

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JANUARY 1966 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME FOR THE MARCH CLUB MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1966 AT 7.15.P.M. A R.S.P.B. FILM WILL BE SHOWN ENTITLED "THE BIRDS OF HAVOGATE ISLAND."

Westerly winds covered the area and with the rise in pressure on the 4th they increased in strength. By the 5th a south westerly airstream dominated until the 9th when the high pressure system moved over Svandinavia. Strong cold E. to N.E. winds persisted during the next week but fell on 17th/18th to light westerly, when pressure became uniform over the British Isles. On the 19th winds strengthened again from the E. due to a depression moving along the Channel, and these winds remained until 22nd. A slow thaw took place during next few days and on 25th winds strengthened from S.E. as a depression moved towards Ireland. These winds continued on 26th and on 27th mild air from the Atlantic spread across the area. From the 28th to the end of the month a very mild S. to south westerly airstream prevailed generally.

During the month large numbers of Auks and smaller numbers of other sea birds were washed ashore either dead, or in a very bad condition due to oiling. It is hoped to publish the figures of the numbers found later in the year. If any member has particulars concerning this 'wreck' could he send them to me as soon as possible. It is interesting to note that birds are still being washed up in this appalling condition. If you are near the coast could you please keep a check on all birds found dead or dying.

Points of interest in January were Waxwings (still a few about). A Great Grey Shrike at Cresswell, the Brent Geese at Holy Island (up to 800) and the Lapland Lunting at Chevington Burn.

Classified List.

Divers:-

67 flew S. off Cresswell on 19th during half-an-hour (TH) and 40 off Alnmouth on 23rd (BG et al).

Black-throated Diver:-

Single bird close inshore at Cresswell on 22nd (CW).

Red-throated Diver:-

100 at Druridge Bay on 3rd (MN). 22 at Banburgh on 9th (CW) and c50 at mouth of River Aln on 23rd (BG).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 off Cullernose Point on 3rd (IHA).

Red-necked Grebe:-

2 off Budle Point on 9th (MN) and single bird off Holy Island on 29th (CW).

Slavonian Grebe:-

On 22nd, at Ross Back Sands, 2 were found oiled (MH).

Little Grebe:-

4 at Durham on River Wear on 23rd (RN) and single birds seen at Lynemouth, Cresswell and Bolan.

Gannet:-

On 9th at Holy Island 9 were seen (LGM/RN) and on 22nd at Fenham Flats 1 was found oiled (MH).

Cormorant:-

On 13th a single bird flew E. down Tyne at Lemington (BG).

Mallard:-

3 flocks of over 500 birds seen at Hallington, Capheaton and Wingates during month. Smaller flocks reported from most of other inland waters. On 2nd there were c1000 on sea off Seaton Sluice (CED).

/Teal

Teal:-

Over 60 at Gosforth Park during most of month, though 100 present there on 8th (MN/LGM). 100+ near Felton on 30th (MH). 75 at Holywell Ponds on 2nd (CED). Very few reported elsewhere.

Wigeon:-

Maximum of 34 at Whittle Dene on 23rd (IHA/JSB) and 70 at Hallington on 30th (CW) when 75 at Grindon Lough (BG).

Scaup:-

Single birds seen at Holy Island and Cresswell on 9th, 16th and 22nd. A maximum of 6 at Warkworth on 30th (BM/PY).

Tufted Duck:-

Largest number reported was of 193 at Whittle Dene on 23rd (IHA/JSB). 40 at Hallington on 8th (RG/WB/EL) when 50 at Whittle Dene (JEO) and 100 at Holywell Ponds (CED). On 9th, 32 at Holy Island (LGM et al) and on 30th, 12 at Bolan, 50 at Hartburn, 65 at Gosforth Park, 23 at Swallow Ponds and 18 at Grindon.

Lochard:-

Numbers still well down. Largest numbers reported were on 30th when 25 at Hartburn, 10 at Capheaton (CW) and 5 at Grindon Lough (BG).

Goldeneye:-

Small parties of up to 7 birds were frequently seen 35 at Capheaton on 30th (CW).

Long-tailed Duck:-

30 off Stag Rocks on 3rd (J.J).

Velvet Scoter:-

2 off Hadstone on 30th (H.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

There were c50 near Druridge Bay on 28th (JEO).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Only 11 seen off Holy Island on 9th and 4 off Bamburgh (MN). 2 flew N. off Alnmouth on 23rd (BG).

Goosander:-

On 8th there were c20 at Hallington (RG/WB/EL) and numbers rose at Whittle Dene and Greenlee to 23 and 35 respectively on 30th.

Snew:-

Female present at Bolan on 16th (LGM).

Shelduck:-

7 at Cresswell on 22nd (MN/CW) and on 30th, 1 at Gosforth Park (PB/SM) and 2 at Hadstone (H.R.S.).

Grey Geese:-

c30 (probably Grey Lag) at Swallow Ponds on 30th (per FC).

Brent Goose:-

300 in Holy Island area during first half of month rose to 800 by 29th (CW et al).

Barnacle Goose:-

Single bird still present at Holy Island on 9th (MN/LGM et al).

Canada Goose:-

On 28th a single bird at Cresswell (JEO) and on 30th, 1 at Hartburn and 1 at Swallow Ponds (PB/SM) on 27th until end of month (FC).

Whooper Swan:-

100 at Holy Island on 29th (CW) and 1 found shot at Fenham Flats on 22nd (MH). Small parties of up to 9 birds seen at many of the inland waters throughout month.

Berwick Swan:-

A max. of 14 at Holy Island on 9th (LGM et al). c28 at Cresswell Pond on 28th (JEO).

Merlin:-

Female at Warkworth on 3rd (BG).

Kestrel:-

3 at Holy Island on 29th (CW) besides single birds at Hexham, Gosforth, Preston and Ellington.

/Water

Water Rail:-

Single birds at Cresswell, Hauxley and Hadstone on 23rd and 30th.

Coot:-

Over 110 at Holywell Ponds on 2nd (CED). A maximum at Bolam of 56 on 16th (LGH).

Lapwing:-

700 - 800 at Pegswood (Morpeh) on 9th (BG).

Grey Plover:-

10 at Holy Island on 9th (RN et al). 4 at Cresswell on 18th (TH) and 2 at Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S.). Single birds elsewhere in coastal areas.

Golden Plover:-

Over 700 in Hauxley-Cresswell area during first week of month.

Snipe:-

On 3rd at Warkworth over 40 (BG) and 50 at Alnmouth on 23rd.

Jack Snipe:-

On 22nd/23rd an increase of records. 4 at Warkworth, 2 at Alnmouth 2 at Gosforth and 1 at Budle Bay.

Woodcock:-

1 at Holywell Dene from 15th onwards and 1 at Cresswell on 19th and 22nd (JKJ/TH).

Curlew:-

350 at Holy Island on 9th (CW/MH).

Redshank:-

30 at Hauxley on 9th (H.R.S.) and c50 at Cresswell on 28th (JEO).

Knot:-

At Warkworth on 3rd there were 250 (BG) and on 22nd, 350 at Budle Bay and 600 on Fenham Flats (MH). 200 at Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S.)

Purple Sandpiper:-

c40 at St. Mary's Island on 15th (PB/SH).

Dunlin:-

3 flocks of 200 or more reported at Warkworth, Alnmouth, Holy Island and Bondicarr during month.

Sanderling:-

Over 250 at Fenham Flats on 22nd (MH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

6 on river at Warkworth on 23rd (BG).

Glaucous Gull:-

Remains of a Glaucous Gull found at Ashington on 22nd (CW).

Kittiwake:-

Movement of 25 per hour N. off Cresswell Point on 14th and 30 per hour on 16th though none seen on 19th (TH).

Auks:-

On 19th during half-an-hour, 62 flew S. off Cresswell (TH).

Little Auk:-

1 found at farm near Swallow Ponds, released on 8th (FC).

Collared Dove:-

On 29th over 40 at Holywell Dene (MH).

Short-eared Owl:-

On 13th at Lemington a bird flew N.E. high over Tyne Valley ahead of snow showers (BG).

Green Woodpecker:-

1 at Cullernose Point on 3rd (THA).

Greater Spotted Woodpecker:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 24th (TH).

Hooded Crow:-

Single bird present at Cresswell until 22nd (MH).

/Long-tailed

Long-tailed Tits:-

8 at Flessey Woods on 2nd (JKJ).

Willow Tit:-

5 at Bolan on 16th (LGM).

Tree Creeper:-

Single birds seen at Holywell Dene, Flessey Woods, and Bedlington.

Dipper:-

Single bird at Whittle Dene on 30th (IHA/JSB).

Fieldfare:-

On 3rd, flocks of up to 30 near Colt Crag (JEO). 15th saw 70 near Heddon on the Wall (BM) and at Holy Island on 29th there were 150 (CW).

Redwing:-

On 15th/16th slight increase of records. c200 at Heddon, 10 on the rocks at St. Mary's Island, 150 at Gosforth Park (RN/IHA/PB).

Stonechat:-

Birds seen at Chevington, Bondicarr, Alnmouth, Hadstone and St. Mary's Island during month.

Grey Wagtail:-

Single bird at Gosforth Park throughout month. 1 at Newcastle Central Station on 6th and another at Gateshead the next day (LGM). 1 at Durham City on 30th (RN).

Waxwing:-

On 8th, 3 at North Shields (still present on 23rd (MH) when 2 at Killingworth and 8 at Kenton (BG). 3 at Holywell Dene on 9th (JKJ). At Corbridge Fell, 6 on 15th (WB) and 5 at Heddon on 22nd (IHA).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Cresswell on 14th (JKJ).

Goldfinch:-

On 19th, 1 at Cresswell (TH) and 2 at Holywell Dene on 23rd (JKJ).

Redpoll:-

Party of 5 birds, 4 of which were very pale birds, were at Gosforth Park on 2nd (RN/LGM).

Chaffinch:-

On 30th over 150 at Felton (MH) when a flock of 30 at Durham (RN).

Brambling:-

Flocks of over 120 W. of Wingates on 8th (MB).

Lapland Bunting:-

1 at Chevington Burn on 3rd (BG).

Snow Bunting:-

1 on beach at Warkworth on 23rd (BG).

ADDENDUM:- Bean Goose - 1 observed in flight over Broomlee Lough on 26th December, 1965, full noted received (MN).

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.	B. Galloway.	E. Lobley.	C. Ward.
M. Bell.	R. Grey.	L. G. Macfarlane.	
J. S. Booth.	T. Hallan.	B. Marshall.	
W. Brady.	Hauxley Ringing Station.	S. Moffitt.	
F. Brown.	M. Hodgson.	R. Nornan.	
F. Colley.	J. K. Jeffries.	M. Sattrass.	
C. B. Douglas.	E. E. Jackson.	J. E. Orton.	

I am sure that Club Members will join with the Committee in wishing a speedy return to health to Mr. T. Winter, who served on the Club Committee until his recent illness.

Hauxley Ringing Station Report for 1964 is now available and may be obtained from Mr. P. Yeoman, 10 Ashtree Close, Sherburn Park, Rowlands Hill, Co. Durham, price 2s. 6d. (3s. 0d. post free) or from any member of the Northumbria Ringing Group.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.
FEBRUARY 1966 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

The month began with Westerly and S. Westerly winds and these continued until the 6th. On the 7th, cold, strong Easterly winds began and dominated the weather until the 18th, when the high pressure to the N.E. of the country weakened. Mild S.W. winds spread from the Atlantic on the 19th and continued from this direction until the end of the month. A very quiet month, the notable records being a Mealy Redpoll at Bamburgh, large numbers of Goosander, large cold weather movements of Skylarks, Redwings and Fieldfares on 10th - 13th and Waxwings at Forest Hall.

Classified List.

Black-throated Diver:-

1 close inshore at Alnmouth on 27th (BM).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 at Holy Island Harbour on 20th (JMB) and 6 at Alnmouth on 27th (BM).

Red-throated Diver:-

At Alnmouth, 20 on 6th rose to c95 on 27th (BG/BM) when there were 10 off Chevington. 7 off Bamburgh on 20th (B.R.S.) and an inland record of a single bird at Hallington Reservoir on 13th (RG/WB).

Great Crested Grebe:-

Single birds at Hallington Reservoir on 17th (RG/WB) and at Stag Rocks on 26th (B.R.S.). On 27th there were 10 at Alnmouth (3 in Summer plumage) (BM).

Red-necked Grebe:-

On 27th there were single birds reported at Ross Back Sands, Holy Island and Alnmouth (MN/BM).

Gannet:-

2 at Holy Island on 6th (PB/SM) and 4 flew S. here on 27th (LGM/RN).

Cormorant:-

1 at Swallow Ponds on 8th (FC).

Heron:-

1 at Cresswell (TH) on 1st and 4 at Broomlee Lough on 6th (MN) and 1 at Holy Island (SM). 1 at Cowey Sike on 26th (JSE).

Mallard:-

5/600 off Seaton Sluice for most of month. 85 at Prestwick Carr on 5th, 230 at Whittle Dene on 12th and 80 at Gosforth Park the next day (LGM).

Teal:-

30 to 40 present at Holywell Ponds for most of month and on 26th, 30 on sea off Hartley (SM). 3 at Cresswell on 5th rose to 20 on 12th. 50 at Linton on 24th and 30 at Gosforth Park two days later (TH/MN).

Wigeon:-

Slight influx on 12th/13th when 18 at Bondicar (MN). 40 at Hadston (H.R.S.) and 90 at Holywell Ponds (CED). On 26th there were 72 at Grindon Lough (JSE) and 60 off Hartley (MN). 35 at Holy Island the next day.

Pintail:-

Single bird at Prestwick Carr on 5th (LGM/CW). 8 at Holy Island on 6th, 3 at Holywell Ponds on 13th (CED) and 6 off Hartley Point on 26th (PB/SM/CED).

Shoveler:-

Only 4 birds reported. Single birds seen at Seaton Sluice on 6th, Holywell Ponds on 13th, Hartley Point on 26th and Alnmouth on 27th (BM/SM/CED).

/Tufted Duck

Tufted Duck:-

Largest flocks reported were from Holywell Ponds (160 on 20th), Swallow Ponds (85 on 24th), Gosforth Park (51 on 13th), Whittle Dene (34 on 20th) and Hartburn (30 on 27th). Many smaller numbers seen.

Pochard:-

Largest flock ever reported from Holywell Ponds on 26th when c225 present (CED). Up to 40 at Hartburn on 27th (BG). Cresswell, Grindon Lough and Seaton Burn all had flocks of less than a dozen during month.

Goldeneye:-

Small parties reported present at nearly all the inland waters. On 6th there were 11 at Grindon (LGM), 7 at Halleypike and 10 at Colt Crag (MN). 9 at Whittle Dene on 20th (IHA/JSB).

Long-tailed Duck:-

5 off Stag Rocks on 26th (B.R.S.).

Velvet Scoter:-

3 off Hadston on 13th (H.R.S.) and another party of 3 off Ross Back Sands on 27th (LGM et al).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

4 at Alnmouth on 6th (BG) and 2 on 27th (BM). A total of 28 between Holy Island and Bamburgh on 27th (LGM et al).

