Norfolk (the other in December 1985), having by-passed more western counties, suggests that they, and perhaps also the one in Sussex, may have travelled on board ship.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (0, 5, 0)

IRELAND

1995 Clare Kilbaha, Loop Head, trapped, 12th-31st October (Irish Birds 5: 473).

1995 Waterford Brownstown Head, first-winter male, 11th-12th October (Irish Birds 5: 473).

Each of the three British records to date, in 1964, 1990 and 1992 (Brit. Birds 58: 457-461; 84: 500; 86: 530), related to the central and eastern race *D.p.aestiva* (Ibis 139: 199).

Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea* (0, 1, 0)

1995 Cornwall Land's End, first-winter male, 1st October, video-record (D.M.Ferguson) (Brit. Birds 90: plates 153-155).

A first for Britain and the Western Palearctic and one of a record run of seven species of North American wood-warblers recorded in 1995. This species managed only thirty-fifth place in Chandler S. Robbins' list of predictions of future Nearctic landbird vagrants to Europe (Brit. Birds 73: 448-457). The full account by the finder, David Ferguson, was published last month (Brit. Birds 90: 444-449). The separation of this species from Blackpoll Warbler *D.striata* in autumn was discussed by Steve Votier and Dr Colin Bradshaw (Birding World 9: 313-318).

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (0, 34, 1)

Outer Hebrides Stornoway, Lewis, 26th-29th October, photo. (R.D.Wemyss).

Not entirely unexpected in a good autumn for North American warblers. The fourth record for Scotland.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (0, 6, 1)

Dorset Portland, 14th-17th October, trapped 14th, photo. (M.Cade *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 190).

The first since 1989. If there was a prize for most appealing bird of the year, then this bird would surely have won. On the occasions that it did not grace the Observatory front lawns, it typically broadcast its whereabouts with its distinctive call.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* (1, 3, 1)

Caernarfonshire Bardsey, female, 27th September, photo. (I.Fisher, A.F.Silcocks *et al.*).

Only the fifth record for Britain. Previous records were on Lundy, Devon, on 4th November 1954, on Fetlar, Shetland, in June 1984, on Bryher, Scilly, in October 1984 and near Sittingbourne, Kent, in January-April 1989 (Brit. Birds 48: 145-147; 78: 582-583; 83: 489).

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (1, 18, 2)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 23rd-27th May, photo. (M.Anderson, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*).

Shetland Voe, first-winter, 26th September to 7th October (T.J.Wilson *et al.*).

The first since 1992/93. The dates are fairly typical, but, somewhat surprisingly, since Shetland leads the table with eight, the Orkney record was the first for that archipelago.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (1, 17, 2)

Hampshire Picket Piece, male, 5th May, photo. (J.R.Applin, D.Twigg).

Lancashire Thornton, male, 29th April, photo. (Mr & Mrs D.Finnegan).

A return to more-normal arrival dates for this species, 80% of British records having been in April-May.

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* (0, 1, 0)

1994 Greater Manchester Pennington Flash, first-winter male, 8th March to 24th April, trapped 8th March, photo. (P.J.Alker, J.R.Hough *et al.*).

The first to be recorded in Britain and the sixth record for the Western Palearctic. Whilst it seems likely that the bird reached Western Europe in the previous autumn, its apparent arrival date in Britain matches closely that shown by several Little Buntings *E.pusilla* and Rustic Buntings *E.rustica* in recent years. This bird's arrival coincided with an influx of Reed Buntings *E.schoeniclus* to the site, the preferred company of the two previously mentioned species at that time of year. An account of the bird's discovery and a full discussion of its acceptance onto Category A of the British List will be published in British Birds shortly. The field identification of this species was covered by Dr Colin Bradshaw (Brit. Birds 85: 653-665).

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* (2, 31, 2)

Worcestershire Bibby's Hollow, male, 6th-20th February, photo. (C.Round, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Yorkshire, South Harthill, male, 14th-17th March, photo. (S.Lindop *et al.*).

