

MONTHLY MIGRATION REPORT 1962

JANUARY:

The year opened with a period of strong, cold N.E. winds, and the weather continued cold for the rest of the month, causing a hard weather movement of unusual extent and interest, the first signs of which had been noted in coastal areas on the 27th December with the arrival of large numbers of Redwings, Fieldfares and Blackbirds all along the coast-line, together with lesser numbers of Snipe and Skylarks. The majority of the birds were coming in from a sector between N.N.E. and E.N.E., and the flocks contained an appreciable number of the large, grey-backed Continental race of the Song Thrush (*t. e. philomelus*). Small, dark Song Thrushes also present seemed to be associated with a concomitant southerly coasting movement, suggesting a Scottish origin.

On the 1st. an Arctic Redpoll was still present near St. Mary's Island, (two having arrived the previous day), and there was one on Holy Island which had an influx of Skylarks (c. 600), Meadow Pipits (c. 400) and Turdidae (principally Fieldfares and Redwings). Large numbers of Thrushes were also reported from the Tynemouth area. The immigration of Redwings in particular was conspicuous throughout the month, although the majority moved on rapidly, and many were found dead in coastal areas. Further large flocks of Skylarks were reported from Cresswell and Holy Island on the 5th and the 13th. One or two small flocks of Bramblings (including one of c. 120 at Cresswell) were reported during the first fortnight, mainly from the coast-line, together with odd Siskins. On the 7th and the 10th several Mealy Redpolls (*c. f. flammea*) were identified at Whitley Bay and Holywell Dene. Four or five Waxwings occurred inland during the month and 5 Hooded Crows (otherwise rather scarce this winter) were reported on the 5th and the 7th.

Woodcock were especially numerous in coastal areas during the early part of the month, the maximum being at least 35 on Holy Island on the 1st., with 80 Common and 2 Jack Snipe. A further movement of Snipe was reported from Tynemouth on the 21st., when c. 150 passed over, heading North. A Ruff seen at Bamburgh on the 3rd. was noted again during February and March, and had probably wintered in the area.

Despite the severe weather, the numbers of sea fowl were not exceptional, the only item of note being a small southerly cyclonic movement of divers and Auks with freshening S.W. winds on the evening of the 12th., followed by a return movement on the 13th. as the wind veered N.N.W. behind the depression. This movement also brought 2 Slavonian Grebes to St. Mary's Island.

Rather more Goosanders were recorded on inland waters than usual, and 2 Snaw appeared at Broonlee Lough on the 20th.

FEBRUARY:

With the very cold N. - N.W. winds persisting, the month opened quietly. There was little passerine movement other than the continued (though greatly diminished) Redwing immigration. On the 3rd. numbers of Crossbills were reported from Dipton, and a Grey Phalarope appeared at Cresswell Ponds on the 4th. on which date 4 Stonechats were seen at South Shields. A Great Grey Shrike was at Prestwick on the 11th., but after that, little else of interest occurred, save for renewed Redwing immigration (300+) over St. Mary's Island on the 26th. and a slight increase in the numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

The most notable bird of the month was a drake Baldpate Wigeon (*anas americana*), first seen at Holywell Ponds on the 24th. which remained in the area until the 25th of March. A wildfowl count held on the 25th indicated that in general, the numbers of duck had increased, records of particular interest being 2 White-fronted Geese at Grindon Lough, and another 2 Snaw.

Severe N. - N.E. gales, particularly towards the end of the month, gave rise to some interesting movements of sea birds - in particular to a notable "wreck" of Fulmars. The first indications of this were the appearance of a "blue" phase bird off Seaton Sluice on the 24th, followed by an intermediate phase bird on the 25th, which lead up to the main arrival at the beginning of March. Inland records of Kittiwakes on the 17th and the 27th, provided further evidence of the effect of the severe weather. In addition, Glaucous Gulls, rarer than usual this winter, were reported from two localities.

MARCH:

A moderate fall of snow during the first few days of the month brought 4 Waxwings, with a few Siskins and Goldfinches in coastal areas. On the 5th., 4 Lapland Buntings were seen at Killingworth. Hooded Crows were scarce, only 4 being reported. The first indication of spring passage came on the 17th, when after a night of S. - S.E. winds followed by a mild and sunny morning, a Water Pipit (*a. s. spinoletta*) was identified at St. Mary's Island, and the following day a female Marsh Harrier (now of almost annual occurrence in the County) was seen at Hexham. A return to anticyclonic conditions on the 25th. brought a cock Black Redstart to Holy Island and the first spring Sandwich Tern to St. Mary's Island on the 26th.

The month ended with mild, showery weather and a S.W. air-stream bringing a further sprinkling of spring migrants - a Sand Martin on the 28th, a Ring Ouzel and a Tree Pipit on the 30th, and a Wheatear on the 31st. At about the same time, details were received of two wintering Blackcaps, which had been present in the County since January.

Waders reported during the month included 5 Jack Snipe at Bamburgh on the 3rd, a Black-tailed Godwit at Seaton Sluice on the 18th, and the first 4 Common Sandpipers at Wallsend Swallow Ponds on the 24th.

The beginning of March brought a clearer picture of the extent of the Fulmar "wreck". Representative of the greater part of the East Coast was the situation at Seaton Sluice, where 27 dead birds along the tide line included 2 "blue" and 2 intermediate phase birds. An intermediate bird flew North off Craster on the 3rd, and a "blue" bird was seen on Holy Island as late as the 10th. Early movements of some other species occurred, with 8 Manx Shearwaters reported on the 2nd. (and 3 on the 31st), a Great Skua on the 4th, and a Little Gull at Wallsend Swallow Ponds on the 3rd. Other records of the less common gulls included 2 Iceland and a number of records of Glaucous, probably involving about 5 birds. More Sandwich Terns were recorded on the 29th and the 31st.

