



Report on Rare birds in Great Britain in 1999

M.J.Rogers and the Rarities Committee
With comments by John Martin and Doug Page

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 1998 Report (92: 554-609). 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* and Eastern *Phylloscopus orientalis* and Western Bonelli's Warblers *P.bonelli*, however, we 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 specifically 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 Hon. Secretary.
5. Irish records, assessed and accepted by the Irish Rare Birds Committee or by the Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association, are included separately, following the subheading IRELAND.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (18, 185, 14)

Argyll Machir Bay, Islay, first-summer, 21st September (S.Bearhop, S.C.Votier).

Caithness Dunnet Bay, first-summer, 20th June, video. (J.Corbett, J.Smith *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, two single adults, 30th April (S.P.Clancy, R.E.Turley).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, age uncertain, 25th April (R.McGregor).

Outer Hebrides Tiumpán Head, Lewis, adult, 14th May (R.D.Wemyss).

Pembrokeshire Strumble Head, adult, 27th September (G.H.Rees, R.Wilkinson *et al.*).

Shetland Whalsay, adult, 29th April (M.Heubeck, M.Mellor). Kirkabister, adult, 1st-2nd May (M.Heubeck *et al.*). Aith Voe/Mousa Sound, adult, 2nd June (R.M. & R.P.Fray, A.J.Mackay *et al.*). Fetlar, second-summer, 9th July to 22nd August (P.Dieudonné, P.A.Harris, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

Sussex, East Ovingdean, first-summer, 3rd June (I.T.Barnard).

Sussex, West Selsey Bill and Church Norton, age uncertain, 28th November, 7th-8th December (B.F.Forbes, R.Ives, D.I.Smith *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey, adult, 12th-17th November, photo. (C.C.Thomas, G.Watola *et al.*).

1994 Caithness Dunnet Bay, first-summer, 13th-25th May (J.Smith).

Still more passing along the English Channel with the spring movement of divers. Is the recent apparent increase here merely a result of increased awareness and confidence in flight identification? The long midsummer stay of the Fetlar bird was notable.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (0, 31, 6)

Breconshire Llangorse Lake, 15th January to 7th February, photo. (M.V.Preece *et al.*).

Cornwall Nanjizal, since 5th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 557), to 14th April.

Glamorgan Cosmeston Lakes, 31st January to 7th March, possibly to 31st (L.Middleton *et al.*).

Kent Singleton Lake, Ashford, at least 27th February to 23rd March, photo. (D.W.Taylor *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 307).

Norfolk Stowbridge, 17th-28th March, photo. (C.Donner *et al.*); presumed same, Thompson Water, 31st March to 12th May, photo. (P.J.Dolton, P.Newport, Mr and Mrs White *et al.*); presumed same as Surrey.

Outer Hebrides Loch Fada, Benbecula, 28th November to at least 11th December (A.Stevenson *et al.*).

Oxfordshire Stanton Harcourt Gravel-pits, 9th-14th November, photo. (N.J.Hallam *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 17th-20th March, photo. (M.S.Scott *et al.*); same as 1998 below.

Surrey Walton Reservoir, 16th March (D.M.Harris *et al.*); also in Norfolk.

1998 Scilly Bryher, 28th October to 1st November, photo. (per D.Chapman, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*); same, Tresco, 24th November to 25th February 1999 (R.J.Hathway per W.H.Wagstaff). See also 1999 above.

Overlapping dates and plumage differences clearly showed that the Breconshire and Glamorgan records related to different individuals. The steadily emerging pattern of spring records is further reinforced. It seems likely that the Outer Hebrides and Oxfordshire birds were recent arrivals from the New World.

Madeira/Cape Verde Petrel *Pterodroma madeira/feae* (0, 26, 5)

Cornwall Porthgwarra, 26th August (A.J.Musgrove *et al.*).

Devon Prawle Point, 17th August (P.Clack, M.Darlaston, M.Knott, A.Rennels *et al.*).

Another good year, with the second half of August reconfirmed as the best bet for this distinctive seabird. Though there are two previous June records, the Northumberland sightings were the first for November.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* (5, 94, 3)

Cornwall Gwennap Head, 13th August (J.K.Archer, J.A.Flynn, T.N.Worfolk). Trevoze Head, 9th September; another, 30th (S.M.Christophers).

Observers of this difficult-to-prove species should note as much detail as possible of size, shape and structure, flight pattern and plumage, ideally with direct comparison with Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* - often a tall order in seawatching conditions.

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (4, 28, 5)

Scilly Poll Bank, about 3-4 km S of St Mary's, 7th July (M.S.Scott, P.A.Stancliffe, W.H.Wagstaff); 18th July, photo. (M.S.Scott *et al.*); two, 16th August (M.S.Scott, P.A.Stancliffe).

Somerset Burnham-on-Sea, 2nd October (A.M. & B.E.Slade *et al.*).

At sea Sea area Irish Sea, 51° 36'N 05° 47'W 16th August, photo. (O.Roberts, H.A.Williams *et al.*); 51° 34'N 05° 44'W at least three, 25th August, photo. (J.Jackson, O.Roberts *et al.*).

At sea Sea area Sole, about 11 km S of St Mary's, Scilly, 18th July; about 9-10 km S of St Agnes, Scilly, at least five, 3rd August, photo.; about 5.5 km S of St Mary's, one, 7th August; about 11 km S of St Mary's, two, 7th August, photo. (M.S.Scott *et al.*); about 70 km SW of Scilly, 15th August (P.French); about 50-60 km SW of Scilly, at least three, 15th August (H.Vaughan *et al.*).

1995 Scilly Poll Bank, 3-4 km S of St Mary's, date uncertain, August, photo. (J.Pender *et al.*).

1997 At sea Sea area Fair Isle, 61° 37'N 02° 45'W 1st June (G.Leaper, R.W.White).

1998 At sea Sea area Sole, 60-65 km SSW of Scilly, three, 16th August, photo. (R.M.Fray, A.J.Mackay *et al.*).

Further searches of favoured feeding areas in the Southwest Approaches may yet reveal the regular presence of still more.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (1, 1, 0)

1998 Man, Isle of Near Castletown, female, taken into care ill/exhausted, 22nd December, photo., died October 1999 (per A.S.Moore, Dr J.P.Thorpe *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 308).

A sad end for this, only the second fully identified frigatebird for Britain. The only other *magnificens* and the four unidentified frigatebirds *Fregata* recorded in British waters all occurred between 13th June and 24th August, so the arrival date of this individual was unprecedented. It is perhaps not surprising that none of the four British frigatebirds seen only in the field has been successfully identified. For an idea of the complexities involved, see Steve Howell's paper on frigatebirds in the Eastern Pacific in *Birding* 26: 6, 400-414. Many of us, however, would be grateful for a chance to have a go.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* (50, 10, 1)

Cornwall Camel Estuary, 13th-17th May, photo. (S.M.Christophers, B.M.Phillips *et al.*).

An astonishing spring record of what is now an exceptionally rare bird here. Photographs left no doubt about the identification. The last was the widely appreciated Marton Mere bird that stayed from 24th January to 12th May 1991. Could this year's bird have spent the winter on this side of the Atlantic?

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (150, 200, 3)

Devon Near Hallsands, male, 17th May (P.Guy).

Kent Stodmarsh, male, 1st-6th June (G.J.A.Burton, S.Warry *et al.*).

Sussex, East Glyndebourne, female, 5th June (A.R.Kitson).

A typical trio in terms of dates and locations. The average over the previous decade was just over four per year, with 1997, when there were eight, being the best year.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (165, 410, 25)

Avon Chew Valley Lake, first-summer, 10th-12th June (K.J.Hall *et al.*).

Cornwall Little Petherick, Padstow, adult, 10th-12th April (S.M.Christophers, B.M.Phillips, M.Pitham *et al.*). Near Perranporth, adult, 12th-13th April (S.M.Christophers, R.Harper). Sladesbridge, adult, 14th-16th April (S.M.Christophers, S.Grose *et al.*).

Cumbria Lyth Valley, adult, 16th May, photo. (D.B.Thexton *et al.*).

Devon Countess Wear, first-summer, 12th April to 26th May (M.Knott *et al.*), Slapton, adult, 24th April (B.Whitehall). River Meavy, near Burrator Reservoir, adult, 17th-27th May (N.Trout).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge, second-summer, 26th April intermittently to 24th August, photo. (M.J.McGill, P.E.Marshall, M.A.Roberts *et al.*); presumed returning individual of 4th-24th June 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 558); presumed same, Ashleworth Ham, 1st August (K.Heron per A.Jayne).

Kent Dungeness, two adults, one second-summer, 10th-11th April (C.E.Morris, R.J.Price *et al.*); first-summer, 30th April (R.J.Price *et al.*). Appledore, adult, 16th-24th May (J.M.E. & Mrs I.M.E.Took *et al.*).

Northumberland Holy Island, adult, 9th May (A.Curry *et al.*). Cresswell Pond, juvenile, 27th October to 6th November, photo. (Mrs M.Bentley *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides Loch Caravat; North Uist, second-summer, 26th-29th April (J.Ellwood, B. & L.Lowe, B.Rabbitts).

Scilly St Agnes and St Mary's, at least six, including at least four adults, one first-year, one second-year, 9th April to 10th May, adult to 6th June, one adult photo. (M.S.Scott, P.A.Stancliffe, N.Wheatley *et al.*). St Mary's, juvenile, 22nd September to 18th October, photo. (R.Scantlebury, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Somerset Ham Wall, first-summer, 7th-8th June (T.Raven *et al.*); presumed same, Sharpham, 21st June (E.J.Howe).

Suffolk North Warren, second-summer, 21st-30th April (D.Thurlow).

1996 Yorkshire, South Thorne Moors, age uncertain, 4th June (N.C.Dawtrey, D.J.Prest, A.Zabukas).

1997 Kent Cranbrook, adult, 12th July to 23rd August (S.Mitchell).

The spring influx in Scilly was not without precedent. The most recent such event was in 1990 and was apparent across much of the Southwest. The presumed returning individual in Gloucestershire was notable; it was reported again in 2000.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (95, 50, 1)

Lincolnshire Messingham, 3rd-11th June, photo. (K.Johnson *et al.*).

June is marginally the best month for this handsome buff-and-white heron. The previous decade produced 25 records, ten of them in May and 11 in June.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (2, 100, 7)

Cornwall Mawgan Porth, 26th April (P.H. & Mrs B.Carthew). Kynance, 13th-15th June (J.R.Lawman, A.R.Pay).

Kent Oare Marshes, 12th-13th April (J.Martin, A.W.Swandale *et al.*).

Lancashire & North Merseyside Burscough, Martin Mere, Rufford and Tarlscough area, 25th January to 11th May, photo. (G.R.Clarkson, C.F.Liggett *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 309); presumed same, 4th December to 5th April 2000 (per M.Jones).

Nottinghamshire Radcliffe-on-Trent, 4th April, photo. (J. & S.Beresford *et al.*).

Shetland *M.V.Hendra*, between Mainland and Whalsay, taken into care, exhausted, 27th January, photo.; transported to Portugal courtesy of British Airways; released in good health, La Rocha, 18th February (per Dr B.Marshall, K.Osborn *et al.*).

Sussex, East Ovingdean, 25th January to 10th May, photo. (D.C.Lang, R.T.Pepper, A.B.Watson *et al.*).

1998 Sussex, East Rye, 24th-26th April (P.M.Troake, Dr B.J.Yates).

Another good year. The Shetland bird was exceptionally far north, and part of a small midwinter influx. It should consider itself fortunate to have made it back to warmer climes.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* (10, 103, 10)

Breconshire Llangorse Lake, 21st April (M. & Mrs V.Shrubbs *et al.*).

Cambridgeshire Nene Washes, 25th August (J.P.Taylor).

Cleveland Cowpen Marsh, 16th-17th June, photo. (M.A.Blick, S.Farish, M.N.Sidwell *et al.*).

Dorset Radipole, 5th October (G.Walbridge *et al.*).

Hampshire Langstone Harbour, 13th August (K.Crisp *et al.*).

Kent Elmley, 6th August (M.Craig, M.Finn, J.A.Rowlands *et al.*).

Northumberland Castle Island, Bothal Pond and Longhirst Flash, 11th-12th July, photo. (A.Tilmouth *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides Near Balivanich and Loch Mor, Benbecula, 27th April to 17th May (H.Macintosh, B.Rabbitts, A.Stevenson *et al.*).

Surrey Frensham Little Pond, 30th August (S.P.Peters); same, Unstead, 30th (B.Milton, J.Winder).

Worcestershire Westwood Great Pool, 11th-12th September (S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

1998 Argyll Loch Gruinart, Islay, 18th May (C.R.McKay *et al.*).

IRELAND

1998 Down Comber Estuary, Strangford Lough, 25th November to 6th December (Brit. Birds 92: 560), to 9th (Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1998: 24).

The upward trend in numbers continues, with another excellent year for this elegant heron. Details of a colour-ringed bird in Wiltshire in September have not yet been submitted, though presumably this is the same bird as the one which also briefly visited Worcestershire. The 1998 Argyll bird swells the already record total for that year to 13.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (26, 114, 2)

Norfolk Felbrigg and Northrepps area, 8th May (T.Eadsden, B.J.Murphy); same, Cley and Kelling, 8th-9th (E.Forbes, T.O'Connor *et al.*); same, Winterton and Bacton area, 9th-10th (D.A. & Mrs J.S.Bridges *et al.*); same, near Gunton Park, 11th, Inceborough Hill and Dersingham, 15th (per G.E.Dunmore).

Nottinghamshire Cropwell Bishop area, 13th June (K.A. & M.Naylor, M.Ryan); same, Kinoulton, 16th (J.A.Hopper).

1998 Cornwall Church Cove, Lizard, 28th August (A. & M.Lord).

Another poor year.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

***North American and E Siberian race B. b. nigricans* (1, 95, 15)**

Essex West Mersea, 23rd February (C.Wills). Hamford Water, 27th February (A.J.A.Dally, H.Vaughan).

Kent Dartford Marsh, 13th November (D.Miller, D.Willett *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, intermittently, 2nd February to 22nd March (K.M.Wilson *et al.*). Frampton Marsh, 18th March (S.Keightley). Kirton Marsh, 5th-6th April; possibly same, 5th December (S.Keightley). Butterwick Marsh, 12th December (M.Harrison).