Goosander:-

48 at Broomlee and Greenlee on 6th (MN) when 25 at Whittle Dene (IHA/JSB). On 27th there were 23 at Colt Crag and 1 at Capheaton (PB/DR).

Shelduck:-

Up to 5 present at Cresswell until 10th (TH). 1 at Gosforth Park from 13th to 19th (LGM). 4 flew N. at Boulmer on 6th while 6 were on sea (BG). 4 at Alnmouth on 27th (BM).

Grey Geese:-

8 flew S. over Swalwell on 2nd (JSB). Small movement on 26th/27th when 70 - 75 flew S.W. to W. over Hexham (FY) and 45 flew S. off Ross Back Sands (MN/LGM et al).

Grey Lag Goose:-

Single bird present at Cresswell on 1st and 5th (TH).

Pink-footed Goose:-

1 at Grindon Lough on 26th (JSB).

Brent Goose:-

Still 4 - 500 present at Holy Island Swad on 27th (MN).

Canada Goose:-

Last months bird still present at Swallow Ponds. 19 at Colt Crag on 6th (MN).

Whooper Swan:-

On 5th/6th, 34 at Seaton Burn, 19 at Grindon, 2 at Sike and at Whittledene, 39 at Holy Island Lough which increased to 51 by 20th. Over 35 at Holy Island Flats on 26th. About 14 at Ashington on 23rd/24th and 10 present at Swallow Ponds for most of month. 5 at Holywell Ponds on 16th (CTB) and 9 at Chevington on 27th (BM).

Bewick Swan:-

14 at Holy Island Lough on 20th (JMB) increased to 22 on 27th (MN).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Single bird near Sunderland on 7th (PH).

Kestrel:-

Present at Boldon, Whitburn, Heddon, Seaton Burn and Hauxley. A bird at Benton (Newcastle) was found to be eating a Skylark (FC).

Water Rail:-

1 at Bondicar on 13th (H.R.S.). A maximum of 7 present at Bamburgh on 19th (B.R.S.).

Moorhen:-

Over 100 at Swallow Ponds during cold weather (FC).

/Coot

Coot:-

c120 at Holywell Ponds on 20th (CED) and a similar number at Seaton Burn next day (BH). On 26th, 51 at Holy Island Lough (IHA/JSB) and on 27th, 30 at Hartburn and 100 at Bolam (BG).

Lapwing:-

On 6th, 150 at Alnmouth flew S.W. The 150 consisted of a total of 4 flocks that came from the N.E. during the afternoon (BG). By 8th over 300 at Swallow Ponds (FC). 500 at Whittle Dene on 6th (JSB/IHA).

Grey Plover:-

1 at Hauxley on 13th (H.R.S.).

Golden Plover:-

Flock of 500 at Whittle Dene on 6th (IHA/JSB). 600 at Cresswell on 10th was made up of two flocks each of 300 birds flying S. (TH). By 12th there were still 100 at Cresswell and 400 at Bondicar (MN).

Turnstone:-

100 at Boulmer on 6th (BG).

Snipe:-

Flock of 30 - 40 present at Swallow Ponds during most of month (FC) and c100 at Gosforth at same time (MN). Only 3 at Holywell Ponds throughout entire month (CED). 60 at Alnmouth on 27th (BM).

Jack Snipe:-

5 at Swallow Ponds on 8th (FC). 1 at Gosforth Park on 26th (MN) and 4 at Alnmouth next day (BM).

Woodcock:-

From 11th to 14th a slight increase in coastal areas; 4 at Cresswell (TH). 2 at Bamburgh (B.R.S.) and 1 at Hauxley (H.R.S.). 1 at Holywell Dene on 20th was trapped (CED). Single bird present at Gosforth Park throughout month.

Redshank:-

65 at Holywell Ponds on 26th (PB/SH).

Knot:-

c400 at Seaton Sluice on 16th (CTB) when 40 Purple Sandpiper were also counted.

Dunlin:-

At Boulmer, 200 were present on 6th (BG). There were 140 at Cresswell on 10th (TH) and 30 were at Whitburn throughout month (PH).

Sanderling:-

40 at St. Mary's Island on 26th (MN).

Little Auk:-

A bird almost in Summer plumage was found dead (oiled) at Bamburgh on 20th (B.R.S.).

Tawny Owl:-

Birds present in Benton and High Heaton districts of Newcastle.

Long-eared Owl:-

A roost of 9 at Gosforth Park during month (MN).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 at Cresswell (the usual bird probably) on 5th (TH). 1 at Hauxley on 13th (H.R.S.) and a roost of 4 at Ross Links on 27th when 1 on Holy Island (LGM/RN) (et al). 6 at Swallow Ponds during last week of month (FC).

Greater Spotted Woodpecker:-

2 birds at Stocksfield on 6th were feeding in Larch plantation by snipping off cones and flying off with them (IHA/JSB).

Skylark:-

On 9th/10th many thousands flew E. down Tyne Valley and ahead of snow in flocks of up to 400 (BG). This movement was also noted at Cresswell where for two hours Skylarks were flying S. continuously in small flocks of up to 10. Conservative estimate five minutes = 600 birds (TH). /Were the birds flying to the coast, then following it South? (MB).

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Seaton Burn on 27th (BG) and at Swallow Ponds on 17th (FC).

Magpie:-

2 near Washington on 4th and 2 near Eddon on 20th (PH).

Long-tailed Tit:-

A party of 15 at Heddon on 27th (IHA).

Redwing/Fieldfare:-

A similar cold weather movement occurred on 10th - 13th as to that of Skylarks. Many thousands flew E. down Tyne Valley (BG). On 10th, 200 at Cresswell and following day saw 100 in Tower Wood, Cresswell (TH). Numbers still high in this area on 12th. On 13th, 150 at Bamburgh and 100 at Hauxley. Total of 180 birds seen at Whitburn on 16th (PH).

Stonechat:-

2 at Alnmouth on 6th (BG). Single birds at Cresswell on 10th (TH) and Bamburgh and Budle Bay on 12th (B.R.S.).

Meadow Pipit:-

c50 at Whitburn on 16th (PH).

Waxwing:-

6 at Forest Hall on 16th (FC).

Goldfinch:-

On 12th, pairs seen at Whittle Dene, Cresswell and Radcliffe (LGM/MN), there were 12 at Hauxley next day (H.R.S.). 5 at Holywell Ponds on 20th (CED/JKJ).

Siskin:-

Over 50 feeding in Larch plantation at Stocksfield on 6th. By 27th there were only 20 and more than 20 were at Horsley Wood (IHA/JSB).

Healy Redpoll:-

A good specimen was trapped at Bamburgh on 19th (B.R.S.).

Bullfinch:-

10 at Colt Crag on 6th (MN).

Brambling:-

On 14th, there were 15 at Druridge (TH) and over 200 at Holywell Dene two days later (CTB). Several flocks totalling 1000 or more in Hulne Park area, Alnwick (per ER).

Corn Bunting:-

10 at Cresswell on 1st (TH).

Snow Bunting:-

A male at Budle Bay on 12th (B.R.S.) and 35 in a school field in Newcastle on 28th (LGM).

List of Contributors.

I. H. Armstrong.	P. Colley.	L. G. Macfarlane.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.	C. E. Douglas.	R. Nattrass.
J. M. Bayldon.	B. Galloway.	R. Norman.
C. T. Bell.	R. Grey.	D. Richardson.
M. Bell.	T. Hallam.	C. Ward.
J. S. Booth.	Hauxley Ringing Station.	P. Yeoman.
W. Brady.	T. Hogg.	
P. Brown.	B. Marshall.	

The following was seen by I. H. Armstrong on Sunday, 13th February, 1966:

After a week of heavy snow, a large collection of birds (over 2000) comprised of 14 species, were feeding in a wind-blown stubble field, adjacent to the Great Northern Reservoir at Whittle Dene.

Hallard	approximately	200
Wigeon		24
Partridge		3
Stock Dove		3
Carrion Crow		100
Rook		700
Jackdaw		150
Meadow Pipit		50
Greenfinch		200
Chaffinch		500
Brambling		50
Yellowhammer		200
Reed Bunting		50
Tree Sparrow		100

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

MARCH 1, 1966 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

Low pressure crossed the area on the 1st followed by another trough on the 3rd. An anticyclone moved towards the Azores, a ridge extending over the British Isles. The anticyclone continued to move N.E. and on the 6th it was over N.W. France! During all this time and until the 10th fronts continued to move across the country from the Atlantic. High pressure in the East Atlantic continued to produce North westerly air stream until the 12th. From the 13th to 21st, a slow moving anticyclone S.W. of the British Isles produced fairly stable weather with light westerly winds. On the 23rd, a cyclone near Iceland moved S.E. giving cold N.W. winds over the area and this set the pattern for the rest of the month. Only the 2nd and 13th had southerly winds, all the other March days had winds blowing from the westerly quarter.

Records of interest are the arrival of the first Summer visitors. Heaters (1 on 2nd), Gull, Great Skua, Gadwall, Greenshank. Most arrived in smaller numbers than usual, and perhaps a little later. Grebe numbers rose to a good level in Holy Island area, and the Mediterranean Gull is worthy of special mention. Fieldfares were still present at the end of the month but in very small scattered parties.

Divers:-

From 18th to 21st during a total of 196 minutes sea watching, 95 flew N. off Cresswell, by 26th only 4 flew N. during 117 minutes (TH).

Black-throated Diver:-

2 off Cresswell on 5th (CW/MN). c7 off Ross Links on 13th and 1 off Stag Rocks on 31st (B.R.S.).

Great Northern Diver:-

3 at Cresswell on 13th (MN/CW) and 3 off Holy Island Harbour from 12th to 19th (all in Winter Plumage) (CW/MB et al).

Red-throated Diver:-

There were 22 at Cresswell from 5th until 13th (CW). On 6th there were 20 at Alnmouth and a dead oiled bird at Holywell Ponds (BM/CED). The Alnmouth total had risen to 45 by 13th (CW/MN). 12 off Ross on 19th (CW).

Great-crested Grebe -

A bird had returned to one local breeding water by 5th and at another by 12th. 8 at Alnmouth on 6th (BM) and an immature bird at Grindon on 31st (RG/EL).

Red-necked Grebe:-

4 birds still in Winter plumage off Holy Island and Ross Links on 12th and 13th (JMB/MB et al). 2 still present in this area on 19th (MN/CW). 1 at Grindon on 5th and 6th (MN).

Slavonian Grebe:-

A single bird in Holy Island Harbour on 12th and c15 off Ross Links the next day (JMB/MN et al) where 16 were recorded on 19th (MN/CW).

Black-necked Grebe:-

On 13th near Holy Island Harbour there were 7 (5 in Summer plumage 2 in Winter plumage) (JMB/MN/et al).

Little Grebe:-

Present at Holywell Ponds from 6th onwards (CED). On 12th, 3 at Havannah and 2 at Grindon which rose to 7 on 20th (LGM/CW). 5 at Gosforth Park by 26th and 2 at Eothal throughout most of month.

Fulmar:-

A steady northward movement on 12th with rafts concentrating off Stag Rocks and Bydle Bay (MN).

Gannet:-

A small northerly movement noted off Bamburgh on 12th (B.R.S.). 7 flew N. off Cresswell on 13th (MN) and 13 on 26th (TH). Otherwise reports confined to 2 birds or less.

/Cormorant

Cormorant:-

A bird sharing the characteristics of continental race off Holy Island on 13th (MM).

Heron:-

On 12th there were 5 in Greenlee/Halleypike area (LGM) and on 20th Hartburn had 3 and Broomlee 4 (CW). The Broomlee birds were flying high over the moors and could well have come from Halleypike area. 8 at Bolam on 6th (MM).

Mallard:-

On 5th, 200 on sea at Cresswell and 530 at Colt Crag. 300 off St. Mary's Island the next day (MN/CW). 100 at Holywell on 12th were later off Seaton Sluice (CW). A similar total at Gosforth Park on 13th (LGM); over 170 in Druridge Bay on 20th (MH). Smaller parties of under 16 were reported from Prestwick Carr (12), Grindon Lough (15), Halleypike (5) and Greenlee (6) during month. 120 at Wingates on 27th (MM).

Teal:-

c30 at Grindon on 6th (DB) and a maximum of 70 at Gosforth Park of 70 on 13th (LGM) when there were 28 at Bothal, 45 at Ashington and 85 at Cresswell (CW/MN). 20 at Linton on 5th (CW). On 21st there were c20 at Havannah and 36 at Prestwick Carr on 24th (EM). 120 near Felton on 26th (MH) and 13 at Holywell Ponds the next day where there had been none earlier in the month (CED).

Gadwall:-

2 at Holywell Ponds from 17th until 29th (MM). There were 4 at Cresswell on 5th (LGM). 3 remaining until 27th (TH et al).

Wigeon:-

100 present at Grindon throughout most of month. 30 at Broomlee on 6th (DB) when 60 off St. Mary's Island (MN). On 12th there were 30 at Holywell Ponds (MM) and 13 at Whittle Dene the next day (IHA) when 200 at Cresswell. This total at Cresswell dropped slowly until only 46 present on 26th (CW/MN). 25 at Capheaton on 28th (EM). 120 at Hallington on 5th (MM).

Pintail:-

Single bird present at Holywell Ponds for most of month. A male at Ashington on 3rd (TH). 1 at Colt Crag on 6th and 2 at Wingates on 27th (MM).

Shoveler:-

A maximum of 9 at Gosforth Park on 26th (RN). 6 off St. Mary's Island on 6th and 4 on 12th (MN/TW) when 6 at Holywell Ponds (CW) where 2 remained until 20th. 10 in Cresswell area on 8th and single birds were seen here and at Ashington from 12th until 19th (TH). 3 at Capheaton on 28th (EM) and 3 at Grindon on 31st (RG/WB).

Scaup:-

A male at Hough Island Lough on 5th (JKJ). A female at Holy Island Harbour on 13th when a male off Ross Links (JMB/MM et al). Female at Cresswell on 27th (MM).

Tufted Duck:-

c110 at Holywell Ponds on 6th dropped to c50 on 27th (CED). 30-35 present at Gosforth Park during month (CW). 43 at Grindon on 12th (LGM) when 12 at Cresswell. Over 40 at Swallow Ponds on 19th (MH). On 27th, 16 at Edmondbyers Reservoir (RN) and 21 at Havannah (CW). The next day saw 62 at Bolam, 14 at Hartburn and 40 at Capheaton (EM).

Pochard:-

The total of 103 at Holywell Ponds on 6th fell to 5 by 27th (CED). 17 at Cresswell on 3rd (TH) after which numbers began to fall. 15 at Grindon Lough on 6th (DB) when 10 at Broomlee. 12 at Grindon on 20th (CW) and on 28th, 13 at Hartburn, 10 at Capheaton (EM).

Goldeneye:-

10 at Cresswell on 1st, 9 of which still present on 8th (TH). On 6th, 20 at Grindon Lough, 12 at Broomlee, 10 at Greenlee (DB) and 23 at Colt Crag (MM). While on 13th, 2 at Holywell Ponds, 3 at Bothal and 4 at Ashington (CED/MM). 17 at Edmondbyers Reservoirs on 27th (RN) and 3 at Bolam, 10 at Capheaton the next day (EM).