A decrease in the numbers of Mallard and Teal became noticeable as the month progressed, though concentrations of diving duck remained fairly constant. A pair of Great Crested Grebes returned to a breeding locality about the middle of the month.

APRIL:

There was little activity during the first week, and it was not until the 7th, with a light S.W. wind, that there was any indication of passerine movement. This date, however, saw a strong passage of pipits in the Holy Island area, with a Ring Ouzel and a Tree Pipit at Seaton Sluice, and the first Common Tern offshore. Another quiet spell followed, but with the build-up of an anti-cyclone over N. Scotland towards the end of the second week, the first significant arrival of spring migrants began. On the 13th, a tired Corncrake was seen at Holywell, and the first Yellow Wagtail appeared near St. Mary's Island, followed on the 14th, by records of both Swallow and House Martin in Coquetdale, while many pipits were seen moving inland. The period 15th - 16th, brought

/Willow

Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff, and small numbers of Sand Martins. On the 17th. with strong E.S.E. winds and disturbed frontal weather over the North Sea, there was an interesting fall of Robins (E. r. rubecula) and Goldcrests in coastal areas, with counts of over 40 of each in Whitley Bay Cemetery. This fall was of particular significance in providing one of the relatively few occurrences of cyclonic drift to affect the eastern seaboard in springtime. The prevailing conditions are shown in fig. 1, in which the combination of clear skies over western Europe and Scandinavia, together with easterly winds and heavy overcast along the East Coast resulted in immigration to virtually all coastal areas north of the Wash, and giving a particularly heavy fall of Robins and Dunnocks as far North as Fair Isle (cf. Williamson, Bird Migration, Vol. 2., No. 3). Other immigrants supporting the continental origin of this movement included a Black Redstart and a White Wagtail at St. Mary's Island on the 19th.

With the advent of anticyclonic conditions over the North Sea on the 20th. the main mass of summer migrants began to arrive. A Ring Ouzel on the 20th. and the first Swift and Cuckoo on the 21st. were accompanied by the widespread arrival of Swallows, Willow Warblers and Yellow Wagtails. Another Black Redstart on the Farnes on the 22nd. was followed by the first Garden Warbler and Whitethroat at the coast on the 23rd. with a Pied Flycatcher inland. By the evening of the 23rd. the breeze, which during the previous few days had been backing steadily from W.S.W. to E.S.E., was increasing from the E, bringing cloud with a little coastal fog and drizzle on the morning of the 24th., brought Whinchat, Redstart, Sedge Warbler and Blackcap, all inland, and a Mealy Redpoll at Whitley Bay. The 25th. dawned sunny and warm inland, but a cold easterly wind sprang up off the sea, and fog persisted in coastal areas throughout the day, which proved to be one of almost continuous immigration. On this date, observers at Holywell Ponds reported c. 200 Meadow Pipits, three small parties of Yellow Wagtails, a Sedge Warbler, a Cuckoo, several parties of Swallows and Martins, a pair of Pintail, a pair of Garganey, a Jack Snipe, 2 Green Sandpipers and c. 320 Fieldfares - all birds, except one of the small parties of Fieldfares that stayed to roost, passing through during the course of the day. The first Wood Warbler was seen at Stannington on the 29th. and a Pied Flycatcher and Swifts again on the 30th.

Wader passage, in addition to those items mentioned above, was confined to large flocks of Golden Plover of the Northern race (p. a. altifrons), and a few of the less common spring migrants - 3 Reeves at Holywell on the 11th., 3 Black-tailed Godwit at Newsham (nr. Elyth) on the 22nd. and 5 at Grindon Lough on the 25th. and the 28th., with a Greenshank at Thropton on the 29th. Common Sandpipers were well distributed in their breeding haunts by the 21st., on which date some Ring Plover already had eggs.

Sea passage during the month principally involved Gannets, of which 227 flew North at Hartley on the 14th. and 157 on the 29th. with 300+ off Boulmer on the 28th. These movements included relatively small numbers of Kittiwakes and Fulmars, but during the month only 3 Manx Shearwaters were recorded. 2 on the 15th. and 1 on the 29th. all flying North off Hartley. Some early Tern movements were recorded, and on the 22nd. the numbers of Sandwich Terns in the Holy Island area had reached 170. Various reports of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls probably referred to 3 and 4 birds respectively, all seen in the Tyneside area. Small northerly movements of divers were noted throughout the month, and the numbers of Grebes in the North of the County were quite high - particularly on the 7th. when 30 - 40 Slavonians were noted off Ross Links.

The decrease in numbers of Teal and Mallard continued during the month, accompanied by a rapid fall-off in the wintering population of diving duck, notably Tufted and Pochard, about the middle of the month. In addition to records already mentioned, 2 Gadwall and 2 more Pintail were reported. Two Barnacle Geese were seen off St. Mary's Island on the 24th. and 2 Canada Geese at Holywell on 30th. (one of which had been present since the 20th.).

MAY:

Cold, strong N.E. winds restricted movement until the 4th, when a Marsh Harrier appeared at Gosforth Park. Several small parties of Swifts arrived, and there was a notable increase in the numbers of Yellow Wagtails, Whitethroats and Sedge Warblers. This influx corresponded to the onset of a period of calmer, warmer weather, which brought little further immigration (apart from the first Spotted Flycatchers inland on the 7th.) until the 8th, when increasing easterly breezes in coastal areas with offshore fog brought several Greenland Wheatears, with a further small influx of Yellow Wagtails and Whitethroats, and large numbers of Swifts. A short cyclonic spell followed, with a return to essentially northerly winds on the 11th, when the third Marsh Harrier of the spring (the largest total for many years) arrived at Holywell Ponds. A further influx of Swifts occurred (400+ at Holywell and 250+ at Gosforth Park) and lesser numbers of Garden Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers were recorded. On the 12th, more leucorrhoea Wheatears were at Holywell, where the last reported Redwings (a flock of 35) also occurred. The following day a Reed Warbler and a Grasshopper Warbler were singing in Gosforth Park, and a male Blue-headed Wagtail was identified at Wallsend Swallow Ponds; the last 2 Fieldfares were also reported, from Seaton Burn.