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1995 Wexford North Slob, first-winter male, trapped, 20th January to 19th February (Irish Birds 5: 473).

Great care needs to be taken to ensure that individuals of any age or sex do not show any trace of yellow in the plumage (including especially the fringes to the primaries) to eliminate the possibility of hybrids with Yellowhammer *E.citrinella*. After that on Fair Isle in 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 525), a further such hybrid was identified on the Insh Marshes, Highland (Inverness-shire), on 27th January 1996. Identification has been exhaustively covered by Dr Colin Bradshaw and Martin Gray (Brit. Birds 86: 378-386) and by Hadoram Shirihai, David A. Christie and Alan Harris (Brit. Birds 88: 621-626).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 306, 22)

Fife Isle of May, first-winter male, 18th-21st September, trapped 19th (J.M.Wilson *et al.*); another, age/sex uncertain, 21st-22nd (J.M.Wilson *et al.*).

Norfolk Sheringham, first-winter male, 27th March to 1st April, trapped 28th, photo. (Dr M.P.Taylor *et al.*). Weybourne, probable male, 9th April, photo. (E.Sergeant). Kelling, male, 19th May (S.Alexander, D.Buffey, M.Earp *et al.*); presumed same, Cley, 19th, photo. (E.T.Myers, M.Young-Powell *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, female, 20th May (P.J.Donnolly); another female, 20th (M.Gray); male, 24th May (S.D.Stansfield, Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*); another male, 25th (S.D.Stansfield).

Scilly Tresco, age/sex uncertain, 20th-28th October (N.J.Lever, I.J.Whitcombe *et al.*); another, 21st-28th, photo. (G.C.Bond, J. & Mrs I.Miller, D.Powell *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 11th-12th May (S.C.Votier *et al.*); female, 20th (S.C.Votier *et al.*); female, 24th (Dr R.Riddington, S.C.Votier); male, 16th June (S.C.Votier). Foula, female, 17th May (A.R.Mainwood); sex uncertain, 24th-26th June (S.Bearhop, P.Catry, A.R.Mainwood). Skaw, Unst, age/sex uncertain, 24th-26th September (N.J.Lever, L.Lock, R.W.White *et al.*).

Suffolk Corton, age/sex uncertain, 14th September (C.Allen, R.Fairhead *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Tophill Low, male, 22nd April (F.A.Wardman). Flamborough Head, age/sex uncertain, 21st September (M.Newsome). Kilnsea, age/sex uncertain, 22nd-23rd September, photo. (D.Page, P.Sampson, D.Stobbard).

1992 Hampshire New Milton, male, 20th March (Brit. Birds 87: 564), was in 1993; correct locality, Stanpit Marsh, Dorset.

1993 Dorset See 1992 Hampshire above.

A good year. Of those which have been sexed during the ten years from 1987, spring passage has featured 41 males and 20 females. Hardly any of either sex stayed more than two days, except for a first-summer male or female in Kent during 19th-28th March 1993 and a female in Greater London from 9th February to 13th March 1993. The implication may be that drift migration in spring is perfectly normal for both sexes, their short stay suggesting easy re-orientation.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 172, 9)

Northumberland Farne Islands, female or first-winter, 20th-23rd August (I.Fisher, A.H.Johnstone *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, female or first-winter, 4th-5th September (S.D.Stansfield *et al.*).

Shetland Sumburgh, female, 20th-21st May, photo. (D. & H.Loates, K.Osborn *et al.*). Fair Isle, female or first-winter, 23rd-24th August (C.Beale, S.C.Votier *et al.*); female or first-winter, 4th-5th September (M.A.Newell, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*). Foula, female or first-winter, 22nd September (M.J.McKee, A.R.Mainwood, C.Turner).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, female or first-winter, 4th September (P.Allen, M.J.Pilsworth, B.R.Spence); female or first-winter, 8th-10th, photo. (L.J.Degnan, N.P.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, female or first-winter, 8th September (C.C.Thomas *et al.*).