Norfolk Cley and Blakeney area, two, since 7th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 562) to at least February (per G.E.Dunmore). Lynn Point, 24th January (A.D.Collins); presumed returning 1998 individual (Brit. Birds 92: 562). Holme, 20th-23rd November, possibly since 13th (M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe *et al.*); presumed same as Titchwell, Holme and Thornham area, last noted 28th March (Brit. Birds 92: 562). Wells Harbour, at least 10th February; presumed same, 5th October to 10th November (J.R.McCallum). Holkham Marsh and Wells Harbour, up to three, 7th-10th February, one to at least end of March; one presumed same as that last noted 6th-8th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 562); presumed two of same, Holkham Marsh, 20th-23rd November, one or other since 15th (M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe *et al.*).

Northumberland Holy Island, 12th-27th November (P.R.Davey, M.J.H.Denny *et al.*).

Sussex, West Chichester Harbour, 12th January to 29th March, photo. (C.B.Collins, B.F.Forbes, E.Urquhart *et al.*). Pilsey Island, 8th October to 4th November (C.B. & Mrs M.A.Collins); possibly same as above.

1998 Essex Blackwater Estuary, 23rd December (A.I.Malley).

IRELAND

Londonderry Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, 22nd January; same, Carrickhugh, 23rd September to 19th October; presumed returning individual from previous winters (Brit. Birds 92: 562). Longfield Point, Lough Foyle, 10th November (per G.Gordon).

1998 Down Greyabbey Bay, Strangford Lough, 21st October (Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1998: 29).

Presumed hybrid young have been noted in Britain and the Low Countries for over a decade, but the pleas for fuller descriptions of this taxon in these pages are still all too frequently ignored. The Committee considers that the well-documented bird in north Norfolk - which showed many features of this race, but lacked a full neck-band - is not safely attributable to this race.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* (15, 41, 1)

Norfolk Lynn Point, adult, 14th to at least 18th February (A.D.Collins *et al.*).

1996 Suffolk Bramford, 25th December (Brit. Birds 92: 563), to 26th; observers W.J.Brame, L.Woods, J.Zantbeer.

1998 Yorkshire, East Tophill Low and Nosterfield, adult, 17th January to 13th March, photo. (E.J.Hediger, R.Lyon *et al.*).

The Norfolk record is entirely typical, but the provenance of the one in Yorkshire must be more doubtful, and that bird is excluded from the species totals.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (22, 364, 23)

Angus & Dundee Montrose Basin, male, 3rd-16th January (R.D.Goater *et al.*); possibly same, 26th September to 7th October (P.N.Collin *et al.*).

Argyll Crinan, male, 4th-9th April (S.Crawford, P.Daw).

Ayrshire Doonfoot, male, 30th May to 2nd June, photo. (B.C. & E.Forrester, D.Given *et al.*).

Caernarfonshire Conwy, male, since 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 563), same, Morfa Madryn, 1st-20th January (per J.Green).

Caithness Brough, male, 1st July, video. (J.Smith).

Cornwall Hayle, male, 21st October to 23rd March 2000, photo. (S.M.Christophers, I.Kendall, L.Webb *et al.*).

Devon Roadford Reservoir, first-winter male, 11th-17th October (D.Churchill, R.Doble, A.M.Jewels).

Dorset Abbotsbury and The Fleet area, male, since 26th September 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 563), to at least 21st February.

Greater Manchester Pennington Flash, male, 6th February (P.J.Alker, P.M.Robinson, N.Tasker).

Gwent Peterstone Wentlooge, first-winter male, intermittently, 31st October to 27th November; same, Goldcliffe, 28th November (P.Bristow *et al.*).

Hampshire Farlington Marshes, male, since 6th December 1998 to at least 21st February (Brit. Birds 92: 563), to 9th March.

Highland Udale Bay, Ross & Cromarty, first-winter male, 28th October (M.A.Newell, C.Round).

Kent Dungeness, male, 25th, 28th April (P.G.Akers, S.Huggins, R.J.Price *et al.*).

Lancashire & North Merseyside Leighton Moss, male, since at least 7th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 563), to 4th January (per M.Jones). Red Nab, Heysham, male, 23rd-24th October, 9th November (A.Draper, P.J.Marsh, L.Tollitt *et al.*).

Moray & Nairn Lossie Estuary, male, 14th November to at least 12th December 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 563), to 20th January (per R.D.Murray). Loch Spynie, male, 19th June (R.Proctor).

Norfolk Cley, male, 2nd January (I.Burrows, A.McLennan). Berney Marshes, male, 18th February, 11th-13th March; presumed same, 4th November (P.R.Allard *et al.*); presumed returning individual of 25th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 563):

Northeast Scotland Loch of Strathbeg, male, 27th January (P.V.Harvey, R.A.Schofield); possibly same, 28th March (R.Coleman). Ythan Estuary, see 1998 Northeast Scotland below.

Northumberland Linton Pond, male, 12th February, intermittently, 10th-25th March (R.Norman *et al.*); same, Longhirst Flash, 19th-20th March (M.J.Sharpe *et al.*); presumed same as Cresswell Pond, 11th-26th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 563). Lindisfarne, male, 17th-20th February (P.R.Davey, M.J.H.Denny *et al.*); same, Fenham Flats, 22nd to at least 23rd (A.Curry, J.Dobinson); presumed same as Budle Bay, 6th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 563); male, 8th-20th October (M.J.H.Denny *et al.*); presumed returning individual. Hauxley, male, 1st July, video. (N.F.Osborne).

Orkney Loch of Tankerness, male, 13th March, video. (K.E.Hague); male, 1st-2nd September, video. (K.E.Hague *et al.*). Loch of Suckquoy, male, 24th November to 21st March 2000, video. (K.E.Hague *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: 521 fig. 1). Loch of Tankerness and Mill Sound, male, 11th November to 6th March 2000, video. (K.E.Hague *et al.*).

1998 Anglesey Braint Estuary, male, 7th April (S. & Mrs R.Culley); presumed same as Caernarfonshire (Brit. Birds 92: 563).

1998 Forth Area Kinniel Lagoon, male, 25th-26th April (G.Owens, R.Shand).

1998 Northeast Scotland Ythan Estuary, male, 29th December to at least 4th January 1999 (R.McGregor *et al.*).

1998 Nottinghamshire Idle Stop, first-winter male, 8th March to 17th April; Lound Gravel-pits, first-winter male, 4th-27th April (Brit. Birds 92: 563), now considered same.

1998 Staffordshire Blithfield Reservoir, male, 23rd August to 23rd October (R.E.Harbird *et al.*).

IRELAND

Down Quoile Pondage, male, 18th-19th April (per G.Gordon); presumed same as 1998 below.

Londonderry Lough Beg, male, 20th August (per G.Gordon).

Tyrone Kinturk Flat, Lough Neagh, male, 7th-19th March (per G.Gordon).

1998 Down Quoile Pondage, male, 7th November (Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1998: 20).

The table below gives the monthly new arrivals in Britain during 1999:

| Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May. | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 |

The October peak is again evident. The good numbers in the first few months of the year may reflect the good autumn arrival of 1998 as much as or more than new transatlantic arrivals.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (1, 25, 3)

Cornwall Camel Estuary, male, since 27th December 1998 to 2nd January (Brit. Birds 92: 564). Stithians Reservoir, male, since 29th October 1998 to 20th February, photo. (Brit. Birds 92: 564); presumed same, 4th October to 2000 (A.J.A.Dally *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 73). Colliford Reservoir, male, 17th-21st January, intermittently to 16th February, 29th October to 29th November (S.M.Christophers *et al.*); female, 3rd, 15th November (S.M.Christophers).

Devon Bowcombe Creek, Kingsbridge Estuary, first-winter male, 29th October to 8th November (P.Davidson *et al.*).

The new bird early in the year was presumably part of the previous autumn's record influx. Further new arrivals in the autumn swelled the numbers in the Southwest still further. One claim has yet to be submitted, while another is still under consideration. Great care is needed to ensure that the hybrid possibility has been fully eliminated. Hybrids may be quite likely now that a number of long-stayers appear to have established themselves.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (19, 222, 10)

Cleveland Haverton Hole, first-winter male, 1st-11th January (G.Iceton *et al.*). Coatham Marsh, two males, 9th September, photo. (M.A.Blick *et al.*).

Dorset Abbotsbury, female, 27th April, photo. (S.A.Groves *et al.*).

Essex Hanningfield Reservoir, male, 9th September to 2000, photo. (C.Wills *et al.*).

Kent Stodmarsh, male, 31st January, 1st-25th March, photo. (D. & K.Cowton, S.R.Warry *et al.*).

Norfolk Titchwell, female, 3rd October (P.M.Wilson).

Scilly St Mary's, female, age uncertain, 26th October, photo. (M.S.Scott, K.Webb *et al.*).

Sussex, East Seaford Head, male, 25th March (B.R.Gilmore, C.Lowmass *et al.*).

1997 Suffolk Pipp's Ford Gravel-pits, Needham Market, female, 23rd September to 1998 (Brit. Birds 91: 467), now considered of captive origin (per D.F.Walsh).

1998 Kent Grove Ferry, male, 28th June (J.A.Rowlands *et al.*); present 14th-28th, photo.

IRELAND

Londonderry Lough Beg, female or juvenile, 9th September (per G.Gordon).

The discovery of four individuals on 9th September may be more than mere coincidence. The East Sussex bird was part of a good day's offshore movement of wildfowl.

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria* (0, 1, 0)

Essex Abberton Reservoir, male, 6th-16th April, 8th November to 15th February 2000, photo. (S.Belfield *et al.*); presumed same as Essex, Norfolk, 1997, 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 566).

This bird seems destined to feature on year-listers' itineraries for a while yet (does the phrase 'kiss of death' mean anything?).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (-, -, 14)

Bedfordshire Brogborough Lake, female, 26th November to 9th December (K.B.Shepherd *et al.*).

Buckinghamshire Little Marlow, male, 30th-31st January, photo. (R.D.Andrews, J.Rose, A.J.Stevens *et al.*).

Derbyshire Carsington Water, first-winter male, intermittently, 3rd October to at least 4th December, photo. (T.Davison, R.M.R.James, R.W.Key *et al.*).

Dorset Morden Lake, male, 20th December to 2000 (I.M.Lewis *et al.*); presumed returning individual, previously recorded 16th-26th January, 19th-29th December 1998.

Essex Abberton Reservoir, male, 18th September to 1st October (A.J.A.Dally, G.Ekins, H.Vaughan *et al.*). Lea Valley Country Park, female, 28th October to at least 14th November (N.P.Barlow *et al.*).

Glamorgan Kenfig Pool, two males, 28th April (C.Gittins, M.Hnatiuk, P.Parsons *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Cotswold Water Park, female, 12th to at least 23rd September (G.A.J. & P.A.Deacon *et al.*).

Hampshire Timsbury Gravel-pits, first-winter male, since 8th December 1998 to 14th February (M.P.Moody, D.J.Philpott *et al.*). Brockhampton, male, 23rd-24th April (J.Crook *et al.*).

Kent Ashford, male, 1st-3rd January (J.A.Rowlands *et al.*); presumed same, Stodmarsh, 24th (S.R.Warry *et al.*).

Leicestershire Rutland Water, female, 22nd August to 11th September (J.A.Forryan *et al.*).

Norfolk Hickling, male, 28th February (P.Cawley *et al.*).

Pembrokeshire Near St David's, male, 20th October (O.Roberts *et al.*); presumed same, Heathfield Gravel-pits, 21st-23rd, 28th October (M.Young-Powell *et al.*).

Somerset Ham Wall, female, since 16th November 1998 to 19th March (D.J.Chown *et al.*); presumed same, 21st November to 2000 (per B.D.Gibbs).

Worcestershire Bredon's Hardwick, female, 21st November (S.J.Huggins, S.M.Whitehouse *et al.*).

This species was reinstated to the Committee's list in 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 113-114), though this seems to have taken some observers by surprise as several records for that year remain to be reported. The autumn and winter peak conforms to the pattern described in Keith Vinicombe's recent paper on the status and identification of this species (Brit. Birds 93: 4-21). The identification process needs to include the elimination of the possibility of hybrids, requiring careful observation and detailed notes. The aforementioned paper is the essential reference.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0, 34, 10)

Ayrshire Munnoch Reservoir, male, 9th-10th May (S.C.Votier *et al.*); also in Clyde.

Caithness St John's Loch, first-winter male, 11th, 25th January (J.Corbett, J.Smith).

Cambridgeshire St Ives, male, female, 7th March to 10th April, probably since 29th January, photo. (A.Payne *et al.*).

Cleveland Saltholme Pools and Reclamation Pond, male, 6th June to 31st July, photo. (R.C.Taylor *et al.*).

Clyde Linwood Pool, male, 12th May (A.Carroll *et al.*); presumed same, Balgray Reservoir, 29th-30th (J.J.Sweeney *et al.*); presumed same as Ayrshire above.

Cornwall Argal Reservoir, two females, since 13th December 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 566), to 6th February, one to 5th March (per G.Conway); presumed one of same, Stithians Reservoir, intermittently, 12th March to 17th April (A.R.Pay *et al.*). Drift Reservoir, first-winter male, 22nd November to 2000, photo. (G.Hobin, F.Hull *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Cleethorpes, female, 5th-16th April, photo. (A.I. & S.J.McElwee *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 298, 299 & 310).

Northumberland Bothal Pond, male, 1st May, photo. (M.J.Sharp *et al.*).

Perth & Kinross Vane Farm, first-summer male, 10th, 12th May (P.M.Brooks, A.W.Lauder, K.D.Shaw *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, male, 26th October to 11th November, photo. (R.A.Filby, R.J.Higgins, K.E.Vinicombe *et al.*).

IRELAND

1998 Tyrone Ardboe Point, Lough Neagh, male, 16th March (Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1998: 34); possibly same as Oxford Island, Armagh, 31st December 1996 (Brit. Birds 92: 567).

Another record year, but, unlike in 1998, the majority of new arrivals were in spring. This perhaps included birds which crossed the Atlantic farther south during the exceptional influx of Nearctic wildfowl late in 1998 and subsequently moved north on the wrong side of 'The Pond'.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (62, 102, 1)

Fife Tayport, male, intermittently, 2nd January to 3rd March (M.Ramage, A.Whytehouse *et al.* per D.E.Dickson); presumed same as 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 567). Leven, female, 6th to at least 13th August (K.D.Shaw *et al.*); presumed same as Methil and other localities, 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 567).