The arrival of summer visitors continued, and on the 20th, at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh, a large northerly movement of hirundines comprising c. 400 Swallows and 650+ Martins coincided with an arrival of c. 45 Sedge Warblers. An acredula Willow Warbler was trapped in Holywell Dene. About this time, an Osprey first appeared in Coquetdale, and frequented the area for a week or more. The last week of the month was fairly quiet, although by the end of the month the numbers of summer visitors were just about up to the seasonal average.

Wader passage, though slight, was interesting. A Whimbrel was seen at St. Mary's Island on the 13th, and the numbers of both Turnstones and Purple Sandpipers reached a peak about this time. A Greenshank was reported from Lynemouth on the 3rd, and a Wood Sandpiper was seen at Holywell on the 27th (another species rarely reported in the County on spring passage).

On the 19th, an Arctic Tern was identified at Sweetthope Lough, about 30 miles inland. Sea movement was virtually confined to two noteworthy periods, the first on the 12th, and 13th, with strong N.W. winds, and the second during the 24th - 26th, with a N.E. wind. On the 12th, 4 Manx Shearwaters were seen off Hartley, and at the same place next day 97 Gannets; the last 2 Red-throated Divers, and small numbers of Fulmars and Kittiwakes. On the 20th, at Stag Rocks, there were 250 Gannets, but the 3 Arctic Skuas seen there on that date were the first and only of the spring. On the 24th, 5 Manx Shearwaters were reported off Hartley, and there were 9 more on the 26th, - a day when Fulmars and Kittiwakes were passing at a rate of c. 600 per hour. These birds, and all the others mentioned, were moving North. A single Roseate Tern was reported from Stag Rocks on the 20th, and there were two records of Iceland Gulls - 1 at Ashington on the 3rd, and another at Gosforth Park on the 27th.

Two Garganey were reported from Cresswell on the 3rd, and 1 from Ashington on the 6th. 71 Scaup flew North on the 13th, off Seaton Sluice, and there were still 2 off Stag Rocks on the 20th. Only Tufted Duck and Wigeon were being reported towards the end of the month. A Whooper Swan remained at Hazelrigg until the 14th, and the 2 Canada Geese were seen again at Holywell, the last report being of a single bird there on the 20th.

JUNE:

The few interesting records for this month included 22 Sanderling at Holy Island on the 9th, a summering Velvet Scoter,

/a Pochard

a Pochard still present at Holywell on the 17th. and a sub-adult Iceland Gull seen there on the 7th. with the same or another bird at Tynemouth on the 30th. Some early sea movement was being reported by the end of the month, with 12 Manx Shearwaters and 36 Gannets off St. Mary's Island on the 26th. and 21 Manx Shearwaters flying North in the same area on the 30th.

There was little evidence of further passerine migration during the month, apart from a small influx of predominantly Spotted Flycatchers with a few Whitethroats during the second week, under essentially anticyclonic conditions; the only other item of note concerned a Golden Oriole that appeared at Langleeford on the 27th.

The month was quite a good one for the smaller breeding passerines, although a short period of heavy rain during the third week proved disastrous to a few broods. By the fourth week, there was a noticeable dispersal of juveniles of the first brood from a number of Sand Martin colonies. (In this connection it is interesting to note that:-

"Juveniles ringed in Yorkshire have been recovered in Essex as early as 17th July." (Bird Study, Vol. 10, No. 2, p. 135).

JULY:

There was little movement of interest in the passerine line until the third week, when the main departure of Sand Martins from the breeding colonies occurred, accompanied by small scale passage movements along the main river valleys. This was followed during the final week by southerly movements of Swallows (27th - 29th.) and Swifts (28th.) and during this period odd Wheatears (principally juveniles) began to make their appearance in coastal areas, followed by a small number of phylloscopi (principally juvenile Willow Warblers) and a few more Wheatears on the 30th. under conditions suggesting overland arrival.

Wader passage began with a northerly movement involving c. 170 Curlew and 3 Whimbrel off Cresswell on the 1st. and small movements of both species (heading South) were recorded on several occasions during the second half of the month. The first influx of passage waders occurred about the 11th. coinciding with a period of steady N.N.E. winds which brought fog and showers to the coastal regions. On this date, 4 Bartailed Godwit were seen at Seaton Sluice, 2 Green Sandpipers arrived, and the first juvenile Turnstones were recorded, followed on the 12th. by a juvenile Greenshank. By the 14th. Purple Sandpipers had been recorded at Seaton Sluice, and Bar-tailed Godwits were present at Newton and in the Holy Island area, while on the following day there were 22 Knot at Cresswell, with 3 Ruff and a possible Temminck's Stint. The passage of Curlew, Whimbrel and Common Sandpipers was prominent during the evening of the 23rd. (a hazy, overcast evening, with light sea breezes) in coastal areas, and again on the 27th. (a clear night), when there appears to have been a fairly widespread arrival of small parties of Green Sandpipers to several ponds in both Northumberland and Durham. The following day, 2 juvenile Little Stints were present at St. Mary's Island.

Northerly seabird movements involved Gannets (64/1½ hours), Fulmars and Auks on the 4th/5th. when the first juvenile Kittiwakes were noted at St. Mary's Island. 11 Arctic Skuas were off Cresswell on the 8th. and a Great Skua was recorded at Seaton Sluice on the 11th. Northerly movement was resumed (again under the influence of strong N.N.E. winds) during the 24th - 26th. when Kittiwakes, Gannets, Fulmars, Manx Shearwaters and a few sea duck and Skuas were noted.

Broods of Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck, Shoveler, Shelduck and Great Crested Grebe were successfully reared in the South East of the County during the month, and the conditions continued favourable for the smaller breeding passerines.

