

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JANUARY, 1964.

Summary.

The month opened quietly with winds from the west. Many birds noted in December remaining until the 4th, e.g. Chiffchaffs at Bamburgh. An anticyclone developed and resulted in westerly winds until the 9th. By the 10th, however, this air mass had moved towards the continent giving us easterly winds until the 14th, south easterly until the 16th and southerly up to the 20th, by which time the anticyclone had moved too far away to be of much effect. On the 12th, 5 Whitefronts were seen and the southerly winds of the 17th - 20th gave small influxes of Fieldfares and Skylarks. A Snow appeared at Whittle Dene on the 11th and remained until the 26th. Frosts on the 18th and 22nd lead to slight freezing over of many ponds and as a result some ducks moved down to the coast - especially Wigeon. The 18th, a day of southerly winds, produced not only Fieldfare movements but large Diver numbers off various parts of the coast. From the 20th onwards another anticyclone developed and remained almost until the end of the month. The 31st, however, was a day of strong westerly winds and the largest sea movement of the month was noted. Auks and Divers flying south.

On the whole then, a very quiet month. The rather mild, dry weather with westerly winds for threequarters of the time giving little excitement.

Divers:-

c20 in Cresswell Bay on 18th (MM/IH). 5 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 11th (TW). On 31st, during 1½ hours, 23 flew S. off St. Mary's Island (JDP).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 flew S. off St. Mary's Island on 31st (JDP).

Red-throated Diver:-

10 off Bamburgh on 3rd and 10 off Cresswell the following day (DGB/DR). c70 off Chevington Burn on 11th with several flying N. (ER), while the next day 6 flew N. off Seaton Sluice (MH). On 18th birds were reported from St. Mary's Island, Cresswell Bay, Hauxley and one at Warkworth.

Grebe Sp?:-

2 larger grebes off Stag Rocks on 3rd (DGB).

Red-necked Grebe:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 18th (MM/IH).

Slavonian Grebe:-

1 off Stag Rocks on 12th (B.R.S.).

Little Grebe:-

There were 2 at Whitley Bay Waterworks on 1st, and 1 at Capheaton on 12th (MM/IH).

Fulmar:-

Returned to most coastal breeding areas. 8 in Belford Quarry on 5th (FC/IH).

Gannet:-

6 adults off Seahouses on 2nd (PRE).

Heron:-

Single birds at Alnmouth on 1st, Felton on 5th and Warkworth on 19th.

Mallard:-

Over 300 at Gosforth Park on 5th, fell steadily until 22nd when 40 were present (FC/MM). A reverse movement was noted at Whittle Dene where there were 62 on 5th and over 182 on 19th (IHA/JSB). Very few (c7) throughout month at Holywell Ponds (CED). c700 at Capheaton on 12th, a flock of 300 with Wigeon at Cresswell on 18th, and c180 at Hartburn the next day though the lake was frozen over (MM/IH).

/Teal

Teal:-

Numbers fluctuated greatly at Gosforth Park, the largest flocks present being on 5th and 25th when c130 were counted (MN/ER). A maximum of 40+ at Whittle Dene on 18th (TW). Very few at Holywell Ponds throughout month (CED et al).

Wigeon:-

During the last half of the month, a fairly resident flock was present off Hartley. A maximum of 131 was reached on 19th and on the 25th there were c70 at Seaton Sluice and c150 further out to sea (OPJ et al). Also on the 19th, a maximum of c120 was reached at Holywell Ponds (CED). c110 at Capheaton on 12th (IH) and 70 at Gosforth Park on 22nd when the lake was frozen over (FC). Smaller flocks reported from many other areas.

Pintail:-

Single males reported from Gosforth Park on 2nd, Holywell Ponds on 26th and Grindon Lough on 30th.

Shoveler:-

3 males at Gosforth Park on 2nd (DR).

Scaup:-

A female at Seaton Sluice from 2nd until 12th (TW et al). Another female at Colt Crag on 12th (RG/EL/WB). 15 flew S. at Cresswell on 18th (IH/MH). 3 at St. Mary's Island on 22nd (SL).

Tufted Duck:-

240 at Whittle Dene on 18th and 26th (IMA/JDP). 13 pairs at Newton on 1st (PRE). On the 12th, 160 at Holywell Ponds (IN), 60 at Capheaton and 12 at Bolam. Hartburn had 17 on the 19th (MH/IH). 22 at Swallow Ponds on 27th (FC).

Pochard:-

A maximum of 86 at Whittle Dene on 18th (IMA/JSB).

Goldeneye:-

9 at Newton on 1st (PRE). 7 at Capheaton on 12th with another 5 at Bolam (IH). 3 at Cresswell on 18th and 4 at Pont the following day (IH/MH). 12 at Whittle Dene on 18th (TW) and 12 at Hartburn on 26th (JDP).

Long-tailed Duck:-

On the 3rd there were 3 off Bamburgh and 15 off Ross Back Sands (DGB). 6 at Alnmouth on 1st (JHD).

Velvet Scoter:-

1 at Seaton Sluice on 12th (IN/MH).

Common Scoter:-

c350 off Stag Rocks on 5th (B.R.S.) and a maximum of 61 off Seaton Sluice on 26th (OPJ).

Eider:-

c200 off Stag Rocks on 5th (B.R.S.).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

6 at Stag Rocks on 12th (B.R.S.). 2 flew S. off Cresswell on 18th (MH/IH) and 3 flew N. off Hauxley on 26th (H.R.S.).

Goosander:-

A maximum of 16 at Whittle Dene on 25th and next day 6 at Colt Crag (JSB/JDP). 2 pairs at Capheaton on 12th (IH) and 1 flew S. off Cresswell on 18th (IH/MH).

Snow:-

An adult male at Whittle Dene from 11th until 26th (JSB/IHA et al).

Shelduck:-

c200 at Budle Bay on 5th (B.R.S.).

Grey Lag Goose:-

1 at Capheaton on 12th (IH) and 2 at Colt Crag on 26th (MB). A possibility that these birds were from Sweethope. 70 in Rothbury area on 19th (MH/IH).

Whitefronted Goose:-

5 came down for a short while in stubble field to the S. of Gosforth Park on 12th, taking off later towards the E. (BG).

/Bean Goose



Bean Goose:-

15 at Grindon on 25th (IHA/JSB) and 15 'grey' geese seen there on 30th were almost certainly the same birds (RG/EL/WB).

Pink-footed Goose:-

28 flew N.W. over Longbenton on 2nd (MF). 8 flew W. at Hartburn on 16th and 2 on 26th (MB).

Brent Goose:-

35 on Holy Island Swad on 12th (JDP et al).

Mute Swan:-

A resident flock of c150 at Budle Bay throughout month.

Whooper Swan:-

30 adults and 6 juveniles at Holywell Ponds on 19th (OPJ). Over 50 at Fenham Flats on 3rd (DGB) and 8 at Budle Bay on 5th (B.R.S.). 30 at Swallow Ponds up to 31st including 2 1st. W. birds (FC). 63 at Linton on 4th, and 4 at Palmersville on 11th (MN). 20 at Wingates on 19th (IH/MM). 8 at Colt Crag on 12th and 20 at Grindon Lough on 30th (RG/EL/WB). Many records concerning smaller numbers.

Bewick Swan:-

4 at Gosforth Park on 11th (per MB) and 1 at Wingates Moor on 19th (MA/IH).

Merlin:-

A male at Gosforth Park on 5th (ER).

Kestrel:-

A male at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.).

Water Rail:-

Over 4 at Bamburgh on 3rd (PRE) and 1 near trap on 5th (B.R.S.). 1 trapped at Hauxley on 18th (H.R.S.).

Moorhen:-

50 - 60 at Cresswell on 18th (IH/MA) and 5 at Holywell Ponds the next day (OPJ).

Coot:-

Only 30 - 40 at Holywell Ponds throughout month (CED). 70 on 12th dropped to 48 on 18th at Bolam (IH).

Oystercatcher:-

A maximum of 89 at St. Mary's Island on 26th (OPJ).

Grey Plover:-

3 flew N. at Cresswell on 4th (MH) and 1 at Budle Bay on 5th (B.R.S.).

Golden Plover:-

150 at Cresswell on 18th (IH/MM). 40 near Wallsend on 20th (DR). On 22nd, c100 at Whittle Dene and c50 at Grindon Lough on 30th (RG/EL/WB).

Turnstone:-

c30 at Hauxley on shore on 26th (H.R.S.).

Snipe:-

c200 at Gosforth Park on 5th dropped to 6 on 25th (ER et al).

Jack Snipe:-

\*SEE ADDENDUM. 2 at Linton on 4th and single birds at Bamburgh on 3rd, Warkworth on 11th, Whittle Dene on 18th and Hauxley on 19th.

Woodcock:-

2 at Gosforth Park on 11th (MH).

Curlew:-

30 - 40 present at Hauxley during most of month (H.R.S.).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

c100 in Budle Bay on 5th (B.R.S.).

Common Sandpiper:-

1 on the river at Warkworth on 18th (ER).

Knot:-

On 1st, approximately 500 flew over North Shields in 3 flocks from Jarrow Slake direction towards St. Mary's Island (AB). On the 5th, 400 (approximately) in Budle Bay (B.R.S.) and 200 at Hauxley (H.R.S.). c50 at Hartley on 26th (AB).

/Purple Sandpiper

Purple Sandpiper:-

Only 12 at Stag Rocks on 5th (B.R.S.). 10 at Hauxley on 26th (H.R.S.).

Dunlin:-

c200 at Alnmouth on 1st (JHD) remained until 18th (ER) and 300 at Budle Bay on 5th (B.R.S.).

Sanderling:-

Fluctuated between 30 and 70 during the month at Hauxley (H.R.S.). 60 at Hartley on 26th (DC/FC).

Gulls:-

A constant southerly passage off Cresswell on 18th at 2 - 300 per hour. Greater Black Backed and Common being the major species involved (MH).

Lesser Black Backed Gull:-

3 at Ashington in flock of 350 gulls on 18th (MM/IH).

Herring Gull:-

1 at Ashington Tip had an empty small tin of "Heinz Baked Beans" stuck on to one of its feet, causing it to dangle down as it flew away (IH/MM).

Auks:-

On 31st, during strong W. wind, 60 flew S. off St. Mary's Island during 1½ hours (JDP).

Stock Dove:-

2 at Hartley on 26th (FC).

Woodpigeon:-

c100 roosting at Gosforth Park on 22nd (FC).

Collared Dove:-

7 in a garden in Gosforth. "I have been told that as many as 20 - 30 can be seen here." (EA).

Barn Owl:-

1 at Shankhouse on 4th (MN/MH).

Little Owl:-

1 behind Bamburgh trap on 12th (B.R.S.).

Tawny Owl:-

2 in Gosforth Park on 22nd (FC) and 5 at Bolam on 5th (JDP). 6 heard calling around Fontburn on 19th and another seen near Netherwitton (MH/IH).

Long-eared Owl:-

1 at Bolam on 5th (JDP).

Skylark:-

An influx on 18th with 60 in a field at Linton and a maximum of 600 in one field at Cresswell (IH/MM).

Hooded Crow:-

20 - 30 reported by ER as being in the same area as last month. 6 at Ashington on 18th (IH/MM).

Magpie:-

3 at Linton on 4th (MN/MH).

Jay:-

5 in Gosforth Park on 22nd (FC).

Tits:-

(Blue, Coal, Great). Exceptionally numerous in Gosforth Park during month (EG).

Wren:-

2 in Gosforth Park on 12th (FC).

Fieldfare/Redwing:-

A flock of 180 near Bingfield on 16th (RG/EL/WE). Over 80 near Colt Crag on 26th (MB).

Fieldfare:-

Over 40 at North Shields on 17th (MH). Over 100 flew S. in parties of 10 - 20 at Warkworth on 18th (ER). This movement was also noted at

/Hauxley

Hauxley and at Cresswell c50 were counted. The following day many were in the fields (IM/ML) there at Bolan. 20 at Whitley Bay Cemetery fields on 19th (OPJ) and 50 at Swallow Ponds on 12th and 30th (FC).

Song Thrush:-

A pied bird in Garden of F.C. on 12th.

Blackbird:-

During first week of month, very numerous in Lower Holywell Dene (JDF). A 1A ring found in an owl pellet belonged to a blackbird ringed by H.R.S. in November.

Stonechat:-

A female trapped at Monks' House on 2nd (PRE).

Chiffchaff:-

Both birds still present on 3rd at Bamburgh (PRE).

Dunmoock:-

A small influx at Cresswell on 18th (IM/IH).

Waxwing:-

Single birds at Craster on 1st (PRE) at Fenham Le Moor on 3rd (DGB) and at Warkworth on 26th (per MN).

Greenfinch:-

c300 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (ER) and c100 at a wood near Cresswell on 4th (DR).

Goldfinch:-

2 on 15th at Whittle Dene (JSB/IMA), 1 at Killingworth on 24th (BG).

Linnet:-

c50 at St. Mary's Island on 26th (FC).

Bullfinch:-

Up to 5 seen regularly during month at Hauxley (H.R.S.). 3 at Cresswell on 4th (MN). 40 - 50 at Wingates Moor with Reed Buntings on 19th (MN/IH).

Crossbill:-

2 at Blagdon on 12th - very few cones found (IH).

Chaffinch:-

35 at Belsay on 12th (IH) and 200 - 250 at Wingates Moor on 19th (IM/IH).

Brambling:-

A flock of 200 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (ER). 3 at Druridge Bay on 4th (DR). 5 - 6 at Hallington on 12th (RG/WB/EL).

Yellowhammer:-

c140 at Belsay on 12th (IH).

Corn Bunting:-

A roost of 100+ had developed by Hauxley on 26th with flocks of up to 15 flying to it at dusk (H.R.S.).

Reed Bunting:-

On the 11th at Chevington Burn c100 (ER).

Snow Bunting:-

7 at Swallow Ponds on 11th (IM).

ADENDUM. JACK SNIE:- The 16 seen on 1st December were at LINTON not Gosforth Park. (ML).

At the time of writing (10th February, 1964) the numbers of Grebes off Ross Back Sands are beginning to build up. I would be grateful if anyone seeing these grebes would send me accurate figures of birds seen not estimates.

The next Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th March, 1964 in the Y.M.C.A. Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1. at 7.p.m. Mr. F. Stead will give an illustrated talk on his holidays in Greece. This talk will begin at 7.45.p.m.

All records should reach N. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Walkerville, Newcastle 6 by 8th March, 1964.

# List of Contributors

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# TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

FEBRUARY, 1964

## SUMMARY.

The month opened with gale force North West winds due to pressure being high to the South and low to the North, resulting in ridges and troughs crossing the country from the Atlantic. On the 5th until the 11th, a light westerly airstream predominated due to the establishment of a strong anticyclone over the country. By the 12th this had moved to Spain and from the 13th, an anticyclone over Denmark began to move slowly North into Southern Scandinavia strengthening and causing cyclones to move up the Channel into the continent. This gave a South East airstream and a new anticyclone which had moved from Iceland and settled over British Isles gave calm and very cold weather on the 21st and 22nd when it moved into Germany. An influx of Turdidae was noted at this time and until the end of the month when South to South East winds in our coastal area lead to mild weather, these winds were due to a series of troughs crossing in a North North Easterly direction because of a strong anticyclone over Europe.

The Hen Harrier seen at Colt Crag was probably the same bird as seen at Crag Lough last October. The Chiffchaffs and Spotted Redshank in North Northumberland are still managing to survive. The large flock of Bewick's Swans at Holy Island coincides with a flock seen last year as is the number of Grebes off Ross Back Sands on the 8th which were less numerous towards the end of the month but are building up again in March.

## CLASSIFIED LIST.

### Black-throated Diver:-

A party of 4 on the 22nd rose to 6 on the 23rd off Stag Rocks (B.R.S.). Single birds on sea at Cresswell on the 28th (MM) and Ross on the 29th (MLC).

### Great-northern Diver:-

1 or 2 off Stag and Budle Bay throughout month (B.R.S.). 2 in Holy Island Harbour on the 7th and at Cresswell on the 28th (MM).

### Red-throated Diver:-

A maximum of 50 - 60 off Ross on the 8th and very few later in the month (B.R.S.), at Cresswell, however, on the 28th, 170 were counted including a bird in full Summer plumage (MM).

### Great-crested Grebe:-

1 on river at Warkworth on the 1st (ER). Present throughout month off Ross with maximum of 9 on the 8th (B.R.S.). 3 on sea at Cresswell on the 28th (1 in Summer plumage) of which a pair were displaying (MM). Another pair on S. Northumberland water by end of month (BG).

### Red-necked Grebe:-

Present off Ross and Stag Rocks throughout month with maximum of 27 on the 8th (B.R.S.). 1 in Holy Island Harbour on the 9th (JMB), and another off South Shields Pier on the 26th (MLC).

### Black-necked Grebe:-

2 off Stag Rocks on the 1st (B.R.S.) and 1 off Ross on the 29th (MLC/FGG).

### Slavonian Grebe:-

A maximum on the 8th of 40+ off Ross and 8 off Stag Rocks - while only 5 were seen the following day - by the end of month numbers were of the 10 mark (B.R.S.).

### Little Grebe:-

2 at Bolam on the 22nd and on the 28th/29th, 2 at Grindon, 1 at Seaton Burn and another at Ashington (BG/JSB/IA/MM).

### Fulmar:-

Up to 55 off Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.) and over 40 counted off Seaton Sluice on the 22nd (MM).

Gannet:-

1 or 2 off Stag during the middle of month (7th - 22nd) (B.R.S.).

Cormorant:-

At least 50 off Holy Island Harbour (many in Summer plumage) on 7th (MM).

Shag:-

600 counted between Holy Island and Stag Rocks on the 7th (MM).

Heron:-

1 flew N. off Holy Island on the 8th (JMB) and 2 at Bamburgh on the 16th (B.R.S.). 1 at Colt Crag on the 29th (JEO).

Mallard:-

On the 2nd, 80 at Hallington and 180 at Colt Crag (PJS). 200 at Holborn (ER), and 140 at Capheaton which rose to 200 on the 9th (IH/FC/DC). On the 8th and 28th, over 300 flying around off Seaton Sluice in small scattered flocks (CED/MN/DH). Also on the 9th, 200 at Hartburn and a completely white female at Whittledene (FC/DC/IH) c127 at Whittledene throughout month. Smaller flocks reported from most inland waters.

Teal:-

On the 15th, over 100 at Gosforth Park (MN) and c100 at Holborn and c50 off Cresswell (ER). On the 28th, 250+ at Ashington and 60 on sea at Cresswell (MM). Smaller flocks elsewhere.

Wigeon:-

Well distributed and in fairly large flocks this month 3/500 on Fenham Flats and 200 in Budle Bay on the 9th (PJS/B.R.S.) represented the normal figures for month. c150 at Holywell throughout month, this flock was often seen off Seaton Sluice. c200 at Holborn on the 2nd (ER). 150 at Hartburn on the 9th (FC/DC). c200 on sea at Cresswell on the 28th (MM) and c160 at Grindon on the 29th (JEO).

Pintail:-

The largest total of these birds recorded for many years, involving at least 70 individuals. c30 at Holborn on the 2nd (ER). 10 on Fenham Flats on the 9th (PJS/MN). 6 at Holywell Ponds on the 1st (these were present in January) (JEO/MM). 5 at Ashington and 9 on sea at Cresswell on the 28th (MM) and the next day, 5 were at Grindon (JSB). Many records of smaller flocks.

Shoveler:-

On the 28th, 10 at Ashington and 11 on sea at Cresswell (MM), the following day there were 6 at Grindon (JSB) and 4 at Gosforth Park (MN).

Scaup:-

1 at Colt Crag on the 2nd (PJS) and a female off Bamburgh on the 7th and 8th (B.R.S.). 3 females off Seaton Sluice on the 28th (DH).

Tufted:-

On the 2nd, 20 at Capheaton and 21 at Hallington (PJS). On the 9th, 60 at Hartburn and 9 at Bolam (FC/DC) which rose to 50 on the 22nd (JSB). Also on the 22nd, 177 at Whittledene (JSB) and c55 at Holywell Ponds (CED). The 28th saw 10 at Cresswell (the most this year - MM) and the next day had 60 at Seaton Burn, c20 at Havannah (BG/ER) and 23 at Swallow Ponds (MN).

Pochard:-

105 at Capheaton on the 2nd (PJS) and 90 on the 9th (IH/DC). 96 at Whittledene on the 22nd (FC) and 63 at Bolam (JSB). On the 29th, 50 at Grindon (JEO) and 145 at Seaton Burn (BG/ER) and 12 at Havannah (BG). 65 at Holywell on the 22nd (MN/JEO).

Goldeneye:-

On the 9th, 15 at Colt Crag, 5 at Hallington, 13 at Capheaton and 3 at Whittledene (FC/DC). 2 at Grindon throughout month. Single birds at Bamburgh, Seaton Burn and Seaton Sluice.

Long-tailed Duck:-

On the 8th, a maximum for the month of c60 off Stag Rocks and 8 off Ross (B.R.S.) and a single bird at Seaton Sluice (MN).

/Velvet Scoter

Velvet Scoter:-

5 off Bamburgh on the 8th (B.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

2,750 were counted between Holy Island and Bamburgh on the 7th (MM). A maximum of 120 off Seaton Sluice on the 28th (DH). c100 off Chevington on the 2nd (DC).

Eider:-

1,260 counted between Holy Island and Bamburgh on the 7th (MM) and 16 off Seaton Sluice on the 28th (DH).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Maximums of 17 off Ross on the 7th and 15 off Stag on the 8th (B.R.S.). Small parties and single birds noted at Cresswell and Hauxley.

Goosander:-

On the 1st, 3 at Hartburn (JSB/IA) and the 2nd saw 27 at Hallington, 15 at Colt Crag on the 9th (FC/DC/IH) and 5 at Whittledene on the 22nd (JSB/IA). A male at Chollerford on the 29th (JEO). It should be remembered that most of these birds, when disturbed move from one lake to another - it is therefore very difficult to determine accurately the wintering population.

Shelduck:-

650 between Holy Island Flats and Bamburgh on the 7th (MM), and maximum of 250 off Bamburgh on the 2nd (B.R.S.). 4 in Amble Harbour on the 16th (ER) and 2 flew inland at Hauxley on the 29th (H.R.S.). 5 at Cresswell on the 28th (MM).

Grey Lag Goose:-

9 flew N. over Holborn on the 2nd (ER).

Bean Goose:-

The flock of 15 still present on the 29th at Grindon (JSB/IA).

Brent Goose:-

Only 19 pale breasted seen this month, on the 7th at Fenham Flats (MM).

Mute Swan:-

c135 in Budle Bay throughout month (B.R.S.). 8 at Blaydon Ponds on the 16th (FC) and 6 at Swallow Ponds on the 23rd (MM).

Whooper Swan:-

c20 on Fenham Flats on the 9th (PJS) and 9 on Holy Island Lough (JMB). 5 at Seaton Burn throughout month (BG). 6 at Blaydon Ponds on the 16th and a maximum of 31 at Swallow Ponds during the cold spell in the middle of month (FC). 16 at Bolam on the 1st, 13 at Hartburn, 6 at Whingates on the 8th, 10 at Colt Crag and 39 at Grindon on the 29th (JSB/IA/RG/EL/WB). 3 at Cresswell on the 15th, and 7 on the 28th when 9 were at Ashington (MM).

Bewick's Swan:-

17 (3 immatures) on Holy Island Lough on the 9th (JMB). 8 at Cresswell on the 15th was the same flock seen later, at Ashington on the 28th (MR/RN).

Hen Harrier:-

An adult male at Colt Crag on the 9th (FC/IH/DC).

Merlin:-

Bird present at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.) and other single birds at Havannah on the 14th, Jesmond Dene on the 17th (ER) and at St. Mary's Island on the 29th (JDP).

Kestrel:-

6 reports concerning single birds, 5 of which were seen near Newcastle the other at Bamburgh.

Water Rail:-

On the 15th, over 3 at Bamburgh (B.R.S.). 1 at Hauxley on the 22nd (H.R.S.) and 2 at Gosforth Park on the 23rd (MM/IH).

Moorhen:-

55 at Cresswell on the 15th rose to c80 on the 28th (ER/MM).

Coot:-

45 at Seaton Burn all month (BG). 6 in Amble Harbour on the 16th (ER).



52 at Bolam and 2 at Whittledene on the 22nd (JSB/IA) while the next day saw 60 at Holywell (CED).

Oystercatcher:-

Over 700 between Holy Island and Ross on the 7th, while 450 were counted off Beacons on the 29th (MM/MLC).

Lapwing:-

Over 1,800 near Acklington on the 2nd (DC) and 400 near Seghill on the 16th (EG). On the 28th and 29th many flocks of up to 500 were noted at Ashington, Cresswell, Seaton Burn and Havannah (MM/BG).

Ringed Plover:-

10 at Cresswell on the 28th (MM).

Grey Plover:-

27 on Holy Island flats and 1 in Budle Bay on the 7th (MM). 3 at Cresswell on the 15th and 1 at Amble next day (ER). 1 at Hauxley on the 23rd (H.R.S.).

Golden Plover:-

At Hauxley on the 15th there were "thousands" but by the 22nd there were only 120, many of which had achieved partial Summer plumage in particular one in full Summer plumage was of Northern Race (H.R.S.). On the 2nd, 4,000 at Widdrington, 130 at Broom Hill and 2,000 at Whittle Dene. 255 between Blyth and St. Mary's on the 22nd (MM).

Turnstone:-

100 between Ross and Bamburgh on the 7th (MM).

Snipe:-

30 - 40 at Hauxley during the month (H.R.S.). 10 at Swallow Ponds on the 27th (FC). 32 at Bamburgh on the 22nd (B.R.S.) and 21+ at Gosforth Park on the 29th (MN).

Jack Snipe:-

2 at Bamburgh on the 15th and at Hauxley on the 22nd (B.R.S./H.R.S.) and at Gosforth Park (MN). Single birds at Whittledene on the 22nd (JEO), Cresswell on the 28th (MM) and near Ponteland on the 29th (PAG).

Woodcock:-

4 at Gosforth Park on the 10th (MH).

Curlew:-

20 in Budle Bay on the 7th (MM) and 50 at Grindon on the 29th (RG/EL/WB).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

520 between Holy Island and Bamburgh on the 7th (MM), c400 on Holy Island on the 9th (JMB) and c500 at Ross at high tide on the 29th (MLC).