Another good year. The spring record in Shetland is only the fourth at that season. It is becoming apparent that there is a change in the pattern of occurrences, with more away from the traditional Northern Isles where, for many years, Fair Isle held a near-monopoly: during 1958-85, it accounted for 71% of all records, but from 1991 to date almost half of the 42 recorded have been in England (mainly in the Northeast), while Fair Isle's share has dropped markedly to 25%. Quite why this shift has occurred is perhaps too early to tell. It could be due to relatively minor changes in breeding range or wintering range, since the species is a long-distance migrant.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 119, 3)

Pembrokeshire Skokholm, male, intermittently, 29th May to 6th June, photo. (J.Farmer, G.Thompson, A.Williams); same, Skomer, 5th, 8th, 10th-12th June, photo. (S.Smith *et al.*).

Shetland Skaw, Unst, female, 8th-10th June (H.R.Harrop, M.G.Pennington *et al.*). Fetlar, female, 11th-20th August (S.Croft, F.Wichmann, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

1992 Caernarfonshire Bardsey, then Gwynedd, female, 19th-24th September, trapped 24th, photo. (P.Jones, A.J.Leitch, A.M.McDermott).

1994 Sussex, East Beachy Head, female, 17th-20th June, photo. (R.J.Fairbank, A.Palmer *et al.*).

1995 Highland Kinlochberrie, Sutherland, male, 19th August (I.Andrews).

1995 Shetland Cunningsburgh, first-winter, 3rd-6th October (P.M.Ellis *et al.*).

IRELAND

1991 Clare Loop Head, male, 17th-18th July (Irish Birds 5: 101).

A fairly typical year. A female or first-winter-variously claimed as either this species or Red-headed Bunting *E.bruniceps* - in Scilly during 21st-29th October 1994, defied specific identification by the Committee, as the reported features could have applied to either.

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

Pembrokeshire Ramsey Island, first-winter male, 18th-26th October, photo. (I.D.Bullock, D.Woodhead *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 90: plate 189).

This species is in Category A of the British & Irish List on the basis of the first-winter on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, during 9th-19th October 1985. Two previous British records have been referred to Category D, but this individual is a good Category A candidate, though it still awaits formal endorsement by the BOURC. The Committee recognises the excellent work by Brett Richards (Rare Birds 2: 204-205) in eliminating the possibility of confusion with Lazuli Bunting *P.amoena*.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (0, 18, 2)

Scilly St Mary's, 6th-8th October, photo. (P.I.Holt, W.Simpson *et al.*). Treco, 11th October (C.McClure, D.Rhymes); presumed same, Bryher, 12th-15th (P.A.Clark, M.Coath, R.Leeser *et al.*).

Autumn coverage of Scilly being so thorough, the Committee felt that it was highly unlikely that one of these birds would escape attention for two whole days and, therefore, concluded that two individuals were involved. To date, only two have reached mainland Britain: Devon, in September 1991, and Dorset, in September 1992 (Brit. Birds 85: 552; 86: 536).

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (0, 18, 1)

Scilly Bryher, 30th September (P.J.Hack *et al.*).

The first since the one over-wintering in Essex in 1991 (Brit. Birds 86: 536-538), and a return to a more-usual arrival date and a more-favoured location.

Appendix 1. Category D species accepted (see Ibis 136: 253)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

P. r. roseus (-, 8, 0)

Kent Cliffe, since 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 529), intermittently to 2nd April; presumed same, 23rd-31st December (P.Larkin *et al.*). Also in Suffolk.

Suffolk Trimley, 23rd-25th March (per D.F.Walsh); presumed same as Kent.

1968 Dorset The Fleet area, adult, 27th December to 6th April 1969 (K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

1969 Dorset See above.

1990 Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 21st September, 5th, 7th October, photo. (P.R.Davey, K.M.Wilson *et al.*); same as Witham Mouth, 16th September (Brit. Birds 89: 529).