/Perhaps

Perhaps the most notable event of the month was the arrival of an Osprey off the mouth of the Tyne on the 14th. under conditions strongly suggestive of immigration from Scandinavia.

AUGUST:

The beginning of the month continued to be disappointing for the arrival of passerines, with only a few Whinchats, juvenile Willow Warblers and hirundines filtering through, although the movement of Whinchats, Willow Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers was slightly more pronounced during the 5th and 6th. with a backing N.N.E. wind. A return to easterly cyclonic weather on the 14th., however, heralded the first real fall of continental migrants on the following day, when c. 30 Willow/chiffs, 23 Pied Flycatchers, 2 Spotted Flycatchers, 7 Whitethroats, 7 Whinchats, a Common Redstart and a Wood Warbler were recorded in the St. Mary's Island/Hartley area, with the first two rarities of the autumn - a Barred Warbler and an Arctic Warbler. This movement was noted all along the North East Coast.

Kenneth Williamson writes:-

"Though great areas of Scandinavia and eastern Europe were linked by anticyclonic weather, with S.E. wind between southern Norway and Shetland, the fall was well marked only ahead of a North Sea trough associated with a depression over England."

A few more phylloscopi and odd Pied Flycatchers occurred on the 18th. and were probably reorientating, and a male Rose-coloured Starling at Tynemouth during the 21st - 24th. almost certainly came over with the original movement. The wind then shifted into the N.W. bringing a fresh arrival of Whinchats (c. 30) and phylloscopi (c. 50) to the South Northumberland coast-line on the 24th. followed by a similar but smaller movement on the 27th., both probably of insular origin.

The month was chiefly remarkable for the large volume of wader passage it produced. The first main influx occurred on the 5th/6th. when 3 Spotted Redshank, 3 Green Sandpipers, 2 Wood Sandpipers, 6 Greenshank and 2 Common Sandpipers arrived at Holywell Ponds, and Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Green Sandpipers, with odd Ruffs were fairly generally recorded from most stretches of water near the coast-line. This was followed by the arrival of, in particular, Greenshank, Ruff and Whimbrel associated with the passerine movement of the 14th - 15th. Observers noted several small parties of Greenshank coming in off the sea, and heading directly inland, calling loudly. The main arrival of waders seems to have taken place on the evening of the 14th. followed by the passerine arrival early the following morning, though some waders were still coming in after the passage of the front during the afternoon of the 15th. This appears to have been more in the nature of a subsequent coasting movement, restricted by offshore haze. A later movement on or about the 25th. involved unusual numbers of Wood Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank, giving the largest totals of passage waders to be recorded in the County for several years. Wood Sandpipers were particularly plentiful, with parties of up to half-a-dozen being recorded from virtually every wayside pond along the coast-line.

A marked northerly movement of seabirds occurred on the 7th. under the influence of force 5 N.N.E. winds, involving principally Kittiwakes, Skuas, Herring Gulls and Manx Shearwaters. In addition, close views were obtained of a Cory's Shearwater flying North close inshore, and 2 Great Shearwaters flying South. The southerly passage of Terns was marked during the 23rd - 26th., whilst in the afternoon of the latter day a northerly movement of Gannets and Fulmars developed.

Breeding conditions continued to be satisfactory during the first half of the month, and many late broods were recorded. Many pairs of Linnets reared three broods, and young were still in the nest during the third week, when Reed Buntings were also still feeding young.

/SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER:

The influx of Pied Flycatchers to the South East Coast on 1st. was not reflected in this sector, showing the necessity for heavy overcast to bring drift to the North East. These conditions were fulfilled on the 3rd., however, when a small arrival of phylloscopi (30), Whinchats (8), and Pied (8) and Spotted Flycatchers (3) occurred in the Whitley Bay/Hartley area just ahead of the passage of a front with a backing S.E. wind. The essentially southerly wind again backed S.E. during the afternoon of the 4th. when several Meadow Pipits, 8 - 9 Pied Flycatchers and a Garden Warbler came in. They were followed by a mixed bag of c. 25 Blackbirds, 2 Wheatears, 2 Tree Pipits and 2 Tree Creepers on the 6th. and a few more Wheatears, Blackbirds and phylloscopi on the 8th. apparently corresponding to rather restricted frontal disturbances. A coasting movement of Meadow Pipits under developing anticyclonic conditions on the 14th. was followed the next day by another small fall of immigrants, including 5 oenanthe and 1 leucorrhoa Wheatears, 6 Pied Flycatchers, 3 Spotted Flycatchers, several phylloscopi, a Common Redstart, a Stonechat, a Lesser Whitethroat and another Barred Warbler, most birds coming in about mid-morning. This, again, seems to have been an essentially local arrival, though under the essentially high-pressure conditions that normally produce a more widespread arrival. Stormy conditions during the 16th - 19th. inhibited further movement until a few more phylloscopi and the first 2 Goldcrests came in on the 20th. followed by 4 Pied Flycatchers on the 21st. with odd Wheatears and Redstarts, another Lesser Whitethroat, a Little Bunting and a Wood Warbler. This movement was consequent upon the development of high-pressure conditions extending well over Scandinavia, coinciding with a small depression over the Low Countries which combined to give ideal drift conditions to a fair stretch of the East Coast, although the numbers of birds arriving were nowhere large. The arrival of a juvenile Scarlet Grosbeak at Holywell Ponds the following day was doubtless part of the same movement. The only really sizeable influx of the month began on the 26th. when, with a depression centred over the Irish Sea, pressure still high over the Continent, and a cyclonic S.E. airstream affecting the whole of the eastern seaboard, migrants began to make landfall all along the coast-line. With overnight fog and showers, few birds were present during the morning, but by early afternoon they were coming in in fair numbers, most birds appearing in good condition and moving rapidly inland. The following counts were made in the late afternoon, with numbers well below the peak:-

(WHITLEY BAY/SEATON SLUICE: 20 Pied Flycatchers, 15 Redstarts, 42 Blue Tits, 18 Robins, 12 Goldcrests, c. 80 Song Thrushes, C. 100 Blackbirds and a female Black Redstart.