Redshank:-

4 at Swallow Ponds on the 23rd (MN) and c200 at Cresswell on the 28th (MM).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 at Fenham Flats on the 9th (per PJS).

Knot:-

900 counted along shore from Holy Island to Stag Rocks on the 7th (MM). c200 at Hauxley on the 22nd (H.R.S.). 380+ at Seaton Sluice on the 8th (CED) and the same flock at St. Mary's Island on the 28th (MH).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Over 80 at Stag Rocks on the 8th (B.R.S.) and 40 at Seaton Sluice on the 22nd (MM).

Dunlin:-

3,450 between Holy Island and Stag Rocks on the 7th (MM).

Sanderling:-

1,200 in Holy Island area on the 7th (MM). 175 at Cresswell on the 28th.

Common Gull:-

A roost of 2,000 in Holy Island Harbour (JMB).

/Razorbill



Razorbill:-

On the 22nd a bird on sea off Stag Rocks showing white primaries.

Guillemot:-

A total of 7 off Stag Rocks during month (B.R.S.).

Puffin:-

4 off Stag on the 8th (B.R.S.) and 1 in Amble Harbour on the 15th (ER).

Barn Owl:-

1 quartering at Cresswell on the 28th (MM).

Little Owl:-

1 in Holywell Village on the 2nd (CED).

Long-eared Owl:-

6 near Ponteland on the 23rd (IH/MM).

Green Woodpecker:-

1 in Bamburgh trap area (B.R.S.).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

On the 22nd at Gosforth Park 3, and 2 at Whittledene (MN/JEO). 1 heard in full song at Bamburgh on the 1st (B.R.S.).

Skylark:-

Only 30 at Hauxley until the 22nd when there were 70 (H.R.S.). The 22nd also saw a great influx of many hundreds between Blyth and St. Mary's Island and 500 counted at Swallow Ponds (DC). Small influxes noted on the 25th at Tynemouth (ER) and on the 28th at Cresswell when flocks of 30 came in (MM).

Hooded Crow:-

28 near Newcastle throughout month (ER). 1 in Holy Island Harbour on the 9th (JMB) and 20+ at Ashington on the 28th (MM). These are the largest numbers reported for many years.

Nagpie:-

4 at Swallow Ponds on the 22nd (SM) and 4 at Ashington on the 28th (MM).

Marsh Tit:-

8 at Hartburn on the 12th (DC/FC).

Dipper:-

1 at Hallington on the 9th (FC/IH/DC).

Mistle Thrush:-

Very small movement on the 28th - 29th when first bird seen at Hauxley since November and in dunes at Cresswell (H.R.S/RN).

Fieldfare:-

60 at Seaton Burn on the 14th (ER) and c200 at Cresswell the next day (RN). On the 21st - 22nd there was a very noticeable influx. Many flocks of up to 150 in Rothbury area (ER). 20 at Meggies Burn, 40 at Blyth Cemetery and 200 at Hartley (MM). Over 50 at Swallow Ponds (MN) and 100 near Seghill (SM). 14 came in on the 23rd at Hauxley (H.R.S.). Again on the 28th - 29th a small movement took place coupled with that of Song Thrushes when there were at least 100 at Cresswell (MM) and c200 in Holywell Dene (JDP).

Song Thrush:-

A notable influx on the 28th, when 10 in the dunes and many elsewhere at Cresswell (MM/RN).

Redwing:-

On the 22nd, a few hundred flew to roost in Gosforth Park (BG). Very few around except when influx occurred on this day at Blyth (60) and St. Mary's Island (30).

Blackbird:-

A slight influx on the 23rd at Hauxley and Bamburgh. Very common at Cresswell on the 28th (MM).

Chiffchaff:-

2 at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.).

Pipits (Meadow/Rock):-

A noticeable influx after the 22nd at Hauxley (H.R.S.).

/"Alba" Wagtail

"Alba" Wagtail:-

2 flew in from sea at Amble on the 29th (ER) and an influx in Whitley Bay area on the 29th (JDP).

Waxwing:-

2 in Gosforth on the 16th (SH) and 5 near Rothbury on the 21st (ER).

Goldfinch:-

5 at Bamburgh on the 8th (B.R.S.).

Linnet:-

Heard singing at Bamburgh on the 1st and had returned to Hauxley area by end of month.

Bullfinch:-

On the 9th, 6 at Hauxley (H.R.S.) and 12 at Colt Crag (DC). A flock of 20 at Prestwick on the 23rd (MM/IH).

Chaffinch:-

50 - 60 at Hartburn on the 9th (DC) and 100 at Moor Plantation on the 22nd (SH) when more than usual occurred with Greenfinches at Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Brambling:-

10 at New Horton Grange on the 22nd (SM). 2 at Cresswell on the 28th (MM/RN).

Corn Bunting:-

c30 at Hauxley on the 9th (H.R.S.). 3 at St. Mary's Island on the 22nd (JDP) and a flock of 12 near Forest Hall on the 26th (FC). 3 singing males along West Moor Road on the 28th (MM).

Snow Bunting:-

19 flew N. past Stag Rocks on the 2nd (B.R.S.) and on the 22nd there were 40 - 50 on Town Moor (BG) and c50 at Swallow Ponds (RN).

Tree Sparrow:-

c50 at Whittledene on the 2nd (PJS).

ADDENDUM:-

On the 2nd of January an adult male Great Grey Shrike was picked up dead in lower Holywell Dene. Its weight was 55grams. and in its crop it had the lower mandible of a Bank Vole. (per CED.)

CONTRIBUTORS:- I. Armstrong. Bamburgh Ringing Station. J. M. Bayldon. J. S. Booth. W. Brady. M. L. Chalmers. F. Colley. D. Collinson. C. E. Douglas. E. Galloway. P. A. Geraghty. F. G. Grey. Miss R. Grey. I. Harrison. Hauxley Ringing Station. M. Hodgson. D. Howey. Miss E. Lobley. M. Marquiss. S. Moffitt. M. Nattrass. R. Norman. J. E. Orton. J. D. Parrack. E. Robson. P. J. Stead.

Brian Galloway is undertaking a project called "The Birds of Killingworth". Any records of unusual species, flocks, wintering of summering birds out of season and breeding would be most welcome. The older members of the Club who may have access to records prior to 1958 are earnestly asked to delve into their files for this information. Will you please send all your information, no matter how small, on the above-mentioned topic to either B. Galloway, 59 Whitecroft Road, Killingworth Station, Newcastle 12, or to me, when you send in your monthly records.

Will members who have acquired "The Birds of Tees Side" by Mr. P. J. Stead, note that there is an error in the date of the Broad-billed Sandpiper which should read 1961 not 1962 (PJS).

NOTICE:-

The Committee wish to announce that the Tyneside Bird Club's Annual Report for 1963 is now available price 3s. 6d. + 6 d. postage from Mr. A. Belshaw, 29 Lovaine Place, North Shields. The Report contains a map of Northumberland with all the places mentioned in the bulletins marked on, a Status Survey, Shearwater Identification, a monthly migration report, ringing report and other smaller articles. The Shearwater article has illustrations by J. P. Deacon. We hope you will support the Club by buying a copy.

# T Y N E S I D E   B I R D   C L U B

## MARCH 1964 BULLETIN

### SUMMARY

An anticyclone which moved up the North Sea to the N. of Scotland dominated our weather until the 10th of the month. This resulted in a cold easterly air stream which brought falls of snow on the 4th. From the 11th to the 19th, a strong anticyclone became established over Scandinavia, the E. - S.E. winds bringing heavy rain on the weekend of the 14th and 15th. From the 19th until the 24th, the situation became cyclonic with deep depressions W. of Ireland, giving us southerly winds. Pressure began to rise over the country on the 25th, and until the end of the month, the whole country was again within the circulation of an anticyclone which was centred well to the N.E. of the British Isles resulting in S.E. winds.

One interesting feature of the month was the large numbers of Whooper and Bewick Swans recorded. Flocks of 41 and 21 respectively being reported from inland waters.

The first Summer visitors arrived on the 24th, in spite of the cold weather. The Black Redstart was the specie which caught most attention, over seven having been reported - two still present on the 7th April.

From the 29th onwards, large flocks of Blackbirds were seen right up the coast (except at Bamburgh!).

During the month many dead sea birds were picked up all along the coastline. The Long-tailed Duck appeared to be mainly affected.

Two Great Grey Shrikes seen towards the end of the month may have been birds that had wintered in the county and were moving down to the coast to await favourable winds for departure to the continent.

With the return of the Wheatears now firmly established in their inland breeding haunts, it seems as if Spring is here at last. So we can look forward to warmer weather with some interesting bird watching thrown in.

Included with the Bulletin are copies of a breeding census form. The Committee hope that all members will take part in this census and return the completed forms to the Recorder or Dr. J. D. Parrack, 1 Links Court, Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

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Will members please note the Club's Annual Report for 1963 is now available price 3s. 6d. plus 6d. postage from Mr. A. Belshaw, 29 Lovaine Place, North Shields. The Report has been very well received and sales are excellent, with every indication that a reprint might be necessary, so if you require a copy, please order now to avoid disappointment.

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### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Divers:-

c50 in Cresswell Bay on 8th (IH/MM) and 18 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 14th (JDP). Common in Chevington Burn area on 29th (BG).

#### Black-throated Diver:-

1 off Hauxley on 8th (H.R.S) and 2 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 12th (JDP). 3 off Ross Back Sands on 30th in Summer plumage (B.R.S).

#### Great Northern Diver:-

1 flew S. off Hauxley on 8th (H.R.S) and 3 in Holy Island Harbour on 31st (JMB/MB).



Red-throated Diver:-

A maximum off Ross Back Sands of c20 on 30th (B.R.S.). 3 off Hauxley on 8th and 28th (H.R.S) and many other single birds reported from various parts of the coastline.

Great Crested Grebe:-

A pair still displaying on same water as last month (BG). 2 in Summer plumage off Ross Back Sands on 7th (DR/RN) and 3 off Cresswell the next day (MN/IH).

Red-necked Grebe:-

5 off Ross Back Sands on 7th (DR/RN) and thereafter 1 until 27th (B.R.S).

Slavonian Grebe:-

On the 7th off Ross Back Sands there was a party of c20 and two groups of 10 with single ones here and there (DR/RN). By 30th there were only 5 seen, 4 of which were in Summer plumage (B.R.S).

Little Grebe:-

5 at Grindon on 1st (IH/MN) and from 22nd - 29th birds returned to their usual haunts.

Fulmar:-

Over 200 off Budle Bay on 27th (MN) and 55 counted on castle mount at Bamburgh (B.R.S).

Gannet:-

A total of 15 were seen flying N. during the month, 12 of which were seen on 22nd.

Cormorant:-

18 flew N. off St. Mary's Island in 1½ hours on 12th (JDP).

Heron:-

2 at Halley pikes on 1st (IH/MN) and 2 flew E.N.E. over Bamburgh on 7th (B.R.S). 4 at Cresswell on 28th (MN). Single birds at Palmersville on 29th, Morpeth on 21st and Bamburgh on 27th.

Mallard:-

On 8th there were over 400 on sea at Seaton Sluice (CED) and c300 at Cresswell and by the 21st, numbers had dropped to 200 and 50 respectively (IH/MN). Numbers down to 30 at Gosforth Park on 27th and 40 at Holywell Ponds on 28th (MN/MN).

Teal:-

c200 on sea at Cresswell on 8th (MN/IH) and on 22nd, 30 at North Walbottle and 25 at Holywell Ponds (JSB/IHA/CED) and 25 at Ashington.

Garganey:-

A male at Cresswell on 28th until end of month (RN/MN et al) and another at Prestwick Carr on 22nd (ER).

Gadwall:-

A male at Holywell Ponds on 22nd until end of month (CED et al).

Wigeon:-

A maximum at Grindon of over 200 on 4th (ER). 300 at Cresswell on 8th rose to 400 on 22nd (IH/MN) and only 100 there on 28th. At Hauxley on 27th/28th, 60 were off shore (H.R.S). 40 at Whittle Dene on 8th (P.A.G) and a maximum of 29 at Holywell Ponds on 22nd (CED).

Pintail:-

9 at Grindon on 4th (ER) and on 8th there were 4 on sea at Seaton Sluice (CED) and 3 at Holywell Ponds (JDP). In the Cresswell area there were 29 on 14th (RN) many of which were seen at Ashington and Linton throughout the month.

Shoveler:-

8 at Ashington on 8th (MN) and c30 on the sea at Cresswell (MN/IH). 9 at Gosforth Park on 10th and 3 there on 29th (DR). The first 3 of the season at Holywell Ponds on 22nd (CED).

Tufted Duck:-

There were 30 at Seaton Burn on 8th which fell to 12 on 22nd, 21 at Havannah on 8th (BG). A maximum of 58 at Holywell Ponds on 29th (CED), c25 at Gosforth Park on 25th (IH) and 22 there on 30th (CW/JPD).

/Pochard



Pochard:-

190 at Seaton Burn on 8th decreased to 30 on 22nd (BG). 57 at Holywell Ponds on 22nd fell to 50 on 29th (CED). 22 at Cresswell on 22nd/23rd (PY). 25 at Ellington Pond on 21st (SM), but only 2 on 26th. 10 at Gosforth Park on 10th (DR) and 16 at Ashington on 28th (MN).

Goldeneye:-

On 1st, there were 14 at Greenlee, 13 at Broomlee, 6 at Grindon and 4 at Halleypike (MM/IH). 8 near River Alnmouth on 27th (PY). Single birds and small parties were seen on many of the ponds and from most points of the coastline.

Long-tailed Duck:-

c20 off Ross Back Sands on 8th and several until end of month (B.R.S). 1 at Cresswell on 21st (MLC) was joined by another two and they were still there on 31st (MH). 1 at Holywell Ponds died on 27th (per MM) and 1 at Bamburgh Pool was found dead on 1st April (B.R.S).

Velvet Scoter:-

A male off Seaton Sluice on 15th (PAG).

Common Scoter:-

Over 150 at Seaton Sluice from 15th to 30th (PAG/JHD). 20 off Cresswell on 8th (MM/IH). Large numbers off Stag and Ross Back Sands throughout month (B.R.S).

Eider:-

A maximum of 20 at Seaton Sluice on 29th (CED).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Parties of up to 7 seen at Ross Back Sands, Tynemouth, Stag Rocks, Budle Bay, Cresswell, Chevington and Hauxley.

Goosander:-

On 1st, 11 at Greenlee, 3 at Broomlee and 4 at Halleypikes (IH/MM). 14 at Whittle Dene on 7th (JSB/IHA).

Shelduck:-

164 counted in Budle Bay on 26th (B.R.S).

Bean Goose:-

15 at Grindon until 14th (JSB/IHA et al).

Brent Goose:-

1 on River Tyne near Hexham on 29th and 30th (PAG).

Mute Swan:-

A maximum of 110 in Budle Bay on 26th (B.R.S).

Whooper Swan:-

Two very large flocks reported both of 41 birds, one at Grindon on 1st (IH/MM) and the other at Linton on 21st (MLC). Smaller flocks totalling over 50 were seen in many parts of the area.

Bewick Swan:-

21 at Broomlee on 1st (MM/IH), 8 at Linton on 1st (DR et al) and 2 there on 21st, 1 near Usworth, Durham on 29th (MLC) and 2 at Gosforth Park from 25th to 27th (MM/JHD).

Buzzard:- (Sp?).

1 circling over Durham on 2nd (DTP).

Merlin:-

A female at Bamburgh on 27th (B.R.S).

Kestrel:-

Single birds reported from Newcastle, Sunderland, Weardale, Ponteland, Holywell and Ashington. A pair at Bamburgh (B.R.S).

Black Grouse:-

3 females at Muckle Moss on 14th (JSE/IHA).

Water Rail:-

A maximum of 5 at Bamburgh during month (B.R.S).

Moorhen:-

20 at Cresswell on 8th rose to 35 on 22nd (MM). A pied bird at Ellington on 31st (MH).

/Coot

Coot:-

At Holywell Ponds, over 61 on 29th (CED).

Oystercatcher:-

On 12th, birds were becoming established at inland breeding grounds and this process was almost completed by end of month.

Lapwing:-

c500 at Linton on 1st (DR) and c1000 near Havannah Ponds on 8th (BG). 65 flew S.E. over St. Mary's Island on evening of 23rd were evidently emigrating, (JDP) and a small coasting movement was noted at Hauxley on 27th with many hundreds in the fields on 30th (H.R.S).

Grey Plover:-

34 flew past Ross Back Sands on 30th (B.R.S). 1 at Hauxley on 7th and 3 at St. Mary's Island on 14th (H.R.S/JDP).

Golden Plover:-

400 at Grindon on 1st and 200 there on 8th (JSB/IHA et al). c1000 near Havannah Ponds on 8th were later seen to leave flying high and strongly to N.E. 400 at Widdrington on 26th (BG). 250 near Tranwell Wood on 21st (SM) and over 600 at Upper Holywell Dene on 30th (AB).

Common Snipe:-

A minimum of 80 at Gosforth Park on 22nd (MN) and 45 at Cresswell (MM). c50 during last few days of month at Hauxley (H.R.S). Only 3 at Holywell Ponds on 29th (CED).

Jack Snipe:-

A maximum of 8 at Swallow Ponds on 27th (DC/FC) and 5 at Bamburgh on 7th fell to 1 on 29th (B.R.S). 4 at Linton on 28th (MN) and single birds at Seaton Sluice on 8th (BG), Cresswell on 14th (RN), Ashington on 21st (SM) and Hauxley on 27th (H.R.S).

Woodcock:-

1 heading E.N.E. over St. Mary's Island on 23rd - probably emigrating (JDP). Birds seen at Hexham, Hauxley, Heddon, Tynemouth, Cresswell, Ross Links and Bamburgh during month.

Curlew:-

c200 at Grindon on 1st (IH/MM) fell to 19 on 25th (RG/WB/EL) when a northerly movement of 40 was noted off St. Mary's Island (JDP). Up to 25 at Hauxley during month (H.R.S). Usual breeding pair returned to Holywell Ponds (CED).

Whimbrel:-

1 on shore at Hauxley on 8th. It later flew N. (H.R.S).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

c50 off Ross Back Sands on 30th (B.R.S) and 2 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 31st (JDP).

Common Sandpiper:-

1 at Swallow Ponds on 27th (IH).

Redshank:-

On 22nd at Cresswell there were c80 (MM) and c30 at Holywell Ponds on 28th. The next day 50 were seen at Hauxley (H.R.S).

Knot:-

On 7th and 8th about 150 at Hauxley (H.R.S). 40 near Earsdon on 27th (RN).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Over 26 at St. Mary's Island on 22nd (RN).

Dunlin:-

c150 at Cresswell on 8th and 45 on 22nd (MM). 1 at Blaydon Ponds on 12th (IHA/JSB).

Sanderling:-

At St. Mary's Island on 22nd there were c75 (RN) and c40 on 27th at Hauxley (H.R.S).

Greater B.B. Gull:-

25 immatures flew S. off Seaton Sluice on 15th and 40 at Ponteland on 27th with 6 adults (PAG).

/Lesser

Lesser B. B. Gull:-

11 at Ashington on 22nd (MM/IH) and on 26th, 1 at Gosforth Park (MLC) and 6 on Town Moor (BG). 3 at Swallow Ponds on 28th (MM).

Herring Gull:-

Moving N. at c600 per hour on 26th off Hauxley and smaller numbers until end of month (H.R.S.).

Common Gull:-

A northerly movement of 60 per hour off St. Mary's Island on 12th (JDP).

Glaucous Gull:-

1 flew N. off Hauxley on 26th was a 1st W. (H.R.S.).

Iceland Gull:-

A sub adult flew N. off Hauxley through sand dunes on 15th (H.R.S). A second year bird at Cresswell on 8th (MM).

Kittiwake:-

A southerly passage off St. Mary's on 28th of nearly 1000/hr. (MM).

Sandwich Tern:-

1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 25th (JDP).

Little Owl:-

2 at a nest near Morpeth on 30th (per SM).

Tawny Owl:-

1 at Bamburgh on 31st (B.R.S.).

Skylark:-

Many singing at Cresswell on 8th (IH). Flocks of up to 12 were passing high over Seaton Burn to the N.W. on 22nd (BG). 200 at Hartley on 20th and 2 - 300 at Blyth Bay on 27th many of which came in off sea (MM). On 30th large numbers in Upper Holywell Dene area with a flock of c40 (AB).

Carrion Crow:-

30 at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (JDP). During morning of 29th, c40 coasted S. (H.R.S).

Hooded Crow:-

A maximum of 7 at Ashington tip on 8th and 3 at Chevington on 29th (IH/MM). 2 at Longhirst on 26th (SM) and 2 at Bamburgh on 30th and 1 on 31st. Over 50 at Seaton Burn on 21st (ER) and single birds at Blaydon, Ross Links and 3 at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (JDP).

Great Tit:-

1 appeared at Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S).

Blue Tit:-

Flocks of c50 in Tranwall Woods on 21st (SM).

Willow Tit:-

3 at Hulne Park on 1st (JHD) and over 6 near Hexham on 30th (PAG).

Long-tailed Tit:-

10 at Gosforth Park on 25th (DC).

Nuthatch:-

2 visiting a garden in Hamsterly Mill (nr. Consett) on 2nd (ER).

Dipper:-

1 at Mitford on 21st (SM).

Fieldfare:-

The largest flocks reported were of 200 at Cresswell on 8th (MM/IH), 170 at North Walbottle on 22nd (IHA/JSB), 120 at Havannah on 23rd (MM) and over 100 at Seaton Burn on 29th (DR). Smaller flocks were scattered throughout the region.

Song Thrush:-

A definite increase at Hauxley on 1st and from 26th until end of month when 3 continental race were trapped (H.R.S). A bird sitting on eggs in Newcastle on 20th (RN).

Redwing:-

3 flocks of 60 were seen, one at Cresswell on 8th (MM/IH), another at North Walbottle on 22nd (IHA/JSB) and final one at Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S). c30 at Havannah on 23rd (MM).



Ring Ouzel:-

One seen and heard in Tynemouth on 31st (AB/CB).

Blackbird:-

At Hauxley, birds were noted moving through during whole of month, and up to 150 were roosting in the woods from 29th onwards. Large increases were also noted on 29th at Chevington (BG), on 30th in Upper Holywell Dene (AB) and c200 at Holy Island on 31st (JMB/MB).

Wheatear:-

First recorded was 1 at Hartley on 24th (JDP) and on next day at Peel Craggs (WB/RG/EL). By 26th, single birds at Blyth Bay, Ashington and Mitford (SM). On 27th they were present in high Cheviot valleys above Alwinton (PY) and 3 in lower Holywell Dene (AB/MH). On 30th, 1 at St. Mary's Island (CED) and 3 at Holy Island on 31st (JMB/MB).

Stonechat:-

1 in Bamburgh Dunes on 28th (IHA/JSB).

Black Redstart:-

A pair of adults at Bondicar on 29th (IH/BG) and 1 female at Hauxley (H.R.S). On 26th, a female at St. Mary's Island (SM) and a pair at North Shields until end of month (MH). A male at Holy Island on 31st (JMB/MB).

Robin:-

An influx at Hauxley from 26th - 30th (H.R.S) and on 31st at St. Mary's Island there were 3 on the shore - very pale breasted (JDP).

Phylloscopus:-

1 at Cleadon Hills, South Shields on 30th and 1 at St. Mary's Island on 31st (MLC/JDP).

Chiffchaff:-

Wintering pair last seen at Bamburgh on 8th, a single bird trapped on 26th and remained until 2nd April (B.R.S).

Goldcrest:-

2 in dunes at Bamburgh on 28th were still there on 30th (B.R.S).

Dunnock:-

15 to 20 in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 22nd (RN).

Meadow Pipit:-

A small coasting movement northwards was noted at Hauxley from 27th, and on 28th there were c50 in a very small area (H.R.S).

Pied Wagtail:-

On 22nd, there were 6 at Ashington and 5 at Cresswell, 6 at Swallow Ponds on 28th when there were at least 8 in Bamburgh (MM/B.R.S).

White Wagtail:-

1 near St. Mary's Island on 30th (CED). 2 "alba" in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 29th (RN). 1 at Hauxley on 28th and a flock of 16 "alba" there on 27th (H.R.S).

Grey Wagtail:-

This species is now almost back to status of years prior to 1962. A flood of reports of birds seen in breeding areas inland. 1 at Tynemouth from 25th - 31st (MH) and 2 at Bamburgh on 28th (B.R.S).

Waxwing:-

A maximum of 7 stayed in E. Newcastle from 1st to 3rd (MB). 4 in Wideopen on 21st (SM). 4 in Gosforth on 25th and still 2 on 26th (BG).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 in Holywell Dene on 23rd (JDP) and another at Budle Bay on 31st (B.R.S).

Starling:-

Small coasting movements noted towards end of month.

Greenfinch:-

c300 at Prestwick Carr on 22nd (ER).

Goldfinch:-

12 near Grindon on 1st (IH/MM). 2 near Mitford on 22nd (DR) and 1 at Holywell Ponds on 28th (MM).

/Linnet



Linnet:-

Increases noted at end of month. A flock of 30 in Holywell Dene on 30th (AB). c60 at St. Mary's Island and 40 in Whitley Bay Cemetery and a further increase in Holywell Dene on 31st (JDP). A roost of c150 formed in Gosforth Park from 16th - 20th but by 21st it had dispersed (FC).

Bullfinch:-

6 at Hulne Park on 1st (JHD) and over 6 at Hexham on 30th (PAG). Smaller numbers reported from Holywell Dene, Bamburgh, Newton and Linton.

Chaffinch:-

Over 100 at Greenlee on 1st (MM/IH). A flock of 50 at Tranwell on 26th (SM) and a flock of over 40 in Upper Holywell Dene on 30th (AB). c200 at Prestwick on 22nd (ER).

Brambling:-

c100 at Prestwick on 22nd (ER) and a male with Chaffinches and c50 Greenfinches in Holywell Dene on 30th (AB).

Corn Bunting:-

The roost at Bamburgh reached 60 on 7th (B.R.S).

Snow Bunting:-

Numbers dropped considerably at South Shields during month. On 30th, 1 at Whitburn and c30 at Cleadon Hills (MLC) and 1 at St. Mary's Island on 1st. 3 at Stag Rocks on 15th and 1 remained until 28th (B.R.S).