No trends yet emerge.

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (not known, 16, 0)

1971 Surrey Staines Reservoirs, three adults, 18th September (A.V.Moon); presumed same as Breydon, Norfolk, 31st August to 2nd September (Brit. Birds 76: 527).

No British records to date have adequately excluded the possibility of American White Pelican *P.erythrorhynchos*, which has white inner secondaries. Old reports from Northamptonshire (1969), Argyll and Lanarkshire (1973) and Cambridgeshire (1975) remain to be documented.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (0, 9, 1)

Nottinghamshire South Muskham, 26th-27th August, 1st-15th September (M.Kennewell *et al.*).

1995 Sussex, West Pagham Harbour, 17th October (T.J.Edwards).

Although so common in captivity, seems to go a wandering very little.

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 Hon. Secretary; (b) those which, even if circulated, were not attributed by the observer(s) to any definite species; (c) those mentioned in '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 that the identification was fully established; only in a very few cases were we satisfied that a mistake had been made.

1996 White-billed Diver Gruinard Bay, Ross & Cromarty, Highland, 11th February. **Pied-billed Grebe** Avonmouth, Avon, 17th September. **Black-browed Albatross** Off Sumburgh Head, Shetland, 25th April. **Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii* Lunan Bay, Angus & Dundee, 12th October. **Little Shearwater** Collieston, Northeast Scotland, 23rd June; Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 2nd August; Arbroath, Angus & Dundee, 10th August; Pendeen, Cornwall, 15th October. **Wilson's Storm-petrel** Sea area Viking, 11th July. **Great White Egret** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 15th April. **Brent Goose** *nigricans* Loch Aongais, North Uist, Outer Hebrides, three, 27th January; Holland Marsh, Essex, 25th-26th February; West Wittering, West Sussex, 28th February; Hamford Water, Essex, 6th March. **American Wigeon** North Warren, Suffolk, 13th January; Marshside Marsh, Lancashire, female, 24th April to 5th May; Foulridge Reservoirs, Lancashire, 1st-3rd November. **Blue-winged Teal** Budworth Mere, Cheshire, 24th April. **Lesser Scaup** Steventon, Ayrshire, 28th January. **King Eider** Horsey, Norfolk, 11th September. **Black Kite** West Beckham, Norfolk, 26th March; Stocksbridge, South Yorkshire, 26th March; Thorne Moors, South Yorkshire, 31st March; Richmond Park, Surrey, 4th April; Loch Vaa, Highland, 11th April; Felbrigg, Norfolk, 21st April; Lavington Common, West Sussex, 21st April; Dorchester, Dorset, 27th April; Thornham, Norfolk, 8th May; near Holme, Norfolk, 18th May; Romsey, Hampshire, 2nd June; Rutland Water, Leicestershire, 15th June; Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, 23rd June; south of Mybster, Caithness, 29th June; near West Ilsley, Berkshire, 1st July; Skomer, Pembrokeshire, 10th August; Camelford, Cornwall, 21st August; near Usk, Gwent, 22nd September. **Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* near Marlborough, Wiltshire, 15th September. **Red-footed Falcon** Foreland, Isle of Wight, 14th January; Great Haldon Forest, Devon, 27th April; Thornage, Norfolk, 6th May; Allansmore, Herefordshire, 14th May; Grovelands Park, Greater London, 16th-17th May; Happisburgh, Norfolk, 9th June; Basingstoke, Hampshire, 10th June; Old Hall Marshes, Essex, 23rd June; Bagshot, Surrey, 5th August; Kings Mill Reservoir, Nottinghamshire, 1st October; Wigan, Greater Manchester, 15th