Long-tailed Duck:-

20 at Holy Island Slakes and 30 at Ross on 13th (MM/JMB).

Velvet Scoter:-

2 flew S. off Cresswell on 5th and 1 on 19th (CW/TH). 7 at Ross Links on 13th (MM/JMB et al) and 2 on 19th (MM).

Common Scoter:-

60 off Stag Rocks on 12th and 200 at Ross on 13th (MB/MM/JMB).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

3 at Cresswell on 5th. 25+ at Holy Island on 19th when 8 off Ross (CW/MM).

Goosander:-

On 12th, 39 at Froonlee/Greenlee (LGM) and 13th saw 24 at Colt Crag and 11 at Hallington (RG/EL). 3 at Whittle Dene on 13th (IHA) and 4 near Holystone on 20th (JKJ).

Snaw:-

A female at Colt Crag on 5th and 6th (MM).

Shelduck:-

Single bird at Froonlee Lough on 6th (DB).

Brent Goose:-

4 pale breasted off Holy Island Harbour on 12th and 13th (MB/MM/et al). 8 at Fenham Flats on 19th (CW).

Canada Goose:-

The bird at Swallow Ponds was last seen on 8th (FC).

Whooper Swan:-

Up to 10 present at Ashington until 26th/29th when 15 present (TH) 131 at Holy Island on 3rd and over 100 present until 13th. On 6th, 3 at Halleypike and 4 at Alnmouth (BM/DE). On 13th, 5 at Holywell Ponds (CED). The 19th saw 9 at Bothal (LGM) and the next day there were 3 at Hartburn (JKJ) and 4 at Seaton Delaval (EM) 3 of which remained until 27th. 2 at Cresswell on 30th flew in from N. (TH) and 5 at Grindon on last day of month (RG/EL). On 27th, 6 at Ashington and 7 at Wingates (MM).

Bewick Swan:-

10 at Ashington on 3rd (which helps corroborate flock of 19 in this area during end of February but not printed in last month's bulletin) and 12 on Holy Island (TH). The flock at Holy Island had increased by 2 by 5th but none were present by 12th (JKJ/MB). A single bird at Bothal on 5th could have been same bird that was reported from Ashington on 13th (CW/MM).

Hen Harrier:-

Adult male was seen hawking over field near Beal Crossroad on 13th (TH).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Male at Greenlee on 5th (MM).

Merlin:-

4 near Greenlee on 12th (LGM).

Kestrel:-

Reported from Bardon Mill, Hallington, Simonburn and usual areas.

Black Grouse:-

Blackcock at Edmonbyers Reservoir on 27th (RN).

Water Rail:-

1 at Cresswell on 5th (LGM) and at Banburgh on 12th (B.R.S.).

Moorhen:-

bird at Cresswell sitting on eggs by 27th (MM).

Coot:-

c70 present at Holywell Ponds throughout month (CED) and 90 at Seaton Burn on 13th (CW).

Oystercatcher:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 27th (a species rarely seen here - CED) when 3 at Edmonbyers Reservoir (RN).

Lapwing:-

Up to 100 present at Prestwick Carr during month (EM). c250 at

Swallow Ponds on 8th, and a maximum at Longbenton of 400 on 19th (FC).
300 at Whittle Dene on 13th dropped to just over 50 on 25th (IHA).

Grey Plover:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 13th (MN). Small parties present in Holy Island area during month.

Golden Plover:-

On 6th about 100 at Grindon (DB). Prestwick Carr had c800 on 17th but only 30 next day (EM). 75 at Tudle Bay on 13th (MM).

Snipe:-

Up to 50 at Bothal for most of month. 23 at Ashington on 5th (CW). 60 at Alnmouth on 6th dropped to 25 on 13th and 20 were present here until end of month. c100 at Gosforth Park on 13th (MN) and a maximum of 30 at Prestwick Carr on 24th (EM). 80 at Holywell Ponds on 17th fell to 40 on 21st (MM).

Jack Snipe:-

7 at Alnmouth on 6th and 2 on 20th (EM/EM). 1 at Holywell Ponds on 12th and 27th (CW/CED). 1 at Prestwick Carr on 24th (EM). 1 at Bamburgh on 12th (B.R.S.) and 1 at Cresswell on 27th (MM).

Woodcock:-

Single birds reported from Rock on 6th, Arcot on 19th and Seaton Sluice on 27th.

Curlew:-

38 at Grindon on 3rd (RG/EL/WB) rose to 120 on 6th (DB) and then to 200 by 12th (LGM). By 19th birds had returned to Holywell Ponds where they usually breed (CED). On 20th, a flock of 40 on moors near Broomlee (CW).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

400 at Holy Island on 13th (MM/JMB).

Redshank:-

12 at Prestwick Carr on 17th (largest number I have seen there - EM). 2 at Whittle Dene on 25th (IHA). 6 at Grindon on 6th (DB).

Greenshank:-

1 at Alnmouth on 6th (BM).

Knot:-

c600 at St. Mary's Island on 6th (MN).

Dunlin:-

4 at Prestwick Carr on 17th (EM) usual numbers elsewhere.

Sanderling:-

30 on Holy Island Slakes on 13th (JMB/MM).

Ruff:-

2 at Cresswell from 8th until 14th (TH). 1 there on 27th (MM).

Great Skua:-

A single bird at Alnmouth on 27th (JKJ).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

1 at Holywell on 21st rose to 25 by 29th (MM).

Common Gull:-

Many hundreds assembling for roost at Colt Crag on 5th (MM).

Glaucous Gull:-

1 at Seahouses Harbour on 12th (a 1st. W. bird - JMB/MM). A full adult at Swallow Ponds on 22nd (IHA).

Mediterranean Black-headed Gull:-

Single bird in full Summer plumage was feeding close inshore with Black-headed Gulls. It was observed for two hours at Holy Island Harbour on 12th (MB/JMB/MM et al).

Black-headed Gull:-

There was a general return by 25th to inland breeding sites.

Kittiwake:-

During 40 minutes 30 flew N. off Cresswell on 18th (TH) and 100 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 29th in 14 minutes (MM).

Collared Dove:-

A nest with two eggs found in Holywell Dene on 26th.

Barn Owl:-

1 at Seaton Burn on 6th (BH) and Longbenton bird still present (FC).

Tawny Owl:-

Bird sitting on eggs at Netherwitton on 27th.

Long-eared Owl:-

5 at Gosforth Park on 13th (per CW). 1 at Holywell Dene on 29th (MH).

Short-eared Owl:-

Single bird at Bamburgh all month (B.R.S.) and 2 at Holy Island on 13th. Only 1 there by 19th (CW/TH). 1 at Holywell on 18th (MH).

Greater Spotted Woodpecker:-

3 in Gosforth Park all month.

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 19th (CW).

Rock:-

A site recolonised at Forest Hall after an absence of five or six years (FC).

Magpie:-

6 at Heddon on 26th (IHA) when 3 near Norpeth (MH).

Willow Tit:-

Several present at Prestwick Carr during month (EM).

Tree Creeper:-

2 near Felton on 26th (MH).

Nuthatch:-

Pair back at a Northumberland site by 20th (IHA).

Fieldfare:-

On 6th, 25+ at Rock (MH). Over 90 at Hinds Shield on 12th (LGM) and c60 at Holy Island then and on following day (MB/TH et al). 15 at Prestwick Carr on 17th (EM) and c100 in Grindon area on 31st (RG/EL).

Song Thrush:-

Bird with a completed nest in Wallsend on 31st (FC).

Wheatear:-

On 2nd, 1 at Newcastle Town Moor (ER). 1 near Bondicarr on 27th (LGM) when 1 near Edmondbyers Reservoir (RN).

Stonechat:-

2 singing males at Bamburgh on 31st (B.R.S.).

Goldcrest:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 18th (MH).

Grey Wagtail:-

2 at Plessey Woods and 1 at Gosforth Park on 13th (JMJ/LGM). A pair at Hopeshield Burn Dene on 21st (IHA) and female at Druridge on 29th (TH).

Waxwing:-

During first weeklor 2 still in Forest Hall (FC). 5 at Darras Hall, Ponteland on 24th (EM).

Bullfinch:-

On 26th, over 11 near Felton (MH) with 120 Chaffinches and 30 Yellowhammers.

Chaffinch:-

40 at Greenlee on 5th and 100 at Colt Crag next day (MH).

Brambling:-

Over 20 at Rock on 6th (MH) when 170 at Bolan (MH). On 20th near Hartburn there were 10-12 (JKJ).

Reed Bunting:-

A roost of 200 at Alnmouth on 6th rose to c500 on 13th (BH).

Snow Bunting:-

35 at a Newcastle school field on 1st (LGM). 3 at Bamburgh on 12th (B.R.S.).

Tree Sparrow:-

Over 25 at Cresswell on 10th (MH). 50 at Colt Crag on 6th (MM).

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.
J. A. Bayldon.
E. Bell.
D. Bradford.
W. Brady.
F. Colley.

C. E. Douglas.
R. Grey.
T. Hallam.
H. Hodgson.
J. K. Jeffrey.
B. Lobley.
L. G. Macfarlane.

M. Marquiss.
B. Marshall.
E. Neek.
M. Nattrass.
R. Norman.
E. Robson.
C. Ward.

The Annual General Meeting of the Bird Club will be held on Thursday, 28th April, 1966 at 7.15.p.m. in the Y.M.C.A. Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1.

It is with regret that we learn of the tragic death of Mr. A. J. Clissold.

Mr. Clissold (who only two months ago gave the Club an excellent lecture on his visits to Iceland) has many friends and acquaintances in our Club. I am sure that everyone will join with the Committee in expressing sorrow at his sudden death.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

APRIL 1966 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

The month opened with a ridge of cold air resulting in N.E. winds on 2nd and 3rd and by 4th, winds were E. The easterly airstream continued unbroken until 21st, due to troughs and depressions moving to the S. of the country. By 22nd, the main polar high was no longer dominant having moved S. into Russia. Then followed a movement of depressions from the W. giving westerly or S. Westerly until 29th. On 30th, the high pressure area over Spain extended northwards and winds became S. East. There were many records of Summer migrants and it has been difficult to determine when, and how large influxes were, for most birdwatching was done at the weekends and it is as well to bear this in mind when reading the Bulletin. The Avocets, Ring Ouzel and Robin/Goldcrest influxes are worthy of special mention. Though there were a crop of early records last month (March) and at the beginning of this, it was not until after the 24th that the Summer visitors began to make themselves noticeable. Numbers, however, of most of these species were still well down at the end of the month, the big drift instead of a gentle trickle, is still awaited at the time of writing (9th May, 1966).

Classified List.

Divers:-

During 140 minutes off Cresswell on 4th, 44 flew N. and 4 flew S. (TH).

Black throated Diver:-

Single bird off Ross Back Sands on 1st (MI).

Great Northern Diver:-

2 off Holy Island on 11th (BG) and 1 on 21st (T & BE).

Red-throated Diver:-

20 off Ross Back Sands (MI) and 2 off Holy Island on 24th (CW).

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 off Ross and another off Holy Island on 1st (MI) had risen to 3 by 24th (LGN et al).

Slavonian Grebe:-

On 1st there were 15 off Ross Back Sands and 1 off Holy Island which remained there until 24th (MI/MN et al).

Little Grebe:-

10 at Gosforth Park on 11th (LGN). 2 at Cresswell on 14th, 1 remaining until 22nd (TH). 3 at Swallow Ponds on 25th (CTB).

Fulmer:-

Over 90 in Holy Island Coves on 24th (CW).

Gannet:-

Small numbers noted flying N. throughout month.

Cormorant:-

A bird at Wingates Moor on 3rd (PB).

Heron:-

On 21st a single bird at Havanna (CW) and 1 at Cresswell on 23rd (MN).

Mallard:-

250 at Wingates on 3rd dropped to 60 by 17th (PB).

Teal:-

90 at Cresswell on 3rd fell to 40 by 9th (CW/MN) and there were c30 at Ashington from 10th to 13th (TH).

Garganey:-

Single male at Cresswell on 16th was joined by female on 24th.

Gadwall:-

1 at Linton on 11th (PB). 2 at Holywell Ponds on 17th and 2 at Cresswell on 23rd (MN).

Wigeon:-

Up to 50 present at Cresswell until 10th. A pair at Grindon on 21st (RG/EL).

/Pintail

Pintail:-

Male at Cresswell on 24th (TH).

Shoveler:-

Pair at Swallow Ponds on 5th (RN). Pair at Ashington on 11th was joined by a male on 17th. Pair at Cresswell on 14th rose to 6 during the last week of month (TH/MN). 4 at Newton Pool on 16th/17th (IHA/JSB) and four pairs present at Grindon from 21st until 28th (RG).

Scaup:-

Female at Cresswell from 12th until 22nd (TH).

Tufted Duck:-

33 at Swallow Ponds on 5th (RN). On 17th, 45 at Holywell Ponds and 15 at Edmundbyers Reservoir (MN/RN). 25 at Bolam Lake on 8th (JSB). c20 at Gosforth Park on 25th and 5 at Blaydon on 29th (BG).

Pochard:-

Single bird at Cresswell from 4th until 20th (TH). 5 at Bolam Lake on 8th when 7 at Holywell Ponds which remained there until 15th (JSB/PB).

Goldeneye:-

2 at Budle Bay on 1st and at Wingates on 3rd (B.R.S/PB). 2 at Cresswell on 4th rose to a maximum of 6 on 16th/17th and only 1 remained by 29th (TH). On 17th, 10 at Edmundbyers Reservoir (RN) and 8 at Newton (JSB/IHA) 7 of which were still present on 24th (BG).

Long-tailed Duck:-

Maximum of 70 off Stag Rocks on 3rd (B.R.S.) and 7 there on 30th in Summer Plumage (B & TH).

Velvet Scoter:-

On 1st, 1 off Ross and 2 off Holy Island (MI). 1 off Stag Rocks on 21st (T & BH) and 2 off Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

Maximum of c170 off Stag Rocks on 21st (B & TH) and c70 off Holy Island on 24th (MN).

Eider:-

On 1st, 200 off Budle Bay and 600 off Holy Island (MI).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Off Holy Island - 8 on 11th and 5 on 24th (BG/CW). 1 at Hadstone on 3rd (CW).

Goosander:-

Pair at Lewisburn on 23rd (JKJ).

Shelduck:-

141 in Budle Bay on 1st (MI). 5 at Edmundbyers Reservoir on 11th (JSB) and on 24th, 10 at Cresswell and 8 at Newton (BG).

Grey Lag Goose:-

5 in Budle Bay on 1st (MI).

Pink-footed Goose:-

7 on Holy Island Flats on 16th and 21st (B & TH).

Brent Geese:-

On 21st at Seaton Sluice a flock of 25-30 flew S.E (JKJ).

Canada Goose:-

Single birds seen at St. Mary's Island on 13th (JKJ) and at Gosforth Park on 27th (CTB). 2 flew S. off Cresswell on 22nd (TH).