Northeast Scotland Ythan Estuary, male, 19th March to 3rd October, photo. (J.Barker *et al.* per A.Webb) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 311); presumed same as 1998 below.

1993 Argyll Machrihanish, male, 3rd November (E.J.Maguire); presumed same as Port Ellen, Islay, 13th October 1993 (Brit. Birds 87: 517).

1998 Argyll Ballochantuy, male, 2nd-10th June (E.J.Maguire).

1998 Moray & Nairn Kingston, male, 19th April (M.J.H.Cook *et al.*); presumed same as Burghead Bay, 5th-14th October 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 567).

1998 Northeast Scotland Ythan Estuary, male, 20th March to at least 28th July, photo. (P.A.A.Baxter *et al.*); presumed same as Blackdog, 5th-12th July 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 567).

1998 Shetland Raewick, Redayre, Tresta, male, last noted Skeld, 24th January 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 567), 6th December (per K.Osborn).

IRELAND

Down Briggs Rocks, Belfast Lough, male, 20th March to 5th April (per G.Gordon).

A lean year, with the only new arrival being in Ireland.

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

Shetland Fair Isle, male, age uncertain, 15th October (C.A.Holt *et al.*).

Less widely appreciated than some of the other gems in an amazing month, this was the first since 1996, and the first male since 1987.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (2, 6, 0)

Devon Roadford Reservoir, male, since 20th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 72: 568), to 13th March.

Whether or not this bird bore a ring seems still to be the subject of controversy.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (5, 277, 10)

Devon Prawle Point, 6th June (J.C.Nicholls).

Dorset Abbotsbury, 1st June (A. & C.Rogers).

Essex Salcott, 11th May (N.Harvey).

Kent Dungeness, 15th May (P.G.Akers *et al.*); 30th September (P.G.Akers *et al.*).

Lancashire & North Merseyside Lune Estuary, 19th June (J.W.Bateman).

Suffolk Minsmere, 14th April (P.Green).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 16th May (D. & J.F.Cooper).

Wiltshire Redlynch, 20th August (P.Combridge).

Yorkshire, North Whitestone Point, Whitby, 8th May (J.A.Beaumont, R.S.Slack).

1997 Argyll Vaul, Tiree, 16th May (C.R.McKay).

1998 Wiltshire Locality in south, 17th May (G.Pictor); same as Martin Down, Hampshire, 17th (Brit. Birds 92: 568).

As usual, most were in spring and few stayed around for long. One exception (a bird reported lingering in Hampshire in August and September) has yet to be submitted.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (0, 0, 1)

Scilly St Agnes and all islands, juvenile, 7th-11th October, photo. (T.R.Cleeves, M.Hepple, A.H.Pulsford, K.D.Shaw *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 35,36,273 & 312).

This, perhaps the most spectacular and unexpected bird of a remarkable autumn, arrived during a quite astonishing spell in Scilly. Its five-day stay ended when, with warmer weather and clearing skies on the morning of the Saturday, it left high to the southeast. Autumn migration peaks from late September to early October and vagrancy to other northwestern European countries is well established. Sweden, for example, has amassed over 60 records, with several annually in recent years, while ten have occurred as close to us as the Netherlands. The sea really does seem to be a major barrier which prevents large raptors from reaching Britain. It is heartening to find that it is not 100% effective. Admitted to Category A of the British List by the BOURC on its first circulation, can this bird provide any pointers to the likely origin or origins of recent claims of Booted Eagles *Hieraaetus pennatus*?

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (3, 6, 1)

Suffolk Bramford, male, 7th May (W.J.Brame, J.Cawston).

One of 'the' birds of the spring, this was the first since 1995. A long-stayer on the mainland would be very popular, and is perhaps overdue.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (100, 597, 17)

Berkshire Horton Gravel-pits, first-summer male, 11th-14th June, photo. (C.D.R.Heard *et al.*).

Cambridgeshire Wicken Fen, first-summer male, 21st-27th June, photo. (I.Barton *et al.*).

Devon Burrator, first-summer male, 18th-20th May (R.McCarthy *et al.*).

Highland Kilmory, Ardnamurchan, male, 13th June (A.D.Mould).

Kent St Margaret's, male, 20th May (J.M.Warne). Deal, female, 9th July (Dr M.H.Sykes *et al.*).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, male, 11th May (A.Dowse, H.E.Maggs, K.M.Wilson).

Norfolk Winterton, first-summer male, 9th May (J.R.Williamson); female, 19th May (I.N.Smith). Hickling, male, 2nd July (I.N.Smith). Pentney Gravel-pits, first-summer male, 2nd July (P.M.Wilson *et al.*).

Northeast Scotland Bridge of Dee, Aberdeen, male, 8th June (R.A.Schofield); presumed same, Torry, Aberdeen, 9th (S.A.Reeves).

Suffolk Minsmere, first-summer male, 27th May (S.Gillings *et al.*).

Sussex, East Cuckmere Valley, male, 14th-19th May, photo. (per D.I.Smith *et al.*). Lidham Hill and Guestling area, first-summer male, 5th to at least 10th June (C.H.Dean *et al.*).

Wiltshire Hamptworth, female, 2nd August (P.Combridge).

Yorkshire, South Thorne Moors, first-summer male, 12th-13th June (P.J.W.Smith, L.N.Sutton *et al.*).

At sea Sea area Dogger, Oil installation *Maersk Curlew*, 56° 44'N 01° 18'E, female, 7th-9th May (L.Simpson).

1994 Surrey Winterfold, male, 30th May (N.Broomer).

1997 Northumberland Holy Island, first-summer female, 4th May (S.Rippon *et al.*).

1997 Oxfordshire Near Merton, female, 23rd-30th June (Brit. Birds 92: 569), to 2nd July (per J.S.Baker).

1998 Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-summer male, 14th May (P.J.Donnelly).

1998 Surrey Unstead, male, 12th, 27th June (B.Milton); presumed same as Thursley Common, 30th May (Brit. Birds 92: 569).

An average year, with a typical spread of dates and locations. Oddly, 14 of this year's 17 birds were males. This imbalance of the sexes recalls the situation in 1994, when, however, females greatly outnumbered males.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (many, 128, 3)

Orkney Stenness, first-winter or second-winter female, 21st January (E.R.Meek).

Shetland Whalsay, adult white-phase, 21st February (D. & Mrs J.Arthur, Dr B.Marshall). Gulberwick, 13th March, photo. (W.Jackson); presumed same as rescued Norwegian Sea individual below. Voe, 4th April (N.Milligan); also presumed same as rescued individual. Bressay, white-phase adult, 28th April (M.Heubeck, M.Mellor).

At sea Norwegian Sea, Oil installation *Tern Alpha*, about 130 km NE of Unst, Shetland, juvenile male white-phase, taken into care exhausted, 20th February, photo.; ringed, released in good health, Gott, Shetland, 27th February (per R.Patterson, J.D.Okill, K.Osborn *et al.*). See also Gulberwick, Voe, Shetland, above.

Typical dates and locations.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (many, 12, 1)

Kent Grove Ferry, male, 6th June to 20th July, photo. (G.J.A.Burton, B.J.Thomas *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 268 & 313).

The first since 1995. This bird was located on call and, after initially being extremely elusive, gradually became very confiding.

The confusingly similar songs, calls and other vocalisations of various birds, insects and amphibians were described by J.F.Burton and E.D.H.Johnson (Brit. Birds 77:87-104), and the very real possibility of misidentification of the call of European Tree-frog *Hyla arborea* as that of a crake was reinforced by D.M.Norman (Brit. Birds 78: 306). If the bird is not seen, the Committee will need recordings in support of any claim.

American Coot *Fulica americana* (0, 2, 1)

Cumbria South Walney, first-summer, 17th April, photo. (N.Littlewood *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 314).

The arrival date was just one day later than Britain's first, in Kent, three years previously. April could be the month to check your local coot flock.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (98, 223, 3)

Kent Northward Hill, two, 21st May (A.Parker *et al.*). Swale, 21st-25th May (J.M.Warne *et al.*).

Norfolk Titchwell area, since 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 509), throughout year, photo. (per G.E.Dunmore).

1997 Lincolnshire Huttoft Bank, 4th-5th May (H.Harrison *et al.*).

1998 Kent Northward Hill, 9th-10th May (A.Parker).

A multiple arrival at the peak season.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (31, 52, 0)

Norfolk Holme, 11th May; Holme, Titchwell and Cley, intermittently, 11th-29th, 1st-8th June, photo.; presumed same, Berney Marshes, 16th-17th June (per G.E.Dunmore); presumed returning 1998 individual (Brit. Birds 92: 570).

1998 Kent Stodmarsh, 11th-13th May (P.J.Chantler *et al.*); presumed same as Elmley, 14th (Brit. Birds 92: 570).

This bird has returned each year since 1994, a period that has produced only two others, both in 1997. A report of presumably the same bird in Nottinghamshire in June has not yet been submitted.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (5, 27, 1)

Norfolk Cley, 17th-18th July, 3rd intermittently to 30th August, photo. (J.R.McCallum, D.Nye *et al.*); same, Titchwell, 19th-27th July, photo. (R.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 222); same, Terrington Marsh, 31st July (Dr N.Clark *et al.*).

This bird's 45-day stay easily beat the previous record set by one at Martin Mere, Lancashire, from 22nd August to 16th September 1998 (Brit. Birds 91: 472).

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (9, 47, 1)

Devon Aveton Gifford, 9th February (R.W.Bone *et al.*).

Midwinter occurrences are typical. A report from Scilly in October is still under consideration.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (0, 12, 1)

Lothian Tynninghame, male, 6th-7th June, photo. (M.Griffin, C.Scott *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 146).

The finder of this bird (MG) has an enviable track record of finding rare plovers in this area, the most impressive being the Caspian Plover *C.asiaticus* at Aberlady in July 1988 (Brit. Birds 82: 522). The identification of sand plovers is far from easy, not least because of the considerable geographical variation within each species. The essential reference is the recent paper 'Identification, taxonomy and distribution of Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers' (Brit. Birds 93: 162-189). This individual was referable to one of the eastern races, *leschenaultii* or *crassirostris*.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (6, 234, 16)

Cornwall Davidstow Airfield, juvenile, 5th October (S.M.Christophers); presumed same, 10th (J.Diamond, M.D.Elcoate, J.J.Packer). Sennen, juvenile, 13th October (S.M.Christophers).

Cumbria Anthorn, adult, 7th-9th October, photo. (D.G.H.West *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Slimbridge and Frampton Marsh, first-summer, 20th May (L.P.Alder, M.J.McGill, I.J.Rattley *et al.*).

Norfolk Goose Green, Tibenham, adult or first-summer, 26th September (S.Gillings, J.H.Marchant).

Northeast Scotland Ythan Estuary, juvenile, 30th September to 29th October (R.A.Schofield, A.W.Thorpe *et al.*). St Fergus, juvenile, 3rd October (P.A.A.Baxter, C.Gibbins, J.E.Harrison) (Brit. Birds 93: 530 fig. 2).

Orkney Cleat, Holm, adult, 14th-22nd September, video. (K.E.Hague *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides St Kilda, adult, 3rd-13th September, two adults, 4th-13th (A.Robinson). Near Liniclate, Benbecula, adult, 2nd-17th October, photo. (B.Rabbitts, A.Stevenson *et al.*).

Shetland Tingwall, adult, 3rd, 17th October, photo. (P.M.Ellis, J.D.Okill *et al.*). Fladdabister/Aithsetter, juvenile, 31st October to 1st November (P.M.Ellis, K.Osborn, G.W.Petrie *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Brough Haven, juvenile, 28th September (E.J.Hediger, R.Lyon).

Yorkshire, South Old Moor, juvenile, 6th-14th October, photo. (B.Emson, J.McLoughlin *et al.*).

1998 Lincolnshire Huttoft Bank, first-summer, 9th May, photo. (K.Atkin, D.Hursthouse, T.Rogers *et al.*).

1998 Orkney North Ronaldsay, juvenile, 17th September (P.J.Donnelly).

IRELAND

Londonderry Near Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, adult, 25th September (per G.Gordon).

A very good year, the total having been exceeded only by the 17 in 1995. Scotland had its best year ever, with eight. Heading north in autumn, rather than southwest, is arguably the best way to find a 'Yank' wader these days.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (0, 44, 1)

Cornwall Helston, adult, 19th October to at least 30th November, photo. (M.K.Ahmad, P.Aley, S.Cox *et al.*).

1998 Cornwall Sennen, first-summer, 3rd-4th May, video. (P.A.Fraser, J.F.Ryan, P.Walsh *et al.*).

1998 Norfolk Buckenham Marsh, adult, present 4th-25th July (Brit. Birds 92: 572), 5th-24th only.

Like a number of recent records of this species, the Cornish bird was initially identified as an American Golden Plover *P.dominica*. The solid identification of non-juveniles can be problematic unless close attention is paid to details of wing structure. A number of recent descriptions have been disappointing in this respect, so all credit to the observers who sorted it out.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (2, 88, 15)

Argyll Gott Bay, Tiree, adult, 9th-10th September, video. (A.J.Leitch); juvenile, 6th, 9th-10th September, video. (A.J.Leitch, M.Williamson). Loch Gruinart, Islay, adult, 10th September; juvenile, 9th-11th (Dr T.ap Rheinallt, A.J.Whitehouse *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Boddington Reservoir, juvenile, 24th September, photo. (J.J.Bowley *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides At least eight: Loch Paible, North Uist, juveniles, 4th September (B.Rabbitts), 19th September (the late A.D.Barter, J.K.Higginson, S.Turner), 21st September (the late A.D.Barter, B.Rabbitts *et al.*). Balgarva area, South Uist, two adults, 10th-11th September; another, 11th; juveniles, 10th-23rd September, two, 11th-12th, 19th, photo. (B.Rabbitts, A.Stevenson *et al.*).

IRELAND

Londonderry Bann Estuary, juvenile, 19th-25th September; adult, 24th-25th (per G.Gordon).

1998 Down Belfast Harbour Estate, adult, 13th-18th August (Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1998: 48).