October. **Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora* Heswall, Cheshire, 18th September. **Gyr Falcon** Penhalt, Bude, Cornwall, 9th April; Tankerness, Orkney, 23rd December. **Little Crane** *Porzana parva* Wigan, Greater Manchester, 18th-19th April. **Pratincole** North Wootton, Norfolk, 2nd November. **American Golden Plover** Cheesden, Lancashire, 17th March. **Pacific Golden Plover** Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, 1st March. **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* Trimley St Martin, Suffolk, 19th August. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Hickling, Norfolk, 15th July; Rye, East Sussex, 27th July; Elmley, Kent, 9th September; Pitsford Reservoir, Northamptonshire, 15th September; Draycote Water, Warwickshire, 29th September. **Baird's Sandpiper** Sandwich Bay, Kent, 4th October; River Colne, near Colchester, Essex, 23rd October. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, two, 17th July. **Great Snipe** East Ruston, Norfolk, 10th-11th September; St Mary's, Scilly, 21st October. **Dowitcher** Spurn, East Yorkshire, 7th August; 23rd August; 28th September; Anglers Country Park, West Yorkshire, 23rd August; Marton Mere, Lancashire, 9th October. **Marsh Sandpiper** Swale, Kent, 1st May; Kingsbridge Estuary, Devon, 7th November. **Lesser Yellowlegs** Houghton Green, Cheshire, second individual, 30th April; Ogmere Estuary, Glamorgan, 6th August. **Bonaparte's Gull** Ellesmere, Shropshire, 13th January; Teesmouth, Durham, 20th January; Southfield Reservoirs, South Yorkshire, 27th March; Thorne Moors, South Yorkshire, 30th March. **California Gull** *Larus californicus* Hulestone Reservoir, Cheshire, 9th March. **Iceland Gull** *kumlieni* Ogston Reservoir, Derbyshire, 1st-2nd February; Richmond Bank, Cheshire, 11th April. **Ross's Gull** Girdleness, Northeast Scotland, 22nd October. **Ivory Gull** Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, 24th March. **Gull-billed Tern** Brackenbury Cliff, Suffolk, 1st May; Snettisham, Norfolk, 5th May; Sheringham, Norfolk, 10th August; Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 1st September. **Caspian Tern** Weybourne, Norfolk, 13th July. **Forster's Tern** Ythan Estuary, Northeast Scotland, 19th-21st July. **Whiskered Tern** Hayling Island, Hampshire, 8th June. **Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor* Sale, Greater Manchester, 11th June; near Cullompton, Devon, 4th November. **Alpine Swift** Warrington, Cheshire, 21st April; Wimborne, Dorset, 20th May; Swaffham Prior Fen, Cambridgeshire, four, 29th July. **Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Maidens, Ayrshire, 26th October. **Crested Lark** Kessingland, Suffolk, 16th October. **Red-rumped Swallow** Southport, Lancashire, 27th June; Downend, Bristol, Avon, 25th August. **Red-throated Pipit** Holme, Norfolk, 5th August; Field Dalling, Norfolk, 22nd September; Weybourne, Norfolk, 25th September; Endrick Mouth, Clyde, 17th October. **Citrine Wagtail** Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, 9th-16th June. **Yellow Wagtail** *feldegg* Sandwell Valley, West Midlands, 18th-19th April; Fair Isle, Shetland, 19th May. **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* Eype, Dorset, 25th-26th October. **Common Stonechat** *maura/stejnegeri* Predannack, Cornwall, 2nd March; Holland Haven, Essex, 5th April; Minsmere, Suffolk, 25th May. **Isabelline Wheatear** Maidens, Ayrshire, 16th September. **Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica* Trelleck, Gwent, 24th March. **White's Thrush** *Zoothera dauma* Winchester,