Whooper Swan:-

7 present at Cresswell for most of time until 17th (HT). 12 at Wingates on 3rd when 15 at Linton (PB). Smaller numbers reported at other waters during first week.

Mute Swan:-

39 in Budle Bay on 1st (MI). On 21st, 8 at Gosforth Park (RN) and 7 at Swallow Ponds on 25th (CTB). Usual numbers elsewhere.

Common Buzzard:-

On 3rd at Gosforth Park, 2 flew around, mewing as they did so (MN).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Male in Redesdale Plantations on 23rd (CW).

/Merlin

Merlin:-

1 at Holy Island on 1st (MH) and a male at Edmondbyers Reservoir on 17th (RN).

Kestrel:-

3 pairs in Gosforth Park. Usual numbers reported from familiar haunts.

Lapwing:-

About 60 near Seaton Delaval on 17th (AB).

Grey Plover:-

31 on Fenham Flats on 2nd (MH). Single bird at Cresswell from 13th until 25th (TH).

Golden Plover:-

On 2nd at Allendale, 160 were noted moving S. down the valley after blizzards (LGM). At Cresswell c50 on 2nd rose to c200 by 14th (most birds belonging to the Northern race) and birds continued to move through here until 17th. Only 6 present on 20th (TH). 600 at Brenkley on 17th (Northern race) and c500 at Embleton on 23rd (IHA/JSB).

Snipe:-

On 3rd about 130 near Seaton Delaval (AB) and 10 at Druridge the next day (TH).

Jack Snipe:-

2 at Bamburgh on 3rd (B.R.S.). 1 at Dunstanburgh on 17th (IHA) and 1 at Gosforth Park on 29th (CW).

Woodcock:-

Single birds at Seaton Delaval on 9th, Cresswell on 16th and Gosforth Park on 21st.

Curlew:-

16 at Holywell Ponds on 13th (PB).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

200 in Budle Bay and similar number on Holy Island Slakes on 1st (MH). 70 near Beal on 24th (CW).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 at Cresswell on 11th (TH).

Common Sandpiper:-

2 at Bywell on 3rd (IHA). From 23rd onwards 8 at Lewisburn, 1 on Holy Island and 1 at Alnmouth on 24th and 30th. respectively (JKJ/MN).

Redshank:-

On 3rd, 70 at Bondicarr (CW) and a maximum of 97 at Cresswell on 12th (TH). 30 near Seaton Delaval on 17th (AB).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 at Beal on 24th (MN/CW/RN/LGM).

Purple Sandpiper:-

80 in Bamburgh area during month.

Sanderling:-

On 30th, 3 birds at Holy Island still in Winter plumage (T & BH).

Ruff:-

At Cresswell 1 on 9th, 3 on 22nd and 1 on 25th (MN/TH).

Avocet:-

2 at Newton on 10th. 2 at Cresswell on 13th/14th. 1 on Holy Island on 21st (B & TH). 2 birds were reported near Seahouses prior to Easter Weekend. These records could all stem from the same two birds.

Glaucous Gull:-

A 1st. W. bird at Budle Bay on 1st was probably the same bird seen at Holy Island Slakes later that day (MH).

Mediterranean Black-headed Gull:-

The bird seen at Holy Island last month, was again seen on 10th, 16th and 24th by many observers.

Kittiwake:-

On 5th a steady southerly movement of 120 per hour took place off St. Mary's Island (RN).

/Little Tern

Little Tern:-

Single bird seen over Holy Island Causeway on 21st & 30th (T & BH).

Sandwich Tern:-

On 8th, 3 off Stag Rocks (JAJ) and from then onwards numbers began to build up slowly and it was only by 21st that this species was fairly common offshore.

Little Auk:-

Bird found dead on Holy Island on 24th (MN et al).

Stock Dove:-

2 near Bardon Hill on 21st (RG/EL).

Wood Pigeon:-

On eggs by 16th at Cresswell (FC).

Collared Dove:-

5 near Horton Grange on 24th (FC) and 2 at Bamburgh on 30th (B.R.S.).

Cuckoo:-

First record was of one at Cresswell on 29th (TH). On 30th single birds reported from Alnmouth, Hauxley and Newsham.

Barn Owl:-

Bird at Cresswell on 25th (FC).

Tawny Owl:-

Present at Gosforth Park and Cresswell throughout month.

Long-eared Owl:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 13th (PB).

Short-eared Owl:-

Birds still present on Holy Island and at Bamburgh. 1 at Hartley on 13th and 2 at Whitley Bay on 15th (PB). 1 at Hauxley on 21st (H.R.S.).

Swift:-

Single birds reported from Cresswell on 23rd (MN), Gosforth Park on 26th and 29th (LGM). 2 at Arcot on 30th (JKJ).

Skylark:-

On 2nd several small flocks of up to 50 in the Holywell Dene - Hartley area (PB).

Swallow:-

1 at Hauxley on 8th (H.R.S.) and 2 at Sheepwash next day (T & BH). 1 at Holy Island on 11th (BG). From 21st birds began to become increasingly numerous and a strong northerly movement was noted inland on 24th/25th, though numbers were still well down by end of the month.

House Martin:-

First seen were on 23rd when 1 was at Crag Lough and another at Gosforth Park (LGM/SM). The next day saw 1 at Cresswell, 1 at Lewisburn and 6 near Seaton Delaval (AB et al). Only other record was of a single bird at Howick on 30th.

Sand Martin:-

On 9th the first birds were seen at Sheepwash and Cresswell but it was not until 21st that birds began to move through in any numbers, and by 25th over 100 in Gosforth Park (BG).

Rook:-

Rookery in Newcastle city centre has 23 occupied nests (RMP).

Coal Tit:-

Over 30 at Eyrness on 23rd (CU).

Fieldfare:-

On 16th, 350 at Cresswell and 3-400 near Seaton Delaval next day (MN/AB) when 70 on Holy Island. These high numbers in the coastal areas were probably due to flocks building up preparatory to emigration. At Gosforth Park 150 in the roost on 26th (LGM). None reported after 25th except for 12 on Holy Island on 30th.

Song Thrush:-

Small influx was noted at Hauxley, Holy Island and Cresswell on 10th and 11th, and at Scrog Hill from 16th to 23rd, numbers increased considerably (IHA/JSB).

Redwing:-

Over 150 at Seaton Delaval on 17th (AB). Numbers dropped rapidly after this date, only 1 being seen at Whitley Bay on 24th (PB).

Ring Ouzel:-

Many records. 1 at Alwinton on 3rd (BG). 1 at Holy Island on 8th was joined by another 5 by 11th when there were single birds at Hartley St. Mary's Island and Priors Park. 2 at Hauxley on 10th and 5 on 21st (H.R.S.). On 16th/17th a large influx, 10 at Dunstanburgh (IHA/JSB). 2 at Holywell Ponds (PB) and 7 on Holy Island (B & TH). Birds continued to be seen in coastal areas until 22nd and were well established inland by this time.

Blackbird:-

Small influx noted at Holy Island, Cresswell and Hauxley on 10th/11th.

Wheatear:-

Birds were coming in throughout month with peaks on 10th/11th and on 24th.

Stonechat:-

Single birds at Chevington on 8th and at Druridge on 9th (JSB/MN).

Whinchat:-

1 near Seaton Delaval on 23rd (AB) and on 30th 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Newsham (H.R.S/JKJ).

Redstart:-

From 11th to 15th 1 at Preston (MN). Then from 23rd/24th several records. 3 at Seaton Delaval, 2 at Beal, 1 at Holywell Ponds and at Holy Island. No more were seen until 29th/30th when 4 at Howick and 1 at Holy Island.

Black Redstart:-

On 9th, 2 on Holy Island and 1 at Druridge (JKJ/IHA/JSB), the Holy Island birds remaining until 16th. 1 at Dunstanburgh on 16th/17th (IHA/JSB).

Robin:-

From 9th to 16th there was a large influx noted along the entire coastline. The largest numbers reported were of 300 at Hauxley on 10th, 300 on Holy Island the next day when over 100 in S.E. Northumberland. Over 40 at Cresswell on 16th (CW) and 100 in small area near Scrog Hill, Dunstanburgh (IHA/JSB). Numbers fell rapidly after this date.

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 28th (BG) and on 30th, 2 near Budle Bay and 3 at Bamburgh (RMP/B.R.S.).

Sedge Warbler:-

First reported were at Gosforth Park on 25th (BG) and from 26th until end of month birds were seen at Holywell, Cresswell, Blaydon, Sheepwash, Alnmouth, Howick and Hauxley in small numbers, the largest total being of 10 at Cresswell on 30th (MH).

Blackcap:-

Earliest was a single bird at Cresswell on 21st (PB). 3 at Cresswell on 21st (PB). 3 at Cresswell on 29th (TH) and on 30th, 3 at Hauxley, 3 at Howick, 5 at Cresswell and 1 at Arcot.

Garden Warbler:-

Single bird at Seaton Delaval on 23rd (MH) and at Gosforth Park on 28th (BG).

Whitethroat:-

First record was of 1 at Seaton Delaval on 23rd (AB) and another at Holywell Ponds two days later (JKJ). 1 at Newsham on 26th, 2 at Gosforth Park on 28th and by 29th birds at Cresswell, Heddon and Blaydon. On 30th Bamburgh had 6, Newsham had 8 and present at Scrog Hill, Budle Bay and Upper Holywell Dene.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Sheepwash on 27th (TH).

Phylloscopus Warblers:-

1 at Priors Park on 4th (MH). 10 at Hauxley on 8th and 6 on 9th (CW). On 11th, 5 in Holywell Dene, and 1 in Whitley Bay Cemetery.

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Hauxley on 8th and 10th when 1 at Gosforth Park (CW). On 11th a small influx when 4 at Hauxley and 3 in Northumberland Park (H.R.S/AB). A further increase on 16th/17th when c20 at Hauxley, 3 near Felton, 2 at Netherwitton and on 23rd when 6 near Seaton Delaval and single bird

/at

at Gosforth Park. 1 at Bywell on 26th.

Willow Warbler:-

Birds began coming in on 8th when c10 at Hauxley (MN) and this movement continued and by 23rd this species was very widespread in large numbers.

Goldcrest:-

Large Spring influx on 8th when over 100 at Hauxley (H.R.S) and on 9th when 'hundreds' at Seaton Delaval. Numbers fell rapidly but on 16th/17th a small influx was noted along the coastline in connection with the fall of Robins mentioned earlier. 30 at Holy Island on 21st and 20 at Cresswell the next day (TH) were birds probably remaining from the fall on 16th.

Spotted Flycatcher:-

Single bird at Seaton Delaval on 23rd (AB) and 2 other records of single birds on 30th at Budle Bay and Cresswell (RMP/MH).

Pied Flycatcher:-

An early record of 1 at Hauxley on 8th (H.R.S.) and 1 at Seaton Delaval the next day (AB). 1 in Heaton Park on 25th (AB).

Dunnock:-

A small influx of c50 at Hauxley on 9th (CW).

Meadow Pipit:-

Large increase at Cresswell on 2nd (TH) and on 10th/11th many birds were noted moving N. and flocks of up to 40 in fields in coastal areas (BG et al).

Tree Pipit:-

1 at Gosforth on 17th and 29th (CW) and a few in Staward area on 30th (JDP).

White Wagtail:-

Only records were of birds seen on 24th when 4 on Holy Island (MN/CW et al) and 4 near Seaton Delaval (AB/MH).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 3rd (MN) and 2 or 3 pairs at Lewisburn on 23rd (JKJ).

Yellow Wagtail:-

First seen were 4 at Cresswell on 22nd, by 25th there were 17 and 5 on 29th (TH). 7 at Blaydon on 26th (JSB).

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

1 at Cresswell on 23rd (MN).

Waxwing:-

1 at Rothbury on 3rd (BG) and 1 in Newcastle on 6th (RMP).

Great Grey Shrike:-

Bird on Holy Island from 9th to 16th (many observers) and this may have been the bird that was at Bamburgh from 16th to 20th (B.R.S.). 1 at Priors Park on 11th (CW/MN).

Hawfinch:-

1 on Holy Island on 10th (JKJ).

Goldfinch:-

A pair near Seaton Delaval on 3rd (AB). On 30th 1 at Alnmouth and 1 at Cullernose (CW et al).

Siskin:-

2 at Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S.).

Bullfinch:-

2 on Holy Island on 24th (LGM).

Brambling:-

c40 in Holywell Dene on 2nd (PB) and next day over 10 near Seaton Delaval (MH/AB). On 10th/11th 3 at Hauxley and 6 at Holy Island (EG) which rose to 10 on 16th (T & BH). 4 at Cresswell on 16th rose to 10 on 25th (FC).

Corn Bunting:-

Reported holding territory at Hylton and Heworth (PH). 4 on Holy Island on 24th (CW).

/Ortolan

Ortolan Bunting:-

A bird reported near Seaton Delaval on 23rd (AB/MI). The notes will have to be considered by Rarities Committee. _/

ADDENDUM:-

6th March, 1966 59 Goldeneye at Capheaton (MI).

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.
C. T. Bell.
M. Bell.
A. Belshaw.
J. S. Booth.
P. Brown.
F. Colley.
D. Galloway.
R. Grey.
B. & T. Hallam.

Hauxley Ringing Station.
M. Hodgson.
P. Hogg.
J. K. Jeffries.
E. Lobley.
S. Moffitt.
M. Nattrass.
R. Norman.
R. H. Palmer.
J. D. Parrack.
C. Ward.

Committee

J. P. Deacon (Chairman).
C. E. Douglas (Secretary).
Dr. J. D. Parrack.
P. Yeoman.
I. H. Armstrong.
E. Robson.
S. Booth.
R. Gooding.
L. G. Macfarlane.
M. Bell - Hon. Recorder.

SUMMARY.

A fairly quiet month both for weather and birds. Summer migrants continued to filter in, the only noticeable 'fall' taking place at the coast from 11th to 15th, when warblers, hirundines and Flycatchers were recorded. A Hobby was near Blagdon near the middle of the month and besides the Wood-lark near Newcastle, very little of importance took place (or so it would seem from the lack of information I have received so far).

Classified List.

Diver Sp?:-

2 flew N. off Cresswell on 7th (CW).

Manx Shearwater:-

On 28th from 10.30.a.m. to 11.30.a.m. 6 flew N. off Cresswell (MN).

Fulmar:-

A steady northerly movement noted off Cresswell during morning of 28th (MN) when 35 Gannets were also seen.

Garganey:-

Pair present at Cresswell throughout month.

Shoveler:-

2 males and a female at Cresswell for most of month (TH) though 6 were present on 1st (MN).

Goldeneye:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 7th (CW/MN).

Velvet Scoter:-

Bird flew N. off Cresswell on 28th (MN).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

1 at Cresswell on 15th (MN).

Goosander:-

3 in breeding haunt near Ingram on 14th (IHA/JSB).

Whooper Swan:-

1 at Ashington on 9th (TH).

Sparrow Hawk:-

A passage bird trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 1st (B.R.S.).

Turnstone:-

80 at Bamburgh on 7th dropped to 3 by end of month (B.R.S.).