A quite exceptional September influx centred on western Scotland was associated with northwesterly gales. It was perhaps surprising that few were subsequently seen in more southerly latitudes. The inland record for Northamptonshire was, therefore, even more remarkable. The previous best year was 1996, with seven.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (6, 30, 1)

Yorkshire, East Blacktoft Sands, juvenile, 17th-23rd October, photo. (C.C.Thomas, G.Watola *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 286).

The second for Yorkshire. The majority of records relate to late-summer/early-autumn adults.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (24, 418, 24)

Cornwall Stithians Reservoir, juvenile, 23rd October (D.P.Eva, A.J.Harris, R.Johnson *et al.*). Nanjizal and Land's End, first-winter, 26th October (K.A.Wilson *et al.*).

Devon Kingsbridge Estuary, first-winter, 2nd-7th November (P.Davidson *et al.*).

Gwent Goldcliffe, adult, 14th-21st September, photo. (D.R.W.Gilmore, M.C.Powell *et al.*).

Hampshire Titchfield Haven, adult, 28th July to 1st August, photo. (R.A.King *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 225).

Kent Cliffe, juvenile, 28th October (D.Mercer).

Lincolnshire Holbeach Marsh, 16th May (A.H.J.Harrop).

Orkney Birsay, Mainland, juvenile, 15th-17th November (R.E.Matson *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides Balgarva area, South Uist, adults, 10th-23rd September, two, 11th, photo. (A.Stevenson *et al.*). St Kilda, juvenile, 11th-12th October (A.Robinson).

Scilly Nine: Tresco, adult, 30th September to 6th October, photo. (R.A.Filby, K.C.Osborne *et al.*); juvenile, 24th to at least 30th October (M.Nash *et al.*). Bryher, adult, three juvenile/first-winter, 24th-26th October, two, 28th, one to 29th (D.S.Flumm *et al.*). St Mary's, juvenile, at least 22nd October (P.J.Hornby, M.Jones, N.Robinson *et al.*); same and two others, 23rd-29th, two to 2nd November, photo. (M.S.Scott *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 315).

Shetland Fleck and Pool of Virkie, juvenile, 3rd November (P.M.Ellis, A.F.T.Fitchett *et al.*).

1998 Cleveland Dorman's Pool, adult, intermittently, 13th-27th August (Brit. Birds 92: 574), last date 17th.

IRELAND

Londonderry Paddy's Dub, Lough Beg, adult, 31st May (per G.Gordon). Bann Estuary, two adults, 17th-25th September (per G.Gordon).

An excellent year, with an exceptional influx to Scilly and elsewhere in October. There was, however, a conspicuous lack of east-coast summer records, though the Hampshire bird could have followed that route.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (5, 212, 7)

Argyll Loch Gruinart, Islay, juvenile, 5th-21st September (A.S.Cook *et al.*).

Cornwall Camel Estuary, adult, 22nd-25th August (S.M.Christophers).

Norfolk Berney Marshes, juvenile, 28th-29th September; same, Cantley Pools, 1st-9th October (P.R.Allard *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides St Kilda, juvenile, 28th-30th August; two further juveniles, 3rd-4th September, one to 7th (A.Robinson). Loch Paible, North Uist, juvenile, 4th-5th September (B.Rabbitts *et al.*).

1998 Northumberland Holy Island, juvenile, 21st September, photo. (D.G.H. & Mrs M.West).

A multiple occurrence for the second year running, this time heralding a record influx of Semipalmated Sandpipers *C.pusilla* to the Western Isles.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23, 179, 9)

Caernarfonshire Conwy, 24th May (I.Higginson, R.N.Prue).

Cheshire Frodsham, 16th-19th May, photo. (A.M.Broome *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 152); possibly same as Caernarfonshire.

Northeast Scotland Ythan Estuary, 29th May to 1st June (P.D.Bloor *et al.*); possibly same, 20th-21st July (P.S.Crockett *et al.*).

Northumberland Holy Island, 25th May (A.D.McLevy). East Chevington, 18th-20th June, photo. (M.Heppele, K.D.Shaw *et al.*).

Orkney Loch of Tankerness, 9th June, video. (K.E.Hague).

Shetland Boddam Voe, 6th-8th June, photo. (P.V.Harvey, M.Heubeck, W.Jackson *et al.*).

IRELAND

Down Belfast Lough, 12th May (per G.Gordon).

A good year, with Scotland recording its best-ever total of four.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (180, 105, 4)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 10th May (M.Gray *et al.*). Herston Head, South Ronaldsay, 16th September (R.J.Simpson).

Shetland Fair Isle, 13th September; presumed same, 16th (C.A.Holt, D.N.Shaw *et al.*). Out Skerries, 24th-26th September (P.V.Harvey, Dr R.Riddington *et al.*).

A monopoly for the Northern Isles of this enigmatic wader.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (9, 204, 2)

Cheshire Frodsham, age uncertain, 19th February intermittently to 22nd April (W.S.Morton *et al.*); presumed same as Marshside Marsh, Lancashire & North Merseyside, below.

Kent Grove Ferry, age uncertain, 20th February intermittently to 24th April (B.A.Ryan *et al.*). Elmley, adult, 31st March to 28th April; same, Oare Marshes, 15th July to 24th August (J.A.Rowlands *et al.*); presumed returning individual last noted Oare Marshes, 18th July to 11th October 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 575).

Lancashire & North Merseyside Leighton Moss and Morecambe Bay, near Carnforth, since 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 576), to 21st April (per M.Jones). Marshside Marsh, since 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 576), to 14th May, photo. (T.Baker *et al.*).

1998 Northeast Scotland Loch of Strathbeg, juvenile, 4th October (A.Burnett); same, Ythan Estuary, 4th-13th (R.Minshull, R.A.Schofield *et al.*).

1998 Shetland Pool of Virkie, juvenile/first-winter, 17th September (G.H., W.F & W.R.H.Pelow).

1998 Wight, Isle of Bembridge, juvenile/first-winter, 21st November to at least 20th December (J.Cole, D.J.Hughes, S.Warburton *et al.*).

IRELAND

Londonderry Lough Beg, adult, 13th-17th May (per G.Gordon).

More long-stayers, but only two new arrivals.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (15, 34, 2)

Scilly St Mary's, juvenile, 7th-30th October, photo. (M.L.Hawkes, J.Wells *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 316). St Martin's, juvenile, 10th October (R.Wilson); same, St Mary's, 11th-16th, 21st-30th, one or other to 31st, photo. (M.S.Scott *et al.*).

The first multiple occurrence of this species in Britain and Ireland, at the classic location.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (12, 90, 10)

Essex Abberton Reservoir, juvenile, 9th-20th August (A.Kettle *et al.*).

Kent Sandwich Bay, juvenile, 13th August (Dr M.H.Sykes *et al.*).

Lancashire & North Merseyside Seaforth, Marshside Marsh and Crosby Marine area, three juveniles, at least 3rd August, two, 5th-14th, photo. (S.Ledson, C.Sharratt, S.J.White *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 317).

Scilly Tresco, juvenile, 22nd-25th July, photo. (J.C.Harding, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Suffolk Trimley Marshes, adult, 31st August (N.Odin).

Yorkshire, West Astley Lake, New Swillington Ings, three juveniles, 3rd August (P.Colley, A.Robertson).

1998 Suffolk Landguard, age uncertain, 19th September (J.Askins, N.Odin, M.James).

As if to make up for last year's blank, there was a record early-autumn influx, including two parties of three juveniles on 3rd August. These were preceded by the first for Scilly.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (12, 23, 2)

Kent Elmley, 16th, 30th-31st March (F.R.Gomes, J.A.Rowlands *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides Loch Mor, Benbecula, 2nd November to at least 9th March 2000, photo. (S.Murray, B.Rabbitts *et al.*).

Could the Kent bird possibly be a returning, and now ageing, individual, first seen in 1996?

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (35, 240, 9)

Anglesey Cemlyn Bay, 7th-13th May (D.Brown, S.Culley, S.Davies *et al.*).

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, juvenile/first-winter, 25th-29th September, photo. (G.Hobin *et al.*).

Kent Oare Marshes, 3rd May (Dr A.M.Hanby, S.Honey).

Lancashire & North Merseyside Banks Marsh, two, 29th January, intermittently since 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 577), one or other to 2nd May (per M.Jones).

Northumberland East Chevington, 15th June, photo. (M.J.Sharp *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 1st-4th May (S.J.Turner *et al.*). Scatness, 3rd-6th May (H.R.Harrop *et al.*). Haroldswick, Unst, 20th May (P.A.Harris, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

1998 Essex Great Wakering, at least 21st-23rd September (Brit. Birds 92: 577), to 24th.

1998 Kent Elmley, adult, 16th July (Brit. Birds 92: 577), was 16th August.

1998 Sussex, East Icklesham, 3rd October (I.Hunter *et al.*); presumed same as Cuckmere Haven, 25th September to at least 1st October (Brit. Birds 92: 577).

IRELAND

Londonderry Lough Beg, adult, 9th-24th September (per G.Gordon). Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, juvenile, 10th-19th October (per G.Gordon).

An average year in terms of numbers, but for two-thirds to occur in spring is most unusual.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3, 50, 4)

Caernarfonshire Conwy, 29th April to 3rd May, photo. (A.Davies, I.Higginson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 265); presumed same as Cheshire.

Cheshire Frodsham, 26th-27th April, photo. (G.Bellingham *et al.*); also in Caernarfonshire.

Kent Monk's Wall, 22nd May (D.C.Gilbert *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, 11th-23rd April, photo. (M.S.Scott *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 383).

Suffolk Minsmere, 27th-28th May, photo. (G.R. & Mrs H.Welch *et al.*).

Another excellent year, equalling 1986 and 1995 and exceeded only by last year's five. The first for Scilly was also by far the earliest ever, beating last year's Kent bird by 24 days (Brit. Birds 92: 578). Could the North Wales and Cheshire records have referred to the same bird, following a west-coast route? They were also earlier than any previous British record of the species.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (6, 120, 4)

Derbyshire Willington Gravel-pits, juvenile, 28th September (M.Roome).

Devon Blackstone Meadow, Plym Estuary, first-winter, 4th October (V.R.Tucker *et al.*); present 3rd-4th, taken by Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Lincolnshire Holbeach Marsh, adult, 15th-28th August, photo. (S.Keightley, J.A.W.Moyes, P.Todd *et al.*).

Moray & Nairn Loch Spynie, adult, 25th May (D.M.Pullan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: page 535 fig. 3).

1998 Cornwall Marazion, juvenile, 17th September (A.M.Slade).

1998 Shetland Pund's Water, 2nd July (Brit. Birds 92: 578), was 5th July.

1998 Suffolk Bawdsey, juvenile, 8th-20th September, photo. (W.J.Brame *et al.*).

The Devon bird was taken by a Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* on its second day.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (1, 275, 1)

Yorkshire, South Edderthorpe Flash, first-winter, 9th October (G.J.Speight).

1998 Hampshire Pennington Marsh, juvenile/first-winter, 9th-11th September (T.Parminter, S.Woolley *et al.*).

The Yorkshire bird was later reported from Blacktoft Sands, but this record has not yet been documented.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (2, 94, 6)

Argyll Loch Gruinart, Islay, adult, 14th-21st April (Dr T.ap Rheinallt *et al.*).

Essex Canvey Seafront, first-winter, 24th February (J.Saward).

Kent Dungeness, adult, 13th June (R.J.Price, Mr & Mrs P.Rendill *et al.*).

Lancashire & North Merseyside Preston, adult, 1st May (J.F.Wright).

Norfolk Sheringham, adult, 18th April (G.E.Dunmore); same, Blakeney Point and Cley area, 21st April to 23rd June, photo. (M.Young-Powell *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 266); presumed same, Lynn Point, 27th June (A.D.Collins).

Northumberland Hallington, adult, 20th February (B.N.Rossiter).

A typical scatter of records, in terms of both dates and locations. A further summer report, from Bristol, has yet to be submitted.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0, 38, 2)

Buckinghamshire Willen Lake, adult, 30th June to 1st July (S.R.Nichols, K.D.Taylor *et al.*).

Gower Blackpill, Swansea, adult, intermittently, 2nd-6th July (R.H.A.Taylor *et al.*).

IRELAND

1998 Antrim Nutt's Corner, near Belfast International Airport, adult, 5th June (Northern Ireland Bird Rep. 1998: 60).

This species, it seems, can turn up almost anywhere, at any time.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (11, 105, 1)

Cornwall Drift Reservoir, first-winter, 28th November (B.Dodd, G.Hobin).

The poorest showing since 1993. The last blank year was 1978.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* (0, 5, 1)

Kent Grove Ferry, adult, 5th May (C.D.Abrams *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 318); same, Monk's Wall, 6th-8th, photo. (J.P.Chantler *et al.*).

The last record was of a pair at Cley in 1987 (Brit. Birds 81: 562-563). The western Mediterranean population has been expanding since colonisation in the 1960s. The Camargue has held from 500 to almost 900 pairs since 1993 (Ornithos 6: 1-19). With luck, we can expect more regular records of this delightful gull.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

L. a. smithsonianus (0, 26, 1)

IRELAND

Londonderry Culmore Tip, first-winter, 13th-18th February (per G.Gordon).

Several records remain under consideration, a number of them well documented. Solid identification criteria for birds more than one year old remain the subject of debate.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (76, 43, 1)

Suffolk Aldeburgh and Southwold, first-winter, 5th-31st December, photo. (G.A.Smith *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 38,74,75,287 & 319).

This superb first-winter was, like most of its kind, extremely confiding. Even so, the Millennium celebrations were apparently too much for it, and it had disappeared by New Year's Day 2000.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* (52, 212, 4)

Norfolk Weybourne, adult, 7th November (C.J.Mackenzie-Grieve, A.Thompson, M.Theobald, C.Tyas).

Oxfordshire Farmoor Reservoir, adult, at least 27th July (N.J.Hallam, J.Taylor, A.S.Young *et al.*).

Sussex, West Chichester Gravel-pits, adult, 7th-9th July, photo. (E.G.Harris, J. & K.Simpson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 223).

Wiltshire Cotswold Water Park, adult, 27th June to 4th July, photo. (B.Maxfield *et al.*).

The Committee has been unable to establish any definite link between the Wiltshire and West Sussex birds. The Norfolk bird was exceptionally late.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (30, 226, 5)

Caithness Brough, 1st June, video. (J.Smith *et al.*).