Hampshire, 21st November. **Dark-throated Thrush** Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, 27th January; Botwnnog, Caernarfonshire, 4th February; Llanarth, Gwent, 21st February; Happisburgh, Norfolk, 31st March; Breachwood Green, Hertfordshire, 1st-13th April. **Paddyfield Warbler** Fair Isle, Shetland, 1st June. **Great Reed Warbler** North Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, 16th September. **Booted Warbler** Holme, Norfolk, 22nd September. **Subalpine Warbler** Salthouse Heath, Norfolk, 12th May. **Greenish Warbler** Hove, East Sussex, 2nd April; **Thorpeness**, Suffolk, 24th September. **Dusky Warbler** St Martin's, Scilly, 16th October. **Western Bonelli's Warbler** Church Norton, West Sussex, 22nd August; Spurn, East Yorkshire, 7th September. **Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* Gurnard, Isle of Wight, three, 30th March; Inverness, Highland, 21st September; Denny Wood, Hampshire, 29th December. **Arctic Redpoll** Keswick, Cumbria, 5th January; Heaton Moss, Greater Manchester, 11th January; Bradgate Park, Leicestershire, two, 15th January; Ingatestone, Essex, 17th January; Hodge Close, Cumbria, 23rd January; Clifton Moor, North Yorkshire, 24th January, Jumbles Reservoir, Greater Manchester, 26th January; Insh Marshes, Highland, 28th January; Hazelhurst Clough, Lancashire, 29th January; Astley Green, Greater Manchester, 4th February; Jumbles Reservoir, Greater Manchester, 15th February; Potteric Carr, South Yorkshire, 23rd February; Tregaron, Ceredigion, 25th February; Rochdale, Greater Manchester, 25th February; Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, 9th March; Hickling, Norfolk, two, 18th March; Pearson's Flash, Greater Manchester, 21st March; Cardiff, Glamorgan, two, 23rd March; Loch Vaa, Highland, 25th March. **Pine Bunting** Insh Marshes, Highland, 28th January. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** Tetney, Lincolnshire, 17th, 23rd September; Minsmere, Suffolk, 20th October. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* St Agnes, Scilly, 14th October.

1995 Little Shearwater Whitburn, Durham, 16th September; Sheringham, Norfolk, 19th September. **Black Kite** Wolsingham, Durham, 6th April; Aberdeen, Northeast Scotland, 3rd May; Meikle Loch, Northeast Scotland, 7th May; Peterhead, Northeast Scotland, 7th May; Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire, 8th May; Beddington, Greater London, 22nd May. **Red-footed Falcon** Gouthwaite Reservoir, North Yorkshire, 26th August. **American Golden Plover** River Lynher, Cornwall, 23rd September; Sammy's Point, Easington, East Yorkshire, 24th September. **Pacific Golden Plover** Whixall Moss, Clwyd/Shropshire, 17th May. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Breydon, Norfolk, 30th April. **Great Snipe** Deerness, Orkney, 10th September. **Marsh Sandpiper** Crowdy Reservoir, Cornwall, 8th July. **Greater Yellowlegs** St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, 14th November. **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus vegae* Hedgerly, Buckinghamshire, 5th February. **Iceland Gull** *kumlieni* Lerwick, Shetland, 23rd-31st March, 28th April; Workington, Cumbria, 30th July, 27th August. **Ross's Gull** Arran, Clyde Islands, 18th-21st November. **Lesser Crested Tern** Rye, East Sussex, 7th May; Ryde Sands, Isle of Wight, 3rd July. **White-winged Black Tern** Chew Valley Lake, Avon, 9th September. **Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius* Horsham, West Sussex, about 17th December. **Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula* Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, 12th November. **Crag Martin** Boswednack, Cornwall, 8th April. **Red-throated Pipit** St Mary's, Scilly, 27th October. **Citrine Wagtail** Pool of Virkie, Shetland, 13th September. **Yellow Wagtail** *feldegg* Forsinard, Highland, 27th May. **Common Stonechat** *maura/stejnegeri* St Mary's, Scilly, 27th October. **Siberian Thrush** *Zoothera sibirica* Staveley, North Yorkshire, 30th December. **Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus* Marden, Kent, 4th-9th May. **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** Martlesham Creek, Suffolk, 31st September to 2nd October. **Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata* St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, 10th-22nd September. **Sardinian Warbler** Butterstreet Cove, Dorset, 25th April. **Greenish Warbler** Ash Levels, Kent, 23rd August; Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, 20th-21st September. **Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* Dungeness, Kent, 2nd November. **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs africana/spodiogenys* Fingringhoe, Essex, 2nd-21st January. **Arctic Redpoll** Filey, North Yorkshire, 10th November; Collieston, Northeast Scotland, 11th November; Fife Ness, Fife, 24th November; Flash Dam, Matlock Moor, Derbyshire, 16th December; Oban, Argyll, 18th December; Wakerley Great Wood, Northamptonshire, 26th December. **Yellow Warbler** Rame Head, Cornwall, 5th July. **Pine Bunting** Dingestone, Gwent, 3rd-4th November. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire, 26th November.