Whimbrel:-

1 flew W. over Gosforth Park on 1st (MN) and 2 flew over Bamburgh on 7th and 1 on 14th (B.R.S.).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Single bird in Winter plumage at Cresswell on 1st (CW).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Cresswell on 18th (TH).

Common Sandpiper:-

Common inland by beginning of month. 1 at Cresswell from 1st to 3rd.

Greenshank:-

2 at Cresswell on 1st (CW). 1 remaining until 3rd (TH). Another there on 28th. 1 flew over Gosforth Park on 9th (CW).

Purple Sandpiper:-

65 at Bamburgh on 7th fell to 10 by 22nd (B.R.S.).

Sanderling:-

5 at Cresswell Ponds on 22nd (TH) and 1 at Goswick on 30th (B.R.S.).

Little Gull:-

An immature bird at Cresswell on 23rd (TH).

Arctic Tern:-

On morning of 15th at Bamburgh a flock of 32 noted fishing offshore in manner of Marsh Terns (B.R.S.).

/Little Tern

Little Tern:-

3 flew S. off Cresswell on 23rd (TH).

Bridled Guillemot:-

Bird was found dead in full Summer plumage at Goswick on 30th (B.R.S.).

Turtle Dove:-

1 near Seaton Delaval on 31st (MH).

Cuckoo:-

Slight influx on 15th when 4 at Cresswell (CW). Many single birds noted during first week of month.

Long-eared Owl:-

On 26th, 1 near Felton (FC).

Swift:-

Small numbers noted during early part of month. A peak movement was recorded on 21st/22nd when many were seen at Gosforth and Bamburgh.

Woodlark:-

Bird in full song at East Wallsend from 2nd until 13th (MB) 7

Hirundines:-

Large movement was noted at Bamburgh on 14th/15th (B.R.S.).

House Martin:-

Over 12 at Bywell by 7th (IHA/JSB).

Sand Martin:-

On 2nd many present in Upper Coquetdale (FC) and over 400 gathered at Holywell in evening (CW).

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Bamburgh on 7th and 2 on 15th (B.R.S.).

Dipper:-

13 nestlings from 3 nests by 23rd (FC).

Fieldfare:-

On 9th, 4 at Swallow Ponds.

Whinchat:-

2 at Bamburgh on 1st and numerous in upper Coquetdale next day. On 14th it was judged to be one of the commonest birds of the Breamish Valley (IHA/JSB).

Redstart:-

On 1st, 2 pairs at Stocksfield and single bird at Bamburgh. Over 10 in small area near Ponteland by 7th (MH).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

At Bamburgh 3 were present on 1st, 1 remaining until 8th (B.R.S.). 1 at Gosforth Park on 1st (MN). Over 3 near Heddon on 12th (IHA) and 2 at Cawledge Burn (nr. Alnwick) on 22nd.

Sedge Warbler:-

Numbers at Bamburgh rose from 1 on 1st to 18 by 15th (B.R.S.). On 8th there were over 40 in Gosforth Park (CW).

Blackcap:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 1st and 2 on 11th (MN). 2 pairs at Cresswell by 9th (TH) and 1 at Bamburgh on 14th (B.R.S.). At breeding localities in full strength by middle of month.

Garden Warbler:-

Small influx of 6 at Bamburgh on 18th when only 1 had been present the day previous (B.R.S.). 2 of which remained until end of month. 1 at Gosforth Park on 12th (CW).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

Single bird at Bamburgh on 1st (B.R.S.) and at Cresswell on 28th (MH).

Whitethroat:-

4 at Bamburgh on 1st increased to 15 by 14th/15th (B.R.S.). On 7th and 9th it was noted to be numerous at Cresswell and Gosforth (CW).

Willow Warbler:-

The main passage at Bamburgh was recorded on 14th/15th when over 20 in the area (B.R.S.).

/Chiffchaff

Chiffchaff:-

Single passage birds at Banburgh on 14th and 22nd (B.R.S.).

Wood Warbler:-

2 at Stocksfield on 1st and 3 on 7th (IHA/JSB). 2 at Alwinton on 4th (TH).

Goldcrest:-

Bird trapped at Bamburgh on 1st was recovered in Denmark 10 days later (B.R.S.).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

From 14th onwards a small passage of birds noted at Banburgh. c4 pairs at Cresswell on 28th (MH).

Pied Flycatcher:-

2 pairs at Stocksfield on 1st (IHA). By 14th most birds had returned to their breeding localities.

Water Pipit:-

Bird seen at Cresswell on 1st (MN/CW). Notes have been submitted to Rarities Committee. 7

Tree Pipit:-

On 1st, 3 at Stocksfield (IHA) and 1 at Cresswell (CW). 3 at Banburgh on 14th and 1 on 15th (B.R.S.).

Grey Wagtail:-

Juvenile at Blaydon Ponds on 16th (CW).

Yellow Wagtail:-

8 at Cresswell and 1 at Banburgh on 1st. Breeding by middle of month.

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

The Cresswell pair noted on 1st (CW/MN).

Waxwing:-

A late date of 1 at Bamburgh on 14th (B.R.S.).

Redpoll:-

Birds moving through Bamburgh between 8th and 22nd (B.R.S.). Exceptionally large numbers noted in Upper Holywell Dene locality only a few being present in previous years (MH).

List of Contributors

(N.B. Only 9 this month. What's up?)

I. H. Armstrong.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.
M. Bell.
J. S. Booth.
F. Colley.
T. Hallam.
M. Hodgson.
M. Nattrass.
C. Ward.

X Please make an effort to send your records, no matter how small, to me by 7th July, 1966.

ADDENDUM to April Bulletin:-

White-billed Diver:-

A slightly oiled, dead bird was picked up at Budle Bay on 24th April. It had probably been dead for two weeks (CED).

EARLIEST REPORTS OF SOME SUMMER MIGRANTS FOR THE LAST FOUR SPRINGS.

SPECIES	1963	1964	1965	1966
Sandwich Tern	March 29th	March 25th	March 29th	April 8th.
Wheatear	March 14th	March 24th	March 26th	March 2nd.
Black Redstart	April 3rd	March 29th		April 9th.
Phylloscopus	April 20th	March 30th	March 28th	April 4th.
White Wagtail	March 13th	March 30th	April 11th	April 24th.
Cuckoo	April 16th	April 12th	April 19th	April 29th.
Swift	April 24th	April 26th	May 2nd	April 23rd.
Swallow	April 11th	April 14th	March 28th	April 8th.
House Martin	April 22nd	April 18th	April 4th	April 23rd.
Sand Martin	April 11th	April 11th	March 26th	April 9th.
Whinchat	April 20th	April 13th	May 7th	April 23rd.
Redstart	April 17th	April 12th	April 6th	April 11th.
Grasshopper Warbler	April 27th	April 18th	April 25th	April 28th.
Sedge Warbler	April 25th	April 20th	April 25th	April 25th.
Blackcap	April 25th	April 11th	April 10th	April 21st.
Garden Warbler	Not noted.	April 19th	May 15th	April 23rd.
Whitethroat	April 20th	April 18th	April 24th	April 23rd.
Lesser Whitethroat	April 28th	April 26th	May 2nd	April 27th.
Wood Warbler	April 22nd	April 30th	April 25th	May 1st.
Spotted Flycatcher	Not noted.	April 19th	May 12th	May 23rd.
Pied Flycatcher	April 28th	April 30th	April 21st	May 8th.
Tree Pipit	April 20th	April 26th	April 7th	May 17th.
Yellow Wagtail	April 15th	April 18th	April 11th	May 22nd.

T Y N E S I D E B I R D C L U B .

J U N E 1 9 6 6 B U L L E T I N .

S U M M A R Y .

Unsettled weather until the 7th when high pressure built up over the Norwegian Sea and Scandinavia giving fairly light northerly winds until the 12th. From 14th until 22nd the winds were S.E. or S.S.E. in this area due to a series of depressions moving over S. England and Wales from the Atlantic. On the 23rd, the cyclones moved further N. and as a result the winds became westerly (almost gale force on 27th/28th from the N.N.W) where they remained until end of the month. The Nightingale at Gosforth is worthy of notice and investigation, otherwise the bird life was as expected for this month of the year.

Classified List.

Diver (Sp?):-

Single bird flew N. off Inner Farnes on 30th (EM).

Great-crested Grebe:-

Young successfully reared in S. Northumberland and near Durham.

Manx Shearwater:-

Small northerly movement was noted off Seaton Sluice from 25th - 29th. A maximum of 38 were counted during a two-and-a-half sea watch on 29th (MN/CW).

Fulmar:-

On 19th, 1 flew S. over top of the Cheviots (BG). Northerly movements noted on 25th, 28th and 29th and a southerly movement on 27th (CW).

Gannet:-

From 25th to 29th a northerly movement was noted off many points along the coastline. A maximum was reached during afternoon of 28th off Scremerston (IHA) when 800 were counted.

Teal:-

Young seen at only one water.

Garganey:-

Still present at Cresswell.

Wigeon:-

Bird present at Grindon throughout month (DE/JSE).

Shoveler:-

2 at Cresswell on 9th and 5 on 25th (BG/MN). 7 at Holy Island on 24th (IHA).

Scaup:-

3 males and 1 female at Cresswell from 23rd/25th (TH/MN/CW).

Tufted Duck:-

28 at Holywell Ponds on 3rd fell to c9 by 26th (CED). 9 pairs reared young on Northumberland Waters (BG et al). 14 at Brasside Ponds on 15th (RN).

Pochard:-

Small numbers reported at Holywell Ponds, Brasside Ponds, Gosforth, Cresswell, Grindon Lough and Seaton Sluice.

Velvet Scoter:-

On 27th, 1 flew S. off Seaton Sluice, and 1 flew N. two days later (CW/LN).

Common Scoter:-

Totals of under 30 were counted flying N. off Seaton Sluice on 25th, 26th and 29th (LN/CW). c25 in the area of Inner Farnes (EM).

Goosander:-

Female with 9 young near Falstone on 21st (LN).

Canada Goose:-

1 at Cresswell on 11th (CW).

/Common Buzzard

Common Buzzard:-

A pair seen at irregular intervals to W. of county.

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 at Gosforth on 7th (CW).

Black Grouse:-

1 at Harbottle on 12th (LGM).

Lapwing:-

60 at Cresswell on 4th rose to 140 by 25th (CW).

Turnstone:-

3 on Inner Farnes on 29th and 30th (EM).

Curlew:-

42 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th and 57 next day (CW) when 26 seen around Inner Farnes (EM).

Common Sandpiper:-

38 were seen on $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile stretch of North Tyne between Shilburnhaugh to Falstone on 21st (MN).

Redshank:-

3 pairs bred at Holywell Ponds (CED).

Greenshank:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 4th (CW).

Knot:-

2 birds in Summer plumage on Inner Farnes on 28th (EM).

Arctic Skua:-

A dark phase bird flew N. off Craster on 13th (EM) and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 28th (CW).

Great Skua:-

A bird flying around close inshore off Seaton Sluice on 29th (CW/MN).

Pomarine Skua:-

An adult chasing Kittiwakes flying N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (CW).

Kittiwake:-

On 25th at Seaton Sluice 6 - 700 per hour flew N. and on 28th 6200 flew N. in $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours with a peak of one continuous stream of 2300 at 7.20.p.m. to 7.30.p.m. (CW). By 29th the movement had fallen to 2500 in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Common Tern:-

3 flew overhead at Gosforth on 14th (ER).

Little Tern:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 25th (LGM).

Sandwich Tern:-

Single bird seen flying E. along Tyne Valley on 12th at Heddon (IHA).

Auks:-

Small northerly movements noted off Seaton Sluice from 25th to 29th (CW).

Barn Owl:-

On 18th, at nest with 2 eggs and 2 young in the same roof of a barn as a Kestrel's nest with 4 young, only 25 feet apart, in a Northumberland site (EM).

Nightjar:-

On 6th, 1 singing at Blagdon (ER).

Swift:-

On 4th at Cresswell a small southerly movement of 47 in half-an-hour. 130 at Gosforth on 7th (CW). On 19th, 100 feeding over the top of the Cheviots (BG).

Swallow:-

More than usual breeding in Hauxley area (H.R.S.).

House Martin:-

The colony at Colt Crag has 85 nests this year.

Fieldfare:-

1 near Seaton Delaval on 11th (AB). 2 at North Yardhope on 26th (BG).

/Redwing

Redwing:-

1 on 25th (AB) near Seaton Delaval.

Whinchat:-

Fair at Gosforth Park throughout month and very numerous at Sweethope Lough on 18th (RN/JBS).

Nightingale:-

1 singing on two occasions at beginning of month at Gosforth Public Park (ER).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 caught near Seaton Delaval on 26th (AB). 4 caught during month at Arcot (CED).

Pied Flycatcher:-

Common on Tarsset Burn towards end of month (BG).

Will ringers who trap Swifts please keep a watch for the large green Hippoboscid fly which lives as a parasite among the birds' feathers and is easily seen. All information including negative records and specimens if possible to Mr. C. E. Douglas, 25 Brierdene Road, Whitley Bay.

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.
A. Belshaw.
J. S. Booth.
M. N. Coates.
C. E. Douglas.
B. Galloway.
T. Hallam.
D. Howey.
Hauxley Ringing Station.
L. G. Macfarlane.
E. Meek.
H. Nattrass.
R. Norman.
R. H. Palmer.
E. Robson.
C. Ward.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JULY 1966 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

Quite a quiet month as far as migration goes. Waders are not as numerous as we have been led to expect by recent years. R. M. Palmer writes:- "At Tanfield Ponds during July no Green Sandpipers or Ruffs occurred. Very few Common Sandpipers and only one Snipe. Most unusual for this time of season for these ponds." This in fact was the case at most other waters.

No marked sea bird movement was noted during month although Skuas were on the move at end of month. The highlight was on 2nd when C.E.D. found a Pratincole at Holywell Ponds. A Corncrake at Slaley on 17th/20th and two Turtle Doves near Corbridge are out of the ordinary.

The weather did not seem to affect bird life as far as migration goes, but as it was quite dry during the first half of month this no doubt assisted in the rearing of young.

EXTREMELY URGENT - FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IS STILL PREVALENT IN THIS COUNTY. IT IS HOPED THAT ALL MEMBERS WILL CO-OPERATE WITH FARMERS BY STAYING AWAY FROM THEIR LAND AND THEREBY LESSENING THE RISK OF SPREADING THE DISEASE.

CLUB MEETINGS.

The next meeting will be held in the Y.M.C.A. Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1 on Thursday, 8th September, 1966 at 7.15.p.m.

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong,
H. Bell,
J. S. Booth,
W. Brady,
C. E. Douglas,
B. Galloway.

R. Grey,
Hauxley Ringing Station,
T. Hallam,
J. K. Jeffrey,
E. Lobley,
L. G. Macfarlane,

E. Peck.
M. Nattrass,
R. M. Palmer,
E. Robson,
C. Ward.

Classified List.

Great Northern Divers:-

/A single bird off Holy Island on 2nd and 16th is quite out of the ordinary (CV). This bird is reported to be "juv." by the observer_

Red-throated Diver:-

Single bird off Cresswell on 9th is reported to be in full Summer plumage (CV/M). 1 also flew N. off Holy Island on 16th.