Tree Sparrow:-

On 31st, over 40 in Holywell Dene - a big increase (JDP). 6 at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S).

List of Contributors

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Membership British Trust for Ornithology

Shortly, Club members who are not known to be members of the B.T.O. will receive with their monthly bulletin, a leaflet offering membership and a specimen copy of the first issue of new "B.T.O. News". This newsletter (published every six weeks) is a new venture on the part of the "Trust" to keep members up-to-date with recent happening in the "bird world" and also includes articles on bird ringing and the bird observatories.

Also the B.T.O.'s quarterly publication is to be increased by about 100 pages a year to incorporate the publication "Bird Migration". Obviously all this has to be paid for, so the B.T.O. are appealing to everyone who is interested in birds to contribute by becoming a member of the Trust. Anyone who is interested in joining the B.T.O. should write to the Secretary, who will be pleased to furnish any information required.

The address is:-

Mr. D. Wilson,  
Secretary,  
British Trust for Ornithology,  
Beech Grove,  
Tring,  
Herts.

Some of the enquiries carried out by the B.T.O. are given overleaf.

/Trust

### Trust-aided Investigations

This is an official B.T.O. enquiry, approved and supervised by the Scientific Advisory Committee and organised by a member with help from the Trust office.

STATUS OF SMALL BIRDS OF PREY AND CORVIDS (Ian Prestt, c/o The Nature Conservancy, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon).

This new enquiry is now in progress and the Organiser would welcome additional offers of help and be pleased to supply full details. The species concerned are the Buzzard, Sparrow-Hawk, Merlin, Kestrel, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Carrion Crow, Magpie and Jay. In addition to the general enquiry there is also a detailed study being carried out involving the detailed censusing of areas which are particularly well known to the observers. If any member has a really detailed knowledge of the birds of prey in his area his help will be extremely valuable.

### B.T.O. Permanent Enquiries

These enquiries are similar to Trust-aided Investigations but are established on a permanent basis. The larger enquiries are administered by full-time research workers on the B.T.O. staff under the supervision of a scientific committee or a specialist sub-committee.

NEST RECORD SCHEME (H. Mayer?Gross, B.T.O., Beech Grove, Tring, Hertfordshire).

New contributors to this permanent enquiry will be welcome, especially if they are able to maintain observations on breeding in an area over all or a large part of the breeding season. Full details may be obtained from the Trust office.

BREEDING SEASON CENSUS OF COMMON BIRDS (K. Williamson, B.T.O., Tring).

BIRD RINGING SCHEME (R. Spencer, B.T.O., Tring).

ANNUAL CENSUS OF HERONRIES (J. Stafford, Westering, Moor Lane, Brighstone, Isle of Wight).

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Will members who find ringed sea birds (especially if they have monel rings) please get in touch with Mr. P. Yeoman before reporting the recovery to the B.T.O. Ringing Office. It is quite usual to find the odd Shag or Eider along the coast or on the Farnes which were ringed by the N.H.S. Mr. Yeoman's address is 19 Clyvedon Rise, South Shields.

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All reports for April to be sent to the Recorder, M. Bell, by 7th May, 1964. M. Bell's address is 15 Rosewood Crescent, Walkerville, Newcastle 6.

The next Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, 14th May, 1964 in the Y.M.C.A., Blakett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne.

T Y N E S I D E   B I R D   C L U B  
A P R I L   1 9 6 4   B U L L E T I N

CLASSIFIED LIST

Divers:-

Over 300 on the sea at Cresswell on 7th (MM) and 9 flew N. off Hauxley on 11th (H.R.S.).

Black-throated Diver:-

At Cresswell, 2 flew N. on 10th (JDP) and 1 present the next day and on 18th (JSB/KHA).

Great Northern Diver:-

On the 2nd, there were 2 in Holy Island Harbour (MM) and 1 off St. Mary's Island (JDP).

Red-throated Diver:-

c50 off Ross Links on 2nd (B.R.S) and 3 off St. Mary's Island (JDP). 3 at Howick on 8th (MLC) and off Stag on 11th. On 18th, 2 flew N. off Hauxley (H.R.S) and 1 off Cresswell (JSB/IHA).

Slavonian Grebe:-

20 off Ross on 2nd, many of which were coming into Summer plumage (B.R.S.).

Little Grebe:-

2 at Ashington from 4th to 18th, when 2 were at Cresswell and 2 at Woolsington. 4 at Grindon from 19th to 25th (JSB/IHA).

Manx Shearwater:-

1 and 4 flew N. off St. Mary's on 2nd (JDP) and the next day 1 flew N. off Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Fulmar:-

Northerly movements of 120 - 180 per hour were noted on 4th, 19th and 25th. A maximum of 62 on ledges at Bamburgh on 19th (B.R.S.). 15 at Hartley on 15th and 3 flew N.W. over Radcliffe Village on 16th (PR/BG).

Gannet:-

The largest northerly movement reported was of 23 off Seahouses on 1st (MM). Smaller numbers involved on 4th, 11th and 19th.

Heron:-

2 at Gosforth Park from 3rd to 7th (BG et al). 3 at Cresswell on 1st and 1 at Bamburgh on 11th (MLC/B.R.S.).

Mallard:-

30 at Gosforth Park on 7th (BG). Several birds from various parts of the county had successfully hatched eggs by the end of the month.

Teal:-

c80 at Gosforth Park dropped to 40 on 20th - a fall in numbers which was reflected in most other areas towards end of month.

Gargany:-

A pair at Gosforth Park on 12th and 14th and what was probably the same pair seen at Swallow Ponds on 19th and remained until end of month (BG et al). A male at Cresswell on 7th and 10th (MM/MB).

Gadwall:-

On 2nd, 2 at Seaton Burn (IH) and a male at Holywell Ponds which remained until 4th (CED/MM). A pair at Cresswell on 10th (MB) and a male at Gosforth Park on 18th (RN).

Wigeon:-

150 at Cresswell on 1st (MLC) and c100 in Budle Bay the next day (B.R.S.). 14 at Gosforth Park on 20th (BG) and 8 at Grindon on 21st (DB) were the largest numbers reported towards end of month.

Pintail:-

6 pairs at Linton on 1st (MLC) most of which were seen until 11th both there and at Cresswell. 2 at Gosforth Park on 4th (MN) and a pair on Holy Island on 25th (WRS).

/Shoveler

Shoveler:-

Present in small numbers at most of the major 'duck' ponds during month.

Scaup:-

A male off Hauxley on 15th (H.R.S.).

Tufted Duck:-

The largest flocks recorded were on 4th when 35 were at Hartburn, 35 at Bolam (EM) and 80 at Holywell Ponds (MM).

Pochard:-

41 at Holywell on 2nd had all left by 13th (JDP). 3 at Cresswell on 25th (MLC). A few other birds were seen in earlier half of month.

Goldeneye:-

15 at Newton on 4th dropped to 6 on 11th (JSB/PRE). 11 at Wingates on 9th fell to 3 on 26th (MM/IH).

Long-tailed Duck:-

3 at Cresswell on 1st, 2 of which remained until 4th (MLC et al). 15 off Holy Island on 2nd (MM). 2 off Hauxley on 5th and 10 off Stag on 11th (H.R.S./B.R.S.).

Velvet Scoter:-

7 off Ross Links on 2nd and 1 flew S. off Stag on 11th (B.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

On the 1st, c200 off Seaton Sluice (MLC) and c100 off Stag and 100 off Ross Links (B.R.S.). Up to 40 off Hauxley during month (H.R.S.).

Eider:-

On the 1st, 20 off Seaton Sluice (MLC) and 30 in Budle Bay (B.R.S.). c200 off Hauxley on 11th (H.R.S.).

Goosander:-

6 at Hallington on 5th and 1 near Shield on Wall on 23rd (PAG).

Shelduck:-

c60 in Budle Bay on 2nd (B.R.S.).

Grey Lag Goose:-

On 25th, a single bird at Holy Island (WRS) and the next day one was at Wingates Moor (MM/IH).

Pink-footed Goose:-

1 flew N. off Whitley Bay on 4th (JDP).

Brent Goose:-

A dark breasted bird at Boulner on 11th (PRE).

Mute Swan:-

80 at Budle Bay on 2nd (B.R.S.).

Whooper Swan:-

17 at Grindon on 12th, dropped to 1 on 28th (DB et al). 5 at Linton and Cresswell on 25th (MM/MN).

Sparrow Hawk:-

A male and female seen in Gosforth Park during month. A male at Sunderland on 20th (PH) and one at Seaton Burn in 25th (PAG).

Merlin:-

A female at Gosforth Park on 4th (JPD/CW).

Kestrel:-

Single birds seen at Boldon, Washington and near Tyne Bridge.

Black Grouse:-

A blackcock near Sweetthope on 12th (PAG).

Water Rail:-

4 at Bamburgh on 3rd (B.R.S.).

Coot:-

80 on Holy Island Lough on 2nd (MM).

Lapwing:-

Many flocks of up to 200 in Hauxley area on 4th (H.R.S.).

/Ringed Plover



Ringed Plover:-

c20 in Budle Bay on 2nd (B.R.S.).

Grey Plover:-

1 at Cresswell on 6th was joined by another on 11th, both of which remained until 18th (MB et al). 1 at Hauxley on 11th (H.R.S.).

Golden Plover:-

Flocks of over 180 birds were reported at Hauxley on 6th, Craster on 4th, Ashington on 7th and Grindon on 19th. By 25th, however, the Grindon flock was down to 80 (SM/IHA et al).

Turnstone:-

c100 in Budle Bay on 2nd (H.R.S.) and 83 at Boulmer on 11th (PRE).

Snipe:-

c100 at Gosforth Park on 7th (BG). Smaller flocks of up to 14 reported from other ponds.

Jack Snipe:-

From 1st until 18th, there were 2 at Bamburgh (B.R.S). 2 at Brenkly on 1st (IH) and 1 at Seaton Burn on 2nd (DR) when another was in Budle Bay (H.R.S.). 4 at Swallow Ponds on 5th (DC) and 1 at Ashington on 7th (MH).

Woodcock:-

Birds seen at Ravensworth, Bywell, Longhoughton and Gosforth.

Curlew:-

On the 2nd, 8, 5 and 11 came in off sea from S.E. at St. Mary's Island (JDP). 150 at Beadnell on 5th (SM) and 8 at Holywell on 10th (MH). 10 at Hauxley until 18th (H.R.S.).

Whimbrel:-

2 at Hazelrigg on 28th (ER).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

7 in full Summer plumage at Cresswell on 18th (JSB/IHA).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

5 in Budle Bay on 1st (B.R.S.) and 2 at Newton on 5th (SM).

Common Sandpiper:-

1 at Staward by 12th (JDP) and single birds seen until 17th when there were 6+ near Thropton (MB/ER) thereafter, numbers steadily increasing.

Redshank:-

c100 at Hauxley on 5th (H.R.S.) and 75 at Cresswell on 7th (MB).

Greenshank:-

Single birds seen at Swallow Ponds on 18th, Holywell Ponds on 26th and Gosforth Park on 29th (CED/RN et al).

Knot:-

Over 250 near Hauxley on 11th and 15th (H.R.S.). Smaller flocks at other coastal areas during early part of month.

Purple Sandpiper:-

A maximum of 70 at Stag on 11th (B.R.S.) when 18 were at Hauxley (H.R.S.). 30 at St. Mary's Island on 4th (MN).

Dunlin:-

c100 at Cresswell on 1st (MLC) and 300+ at Budle Bay on 2nd (B.R.S.).

Sanderling:-

Over 60 at St. Mary's Island on 4th (MM/MN). 30 at Hauxley on 18th (H.R.S.).

Ruff:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 9th (JDP).

Grey Phalarope:-

A bird in Winter plumage by Seahouses Harbour on 1st (MH).

Great Skua:-

One flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 4th (MH) and another on 19th (JDP).

/Lesser B. B. Gull



Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

10 at Gosforth Park on 14th and several flew W. over Killingworth the same day. Many between Ashington and Widdrington on 25th (BG).

Iceland Gull:-

One off shore at Hauxley on 15th (H.R.S.). /One at Holywell Ponds on 9th and 18th (MH/PAG)\_7

Glaucous/Iceland:-

1 off Hauxley on 11th (H.R.S.).

Little Gull:-

One flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 11th (SM).\_7

Black Tern:-

One at Holywell Ponds on 20th (JDP).

Commic Tern:-

2 flew N. off Craster on 6th (SM) and 1 at St. Mary's Island on 13th (MH).

Roseate Tern:-

1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 28th (JDP).

Sandwich Tern:-

1 at St. Mary's Island on 10th and on 11th, a heavy northerly passage was noted and this species was recorded frequently thereafter.

Black Guillemot:-

1 near Farnes on 1st (per MM).

Stock Dove:-

1 at Bamburgh on 2nd (B.R.S.). 1 at Seaton Sluice on 19th and more than usual in Gosforth during month (BG).

Wood Pigeon:-

Over 200 near Stannington on 5th (ER).

Cuckoo:-

First was one at Prestwick Carr on 12th (ER). On 26th there was one at Chevington Burn and another at Mitford (BG/IH). 1 at Bedlington on 27th (JDP) and one at Hauxley on 28th (H.R.S.).

Barn Owl:-

On 14th, one was found dead near Seaton Delaval and 1 was seen at Killingworth (MH/BG).

Tawny Owl:-

A bird with 3 young on 20th near Stanley (DB).

Long-eared Owl:-

1 at Hauxley on 3rd and 5th (H.R.S.).

Swift:-

1 at Wingates on 26th (IH) was the first reported this year. A bird at Gosforth the next day, 2 seen on 28th and 6 at Whittledene on 30th.

Swallow:-

10 on 14th at Bywell (PR). Very few until 18th when a small influx occurred, after this date this species rapidly spread over the whole area.

House Martin:-

2 at St. Mary's Island on 18th (SM). 1 at Whittledene on 30th (PAG).

Sand Martin:-

3 birds were seen on 11th at 3 different localities and from then on numbers quickly built up especially at the inland breeding sites, e.g., 60 at Bywell on 14th (PR).

Raven:-

Noted in the Cheviots on 6th.

Crows (Sp)?:-

A coasting southerly movement was noted from 9th to 11th when small parties were seen off Hauxley, Cresswell and St. Mary's Island.

/Hooded.

Hooded Crow:-

7 at Ashington Tip on 7th (MH) one of which remained until 18th. Other birds seen at Hauxley, Bamburgh, Holy Island, Newton, Craster, Ross and South Shields during first fortnight.

Fieldfare:-

On 11th, 2 flew in off sea at Cresswell and 1 came in at Hauxley (IHA/H.R.S.). 25 at Seaton Burn on 27th (MH). A few individuals still present near the coastal regions at end of month. 100 at Gosforth Park on 21st (ER).

Song Thrush:-

Many were noted passing through Hauxley during month, especially on 18th and 19th (H.R.S.).

Redwing:-

Many roosting in Gosforth Park on 7th with Fieldfares - the flock estimated to be over 500 (MH). 27 at Longhoughton on 4th (JSB/KHA).

Ring Ouzel:-

Recorded frequently in breeding sites from 3rd onwards. A male and female at Hauxley on 19th (H.R.S.).

Blackbird:-

Departure of 3 flocks of 20 with 20 Redwings and 6 Fieldfares heading N.E. over Hartley on 2nd (JDF). This movement continued until the 5th and was noted also at Hauxley.

Wheatear:-

Birds building up during month in breeding haunts and numerous scattered records from coastal areas.

Stonechat:-

1 at Prestwick on 3rd (EM).

Whinchat:-

1 at Tanfield Ponds on 13th (RMP). On 19th, there were 2 at Bamburgh and 2 at Cresswell (B.R.S./RN). From 25th onwards, single birds were often seen in Hauxley, Cresswell, Cleadon and Bamburgh areas.

Redstart:-

1 at Prestwick Carr on 12th (ER). A male in Cleadon Hills on 16th (MLC) and on 18th, a male near Earsdon (JDP). On 25th, there was a small influx noted at Hauxley, Cresswell and Marsden, thereafter, the species steadily increased in numbers.

Black Redstart:-

The male of the pair reported last month remained until 7th at North Shields (MH). 2 females at Craster on 4th (SM).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 at Bywell on 18th (PAG). 2 at St. Mary's Island on 20th and 1 at North Shields (MH/SM). At Gosforth Park, 1 on 22nd increased to 6 on 27th though by 30th there were only 2 (MH). 1 at Bamburgh on 25th and at Chevington on 26th (B.R.S./BG).

Sedge Warbler:-

1 at Holywell on 20th (JDP) and at least 2 at Bamburgh on 25th (B.R.S.). On 26th, there were 2 at Gosforth Park (TW) and 1 at Chevington (BG). By the 30th, one was seen at Whittledene (PAG).

Blackcap:-

1 at Hauxley on 11th and 2 on 12th (H.R.S.). An influx noted on 18th and 19th (when totals of c6 being seen at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Tynemouth) was noted in most coastal areas and birds were seen moving westwards through Gosforth Park and other places until 23rd (BG et al).

Garden Warbler:-

1 near Blagdon on 19th (IH). 3 at Cresswell on 25th and 2 at Gosforth Park on 26th (MN/RN).

Whitethroat:-

A few came in with Blackcaps on 18th and 19th (4 were seen at Hauxley during this time (H.R.S.).)

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S.).

/Willow

Willow Warbler:-

Single bird at Hauxley and at Gosforth Park on 16th (H.R.S/BG). From 18th onwards many were noted both inland and in coastal areas. A steady passage of birds moving N. and coming in was noted up to the end of the month.

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Howick on 8th (MLC). 1 at Bamburgh on 11th and 2 on 18th (B.R.S.). 2 at Stocksfield on 14th (PR) and 1 in Gosforth Park on 16th (BG). 12 other birds heard singing from 19th until end of month.

Wood Warbler:-

1 singing at Stocksfield on 30th (TW).

Goldcrest:-

1 at Monks House on 12th (PRE). 5 at Hauxley on 5th rose to 8+ on 19th (H.R.S.).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

1 at Blyth Cemetery on 19th (MH) and another at Holywell the next day (JDP).

Pied Flycatcher:-

1 at Stocksfield on 30th (TW).

Meadow Pipit:-

A northerly movement noted at Craster on 5th and 6th (SM). On 18th/19th when there were 30 at Bamburgh, small parties were seen coming in off the sea at St. Mary's Island (MH).

Tree Pipit:-

1 singing at Alnwick on 26th (ER).

Water Pipit:-

2 at Holywell Ponds on 2nd (JDP). 7

White Wagtail:-

2 at Bamburgh on 11th (B.R.S.). 1 at Holywell from 13th until 20th (JDP). On 25th, 2 at Cresswell and single birds at Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Bamburgh on 11th (B.R.S.). 2 at Stocksfield on 14th (PR) and one at Swallow Ponds on 22nd (IH).

Yellow Wagtail:-

2 at Hartley on 18th (MN/RN) and 5 at Holywell Ponds on 23rd (JDP) 2 of which had rings on! On the 26th there was a total of 7 birds seen from Tanfield, Stocksfield and Chevington Burn.

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

A male at Bamburgh on 18th/19th (B.R.S.).

Hawfinch:-

A single bird at Barrasford on 15th (TW).

Greenfinch:-

Large influxes were noted at Bamburgh and Holywell on 8th and 11th.

Goldfinch:-

1 present at Hauxley and Bamburgh during month. 2 at Prestwick Carr on 5th (EM).

Linnet:-

150 flew N.W. over Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S.).

Redpoll:-

An associated movement of 60 to that of Linnet was noted at Bamburgh. A few present at Hauxley after 25th (H.R.S.). 20 in Beamish on 20th (DB).

Bullfinch:-

7 at Craster on 4th (SH). Single pairs reported from Gosforth, Bamburgh, Rock and Morpeth.

Crossbill:-

A pair in Cheviots on 6th (MLC).

Brambling:-

20 at Prestwick on 3rd and 5th with Chaffinches (EM). 1 at Bamburgh on 1st (B.R.S.) and 2 came in off sea at Hauxley on 11th where there was one until the 19th (H.R.S.).

/Corn

Corn Bunting:-

A roost of c30 at Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.). 3 at St. Mary's on 7th (JDP) and 1 singing in new area near Ponteland on 28th (EM). 3 pairs at Bamburgh during month (B.R.S.).

Reed Bunting:-

30 at Bamburgh on 18th (B.R.S.).

Snow Bunting:-

A male at Cleadon Hills on 16th (MLC).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

I. H. Armstrong.	B. Galloway.	M. Nattrass.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.	P. A. Geraghty.	R. Norman.
N. Bell.	R. Grey.	R. M. Palmer.
J. S. Booth.	I. Harrison.	J. D. Parrack.
D. Bradford.	Hauxley Ringing Station.	D. Richardson.
W. Brady.	M. Hodgson.	E. Robson.
M. L. Chalmers.	P. Hogg.	P. Routledge.
D. Collinson.	E. Lobley.	W. R. Smith.
J. P. Deacon.	M. Marquiss.	W. Temple.
C. E. Douglas.	E. Meek.	C. Watson.
P. R. Evans.	S. Moffitt.	T. Winter.

B.T.O./NATURE CONSERVANCY.

Census on Tawny Owls, Barn Owls,  
Kestrel and Sparrow Hawk.

All sight or breeding records of any of the above-named species are requested. Members are asked to note all sight records of the above from the middle of May until the end of June, giving the locality (with map references if possible) and time of day when observed.

All reports to be sent to Mr. I. Prestt, c/o The Nature Conservancy, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon.

COOT CENSUS.

Mr. A. Macdonald is conducting a census on the population of Coots in Northumberland and Durham from May 1964 until June 1965. Members are requested to send all information (especially for dates 17th May and 13th December, 1964 and 16th May, 1965) to Mr. A. Macdonald, 2 Briarsyde, Benton, Newcastle 12.

ALL REPORTS TO BE IN BY 8th JUNE, 1964 to M. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Walkerville, Newcastle 6.



Corn hunting:-

A roost of 430 at Huxley on 25th (A.M.S.). 3 at St. Mary's on 7th (A.M.) and 1 singing in new area near Ponteland on 28th (A.M.). Pairs at Sandburgh during month (A.M.S.).

Seed hunting:-

30 at Sandburgh on 18th (A.M.S.).

Snow hunting:-

A male at Cleddon Mills on 10th (A.M.).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

I. H. Armstrong.	B. Galloway.	M. Hattiss.
Hammer & Sizing Station.	R. A. Gossage.	L. Homan.
M. Bell.	R. Gray.	E. H. Lister.
J. H. Hinch.	I. Harrison.	L. J. Lister.
D. H. Hinch.	Adams & Sizing Station.	D. Richardson.
V. Hinch.	J. H. Hinch.	E. Robson.
L. H. Hinch.	J. Hinch.	E. S. S. S.
D. Collins.	J. Hinch.	V. H. Smith.
J. H. Hinch.	J. Hinch.	W. Hinch.
C. H. Hinch.	J. Hinch.	C. Hinch.
E. H. Hinch.	J. Hinch.	C. Hinch.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Census on Tawny Owls, Barn Owls,  
Hedgehogs and Grey Squirrels.

All report or breeding records of any of the above-named species are requested. Members are asked to note all at any records of the above from the middle of May until the end of June, giving the locality (with map reference if possible) and date of day when observed.

All reports to be sent to Mr. I. Hinch, c/o The Nature Conservancy, Honk Wood Experimental Station, Abbotts Ripton, Huntingdon.

GOOSE CENSUS.

Mr. A. Hinch is conducting a census on the population of Goats in Northampton and Durham from May 1964 until June 1965. Members are requested to send all information (especially for dates 17th May and 13th October, 1964 and 10th May, 1965) to Mr. A. Hinch, 2 Brixleyde, London, Newcastle 12.

ALL REPORTS TO BE SENT TO: Mr. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Wickerville, Newcastle 6.

# TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

MAY 1964 BULLETIN

## SUMMARY

The month began with an anticyclone over France, whilst pressure was low to the N. of the British Isles. Winds were S.W. to W. until the 13th. The higher pressure to the S, however, gravitated slowly E. well into Europe. On the 14th, an anticyclone developed over S.W. Ireland and moved slowly E. across southern England on the 15th and into Germany by the 17th, resulting in S. to S.E. winds. On the 21st, a fairly deep depression to the W. of Scotland moved S.E. into Biscay by the 23rd. This depression then turned eastwards into France, finally disintegrating altogether. Meanwhile, a ridge of high pressure became established from Scandinavia to Iceland, giving mostly light, easterly winds, until the 28th. From the 29th, another depression became slow-moving to the W. and S.W. of Britain, while pressure remained high to the N. and later became relatively high off the E. coast.

During the first 10 days of the month there was a small influx of White Wagtails and 2 Red-throated Pipits were seen near Hauxley. Numbers of Warblers, Flycatchers and "Chats" slowly built up and from the 16th to the 18th, where there were S.E. winds, quite a fall of these species occurred. This movement rapidly dwindled though it was apparent until the 24th. Thereafter, except for a small sea passage on the 25th, the winds being to the North of East, very little of importance occurred though at Spurn in Yorkshire, this was the time when many rarities were seen. The probably reason for Spurn receiving so many migrants and we having so little, is that Spurn had E. or S.E. winds- and we being further N. were having N. Easterly. A Marsh Harrier on the 21st, and a fair crop of 4 Reed Warblers on the 9th and 13th in two coastal areas are some of the smaller highlights of the month.

## REMINDER:-

The square brackets indicate that the record is either being considered by the Rarities Committee, or that fuller details are required from the observer.

## ANNUAL REPORT:-

Due to the demand, a number of copies of the Annual Report have been reprinted, will members who do not have a copy and who wish to obtain one should write to Mr. A. Belshaw, 29 Lovaine Place, North Shields, Northumberland. The price is 3s. 6d. plus 6d. postage.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

### Divers:-

About 20 birds present in Cresswell Bay area until the 7th (MLC).

### Red-throated Diver:-

The latest reported were 3 flying N. off Cresswell on 16th (RN).

### Slavonian Grebe:-

A bird still in almost complete winter plumage at Cresswell on the 2nd (RN).

### Manx Shearwater:-

On the 18th, 26 flew N. off Hauxley during two hours (H.R.S.) and the following day 5 flew N. and 2 S. at Whitburn (MLC). Again on the 25th, 26th another small northward movement noted. 10 off St. Mary's Island on evening of the 25th (JDP) and 2 off Bamburgh the next day (JSB).