1994 Great White Egret Freshwater, Isle of Wight, two, 16th-17th November. **Black Kite** Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, 8th May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Frodsham, Cheshire, 7th September. **Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* Belvide Reservoir, Staffordshire, 20th June. **Red-throated Pipit** Newchurch, Staffordshire, 29th September; Lundy, Devon, 30th November. **Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, 25th September. **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs africana/spodiogenys* Fingringhoe, Essex, 9th-25th April.

1993 Little Shearwater Silecroft, Cumbria, 10th July. **Iceland Gull** *kumlieni* Ogston Reservoir, Derbyshire, 21st February. **Lanceolated Warbler** Fair Isle, Shetland, 17th September.

1992 Black Kite Thursley Common, Surrey, 15th September. **Gyr Falcon** Dungeness and Shirley Moor area, Kent, 19th January to 27th February; presumed same, Capel Fleet, 25th January. **Collared Flycatcher** Dungeness, Kent, 27th September.

1991 Gyr Falcon Sandwich Bay, Kent, 24th November.

1990 Pacific Golden Plover Abberton Reservoir, Essex, 25th July. **Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta* North Bay, South Uist, Outer Hebrides, 4th-7th September. **Arctic Redpoll** Haggrister, Shetland, two, 24th September.

- 1989 South Polar Skua** *Catharacta maccormicki* Pendeen, Cornwall, 22nd September.
- 1988 Matsudaira's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma matsudairae* Sea area Sole, 3rd August.
- 1987 South Polar Skua** Cornwall/Sea area Plymouth, 19th August; St Agnes, Scilly, 19th October; Seven Stones Reef, Scilly, 24th October.
- 1986 South Polar Skua** Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire, 19th October.
- 1985 South Polar Skua** St Ives, Cornwall, 24th August.
- 1983 South Polar Skua** St Ives, Cornwall, 3rd September; 16th October. **Iceland Gull** *kumlieni* Stromness, Orkney, 22nd February to 6th March; 25th-27th February. **Citrine Wagtail** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 19th-21st September. **Southern Grey Shrike** *L.m.meridionalis* Winterton, Norfolk, 13th June to 26th July.
- 1982 South Polar Skua** Peterhead, Northeast Scotland, 23rd July; St Ives, Cornwall, 18th October. **Iceland Gull** *kumlieni* Stromness, Orkney, 19th December to 17th May 1983. **Citrine Wagtail** Fair Isle, Shetland, 13th-15th August.
- 1979 Citrine Wagtail** Spurn, East Yorkshire, 10th June.
- 1978 Citrine Wagtail** Out Skerries, Shetland, 28th-30th September.
- 1975 Citrine Wagtail** Tynninghame, Lothian, 11th October.
- 1970 Gull-billed Tern** Pennington Flash, Greater Manchester, 27th 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.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* Pevensey Levels, East Sussex, female, 13th November 1996 to at least 27th January 1997; Barmstone, Hoveringham and Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire, female or first-winter, 16th November 1996 to 1997; Barrow Gurney Reservoir, Somerset, female, 21st December 1996. **White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala* Abberton Reservoir, Essex, since 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 531), intermittently to 12th May 1996; presumed same, Minsmere, Suffolk, 18th April, Dungeness, Kent, 13th-15th May, Stodmarsh, Kent, 19th-23rd May. Eye Brook Reservoir, Leicestershire, 13th-28th September 1995 (Brit. Birds 89: 531) was first-winter or female. **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* South Shore, Blackpool, Lancashire, 23rd August to 22nd October 1988, presumed same, 8th June 1989, 26th September 1989 to 26th January 1990. **White-shouldered Starling** *Sturnus sinensis* St Agnes, Scilly, 30th August to 1st September 1979; Towednack, Cornwall, 1st-2nd October 1996; Liskeard, Cornwall, mid December 1996 to 5th March 1997.