Great-crested Grebe:-

A single bird seen on a large water in Northumberland which is a new haunt for the species in Summer (RG/WB/EL). The possibility of this being one of a pair is there so the locality shall remain unnamed.

Little Grebe:-

C.E.D. has reported that several broods of young are to be seen on Holywell Ponds. Unfortunately no-one else bothered to report this species at this important time when by reports coming in we can assess the breeding population of the county.

Manx Shearwater:-

Small numbers noted moving N. on most suitable days during month. Maximum was on 31st when over 30 flew N. during a four hour watch (LGM/CW/TH).

/Gannet

Gannet:-

As we now expect at this time of the year many birds (mainly adult) seen moving both N. and S. off all parts of the coast. These are probably feeding parties of breeding birds from the Bass Rock.

Teal:-

Numbers very low for this time of year, maximum at Cresswell was only 11 on 30th (CW). Breeding is suspected at Holywell Ponds (CED).

Garganey:-

Single birds at Holywell Ponds on 5th (MN/CW) and at Cresswell on 31st (TH).

Wigeon:-

As with most other duck, not many about, only odd ones were reported (c20) and all of these were from coastal localities. A flock of 30 was noted flying N. at Cresswell on 20th (TH).

Shoveler:-

Noted to have risen at Gosforth Park from 1 at beginning to 10 by 27th (CW/LGM). About 10 noted around the Inner Farne on 2nd (EM).

Scaup:-

Single male at Cresswell from 15th to 21st (TH).

Tufted Duck:-

At Holywell Ponds 4 broods have been noted containing a total of 16 young. The largest brood was one of 7 (CED). As usual about 8 - 10 spent the month at Havannah where although a few pairs attempt to breed they normally come to grief (EM/ER).

Pochard:-

At Holywell Ponds about 11 were present during first 11 days of month, thereafter none reported (LGM/CW/CED). Single bird at Gosforth Park at end of month (CW).

Velvet Scoter:-

2 flew N. off St. Mark's late on 18th (LGM/JKJ).

Common Scoter:-

As usual for this time of year many reports of parties of c40 seen in most coastal localities. At least 100 appear to be in the Inner Farne area at beginning of month (EM/CW/MN).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Single birds off Seaton Sluice on 16th and 17th (MN/CW). Also 1 on sea at Cresswell on 20th (EM).

Goosander:-

Two family parties on Coquet near Holystone on 17th consisted of 8 and 13 young (BG).

Shelduck:-

Not many reports of breeding. A pair with 7 young at Cresswell at end of month (TH) and 2 pairs with 10 young each at Budle Bay on 2nd. Also on 2nd totals of 50 adults at Budle Bay and 60 at Fenham Flats (CW).

Grey Lag Goose:-

2 were seen on Farne Islands on 4th (EM). These were probably belonging to the small party that spent June/July in the vicinity of the Islands.

Mute Swan:-

3 records of breeding received. Pairs at Cresswell with 2 young. Tanfield Ponds 7 young and Leazes Park Lake, Newcastle with 2 young. 2 pairs at Blaydon Pond during month may have had their nests destroyed. (RMP/ERN).

Whooper Swan:-

2 birds remained at Wallsend Swallow during whole of month (CW/MN).

Common Buzzard:-

Single bird seen at a locality in Upper Coquetdale on 3rd (BG).

Merlin):-

No reports! Surely members can send in details of these 2

Kestrel)

species at this time of year when by simple records of young seen etc., we can attempt to define the status of them in Northumberland as breeding birds.

/Corncrake

Corncrake:-

Single bird was heard calling from a barley field near Slaley on 17th and 20th (per WB). This species is now very rare in our area but perhaps if members spent a bit of time listening for them in the early Summer we may find that it is not completely absent.

Coot:-

No records of breeding. A party of 88 at Holywell Ponds on 18th (CW).

Oyster Catcher:-

Breeding reported from S. Tyne (RG/WB/EL) and also Holystone (BG). About 110 seen at Holy Island on 16th (CW).

Lapwing:-

Numbers rose steadily in most localities during month although they are probably not as numerous as they normally are by end of July. 110 at Gosforth Park on 30th (LGH). c150 at Cresswell on 14th (CW). A party of c40 near Holystone on 17th was comprised of adults and young (BG).

Golden Plover:-

Flock of c70 near Holystone may well have been made up of locally bred birds. On 28th a flock of nearly 400 at Jarrow Slake (CW). Smaller flocks of 20 and 40 at Holy Island and Budle Bay on 23rd and 24th respectively (JKJ).

Turnstone:-

c90 on Inner Farne on 24th had increased to over 140 by 29th (EM). Elsewhere numbers are smaller but are rising. 25 at Seaton Sluice and 32 at Hauxley by 31st (CW/H.R.S.).

Snipe:-

Not as numerous as they have been in past years at this time. None at all were seen at Tanfield Ponds during month (RMP). No more than five were seen during month at Holywell or Cresswell Ponds (CW/MN).

Curlew:-

Very few records received. 100 at Holy Island and 38 in Budle Bay on 2nd (CW). Only movement noted was on 21st when 18 flew N. at Seaton Sluice during 2½ hours (CW/LGH). An interesting report of 120 in Coquetdale on 17th (BG) probably local birds.

Whimbrel:-

Only report is for single bird at Cresswell on 15th (TH).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

By end of month odd ones were to be seen in most coastal localities. 19 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on evening of 21st (LGH/CW).

Green Sandpiper:-

Only records refer to single birds at Holywell on 23rd and Newsham on 28th (CED/JKJ). Two were seen at a pond near Woolsington on 22nd (ER/BG).

Wood Sandpiper:-

Not as numerous as they normally are at end of this month. Only records refer to single birds from 6th to end of month at Tanfield Ponds, Lynemouth, Holywell, Gosforth and Cresswell where there was a flock of 8 on 23rd (LGH/CED/TH/RMP).

Redshank:-

Only reports came from (CW/EM/H.R.S.). Small numbers on Inner Farne all month with a maximum on 24th when c20. This time also saw c30 at Cresswell, 250 at Jarrow Slake and c100 in Budle Bay.

Greenshank:-

Single bird at Holywell Ponds on 5th (CW/MN) is the only record for month.

Knot:-

Single birds at Seaton Sluice on 21st and 31st (CW). Only other report is of 7 at Hauxley on 23rd (H.R.S.).

Purple Sandpiper:-

E.H. reports for Inner Farne:- 4 in full Summer plumage on 6th. During last week of month a maximum of c80 with up to 50 during rest of month. Singles reported from Hauxley and Seaton Sluice during last few days of month (CW/H.R.S.).

/Little Stine

Little Stint:-

On 20th, 2 were seen feeding along shore at Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Dunlin:-

Odd ones at least present at most suitable places during month. Up to 40 at Cresswell throughout month (EM/CW/MN). 10 at Holywell Ponds on 4th were all adults still in breeding dress (IRA/JSB). 5 also stayed here from 12th to 23rd (CED).

Sanderling:-

Early record of 6 at Hauxley on 21st (H.R.S.).

Ruff:-

Present at Cresswell throughout month with a maximum of 4 on 20th (TH/EM/MN). 3 reported at Wallsend Swallow on 30th and single bird at Holywell on 2nd (CED).

Pratincole:-

Single bird stayed at Holywell Ponds from 2nd to 6th. During the stay quite a few Club members managed to see it. This is probably the first record of species in Northumberland. CED was probably the first to see it and his noted mention all the identification points of this species.

Arctic Skua:-

Quite a few records from most coastal localities during whole of month. Noticeable N. passage was noted on 30th/31st when a total of c50 flew N. at Cresswell and c30 at Seaton Sluice (CW/MN). Hauxley also reports 6 flying N. on 30th.

Great Skua:-

3 sighting during month. 1 at Seaton Sluice on 21st, 1 off Hauxley on 23rd and 1 at Cresswell on 30th (CW/H.R.S/MN).

Little Tern:-

2 reports of single adults in Holy Island area during month. A juv. at Cresswell on 30th (CW/JKJ).

Guillemot:-

An all white individual except for dark primaries, seen in the Inner Farne area during month (EM).

Great Black-backed Gull:-

Up to 1000 adults roosting near Chevington Burn at end of month (EM).

Collared Dove:-

6 seen in Ponteland on 31st (EM).

Turtle Dove:-

On 13th, 2 near Corbridge (EM). This may be a new area for this species to frequent.

Barn Owl:-

Single bird seen at Holywell Ponds on 6th and 18th (CED/LGM).

Short-eared Owl:-

Single one in the Chevington Burn area by end of month (EM).

Swift:-

Last month BG noted a flock feeding on top of Cheviot (T.B.C. Report June 1966). It is therefore interesting to note that on 3rd July LGM noted a flock of c100 feeding at the summit of Dunmoor Hill (1860'). Perhaps next Summer, members visiting the Cheviots can look out for Swifts feeding at the tops. It will be interesting to know where these birds are breeding.

Swallow:-

Over 1000 roosting at Chevington Burn on 31st appeared to be mainly juveniles out of 200 trapped only 2 were adults (EM).

Sand Martin:-

On 31st, noted coasting S. in parties of up to 30 at Hauxley, when c100 roosted at Chevington Burn (H.R.S./EM).

Tree Creeper:-

Bird trapped at Hauxley on 23rd is quite out of season there (H.R.S.).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

Quite numerous in Blagdon area at end of month (ER). Single birds reported from Tanfield Ponds (RMP). Arcot Golf Course (CED) and Chevington Burn (EM) during last two weeks of month.

/Reed Warbler

Reed Warbler:-

2 pairs were watched on 3rd at Gosforth Park (CW).

Blackcap:-

5 were caught in I.W.A.'s garden during month. 1 caught at Hauxley on 31st (H.R.S.).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 trapped at Cresswell on 15th (T).

Siskin:-

c6 at Lewisburn Camp Site on 3rd (JLJ).

Crossbill:-

A total of c15 seen near Flashetts on 9th (CED).

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

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (10s. Od.) are now due. Please send subscriptions to the Treasurer - Mr. R. Gooding, 55 Beach Road, Tynemouth, North Shields, Northumberland.

SUMMARY.

Cyclonic activity over Atlantic affected weather until the 1 th, winds being E. on 3rd and S.S.E. on 8th though otherwise from a westerly quarter. From 10th until 15th, three depressions followed each other over the country and into Scandinavia. Thus winds became E.N.E. on 13th, N. on 14th and S.E. on 15th. By 18th a belt of high pressure extended from Russia to British Isles giving light S.E. winds. An anticyclone moved from Iceland and extended its influence to this area until 27th. Winds were light or moderate (especially on 24th) from an easterly quarter throughout this period. On 28th a depression approaching Cornwall, moving over S. Ireland on 29th and centred over Wash on 30th provided ideal drift conditions with moderate S.E. winds. By 31st the depression was far out into the North Sea and winds were back to the N.W.

The 'drift' occurring from 28th - 31st proved the highlight of the month. Tied Flycatchers, Garden Warblers, Wheatears and Chinchats were fairly abundant, if not in startling numbers, and there was a good smattering of rarities and semi rarities. Two Arctic Warblers, 1 Greenish, over 9 Icterine, several Lesser Whitethroats and an influx of Crossbills. Greenshank and Sandpiper numbers reached a peak on 18th/19th while Ruffs had a peak then and an earlier one on 8th/9th. The Fulmar and Shearwater movement on 24th/25th is perhaps worthy of mention, as is the Shoveler influx of 6th/7th and 27th.

The Flamingo at Budle Bay should be regarded with care - almost certainly an escape. Very early reports of Whooper Swan and of one Wryneck.

Classified List.

Great Northern Diver:-

Bird in full breeding plumage flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 24th and bird in similar plumage was off Aunstead on 28th - the same bird? (JDP/B.R.S.).

Red-throated Diver:-

Single birds flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 14th, 23rd and 27th (HP).

Great Crested Grebe:-

1 on sea off Cresswell on 22nd (TH).

Manx Shearwater:-

On 1st, 6 flew N. off Hauxley (H.R.S.). Single birds were seen here and off Cresswell on 4th and 15th (H.R.S./TH). On 24th/25th anticyclonic N. to N.E. winds produced a small northerly movement, 3 off Hauxley and 5 off St. Mary's Island (H.R.S./JDP).

Sooty Shearwater:-

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

Fulmar:-

74 flew E. off Hauxley on 1st (H.R.S.) and smaller northerly movements were noted off here and St. Mary's on 3rd and 23rd/24th. By 25th over 70 per hour were reported from both these areas. (H.R.S./JDP).

Gannet:-

Strong northerly movements of up to 120 per hour were noted from various points along coastline on 1st, 15th, 23rd and 24th when the peak of 120 was reached.

Heron:-

2 at Cresswell on 6th and 1 on 19th (MN/TH). 1 flew S. off the Farnes on 11th when 3 at Holywell Folds, and these birds still present on 19th (EN/MN/HP). Single birds at Bondicarr on 17th, Budle Bay on 20th and Howick on 27th (H.R.S./LGN/MN).

Flamingo:-

Bird at Budle Bay on 6th (WRS).]

/Mallard

Mallard:-

Young reported at Newton and Druridge. Small parties noted near coastal areas throughout month.

Teal:-

Parties of up to 18 were seen flying offshore during month. On 26th 54 at Holywell Ponds (HP).

Garganey:-

5 at Cresswell on 1st, 4 on 5th/6th and 1 remaining until 28th when it was joined by four others. 4 there on 29th (TH).

Gadwall:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 18th and 20th (MN/LGM). Single bird at Cresswell on 28th and 2 on 31st (TH/TH).

Wigeon:-

From 22nd until 28th up to 10 were noted flying N. off Hauxley and Cresswell each day (H.R.S./TH). 2 at Palmersville on 28th (LGM).

Pintail:-

4 at Cresswell on 5th and 1 on 19th (TH). 6 at Beal on 29th (LGM/CW).

Shoveler:-

Birds present at Cresswell throughout month, a maximum of 30 being present on 6th fell to 9 on 10th and rose to 25 on 27th (TH et al). 24 were at Cresswell on 7th fell slowly to 4 on 14th and rose again to 20 by 20th (LGM/MN). Smaller numbers reported from Holywell Ponds, Ellington, Ashington, Beal and Newton.

Tufted Duck:-

Up to 9 present at Cresswell, Whittle Dene and Havannah during mid part of month.

Pochard:-

Only 2 birds at Cresswell on 15th and 23rd (TH) and 9 at Gosforth on 16th and 18th (MN).

Goldeneye:-

An eclipse male at Gosforth from 14th until 16th (LGM). 4 immatures and 1 female at Newton on 29th (AJ).

Velvet Scoter:-

Bird flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 5th (MN) as did 2 on 14th and 3 on 22nd (HP). Single birds were reported from Hauxley on 22nd and 26th, and Chevington on 29th (EM/HP/H.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

Over 35 off Seaton Sluice on 5th (MN). 194 flew N. off Cresswell on 13th (JSB) and c70 there on 20th (TH). On 22nd, c150 off Chevington and 63 flew N. off St. Mary's Island in 40 minutes. Three days later 38 were counted in 25 minutes (HP) and a total of 100 flew N. off Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Eider:-

A flock of over 200 off Amble area on 25th/26th (H.R.S.).