TYNEMOUTH: 12 Pied Flycatchers, adult and 1st. W. male Red-breasted Flycatchers, 3 Redstarts, 25 Blue Tits, 6 Great Tits, 14 Goldcrests, several Robins, 2 Whinchats, 4 Willow/chiffs, c. 30 Song Thrushes and c. 60 Blackbirds.

Further immigration occurred on the 27th. involving Blackbirds (200), Linnets (c. 100), Meadow Pipits (c. 200) and smaller numbers of Wheatears, Whinchats, Goldcrests, Pied Flycatchers, Kestrels (5) and Short-eared Owls (4) in the St. Mary's Island area, while less common arrivals included a Bluethroat there and a 1st. W. Firecrest at Tynemouth. Small-scale movements continued until the end of the month, with another peak on the 30th. following frontal conditions overnight, when a count at Cresswell gave c. 50 Robins, c. 25 Pied Flycatchers, 16 Wrens, a few Dunnocks, several Blackbirds, and smaller numbers of Willow/chiffs and Goldcrests. Robins, Blackbirds and Mistle Thrushes were prominent elsewhere.

No significant wader movements took place during the month, but there were a number of sizeable seabird passages. A northerly movement of Fulmars on the 8th - 9th. involved numbers up to 700 per

/hour

hour, while another northerly movement during the afternoon of the 12th. under the influence of a strong northerly wind included Kittiwakes (9000 per hour), Greater Black-backs (1000 per hour) and Herring Gulls (700 per hour) with lesser numbers of Gannets, Arctic Skuas and Manx Shearwaters. Balearic Shearwaters were noted flying North on the 15th. and 18th. (2 with a Sooty) and the 19th. and on the two latter dates, there was also some northerly movement of sea duck and Skuas.

OCTOBER:

Despite high pressure over Scandinavia, and cyclonic disturbances affecting the British Isles, immigration was prevented during the first week by clear skies over the Continent. By the 6th. the Scandinavian high had spread to cover Britain and much of western Europe, triggering off a period of immigration that lasted almost continuously throughout the following week.

The fall is analysed in the accompanying table. Key:-

- A. = Tynemouth.
- B. = Whitley Bay/Seaton Sluice.
- C. = Blyth.

In addition to the species mentioned in the table, the following were recorded:-

On the 9th: Mealy Redpoll, Jack Snipe, Kestrel (4), Short-eared Owl (2), and Swift (2) in the Tynemouth/Whitley Bay area.

On the 11th: Ring Ouzel, (1 at Cullernose, 3 on Holy Island), Willow/Chiff.

On the 13th: Ring Ouzel, Reed Warbler, Siskin (3 - 4), Chaffinch (c. 20) in the Whitley Bay/Seaton Sluice area.

The following records of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers are also of interest in view of the extensive movements noted in Scandinavia during the autumn, which resulted in this species turning up much more frequently than usual as a drift migrant on the eastern seaboard:-

Cullernose (1 on the 6th.)	Tynemouth (1 on the 7th.)
South Shields (1 on the 12th. 1 on the 13th.)	Holy Island 3 1st. W. 13th.)
Acklington (1 on the 23rd.)	Berwick Harbour (1 on 23rd.).

The movement has been analysed by Kenneth Williamson (Bird Migration, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 226 - 230).

Small-scale immigration of Turdidae, Fringillidae and Goldcrests continued during the third week, but thereafter a return to westerly weather virtually halted movement until the 27th. when a cyclonic fall of Blackbirds and Fieldfares occurred during the morning with strong N.N.E. winds and showers, which was again a fairly local movement apparently confined to the Lincolnshire - Northumberland coast.

A marked arrival of Lapwings and Common Snipe occurred during the 13th - 14th. followed by smaller numbers during the third week, and a late Ruff which came in on the 20th.

The first arrival of "Grey Geese" also occurred in the middle of the month, but the only seabird movement of note occurred on the 26th. when under the influence of a strong N.E. wind, a southerly passage of Kittiwakes (3500 per hour) and Skuas developed, followed by a return passage in the evening as the wind abated.

NOVEMBER:

Immigration of Turdidae recommenced on the 2nd - 3rd. with c. 800 Blackbirds, 150 Fieldfares and 100 Redwings at St. Mary's Island and c. 1500 Blackbird, 500 Fieldfares and 700 Redwings in Holywell Dene on the 2nd. and several thousand Blackbirds with a few hundred Redwings and Fieldfares at Cresswell on the 3rd. Again, this seems to have been a fairly local fall, not reflected at the other East Coast observatories, where the larger fall was noted on the 6th., a day of rather smaller, though still considerable, numbers in this area, when immigration of Starlings and Lapwings in fair numbers were also recorded.

The arrival of Snow Buntings in coastal districts was noted during the 9th - 12th. whose numbers built up to flocks of 500 at Seahouses on the 16th. and 250 at Killingworth on the 24th. Single late Wheatears were recorded at Whitley Bay on the 7th. and at North Shields on the 11th.

Extensive northerly movements of sea duck were recorded on the 9th., 10th. and 18th., under the influence of strong gale S.E. and N.N.E. winds. In particular, Goldeneye, Scaup, Mallard and Wigeon were recorded in hundreds, and Velvet Scoter were more plentiful than usual. The movement of the 18th. was very fully documented from Scarborough up to Cresswell, and has been the subject of a separate publication by the Club.

Maximum counts included:-

Scaup: 861 off Whitley Bay.	Mallard: 366 off Whitley Bay.
Goldeneye: 100 off Cresswell.	Common Scoter: 361 off Hartlepoons.
Pochard: 23 off Cresswell.	