Appendix 4. List of selected records still under consideration

This list is not intended to be complete. Some decisions may have been arrived at and notified to County Recorders/observers prior to the publication of this Report.

1996 Madeira/Soft-plumaged/Cape Verde Petrel Gwennap Head, Cornwall, 11th June; off Bishop Rock, Scilly, 18th August; Pendeen, Cornwall, 24th August; Cley, Norfolk, 13th September. **Little Shearwater** Peterhead, Northeast Scotland, 24th July. **Night Heron** Brent Reservoir, Greater London, 5th April. **Brent Goose** *nigricans* Needs Ore Point, Hampshire, 11th-25th May. **Black Kite** Great Leighs, Essex, 19th May. **Red-footed Falcon** Donna Nook, Lincolnshire, 3rd July. **Little Crake** Tresco, Scilly, 11th October. **American Golden Plover** South Anston, South Yorkshire, 5th-6th September. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Aberlady, Lothian, 25th August. **Baird's Sandpiper** Carsington Water, Derbyshire, 23rd July; Blithfield Reservoir, Staffordshire, 5th October. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Titchwell, Norfolk, 31st August. **Great Snipe** Blithfield Reservoir, Staffordshire, 9th October; Sandwich Bay, Kent, 8th November. **Iceland Gull** *kumlieni* Minsmere, Suffolk, 28th December. **Lesser Crested Tern** Pegwell Bay, Kent, 22nd August. **Red-rumped Swallow** Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire, 17th May. **Cliff Swallow** Church Norton, West Sussex, 1st October. **Blyth's Pipit** St Mary's, Scilly, 6th-10th November. **Citrine Wagtail** Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 14th May; Foula, Shetland, 26th August. **Common Stonechat** *maura/stejnegeri* Holme, Norfolk, 18th May; Ongar Hill, Norfolk, 18th September. **River Warbler** Big Waters, Northumberland, 2nd August. **Subalpine Warbler** St Agnes, Scilly, 30th March to 22nd April. **Greenish Warbler** Coalville, Leicestershire, 17th September; Prawle, Devon, 24th September; Priory Water, Leicestershire, 13th October; Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, 21st September. **Penduline Tit** Nene Washes, Cambridgeshire, three, 10th October. **Lesser Grey Shrike** Walberswick, Suffolk, 25th May. **Yellow-breasted Bunting** Warham Greens, Norfolk, 21st September.

1995 Night Heron Tring, Hertfordshire, 9th April. **American Wigeon** Leighton Moss, Lancashire, 6th-16th October. **Sociable Lapwing** Frolesworth, Leicestershire, 23rd October. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Snettisham, Norfolk, 31st July to 2nd August. **Audouin's Gull** off St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 14th August. **Lesser Crested Tern** Bexhill, East Sussex, 8th August. **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos medius* St Margaret's, Kent, 19th August.

1994 Little Shearwater Girdleness, Northeast Scotland, 1st September. **Black Kite** Great Wakering, Essex, 28th April. **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus* Sannaig, Islay, Argyll, 22nd June. **Franklin's Gull** Porlock Bay, Somerset, 13th October. **Alpine Swift** Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 4th May.

1993 Red-footed Falcon Pulborough Brooks, West Sussex, 22nd June.