Cumbria Siddick Pond, 18th-20th July, photo. (A.F.Gould, J.Lishman *et al.*).

Norfolk Breydon, 16th-19th May, photo. (K.J.Brett *et al.*).

Nottinghamshire Colwick Country Park, 11th June (M.C.Dennis).

Staffordshire Westport Lake, 3rd June, photo. (W.J.Low, P.Lunt).

1998 Hertfordshire Wilstone Reservoir, 19th May (G.A.Smith).

1998 Suffolk Bawdsey, 11th August (J.M.Cawston); presumed same as Norfolk (Brit. Birds 92: 583).

The Staffordshire bird was the second found by WJL at this site, in the heart of the Potteries.

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

Lothian Thorntonloch, adult, 9th August (I.J.Andrews); same, Musselburgh, 9th (D.Allen *et al.*).

Once the finder of this bird consulted the literature at home and realised the enormity of what he had seen, he made every effort to alert other observers. Its relocation at Musselburgh enabled many birders from as far afield as Aberdeen and Teesside to see it, but sadly it had gone by the next morning. The bird's arrival coincided with very large numbers of Sandwich Terns *S.sandvicensis* in the Firth of Forth.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0, 28, 0)

Essex Hamford Water and Tollesbury Creek area, since 1998 (see below) to at least 24th April 2000, photo. (C.J.Mackenzie-Grieve, Dr S.Cox, S.D.Wood *et al.*).

1998 Essex West Mersea, first-winter, 16th November (A.Thompson); same, Tollesbury Creek, 22nd December (C.J.Mackenzie-Grieve); also in 1999 above.

A very long stay, but that is rather typical of this species.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (20, 106, 1)

Norfolk Rockland Broad, 7th-10th May, photo. (D.Lester *et al.*).

A typical record.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (50, 696, 19)

Argyll Balaphetrish, Tiree, adult, 2nd-3rd September (I.Gillies, A. & A.J.Leitch).

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, juvenile, 7th August (J.Regan, R.C.Taylor).

Essex Heybridge Gravel-pits, juvenile, 30th August to 3rd September, photo. (R.Neave *et al.*).

Gloucestershire Frampton-on-Severn, juvenile, 15th-25th September, photo. (D.F.Pearce *et al.*).

Greater Manchester Pennington Flash, juvenile, 13th September, photo. (P.J.Alker, W.Harrison, B.Hulme *et al.*).

Hertfordshire Wilstone Reservoir, second-summer, 31st July, photo. (M.D.Campbell, R.A.Hargreaves).

Kent Grove Ferry, adult, 6th July (D. & M.Coath *et al.*). Dungeness, juvenile/first-winter, 17th September to 1st October (D.Walker *et al.*).

Leicestershire Rutland Water, juvenile/first-winter, 5th-9th September (J.Wright *et al.*).

Norfolk Berney Marshes, adult, 5th July (I.Parkinson, J.S.Rowe).

Oxfordshire Farmoor Reservoir, adult, 6th May (N.J.Hallam *et al.*); juvenile, 31st July (J.Taylor, S.Thomson *et al.*); another juvenile, 6th-8th August, photo. (N.J.Hallam *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 320).

Pembrokeshire Strumble Head, juvenile, 1st August (C.Benson, G.H.Rees).

Somerset Parrett Estuary, Hinckley Point and Meare Heath area, juvenile, intermittently, 19th September to 8th November, photo. (B.D.Gibbs, J.J.Packer *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Filey Dams, adult, 19th August, photo. (J.Horton *et al.*). Filey Brigg, juvenile, 29th August (F.X.Moffatt, C.C.Thomas, C.Wilkinson).

Yorkshire, West Pugney's Country Park, adult, 2nd August (J.Hamilton, P.Smith *et al.*).

1996 Oxfordshire Farmoor Reservoir, juvenile, 24th to at least 26th August (Brit. Birds 92: 583), to 28th (per J.S.Baker).

1997 Dumfries & Galloway Carsethorne, juvenile, 13th-14th November (P. & Mrs M.Harris, R. & Mrs B.Mearns).

1998 Ceredigion Aberaeron, juvenile, 13th September (H.A.Williams).

1998 Fife Fife Ness, adult, 26th August (D.A.Carmichael, P.Carroll).

IRELAND

Londonderry Lough Beg, juvenile, 23rd-26th September (per G.Gordon).

A good total, but only one in spring. The Somerset bird stayed very late, but one in Shropshire in 1994 lingered until 1st December (Brit. Birds 88: 522).

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

Outer Hebrides Carinish, North Uist, first-winter, 13th-15th November, photo. (B.J.Hill, M.McPhail, B.Rabbitts *et al.*) (Brit. Bird 93: plate 40).

The second record for Britain and the third for the Western Palearctic, occurring ten years after the first, which was trapped on the Calf of Man on 31st October 1989 (Brit. Birds 89: 157-161). Although this individual was seen on 15th November by a handful of avid observers, a more accessible individual would attract considerable attention. Whether this completed the transatlantic crossing on its own or was ship-assisted one can only speculate.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (6, 34, 1)

Norfolk Waxham, Sea Palling and Cart Gap area, 28th March, photo. (R.W.R.Seymour, Dr N.Watmough *et al.*).

This adult, on a typically early spring date, moved about 8 km along the Norfolk coastline during the afternoon of its short stay. Ageing, identification and a summary of occurrences of this species were dealt with by P.G.Lansdown on behalf of the Rarities Committee (Brit. Birds 88: 141-149).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (22, 39, 2)

Cornwall Cot Valley, 10th October, photo. (J.D.Swan *et al.*).

Scilly Tresco, 12th-20th October, photo. (A.J.Mackay *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 289; 93: plates 275 & 321).

This species has occurred in widespread localities from Orkney in the north, through several East Coast counties, including Northumberland, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Several inland sightings have also been recorded, but there is a very high instance of these birds being found dying or moribund. The records have, understandably, a southwesterly bias, and these two records are from typical locations on classic dates. Scilly has hosted this species more than has any other European locality.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* (64, 27, 0)

1973 Nottinghamshire Bestwood, moribund, 28th June, mounted specimen now in private collection, photo. (per M.C.Dennis).

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca* (many, 127, 1)

Outer Hebrides Near Balivanich, Benbecula, male, 14th-18th May, photo. (R.Carrington *et al.*); presumed same, St Kilda, 19th-22nd (A.Robinson *et al.*).

Presumably this individual was en route to its Arctic breeding grounds. Singles have become the norm recently and the species' years of breeding on Fetlar, Shetland, are in danger of becoming a distant memory.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (3, 13, 2)

Scilly St Agnes, 22nd September (P.Barnett, M.J.H.Denny, M.J.Whittingham *et al.*). Bryher, juvenile, 23rd-30th October (D.S.Flumm *et al.*).

Two further records consolidating this enigmatic species' British hot-spot.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (0, 6, 4)

Cornwall Penzance and Newlyn area, 23rd-24th October (M.T.Elliott, P.A.Fraser *et al.*); another, 24th (K.A.Wilson *et al.*), one or other photo.

Devon Axmouth, 22nd October (A.J.Bundy, D.E.Paull).

Scilly St Mary's, 22nd, 25th October, photo. (D.J.D.Hickman, P.A.Stancliffe *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 322 & 323).

1983 Borders Coldingham, 5th November (Mrs F.Evans).

An influx in Southwest England which mirrored the equally remarkable influx of Pallid Swifts *Apus pallidus* to the east coast. The first British record was in October 1982, and prior to 1999 only five had been recorded. This year's astonishing total therefore doubles the number of British records. Of the 11 recorded, eight have been in Cornwall or Scilly, one in Devon, one in Fife and one in Borders. Given the overwhelmingly southwesterly bias, the last of these was the most unexpected.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* (0, 14, 11)

Borders Burnmouth, 25th October, taken by Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (M. & Mrs L.Fraser, R.D.Murray *et al.*).

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, 25th October, photo. (B.Beck, M.A.Blick, T.Francis *et al.*).

Norfolk Five: Trimmingham, 24th October (T.Eadson, B.J.Murphy); presumed same, Mundesley, 25th (G.E.Dunmore, J.N.Dymond *et al.*). Winterton, 26th October, photo. (R.Thewlis *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 288; 93: plate 283; page 542 fig. 4). Holkham Meals, 27th October (P.Trodd *et al.*). West Runton, 31st October (M.D.Crewe). Sheringham, taken into care, injured, 5th November, photo., ringed, released in good health, 15th (J.V.Bhalerao, M.P.Lee, M.Preston *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 94: plate 324).

Suffolk Covehithe and Southwold area, 31st October (N.Davis, G. & I.Ellis *et al.*). Sizewell, 31st October (J.Jennings, B.J.Small *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, 25th-28th October, two, at least 26th, one or other photo. (M.C.Dennis, I.J.Forsyth, S.Holloway, N.Parker *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 294 & 295).

One of the highlights of autumn 1999, many of these birds were multi-observed, providing the opportunity for study of the often subtle structural and plumage differences between this species and Common Swift *A.apus*. Most of these individuals, presumably first-winter birds, lacked the dark 'saddle' effect that has been noted on spring individuals, so perhaps this feature is age-related. What is certain is that the comprehensive descriptions and field sketches can be used to provide a thoroughly detailed appraisal of the field characters of what has often been considered a difficult species.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* (50, 420, 11)

Avon Northwick Warth, 5th June (R.F.Reader).

Denbigh Rhuddlan, 20th July (S.Hughes).

Devon Berry Head, 28th May (S.G.Rowe).

Pembrokeshire St David's, 30th May (A.Payne). Dinas Cross, 25th August (S.E.Berry).

Shetland Fetlar, 13th May (T.G.Davies).

Suffolk Lowestoft, 28th May (R.Fairhead, Mr Pagen *et al.*).

Sussex, East Abbot's Wood, Arlington, 6th April (C.A.Taylor *et al.*).

Sussex, West Beeding Hill, 7th June (S.R.Allen).

Yorkshire, East Hornsea Mere, 8th May, photo. (A.Beggs, T.D.Charlton, W.Honeywell). Flamborough Head, 21st July (A.M.Allport).

A predictable spread of arrivals through the classic months of April to August.

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* (135, 95, 0)

1968 Leicestershire Kirby Muxloe, male, moribund, 21st June; skin now at Leicester Museum, photo. (per R.M.Fray).

The second year in succession in which this spectacular southern species has failed to appear.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* (0, 7, 2)

Northumberland Farne Islands, 28th April (M.L.Cornish, S.E.Duffield) (Brit. Birds 93: page 545 fig. 5).

Shetland Fair Isle, 16th-17th May (S.J.Turner *et al.*).

The first year in which more than one has been recorded, this large lark has firmly overtaken Bimaculated Lark *M.bimaculata* in number of appearances. All but two of the records have occurred in April.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (0, 4, 2)

Leicestershire Swithland Reservoir, 17th April, photo. (S.M.Lister, A.J.Mackay *et al.*); also in West Yorkshire.

Orkney Finstown, 3rd May (K.Fairclough, E.R.Meek, E.J. & S.J.Williams *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Pugney's and Angler's Country Parks, 18th April, photo. (N.P.Senior, P.Smith *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 325); presumed same as Leicestershire.

The Leicestershire and West Yorkshire records, presumably of the same individual, afforded hundreds of observers their first chance of seeing the species and, in hindsight, its arrival could perhaps have been a portent of the autumn to follow. The Orkney individual is the first for Scotland.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* (7, 324, 17)

Cornwall Porthgwarra, 13th November (D.Lewis, N.J.Phillips).

Devon Exminster Marshes, 9th May (L.Collins *et al.*).

Dorset Verne Common, Portland, 28th-29th June (S.Bunn, G.Walbridge *et al.*).

Essex The Naze, 2nd April (R.Neave, S.D.Wood).

Greater London Beddington Sewage-farm, 16th May (G.Messenbird).

Kent Monk's Wall and Westbere, 5th-6th April (C.Sammels, D.Wrathall *et al.*). Grain, 3rd September (M.Cooper).

Lincolnshire Gibraltar Point, 12th May (K.M.Wilson *et al.*); another, 12th (S.J.McElwee *et al.*).

Northamptonshire Daventry Reservoir, 23rd-24th April (G.Pullan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: page 546 fig. 6).

Orkney Papa Westray, 17th May (S.D.Wellock).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 15th May (J.Bujok, R.J.Fairbank *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Spurn, 3rd May, photo. (A.Roadhouse *et al.*); 8th (D.R.Middleton *et al.*); 12th (D.P.Boyle, D.R.Middleton); 13th (D.R.Middleton, M.J.Pilsworth); 15th (N.A.Bell).

1998 Cornwall Kenidjack, 18th October (M.Birch).

1998 Scilly St Mary's, 15th-16th February (P.A.Stancliffe *et al.*).

The 1998 occurrence in February continues the trend for late-winter records; otherwise, a rather typical year for this species.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (1, 209, 1)

Shetland Isle of Noss, 11th-12th May, photo. (J.G.Brown, Dr R.Riddington, A.J.Upton *et al.*).

1998 Fife Isle of May, 6th October (J.M.Wilson).

In an autumn almost saturated with East Asian rarities, one surprise was that there should be no autumn records of this delightful pipit, the single occurrence being in spring. Does this decline reflect range contraction or a reduction in the population?

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (30, 362, 12)

Cornwall Davidstow Airfield, 30th September (S.M.Christophers).

Norfolk Waxham, 1st May (R. & S.McIntyre). Winterton/Horsey, 9th May (P.J.Heath). Sheringham, 26th May (G.E.Dunmore). Blakeney Point, 29th-31st May (J.R.McCallum *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: page 547 fig. 7).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 20th September (P.Brown, P.French *et al.*).

Outer Hebrides North Rona, 30th May, photo. (G.Bell, M.Gray, J.Vaughan).

Shetland Foula, 31st May (G.Bell, M.Gray, J.Vaughan). Fair Isle, 2nd-4th June (A.J.Bull, H.R.Harrop *et al.*); 22nd September (E.J.Abraham, D.Barr, R.Wilkins).

Yorkshire, North Whitestone Point, Whitby, 15th May (J.A.Beaumont, R.S.Slack *et al.*); 29th May (R.S.Slack).

At sea Sea area Dogger, Oil installation *Maersk Curlew*, 56° 44'N 01° 18'E, moribund, 16th September, photo. (L.Simpson).