Shelduck:-

2 successful broods totalling 13 reared at Cresswell.

Whooper Swan:-

2 present at Swallow Ponds throughout month. 4 at Killingworth on 26th (FC) - very unusual time for this to occur.

Kestrel:-

On 5th, a bird came in off sea at Amble and then flew S. (H.R.S.). 1 on the Inner Farne on 10th (EM). Between Howick Haven and Cresswell on 27th there were 4, 1 of which was flying N. 200 yards offshore, the other 3 were in the dunes (THA).

Water Rail:-

A 1st. W. bird was trapped at Hauxley on 21st and when released it flew off very strongly - a passage bird? (H.R.S.).

Oystercatcher:-

Flocks of c100 in size reported from Reggies Dune on 15th, Brock Hill (Beal) on 17th, Hauxley on 22nd, St. Mary's on 25th and Alnmouth on 27th.

/Lapwing

Lapwing:-

Numbers rose at Gosforth Park from 110 on 6th to 200+ by 20th. 120 at Hartley Pond on 28th (LGM). Flocks in coastal areas building up in size throughout month.

Ringed Plover:-

42 were counted between Alnmouth and Boulmer on 27th over half being birds of the year (LGM).

Grey Plover:-

At Hauxley, 1 on 21st, 3 on 22nd and 1 on 24th, except for 1 bird all were flying N. (H.R.S.).

Golden Plover:-

Small parties of up to 23 in size were frequently observed at Whittle Dene and most coastal areas during month. Only 20 were at Bondicarr until 31st when over 900 present (H.R.S.). Jarrow Slake had its usual high number; 617 on 23rd and 472 on 28th (HP).

Turnstone:-

Up to 37 present at Cresswell from 8th to 24th (TH) and a maximum of 150 at Hauxley during month (H.R.S.). 10 at Alnmouth on 2nd and c400 roosting on the Inner Farne on 7th/8th (EM). 65 at St. Mary's Island on 25th (HP).

Snipe:-

From the 19th and 20th onwards an influx was noted. On 19th, 20 at Cresswell and 25 at Holywell Ponds. The next day saw 6 at Hadstone, 12 at Druridge, 17 at Gosforth Park, 51 at Prestwick Carr, 12 near Seaton Delaval and 9 at Whittle Dene. 35 at Palmersville on 28th and 11 at Bondicarr by 31st (EM/H.R.S/TH).

Curlew:-

Small numbers noted moving N. and S. during early August. On 17th over 200 at Holy Island (EM) and on 28th, 57 on Jarrow Slake (HP). From 17th onwards up to 30 in Hauxley area (H.R.S.) and a small southerly movement was noted there on 25th (23 birds) and a northerly movement on 27th (14 birds). Birds noted coming in all day on 29th at Holy Island. (LGM).

Whimbrel:-

Throughout month small parties of birds were regularly observed moving N. and S. along the coastline. Most of these parties numbered less than 8, the usual size being 2 or 3. The largest number reported was 15 at Bamburgh on 7th (B.R.S.).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

2 at Cresswell on 24th (MN/CW). and 1 on Holy Island on 29th/30th (B.R.S./LGM).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Single bird in Cresswell area until 22nd. Maximum of 3 at Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.). 2 at Jarrow Slake on 30th (MLC).

Green Sandpiper:-

Many records. 2 at Cresswell on 6th and 14th. On 7th, 3 at Palmersville Ponds and present until 20th, only there on 24th. 2 at Bondicarr on 14th and 1 on 16th (MN). 2 at Tanfield Ponds on 11th (RMP). 1 at Whittle Dene from 5th until 16th when joined by 2 others (RG). On 20th, 7 near Seaton Delaval, 1 at Boulmer, 1 at Hack Hall and 2 at Gosforth Park until 24th. On 17th, 4 at Brock Mill (EM). On 27th 1 at Cullernose Point (IHA/LGM) and on 29th/30th single birds at Holy Island, Usworth and St. Mary's Island. As can be seen from above figure the peak seems to have been on or around 20th.

Wood Sandpiper:-

3 at Holywell Ponds on 11th (HP) rose to 8 by 19th (MN). 4 at Whittle Dene on 21st (IHA/MB) and at Bamburgh on 26th (B.R.S.). Single birds at Seaton Delaval from 20th to 23rd, Palmersville on 9th, Bondicarr from 14th to 17th and at Hauxley (coming in off sea) on 30th.

Common Sandpiper:-

A few birds began to make early movements up to 11th. From then until 28th, with a peak around 15th - 18th, many birds were reported from coastal areas and inland lakes. On 12th, 13 at Whittle Dene, on 14th, 4 at Shankhouse and 4 at Bondicarr; on 16th, 8 at Gosforth Park, 3 at Hauxley and at Swallow Ponds and over 8 at Alnmouth. From 20th numbers began to fall steadily and the last birds reported were on 31st when 1 on St. Mary's Island and 1 at Lynemouth.

Redshank:-

From 16th onwards large flocks began to assemble in various coastal areas. Over 100 at Alnmouth on 16th; a maximum of 200 at Hauxley on 22nd and over 250 at Jarrow Slake from 28th until end of month.

Spotted Redshank:-

Single birds at Cresswell from 6th until 10th. 6 present on 11th dropping to 1 by next day. None there until 27th and 30th when single bird present (TH/MN). On 20th, 2 at Newshan and 2 at Prestwick Carr (JMJ/LGM). Single birds at Shankhouse on 19th, Holywell on 23rd and Bondicarr on 24th.

Greenshank:-

A peak was noted at about same time as that of Green Sandpiper - on or around 18th - 20th. 5 at Cresswell on 5th/6th were the exception, only 4 other birds being reported in whole county until 12th. From 13th until end of month there were many records, the largest numbers being:- 7 at Swallow Ponds on 15th, 9 at Gosforth Park on 18th when 5 at Shankhouse, 5 at Holywell Ponds on 19th when 9 flew N. at Hauxley. 6 near Seaton Delaval on 20th when 4 at Charlton, 4 at Ellington on 27th, 7 at Bamburgh on 28th and 5 at Usworth on 30th.

Knot:-

From 10th small parties were reported at Farnes, Cresswell, Jarrow Slake and Hauxley. By 29th the Cresswell flock had reached 38.

Purple Sandpiper:-

1 at Hauxley on 1st and 14th (H.R.S.). Over 50 on the Inner Farne on 7th (EM).

Little Stint:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 22nd (TH) and at Boulmer on 27th (IHA).

Dunlin:-

8 near Dunston on 10th (RMF) and 1 at Whittle Dene two days later. At the coast the largest flock recorded was of c150 at Brock Hill on 17th (EM). 100 at Boulmer on 27th (IHA) and c60 at Jarrow Slake on 30th (MLC).

Curlew Sandpiper:-

Single bird at Boulmer on 27th (IHA).

Sanderling:-

A maximum of c60 at Hauxley shore on 20th (H.R.S.).

Ruff:-

As usual this species reached its peak before the 'Sandpipers and shanks'. Central dates for its influx being on or about the 8th/9th, though many birds remained in area for a considerable time. Maximum numbers reported were:- 11 at Swallow Ponds on 2nd, 16 at Palmersville on 9th and 10 at Cresswell on 11th. From 14th until 21st there was a second wave of birds, this being connected to the species already mentioned. 7 at Gosforth Park on 16th and 5 at Newshan which rose to 10 by 19th. 5 at Meggies Burn on 15th when 9 at Cresswell. 5 at Seaton Delaval on 23rd and 3 at Monks House on 25th. Hereafter only 8 birds seen throughout the entire area. One bird at Tanfield Ponds on 6th (RMF) was the only bird seen there during all July and August!

Arctic Skua:-

During first week from 30 to 40 in the immediate Hauxley area, nearly all being adults and with an unusually high percentage of light phase birds (H.R.S.). Many birds were seen daily throughout month. The largest numbers reported were of 53 flying N. off Hauxley and 10 flying S. during 1½ hours on 1st (H.R.S.) and up to 25 off Cresswell on 12th/13th (IHA/TH).

Great Skua:-

2 off Hauxley and Holy Island on 1st (H.R.S./WRS) and 4 off Hauxley on 24th. Single birds seen here and at Beadnell on 6th, 14th, 22nd to 28th all flying N. (JSE/H.R.S.).

Pomarine Skua:-

3 flew N. over Hauxley Wood on 28th (H.R.S.).

Little Gull:-

A 1st. W. bird at Cresswell from 1st until 12th (TH/MN). An adult at Bondicarr on 18th (H.R.S.) and 1 at Holywell Ponds on 28th (HP).

Kittiwake:-

A northerly movement of 320 in 1 hour off Hauxley on 3rd (H.R.S.).
/Black Tern

Black Tern:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 15th, 24th and 27th (TH/MN). 1 at Jarrow Slake on 28th (MP).

/Gull-billed Tern:-

A bird flew S. off Hauxley on 18th and N. on 21st (H.R.S.)_7

'Conic' Terns:-

40 at Jarrow Slake on 30th (MLC).

Common Tern:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 23rd (HP).

Roseate Tern:-

Apart from a few sightings of single birds, 10 off Ross on 17th (EM) and 3 off Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.).

Little Tern:-

2 off Holy Island on 1st (WRS). 1 at Hauxley on 21st and 25th (H.R.S.) and 1 at Holywell Ponds on 28th (HP).

Cuckoo:-

Last bird seen was on 29th at Holy Island (LGM/CW), otherwise single adults and juveniles seen in coastal districts until this date.

Barn Owl:-

Young successfully reared near Seaton Delaval in July.

Swift:-

Last noted inland were on 15th (GH) though birds continued to move S. in very small numbers at the coast until end of month - e.g., 2 at Holy Island on 29th (LGM) and 6 off Hauxley on 30th.

Green Woodpecker:-

A juvenile came in from the N. at Hauxley on 4th (H.R.S.).

Wryneck:-

A very early record of 1 at Cresswell on 14th after a period of E.N.E and N.E. winds (MN/CW). 1 at Hauxley on 29th and 30th when 1 at South Marine Park (H.R.S/MH).

Swallow:-

The roost at Chevington mentioned last month (T.B.C July 1966) had broken up by 20th (EM). General movements S. were noted on 1st, 8th and 17th. At Gosforth Park during the evening of 15th, 25 rose to 250 in 45 minutes (LGM). Over 1000 at Cresswell on eve of 24th (MN).

Dipper:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 15th (JBS).

Mistle Thrush:-

Approximately 50 birds fed on 3 mountain Ash trees from 22nd to 25th in Northumberland Park, by which time the trees were stripped of berries (MNC).

Fieldfare:-

2 on Holy Island on 29th (LGM/CW).

Song Thrush:-

2 came in off sea at Hauxley on 4th chased by an Arctic Skua. New birds in Hauxley area on 21st (H.R.S) when several Blackbirds also noted.

Wheatear:-

Small parties present in most coastal areas until 14th when an influx occurred - 10 at Cresswell. On 22nd with light N.E. winds, over 24 at St. Mary's Island though this influx was not noted elsewhere. On 28th all areas reported a noticeable increase 15 at Marsden, 10 at Cresswell, 12 at Blyth and from 29th to 31st over 90 in Hauxley area, 13 on Holy Island and 8 at Priors Park.

Stonechat:-

A juv. at Chevington on 2nd (EM).

Whinchat:-

Very small numbers noted near coast until 28th when 30 at Marsden, 10 at Blyth Cemetery and 4 at Boulmer. By next day, the 29th, they were very numerous at Hadstone, over 23 on Holy Island. On the last day of month there were c100 in Hauxley - Pondicarr area, 4 at Cresswell, 6 at Priors Park and 6 at St. Mary's Island.

Redstart:-

From 15th onwards birds began to come in steadily in increasing numbers, a peak being reached in most areas by 29th/30th. 2 or 3 birds in usual coastal haunts from 21st until 28th. On 29th c25 at Hauxley (which rose to 40 by 31st (H.R.S.)), 11 on Holy Island, 10 at Priors Park and 4 at Marsden. As can be seen by figures, this was not a numerous species in the early drift this year as one has come to expect.

Grasshopper Warbler:-

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

Reed Warbler:-

1 at Hauxley on 28th and still present on 31st (H.R.S.).

Sedge Warbler:-

Small numbers passing through coastal areas during entire month.

Icterine Warbler:-

At least 9 birds seen - a remarkable occurrence when one realises that up to a few years ago this was an extreme rarity in the county. Single birds at Hauxley on 15th, Blyth Cemetery on 25th (JLJ) another at Hauxley on 28th and a different bird there on 29th (H.R.S.) when 1 at Bamburgh, 1 at St. Mary's Island and 1 at Marsden (MB/JDP/B.R.S./MLC). On 30th, 1 on Holy Island (B.R.S.). Could I have notes please! 7

Blackcap:-

Female at Hauxley and Bamburgh on 29th.

Barred Warbler:-

On 29th, 1 at Cresswell (T.) and 3 at St. Mary's Island (MN) 7 1 at Bondicarr on 31st (H.R.S.).

Garden Warbler:-

A few birds came in on 14th but it was not until 28th that the species became particularly numerous (for this species). 25 at Hauxley, 3 at Blyth Cemetery and by next day 8 on Holy Island, common in the Hauxley area, 3 at Hartley. On 31st, 5 at Marsden and 2 at Cresswell though by this time birds had dropped in numbers in most areas.

Whitethroat:-

Except at Hauxley on 31st when there were 12, only a reported total of 6 along entire coastline from 20th onwards.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

At least 2 broods successfully reared in Holywell Dene in July. As with the Icterines, a feast of occurrences from 20th onwards. A family party near Seaton Delaval on 20th, when 1 at Hauxley. On 28th, 1 at Hauxley; 29th saw 1 on St. Mary's Island (MN), 1 at High Hauxley (H.R.S.), 1 at Bamburgh (B.R.S.); on 30th there were 2 on Holy Island (B.R.S.), 1 at Blyth Cemetery (MN/CV), 1 at Priors Park (HP) and 1 at Hauxley which remained until 1st of September. Only 1 other bird seen, at Druridge on 31st (TH).

Willow/Chiff:-

Over 50 at Hauxley from 18th - 20th and then numbers decreased until 28th when a slight increase was noted here and elsewhere along the coast, e.g., 22 in Hauxley area, 5 on Holy Island and 5 at Marsden.

Greenish Warbler:-

1 trapped at Bamburgh on 30th (B.R.S.) 7

Chiffchaff:-

Several still inland. 1 coastal bird at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 28th (LGH).

Wood Warbler:-

A not very common species in drift conditions, but 2 at Bamburgh on 29th (B.R.S.).

Arctic Warbler:-

2 records. 1 at Hauxley from 28th until 31st (H.R.S.) and 1 at Druridge Wood from 29th - 30th (IH/JSB/TH) 7

Spotted Flycatcher:-

None reported in coastal areas until 19th when 7 at Hauxley, then 4 at Holy Island the next day (MN). An influx began on 27th and by 29th 10 at Priors Park, 6 at Marsden and 4 in Holy Island. 30th/31st saw over 15 at Hauxley, 5 at Blyth Cemetery and 3 at Druridge.