### Fulmar:-

Over 200 flew N. off Hauxley on the 18th (H.R.S.). Moving about 60 an hour on the 24th, but by the next day had increased to 240 an hour off St. Mary's Island (MH).

/GANNET

GANNET:-

Small numbers seen offshore throughout month.

Cormorant:-

c36 on Marsden Rock. 14 nests with sitting birds were visible on the 31st (MLC).

Garganey:-

The pair at Swallow Ponds during April remained until 3rd of this month. A male was present at Cresswell on 2nd and 16th (MN/RN).

Wigeon:-

4 at Cresswell on 7th (MLC). 1 at Holywell Ponds on the 17th (CED) and 2 drakes at Newton on the 27th (JSB).

Shoveler:-

Small numbers reported throughout the county.

Scaup:-

A female at Newton on 27th (JSB).

Tufted Duck:-

c12 through month at Holywell Ponds (CED).

Pochard:-

A male at Seaton Burn on 1st (MLC).

Goldeneye:-

A female at Seaton Burn on 2nd (BG) and a male which was apparently slightly oiled on Cresswell Ponds on 16th (MLC).

Long-tailed Duck:-

3 off Banburgh until 10th (B.R.S.).

Velvet Scoter:-

2 off Banburgh on 10th (B.R.S.) and 1 flew N. off Tynemouth on 21st (MH).

Common Scoter:-

5 in Cresswell area until 3rd (MLC/RN).

Eider:-

Over 800 offshore at Hauxley on 18th (H.R.S.).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

A female flying S. at Alnmouth on 3rd (MLC) and at Hauxley, 2 on 9th and 4 on 18th (H.R.S.).

Shelduck:-

A maximum of 9 at Cresswell on 16th (MLC). Scattered breeding along North Northumberland coastline.

Grey Lag Goose:-

2 at Cresswell on 7th (MLC) and 1 on 16th (RN).

Canada Goose:-

3 flew N. over Longbenton on 29th (MH).

Mute Swan:-

The pair at Gosforth Park had four young by 29th (MN).

Whooper Swan:-

A single bird at Seaton Burn on 1st (MLC).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Single birds at Cresswell on 9th (ER) and at Gosforth Park on 22nd (MH).

Hen Harrier:-

1 at Holy Island on 5th (per MM). A female at Cresswell on 9th (ER). 7

Marsh Harrier:-

A female at Swallow Ponds on 21st (FC). 7

Peregrine:-

One flew S. over Boulmer on 3rd (MLC/FGG) and another flew N. over Whitley Bay on 29th (MH).

Mestrel:-

5 pairs around Gosforth Park area (MH). 1 at Stocksfield on 20th (PR).

Ringed Plover:-

5 at Swallow Ponds on 10th (MN) and 8 at Bamburgh on 26th (JSB) were the largest numbers recorded.

Turnstone:-

30 at Hauxley on 16th (H.R.S.) and 4 still present at Dunstanburgh and Emblestone on 27th (JSB).

Woodcock:-

A pair at Stocksfield during month and 1 at Tranwell on 22nd. At least 10 different birds in Dipton area on 31st (MM/IH).

Whimbrel:-

A total of c14 were seen from Cresswell to Hauxley in the period from 9th to 23rd, the most being seen on 16th and 18th. 1 at Alnwick on 17th (ER).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 19th (JDP).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Single bird flew N. at Cresswell on 2nd (RN/MN).

Green Sandpiper:-

3 at Swallow Ponds on 21st (MH) 2 of which remained until 29th (FC). 6 near Seaton Delaval on 27th, displaying in flight (AB).

Wood Sandpiper:-

Single birds seen at Cresswell on 9th and 16th (MLC/ER). Hauxley on 10th (H.R.S.). Gosforth on 11th and 18th (ER/MN), Swallow Ponds on 20th and 2 on 31st (MN/MLC).

Common Sandpiper:-

There were 12 on River Tyne by Riding Mill on 3rd (JHD) and single birds seen at Killingworth, Holywell Ponds, Gosforth and Cresswell during months. Numbers at breeding sites seem to be a little smaller this year.

Greenshank:-

A single bird at Cresswell on 2nd was joined by another on 7th which remained until 9th, the former last being seen on 23rd (MLC/et al) 1 at Gosforth Park on 4th and 17th (MH) another at Alnmouth on 3rd, (MLC), 1 on the burn and another on the shore at Hauxley on 16th (H.R.S) 1 at Swallow Ponds on 7th (PR) and 2 at Linton on 23rd (SM).

Dunlin:-

A flock of 31 at Cresswell on 2nd (RN) while only 10 there on 23rd (MH).

Sanderling:-

6 at Whitburn on 19th, and 8 at South Shields on 23rd (MLC). 6 at Hauxley on 9th fell to 1 on 16th (H.R.S.).

Glaucous Gull:-

Single bird at Jarrow Slake on 1st (MLC).

Kittiwake:-

A northerly movement of 200 per hour on 24th at St. Mary's Island had increased to 300 by next day (MH).

Black Tern:-

2 birds in full Summer plumage at Grindon Lough on 23rd (RN).

Roseate Tern:-

4 on Emblestone in a mixed flock of Common, Arctic and Sandwich on 27th (JSB).

Little Tern:-

A single bird at Cresswell on 7th (MLC).

Sandwich Tern:-

Northerly movements involving a few hundred birds noted on 18th and 25th - 27th.

Auks:-

A steady southerly movement off Boulmer on 3rd (MLC). A large northerly movement of over 300 during two hours off Hauxley on 18th (H.R.S.) and a much smaller movement noted off St. Mary's Island on 24th (MH).

/Razorbill



Razorbill:-

5 on the sea with 49 Guillemots, below Dunstanburgh Castle on 27th (JSB).

Turtle Dove:-

Single birds at Bywell on 3rd (JSB/IHA), Hauxley on 9th (H.R.S.) and Farnes on 28th (A. Cooper).

Collared Dove:-

1 at Bamburgh on 1st (per B.R.S) and 7 in small area near Alnwick on 17th (ER).

Cuckoo:-

c6 at Hauxley and Bamburgh on 9th. Many others though not in such large numbers reported from nearly all areas.

Little Owl:-

A nest with young near Morpeth on 23rd (ER).

Tawny Owl:-

A nest with young near Ponteland on 6th (EM) and 2 'crows' nests with eggs on 24th in same area (ER). Single birds seen at Stocksfield, Cresswell and Cleadon.

Short-eared Owl:-

4 near Kielder on 9th (JSB/IHA).

Nightjar:-

1 at Heddon on 17th (IHA) and 2 males in Dipton area on 31st (MM).

Swift:-

Noted coasting N. in small numbers on 8th and 18th. A maximum of 40 at Swallow Ponds on 10th (MN) and 120 at Gosforth Park the next day (ER).

Kingfisher:-

A single bird near Riding Mill on 3rd (JHD).

Green Woodpecker:-

A pair at Stocksfield throughout month (PR).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:-

1 at Stocksfield on 2nd (TW).

Swallow:-

A small northerly passage was in progress at Cresswell on 16th and also noted at Chevington (MN/RN). Another movement noted at Hauxley on 18th (H.R.S.).

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Kielder on 9th (IHA).

Fieldfare:-

2 at Hauxley on 8th (H.R.S.) and 3 at Bamburgh until 9th (B.R.S).  
1 at Cresswell on 23rd (SH).

Redwing:-

2 at Marsden on 6th (MLC).

Wheatear:-

On 10th at Hauxley, there were 24 of which 10 were northern (H.R.S.). On 9th, 1 came in at Seaton Sluice and another at Hartley (SM) while on 16th at Chevington 2 came in off sea (RN).

Whinchat:-

On 16th, quite a large influx c20 at Hauxley, 3 coming in off sea at Chevington and 1 near Ashington (H.R.S/MLC/MN).

Redstart:-

Birds slowly coming until c16th, and by end of month, numerous in usual breeding haunts, e.g. 60 - 100 pairs at Prestwick Carr (ER).

Robin:-

An albino (almost pure white - slightly darker back and breast) at Dipton on 20th (MM).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

3 pairs at Ponteland and Gosforth Park by end of month (MM/EM). Other birds reported at Stocksfield, Seaton Delaval, Ford Castle, Staward Peel, Kielder (very numerous) and Burradon.

Reed Warbler:-

1 at Hauxley on 9th (H.R.S) and 3 in Upper Holywell Dene on 13th (AB).

Sedge Warbler:-

20 at Chevington on 9th and 10th. Noted passing through at Hauxley on 19th and 22nd (H.R.S.).

Blackcap/Garden Warbler/Whitethroat:-

Very common in Gosforth Park by 3rd (BG). Small influxes were noted along the coastline on the 9th/10th, 16th/18th and 23rd.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Hauxley on 10th (H.R.S.). Other birds seen at Craster on 11th, Acott on 16th (CED) and a male near Alnwick on 3rd (ER).

Willow Warbler:-

At Hauxley there were 3 on the 8th, an Acredula on the 9th and 4 on 23rd (H.R.S.).

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Hauxley on 17th (H.R.S.) and 6 at Dipton on 20th (MM).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

1 at Hauxley on 10th and many passing through both here and at Bamburgh from 16th to 23rd.

Pied Flycatcher:-

4 males at Stocksfield on 2nd (TW) and 1 at Ford on 7th (MM). Thereafter rapidly building up in numbers at breeding areas.

Tree Pipit:-

A bird at Hauxley on 9th and at Chevington on 23rd (H.R.S.).

Red-throated Pipit:-

2 at Hauxley on 9th (BL/ER)\_7

White Wagtail:-

3 at Gosforth Park on 3rd, one remaining until 17th (MN/MH). 3 at Swallow Ponds on 5th and single birds there on 4th and 7th. 2 at Cresswell on 2nd (RN) and 2 at Holywell Ponds on 3rd (CED). 6 at Killingworth on 10th (BG).

Yellow Wagtail:-

Established at Killingworth in small numbers by 10th (BG). 3 pairs at Swallow Ponds during month.

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 3rd (CED) and 2 at Bamburgh on 9th (B.R.S.).

Hawfinch:-

A pair near Stocksfield on 3rd and 31st (IHA/JSB). 1 at Bywell on 9th (TW) and 1 at Seaton Burn on 23rd (SM).

Goldfinch:-

On 3rd a pair at Gosforth Park (BG) and 3 at Bywell (JSE).

Redpoll:-

Many passing through during month. At Hauxley on 16th, c20 was the largest number seen (H.R.S.). 15 at Stocksfield throughout month.

Bullfinch:-

A pair at Hauxley on 16th (H.R.S.) and 8 at Stocksfield (PR).

Crossbill:-

A pair at Wylam on 3rd (IHA). 45 at Kielder on 23rd (a large proportion being birds of the year (FC)) and 20 in wood near Sunderland (MLC). A pair at Stocksfield on 2nd and 6 at Dipton on 10th (TW/JHD).

Brambling:-

2 males at Gosforth Park on 21st (ER).

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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

JUNE 1964 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

For the first week, the area was dominated by depressions near the British Isles, giving cloudy, wet and very cool weather. A ridge from an anticyclone which developed over Biscay on the 9th, crossed from the W. on the 8th and 9th. On the 10th, pressure fell again over the county and from then until the 23rd, the weather was dominated by a sequence of depressions and troughs giving northerly winds, especially between the 18th and 21st. On the 23rd, pressure rose again, and from then until the end of the month an anticyclonic belt across the country to Germany controlled the weather, which was warm and showery.

The breeding successes of Great Crested Grebe and Nuthatch are very heartening.

A Quail at Monks House fits in with the large invasion (probably the largest this century) which has been recorded from Yorkshire southwards - where birds have been heard rather than seen. Dawn or dusk are the best times for listening and members are asked to look out for this bird.

A red-necked Phalarope at Gosforth during the middle of the month is also worth mention, and the beginning of the return movement of waders was noted.

On the whole, the month was dominated by strong westerly winds, and when rainfall occurred its effects were very short-lived, the ground drying out very quickly. Breeding has been, on the whole, extremely successful.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Great Crested Grebe:-

A pair with 3 young by the 20th in Northumberland. Pair at Cateleugh on 27th (RN).

Little Grebe:-

3 pairs at Newton Pool with young on 10th (PRE) and young at Holywell by 28th (CED).

Fulmar:-

A bird flying W. at Heddon on 7th (IHA) and 5 pairs with eggs at Roughington (8 miles inland) on 21st.

Heron:-

1 at Cresswell from 27th to 30th (MM/DR).

Mallard:-

Broods at Newton, Bamburgh and Cresswell. A maximum of 60 at Gosforth Park on 14th (MN).

Teal:-

A brood at Newton during month. 60 to 70 at Cresswell on 13th (MH/MN).

Garganey:-

1 pair at Holywell Ponds on 7th (CED) and another pair at Cresswell from 13th to 20th were also seen at Ashington (MN).

Wigeon:-

5 at Cresswell on 13th (MN) and a male at Newton on 7th and 10th (PRE).

Shoveler:-

A brood at Cresswell by 27th (MM). 2 pairs at Newton on 15th (PH).

Tufted Duck:-

A maximum of 12 at Newton on 15th (PH) and c12 at Holywell throughout month (CED).

Pochard:-

4 pairs on a pond in N.E. on 20th (but no young) where breeding has occurred in previous years. On 27th, 14 at Gosforth Park, 4 at Holywell Ponds and 3 at Seaton Burn (MN).



Goldeneye:-

A 'brownhead' on Coldmartin Lough, Wooler on 8th (PRE).

Eider:-

Numerous off the coast down to Amble, with young.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

2 in Blyth Bay on 26th (DR).

Shelduck:-

3 sets of broods at Cresswell by 13th and another by 20th (MN/MM).

Mute Swan:-

Over 230 in Berwick Harbour on 27th (JMB/DH).

Peregrine:-

A male flew S. over Craster on 10th (PRE).

Kestrel:-

3 at Heddon on 6th (IHA) and single birds seen at Hallington, Alnwick Moor, Stanfords, Newcastle, Tanfield Ponds, Sunnyside and Hulne Park during month. A pair breeding at Arcott Hall (CED).

Quail:-

1 was calling near Monks House in early morning and late evening of 12th (PRE).

Coot:-

A pair reared young at Cresswell by 27th - the first time in 3 years (MM).

Oystercatcher:-

79 at a roost at Longhoughton on 13th (PRE) and over 30 at Cresswell on 30th (MM/DR).

Lapwing:-

Only 7 broods E. of Alnmouth/Alnwick/Wooler/Ford road with another 6 probable broods. This is a reduction on the numbers present last year and to my mind, reflects the increased practice of ploughing and re-seeding rough pasture, thereby improving drainage and cutting out marshy patches (PRE). Several flocks totalling c50 birds flew W. over Farnes on 13th (MLC). By end of month over 100 at Prestwick Carr and Cresswell.

Ringed Plover:-

A pair with 2 young at Whitburn on 25th (MLC). 3 at Swallow Ponds on 1st and 1 at Gosforth Park on 10th (MN).

Golden Plover:-

6 at Prestwick Carr on 29th (ER).

Turnstone:-

7 at Longhoughton on 13th (PRE).

Curlew:-

c30 at Cresswell on 27th (MM).

Whimbrel:-

1 at Cresswell on 20th (IH).

Wood Sandpiper:-

3 at Cresswell on 14th and 27th (MM). 2 at Swallow Ponds on 1st and 1 on 14th (MN/MH).

Common Sandpiper:-

Breeding at Hulne Park and Happy Valley. 1 at Cresswell came in over dunes on 27th and 2 were at Lynemouth the same day (MH). A pair at Greenlee Lough on 20th (JHD).

Redshank:-

A maximum of 30 at Cresswell on 27th (MM).

Spotted Redshank:-

2 at Cresswell on 13th (MN/MH).

Greenshank:-

Single birds at Gosforth Park on 7th and Cresswell on 27th (MH/MM).

Sanderling:-

1 at Bamburgh on 28th (B.R.S.).

/Ruff

Ruff:-

1 at Swallow Ponds from 8th to 13th and 2 at Cresswell on 20th (MN).

/Red-necked Phalarope:-

A bird seen at Gosforth Park on 16th - all typical characteristics noted. (ER/DB/SRB)\_7.

Kittiwake:-

Over 3,000 pairs nesting at Marsden (MLC).

Collared Dove:-

Several reported in Craster/Howick area believed breeding. 24 in a park at Sunderland on 19th - an increase on last year's maximum of 19 (MLC).

Cuckoo:-

Over 3 at Bamburgh and 1 at Monks House and Warkworth during month.

Little Owl:-

Birds seen at Chathill, Whittle Dene, Newton Hall and Seaton Burn.

Tawny Owl:-

Nesting birds reported at Bamburgh and Rock.

Long-eared Owl:-

2 young birds near Ponteland on 28th (EM). 1 adult and 1 juv. near Hylton on 24th (MLC).

Nightjar:-

2 seen at Kyloe on 27th (JMB/DH) and present at Dipton.

Swift:-

c80 at Havannah on 14th (EM) and a noticeable S.W. movement on 27th at Cresswell (MH).

Sand Martin:-

10 at Cresswell on 27th - allied to the movement of Swift already mentioned.

Raven:-

An adult in N. Gosforth during first days of month was probably an escapee due to its tameness and good plumage (ER).

Rook:-

8 nests in centre of Newcastle (RMP).

Long-tailed Tit:-

20 - 30 at Bryley Hill, Hulne Park on 28th (P.H).

Nuthatch:-

A pair successfully reared young in S. Northumberland.

Wheatear:-

A pair at Craster on 16th and 1 at Lynemouth on 27th (P.H/MM).

Whinchat:-

Over 6 at Cresswell on 30th and a pair in Hulne Park on 22nd (MM/PH).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Bywell on 6th (IHA/JSB).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

Birds still present at Gosforth Park, Ponteland and Arcott. c6 pairs Kyloe area (JMB/DH). A pair near Dinnington (MH).

Wood Warbler:-

A pair at Greenlee Lough on 20th (JHD).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

6 at Rock where it is breeding (PH).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 14th (MH). 2 at Hulne Park on 22nd and 1 with young on 23rd.

Yellow Wagtail:-

4 - 5 pairs at Cresswell, 2 pairs at Gosforth Park and 4 pairs at Ashington (MN/MM).

/Blue-headed Wagtail

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

1 at Swallow Ponds on 1st (MN) and male at Cresswell seen carrying food on 20th (IH).

Hawfinch:-

1 at Bywell on 6th and 13th (IHA/JSB).

Goldfinch:-

At least 3 at Alnwick on 27th (MLC) and another 3 at Howick Dene on 28th (JSB).

Redpoll:-

Many at Prestwick and neighbouring areas (EM). Fairly common round Berness (Redesdale Forest), in College Valley, Sweethope Lough and Staward.

Bullfinch:-

2 at Alnwick, and 4 in Hulne Park on 27th. Breeding at Rock and 2 pairs near Tanfield Ponds are probably breeding (RMP).

Crossbill:-

2 in Gosforth Park on 2nd (MH).

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Could you please note any Bullfinches seen N. of Alnwick this year, except those at Howick, Craster and Kirknewton.

M. Bell.

N.B.

× CRESSWELL PONDS ×

There has been a complaint from the farmers that although permission has been granted to only one or two persons, the ponds at Cresswell are over run with bird watchers every weekend. Would all Club Members note that this is in fact PRIVATE LAND and anyone who has not got specific permission from the farmers themselves is trespassing. Would these people therefore confine their wanderings to the ROAD, and the PUBLIC PATH. One farmer has suggested that if the trespassing continues, no-one will be allowed on.

Will all reports for July be sent to me not later than the second post of the 7th August, 1964 as I am on holiday and Mr. C. E. Douglas has kindly offered to do the July Report for me. All letters sent to my home will be forwarded to him.

T Y N E S I D E   B I R D   C L U B

J U L Y   1 9 6 4   B U L L E T I N

S U M M A R Y

Anticyclonic conditions dominated the weather over the British Isles during the first half of the month. Although isolated troughs gave rise to heavy rain in some places, the N.E. remained, on the whole, dry and warm until the 17th and 18th, when a shallow depression brought heavy rain and thunder storms. A series of troughs crossed the country during the remainder of the month but they were relatively weak and the weather in this region continued fine and warm. Winds were generally westerly and at times, quite strong.

What rain there was did little to soften the ground, now very dry, and the water levels in ponds and lakes, already low, continued to fall.

Wader passage was quite marked during the second half of the month and it is interesting to note that, as in 1963, there was a record of an early Jack Snipe - at Plessey Checks on the 28th, a most unusual date. The most interesting record of the month, however, is of Gull-billed Terns at Hauxley.

Classified List.

Diver sp:-

Single bird flying S. off Dunstanburgh on 4th (MLC).

Great Crested Grebe:-

3 adults on Catcleugh Reservoir 14th - 23rd (JA). 1 at Hartburn on 25th (EM) and 1 on sea off Seahouses on 27th (MM).

Little Grebe:-

Broods reported from several ponds (CED/EM/MM) and breeding success may be due to low water earlier in season (MM).

Manx Shearwater:-

36 flew N. off Seaton Sluice in 45 minutes during evening of 4th (MM) and off St. Mary's Island there were 10 on 22nd (SM) and 15 on 30th (SM/RN).

Gannet:-

Continuous northerly passage off Dunstanburgh on 4th (MLC).

Heron:-

Up to 3 present at Cresswell Ponds throughout month; 2 were seen to fly in off sea at Cresswell on 26th (ER). 1 at Gosforth Park on 12th (ER). 1 at Broomlee on 13th (DB) and 2 at Lilburn Pond, Wooler on 30th (PH).

Mallard:-

Broods reported from many places.

Teal:-

Maximum of c40 at Cresswell on 18th (EM).

Garganey:-

At Cresswell a male on 18th and 19th (EM) and a pair on 23rd (MN).

Wigeon:-

4 at Newton Pool on 1st (SM/DR) and 4 at Holywell Ponds on 19th (CED) were the maximum numbers reported.

Pintail:-

A pair at Cresswell on 18th (EM/ER).

Shoveler:-

At least 1 brood at Newton Pool (MLC/PRE). Recorded from several places with maxima 30 at Cresswell on 18th and 19th (EM/ER) and 21 at Ashington on 21st (MN).

Scaup:-

A drake at Cresswell 28th to 30th (EM/MM).

/Tufted Duck



Tufted Duck:-

2 broods at Holywell Ponds (CED). Small numbers at various waters maxima being 14 at Hartburn on 25th and 12 at Whittledene on 27th (EM).

Pochard:-

3 at Holywell Ponds on 1st and 4 on 19th (CED). 2 drakes at Newton Pool on 4th (MLC) and 1 at Ellington on 28th (MM).

Goldeneye:-

1 at Cresswell on 30th.

Common Scoter:-

Maxima 250/300 off Cresswell on 23rd (MN); 120+ flying N. off Hartley on 30th (RN); c100 N. of Holy Island on 20th (PRE) and 70 off Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S.).

Eider Duck:-

Present with young off Howick during month (D.BO). Several nests on the Emblestone, 2 with eggs (MLC). c300 off Hauxley throughout the month.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

5 flew N. off Seahouses on 1st (SM). 1 flew N. off Cresswell on 19th (EM) there were 6 off the Emblestone on 21st (PRE) and a drake at Cresswell Ponds on 28th (MM).

Sheld-Duck:-

The 4 pairs at Cresswell reared 21 young, all but 7 of which were on the wing by end of month (EM/MM). Broods at Newton (MLC/PH) and Beal Shore (EM).

Whooper Swan:-

4 at Hartburn on 27th (EM).

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 on Inner Farne on 26th (per MM).

Quail:-

Calling at Cresswell and Ashington on 27th June, at Cresswell on 5th July, in 5 different fields W. of Belford on 18th (MM) near Monks House on 21st and 23rd (PRE) and 1 seen between Earsdon and Holywell on 29th (SM).

Coot:-

c90 at Holywell Ponds by end of month (D.BO/CED).

Oystercatcher:-

Maximum at Cresswell c30 on 25th (JEO). 45 flying N. off Annstead on 26th (MM).

Lapwing:-

c200 at Cresswell Ponds on 5th (MM) and 25th (JEO) and c300 flew in off sea at Cresswell in parties of 50 - 80 on 25th (ER). c150 at Prestwick Carr on 24th (EM).

Ringed Plover:-

Single birds at Ashington on 5th and at Cresswell on 19th (EM) and 25th (JEO). 2 at Swallow Ponds from 13th to 20th (FC).

Grey Plover:-

10 at Holy Island on 20th (PRE).

Golden Plover:-

3 separate pairs on Cheviot on 3rd (DB). 25 on the moors near Greenlee Lough on 13th (DB). c150 near Seaton Delaval on 18th (SM). 40 flew in off sea at Cresswell on 25th (ER). Several other records of smaller parties.

Turnstone:-

Maxima c30 at Bamburgh (B.R.S) and at Annstead (MM) on 26th. c40 at St. Mary's Island on 28th (D.BO/AB).

Common Snipe:-

Maxima c40 at Grindon Lough on 27th (EM) and c60 at Linton on 28th (MM). More at Tanfield Pond until 30th when there were 9 (RMP).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Plessey Checks on 28th (IDH).

Curlew:-

c100 on Longstone on 27th (MM).

Whimbrel:-

1 in Blyth Estuary on 12th (RN). 1 flew S. off Hauxley on 14th. 2 flew S. off Cresswell on 18th and 2 were at Cresswell Ponds on 19th (EM). On the same day, 19th, 6 flew S.W. over Holywell Ponds (CED) and there were 4 at Monks House (PRE). 14 came in off sea at Holy Island on 20th, 1 was at Boulmer on 22nd (PRE) and 1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 22nd (SM). On 25th there was a single bird at Cresswell (JEO), on 26th, 5 on Inner Farne (per MM) and single birds at Seahouses and Annstead (MM); on 28th, 3 at Cresswell (MM) and on 31st, 1 at Beal Shore and 2 at Cresswell (ERM).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

1 flew N. over Holywell Ponds on 19th (CED), there were 7, all in winter plumage, on Holy Island on 20th (PRE), 1 at Cresswell on 28th and 30th (IDY/EM/MM) and 3 at Beal Shore on 31st (EM).