1998 Scilly St Mary's, 4th-5th October (P.A.Stancliffe *et al.*).

An unexceptional series of records from the English east coast, the Orkney and Shetland archipelagos and west Cornwall.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

M. f. feldegg (0, 8, 1)

Cornwall Camel Estuary, male, 11th-12th May (S.M.Christophers, B.M.Phillips *et al.*).

1983 Norfolk Cley, male, 30th July to 6th August, photo. (M.Eccleshall, K.Harrison, R.Tidman *et al.*).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (2, 117, 5)

Cleveland Dorman's and Saltholme Pools, juvenile/first-winter, 4th-7th September (T.Francis, R.Little, R.C.Taylor *et al.*).

Cornwall Nanjizal, first-winter, 6th September (I. & K.A.Wilson). Marazion, first-winter, 14th-17th September (D.S.Flumm, C.Mason *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, first-winter, 26th September (S.J.Dodgson, M.S.Scott *et al.*); presumed same, 3rd October (C.G.Bradshaw).

Shetland Fair Isle, juvenile/first-winter, 21st-24th September, photo. (N.C.Green, D.Rhymes *et al.*).

1998 Shetland Foula, juvenile/first-winter, 20th-24th September (J.M. & T.P.Drew, N.Milligan).

The year's records are typical of what we have come to expect, both in numbers and in dates. If seen well, the identification is generally straightforward, but some birds, usually those in late autumn, have to be separated from various eastern races of Yellow Wagtail *M.flava*.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (2, 134, 1)

Yorkshire, East Kilnsea, male, trapped 16th May, photo. (D.P.Boyle *et al.*).

Surprisingly, no records this year from the Northern Isles, with just this solitary record on a nevertheless typical date. Identification is usually straightforward, but confusion can occur with dull, unusually well-marked Rufous Nightingale *L.megarhynchos*. The problem was discussed by C.D.R.Heard (Birding World 2: 91-94).

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (3, 17, 4)

Borders St Abb's Head, female or first-winter, 16th-19th October, photo. (D.K.Graham, J.R.Todd *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 326).

Cornwall Rame Head, female or first-winter, 17th-24th October, photo. (D. & I.Clegg *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 295; 93: plates 280 & 327).

Norfolk Brancaster Staithe, first-winter male, trapped 17th October, photo. (K.J.Herber *et al.*).

Shetland Scatness, female or first-winter, 16th-17th October, photo. (P.M.Ellis, P.V.Harvey *et al.*).

The surge of records of this chat continues, perhaps reflecting the consolidation of the species' west-ward expansion into Northeast Europe.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

***Eastern race S. t. maura/stejnegeri* (1, 272, 6)**

Cleveland Saltburn, male, 16th-17th October, photo. (N.Jackson, D.A.Honey *et al.*).

Dorset Southwell, Portland, female or first-winter, 19th October (P.A.Coe, G.Walbridge).

Kent Dungeness, first-winter male, trapped 13th October, photo. (O.Leyshon, D.Walker *et al.*).

Norfolk Wells/Warham Greens, female or first-winter, 17th October (A.I.Bloomfield, J.R.McCallum).

Scilly St Agnes, female or first-winter, 7th-12th October, photo. (M.Hepple, K.A. & K.D.Shaw, N.Wheatley *et al.*).

Yorkshire, North Scarborough, first-winter male, 17th October (D.Bywater, S.Wignill).

1998 Norfolk Cley, first-winter male, 22nd-25th September, photo. (S.J.M.Gantlett *et al.*).

A relatively poor showing and, unusually, an absence of spring records. The arrivals show an unusual compression of dates, with all records in a 13-day period in mid October.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (3, 38, 3)

Northeast Scotland Slains, first-winter male, 28th October to 1st November, photo. (P.Shepherd *et al.*).

Norfolk Choseley, first-winter male, 16th October, photo. (J.V.Bhalerao) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 328); present 14th-17th.

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter male, 21st-24th October, trapped 21st, photo.(R.McGregor, B.Stewart *et al.*).

These typical late-autumn records uphold the species' preference for the British east coast.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (15, 45, 0)

1998 Scilly Tresco, male, *O.h.melanoleuca*, 18th-23rd May, photo. (R.J.Johns, N.Wheatley *et al.*).

A blank year for this less than annual species. The 1998 record from Scilly occurred during a 'purple patch' for the islands, arriving the day after a Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* on St Agnes and a Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* on St Mary's.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (11, 63, 3)

Lincolnshire Rimac, male, 13th-16th November, photo. (K.A., M.A. & R.A.Hook *et al.*).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, male, 27th November to 11th December, photo. (R.Rolfe, R.N.F.Simpson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 34, 284 & 329).

Northumberland Snab Point, near Cresswell, female, 7th-16th November, photo. (D.Elliot, I.Fisher *et al.*).

1998 Kent Reculver, male, 29th March (M.Hannaghan).

These records follow the established pattern of early-spring and late-autumn occurrences. For wheatear identification, the best source of reference is still 'Field identification of West Palearctic wheatears' by Peter Clement (Brit. Birds 80: 137-157, 187-238).

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* (0, 1, 2)

Cornwall Cot Valley, male, 25th October (R.Hooper, J.Leadley, D.Poyser); possibly same as Scilly.

Scilly St Mary's, male, 14th-15th October, photo. (C.A.Furlepa, D.Hall, M.Mees *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 330).

The St Mary's bird arrived during a truly spectacular period for rare species on the archipelago. The Cot Valley bird was apparently very tired and may well have been a recent arrival, and not the St Mary's individual which had made the short flight to the mainland of Cornwall.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (30, 22, 1)

Scilly St Agnes, 6th October to 9th November, photo. (R.J.Hathway *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 274).

Evocatively described by one St Agnes farmer as resembling a cross between a Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* and a European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, this highly elusive individual frustrated many observers in their attempts to catch a glimpse as it skulked in its chosen patchwork of small, hedge-enclosed fields.

Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* (1, 5, 1)

Scilly Gugh, first-winter male, 5th-8th October, photo. (H.T. & I.G.Bradshaw, J.Gillbody *et al.*).

This was typically difficult to see as it hid in the thick hedgerows surrounding the overgrown, artichoke fields in the centre of Gugh, and most observers had to settle for flight views only. The reaction of the assembled birders waiting for a glimpse of this thrush at the moment when the Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* appeared over neighbouring St Agnes will linger long in the memory of those present.

Veery *Catharus fuscescens* (0, 4, 1)

Cornwall St Levan, first-winter, 13th October, photo. (C.D.R.Heard, K.A.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 277 & 331).

This beautiful Catharus thrush delighted those fortunate to see it on the day that it was discovered, but, alas, it failed to linger for the assembled audience the following day.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* (0, 16, 1)

Caernarfonshire Bardsey, first-winter, trapped 12th October, photo. (D.Anning, S.D.Stansfield *et al.*).

An excellent find for the island of Bardsey, providing the first record for Wales. There were times during the late 1980s and early 1990s when it appeared that this species was becoming almost annual, but this is the first since 1995, so such thoughts were obviously premature.

Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (3, 42, 1)

Berkshire Maidenhead, male, *T.r.atrogularis*, since 26th December 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 593), intermittently to 3rd March, photo. (Brit. Birds 93: plates 264 & 332).

Shetland Haroldswick, Unst, first-winter female, *T.r.atrogularis*, 20th October (M.G.Pennington).

These two records help to consolidate the emerging pattern of autumn, coastal arrivals, inland wintering and spring departures.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* (9, 71, 3)

Shetland Northdale, Unst, first-winter, killed by cat, 15th October, photo.; now at National Museum of Scotland (W.Henderson, M.G.Pennington). Fair Isle, 16th October (A.J.Bull *et al.*); another, 18th (C.A.Holt, M.A.Newell).

The Northern Isles continue their near domination of records of this species. These three records are typical, except that they are outside the favoured late-September period. Observers are encouraged to obtain critical details to avoid confusion with Grasshopper Warbler *L.naevia*. The best source of reference remains 'Identification of Lanceolated Warbler' by Nick Riddiford and Paul Harvey (Brit. Birds 85: 62-78).

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* (-, -, 9)

Anglesey Malltraeth, in song, 8th-11th June (A. & D.Harrington-Rees *et al.*).

Kent Walland Marsh, in song, 10th to at least 13th May (C.Lock, S.D.McMinn). Stodmarsh, in song, 16th, 18th May; possibly same, 8th July (S.R.Warry *et al.*). Grove Ferry, in song, 1st June to at least 10th July, photo. (B.A.Ryan *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 333).

Norfolk Hickling, in song, 19th April to at least 3rd May (P.J.Heath, D.J.Holman *et al.*); another, 29th April to at least 22nd May (P.J.Heath, B.W.Jarvis *et al.*); another, 3rd May to at least 17th June (P.J.Heath, A.J.Kane *et al.*).

Sussex, East Icklesham, in song, 17th-26th June (T.Squire *et al.*).

Worcestershire Oakley Pool, Droitwich, in song, 1st-19th May (M.J.Inskip, S.M.Whitehouse).

The promise of earlier decades being unfulfilled, it was decided to reinstate this species to the list of those considered by this Committee with effect from 1999. The number and pattern of future records is eagerly anticipated.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* (2, 43, 2)

Essex Fisher's Green, first-winter, 26th-28th October, photo. (T.Hill, I.Kendall *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 292; 93: plates 278, 296, 297 & 334).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 22nd-23rd September, trapped 22nd, 23rd (C.A.Holt, D.N.Shaw *et al.*).

1996 Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, trapped 19th September (Brit. Birds 90: 499), had been ringed at Ventes Ragas, Silute, Lithuania, 8th September 1996 (Fair Isle Bird Report 1998: 103).

This remains a rare and less than annual species. As such, it is remarkable that this year's Essex bird is the third inland record from southeast England, following those at Tring Reservoirs, Hertfordshire, on 9th November 1981 and at Thatcham, Berkshire, on 7th September 1998.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (9, 28, 4)

Kent Dungeness, in song, 31st May, sound-recorded (D.Walker *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, 2nd-3rd June, trapped 2nd, photo. (A.J.Bull, C.A.Holt, D.N.Shaw *et al.*); first-winter, 26th-29th September, trapped 26th, photo. (Brit. Birds 93: plate 335); another, trapped 28th (D.N.Shaw, S.J.Turner, K.A.Wilson *et al.*).

The difficulties in field identification probably mask the true status of this species, as suggested by this series of records involving either trapped or singing individuals.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (23, 182, 3)

Kent Dungeness, 28th May; presumed same, 8th June (R.J.Price *et al.*).

Shetland Geosetter, 30th May (R.M. & R.P.Fray, A.J.Mackay *et al.*).

Yorkshire, West Leventhorpe, in song, 10th June to 5th July, photo. (P.R.Morris *et al.*).

1959 Essex North Fambridge, two, 28th-29th August (Brit. Birds 53: 423), now considered inadequately documented.

Away from Shetland, this species remains very rare in Scotland.

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* (0, 12, 1)

Dorset Portland Bill, *H.p. elaeica*, 4th-5th July, trapped 4th, photo. (M.Cade, Prof. P.J.Morgan *et al.*).

Given the location and date, perhaps this could have been expected to be of the western race *opaca* rather than the eastern race *elaieica*, and it may be that all of the British records refer to the latter.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (1, 77, 3)

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, 20th-21st September, photo. (B.Beck, M.N.Sidwell, R.C.Taylor *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plates 272 & 336).

Dorset Weston, Portland, 13th-14th September (D.J.Chown, J.Stirling *et al.*).

Scilly Bryher, 4th October, photo. (S.J.Dodgson *et al.*).

1998 Caernarfonshire Bardsey, first-winter, 25th-26th September, trapped 26th, photo. (D.Anning, S.D.Stansfield).

1998 Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, trapped 27th September (G. & T.D.Charlton, P.A.Lassey *et al.*).

With the race *rama* likely to be given full species status, it is important to assess properly the structural characteristics of every individual.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* (0, 2, 1)

Devon Roborough Down, near Clearbrook, first-summer, in song, 3rd-6th June, possibly since mid May, photo. (R.Smaldon *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 337).

Despite three records in the last decade, this species will inevitably remain extremely rare and erratic in occurrence. The clouds which once surrounded its identification have largely dispersed, but extreme caution is required for anything other than adult males (see Brit. Birds 84:423-430; 89:275-280).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (12, 419, 13)

Cleveland Hartlepool Headland, male, 7th May, photo. (M.J.Gee *et al.*).

Essex Colne Point, male, 16th May (N.Harvey *et al.*).

Fife Isle of May, male, probably first-summer, 13th May (J.Bull, D.Hemsley).

Orkney Rendall, male, 20th June (E.R.Meek, A.Ross).

Scilly St Agnes, male, 12th May (A.Jayne, N.Wheatley); male, 5th October (A.P.Bunting); male, 7th-8th November (M.Hicks, N.Wheatley). St Mary's, male, 24th April (J.R.Binstead, J.R.Hopkins); male in song, 14th May (R.Baines, Z.Dawson, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Shetland Seafield, Lerwick, first-summer male or female, 11th May (Dr R.Riddington *et al.*). Out Skerries, first-summer male or female, 2nd June (J.F & Mrs D.R.Cooper).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, male, 11th April (D. & J.F.Cooper *et al.*); first-summer male or female, 2nd May (J.A.G.Dunlop, R.D.M.Edgar, P.J.Lanaway).

1997 Borders Mire Loch, St Abb's Head, male, 31st August (E.Hurley).

1998 At sea Sea area Dogger, Oil installation *Uisge Gorm*, 56° 01'N 03° 11'E, male, 20th May (D.Rodge).

An average showing of this classic spring overshooting migrant. Rather atypically, the St Agnes bird in November was the only record of the autumn.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (1, 53, 3)

Kent Dungeness, female or first-winter, 30th October to 2nd November (C.G.Bradshaw, M.May *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, male, 17th-23rd April, photo. (J.P.Siddle, P.A.Stancliffe *et al.*).

Sussex, East Hastings Country Park, male, 19th-24th April (P.M.Troake, A.D. & I.J.Whitcomb *et al.*).

Despite having occurred in all months from March to November, late April remains a favoured period for this Mediterranean species.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (13, 321, 6)

Borders St Abb's Head, 26th-29th August (Mrs F.Evans, R.D.Murray *et al.*).