In addition, odd Goosander and a number of Bar-tailed Godwit were included in the movement.

Manx Shearwaters were also recorded during the movements of the 9th - 11th., and 4 Sooty Shearwaters flew North off Cresswell on the latter date, while a Little Auk flew North off St. Mary's Island on the 10th.

DECEMBER:

Little of interest occurred until the widespread hard-weather movements during the final week. With severe frost and intermittent snow showers spreading from the South during the third week. The movement of Turdidae towards coastal areas became apparent. The main movement began on the 27th. when 29000 Redwings, with small numbers of Fieldfares and a few hundred Song Thrushes flew North along the Links at Whitley Bay. A few birds were coming in off the sea, but the majority were coming along the coast-line, or dropping down from the S.W. The movement was also recorded from the North Durham coast-line, and from further North in the Cresswell and the Seahouses area, though in smaller volume there. Intermittent movement in both directions was noted on the 28th. and by the following day, birds were moving South in numbers, with c. 550 Fieldfares, 660 Song Thrushes and c. 8800 Redwings being counted in four hours at Cresswell. Other birds involved in the movement included smaller numbers of Skylarks, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Linnets and Redpolls (including a party of c. 15 Healies at St. Mary's Island on the 27th.)

	6th. October.			8th. October.		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
REDWING	40	28		500	350	120
BLACKBIRD	60	70		350	250	80
FIELDFARE	25	8		150	80	20
SONG THRUSH	?	12		40	12	?
MISTLE THRUSH	20	16	N	24	22	8
ROBIN	20	42	O	30	12	4
COMMON REDSTART	-	-	T	1	2	-
BLACK REDSTART	-	-		1	-	-
STONECHAT	-	1		-	1	-
WHEATEAR	-	-	V	-	-	-
DUNNOCK	20	35	I	90	350	40
MEADOW PIPIT	-	100	S	?	700	?
GOLDCREST	4	2	I	20	15	8
PIED FLYCATCHER	-	-	T	-	-	-
RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER.	-	-	E	-	-	-
BLUE TIT	20	8	D	50	36	8
GREAT TIT	4	-	.	6	8	-
PHYLLOSCOPI	?	2		15	4	-
YELLOW BROWED WARBLER ..	-	-		1	-	-
GARDEN WARBLER	-	-		-	-	-
BLACKCAP	-	-		-	-	-
LESSER WHITETHROAT	-	-		-	-	-
BRAMBLING	-	-		4	?	-

	9th. October.			10th October.		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
REDWING	50	60	12	20	12	
BLACKBIRD	50	50	18	70	25	
FIELDFARE	10	10	-	5	2	
SONG THRUSH	10	8	2	20	8	
MISTLE THRUSH	12	8	8	2	6	N
ROBIN	10	6	4	30	6	O
COMMON REDSTART	2	-	-	3	-	T
BLACK REDSTART	1	-	-	1	1	
STONECHAT	1	1	-	-	2	V
WHEATEAR	-	2	-	-	-	I
DUNNOCK	60	18	25	50	?	S
MEADOW PIPIT	-	100	-	?	?	I
GOLDCREST	8	6	6	12	2	T
PIED FLYCATCHER	-	-	-	-	-	E
RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER.	-	-	-	-	-	D
BLUE TIT	36	12	8	20	10	.
GREAT TIT	2	2	-	-	-	
PHYLLOSCOPI	-	-	-	-	-	
YELLOW BROWED WARBLER ..	1	-	-	-	-	
GARDEN WARBLER	-	-	-	-	-	
BLACKCAP	-	-	-	-	-	
LESSER WHITETHROAT	-	-	-	1	-	
BRAMBLING	-	2	1	-	-	

	11th. October			12th. October		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
REDWING	1250	8000	500		1350	240
BLACKBIRD	?	600	150		440	300
FIELDFARE	300	1400	250		500	300
SONG THRUSH	?	20	4		30	20
MISTLE THRUSH	?	6	-	N	6	2
ROBIN	50	24	16	O	10	30
COMMON REDSTART	2	1	1	T	1	-
BLACK REDSTART	1	-	-	1	-	1
STONECHAT	?	?	-		2	1
WHEATEAR	-	-	-	C	-	-
DUNNOCK	120	60	12	O	25	10
MEADOW PIPIT	?	800	?	U	250	-
GOLDCREST	30	12	5	N	12	22
PIED FLYCATCHER	-	-	-	T	-	1
RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER*	-	-	-	E	-	-
BLUE TIT	45	18	6	D	10	20
GREAT TIT	8	-	-	.	-	1
PHYLLOSCOPI	?	2	-		-	-
YELLOW BROWED WARBLER ..	-	-	-		-	-
GARDEN WARBLER	-	-	-		?	?
BLACKCAP	-	-	-		?	?
LESSER WHITETHROAT*	-	-	-		-	-
BRAMBLING	9	-	-		15	8

	13th. October			14th. October		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
REDWING	80	400	150	?	?	?
BLACKBIRD	200	450	200	?	?	?
FIELDFARE	-	120	50	-	2	-
SONG THRUSH	24	6	-	-	6	-
MISTLE THRUSH	2	6	-	-	6	-
ROBIN	20	10	4	40	25	15
COMMON REDSTART	2	-	-	1	-	-
BLACK REDSTART	1	-	-	-	-	-
STONECHAT	?	?	?	?	?	?
WHEATEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUNNOCK	80	20	8	60	80	-
MEADOW PIPIT	?	?	?	?	?	?
GOLDCREST	30	20	38	10	32	54
PIED FLYCATCHER	-	2	-	-	1	-
RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER*	-	-	-	-	-	-
BLUE TIT	12	8	2	45	3	2
GREAT TIT	3	-	1	?	?	?
PHYLLOSCOPI	2	-	-	-	-	-
YELLOW BROWED WARBLER ..	-	1	1	-	-	1
GARDEN WARBLER	2	1	-	?	?	?
BLACKCAP	-	3	-	-	2	4
LESSER WHITETHROAT*	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRAMBLING	-	-	-	-	-	3

*1 RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER AT SOUTH SHIELDS ON 12TH and 13TH.
1 LESSER WHITETHROAT AT MARSDEN ON 14TH.