Green Sandpiper:-

2 at Swallow Pond on 13th and 17th (FC). 2 at Ashington on 23rd (MN) and 2 at Linton on 30th (IDH). 1 flew in off sea at Boulmer on 22nd (PRE) and there were single birds at Bolam on 3rd, Cresswell on 19th (RN), Gosforth Park on 11th (ER) and 27th (RN), Tanfield Ponds on 26th and 30th (RMP) and Ashington on 30th (IDH).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Cresswell on 5th and 19th (several observers) 3 on 16th (DB) and 2 on 18th (SM) and 25th (ER). 1 at Linton Pool on 12th and 19th (RN) 1 at Swallow Pond on 19th (IDH) and 1 at Lynemouth on 29th (SM).

Common Sandpiper:-

Many records of small numbers at inland waters, maximum being 20+ at Cresswell on 19th (ER). Many were heard passing overhead at Cresswell on the night of 18th/19th (ER).

Redshank:-

A maximum of c45 at Cresswell on 28th (EM/MM) and 31st (EM). c100 on Beal Shore on 31st (EM).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 at Linton Pool on 29th (SM).

Greenshank:-

7 at Tanfield Ponds (RMP) and 3 at Linton Pool (IDH) on 30th; 2 at Holywell Ponds on 19th and 1 on 22nd and 30th (CED); 2 at Cresswell on 18th, 25th, 26th, 30th and 31st (IDH/ER/EM) and single birds there on 19th, 24th and 29th (EM/SM/MN). Single birds at Gosforth Park on 11th (ER). Linton Pool on 29th (SM) and Newton Pool and Beal Shore on 31st (EM).

Knot:-

Several records of small numbers on shore at various places, maximum being 30 at Seaton Sluice on 30th (RN). Maximum 8 at Cresswell on 28th (EM/MM) and 30th (IDH) and 7 at St. Mary's Island on 28th, 6 of which were in summer plumage (D.BO/AB).

Purple Sandpiper:-

12+ on the Longstone on 22nd (PRE) and 3 at Stag Rocks on 24th (B.R.S).

Dunlin:-

Maximum at Cresswell c180 on 18th and 25th (ER). c25 at Ellington Pond on 18th (EM). c50 at Beal Shore and in Budle Bay on 31st (EM). Several records of smaller numbers elsewhere on the coast and odd birds at other inland waters:-

Curlew Sandpiper:-

1 at Cresswell on 30th (IDH).

Sanderling:-

80 at Hauxley from 25th - 31st (H.R.S); 12 at Bamburgh on 19th (MM); 3 at Cresswell on 28th (MM) and 1 on 12th (RN); 4 at Seaton Sluice on 10th (RN) and 2 at St. Mary's Island on 28th (D.BO/AB).

/Ruff

Ruff:-

Small numbers at Cresswell, Linton and Ashington Ponds throughout month, maximum being 6 at Cresswell on 18th (ER) and 30th (IDH/EM). 1 at Swallow Pond on 22nd (SM).

Arctic Skua:-

2 flew N. off Embleton on 1st (SM/ER). 2 dark phase birds flew N. off Whitburn on 3rd (MLC). From 18th to the end of month many records of small numbers seen at various places on coast maxima being 20 in 2 hours all flying N. off Cresswell on 28th (MM) and 17 flying N. and 2 flying S. in 3 hours off Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S).

Pomarine Skua:-

1 flying S. off St. Mary's Island on 22nd (SM).

Black Tern:-

2 at Gosforth Park on 6th, 1 in summer plumage the other in winter plumage.

Gull-billed Tern:-

Single birds at Hauxley on 15th and 26th (H.R.S). NOTE:- These records have been submitted to British Birds Rarities Committee.

Common Tern:-

30 at Cresswell Ponds on 28th (EM).

Roseate Tern:-

2 flew S. off Hauxley on 26th (H.R.S). 1 flew N. at Annstead on 26th (MM). Single birds seen off Blyth on 27th and Seaton Sluice on 30th (RN).

Little Tern:-

1 flew N. off Embleton on 1st (SM/DR). 2 flew S. and 1 N. off Annstead on 26th (MM) and 1 was seen off Blyth on 27th (RN).

Sandwich Tern:-

Moving S. off Hauxley at the rate of about 1500 an hour on 26th (H.R.S).

Turtle Dove:-

"Singing" birds at Embleton's Bog and Newham Hall on 19th (PRE).

Collared Dove:-

A pair in Holywell Dene throughout month (MN). 1 at Lesbury on 5th and 2 at Plessey Woods on 26th (SM). 2 probably breeding, at Westoe on 5th (MLC).

Cuckoo:-

Single adults at Hauxley on 1st and 25th (H.R.S). 1 at Cresswell on 29th (SM).

Barn Owl:-

1 seen and probably breeding at Westoe on 9th (MLC). A pair near Newcastle reared young in the same tree and at the same time as a pair of Tawny Owls (FC).

Little Owl:-

1 at Bamburgh on 25th (B.R.S).

Long-eared Owl:-

1 at Bamburgh on 18th (B.R.S).

Swift:-

A southerly movement observed at Cresswell between dawn and 6.30. a.m. on 25th involved several thousand birds in continuous flocks of 40 - 80 (ER) and large numbers were seen flying S.E. over Whitley Bay on the following day (IDH).

Raven:-

1 in Gosforth Park on 19th was probably the bird mentioned in the June bulletin(MM).

Wheatear:-

At least 2 pairs reared young for second year in succession at Rising Sun Colliery, Wallsend (FC). Many records of small numbers from widely scattered localities and a succession of juveniles at Stag Rock between 18th and 26th gave the impression of a small southward movement (MM).

Stonechat:-

A pair reared 5 young in the dunes near Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Whinchat:-

2 pairs at Coldmartin Lough and 1 pair at Holburn Moss (PRE). At least 12 pairs seen from a car along the Charlton Mires, Eglington, Wooler Road on 4th (D.BO). At least 2 pairs with young in a forestry plantation near Chartnees on 5th (CED). 7 at Cresswell on 19th (RN).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 singing throughout month at Arcot Golf Course was trapped and ringed (CED). 1 at Edmundbyers on 11th (MLC) and 1 at Shankhouse on 12th (RN).

Chiffchaff:-

Nesting at Cleadon (MLC) and at Rock (PH). A juvenile at Howick on 5th (D.BO), another bird there on 19th (PH) and 1 at Bamburgh on 24th (B.R.S.).

Wood Warbler:-

Two adults feeding young at Kielder on 30th (MLC). 2 at Cresswell on 29th (SM).

White Wagtail:-

1 at Embleton on 1st (SM).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Tynemouth on 22nd (FC).

Hawfinch:-

2 pairs seen at one locality and a bird feeding young at another, both near Hexham (JA).

Goldfinch:-

2 at Howick on 19th (D.BO/PH). 1 at Bamburgh on 25th (B.R.S.).

Siskin:-

Small numbers around Kielder 29th/31st (MLC).

Redpoll:-

Reported as being numerous at Arcot Golf Course (CED) near Greenlee Lough (DB) in the Langleeford Valley (DE) and at Howick (D.BO/PH).

Crossbill:-

2 flying W. having apparently come in off the sea at Craster on 27th (PRE).

Reed Bunting:-

At least 7 nests with young in a waste field at Wallsend (FC).

List of Contributors

J. Arthur.  
Bamburgh Ringing Station.  
A. Belshaw.  
D. Booth.  
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H. L. Chalmers.  
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R. Norman.  
J. E. Orton.  
R. M. Palmer.  
E. Robson.

Breeding Records of Wildfowl:-

Complete records of all breeding wildfowl, including Mallard, are required. Details should include locality, brood size, dates etc.,

All records for August to be sent to Mr. M. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Newcastle 6, by 7th September, 1964.

We regret to have to report the sudden death of Dr. E. L. Arnold, County Representative of the B.T.O. and one of our members. He possessed a wide knowledge of all aspects of natural history in the two North-eastern Counties and he will be greatly missed.



... ..

1. James M. Smith

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SUMMARY

After N. Westerly winds for the first two days, a ridge from an anticyclone centred to the S.W. of Ireland dominated the weather until the 5th. A shallow depression N.W. of Scotland on the 6th moved slowly Southwards to N.W. England by the 8th and over the North Sea on the 9th. Pressure rose on the 10th, and by the 12th there were Easterly winds until 14th. Pressure became uniform on the 15th and 16th. A deep depression moved E.N.E. from the Atlantic across Ireland and North England from the 17th to 19th, and was followed on the 20th by a general rise in pressure. During the next three days, a ridge moved slowly across the country, and by the 24th S. Westerly winds became general. Subsequently these winds backed to S.S.E. and brought very hot weather on the 26th. A further rise in pressure on the 27th and an anticyclone moved from W.S.W. of Ireland on the 28th to dominate the weather for the remainder of the month.

Maximum numbers of Ruff, Greenshank and Sandpiper were reached, at most ponds on or about the 22nd. From the 16th to 20th a small influx of Warblers and Chats was noted along coastal areas, the most interesting rarities being a Barred and Icterine Warbler.

A very early Fieldfare was seen on the 19th and two days previous to this, the only Sooty Shearwater of the month was reported. Wagtails, Swallows, Swifts, Pipits were all noted moving S. during at least three days of the month.

May I thank all the contributors for the wealth of information which they have sent in. I have only been able to use a fraction of it and though all your records may not be entered herein, they have proved invaluable in assessing bird movement at this time. Long may this continue.

Classified List

Diver Sp:-

2 in Cresswell Bay on 31st (MH/IH).

Great Crested Grebe:-

A juvenile at Cresswell Pond on 6th (MH).

Little Grebe:-

A maximum of 11 at Bolam Lake on 20th (RN). 8 at Holywell Ponds on 9th and 1 at Cresswell on 22nd (JEO).

Manx Shearwater:-

Small parties noted off most coastal points during month. 15 off the Farnes on 31st, and it was reported as being "in large parties of 20-30 during month in this area." (PRE).

/Sooty Shearwater:-

1 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 17th (MH) 7

Fulmar:-

4 young reared on Cullernose Cliffs (PRE).

Heron:-

A maximum of 4 at Cresswell on 16th and 18th, single birds being seen here during most of month. Other birds seen at Bamburgh on 1st and 23rd, Swalwell on 7th, Hallington on 11th and Gosforth Park on 19th.

Mallard:-

Well scattered throughout area. Largest flocks reported being 300+ at Gosforth Park from 25th - 30th, over 100 at Holywell Ponds on 9th, 100 at Capheaton on 24th when there was another flock of the same size at Hartburn.

Teal:-

Small numbers reported at most ponds. The maxima were 40 at Havannah on 24th, c100 at Gosforth Park from 22nd onwards and 40 at Cresswell on 19th.

Garganey:-

A male at Cresswell on 25th (EM/MM) and a female at Linton on 31st (IH/MH).

Gadwall:-

2 at Linton on 18th (MN).

Wigeon:-

All records were of birds seen during last two weeks of the month. 3 at Hartburn on 24th (EM). 1 at Havannah on 19th (MM) when there were 4 at Newton Pool, also there on 24th (PRE). A maximum of 7 at Gosforth Park on 27th (MN).

Pintail:-

1 at Havannah on 14th (MM).

Shoveler:-

Largest numbers reported were 22 at Cresswell on 20th (MH) and 30 at Gosforth Park on 28th (RN). Smaller numbers seen at Capheaton (12), Hartburn (3), Ellington (6), Prestwick (3) and Holywell (2) during this month.

Scaup:-

A female throughout month at Whittledene (JSE/IHA). A male at Cresswell on 3rd and another flew N. off here on 28th (EM/MH). A female at Newton Pool on 24th (PRE).

Tufted Duck:-

Successful breeding reported at Bolam, Havannah and Capheaton. 15 at Whittledene on 9th rose to 20 by 11th (JSE/IHA). 60 at Capheaton on 7th (MM) fell to 30 on 24th (EM). 25 at Holywell on 10th (MN). Very few seen elsewhere than at these waters.

Pochard:-

A maximum of 26 at Seaton Burn on 15th (MN) and of 45 at Capheaton on 7th (MM). Single birds seen at Holywell, Cresswell, Newton and North Walbottle.

Velvet Scoter:-

On 12th, 2 flew N. off Whitburn (MLC) and 1 off St. Mary's Island (MM). 1 at Chevington Burn on 13th, another at Bamburgh on 24th (B.R.S.). A bird flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 27th (MH).

Common Scoter:-

On the 12th, c80 flew N. off Whitburn (MLC) and the following day saw c500 on the sea off Chevington Burn with a further flock of 110 flying N. (BG). Smaller flocks frequently reported offshore during the month.

Shelduck:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 15th (MN) and 4 at Blagdon Ponds on 18th (JSB/IHA). 12 at Cresswell on 15th (JEO) had all gone by 22nd. Small flocks reported flying offshore.

Mute Swan:-

7 at Cresswell on 28th, 5 of which came in off the sea (MM).

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 at Cresswell on 11th (MLC).

Kestrel:-

3 at Heddon on 9th and 4 at Swallow Ponds the next day (JSB/IHA). Other birds reported from Seaton Sluice, Cresswell, Keenley Fell (Allendale), Seaton Burn, Souter Point, Gosforth Park and Shankhouse.

Lapwing:-

On 15th, near Consett, there was a flock of c400 (RMP). Flocks of 45 and 17 came in off sea at Hartley on 27th (JDP).

Grey Plover:-

Single birds at Cresswell on 11th, 20th and 23rd.

Golden Plover:-

A maximum of 750 at Jarrow Slake on 26th (MH/MM). c650 flew S.W. over Benton on 30th (IH). Numbers were rapidly increasing elsewhere during this month.

Turnstone:-

A maximum at Cresswell of 120 on 6th (MH) most of which moved on during the following day. 60 at Stag Rocks on 23rd (B.R.S.).

Common Snipe:-

An influx of 34 on 23rd (only 9 before this date) had increased to c75 on 29th at Tanfield (RMP). Small flocks seen elsewhere except at Linton on 2nd when 40 were counted (IH).

Curlew:-

1 or 2 at Cresswell until 21st when 30 were present and 15 were there on 28th/29th (EM). Southerly movements noted on 7th at Cresswell (BG) and 23rd at Seahouses when 230 flew by (JMB/CW). 60 came in off the sea at Hartley on 27th (JDP). Over 40 present at Jarrow Slake during the month (MLC).

Whimbrel:-

Southerly movements were noted on 11th/12th and 25th. 36 flew W. over Craster on 21st (PRE) while on 26th at Hartley, 30 came in followed by 192 the next day (JDP). Well dispersed throughout the coastal area during the month.

Black-tailed Godwit:-

1 at Linton on 28th and 31st (MH/MH). 1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 12th (MH).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Well over 100 in Holy Island area towards end of month, and many reported single birds or small parties from coastal areas S. to St. Mary's Island.

Green Sandpiper:-

Maxima of 9 at Tanfield Ponds on 23rd (though between 26th July and 31st August it is estimated that at least 17 different birds have passed through these ponds) (RMP). 4 at Gosforth Park on 8th (MN) and 4 at Swallow Ponds on 25th (FC) and 4 at Ashington on 10th (MH). One or two birds were also reported during this month from Usworth, North Walbottle, Cresswell, Linton, Embleton and Blagdon.

Wood Sandpiper:-

A maximum of 5 at Swallow Ponds on 27th (FC), where some were present all month. 1 at Cresswell on 1st and 21st (IH/RN).

Common Sandpiper:-

5 at Cresswell on 2nd (IH), 2 being seen until 28th. 6 at Whittle-dene on 29th (JSB/IHA). Single birds at Jarrow Slake on 9th, Tanfield Ponds on 19th and Linton on 20th.

Redshank:-

Noted moving S. over Cresswell on 8th when flocks of 30, 15, 5 were seen in a short space of time (BG). Over 100 at Cresswell on 20th/21st (RN).

Spotted Redshank:-

Numbers rose steadily at Cresswell until 22nd when 10 were present, 9 of which were still there on 31st (EM et al). 1 at Swallow Ponds from 4th - 13th and other single birds seen at Blagdon, Fenham and Bamburgh. 3 at Ashington on 25th (EM). 2 at Havannah on 19th (MM). 2 at Blaydon the day before (JSB). 2 at Holywell on 30th (TWL/JKJ) and 2 at Linton the next day (IH).

Greenshank:-

Present throughout the month at Cresswell, the most being seen was 5 on 25th (EM) when there were 5 at Blagdon (MH), 4 at Gosforth Park on 9th (MN) and 7 at Tanfield Ponds on 29th (RMP). Over 40 individuals reported from this area during month.

Knot:-

Over 140 near Holy Island on 29th (RN/MN) and smaller flocks seen S. to Cresswell Bay.

Purple Sandpiper:-

Over 100 at Longstone (Farnes) on 31st (PRE).

Little Stint:-

2 at Cresswell on 2nd and 1 on 31st (IH/MH). 1 at Holy Island on 30th/31st (JEO).



Dunlin:-

Normal numbers for this time of year, largest flock reported being of 100 in Budle Bay on 9th.

Curlew Sandpiper:-

A single bird at Cresswell throughout month.

Sanderling:-

c100 at Holy Island on 31st (per PRE) and up to 4 seen at Cresswell from 21st until end of month.

Ruff:-

Numbers rose at Cresswell to a peak of 35 on 25th and had only dropped slightly by 31st, 29 being present (MM et al). At Swallow Ponds there was a similar movement noticed when a maximum of 9 was seen on 25th (MH). Linton, Ashington, Usworth, Chevington Burn, Bamburgh and Blaydon had between them over 38 individuals during this time.

Arctic Skua:-

Small numbers seen every day offshore. On 19th, however, 47 were counted off St. Mary's Island (MM) and on 24th, 25 flew N. off Stag Rocks during one hour (B.R.S.).

Great Skua:-

2 off Seaton Sluice on 18th (RN). Single birds seen off St. Mary's Island on 14th (MLC), Tynemouth on 29th (BG) and Cresswell on 31st (IH).

Greater Black-backed Gull:-

A flock of 900 flew N. at Cresswell in evening of 20th (MM/IH).

Little Gull:-

1 at Cresswell from 18th until 29th (EM et al).

Kittiwake:-

On 17th there was a small northerly passage of c200 per hour and at Hartley there was a roost of c2000. By the 19th this roost was down to 15000 (MM).

Black Tern:-

2 juveniles at Cresswell from 18th until 31st (MH et al). 1 off Stag Rocks on 24th (B.R.S.).

Common Tern:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 18th (MN).

Little Tern:-

3 off St. Mary's Island on 18th (RN) and 1 on 19th (MM).

Turtle Dove:-

1 at Blaydon Ponds on 10th (JBS).

Cuckoo:-

Single birds seen at Whitley Bay on 18th, Shaftoe Crags on 27th and Cresswell the next day.

Barn Owl:-

1 at Cresswell on 31st (MH).

Tawny Owl:-

6 in Gosforth Park on 16th (MM). 2 at Shaftoe Crags on 27th (JSB/IHA).

Long-eared Owl:-

1 at Holywell Dene on 27th (FC).

Short-eared Owl:-

2 at Havannah Ponds on 13th (EM).

Swift:-

Noted moving S. in large numbers on 2nd, 17th and 20th. On 30th, c12 at Swallow Ponds (FC) and 1 at Whittledene (JSB/IHA).

Swallow:-

On 19th at Tanfield Ponds 1400 - 1600 gathered on overhead wires (RMP). Small southerly movement noted at Cresswell on 21st (RN).

Marsh/Coal Tit:-

4 of each species at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.).

Willow Tit:-

3 at Prestwick Carr throughout month and 2 at Brenkly on 21st (EM/MH).

Fieldfare:-

1 at South Shields on 19th (MLC).

Wheatear:-

Many reports of birds moving down to the coast in small numbers. Slight influxes noted at Cresswell on 16th/17th when 22 were present, and on 31st (MM).

Greenland Wheatear:-

2 at Holy Island on 25th (JMB/CW) and another 2 at Holywell Dene on 30th (TWL/JKJ et al). 1 at Cresswell on 31st (MH).

Stonechat:-

1 at Ashington on 20th (MM/MH).

Whinchat:-

Inland breeding birds were noted in fairly large numbers at the coast from the 16th onwards. There were 45 at Cresswell on 19th and 20 on 31st (MM/IH).

Redstart:-

Noted in very small numbers from 15th onwards. 3 at Cresswell on 16th (MM) and 2 at Holy Island on 25th (JMB/CW). Only 5 other birds were seen in coastal districts during last fortnight of the month.

'Acrocephalus':-

One in reeds at Cresswell on 2nd (IH).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 at Chevington on 10th and 11th (BG).

Sedge Warbler:-

A family party of 4 was present at St. Mary's Island from 15th to 18th (RN et al). 10 at Cresswell on 16th (MM) and 1 still at Gosforth Park on 28th (RN).

Icterine Warbler:-

1 at Blyth Cemetery on 16th (MM/IH) 7

Blackcap:-

2 in Gosforth Park on 30th (BG).

Barred Warbler:-

A single bird at Blyth Cemetery on 16th (MM/IH).

Garden Warbler:-

1 at Monks House on 15th (PRE) and another at Blyth Cemetery the next day (MH). 3 at Cresswell on 17th (MM).

Whitethroat:-

On 16th, there were c20 at Cresswell and this species was well scattered elsewhere in smaller numbers; 3 at Blyth Cemetery, 3 at Priors Park and single birds at Hartley, St. Mary's Island and Seaton Sluice.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

At Cresswell, 2 on 17th, one of which was seen next day (MM/MH).

Phylloscopus:-

On 16th, there were over 6 at Hartley and smaller numbers at Blyth Cemetery, St. Mary's Island, Priors Park and Whitley Bay Cemetery (MM/MH). A few at Cresswell on 29th (EM).

Willow Warbler:-

10 at Cresswell on 16th (MM).

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Craster on 11th (PRE).

Wood Warbler:-

1 caught at Chevington Burn on 11th (BG) and 2 in Holywell Dene on 26th (JDP).

Goldcrest:-

3 at Cresswell on 24th (FC) and over 2 at Craster the following day (PRE). 1 at Monks House on 29th and 4 in Tynemouth Park on 31st (PRE/MB).

### Spotted Flycatcher:-

Banties of local breeding birds were noted at Holywell Ponds on the 9th (JEO) and Gosforth Park on 18th and 28th (RN). On 16th and 17th, 2 birds reported at Cresswell, Craster and Bamburgh. One at Monks House on 27th (PRE).

### Pied Flycatcher:-

1 at Craster on 14th and over 2 at Monks House and 2 at Bamburgh on 17th (PRE) when 4 were at Cresswell. By 19th, there were 7 at Cresswell, 1 at Craster and 1 at Blyth Cemetery. 2 at Monks House on 28th (PRE) and 1 at Bamburgh from 22nd until end of the month.

### Meadow Pipit:-

On 7th a southerly coasting movement was noted at Monks House and Craster (PRE).

### Wagtail:- Alba and Flava:-

A marked influx from 15th to 19th with large numbers seen along the coast, inland, and coming in off sea. Up to 75 Flava were counted at Cresswell on 16th/17th. 30 Alba and 20 Flava at Swallow Ponds on the 19th (MM).

### Yellow Wagtail:-

Many seen in small flocks on 11th at Whittledene, Hallington, Newton and Holywell Ponds. A southerly movement over Craster was noted on 14th and 18th (PRE). c30 at Cresswell on 25th and 1 at Bamburgh on 29th (MM).

### Linnet:-

Flocks of c50 were seen at Tynemouth, Alnwick and Prestwick Carr during the last fortnight.

### Redpoll:-

c20 at Prestwick Carr on 13th which rose to over 40 by 27th. A roost of 50+ at Havannah on this date (EM).

### Bullfinch:-

11 (including birds of the year) at Gosforth Park on 18th and 28th (RN). 1 near Chathill on 7th and at Belsay on 24th (EM).

### List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.	M. L. Chalmers.	T. W. Loud.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.	J. H. Doick.	M. Marquiss.
J. M. Bayldon.	P. R. Evans.	E. Meek.
A. Belshaw.	B. Galloway.	M. Nattrass.
M. Bell.	R. Grey.	R. Norman.
J. S. Booth.	I. Harrison.	J. E. Orton.
D. Bradford.	M. Hodgson.	R. M. Palmer.
W. Brady.	J. K. Jeffrey.	J. D. Parrack.
F. Colley.	E. Lobley.	C. Watson.

Would members please fill in the breeding census sheets sent out with the March Bulletin in respect of any species for which they may have details. Those for which records are particularly required include Blackbird, Song Thrush, Linnet and Dunnock (for comparison with 1962 and 63 seasons). In addition, any breeding records of the species mentioned in the Status Survey in the 1963 Annual Report should now be sent in to the Recorder.

Articles are required for this year's Annual Report. Any contributions should be sent to M. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Walkerville.

Subscriptions are now due. Would members please send their subs. (10s. Od. for 1964-5) to the Treasurer, A. Belshaw, 29 Lovaine Place, North Shields before 31st October, 1964.

All reports for September to be sent to the Recorder, M. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Walkerville, by 7th October, 1964.

Club Meetings have been resumed on the second Thursday of each month in the Y.M.C.A., Blakett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 7.p.m. All members are cordially invited. Members' slides will be shown at the October Meeting so anyone with slides of birds please bring them along.



# TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

## SEPTEMBER 1964 BULLETIN

Subscriptions are now due, will Members please send the 10s. Od. fee to the Treasurer, Mr. A. Belshaw, 29 Lovaine Place, North Shields, as soon as possible please.

### SUMMARY

The high-light of the month was a Wilson's Phalarope that stayed on Holy Island from 12th to 17th, this is the first record of this rare American Phalarope in Northumberland. Other rarer birds during the month were a Gull-billed Tern at St. Mary's Island, an Icterine Warbler at Blyth on the 4th, and 2 Red-throated Pipits at Hauxley from the 9th to the 11th.

The first "Grey Geese" were seen on the 19th and wild fowl numbers are starting to build up on local waters. The wader passage dwindled away by the end of the month and wintering flocks had started to build up.

Two light falls of night migrants took place, the first on the 3rd and again on the 24th. The first Redwings were noted during the month and several minor falls of Blackbirds and Song Thrushes took place.