Norfolk Scolt Head, 24th August; another, 25th (N.M.Lawton, M.E.S.Rooney).

Northumberland Holy Island, 26th-27th August (A.Curry, P.R.Davey *et al.*).

Shetland Sumburgh, 21st August (P.M.Ellis, Dr R.Riddington, G.Robertson *et al.*). Fair Isle, first-winter, 29th-30th August, trapped 29th (C.A.Holt, D.N.Shaw, S.J.Turner *et al.*).

1998 Yorkshire, North Ness Point, Whitby, 4th September (T.J.Barker, R.S.Slack).

The classic rare *Phylloscopus* of late August, which this series of records amply illustrates.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (19, 214, 5)

Norfolk Holme, 5th September (P.Laurie *et al.*).

Shetland Swining, 29th-30th August (P.V.Harvey, Dr R.Riddington, S.C.Votier *et al.*). Fair Isle, first-winter, 5th September (J.Bird, A.J.Bull, S.J.Turner *et al.*). Hillcrest, Voe, 19th-20th September (N.Milligan *et al.*). Haroldswick, Unst, 28th September (C.Barton, P.S.Crockett, I.Gordon *et al.*).

1976 Norfolk Holme, 14th-19th October (Brit. Birds 70: 436), identification now considered unsatisfactory.

A return to form after two lean years, further reinforcing the species' northern credentials. Silent individuals have occasionally been confused with Greenish Warbler *P.trochiloides*, but careful attention, especially to facial pattern and structure, should enable specific identification to be made of all but very extreme individuals.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* (0, 31, 3)

Dorset Southwell, Portland, 4th-6th November (M.Cade *et al.*).

Kent Reculver, 16th-18th October (C.H.& M.J.Hindle *et al.*).

Norfolk Mundesley, 20th-23rd October (M.Fischer, A.J.Kane, T.Lowe *et al.*).

1982 Cumbria South Walney, 8th-9th November (I.R.Kinley, P.A. & S.T.Robinson).

The now expected late-autumn appearances continue. The separation of this species from Yellow-browed Warbler *P.inornatus* in autumn is now relatively straightforward, but less so in late winter or spring, when that species is worn and dull, so that the risk of confusion is greater. At such times, careful attention needs to be paid, especially, to any vocalisations.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (1, 175, 18)

Cornwall Little Kelynack, 9th October (M.C. & P.Combridge).

Dorset Portland Bill, 12th October; another, 14th, both trapped, both photo. (M.Cade *et al.*).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, 16th October (B.Hicks). Warham Greens, 16th-17th October (D.Sewell *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 27th-29th September (S.Bloomfield, S.E.Duffield *et al.*). Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, 17th-18th October (J.G.Steele *et al.*).

Scilly Nine: St Agnes, 6th-10th October, photo. (K.D.Shaw *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 338); 15th October (P.A.Fraser, D.Walbridge *et al.*). Rosevear, 15th October (M.Hepple, K.D.Shaw *et al.*). St Mary's, 15th October (S.A.Young *et al.*); another, 15th (O.Laugharne *et al.*); another, 15th (D.Page, K.Webb *et al.*); another, 15th, photo. (D.H.Hatton, T.J.Wilson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 276); fifth individual, 15th (D.H.Hatton, T.J.Wilson). St Martin's, 17th October (P.A.Clark, M.Coath, R.A.Leeser *et al.*).

Shetland Skaw, Whalsay, trapped 24th October (W.Arthur, Dr B. & Mrs L.Marshall, Mrs C.Simpson).

Sussex, East Beachy Head, 13th October (B.F.Forbes).

1991 Yorkshire, East Easington, 12th-13th October (C. & G.Featherstone *et al.*).

1997 Scilly St Agnes, 18th-19th October (I.Ward, N.Wheatley, M.D.Wilson *et al.*).

That a minimum of nine should occur in Scilly is nothing short of staggering. Rosevear is a small wave-lashed uninhabited rock to the southwest of St Agnes and the discovery of one there strongly suggests that the numbers arriving in Scilly far exceeded those which were actually found. One of the many highlights of an exceptional autumn.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (1, 197, 14)

Cleveland Locke Park, Redcar, 26th-28th October (T.Francis *et al.*).

Cornwall Nanjizal, trapped 27th October, photo. (A.J.Harris, T.Raven, K.A.Wilson *et al.*).

Devon Clennon Valley, Paignton, 7th-9th November (M.R.Langman *et al.*).

Dorset Abbotsbury, 14th-15th November (N.Fowler *et al.*).

Essex The Naze, 22nd October (G.C.Bond *et al.*).

Kent Dungeness, 2nd November (D.Walker *et al.*); another, 4th-6th, trapped 4th, photo. (B.Banson, I.Henshaw, D.Walker *et al.*); another, 6th-9th, trapped 6th, photo. (I.Henshaw, D.Walker *et al.*).

Norfolk Holkham Meals, 15th-17th October, sound-recorded (A.I.Bloomfield *et al.*).

Northeast Scotland Rattray Head, 27th September (T.W.Marshall *et al.*).

Northumberland Farne Islands, 18th-19th October (S.Bloomfield, S.E.Duffield, M.Maher).

Orkney Herston, South Ronaldsay, 24th-25th October, trapped 24th (J.A. & R.McCutcheon, E.R.Meek *et al.*).

Scilly St Agnes, 12th-13th November (N.Wheatley).

Suffolk Corton, 22nd-23rd October (R.Fairhead *et al.*).

The main arrival clearly took place after the influx of Radde's Warblers *P.schwarzii*.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (3, 52, 1)

Yorkshire, East Spurn, first-summer, trapped 2nd June, photo. (D.P.Boyle, G.E.Dobbs *et al.*).

Despite the identification features discussed by D.Page (Brit. Birds 92: 524-531), call is still the definitive feature for positive separation of this species from Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *P.orientalis*. Despite a large breeding population in western Europe, spring overshoots remain surprisingly rare.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus brehmii* (0, 2, 2)

Devon Start Point, in song, 6th-14th May, sound-recorded (P.Dennis, M.R.Langman, P.Sanders *et al.*).

Dorset Verne Common, Portland, in song, 25th April to at least 8th July, trapped 9th May, photo., sound-recorded (M.Cade, Dr S.Jones, C.E.Richards *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 339).

1972 Greater London Brent Reservoir, in song, 3rd June, sound-recorded (Dr L.A.Batten, J.H.Wood).

1992 Scilly St Mary's, in song, 14th April to 21st May, sound-recorded (P.Larkin, K.Pellow, W.H.Wagstaff *et al.*).

Although song remains at present the only conclusive means of field identification, many observers of the Portland individual noted plumage characters closer to those of Willow Warbler *P.trochilus* than to those of Common Chiffchaff *P.collybita*, and it will be interesting to see if future study highlights any constant plumage features.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* (2, 18, 2)

Northeast Scotland Cove, Aberdeen, male, 30th April to 1st May, photo. (P.A.A.Baxter *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 340).

Shetland Skaw, Unst, first-summer male, 13th June, photo. (M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

1962 Essex North Fambridge, 21st-23rd September (Brit. Birds 56: 406), now considered inadequately documented.

Still less than annual, so a multiple occurrence is particularly noteworthy. The paper by Krister Mild is the essential reference (Birding World 7: 139-151, 231-240, 325-334).

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (0, 140, 5)

Kent Dungeness, male, since 20th November 1998 (Brit. Birds 92: 599), to 18th March (per C.G.Bradshaw); age/sex uncertain, intermittently, 28th October to 29th December (R.J.Price *et al.*).

Norfolk Berney Marshes, age uncertain, 5th December (P.R.Allard).

Somerset Shapwick Heath, two, 12th November (R.Franklin *et al.*).

Suffolk Minsmere, juvenile, 29th September (D.Fairhurst).

A rather disappointing number of records, but the overwintering trend continues.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (1, 50, 3)

Borders Burnmouth, first-winter, 24th-31st October, photo. (P.R.Gordon *et al.*).

Durham Marsden, first-winter, 21st October to 7th November, photo. (J.P.Cook, A.Hetherington *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: 291; 93: plates 281 & 341).

Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, first-winter, 18th-20th October (A.M.Allport, P.A.Lassey, D.I.M.Wallace *et al.*).

A review, to be published soon, of the sub-species constituting the accepted records to date may well hold some surprises. Despite the ever-increasing number of observers, this species remains rare.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (32, 126, 2)

Fife Wormiston, first-winter, 17th-18th October, photo. (D.E.Dickson, R.Shand *et al.*).

Shetland Fetlar, first-winter, 16th-19th September (Dr R.Riddington, M.Smith *et al.*).

A second successive year with no spring records, but these two first-winter birds maintain this species' run of annual occurrences, which began in 1963.

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus* (160, 357, 22)

Caernarfonshire Bardsey, adult, 27th-28th July (S.D.Stansfield, P.Wilkins).

Ceredigion New Quay, adult, 12th June (R.Harrington *et al.*).

Cornwall Hayle, adult, 12th June (J. & P.A.Rutter). Helston, juvenile, 10th-22nd October (E. & Mrs V.James, A.R.Pay).

Devon Soar, first-summer, 9th-18th June, photo. (M.Brooking *et al.*). Mortehoe first-summer, 5th June (R. & M.Lee, N.Whitehead). Kingsbridge, adult, 12th-16th August (T.Perrot, P.Sanders *et al.*). Lundy, juvenile, 22nd September to 3rd October (D.Churchill, R.G.Marshall *et al.*).

Dorset St Aldhelm's Head, adult, 25th June (P.A.St Pierre, P.A.Williams).

Dumfries & Galloway Twynholm, adult, 12th-17th June (Mrs I.Moore, J. & Mrs M.Skilling); juvenile/first-winter, 22nd November to 2000 (Mr & Mrs G.Brown, R.G.Hawley *et al.*).

Man, Isle of Peel, juvenile, 10th October (A.S. & Mrs R.Moore *et al.*).

Moray & Nairn Burghead, adult, 25th-28th June, died 28th (M.J.H.Cook, J.Milston).

Outer Hebrides South Loch Eynort, South Uist, adult, 7th August, photo. (D.Jackson); presumed same, Drimsdale, South Uist, 29th August (A.Stevenson).

Pembrokeshire St David's, adult, 16th-22nd May, photo. (J.W.Donovan, S.White *et al.*). Strumble Head, juvenile, 29th-30th August, photo. (S.E.Berry *et al.*).

Scilly St Mary's, juvenile, 15th September to 3rd October, photo.; presumed same, Bryher, 21st September (M.Anderson, M.S.Scott *et al.*). St Agnes, juvenile, 18th-19th October (A.R.Dean *et al.*).

Shetland Baltasound, Unst, adult, 29th June to 4th July (P.A.Harris, M.G.Pennington *et al.*). Grutness, juvenile, 4th September (G.C.Robertson *et al.*). Fair Isle, juvenile, 23rd September to 1st October, photo. (Mrs E.McMahon *et al.*).

Yorkshire, East Flamborough Head, juvenile, 18th October (A.M.Allport).

1994 Perth & Kinross Hatchbank, adult, 22nd-29th July, photo. (R.Young *et al.*).

1998 Highland Brora, Sutherland, juvenile, 21st-30th October (A.Vittery *et al.*).

1998 Shetland Brough, Whalsay, juvenile, 12th October (J.L.Irvine).

A typical mix of summer adults and autumn juvenile/first-winters in an above-average year for the species.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (30, 742, 4)

Orkney North Ronaldsay, first-winter, 6th-20th October, photo. (R.McGregor, Dr K.F.Woodbridge *et al.*).

Shetland Sandsound, 7th October, photo. (W.Jackson). Fair Isle, female or first-winter, 18th-21st October; another, 20th-26th (A.J.Bull, S.J.Turner *et al.*).

1986 Shetland Fair Isle, first-winter, 20th-25th October, trapped 20th, photo. (D.R.Bird, M.G.Pennington *et al.*).

1995 Norfolk Horsey Mere, female or first-winter, 5th-7th November, two, 6th (P.J.Heath, J.Oates *et al.*).

1996 Norfolk Ormesby Broad, female or first-winter, 22nd January (P.J.Heath). Pretty Corner, Sheringham, four males and four others, 3rd February (Brit. Birds 90: 507), three additional females or first-winters, 3rd (P.J.Heath). Costessey, female or first-winter, 28th February, three, 3rd March (S.Betts, P.J.Heath). How Hill, male, 14th March (P.J.Heath). Cringleford Marshes, male, five females or first-winters, 20th March, at least three, 23rd March (P.J.Heath *et al.*). Hand Marsh, near Sutton Broad, female, 11th April (P.J.Heath).

1996 Yorkshire, South Farningley Park, Doncaster, male and first-winter, trapped 17th March, photo. (D.Hazard, A.Unwin); female, trapped 24th March, photo. (D.Hazard, K.Pearson).

A handful of records from the Northern Isles: typical of a non-invasion year. A review of the irruption of redpolls into western Europe in 1995/96, and an identification review based on that influx, were published recently (Brit. Birds 93: 59-67, 68-84).

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* (40, 82, 1)

Shetland Symbister, Whalsay, juvenile, 25th-26th September (C.Barton, P.S.Crockett, I.Gordon *et al.*).

1998 Gloucestershire Near Parkend, female, 15th February to at least 8th March (Brit. Birds 92: 602), 17th (A.V.Harding).

In the absence of any substantial irruption of Common Crossbills *L.curvirostra*, a single juvenile is perhaps all we could expect.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (1, 21, 2)

Outer Hebrides Grogarry, South Uist, 17th October, photo. (B.Rabbitts, A.Stevenson *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, first-summer male, 3rd-5th June, photo. (C.A.Holt *et al.*).

Despite the majority of previous records being in October and November, the Fair Isle bird is the second spring record for that locality, following one there on 18th May 1977.

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* (0, 1, 1)

Northumberland Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, female or first-winter, 24th October, photo. (J.G.Steele *et al.*).

The second for Britain, following the Greater Manchester first-winter from 8th March to 24th April 1994 (Brit. Birds 90: 549-561), and one of the finds of the year in an exceptional autumn. The field identification of this species was discussed by Prof. Colin Bradshaw (see Brit. Birds 85: 653-665).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (34, 383, 10)

Fife Isle of May, two, 21st September (A.W.Lauder, J.R.D.Osborne *et al.*).