SUMMARY

The total number of birds ringed in 1962 is estimated to be 8254 (108 species). This consists of 6367 trapped and 1887 pullus.

The species and total numbers ringed appear further over in this Report, but there are a number of features well worth special mention.

On the Bass Rock, Mr. P. Yeoman ringed 625 Gannets. He has also ringed numerous Shags, Herring Gulls and Kittiwakes there.

14 nestling Merlins were ringed in Northumberland.

Though Swifts are difficult birds to trap, 75 have been netted, the Parrack, Bell, Watson partnership claiming the majority.

Waders, too, present trapping problems but they are well represented in the totals with 91 Common Snipe, 54 Common Sandpiper (mainly from the rivers), 75 Dunlin, 2 Green Sandpiper, 1 Spotted Redshank, 4 Greenshank and 8 Ruff.

A large number of hirundines were ringed, consisting of 629 Swallows (most of which were ringed either as pullus or at roost), 120 House Martins and 1762 Sand Martins (almost all ringed at breeding colonies).

605 Blackbirds were trapped and 152 pullus ringed. This species appears to be the second most common.

The Warbler totals were not up to expectation but between April and September, 156 Willow Warblers were ringed.

Only 250 Starlings were ringed (probably because ringers felt reluctant to tackle roosts) whilst 458 Greenfinches were trapped, mainly at the large roost in Gosforth Park.

The majority of Linnets (total 390) were ringed either at roost or as pullus. Redpolls totalled 173, many being trapped in N. Northumberland at roost. The Reed Bunting was another species mainly caught going to roost in the Gosforth Park area, the total ringed being 464.

3 Water Rails, 1 Jack Snipe, 1 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Ravens, (from a nest in Northumberland), 1 Grasshopper Warbler, 3 Reed Warblers, 1 Lesser Whitethroat, 1 White Wagtail, and 1 Little Bunting (trapped going to roost with Reed Buntings near Gosforth Park) are all included in the less common species ringed.

RINGING RECOVERIES DURING 1962

(ONLY RECOVERIES OF NOTE HAVE BEEN INCLUDED)

GANNET:

11 recoveries all during the second half of the year. 4 being local, 3 from overseas and 4 from distances of 40 to 360 miles including 2 from inland points.

pullus	23.7.61	Bass Rock.
	13.7.62	75 miles W. of Marseilles, France. (Dead).
pullus	15.7.62	Bass Rock.
	27.9.62	(Inland) Dunbartonshire. Movement 50 miles W.
pullus	22.7.62	Bass Rock.
	5.10.62	Lunan Bay, Angus. Movement 40 miles N. (Dead).
pullus	22.7.62	Bass Rock.
	14.10.62	Spain. Caught on fishing boat.

/pullus

pullus	22.7.62	Bass Rock.	
	16.10.62	Inner Hebrides.	Movement 155 miles W.N.W. Caught in cod net.
pullus	22.7.62	Bass Rock.	
	13.11.62	(Inland) Dorset.	Movement 360 miles S. (Dead). Eaten by fox.
pullus	22.7.62	Bass Rock.	
	7.12.62	Released off Cape Mirik, Mauritania, West Africa.	Caught on boat.

2 recoveries of birds ringed on Bass Rock.

pullus	1.7.62	Bass Rock.
	25.9.62	Angus. Movement 42 miles N. (Shot).
pullus	28.7.62	Bass Rock.
	23.11.62	Brighton, Sussex. Movement 370 miles S.E. (Dead).

MALLARD: A large number of hirundines were ringed, consisting of 120 Swallows (most of which were ringed either as pullus or at roost), 120 House Martins and 1762 Sand Martins (almost all ringed at both localities).

LAPWING:
502 blackbirds were trapped and 152 pelins ringed. This species
5 - all local.

COMMON SNIPES: The Warbler totals were not up to expectation but 2 - both local. and September, 150 Willow Warblers were ringed.

COMMON SANDPIPER:

3 - all local. Ringed Summer 1961, retrapped Summer 1962.

GREENSHANK: The majority of Miners (total 390) were ringed either at roost or as pullins. Redpolls totalled 173, many being trapped at Northumberland at roost. The Hood Munting was another species mainly caught going to roost in the Gosforth Park area, the total being 404.

DUNLIN:
31.8.62 Cresswell.
10.9.62 Boulmer. (Retrapped).

HERRING GULL:
2 - both local.

BARN OWL: (RECUJIT XEHT EVAN STON NO ELIAHVOCEH TMO)
1 - local. Moving 9 miles S.S.E. from Sacriston to Ferryhill,
Co. Durham. :TENNAD

LITTLE OWL:
2 ringed.

pullus 26.5.62 Nr. Ponteland.
15.10.62 Musslebrough, Midlothian. Movement 76 miles N.W.
(Dead).

* (This is the longest distance a Little Owl has been known to move in the British Isles).

pullus 3.6.62 Seaton Burn.
1.11.62 Seaton Sluice. Movement 9 miles E.

/ SWALLOW

SWALLOW:

5 - (4 local).

pullus	7.8.61	Haydon Bridge.
	4.5.62	Nr. Zouiret. (Oasis in Africa). 28°38' N. 9°22' E.