Due to the dormant position of an anticyclone to the E. of the British Isles, the first few days of the month brought fog and S.S.E. winds. From the 7th a series of troughs moved across the country from the W. until the 11th. A short fine spell ensued until the 14th, when a series of complex depressions gave rise to changeable weather and more westerly winds until the 20th. An anticyclone moved eastwards into Germany on the 23rd. On the 24th, a depression moved over Iceland causing the winds to veer from S. to S.W. on the 25th. Pressure rose again on the 26th and until the end of the month westerly winds again dominated the scene.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Black-throated Diver:-

1 flew S. off St. Mary's Island on 20th (JDP).

#### Great Northern Diver:-

Only 1 record of a bird off Cresswell on 27th (IH).

#### Red-throated Diver:-

Several records of odd birds after 12th, when 1 was off Cresswell (MN). A maximum of 4 flew S. off St. Mary's Island on the 23rd (JDP).

#### Great Crested Grebe:-

Only records are of 2 at Cresswell on 19th (JSE/IHA) and a 1st. W. bird off Chevington Burn on 23rd (DB).

#### Red-necked Grebe:-

1 in Holy Island Harbour in partial summer plumage on 18th (DB), was seen on 19th off Stag Rocks and by 20th there were 2 (B.R.S.).

#### Little Grebe:-

15 at Holywell Ponds on 17th and 20th (TW).

#### Manx Shearwater:-

Odd birds noted moving N. at various points on coast during early part of month. 25 flew N. off Cresswell on 12th (MN). 17 flew N. during 1½ hours watch at Hauxley on 21st (H.R.S.). A Shearwater flying N. off Cresswell on 12th was believed to be a Balearic (JSE/IHA).

#### Sooty Shearwater:-

All birds were seen flying N. 1 off St. Mary's Island on the 13th (SH). 2 at Hauxley on 12th, 3 on 21st and 1 on 24th (H.R.S.).

#### Fulmar:-

Noted moving N. at 100 per hour off Hauxley on 12th (H.R.S.).

/Gannet



Gannet:-

Recorded moving N. and S. during most of month. Large parties of birds feeding close inshore at Bamburgh on 6th when 75 seen, and on 26th when over 200 were counted (B.R.S.). 100 were off Seaton Sluice on 13th (MN) when 13 were off Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Cormorant:-

Quite numerous off most parts of the coast, with c15 in Holy Island Area on 8th (P.H). 12 flew N. off Hauxley on 13th (H.R.S.). A maximum of 62 flew S. off St. Mary's Island on 9th and 26 on 21st (JDP).

Shag:-

Birds were noted moving N. off Hauxley during month (in company with Cormorants) with up to 10 passing each day (H.R.S.).

Heron:-

A single bird at Cresswell was last seen on 20th (DB), other records of single birds at Walbottle on 6th (IH). 1 flew S. near Berwick on 10th (EM), and 1 over Gosforth Park on 20th (BG).

Mallard:-

A small northerly passage noted at Hauxley during whole of month (H.R.S.). Large concentrations of 250 at Holywell Ponds on 19th (CED) and up to 300 at Gosforth Park during month (MN/ER).

Teal:-

Small northerly movement noted off Hauxley during whole of month with c25 going N. each day (H.R.S.). The largest numbers reported were at Gosforth Park where there was up to 200 during month (EM/IHA).

Gadwall:-

2 at Cresswell on 20th (MH).

Wigeon:-

Moving N. off several points on the coast during month. 64 off Boulmer on 19th (RN) and 100 at Hauxley (H.R.S.). Numbers on local waters gradually rose during month.

Pintail:-

1 at Cresswell on 18th/19th (JSB/MH) and 1 flying S. over Bamburgh on 20th and 26th (B.R.S.).

Shoveler:-

Maxima at ponds were: 7 at Newton Foul on 3rd (PH), 14 at Seaton Burn on 15th (IHA), c20 - 30 at Gosforth Park during most of month with 60 on 27th (MH).

Scaup:-

A female at Swallow Ponds on 14th (MC) and a male flew N. off Stag Rocks on 26th (B.R.S.).

Tufted Duck:-

No exceptional numbers reported. 12 at Whittle Dene on 1st (IHA) and 18 at Holywell Ponds on 25th (CED).

Pochard:-

Odd birds and small flocks at the foremost local waters, but the peak was at Seaton Burn with 40 on 20th (MC).

Goldeneye:-

3 flew N. off Cresswell on 13th (JDP) were the only ones reported.

Long-tailed Duck:-

A pair off Holy Island on 8th and 1 off Stag Rocks on 19th (PH/BRS).

Velvet Scoter:-

5 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 13th with 250 Common Scoter (JDP).

Common Scoter:-

43 off Chevington on 19th (DC) and 100 off Hauxley the next day (H.R.S.). Only 3 off Bamburgh on 27th (B.R.S.).

Eider:-

c150 off Hauxley and 200+ off Bamburgh during most of month (H.R.S./B.R.S.).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

A flock of 16 at Boulmer on 5th (MC) and 2 at Bamburgh the following day (B.R.S.). 2 flew S. off Hauxley on 9th (H.R.S.).

/Goosander

Goosander:-

A flock of 12 flew E. down the Tyne at Newburn on 2nd (BG).

Shelduck:-

Only 3 records, the last being of 2 at Jarrow Slake on 13th (MC).

Grey Lag Goose:-

A flock of 62 were seen to fly N. at Chevington and Hauxley on 19th (DC/H.R.S.).

Pink/Bean Goose:-

A total of 25 flew S. off St. Mary's Island on 21st and 14 flew S. and 5 N. on 25th (JDP).

Grey Geese Sp?:-

14 flew W. over Walbottle on 19th (JSB/IHA).

Pink-footed Goose:-

At Hauxley, 11 flew S. on 26th and 1 flew N. on 27th (H.R.S.).

Barnacle Goose:-

A single bird flew S. off Tynemouth on 24th (MH).

Mute Swan:-

Up to 35 at Blaydon during month (BG/ER).

Buzzard Sp?:-

1 over Holy Island flats on 21st (JKJ/TWL) and a Common Buzzard over Langlee Ford Valley on 8th (PRE).

Hen Harrier:-

A juvenile or female bird flying S. at Craster on 7th (PRE).

Kestrel:-

Single birds were reported from most areas. Possible migrants were 3 at Holy Island on 21st (JKJ/TWL), 3 at Hauxley after 19th (H.R.S.). and 3 at Craster on 3rd (PRE).

Partridge:-

A roost of 60 birds in a field at Hauxley on 3rd (H.R.S.).

Water Rail:-

1 at Holy Island Lough on 14th (ER).

Coot:-

150 at Holywell Ponds on 12th had decreased to 80 by 25th (CED).

Oystercatcher:-

Numerous on coast during month. 100 on Coquet Isle on 6th (H.R.S.). c100 at Boulmer on 19th (RN) and over 100 at St. Mary's Island on 28th (MH).

Lapwing:-

Over 350 at Cresswell on 20th (MH). Numerous smaller parties seen elsewhere.

Ringed Plover:-

40 at Hauxley on 3rd had risen to 50 on 9th (H.R.S.). c30 in Newton area on 3rd (PH). 2 at Whittle Dene on 29th (JSB/IHA).

Grey Plover:-

1 or 2 birds recorded on several parts of coast. 5 in Amble area on 20th (H.R.S./TW). 3 at Chevington Burn on 26th (MN). 5 flew W. over Craster on 23rd and birds were calling loudly over Craster and Newton on 24th (PRE).

Golden Plover:-

c200 in fields at Rock on 2nd (PH). 100 at Hauxley on 3rd had built up to 300 by 12th (H.R.S.). c1000 at Jarrow Slake on 13th (MC) are largest concentrations reported.

Turnstone:-

Only large numbers were at Hauxley where 50 on 5th had risen to over 100 by 20th (H.R.S.).

Snipe:-

Numbers building up during month. 50 at Cresswell on 11th, 30 on Holy Island on 16th (ER) and 50 at Holywell Ponds on 25th (CED).

/Curlew

Curlew:-

c200 at Holy Island on 16th (ER). 20 at Warkworth on 25th (DB).  
Numbers at Hauxley had built up to c50 by end of month (H.R.S.).

Whimbrel:-

2 at Seaton Sluice (JSB). 1 at Hauxley on 3rd and 11th, 3 flew E.  
on 7th (H.R.S.).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

1 at Linton on 1st (FC) and 1 at Cresswell on 13th (BG).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Small numbers noted on most parts of coast except at Holy Island  
where there were c1000 on 2nd (PRE) and 1st (JEO).

Green Sandpiper:-

Single birds at Swallow Ponds on 12th (FC), Tanfield Ponds on 4th  
(RMP) and Hauxley throughout month.

Wood Sandpiper:-

Singles at Tanfield Ponds from 3rd to 6th (RMP) at Swallow Ponds on  
13th and 20th (MC) at Holy Island on 2nd and Budle on 9th (PRE) and at  
Cresswell on 23rd (DB).

Common Sandpiper:-

2 at Whittle Dene on 1st (IHA). Single birds at Hauxley and  
Chevington on 3rd and 4th (H.R.S/EM).

Redshank:-

c20 - 30 at Cresswell during most of month (ER/BG). 200 at Coquet  
Isle on 6th and c150 at Hauxley during month (H.R.S.).

Spotted Redshank:-

Single birds at Cresswell during month but 3 present from 12th - 19th  
(JSB et al) and 6 on 20th (RN). Singles at Bamburgh on 2nd (B.R.S.).  
Ford on 9th (EM) and Walbottle from 10th - 15th (JSB/IHA).

Greenshank:-

The most reported from Cresswell was 4 on 11th, 1 present on 27th  
(IH/ER). A bird at Cresswell from 6th to 11th had orange/yellow legs (DC/  
ER). Other single birds at Beadnell on 1st, Bamburgh on 15th and Fenham  
on 20th (PRE).

Knot:-

c1000 at Holy Island Flats on 1st (JEO). On 28th only 50 at Hauxley  
(H.R.S.).

Purple Sandpiper:-

1 at Amble on 5th (H.R.S) and at Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S.) were the  
only records.

Little Stint:-

At Cresswell, 2 on 5th, 4 on 7th, 2 on 11th of which 1 remained until  
27th (IH et al). 1 at Holy Island on 2nd and at Seahouses from 15th -  
17th (PRE). 3 at St. Mary's Island on 22nd (SM).

Dunlin:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 1st had risen to 13 on 27th dropping to 6 on  
29th (IHA). Over 200 at Holy Island Flats on 1st (JEO) was the largest  
individual flock reported. Parties elsewhere averaged c50 in size.

Curlew Sandpiper:-

Numbers at Cresswell increased during 5th - 7th when a small immig-  
ration of Little Stints and Dunlin were also noticed; 6 on 7th had  
decreased to 2 on 11th, 1 remaining until 27th (ER/IH). 2 at Fenham Mill  
on 20th (PRE) and 2 at Boulmer on 19th (RN). 2 at Whittle Dene from 27th  
- 28th (JSB).

Sanderling:-

Over 50 on Holy Island on 2nd (JEO) and 160 at Hauxley on 19th (H.R.S)

Ruff:-

Numbers at Cresswell had dropped to 4 on 4th (EM) but soon increased  
to 12 on 5th and by 11th over 30 were present (ER), numbers then started  
to decrease and 9 were present on 27th (IH). 1 at Swallow Ponds on 12th  
and 14th (FC/MC) and 2 at Holy Island on 17th (PRE).



Wilson's Phalarope:-

1 on Holy Island Lough from 12th to 17th was seen by many observers during its stay. It was in Winter plumage. This is c15th British Record of this rare American Vagrant (P. J. Stead/F.G. Grey/MB)\_7

Arctic Skua:-

Considered very numerous in Budle Bay during early part of month (TW) 6 off Hauxley on 2nd and 5 on 12th; 8 flew N. on 21st (H.R.S.). Totals of 5 were seen off Holy Island on 17th and 27th and off Stag Rocks on 29th (PRE). 8 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 19th (MH).

Great Skua:-

Individuals noted moving N. and S. from various points during month. Singles at Boulmer and St. Mary's Island on 1st, Bamburgh on 2nd, Hauxley on 12th and Holy Island on 17th. 2 flew S. off St. Mary's Island on 20th and 22nd, 3 on 23rd (JDP).

Pomarine Skua:-

2 flew S. and 1 N. off St. Mary's Island on 1st (JDP) when 2 were seen flying N. off Hauxley (H.R.S.) where 1 flew N. on 12th. 1 off the Inner Farne on 16th and another off Holy Island on 17th (PRE). 1 flew S. off Cresswell on 27th (IH).

Greater Black-backed Gull:-

c200 adults in Amble Harbour on 24th (TW/H.R.S.).

Common Gull:-

A roost of over 3000 at South Shields by end of month (MC) and a northerly movement of 150 per hour off Hauxley on 9th (H.R.S.).

Glaucous Gull:-

Only record is of the sub-adult in Amble/Hauxley area during most of month (H.R.S.).

Little Gull:-

1 at Boulmer on 1st (PRE).

Black-headed Gull:-

c2000 flew N. off Hauxley on 9th when a passage of 250 per hour was noted (H.R.S.).

Kittiwake:-

2000 on Coquet Isle on 1st, moving N. at 500 per hour off Hauxley on 12th (H.R.S.).

Black Tern:-

1 at Cresswell stayed until 20th (DB/MH et al). 1 at Bamburgh on 26th/27th (B.R.S.).

Gull-billed Tern:-

2 birds in Hauxley area were last seen on 1st August (H.R.S.). The R. B. Committee are to consider another record of a single bird flying S. at St. Mary's Island on 1st September (JDP).

Common/Arctic Tern:-

A movement from 3rd - 5th was noted at Hauxley. It involved c10,000 Arctics flying N. in parties of c20 and c1000 Commons (H.R.S.).

Roseate Tern:-

2 at Stag Rocks from 23rd - 27th (B.R.S.). Single birds seen elsewhere.

Little Auk:-

1 flying N. off St. Mary's Island on 20th is an unusual record (SM).

Turtle Dove:-

An adult at Hauxley on 24th (H.R.S.) and 1 at Belford on 26th (MH).

Collared Dove:-

2 in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 23rd (JDP). 1 at Hauxley on 26th and 2 at Cresswell on 27th (H.R.S/IH).

Cuckoo:-

1 on Holy Island on 18th is a late record (DB).

/Short-eared Owl



Short-eared Owl:-

At Hauxley, there were 2 on 4th, 1 flew in from E. on 5th and 1 was present on 26th (H.R.S.). 2 at Cresswell during most of month were joined by another on 23rd and 3 were still present on 26th (DB/DC et al). On 30th there was 1 at Bamburgh and 3 at Holy Island (PRE).

Swift:-

A few late stragglers were seen until 10th, thereafter individuals reported were, Seahouses on 15th, Bamburgh on 21st, Tynemouth on 23rd and South Shields on 28th (JDP/PRE/MC).

Wryneck:-

1 at Cullernose point on 6th (P. Brown).

Skylark:-

A southerly movement noted over Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S.).

Swallow:-

50 in Hauxley area on 3rd had dropped to c20 on 4th. Small numbers were coming in off sea all day on 5th and eventually c90 were present (H.R.S.). A similar movement was noted at St. Mary's Island on 5th when c50 came in (RN). Many were on Holy Island after a thunderstorm on 16th (BG). Birds still present in most areas by end of month.

House Martin:-

Pair were feeding young at Rock on 30th (PH).

Sand Martin:-

1 at Craster on 14th (PRE) and a few with Swallows on Holy Island on 16th (FC).

Great Tit:-

Birds moving through Hauxley during month. 4 on 3rd, 1 on 24th and 2 on 27th (H.R.S.). At Bamburgh 7 came in from dunes on 26th (B.R.S.). 14 were at Prior's Park, Tynemouth on 23rd (JDP).

Blue Tit:-

Very numerous in most coastal areas, especially during the latter half of month. A total of c40 moved through Hauxley from 20th - 23rd. Many flocks of up to 20 reported from Bamburgh, Cresswell and Whitley Bay areas. Largest concentration was of 60 at Cresswell on 3rd (JDP). Over 40 at Prior's Park on 24th (MH).

Coal Tit:-

5 at Bamburgh on 13th and 3 more on 26th (B.R.S.). 2 at Hauxley on 21st/22nd and 1 on 27th (H.R.S) and all these birds occurred when Tits were moving down the coast in large numbers.

Willow Tit:-

2 at Hauxley on 2nd (H.R.S.).

Long-tailed Tit:-

Only reports are of parties of 9 at Gosforth Park on 19th (MN) and 20 at Rock on 30th (PH).

Tree Creeper:-

A "Northern" bird at Hauxley on 8th/9th (H.R.S) and 1 on Holy Island on 16th (FC).

Wren:-

Noted moving through Hauxley in small numbers during month.

Dipper:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 1st (JSB/IHA).

Mistle Thrush:-

12 in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 13th (JDP). 1 flew in from sea at Hauxley on 24th (H.R.S) and 2 at Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S.).

Fieldfare:-

1 on Holy Island on 5th (SRS/RMW).

Song Thrush:-

Over 100 in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 3rd dropped to 50 on 4th and 5th (MH/SM). At Hauxley c30 passed through from 7th to 10th (H.R.S.).

Redwing:-

The first Autumn birds were 4 at Hauxley on 13th (H.R.S). Only other was 1 at St. Mary's Island on 28th (MH/SM).

Ring Ouzel:-

3 at Langleeford on 8th (PRE).

Blackbird:-

First Autumn influxes were noted all along coast on 3rd/4th and 22nd/23rd. During these latter dates there were many in South Shields area (MC) and c50 passed through Hauxley (H.R.S). A fall of c50 at Tynemouth on 28th (SM).

Wheatear:-

Small numbers passing through during most of month. An influx was noted on 3rd to 7th when 10 at Blyth Cemetery on 3rd and 6 on 5th and 7th (SM/MH) and 20 passed through Hauxley during the same period. During 2 hours on 13th, 12 flew S. along shore at Hauxley (H.R.S.). 3 at Holy Island on 17th (PRE).

Greenland Wheatear:-

4 at Hauxley on 20th were of this race.

Stonechat:-

2 at Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S) and 1 at St. Mary's Island on 19th (MN) and at Seahouses on 24th (PRE).

Whinchat:-

Passing through in small numbers in coastal areas. An influx noted at Blyth with c26 seen there from 3rd - 6th (SM/MH). During same period c60 passed through Hauxley (H.R.S) and up to 10 a day were present for remainder of month.

Redstart:-

Reports from most coastal places during month. Small immigration took place on 3rd - 7th with single birds at Marsden (MC), Cresswell (MN) Whitley Bay and Blyth Cemeteries (MH). At Hauxley c12 passed through, and again on 24th with 3 at Marsden (MC), 12 at Cresswell (DB) and c24 at Hauxley (H.R.S).

Robin:-

First immigration was noted on 5th/6th with 3 at Hauxley. During period 19th/27th birds were noted to be passing through most coastal places in small numbers.

Sedge Warbler:-

On 13th, at least 1 present at Tanfield Ponds (RMP). 1 at St. Mary's Island and another at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 1st (MH).

Icterine Warbler:-

The R.B. Committee are to consider a report of 1 at Blyth Cemetery on 4th (JDP)✓

Blackcap:-

5 individuals at Hauxley between 1st and 20th (H.R.S). 3 at Craster on 3rd (PRE) and single birds at Cresswell on 19th, Gosforth Park on 23rd and Monks House on 25th (TW/ER et al).

Barred Warbler:-

3 records. 1 at Holy Island on 16th (FC/BG/ER), 1 at Hauxley on 27th (H.R.S.) and 1 at Craster on 3rd (PRE).

Garden Warbler:-

An influx of 4 at Blyth Cemetery on 5th (SM) and 1 at Tynemouth on 7th (TW). On 3rd, c11 were present at Cresswell (JDP). 5 passed through Hauxley during month (H.R.S). 1 at Bamburgh on 5th and 26th (B.R.S.).

Whitethroat:-

Small numbers through Whitley Bay area during first week of month when c25 passed through Hauxley. 4 at Blyth Cemetery on 5th (MH), 2 at Cresswell on 23rd and 2 at Hauxley the next day (H.R.S). A late inland record on 20th at Wideopen (EG). At least 3 at Gosforth Park on 10th (JEO).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

3 at Hauxley. 1 on 3rd and 1 on 27th (H.R.S) and 1 at Holy Island on 4th (SRS/RMW).

Willow/Chiff:-

On 5th/6th c15 were present in Whitley Bay/Blyth area (SM).

/Willow Warbler

Willow Warbler:-

c40 moved through Hauxley during 2nd/7th (H.R.S) and a bird trapped on 6th showed characteristics of "acredule".

Chiffchaff:-

Single birds at Hauxley on 4th/5th and 27th (H.R.S) at Craster until 25th (PRE), at Blyth Cemetery on 4th (JDP), Tynemouth on 6th (MH) and 2 at Arcott Hall on 12th, 1 remaining until 20th (CED).

Yellow-browed Warbler:-

A single bird at Tynemouth Park on 30th stayed until 3rd October (MB/MH/DH et al).

Goldcrest:-

Up to 12 seen at various coastal places including Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, Cresswell and Hauxley especially during first and last weeks of month.

Spotted Flycatcher:-

Odd birds moving through whole of month, especially on 4th when 4 were at Cresswell and 3 at Blyth Cemetery (JDP/SM).

Pied Flycatcher:-

Moving through Marsden, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, Cresswell and Hauxley in moderate numbers during month, especially in the first week when there were over 20 at Bamburgh. There were 16 at Holy Island (SRS/RMW), 10 at Marsden on 3rd (MC), 10 at Blyth and Whitley Bay on 5th/6th (SM), 30 at Cresswell on 4th had dropped to c10 the next day (JDP). From 2nd to 20th c100 went through Hauxley the peak was of 12 on 2nd (H.R.S). Falls on 24th were noted at Marsden c8 (MC), 4 at Cresswell and 12 at Hauxley (H.R.S).

Meadow Pipit:-

Passage was reported from Hauxley where birds were noted coasting S. on every day of month. On 7th, many thousands had passed in continuous flocks of up to 50 and c300 were present in the immediate area, many passed on 9th when flocks of c30 were passing all day. c500 in Hauxley area on 12th when there were 40 in Blyth Cemetery (RN). 400 flew S. during morning of 13th at Hauxley (H.R.S).

Tree Pipit:-

2 were in Blyth Cemetery on 5th (RN).

Red-throated Pipit:-

The R. B. Committee are to consider a record of 2 adults at Hauxley from 9th to 11th. All typical field points noted and both birds showed a considerable amount of Summer plumage. This is probably the third record of this rare Scandinavian Pipit in Northumberland and the second from here this year (H.R.S).\_/

Rock Pipit:-

Noted moving through Hauxley during month with up to 30 regular during first two weeks (H.R.S).

Pied/White Wagtail:-

c15 at Hauxley on 21st (H.R.S). 5 at Rock on 30th were believed to be White Wagtails (PH).

Grey Wagtails:-

1 at College Valley on 5th, 3 at Longlee Ford on 13th and 1 at Craster on 14th (PRE). On 26th, 2 at Holywell Dene (CED) and 3 came in off dunes at Bamburgh (B.R.S.).

Wagtails Sp:-

Up to 55 were roosting at Holywell Ponds during first week of month (JDP).

Starling:-

A flock of c80 flew in from sea at Hauxley on 19th (H.R.S).

Goldfinch:-

1 at Bamburgh on 1st (B.R.S) and 6 near Wideopen on 20th (BG).

Siskin:-

5 at Newton on 1st (TW). Singles at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 6th and 23rd (SM/JDP) and Rowick on 10th (PRE). On 26th, 4 at Druridge (JSB/IHA) and 1 at Bamburgh (B.R.S). 2 came in off sea at Craster on 21st and 3 more in off sea on 28th (PRE).

/Linnet

Linnet:-

Largest concentrations were at Tanfield with c100 during month (RMP) and c500 roosting in Gosforth Park on 23rd (ER).

Redpoll:-

Over 200 at Howick on 6th (PRE) and c40 at Wideopen on 20th (BG).

Bullfinch:-

Over 7 in Gosforth Park on 13th.

Chaffinch:-

12 were seen to come off the sea at Hauxley on 22nd (H.R.S).

/Ortolan Bunting:-

A male at Tynemouth Park on 24th (MH)\_7

Reed Bunting:-

Noted moving through Hauxley in small numbers (5 a day) during month (H.R.S). c700 roosting in Gosforth Park on 23rd (ER).

Snow Bunting:-

A male at Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S).

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.	P. R. Evans.	M. Nattrass.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.	B. Galloway.	J. E. Orton.
M. Bell.	I. Harrison.	R. M. Palmer.
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P. Brown.	M. Hodgson.	S. R. Stobart.
H. Chalmers.	J. K. Jeffrey.	C. Watson.
F. Colley.	Mrs. P. Jeffrey.	T. Winter.
D. Collinson.	T. W. Loud.	R. M. Wood.
C. E. Douglas.	S. Moffitt.	



Summary:  
 The following persons were at the meeting on 27th (Sat.)  
 and 28th (Sun.) at the meeting on 29th (Mon.)  
Summary:  
 The following persons were at the meeting on 30th (Tue.)  
 and 31st (Wed.) at the meeting on 1st (Thurs.)  
Summary:  
 The following persons were at the meeting on 2nd (Fri.)  
 and 3rd (Sat.) at the meeting on 4th (Sun.)

Summary:  
 The following persons were at the meeting on 5th (Mon.)  
 and 6th (Tue.) at the meeting on 7th (Wed.)  
 and 8th (Thurs.) at the meeting on 9th (Fri.)  
 and 10th (Sat.) at the meeting on 11th (Sun.)  
Summary:  
 The following persons were at the meeting on 12th (Mon.)  
 and 13th (Tue.) at the meeting on 14th (Wed.)  
 and 15th (Thurs.) at the meeting on 16th (Fri.)  
 and 17th (Sat.) at the meeting on 18th (Sun.)