Northumberland Holy Island, sex uncertain, 3rd June (A.D.McLevy *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, 1st October (R.McGregor).

Scilly St Mary's, sex uncertain, 18th-19th March (P.A.Stancliffe *et al.*).

Shetland Fair Isle, male, 19th-26th May (D.N.Shaw *et al.*); sex uncertain, 29th May to 1st June (C.A.Holt, A.S.Vials *et al.*); female, 5th-6th June (D.N.Shaw *et al.*); male, 9th-11th June, trapped 9th (A.J.Bull *et al.*). Norwick, Unst, male, 20th May (P.A.Harris, M.G. & M.J.Pennington).

1998 Fife Isle of May, 27th September (J.M.Wilson).

1998 Orkney Stronsay, 29th-30th September, photo. (S.Hicks *et al.*).

1998 Shetland Kirkabister, North Mainland, 27th September (G.H., W.F & W.R.H.Peplow).

The high proportion of spring records is unusual, as is the March record from Scilly, which perhaps suggests overwintering in Western Europe.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (10, 192, 3)

Shetland Fair Isle, female or first-winter, 25th-30th August (D.N.Shaw, S.C.Votier *et al.*); another, 30th September to 1st October, photo. (A.J.Bull *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 93: plate 342).

Suffolk Landguard, male, trapped 12th August, photo. (M.James, N.Odin *et al.*).

1998 Orkney North Ronaldsay, female or first-winter, 1st October (P.J.Donnelly).

1998 At sea Sea area Humber, Loggs Gas Platform, 53° 25'N 02° 05'E, female or first-winter, 31st August, photo. (W.B.Sterling).

Despite the Suffolk bird and a tendency in recent years for a wider geographical spread of records, Fair Isle remains this species' favoured locality in Britain.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (9, 136, 4)

Argyll Near Kirkapoll, Tiree, male, 3rd-8th June, video. (T. & Mrs S.Sweeney per A.J.Leitch).

Dorset Verne Common, Portland, male, 1st May (A.T. & Mrs E.White).

Northumberland Farne Islands, male, 10th-20th July (S.E.Duffield *et al.*).

Orkney North Ronaldsay, juvenile, 21st-23rd September, photo. (P.French, R.McGregor, A.Sumner *et al.*).

1998 Outer Hebrides North Rona, male, 16th June (J.Love, A.Stevenson).

1998 Yorkshire, West Ainley Top, Huddersfield, male, late May, photo. (Mrs J.Morison).

Many records are spring and summer males, over which the escape spectre hangs, but the juvenile on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, in September is an exception to the norm. Of course, the difficulty of separating non-adult males from Red-headed Bunting *E.bruniceps* could be clouding the species' true autumn status.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (0, 21, 1)

Pembrokeshire Skokholm, first-winter, 13th-14th October, photo. (T.Purcell, G.Thompson *et al.*) (Brit. Birds 92: plate 293; 93: plate 343).

Very much a Scilly speciality, this record represents the first for Wales on a classic date.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (0, 19, 1)

Scilly Bryher, first-winter male, 27th-28th September (A.Blunden, M.S.Scott *et al.*).

Almost mirroring the previous record, on Bryher, Scilly, on 30th September 1996. This species has occurred four times on St Agnes and now twice on Bryher, but there are no records yet from the three larger islands in the Scilly archipelago.

Appendix 1. Category D species accepted (see Ibis 136: 253)

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (0, 11, 1)

Dorset Warmwell, two, 30th August to 4th September (R.Grove *et al.*).

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.

1999 White-billed Diver Portland, Dorset, 6th January; Bexhill, East Sussex, 14th March. **Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris* Sea area Plymouth, 15th August. **Little Shearwater** Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, 20th September; Hartlepool Headland, Cleveland, 4th October. **Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus* Prawle Point, Devon, 7th August. **Magnificent Frigatebird** Pleasley, Derbyshire, 17th June. **Little Bittern** Weymouth, Dorset, 10th May. **Night Heron** Chumleigh, Devon, 18th-19th April; Amberley Brooks, West Sussex, 15th July. **Great White Egret** Isley Marsh, Devon, 1st February; Seaford, East Sussex, 1st May; Newtown, Isle of Wight, 15th July; Exmouth, Devon, 13th October. **Red-breasted Goose** Alderbury, Shropshire, two, 21st February. **American Wigeon** Loch Ordais, Outer Hebrides, 2nd-20th May; Cresswell Pond, Northumberland, 5th July; Roadford Reservoir, Devon, female, 11th October. **American Black Duck** Camel Estuary, Cornwall, 11th August. **Ferruginous Duck** Isley Marsh, Devon, 13th October; Watermead Country Park, Leicestershire, 17th October; Weir Wood Reservoir, East/West Sussex, 6th November. **Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri* Titchwell, Norfolk, 21st September. **Bufflehead** Poole Harbour, Dorset, 22nd-23rd June. **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* Fishbourne, Isle of Wight, 14th July. **Black Kite** Colne Point, Essex, 20th May; Great Finborough, Suffolk, 21st May; Beeding, West Sussex, 9th June; Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 11th June; Hampson Green and Trough of Bowland, Lancashire & North Merseyside, 1st August; Aldringham, Suffolk, 26th September. **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* Chivelstone, Devon, 12th-13th April. **Red-footed Falcon** Snettisham, Norfolk, 9th May; Rutland Water, Leicestershire, 27th May; North Warren, Suffolk, 14th June; Sizewell, Suffolk, 25th June. **Gyr Falcon** Eswick, Shetland, 20th February. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** Pagham Harbour, West Sussex, 30th August; Port Carlisle, Cumbria, 12th September; Cley, Norfolk, 26th September. **White-rumped Sandpiper** Bembridge, Isle of Wight, 29th July; near Morvah, Cornwall, 22nd October. **Baird's Sandpiper** Breydon, Norfolk, 4th August. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata* Butterstreet Cove, Dorset, 25th August; Foulness, Essex, 11th-12th September. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** Kingston, Moray & Nairn, 3rd July. **Great Snipe** Finstown, Orkney, 1st November; Killington Reservoir, Cumbria, 12th December. **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica* St Agnes, Scilly, 15th October. **Marsh Sandpiper** Alnmouth, Northumberland, two, 11th August; Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, 15th August. **Laughing Gull** Lancing, West Sussex, 8th April. **Franklin's Gull** Porthcawl, Glamorgan, 5th July. **Bonaparte's Gull** Bridlington Bay, East Yorkshire, 27th November. **Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea* Southwold, Suffolk, 2nd February. **Eurasian Scops Owl** West Charleton, Devon, 9th May. **Snowy Owl** Pontypool, Gwent, 17th November. **Hawk Owl** *Surnia ulula* Newton-in-the-Isle, Cambridgeshire, 21st October. **Common Nighthawk** St Agnes, Scilly, 24th October. **Alpine Swift** Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, 21st September. **Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire, 2nd May. **Crag Martin** Pentney Gravel-pits, Norfolk, 19th May; near Kilmartin, Argyll, 20th June; Drift Reservoir, Cornwall, 11th July. **Yellow wagtail** *M.f.feldegg* Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, 18th September. **Citrine Wagtail** Grune Point, Cumbria, 12th August. **Common Stonechat** *S.t.maura/stejnegeri* Cley, Norfolk, 11th-12th March. **Pied Wheatear** Harty, Kent, 14th November. **Black-eared Wheatear** Sea area Dogger, 15th September. **Siberian Thrush** Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria, 24th October. **Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus* Papa Westray, Orkney, 27th-28th April. **Olive-tree Warbler** *Hippolais olivetorum* St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, 22nd August. **Subalpine Warbler** Holm, Orkney, 12th May. **Dusky Warbler** Radipole, Dorset, 20th March; Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 20th October. **Western Bonelli's Warbler** Sandwich Bay, Kent, 30th September. **Iberian Chiffchaff** Priory Water, Leicestershire, 5th September. **Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* Near Stowmarket, Suffolk, two, 12th February; Coalville, Leicestershire, 27th August; Tettenhall, West Midlands, 16th October. **Rosy Starling** Porthgarra, Cornwall, 25th October. **Arctic Redpoll** Inner Marsh Farm, Cheshire, 7th February; Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, 16th April. **Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, 22nd October. **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus* The Naze, Essex, 31st January; Morenish, Perth & Kinross, 26th April. **Rustic Bunting** Northmoor, Somerset, 13th April. **Baltimore Oriole** Culver Down, Isle of Wight, 22nd October; Bembridge, Isle of Wight, 13th November.

1998 White-billed Diver Brora, Highland, 8th September. **Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii* Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, 20th September. **Little Shearwater** Pendeen, Cornwall, 24th August; Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, 10th September. **Great White Egret** Stanpit Marsh, Dorset, 21st November. **Black Stork** Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 10th August. **Black Kite** South Shields and Whitburn, Durham, 7th May; Worthing, West Sussex, 12th September. **Gyr Falcon** Ettrick/Yarrow area, Borders, 21st May. **Baird's Sandpiper** Campfield Marsh, Cumbria, 31st August. **Great Snipe** Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, 4th January. **Greater Yellowlegs** Martin Mere, Lancashire & North

Merseyside, 20th June. **Laughing Gull** Porthcurno, Cornwall, 21st July. **Franklin's Gull** Rostherne Mere, Cheshire, 3rd January; Crowdy Reservoir, Cornwall, 27th June. **White-winged Black Tern** Selsey Bill, West Sussex, 9th May. **Olive-backed Pipit** Grutness, Shetland, 28th September; Brora, Highland, 29th October. **Red-throated Pipit** Titchfield Haven, Hampshire, 14th October. **Dusky Thrush** *Turdus naumanni* Black Gutter Bottom, Hampshire, 21st October. **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola* Skegness, Lincolnshire, 2nd October. **Booted Warbler** St Abb's Head, Borders, 28th September. **Greenish Warbler** Sea area Humber, 2nd September. **Radde's Warbler** Seaton Hole, Devon, 14th-15th November. **Penduline Tit** Burley, Hampshire, 10th December; Rye, East Sussex, 28th December. **Lesser Grey Shrike** Near Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, 4th-8th August. **Rosy Starling** Milltimber, Northeast Scotland, 10th August; Strathy Point, Highland, 23rd August. **Rustic Bunting** Lowestoft Denes, Suffolk, 8th October.

1997 Wilson's Storm-petrel North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 29th June. **Pallid Harrier** Cove Bottom, Suffolk, 7th May. **American Golden Plover** Liniclate, Outer Hebrides, 31st October. **Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii* Near Portreath, Cornwall, 31st December. **Ross's Gull** Barmston, East Yorkshire, 1st November. **Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius* Lusleigh, Devon, 18th July. **Thrush Nightingale** Wells, Norfolk, 29th September. **Blyth's Reed Warbler** Unst, Shetland, 16th September to 2nd October.

1996 Greenish Warbler Prawle, Devon, 24th September. **Arctic Redpoll** Hickling, Norfolk, 18th January.

1995 Baird's Sandpiper Axmouth, Devon, 19th May.

1994 Black Kite Selby, North Yorkshire, 29th April. **Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii* Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, 30th April.

1958 European Roller Mid Yell, Shetland, 5th September.

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.

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, juvenile, 4th September; Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire, age uncertain, 26th October to 9th November.

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.

1999 Little Shearwater St Mary's, Scilly, 18th September. **Wilson's Storm-petrel** Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire, 9th September. **Canvasback** Monk's Wall, Kent, 10th-11th June. **Harlequin Duck** Peterhead, Northeast Scotland, 6th November. **Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis* North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 17th May. **Baird's Sandpiper** Davidstow Airfield, Cornwall, 7th October. **Great Snipe** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 23rd-24th September. **Bonaparte's Gull** Steart, Somerset, 13th July. **Ross's Gull** East Chevington, Northumberland, 9th-10th June. **Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus* Flamborough Head, East Yorkshire, 14th August. **Blyth's Pipit** Happisburgh, Norfolk, 25th-28th September. **Olive-backed Pipit** Marloes, Pembrokeshire, 19th October. **Pied/Black-eared Wheatear** Deerness, Orkney, 16th October.

1998 Herald Petrel *Pterodroma arminjoniana* Dungeness, Kent, 4th January. **American Wigeon** Otmoor, Oxfordshire, 23rd February (Brit. Birds 92: 609). **Lesser Scaup** Ham Road Gravel-pits, Kent, 17th December to 2nd January 1999. **Wilson's Snipe** *Gallinago (gallinago) delicata* St Mary's, Scilly, 9th October to 1999. **Slender-billed Curlew** *Numenius tenuirostris* Druridge Pools, Northumberland, 5th-7th May. **Forster's Tern** Devoran, Cornwall, 5th November. **Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* Bryher, Scilly, 30th October to 1st November. **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys* Middle Hope Nature Reserve, Avon, 15th November. **Black-headed Bunting** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 27th-28th September (Brit. Birds 92: 609).

1997 Wilson's Snipe St Mary's, Scilly, 19th October. **Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* St Mary's, Scilly, 23rd September. **Red-throated Pipit** St Mary's, Scilly, 10th October (Brit. Birds 92: 609); Porthgwarra, Cornwall, 2nd-23rd October. **Black-eared Wheatear** North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 10th November (Brit. Birds 92: 609).

1996 Madeira/Cape Verde Petrel Pendeen, Cornwall, 24th August (Brit. Birds 92: 609). **Canvasback** Cliffe, Kent, 7th December. **Thrush Nightingale** Wick, Caithness, 22nd May.

1995 American Wigeon Leighton Moss, Lancashire & North Merseyside, 6th-16th October (Brit. Birds 92: 609). **Blyth's Pipit** St Mary's, Scilly, 9th-10th October.

1993 South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki* Sea area Sole, 26th August (Brit. Birds 92: 609). **Hume's Warbler** Bridlington, East Yorkshire, 11th February (Brit. Birds 92: 609).

1988 Blyth's Pipit Fair Isle, Shetland, 13th-22nd October (Brit. Birds 92: 609). **Hume's Warbler** Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, 10th January to 18th February (Brit. Birds 91: 507).

1985 Wilson's Snipe St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 31st October.

1962 Olivaceous Warbler St Agnes, Scilly, 30th September to 2nd October (Brit. Birds 56: 405).

1961 Olivaceous Warbler St Agnes, Scilly, 3rd-4th October (Brit. Birds 55: 579).