SAND MARTIN:

18 recoveries of birds ringed in Northumberland and Durham. 7 of these were intercolonial movements or local recoveries. Others are as follows:-

adult	20.8.62	Mickley.
	4.9.62	Wicken Fen, (Cambs) roost. (Dead).
juv.	21.7.62	Crawcrook.
	28.8.62	Chichester, (Sussex) roost. (Retrapped).
juv.	21.7.62	Crawcrook.
	28.8.62	Chichester, (Sussex) roost. (Retrapped).
juv.	4.8.62	Crawcrook.
	21.8.62	Chichester, (Sussex) roost. (Retrapped).
juv.	1.7.62	Haydon Bridge.
	30.8.62	Chichester, (Sussex) roost. (Retrapped).
juv.	1.7.62	Haydon Bridge.
	28.7.62	Romsey, (Hants.) colony. (Retrapped).
juv.	19.8.62	Shincliffe, Durham.
	9.9.62	Chichester, (Sussex) roost. (Retrapped).
juv.	24.8.62	Shincliffe, Durham.
	18.9.62	Mid France. (Retrapped).
adult	2.6.62	Bellingham.
	13.8.62	Cowland, Lincs. (Retrapped).
adult	16.6.62	Staward.
	9.7.62	Fairburn, Yorks. (Retrapped).
adult	29.6.62	Ponteland.
	11.8.62	Bolton Abbey, Yorks. (Retrapped).

GREAT TIT:

1 - local.

BLUE TIT:

1 - local.

SONG THRUSH:

6 - (5 local).

f.g.	11.2.62	Banburgh.
	18.3.62	South Shields. (Retrapped).

REDWING:

1 - local.

BLACKBIRD:

10 - (6 local).

adult	18.11.61	Wallsend.
	28.12.61	Mandie, France.
pullus	23.5.61	Gosforth.
	28.1.62	Ballygowan, Co. Down.

/adult

adult 23.2.62 Gosforth.
23.4.62 Stockholm, Sweden.
adult 28.1.62 Gosforth.
10.3.62 Holland.

WHINCHAT:

1 - local. Ringed Seaton Burn, Autumn 1961, retrapped 1962.

STARLING:

7 - all local in South Shields area. (Ringed and recovered).

GREENFINCH:

19 - mainly local. Farthest movement being from Gosforth to Durham.

LINNET:

1 recovery.
pullus 24.6.62 Holywell.
19.10.62 Azur, Landes, France. (Retrapped).

CHAFFINCH:

3 - all local.

REED BUNTING:

5 interesting retraps of birds ringed in Autumn 1961 at Seaton Burn and retrapped at same place 1962 during the Autumn. Also 1 local recovery.

HOUSE SPARROW:

4 recoveries of birds ringed in South Shields area. Farthest being a bird found dead in Sunderland, 4 miles S. almost a year after being ringed.

In above summary of recoveries, all local retraps have been omitted unless the bird was at least one year old.

GREAT TIT:

1 - local.

BLUE TIT:

1 - local.

SONG THRUSH:

6 - (5 local).

11.2.62
18.3.62

REDBIRD:

1 - local.

BLACKBIRD:

10 - (6 local).

adult 18.11.61
28.12.61
23.5.61
28.1.62

adult

RINGING TOTALS FOR 1962

SPECIES	JUV/AD	
	TRAP	PULL
Fulmar	-	3
Gannet	11	614
Shag	19	49
Mallard	-	1
Teal	1	-
Eider	1	-
Mute Swan	1	4
Merlin	-	14
Kestrel	2	16
Partridge	5	-
Water Rail	3	-
Moorhen	2	-
Oystercatcher	1	5
Lapwing	2	52
Ringed Plover	6	-
Turnstone	6	-
Common Snipe	91	-
Jack Snipe	1	-
Woodcock	1	-
Curlew	-	7
Green	-	-
Sandpiper	2	-
Common	-	-
Sandpiper	46	8
Redshank	20	4
Spotted	-	-
Redshank	1	-
Greenshank	4	-
Knot	6	-
Dunlin	75	-
Ruff	8	-
Herring Gull	-	96
Kittiwake	15	6
Stock Dove	-	1
Wood Pigeon	4	2
Barn Owl	6	7
Little Owl	2	4
Tawny Owl	1	-
Long-	-	-
eared Owl	2	-
Swift	74	1
Great Spotted	-	-
Woodpecker	1	-
Lesser Spotd.	-	-
Woodpecker	1	-
Skylark	6	7
Swallow	349	280
House Martin	105	15
Sand Martin	1762	-
Raven	-	2
Carriion Crow	-	42
Rook	9	56
Jackdaw	3	17
Magpie	2	4
Jay	6	-

SPECIES	JUV/AD	
	TRAP	PULL
Great Tit	45	18
Blue Tit	153	6
Coal Tit	4	-
Marsh Tit	8	-
Willow Tit	10	3
Tree-creeper	9	-
Wren	26	4
Dipper	8	5
Mistle Thrush	5	5
Fieldfare	3	-
Song Thrush	128	127
Redwing	81	-
Ring Ouzel	-	3
Blackbird	605	152
Wheatear	5	-
Whinchat	13	6
Redstart	4	28
Robin	92	5
Grasshopper	-	-
Warbler	1	-
Reed Warbler	3	-
Sedge Warbler	29	14
Blackcap	3	-
Whitethroat	45	23
Lesser	-	-
Whitethroat	1	-
Willow	-	-
Warbler	115	42
Goldcrest	5	-
Spotted	-	-
Flycatcher	23	6
Dunnock	152	79
Meadow Pipit	12	11
Tree Pipit	2	5
Rock Pipit	6	-
Pied Wagtail	21	4
Grey Wagtail	8	5
Yellow	-	-
Wagtail	2	6
White Wagtail	1	-
Starling	228	22
Greenfinch	433	25
Goldfinch	2	-
Linnet	182	208
Redpoll	173	-
Bullfinch	22	4
Chaffinch	151	15
Brambling	6	-
Yellowhammer	105	6
Corn Bunting	2	-
Little	-	-
Bunting	1	-
Reed Bunting	430	34
House Sparrow	259	5
Tree Sparrow	83	-