List of Contributors

1. Mr. A. B. C.	2. Mr. D. E. F.	3. Mr. G. H. I.	4. Mr. J. K. L.
5. Mr. M. N. O.	6. Mr. P. Q. R.	7. Mr. S. T. U.	8. Mr. V. W. X.
9. Mr. Y. Z. A.	10. Mr. B. C. D.	11. Mr. E. F. G.	12. Mr. H. I. J.
13. Mr. K. L. M.	14. Mr. N. O. P.	15. Mr. Q. R. S.	16. Mr. T. U. V.
17. Mr. W. X. Y.	18. Mr. Z. A. B.	19. Mr. C. D. E.	20. Mr. F. G. H.
21. Mr. I. J. K.	22. Mr. L. M. N.	23. Mr. O. P. Q.	24. Mr. R. S. T.
25. Mr. U. V. W.	26. Mr. X. Y. Z.	27. Mr. A. B. C.	28. Mr. D. E. F.
29. Mr. G. H. I.	30. Mr. J. K. L.	31. Mr. M. N. O.	32. Mr. P. Q. R.
33. Mr. S. T. U.	34. Mr. V. W. X.	35. Mr. Y. Z. A.	36. Mr. B. C. D.
37. Mr. E. F. G.	38. Mr. H. I. J.	39. Mr. K. L. M.	40. Mr. N. O. P.
41. Mr. Q. R. S.	42. Mr. T. U. V.	43. Mr. W. X. Y.	44. Mr. Z. A. B.
45. Mr. C. D. E.	46. Mr. F. G. H.	47. Mr. I. J. K.	48. Mr. L. M. N.
49. Mr. O. P. Q.	50. Mr. R. S. T.	51. Mr. U. V. W.	52. Mr. X. Y. Z.
53. Mr. A. B. C.	54. Mr. D. E. F.	55. Mr. G. H. I.	56. Mr. J. K. L.
57. Mr. M. N. O.	58. Mr. P. Q. R.	59. Mr. S. T. U.	60. Mr. V. W. X.
61. Mr. Y. Z. A.	62. Mr. B. C. D.	63. Mr. E. F. G.	64. Mr. H. I. J.
65. Mr. K. L. M.	66. Mr. N. O. P.	67. Mr. Q. R. S.	68. Mr. T. U. V.
69. Mr. W. X. Y.	70. Mr. Z. A. B.	71. Mr. C. D. E.	72. Mr. F. G. H.
73. Mr. I. J. K.	74. Mr. L. M. N.	75. Mr. O. P. Q.	76. Mr. R. S. T.
77. Mr. U. V. W.	78. Mr. X. Y. Z.	79. Mr. A. B. C.	80. Mr. D. E. F.
81. Mr. G. H. I.	82. Mr. J. K. L.	83. Mr. M. N. O.	84. Mr. P. Q. R.
85. Mr. S. T. U.	86. Mr. V. W. X.	87. Mr. Y. Z. A.	88. Mr. B. C. D.
89. Mr. E. F. G.	90. Mr. H. I. J.	91. Mr. K. L. M.	92. Mr. N. O. P.
93. Mr. Q. R. S.	94. Mr. T. U. V.	95. Mr. W. X. Y.	96. Mr. Z. A. B.
97. Mr. C. D. E.	98. Mr. F. G. H.	99. Mr. I. J. K.	100. Mr. L. M. N.

# TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

OCTOBER 1964 BULLETIN

## SUMMARY

From the 1st to the 4th, the weather was dominated by an anticyclone which was centred to the E. of the country giving East, S. East and southerly winds. During this time there was a Spoonbill at Budle Bay, another Yellow-browed Warbler (which probably came in on the same winds as the one at Tynemouth mentioned in last month's report), a Red-throated Pipit and small influxes of Flycatchers, Turdidae, Goldcrests and Warblers (note Lesser Whitethroats at Hauxley). From the 5th to the 7th, a series of troughs moved across from the Atlantic giving S. to S.W. winds and producing the first of the Red-breasted Flycatchers on Holy Island. On the 8th, a westerly air stream covered the area and from the 9th to the 15th, winds were cyclonic and varying - the 10th being S.E., 11th E.N.E. and 12th N.N.E., otherwise generally westerly. A Red-breasted Flycatcher now turned up at Hauxley as did 2 Great Grey Shrikes on the 11th. The fifth Yellow-browed Warbler record for Durham turned up at Marsden. Pressure rose on the 16th (another Yellow-browed - this time at Bamburgh and the second Red-breasted Flycatcher on Holy Island) leading to the return of anticyclonic weather from the 17th to the 21st resulting in winds moving from N. through W. to S.W. and back again. On the 22nd, winds became colder (resulting in large Turdidae movement) from the N. but only lasted until the 24th, when pressure rose again. From the 25th, (when a Lesser Whitefront dropped in at Cresswell) until end of the month a ridge of high pressure extending to Baltic High gave calm weather or light southerly winds. It was during this time that a Long-billed Dowitcher arrived at Cresswell (and was still there on 9th November) and a Firecrest made a short stay at Hauxley. Another Great Grey Shrike was seen, this time at Tynemouth.

An interesting month, with "a little of everything" but no great influxes as we have come to expect from previous years.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

### Divers:-

Many single birds and small parties seen off most coastal places throughout month.

### Black-throated Diver:-

1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 15th (RN).

### Red-throated Diver:-

Only large concentrations reported were at Cresswell, 8 on 10th (JSB/IMA), 50 on 17th (JEO), 31 on 31st (MM).

### Great Crested Grebe:-

1 on 19th at Warkworth (E. & T.H), 2 off Stag on 11th (B.R.S). 2 off St. Mary's Island on 28th (RN) and 1 off Cresswell on 31st (MM).

### Red-necked Grebe:-

2 off Stag on 15th and 1 on 18th (B.R.S) also 2 off Cresswell from 25th until end of month.

### Slavonian Grebe:-

1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 2nd (MH), a single bird off Seaton Sluice on 15th was oiled (RN). 1 off Cresswell on 31st (MM).

### Gannet:-

200 off Stag on 11th had dropped to c40 by 18th (B.R.S.).

### Heron:-

3 at Gosforth Park on 14th (ER). Single birds at Whittle Dene on 4th (JSB/IMA). Budle Bay on 10th (DB) and Wingates Moor on 15th (IH).

### Spoonbill:-

1 at Budle Bay on 2nd was only seen in flight. It eventually flew off towards Holy Island flats (GWT/R.A.Jolly).

/Mallard

Mallard:-

Numbers built up during month on most inland waters. 300 at Holywell Ponds during most of month (JEO/CED). c150 at Gosforth Park during last 2 weeks of month, (BG). 650 at Wingates Moor on 15th (IH). Most other inland waters had large numbers during month.

Teal:-

40 at Gosforth Park on 18th (MH), had built up to 300 by 31st (BG). 180 at Holywell Ponds on 4th (CED). 90 at Wingates on 15th (IH). Smaller numbers were reported from most inland waters throughout month.

Wigeon:-

Largest number inland was 40 at Holywell Ponds on 11th (MH/MLC) and 50 on 28th (CED). c500 at Budle Bay on 17th (DC) and c5000 flew W. over same place on 24th (DC). 170 at Wingates on 15th (IH). 250 flew N. at Hauxley on 19th (H.R.S.).

Pintail:-

3 at Wingates Moor on 15th (IH). 3 at North Walbottle on 5th, single birds at Gosforth Park and Colt Crag during month.

Shoveler:-

Largest numbers were at Gosforth Park where there were 25 on 4th (RN) and 20 on 12th (ER). Only 3 remained on 31st (BG).

Tufted Duck:-

Numbers on Holywell Ponds and Gosforth Park tended to build up during month. 55 at Holywell Ponds on 31st (CED) was by far the largest concentration reported.

Pochard:-

9 at Hartburn on 18th/24th (JKJ/TWL). at Whittle Dene numbers built up during month, 43 on 11th, 69 on 18th and 107 on 25th (JSB/IHA).

Goldeneye:-

Small numbers on most inland waters after the middle of month. 1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 3rd (MH). 7 flew N. on 21st and a total of 17 on 28th in one hour (MH). 18 off Warkworth on 19th (B. & T.H.).

Long-tailed Duck:-

3 off Stag Rocks on 15th (B.R.S.). 3 at Holy Island and 3 flew N. off Bamburgh on 24th (DB). 1 at Hauxley on 31st (H.R.S.).

Velvet Scoter:-

5 off Holy Island on 3rd (B. & T.H.) and 3 flew N. off Hauxley on 22nd (H.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

Many small flocks of c50 seen from several coastal points. The largest concentration was c300 off Cresswell on 31st (MH).

Goosander:-

A female flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 3rd (BG).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Many small parties seen off most coastal places towards end of month. Many were in Ross Back Sands area during month (DB/B. & T.H.). 5 off Stag on 18th (B.R.S.).

Shelduck:-

2 at Hauxley during first week of month and 1 at Jarrow on 25th (MLC).

Grey Lag Goose:-

6 flew N. off Bamburgh on 11th (B.R.S.). 5 at Holywell Ponds from 18th to 24th (CED/JEO). 3 at Hauxley on 10th and 31st (H.R.S.).

Grey Geese:-

6 flew S.W. over North Shields on 11th and 5 flew over Killingworth on 17th (BG).

Pink-footed Goose:-

12 flew N. at Marsden on 31st (MLC).

Lesser Whitefront:-

A goose showing the field characteristics of this species was seen at Cresswell on 25th. The observer noted small size, pink bill, white on head. This record is to be put before the Ratities Committee (IH).

/Barnacle

Barnacle Goose:-

12 flew N. off Bamburgh on 10th and c20 were on Fenham Flats on the same day (DE/B.R.S.). A single bird at Cresswell on 10th and 1 at Whittle Dene from 11th until end of month (JSB/IHA).

Mute Swan:-

10 at Gosforth Park and 14 at Blaydon on 28th (JSB/IHA). c100+ in Holy Island area on 24th (DE/DC).

Whooper Swan:-

Largest number reported was 15 at Colt Crag on 18th (RG/NB/EL). Elsewhere numbers gradually built up after 12th.

Bewick Swan:-

1 at Wingate Moor on 15th (IH).

Buzzard:-

A Common Buzzard flew in from the E. at Hauxley on 3rd (H.R.S.).

Peregrine:-

On 10th, 1 at Bamburgh and 1 at St. Mary's on same day (B.R.S./MN).

Merlin:-

A female at Hauxley on 3rd and 7th and 1 at Bamburgh on 18th (B.R.S./H.R.S.).

Kestrel:-

4 at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.). Many single birds were seen in coastal places on 3rd.

Pheasant:-

Single birds at Bamburgh on 11th and Hauxley on 21st (H.R.S./B.R.S.). Both birds were in unusual places.

Water Rail:-

2 at Bamburgh on 15th and 3 on 13th (B.R.S.). 2 at Hauxley from 11th until end of month.

Moorhen:-

An exhausted bird at Hauxley on 3rd and c35 were present on 31st (H.R.S.).

Coot:-

Numbers at Holywell Ponds decreased to c30 during month (CED). 210 at Seaton Burn on 13th (ER).

Lapwing:-

A northerly movement on 19th when 1700 flew over Marsden (MLC), c300 per hour over Bamburgh (JSB/IHA). 1600 at Cresswell on 25th (IH).

Grey Plover:-

2 at Boulmer on 3rd and Cresswell on 4th (MLC/MN). 7 at Budle Bay on 10th and 2 on 15th (B.R.S.). 6 at Holy Island on 24th (DE).

Golden Plover:-

Numbers were well below normal for this time of year! 600 at Hauxley during month (H.R.S.). 500 at Cresswell on 25th (IH). 1180 at Jarrow Slake on 25th (MLC) with flocks of 200+ at St. Mary's and Whittle Dene by end of month.

Snipe:-

50 at Holywell Ponds and Hauxley during month and 65 at Swallow Ponds on 28th (MH/CED/H.R.S.). 80 at Cresswell on 31st (MN) was by far the largest concentration reported.

Jack Snipe:-

2 at Hauxley on 3rd, and 1 at Cresswell on 4th (H.R.S./MN). after this date small numbers were recorded until end of month with maximum of 3 at Bamburgh from 15th - 18th (B.R.S.).

Woodcock:-

1 at Bamburgh on 18th and 2 on 19th (B.R.S.). 1 at Marsden on 19th (MH). 1 at Bruridge on 27th and at Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S.).

Curlew:-

Maximum numbers reported was of 72 at Holy Island on 6th (B. & T.H.).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

200 at Fenham Flats on 10th (DE). Small numbers reported from elsewhere on coast.

/Green Sandpiper



Green Sandpiper:-

3 at North Walbottle on 5th, 1 of which remained until 27th (JSB/IHA). 1 at Killingworth during first week of month and 1 at Gosforth Park on 12th (BG/ER). 1 at Colt Crag on 18th (MLC).

Common Sandpiper:-

1 at Whittledene from 1st to 8th (IHA/JSB).

Redshank:-

260 at Cresswell on 31st (MM).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 at North Walbottle until 20th (JSB/IHA). 1 at Hauxley on 4th (H.R.S.). 1 at Jarrow Slake on 25th (MLC).

Greenshank:-

1 at Bruridge on 10th (JSB/IHA). 1 at Cresswell on 4th (MM), 13th and 15th (B. & T.H.). 2 at Holywell Dene on 3rd (MH) and one on 4th (JEO).

Purple Sandpiper:-

1 at Stag Rocks on 11th rose to 40 by 15th (B.R.S.). 25 at Seaton Sluice on 31st (MN).

Long-billed Dowitcher:-

1 at Cresswell Ponds from 27th until time of writing this report (10th November). (B. & T.H/MM et al).

Little Stint:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 4th (JSB/IHA). 1 at Cresswell on 24th (B. & T.H.).

Dunlin:-

Single birds at Holywell Ponds on 3rd and 18th (CED). 4 at Whin-gates Moor on 15th (IH). 100+ at St. Mary's on 31st (MN) and 300+ at Cresswell on 31st (MM). A maximum of 16 at Whittle Dene on 8th (JSB/IHA).

Curlew Sandpiper:-

1 at Holywell Ponds from 10th to 24th (CED).

Sanderling:-

20 at St. Mary's Island on 17th (MN). 60 at Hauxley on 31st (H.R.S.) and up to 40 at Bamburgh throughout latter half of month (B.R.S.).

Ruff:-

4 at Cresswell on 3rd, 2 on 8th and on 25th (I.H.A/B. & T.H/IH). 1 at Budle Bay on 10th (DB).

Arctic Skua:-

2 off Stag on 11th and 1 on 15th (B.R.S.).

Black-backed Gull:-

A northerly passage on 21st when 200 flew N. in 30 minutes at Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

1 off Stag Rocks on 18th (B.R.S.).

Glaucous Gull:-

The bird mentioned in last month's report remained until 10th (H.R.S)

Little Tern:-

1 at South Shields on 9th (MLC).

Razorbill:-

2 off Stag Rocks on 15th (B.R.S.).

Tawny Owl:-

12 in Gosforth Park on evening of 13th (ER).

Short-eared Owl:-

3 were present at Hauxley throughout most of the month (H.R.S) and 2 at Cresswell were also resident (MM). Other single and pairs of birds were seen at Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh, Holy Island, Swallow Ponds and Holywell.

Green Woodpecker:-

1 at Bamburgh during the month (B.R.S).

/Skylark

Skylark:-

Increases noted from 1st to 8th. Over 800 per hour flew S. at Howick on 2nd (DC) was the largest movement seen. At Hauxley, the numbers in the area gradually built up from c170 on 10th to c300 on 31st (H.R.S.). A heavy westerly movement up the Tyne Valley with flocks of up to 12 passing Newburn regularly all day on 8th and on 13th parties of up to 30 were continually passing S. over Seaton Burn (ER/BG).

Swallow:-

Stragglers regularly seen until 10th. Several flew S. over Whitley Bay on 19th (JDP) and 2 were at Cresswell on 31st (MM).

House Martin:-

6 coasted S. over Hauxley with Swallows on 4th (H.R.S.). 2 at St. Mary's Island on 31st (SM).

Sand Martin:-

3 at St. Mary's Island on 28th (RN).

Great Tit:-

Small parties noted moving through Bamburgh, Hauxley and Tynemouth from 3rd to 11th and 15th to 20th.

Blue Tit:-

Large flocks of 20 and 24 were at Marsden at the beginning of the month (MLC) and similar movements were taking place at Seaton Sluice and Bamburgh where it tailed off on 15th (BG/B.R.S.).

Coal Tit:-

On 4th, 3 arrived at Bamburgh and remained until end of month (B.R.S.). While 1 at Hauxley was joined by another the next day. 1 remained until 11th (H.R.S.). 1 at Marsden on 12th (MLC).

Marsh Tit:-

4 at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.).

Willow Tit:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 25th (MN).

Long-tailed Tit:-

On the 4th, there were 2 at Bamburgh which rose to 7 on 17th (B.R.S.) 8 at Colt Crag on 18th (MLC).

Tree Creeper:-

1 of "northern" race trapped at Hauxley on 3rd (H.R.S.).

Wren:-

A very marked increase in numbers in Holywell Dene, Bamburgh and other areas from c18th onwards. It seems now commoner than for many years. (JDP).

"Turdidae":-

Numbers coming in off sea between 18th and 26th from E.N.E. Blackbirds in particular, caught during that period, averaged wing length 5mm. longer than local birds (both sexes) (JDP). Large numbers noted along coast also on 3rd and 28th (MLC).

Fieldfare:-

3 flew W. over Bamburgh on 11th (B.R.S.) and from this day onwards steady incoming flow was noted at Tynemouth, Holywell Dene and Hauxley. c50 came in at Hauxley on 22nd, 200 on 29th and 60 on 31st (H.R.S.). 600 at Holywell Dene on 26th (JDP). Most of the coastal birds seen moved inland very rapidly. 150 being at Ingram on 23rd (RN).

Song Thrush:-

At Hauxley, falls of 12 on 2nd and 3rd and 10 on 4th were observed. c20 in Holywell Dene on 24th (JEO).

Redwing:-

The greatest influx at Holy Island at the beginning of the month, was on 3rd when 300 flew S. (E. & T.H.) and from this date many birds were heard in all parts of the area on most nights flying westwards. 100 at Priors Park on 29th (MH).

Ring Ouzel:-

1 at Hauxley on 2nd (H.R.S.).

/Blackbird

Blackbird:-

Extensive immigration noted on several days during month at Hauxley. Small numbers came in on 17th and birds were continually passing through on 18th when c1200 came in. At dusk many flew off to S.W. very high. On 19th, c800 passed between 2.p.m. and 5.a.m. and another heavy passage during afternoon on 29th when c3000 came in in flocks of up to 200 (H.R.S.). Influxes also noted at Holywell Dene on 18th, 22nd and 26th (JDP).

Wheatear:-

3 at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (MN) and 1 at Dunstanburgh the next day (MLC).

Stonechat:-

A pair at Bamburgh on 10th and 2 males on 16th (B.R.S.).

Whinchat:-

On 4th, 1 which had been present at Hauxley from 2nd was joined by another (H.R.S.).

Redstart:-

A small influx was noted along coastal areas during the first fortnight of the month, its peak being reached on 4th/5th and many birds remaining until the 10th or 11th. At Bamburgh a maximum of 8 on 4th, 6 at Hauxley and 8 at Blyth Cemetery, 5 at Holy Island on 5th (SH/B. & T.H. et al). 1 in Priors Park on 18th (SM) and at Hauxley on 21st (H.R.S.).

Robin:-

A noticeable fall in Gosforth Park area on afternoon of 13th when c40 were present in a small area of willow scrub (ER). 10 at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 15th (RN).

Blackcap:-

Single birds, or pairs, were present at either Hauxley, Bamburgh, Tynemouth or Marsden on different days throughout the month.

Barred Warbler:-

The September bird stayed at Hauxley until 11th - another present on 19th (H.R.S.). 1 at Priors Park from 18th to 21st (MH/SM).

Garden Warbler:-

1 at Hauxley on 4th/5th and another on 31st (H.R.S.).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

On 3rd - 2 at Hauxley which showed the characteristics of the Siberian race (H.R.S.) and at Tynemouth (MN/DB). 1 in Blyth Cemetery on 5th (JKJ/TWL). 1 at Bamburgh on 17th (B.R.S.) and at Priors Park from 18th to 21st (MH/SM).

Phyloscopus:-

1 at Bamburgh on 16th and 2 on 17th (B.R.S.).

Chiffchaff:-

On 3rd there were 3 at Hauxley 2 of which were of the Scandinavian race "abietinus", 3 on 4th were all British "collybita", 1 on 30th was of Siberian race "tristis" (H.R.S.). 1 in Holywell Dene on 3rd (CED). 2 in Holy Island area on 9th and 1 on 10th (B. & T.H.). 1 at Marsden 19th (MLC).

Yellow-browed Warbler:-

1 on Holy Island on 1st (B. & T.H.). 1 at Marsden on 13th/14th (MLC). 1 at Bamburgh on 16th/17th (B.R.S.).

Goldcrest:-

At Hauxley, 20 on 2nd had risen to 40 on 3rd and 60 on 4th. 100 present on 5th. 5 present on most other days (H.R.S.). A similar influx though on smaller scale was seen at Whitley Bay Cemetery, when 50 were present on 4th/5th (JDP). Small numbers noted elsewhere along the coast during the first week.

Firecrest:-

1 at Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S.).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

Single birds at Marsden on 4th (MLC) and Hauxley on 19th (H.R.S.).

/Pied Flycatcher

Pied Flycatcher:-

Again a small influx during the first six days of month. 10 at Bamburgh on 3rd/4th (B.R.S.). 4 - 5 at Tynemouth Park and 5+ at Priors Park on 1st/2nd (MB et al). Birds also seen at Hauxley, Marsden and Blyth during this time.

Red-breasted Flycatcher:-

A first winter bird at Hauxley on 11th (H.R.S.). 1 on Holy Island on 6th and another on 16th (B. & T.H. et al).

Duncock:-

On 2nd, over 50 at St. Mary's Island (MN). c100 at Hauxley on 10th many of which had moved on by mid day (H.R.S.).

/Red-throated Pipit:-

1 at St. Mary's Island on morning of 4th. Among other details the observer noted the distinctive call and dark striations over mantle and rump and general dark appearance (JDP). Record is to be considered by Rarities Committee. \_/

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Bamburgh from 10th to 15th (B.R.S.). 3 at Newburn on 14th (BG).

Great Grey Shrike:-

2 came in from the sea at Hauxley on 11th. 1 remained in area for remainder of the day, roosting at night in the gardens (H.R.S.). 1 in Tynemouth Park on 29th (SM/MH).

Starling:-

A very large roost at Rothly, estimated about the same size as the one at Hartburn last year (JKJ/TWL). Noted coming in with Turdidae on 29th/30th (H.R.S.).

Goldfinch:-

17 at Bamburgh on 17th and 4 the next day (B.R.S.).

Siskin:-

1 at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (MN). 2 at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 4th (JDP) and 1 on 31st (SM). 2 at Bamburgh on 16th and 1 on 19th (B.R.S.) 2 at Hartley on 17th and 1 in Whitley Bay Cemetery (MH).

Redpoll:-

A flock of 25 in Gosforth Park on 4th (RN).

Bullfinch:-

3 at Hartburn on 18th (JKJ/TWL).

Crossbill:-

At Gosforth Park there were 2 on 24th (MH).

Brambling:-

1 at Crosswell on 3rd (IHA/JSB) and on 4th, 4 in Whitley Bay Cemetery (JDP) and 2 at Ashington (MH). From 17th to 19th a small influx noted along the coast when 5 at Bamburgh, 15 at Marsden, 1 at Blyth and 2 at St. Mary's Island. 1 at Priors Park throughout month (MB).

Corn Bunting:-

A roost of 20+ at Bamburgh (B.R.S.).

Snow Bunting:-

1 at St. Mary's Island on 10th (MN) and 3 at Bruridge on 31st (IHA/JSM).

Tree Sparrow:-

A flock of 20 in Gosforth Park on 24th (RN).

List of Contributors

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NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:- Designed to instruct and amuse - no prizes given but we all hope to learn something. Quiz on slides in three parts:-

1. Birds in the hand. )
  2. Birds in natural haunts. ) Concrete reasons given for why a bird
  3. Bad photographs. ) is what it is.
- Also - how to take notes of a strange bird.





TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

NOVEMBER 1964 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

During the first week an anticyclone centred at first to the N.W. and later, the E. of the country. By the 8th, it had moved to the Continent though a ridge extending from it continued to cover the country until the 10th. On the 11th, westerly winds began and from then until the 17th a series of troughs and weak ridges moved eastwards across the area. From the 18th - 25th, westerly winds from an anticyclone centred over Bay of Biscay. On the 26th, however, a depression moved N.E. to the W. and N. of the country. During the 28th and 29th, this depression moved S. over the country to be followed on the 30th by another, giving cold N. to N.E. winds especially on the 29th.

An unusual record is of a Flamingo, probably one of the birds seen later in North Yorkshire. The Dowitcher is still with us. A Great Grey Shrike at Newsham on the 3rd and late records of Swift, Swallow, Arctic and Pomarine Skua were other highlights of the month. The mild weather, however, although allowing many Summer visitors to remain late, has prevented an influx of Winter visitors, for only one Hooded Crow has been seen so far, and numbers of Woodcock, Golden Plover, Turdidae (Fieldfare and Redwing) etc., seem to be well down compared with previous years. On the 27th a large movement of Geese took place and with worsening conditions on the 29th a large sea movement of ducks etc., was noted off Hauxley. Warm weather has made Autumn a very long season.

Classified List.

Divers Sp?:-

26 at Cresswell on 1st and over 50 on 28th (MH/MM).

Black-throated Diver:-

2 at Bamburgh on 7th (B.R.S.).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 flew N. off Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S.).

Red-throated Diver:-

Present in Cresswell Bay throughout month with a maximum of 25 there on 15th (DB). 1 at Whittle Dene from 1st - 7th (IHA/JSB). Over 20 off Chevington Burn on 21st (MN). During half-an-hour on 29th, 20 flew N. off Hauxley, including a flock of 16 (H.R.S.).

Great Crested Grebe:-

A bird at Whittle Dene from 1st - 7th (IHA/JSB). Other single birds at Chevington Burn on 15th (DB) and Hartburn on 27th (JKJ/TWL).

Red-necked Grebe:-

3 at Bamburgh on 7th (1 in Summer plumage) and 2 on 8th (B.R.S.).

Slavonian Grebe:-

At Cresswell Bay, 9 present on 8th (JHD) and 1 on 28th (MH).

Little Grebe:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 8th (a late date - CED). 1 on river at Warkworth on 15th (BG), 4 at Lynemouth Burn on 16th (TH) and 5 at Tyne-mouth Waterworks on 21st/22nd (MH).

Fulmar:-

5 pairs sitting on ledges at Holy Island on 2nd (DB).

Gannet:-

Very few seen flying N. during most of month.

Heron:-

1 at Cresswell on 7th (MLC) and 1 at Longwittington the next day (PB). 2 at Hallington Reservoir on 15th (RG/EL/WB).

Flamingo:-

Full noted have been received of a bird which flew S. off Bamburgh on 8th (B.R.S.). It is of interest to note that a Chilean Flamingo is at Teesmouth now. 7

Mallard:-

Flocks of c500 at Blyth Bay on 1st (MLC), Netherwitton and Capheaton on 22nd (C. Ward) and Whittle Dene on 21st (IHA/JSB). Flocks totalling up to 300 on sea at Seaton Sluice during month (MN). Smaller flocks seen on most other waters.

Teal:-

A maximum of c250 at Holywell Ponds on 1st (CED). 170+ at Gosforth Park on 15th (MH). On 22nd, 110 at Capheaton (C. Ward).

Wigeon:-

On 14th/15th a maximum of 100 at Holywell Ponds (CED/AB). On 22nd, 60 at Bolam, 30 at Hartburn, 20 at Netherwitton and 50 at Capheaton (C. Ward). Over 50 at Seaton Sluice on 29th.

Pintail:-

A maximum of 3 at Holywell Ponds on 14th and 2 at Gosforth Park on 21st (MN). A male in Blyth Bay on 1st and 3 in North Northumberland on 22nd (MLC). 1 at Cresswell Ponds on 7th (MH).

Tufted Duck:-

Numbers rose at Whittle Dene from 18 on 1st to 34 on 28th (IHA/JSB). Maximum at Holywell Ponds of 61 on 8th (CED). On 22nd, 40 at Bolam, 15 at Hartburn and 50 at Capheaton (CED).

Pochard:-

At Whittle Dene, 156 on 1st rose to 189 on 7th then dropped to 32 on 21st, but rose again to 85 on 28th (IHA/JSB). 44 at Gosforth Park on 14th (MN) and 12 at Holywell Ponds next day (CED/AB). On 22nd, 30 at Bolam, 15 at Hartburn, 15 at Netherwitton and c200 at Capheaton (C. Ward).

Goldeneye:-

5 at Holywell Ponds on 8th and 29th (CED). Maximum of 11 at Whittle Dene on 7th (IHA/JSB). On 21st, 3 flew N. off St. Mary's Island (SM) and on the next day there were 8 at Bolam, 2 at Hartburn, 20 at Netherwitton, 11 at Capheaton (C. Ward) and 5 at Wingates (TWL/JKJ), 11 at Broomlee on 15th (MH). A northerly movement at Hauxley on 22nd, when 4 were seen, and another on 29th when 16 were seen in half-an-hour (H.R.S.).

Long-tailed Duck:-

1 found shot through the neck at Stag Rocks on 1st, died shortly afterwards (TWL/JKJ). 4 at Cresswell on 22nd (JHD). 18 off Stag Rocks on 7th (B.R.S.) and smaller numbers present throughout month. 1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 21st (MH) and a single bird at Seaton Sluice on 29th (JKJ/TWL).

Velvet Scoter:-

2 at South Shields on 28th (MLC) and 1 flew N. off Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

On 13th at Cresswell c20 flew S. and c25 at Chevington Burn on 15th (DB). 11 at Seaton Sluice on 14th (MLC).

Eider:-

Only 3 at Seaton Sluice on 29th (JHD).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

30 off Stag Rocks on 7th and 8th (B.R.S.). 4 flew N. off Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S.).

Goosander:-

6 at Broomlee on 15th (MH). A male flew N. off Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S.).

Shelduck:-

c30 at Fenham Flats on 2nd (DB). 1 at Jarrow Slake on 21st (MLC).

Geese Sp?:-

3 large flocks flew S. off Cresswell on 27th, each within sight of the other and totalling c1000 (B. & TH).

Grey Lag Goose:-

3 at Hauxley throughout month (H.R.S.). On 22nd, 3 at Wingates Moor, 84 in N. Northumberland (MLC) and 1 at Netherwitton (C. Ward).

/Grey Geese Sp?

Grey Geese Sp?:-

On 22nd, 40 at Wingates Moor (PB) and 21 flew N. at Ellington (JHD), c50 flew inland from the N.E. over Druridge Bay on 27th (B & TH).

Pink-footed Goose:-

120 flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 28th (MN). 38 flew N. off Cresswell on 1st (ER).

Brent Goose:-

1 seen with a flock of Wigeon on Fenham Flats on 1st (TWL/JKJ).

Canada Goose:-

12 at Colt Crag on 15th (RG/EL/WB).

Whooper Swan:-

On 1st, c100 flew over Holy Island towards the Slakes in 1½ hours (BH). A small influx noted in Northumberland on 15th but larger flocks had assembled by 22nd when there were 22 at Wingates Moor, 16 at Bolam, 27 at Hartburn, 22 at Netherwitton and 27 at Cresswell. 16 at Grindon on 15th rose to 25 on 26th (RG/EL/WB).

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 8th (CED) and a female near Boldon on 15th (P. Hogg).

Peregrine:-

A male at Hauxley on 1st (H.R.S.).

Merlin:-

On 1st, 1 at Holy Island (B & TH), and 2 flew S. at Bamburgh (B.R.S.).

Kestrel:-

Singles at Belford and Holy Island on 2nd (DB). 2 near Sunderland on 20th until end of month (P. Hogg). Single birds reported at Cresswell, Benton, Bursdon, Stannington, Killingworth, Ashington, Whitley Bay and North Shields.

Water Rail:-

At Bamburgh and Hauxley, 2 present for most of month (B.R.S./H.R.S.). 1 at Cresswell on 7th and 14th (MN/MM).

Coot:-

Low number of 30 present at Holywell Ponds until 29th when 95 counted (CED/MM). A flock of over 90 at Hartburn throughout month (JKJ/TWL). On 22nd, 30 at Bolam and 120 at Hartburn (C. Ward). 260+ at Broomlee on 15th (MM).

Lapwing:-

A flock of 100 at Newsham had risen to 500 by end of month (TWL/JKJ). Over 200 at Cresswell on 7th (MH). 200 at Holywell Ponds on 15th (AB) rose to over 400 on 22nd (CED).

Ringed Plover:-

6 at St. Mary's Island on 21st (MH).

Grey Plover:-

1 at Holy Island on 2nd (DB) and 2 at Hauxley on 28th (H.R.S.).

Golden Plover:-

In coastal areas numbers well below normal for this time of year. Only 300 at Hauxley (H.R.S.). A flock of c200 at Newsham decreased to 100 by end of month (JKJ/TWL). 30 at Cresswell on 13th (DB). On 21st, 400 in fields at Hartley (MH) and a maximum of 1500 at Whittle Dene (JSB/IHA).

Turnstone:-

Over 150 at St. Mary's Island on 21st (MH) and 60 at Hauxley on 28th (H.R.S.).

Common Snipe:-

Under 20 at Holywell Ponds during month (CED). 65 at Whittle Dene on 21st (JSB/IHA).

Jack Snipe:-

2 at Gosforth Park on 1st (MN). 1 at Hauxley on 28th/29th (H.R.S.).

/Woodcock



Woodcock:-

1 at Bamburgh on 7th and 8th (B.R.S.). On 22nd, 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Holywell Ponds (CED/H.R.S.). On 29th, 2 at Hauxley and 1 at Tranwell (H.R.S./MM).

Long-billed Dowitcher:-

1 present at Cresswell throughout month. Last report to date was on 6th December.

Redshank:-

c100 present at Hauxley on 22nd (H.R.S.) and 60-70 at St. Mary's Island on 21st (MH).

Knot:-

150 on 15th rose to 260 on 21st at St. Mary's Island (MH).

Purple Sandpiper:-

30 near Blyth Lighthouse on 3rd and 23rd (TH). 50 at St. Mary's Island on 21st and 25-30 at Seaton Sluice on 29th (MH/TWL/JKJ).

Dunlin:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 7th (JSB/IHA). 70 at Cresswell on 8th (MH/MN) when 1 at Holywell Ponds (CED). A maximum of 350 at St. Mary's Island on 21st (MH).

Sanderling:-

50 at Holy Island on 2nd (DB). 30 at St. Mary's Island on 14th (MN) and 40 at Whitburn the next day (MLC). 60 at Hauxley on 28th and 40 at Cresswell on 29th (H.R.S./TH).

Arctic Skua:-

A first Winter bird flew S. off Stag Rocks on 7th (B.R.S.).

Pomarine Skua:-

2 dark phase adults flew N. off Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

1 at South Shields on 11th and 21st (MLC). 1 at Gosforth Park on 20th (DB).

Glaucous Gull:-

A 1st. W. bird flew N. along the dunes at Hauxley on 29th (H.R.S.).

Black-headed Gull:-

A continuous northerly movement took place on 28th off Cresswell (MH)

Guillemot:-

c200 on Farnes on 7th (MM).

Tawny Owl:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 7th (JSB/IHA).

Short-eared Owl:-

On 1st, 4 at Holy Island (B & TH) and 1 at Hauxley (H.R.S.). 4 in Cresswell/Wittington area on 7th/8th (JHD). Singles at Holywell Ponds on 15th, Bamburgh on 22nd and Stannington on 29th.

Swift:-

1 at Newburn on 6th later flew S. (BG).

Swallow:-

2 at Forest Hall on 4th (FC).

Hooded Crow:-

1 flew N. at Cresswell on 28th (TH).

Magpie:-

4 near Washington on 3rd (P. Hogg), 2 at Holywell Dene throughout month (TWL/JKJ).

Wren:-

1 on Farnes on 21st (MM) and 1 at Cresswell (in dunes) on 28th (MH).

Dipper:-

1 on river at Sheepwash on 7th (MH).

Fieldfare:-

The numbers of this species and of Redwing are well below usual for this time of year. (See previous bulletins for this month of the year).

Fieldfare continued:-

12 on Holy Island on 2nd (DB). Over 100 between Mitford and Meldon on 8th (PB). A party of 50 came in at Hauxley on 1st (H.R.S.). On 15th, at least 5 flocks in Colt Crag /Hallington area, the largest being of 60 (RG/WB/EL). About 20 near Whitley Bay on 21st and 9 flew W. over North Shields on 25th (MH). A flock of 2 - 300 at Fontburn on 22nd (JKJ/TWL).

Redwing:-

175 at Molesdon on 8th (PB). 6 near Five Lane Ends on 15th (RG/EL/WB), are the only records on any note!

Blackbird:-

A large roose near Whitley Bay has formed, estimated c1000 birds. Only influx at Hauxley was of c20 on 29th (H.R.S.).

Whinchat:-

1 on Sea Houses rocks on 7th (MM).

Blackcap:-

On 1st, 1 at Hauxley and 2 at Bamburgh (H.R.S./B.R.S.). A male at Tynemouth on 5th (MH) and 1 at Gosforth Park on 8th (FC).

Phylloscopus:-

1 in Upper Holywell Dene on 8th and in Priors Park the next day (AB).

Willow Warbler:-

1 singing in Priors Park on 1st (MLC).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Bamburgh on 7th/8th (B.R.S.).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Newshan on 3rd (TWL/JKJ).

Starling:-

The large roost mentioned last month has moved further N.W. into Harewood Forest (JKJ/TWL). Many roosting with Blackbirds in Whitley Bay.

Greenfinch:-

700 at Hauxley on 1st (H.R.S.). c500 roosting in Gosforth Park (FC). A large influx at Bamburgh on 22nd (B.R.S.).

Goldfinch:-

Up to 15 seen at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.). 5 at Whittle Dene on 28th (JSB/IHA).

Bullfinch:-

3 at Whittle Dene on 21st (JSB/IHA) and 4 at Bolam the next day (C. Ward). 5 at Stannington and 2 at Tranwell on 29th (MM/MH).

Chaffinch:-

Flock of 40 at Cresswell on 28th (MH).

Brambling:-

5 at Netherwiton on 22nd (C. Ward).

Yellowhammer:-

A roost of 50+ at Bamburgh on 14th/15th and 21st/22nd (B.R.S.).

Snow Bunting:-

20 at Hauxley on 1st (H.R.S.). 4 at Cresswell and Bruridge on 14th and 15th (JSB/DB) when 8 flew N. at Bamburgh (B.R.S.). A maximum of c70 at South Shields from 21st until end of month (MLC). c40 at Howick on 27th (B & TH).

Tree Sparrow:-

A roost of 100 near Whitley Bay and a flock of over 50 at Cresswell on 28th (MH).

ADDENDUM:-

Hoopoe:-

On 8th to 9th of October 1 present at Hauxley and seen by many reliable locals (H.R.S.).

Yellow-browed Warbler:-

On 6th a second Yellow-browed on Holy Island (SRS/RiW) and 1 on Inner Farne (per HB).

/List of

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The next meeting of the Club will be held on Thursday, 14th January, 1965 in the Y.M.C.A. Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne at 7.p.m.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all Members.

Copies of the Tyneside Bird Club's 1963 Annual Report are still available price 3s. 6d. plus 6d. postage. Any Member requiring a copy should write to the Treasurer, Mr. A. Belshaw, 29 Lovaine Place, North Shields.

SUMMARY

A depression on the 1st moved away to the S. and during the 2nd/3rd strong cold W. to N.W. winds predominated this area until the 6th when it was calm. A changeable South Westerly type of weather (due to troughs and ridges passing over from the W.) persisted until the 15th. On the 16th/17th an anticyclone became established over the country and as a result winds were nil until the 20th when the system moved to the N.W. This led to cold easterly or northerly strong winds until the 25th. The influence of a depression was felt on the 26th and the winds reverted to W. or S.W. up to the close of the month.

The most interesting feature of the month was the sea passage which began on the 20th and continued until the 22nd. It was during this time that Little Auks and an Arctic Skua were seen. Many ducks were seen flying N. and the total of 104 Shelduck counted at St. Mary's Island, matched entirely with the total seen at Banburgh later in the day. The Bewicks at Cresswell on the 28th are interesting especially as they are the only ones reported when many have been seen in the more southerly areas of the country. A Smew at Hartburn is the first this Winter as is a Lapland Bunting at Amble, and the Dowitcher still remains. A fairly resident flock of c20 Slavonian and 2 Red-necked Grebes was present off Budle Bay throughout the month.

A cold month with westerly winds predominating. Very little of an unexpected nature was reported.

Classified List.

Divers:-

c30 off Stag Rocks on 13th (BG).

Black-throated Diver:-

1 flew S. off Cresswell on 26th (RN). 3 off Banburgh on 19th (B.R.S.). A total of 19 flew N. off St. Mary's Island from 20th - 22nd and 8 flew S. on 30th (JDP).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 21st (MH) and 2 on 22nd. 1 flew S. on 29th and 30th (JDP).

Red-throated Diver:-

At least 51 flew N. off St. Mary's Island from 20th - 22nd and 29 flew S. on 30th (JDP). 30 at Cresswell on 26th (MN/RN).

Red-necked Grebe:-

2 off Ross Back Sands on 13th (ER/BG) and 2, probably the same birds, off Stag on 19th and 28th (B.R.S.).

Slavonian Grebe:-

At least 20 off Ross on 13th (BG) and 20 off Stag Rocks on 28th (B.R.S.).

Little Grebe:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 15th - 16th (MH). 2 at Bolam Lake on 26th (MN).

Gannet:-

7 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 21st (MH).

Shag:-

Many flocks of up to 15 off Ross and Stag on 13th (BG).

Heron:-

Singles at Hauxley on 5th (H.R.S.). Colt Crag on 6th (RN) and Wingates on 26th (MN).

Mallard:-

550 at Colt Crag on 6th (RN). Numbers built up at Whittle Dene from 200 at beginning of month to about 500 on 27th (JSB/IHA). Flocks afloat at Seaton Sluice totalled 1000 on 19th (MN). Fairly large flocks reported at Gosforth Park, Tranwell and Holywell Ponds. /Teal



Teal:-

Over 180 at Gosforth Park on 13th and 75 at Holywell Ponds on 22nd (MH). 100 at Seaton Sluice on 19th (MN). A maximum of 56 at Whittle Dene on 12th (JSB/IHA).

Gadwall:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 30th (MH).

Wigeon:-

About 4000 on Fenham Flats on 13th when only 30 at Holborn Moss (BG/ER). Maximum of 100 at Holywell Ponds on 15th - 16th (MH) and of 80 at Whittle Dene on 27th (IH).

Pintail:-

On 13th, 2 at Gosforth Park (MH) and 21 at Holborn Moss of which 50% were adult male (BG/ER). 3 at Cresswell on 28th (PB/SM).

Shoveler:-

A male at Colt Crag on 6th (RN) and 4 on 13th (RG/WB/EL). 2 at Tranwell on 20th (PB/SM).

Scaup:-

3 at Whittle Dene on 19th (JSB/IHA) and 1 at Tyne Estuary on 28th (MN). 42 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 29th (JDP).

Tufted Duck:-

Numbers rose at Whittle Dene to a maximum of 200 on 27th (JSB/IHA).

Pochard:-

120 at Colt Crag on 6th (RN). At Whittle Dene a peak of 146 on 19th-20th fell to 40+ by end of month (JSB et al). 4 at Gosforth Park on the 30th (MH).

Goldeneye:-

A maximum of 7 at Whittle Dene on 19th (JSB/IHA) when 2 flew N. off St. Mary's Island and Seaton Sluice (MN/JKJ). On 6th, 10 at Colt Crag and 7 at Bolam (JKJ/RN). Many other single birds seen near coast. 13 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 20th and 35 on 21st (JDP).

Long-tailed Duck:-

66 were counted from Stag Rocks on 19th (B.R.S.) and these numbers were present throughout month from here and Ross Back Sands.

Velvet Scoter:-

Maximum of 3 off Ross and Stag on 21st (H.R.S.) when 1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island (MH).

Common Scoter:-

Many large flocks of up to 500 off Stag Rocks and Ross Links on 13th (BG) and on 19th 1078 were counted (B.R.S.). 40 at Cresswell on 16th (RN).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Maximum of 40 off Stag on 28th (B.R.S.). 6 at Cresswell on 26th (MN). Smaller numbers seen elsewhere off coast.

Goosander:-

12 at Colt Crag on 6th when 1 at Whittle Dene (RN) but by 12th there were 4 more and 14 on 29th (RG/EL/WB). 1 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 19th (JKJ).

Sniew:-

A female at Hartburn on 20th (B & TH).

Shelduck:-

A total of 25 flew N. off Hauxley on 5th-6th (H.R.S.) and another movement totalling 104 flew past Bamburgh and St. Mary's Island on 20th (B.R.S.). By 28th, c200 in Budle Bay.

Grey Lag Goose:-

13 near Holborn Moss on 13th (BG/ER).

Pink-footed Goose:-

1 at Cresswell on 12th (MN/CW) and 15th (B & TH).

Brent Goose:-

At least 250 on Fenham Flats on 13th but a flock of c400 flying N.E. over Holy Island on same day suggests a possible maximum of c650 (BG/ER). A total of 27 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 20th - 21st (JDP).

/Mute Swan

Arctic Skua:-

1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 21st (JDP).

Black-headed Gull:-

A bird in Summer plumage at Bamburgh on 20th and another at Wallsend on 26th (B.R.S/FC).

Kittiwake:-

A northerly movement off St. Mary's Island on 21st when c1800 per hour at mid-day, slackening to 1200 per hour by afternoon (JDP).

Little Auk:-

13 flew N. off St. Mary's on 21st during 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  hours (MH) and 2 on 22nd (JDP). 1 found dead at Bamburgh on 30th (B.R.S.).

Wood Pigeon:-

c5000 flew N. over Stannington and landed infields on 20th (PB).

Collared Dove:-

Over 15 in Holywell Dene from 15th until end of month by which time 2 were at Northumberland Park (MH). 32 feeding in stubble at Cleadon Hills on 28th (MLC).

Tawny Owl:-

1 in Northumberland Park on 27th (MH).

Long-eared Owl:-

A roost of 8 at Usworth (MLC). Maximum of 4 at Gosforth Park on 27th.

Short-eared Owl:-

2 at Cresswell throughout month. 1 at Holywell Ponds on 15th - 16th (MH). The Bamburgh bird still present (B.R.S.).

Sky Lark:-

Over 200 at Swallow Ponds on 12th (MH). On 28th, 2 flocks totalling 300 flew W. over Hartley (MN) and 60 at Linton (PB).

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Killingworth on 20th (PB/SM).

Rook:-

700 bathing and drinking at Whittle Dene on evening of 13th, when they had finished small parties flew W. up the Tyne Valley (FC).

Jackdaw:-

200 as above (FC).

Magpie:-

2 at Cresswell on 26th (RN).

Jay:-

7 in Gosforth Park on 30th (MH).

Long-tailed Tit:-

Maximum of 18 in Gosforth Park on 5th (RN). 3 at Whittle Dene on 28th (JEO).

Wren:-

Numerous at Gosforth Park throughout month (MN). 1 at Northumberland Park was first since March (MH). 3 at Whittle Dene on 28th (JEO).

Mistle Thrush:-

Over 4 in Northumberland Park from 27th onwards (MH).

Fieldfare:-

6 at Holywell Ponds on 16th (MH). An influx at Bamburgh on 26th - 28th was a cold weather movement (B.R.S.) and 30 came in at St. Mary's Island on the latter date (MN) when 30 seen at Whittle Dene (JEO).

Song Thrush:-

Over 60 in Northumberland Park on 27th, most of which had gone by next day (MH) when 3 were in dunes at Cresswell (PB). A flock of 30 W. of Newbrough on 22nd (RG/WB/EL).

Redwing:-

A steady southerly movement throughout the day at Cresswell on 26th (RN). The next day saw 400 roosting in Northumberland Park and they remained there until end of month (MH). 30 came ashore at St. Mary's Island on 28th (MN) when 100 at Cresswell (SM/PB).

/Goldcrest

Mute Swan:-

7 at Seaton Burn on 6th and on 13th totals of 150 at Budle Bay and Fenham Flats (BG).

Whooper Swan:-

Over 200 on Fenham Flats on 13th (BG/ER) when 8 at Hartburn and 15 at Wingates (JKJ). A maximum of 33 on Bolam Lake on 26th (MN). Herds no larger than 4 reported from Holywell Ponds, Gosforth Park, Swallow Ponds and Cresswell.

Bewick's Swan:-

5 at Cresswell on 28th (PB/SM).

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 13th (MH) and a female at Sunderland on 21st (PH).

Peregrine:-

A female at Hauxley on 5th - 6th (H.R.S.).

Merlin:-

1 at Warkworth on 15th (B & TH).

Water Rail:-

3 at Gosforth Park on 27th (MN) and 5 at Bamburgh on 28th onwards (B.R.S.).

Coot:-

On 26th, a maximum of 115 at Hartburn and 54 at Bolam (MN). 60 at Seaton Burn on 6th (BG). 6 at Whittle Dene from 19th were first since April (JSB/IEA).

Lapwing:-

650 at Swallow Ponds on 12th (MH) and 300 at Throckley Fell next day (FC). On 27th there was a flock of 200 at Killingworth and a westerly movement of about 450 over Whittle Dene the following day (JEO). 103 on rock at St. Mary's Island on 26th (PB).

Golden Plover:-

c300 at Hauxley during first week (H.R.S.). c400 at Whittle Dene on 12th (JSB/IEA) and a similar number at Fenham Flats the next day (BG). About 200 at St. Mary's Island on 15th (PB) and 2000 at Jarrow Slake on 24th (MLC). c100 at Beadnell on 28th (B & TH).

Turnstone:-

100 at St. Mary's Island on 15th (MH).

Common Snipe:-

A maximum of 100 at Gosforth Park on 6th (BG).

Jack Snipe:-

Maximum of 4 at Gosforth Park on 27th (MN). Single birds Hauxley, Swallow Ponds, Holywell Ponds and Usworth.

Woodcock:-

On 28th, 1 at Newsham and 2 at Cresswell (JKJ/SM).

Curlew:-

Small numbers reported along coastline.

Long-billed Dowitcher:-

Still present at Cresswell on 28th.

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Flocks totalling many thousands on Fenham Flats on 13th (BG).

Knot:-

Dunlin:-

Knot:-

c300 present at Seaton Sluice area throughout month. 200 at Jarrow Slake on 24th (MLC). A maximum of c750 at St. Mary's Island on 31st (JDP).

Purple Sandpiper:-

40 at Seaton Sluice on 27th (JKJ).

Sanderling:-

Over 60 at St. Mary's Island on 15th (MH).

/Arctic Skua

Goldcrest:-

On 28th, 2 at Cresswell and 6 at Whittle Dene (SM/JEO).

Fied Wagtail:-

A flock of 7 at Cresswell on 26th (RN).

Starling:-

During recent snow a bird with an abnormal bill c5" long and de-curved visited gardens in High Heaton. It appeared to be in a very distressed condition (FC).

Greenfinch:-

A flock of 800 in Holywell Dene on 22nd (MH).

Goldfinch:-

18 at Kirkley Mill on 20th (PB/SM). 6 near Ponteland on 25th (ER). Smaller numbers reported elsewhere.

Bullfinch:-

22 between Kirkley and Stannington on 20th (PB/SM). 8 at Whittle Dene on 28th (JEO). Smaller numbers also seen at Dyke Neuk, Hartburn, Netherwitton, Rothley and Durham City.

Crossbill:-

7 on Simonside on 28th (IH).

Brambling:-

2 males near Washington on 3rd (PH).

Yellowhammer:-

Over 200 near Ponteland on 25th (ER).

Corn Bunting:-

4 at Swallow Ponds on 12th (MH). The cold weather from the 26th onwards caused the roost at Bamburgh to rise from 40 to over 80 (B.R.S.).

Reed Bunting:-

A male at Whittle Dene on 19th was in full breeding plumage (JSB).

Lapland Bunting:-

1 on N. side of Amble on 28th (E & TH).

Snow Bunting:-

Flocks of 20 at Ross Links on 13th (BG/ER) and at Bamburgh on 28th (B.R.S.). A maximum of 36 at South Shields on 19th and of 180 at Whitburn on 30th (MLC). Single birds at Plessey on 20th and Cresswell on 28th (PB/SM).

List of Contributors

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The next Club Meeting will be held at the Y.M.C.A., Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne on Thursday, 11th February, 1965 at 7.p.m. when Mr. C. E. Douglas will give a talk on the British Trust for Ornithology.