/Pied Flycatcher

Pied Flycatcher:-

The most numerous and generally distributed bird in the drift beginning 27th. From 14th onwards (when cyclonic N.E. affected the area) birds began to move along coastal strip. A small 'fall' on 18th - 22nd when 7 at Druridge Wood, 20 in Hauxley area, 8 at Blyth Cemetery etc., A lull ensued and on 28th numbers began to rise rapidly. On 29th and 30th the peak was reached with 49 on Holy Island, 60 in Bamburgh area, over 40 in Hauxley area, 25 in St. Mary's area, 10 at Priors Park, c50 at South Marine Park and 30 at Marsden. It was noted at Hauxley and Bamburgh that though numbers remained static for several days on end, birds were continually moving through.

Meadow Pipit:-

A southerly movement was noted off Hauxley on 20th and 31st (H.R.S.)

Tree Pipit:-

3 at Hauxley on 29th, 1 on 30th and an unusually high total of over 20 there on 31st (H.R.S.).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Hauxley on 18th (H.R.S.).

Yellow Wagtail:-

Small numbers at Hauxley on several days during month with a maximum of 9 on 19th (H.R.S.). 24 at Tanfield Ponds on 24th (RMP) and 12 at Blyth Cemetery on 26th (JDF).

Grey Shrike (SP?):-

A bird at Bondicarr on 31st disappeared before definite identification could be made (H.R.S.).

Woodchat Shrike:-

Notes have been received of a 1st. W. bird at Druridge on 31st (TH et al)._7

Red-backed Shrike:-

Only 3 definite occurrences. 1 at Hauxley on 28th (H.R.S.) and 2 at Druridge on 30th, 1 remaining until 31st (TH/JSB).

Linnet:-

Roost of 500 at Chevington on 2nd fell to 200 by 22nd (EM). c150 at Marsden on 28th (MLC) and c100 at Killingworth next day (FC).

Redpoll:-

25 at Howick Haven on 27th (LGM).

Crossbill:-

Small influx on 27th and 28th. 1 at Hauxley on 26th, 2 on 27th when 30 on Holy Island (B.R.S.). By 28th there were small parties passing through Hauxley all day and a flock of 30 at High Hauxley. On 29th, 5 at Marsden (MLC).

Red-headed Bunting:-

1 male on Holy Island on 29th (per ME)_7

CORRECTION:- July 1966 Bulletin. The heading of Wood Sandpiper should be changed to Common Sandpiper. The Wood Sandpiper record for July was of 1 bird at Holywell Ponds on 4th and 6th (IHA/CED).

Square brackets denote that the record is for consideration by the Club Rarities Committee. If full notes have not been sent in by anyone could they do so as soon as possible. This does not apply to trapped birds except when extreme rarities.

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.	C. E. Douglas.	L. G. Macfarlane.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.	R. Gray.	M. Marquis.
J. N. Bayldon.	T. Hallam.	E. Beek.
M. Bell.	Hauxley Ringing Station.	M. Nattrass.
J. S. Booth.	H. Hodgson.	R. M. Palmer.
W. Brady.	J. K. Jefferey.	J. D. Parrack.
H. L. Chalmers.	A. Jobling.	H. Pattison.
F. Colley.	E. A. Lobley.	W. R. Smith.
		C. Ward.

Send reports to M. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Newcastle 6 before 9th of October, 1966 please.

Next Club Meeting will be held on 13th October, 1966 at Y.M.C.A. Blackett Street, Newcastle 1, at 7.15.p.m.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

SEPTEMBER, 1966 BULLETIN

SUMMARY.

During the first half of the month a succession of Atlantic depressions affected the area though they all moved across N. of the county. Until the 17th therefore, winds varied in strength and were from a westerly quarter. An anticyclone moved into the North Sea by the 18th resulting in S.E. winds though by 19th it had moved too far away and winds were back to the W. Another High on 21st gave N.E. winds, S.W. on 22nd, S. on 23rd and easterly on 24th. From 26th until the end of the month, light E. or S.E. winds were produced by an anticyclone moving slowly from the N. of Scotland to mid North Sea area.

A very quiet September for drift migrants, perhaps the quietest for eleven years. Many birds seen from 1st to 5th were possibly birds that come in during the August drift either staying on (e.g., Greenish Warbler) or moving S. after landfall in Scotland (the Icterines at Bamburgh on 5th?) Even the sea movements were smaller than usual - a disappointing month.

Classified List.

Divers - mostly Red-throated:-

From 9th onwards birds were noted to occur more frequently though still in small numbers. 14 were off Cresswell by 25th (TH).

Great Northern Diver:-

All records concern Summer plumage birds:- 1 off Hauxley on 10th and 2 flew N. on 25th (H.R.S.).

Great Crested Grebe:-

An adult at Hallington on 13th and 18th (RG/WE/EL). Other single birds seen off Holy Island on 11th (MN/CW). Pondicarr on 8th and Hauxley on 12th (H.R.S.).

/Slavonian Grebe:-

1 on the sea at Cresswell on 13th (TH) 7

Petrel (Sp?):-

On 4th, a "small dark martin-like bird" flew S. off Hauxley, fluttering and dancing over the waves (H.R.S.).

Manx Shearwater:-

Noted off Hauxley on 8th/9th, 16th, 18th and 24th when 5 or less birds were seen. On 25th 18 were counted flying N. (H.R.S.). The only other report was of a single bird off St. Mary's Island on 22nd (HP).

/Great Shearwater:-

A bird almost certainly of this species passed flying N. close in-shore at Hauxley on 26th (D. Bradford) 7

Sooty Shearwater:-

2 flew N. off Holy Island on 4th (LGM/RN) and a total of 9 flew N. off Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.).

Fulmar/Gannet:-

Light northerly movements were noted for these species during most days of month.

Heron:-

2 at Cresswell on 3rd one remaining for rest of month. On 16th there was a small influx - 6 came in from the E. at Hauxley during the day (H.R.S.) and 7 were seen flying W. over Newcastle (FC). 2 at Holywell Ponds on 10th (1 on 20th CED). On 21st, 3 in Budle Bay and 3 at Beal (CW/MN).

Teal:-

Small northerly movement noted from Hauxley on most days between 6th and 22nd (H.R.S.). 150 at Holywell Ponds on 18th rose to 200 by 24th (CED). Over 450 were in Budle Bay on 21st (CW/MN). Over 40 at Gosforth Park throughout month.

Garganey:-

1 at Cresswell on 7th (TH).

/Gadwall

Gadwall:-

2 at Cresswell on 1st (TH) when 2 also at Gosforth Park 1 of which remained there until 24th (MN).

Wigeon:-

56 flew N. off Hauxley on 9th and 52 on 22nd when 86 were counted flying N. off St. Mary's Island (H.R.S./HP). Over 100 off Hauxley on 25th. Very small numbers reported inland though many small parties flew around off-shore during the entire month.

Pintail:-

1 flew N. of St. Mary's Island on 19th and 2 flew S. on 29th (HP). 3 in Rudle Bay on 21st (CW/MN) and 1 off Bondicarr on 24th (H.R.S.).

Shoveler:-

Large numbers were reported from 17th until 24th. 23 at Newsham on 17th (JRS). 36 at Holywell Ponds next day (CED) when 23 at Gosforth Park when the total rose to 35 by 24th. Numbers quickly fell back to normal after 24th, though 14 at Cresswell on 26th was an exception (TH).

Scaup:-

2 at Holy Island on 10th (CW). 3 flew S. off Hauxley on 16th, 2 off-shore there on 28th and 7 flew N. next day (H.R.S.). A female at Gosforth Park on 24th (LGH). 9 flew N. off Bamburgh on 9th (B.R.S.).

Tufted Duck:-

The only record received was of 15 at Whittle Dene on 17th (JSB).

Pochard:-

Very small numbers as yet. 6 at Edmundbyers Reservoir on 11th and 12 at Seaton Burn by 18th (DR). 3 at Holywell Ponds on 20th (CED).

Goldeneye:-

1 flew N. off Holy Island on 16th (MN) as did 17 off St. Mary's Island on 22nd (HP).

Velvet Scoter:-

On 19th, 3 flew S. off Holy Island (MN/CW) and 1 flew N. off St. Mary's Island (HP). 1 off Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

Small numbers moving N. off-shore on most days from 8th until close of month. On 13th, 200 at Holy Island (BG) and on 24th c300 off Chevington Burn (RW).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Apart from 3 flying N. off Hauxley on 26th and 29th, very few others seen here and at Holy Island. None reported elsewhere.

Pink-footed Goose:-

55 flew S.W. over Seaton Sluice on 25th (GL).

Grey Lag Goose:-

5 came in off sea at Hauxley on 3rd (H.R.S.) and 1 flew N. off Bamburgh next day (B.R.S.).

Barnacle Goose:-

Parties of 1 and 15 flew S. and 7 flew N. off Hauxley on 27th (H.R.S.).

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 17th (LGH).

Hen Harrier:-

A single bird flying E. near Heddon-on-the-Wall on 18th (IHA) 7

Hobby:-

A first year bird at Holy Island on 3rd and 7th (LGH/RN) 7

Peregrine:-

A first year bird at Bamburgh on 10th (B.R.S.).

Merlin:-

A young bird was observed chasing Linnets in the dunes at Cresswell on 18th (BG).

Kestrel:-

1 or 2 around Hauxley all month and 3 at St. Mary's Island on 27th (H.R.S./HP).

Coot:-

290 counted on Holywell Ponds on 18th (CED).

/Oystercatchers

Oystercatcher:-

c55 at St. Mary's Island on 14th (RW).

Ringed Plover:-

53 along the North Shore of Holy Island on 6th (RN/LGM).

Grey Plover:-

5 at Budle Bay and 6 at Beal on 21st (CW/MN). The only others seen were at St. Mary's Island, Hauxley and Hadstone in very small numbers (3 or less) throughout month.

Golden Plover:-

1000 at beginning of month at Bondicarr rose to 1500 by 24th (H.R.S.)
430 at Jarrow Slake on 8th (HP) and 500 at Penham-le-Moor on 22nd (CW).
Flocks of c100 in size were seen at Druridge on 24th, Holy Island on 17th and Budle Bay on 21st (JSB et al).

Turnstone:-

A maximum at St. Mary's Island of 70 on 16th (RW). 30-40 at Hauxley for most of month but 80-100 recorded on 11th (H.R.S.).

Snipe:-

Numbers appeared to increase during early part of month and from 18th onwards remain fairly static. 50 at Holywell Ponds on 18th, 31 at Gosforth Park on 24th when 9 at Dinnington (LGM/JSB). 6 came in off sea at St. Mary's Island on 25th (HP). 15 at Tanfield Ponds on 6th rose to 26 by 10th (RMP).

Jack Snipe:-

Single bird at Hauxley on 18th (H.R.S.).

Curlew:-

40 at Jarrow Slake on 8th and c300 at Holy Island on 13th (HP/BG). 20-30 in the Hauxley area and roosting on Coquet Island during month. On 15th, 50 flew N. off Hauxley as did 30 on 17th (H.R.S.).

Whimbrel:-

Single birds and small parties of up to 6 were frequently seen in coastal areas until 24th, none thereafter.

Black-tailed Godwit:-

2 on Holy Island on 7th/8th were joined by another on 9th/10th (LGM/MN/RN).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

55 on North Shore of Holy Island on 11th (MN). 8 flew N. off Cresswell on 12th (TH). Very small numbers seen elsewhere.

Green Sandpiper:-

On 5th, 4 at Gosforth Park and 2 there on 14th (CW). 1 at Killingworth on 8th (BG) and single bird at Druridge on 29th (TH).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 came in off sea, calling, on 11th at Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Common Sandpiper:-

During first 13 days of month many birds were reported coming in off sea in coastal area. Last were 2 at Budle Bay on 21st (CW/MN).

Redshank:-

c50 present at Hauxley all month (H.R.S.). 23 at St. Mary's Island on 14th (RW).

Spotted Redshank:-

Single birds at Tanfield on 6th, Cresswell on 6th and 12th, Holywell on 10th and 15th and Hauxley on 13th.

Greenshank:-

Many instances of up to 2 birds being seen in both coastal and inland areas until 24th. None thereafter.

Knot:-

20 at Holy Island on 6th and from 8th, 6 at Hauxley rose to 35 by end of month (LGM/H.R.S.).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Maximum reported was 17 at Seaton Sluice on 20th (HP).

Little Stint:-

1 at Cresswell on 29th (TH).

/Dunlin.

Dunlin:-

A minimum of 400 at Budle Bay on 21st (MN). 70 at Jarrow Slake on 8th (HP). Small parties in most other coastal areas.

Curlew Sandpiper:-

2 at Cresswell on 18th (JMB), 1 at Budle Bay on 21st (CW).

Sanderling:-

A maximum of c80 at Hauxley on 10th falling steadily until only 1 present on 25th (H.R.S.). 35 at St. Mary's Island on 18th (HP).

Ruff:-

On Holy Island 1 on 3rd rose to 10 by 6th though by 10th only 1 present again. Single birds were reported from Blyth, Cresswell, Hauxley, Beadnell and Holywell Ponds until 21st - the last being seen at Budle Bay.

Arctic Skua:-

From 10th until 15th up to 40 birds were seen off Hauxley and up to 30 off Holy Island and Lynenouth. Most of the Hauxley birds were flying N. whereas those at Holy Island were going in the opposite direction. The 26th to 30th saw a steady northerly movement off Hauxley of c20 each day (H.R.S.). Apart from the places mentioned above, few seen elsewhere.

Great Skua:-

Off Holy Island 2 flew N. on 4th and 1 flew S. - another there on 19th (LGM/CW). 4 flew N. off Hauxley on 11th and it was here on 26th and 27th the 6 and 5 flew past respectively (H.R.S.).

Pomarine Skua:-

Single birds flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 19th and 21st (HP) and Holy Island on 5th. 2 at Hauxley on 3rd and 1 flying S. on 11th. Two days after this 2 seen at Bamburgh (HP/H.R.S./B.R.S.).

/Long-tailed Skua:-

1 at Hauxley on 24th and another flying S. off here the following day (H.R.S.).

Little Gull:-

A 1st. W. bird off Holy Island on 12th (CW/MN).

Black Tern:-

From 10th to 20th a total of 4 single birds seen at Hauxley, Holy Island and Holywell Ponds.

/Gull-billed Tern:-

1 at Hauxley on 10th was probably the bird seen in August (H.R.S.)_7

"Terns":-

Light general southerly movement throughout month, many still in area on 30th.

Turtle Dove:-

Single bird at Heddon-on-the Wall from 4th to 13th (IMA). 1 at Cresswell on 18th (BG).

Cuckoo:-

Only 8 single birds seen, the last reported being at Ellington on 24th (CW/MN).

Little Owl:-

1 at Holy Island on 21st (TH) and at Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.).

Short-eared Owl:-

Several reported in coastal areas including a successful brood on Holy Island.

Swift:-

The last seen were on the 10th at Holy Island, Blyth and Hauxley.

Wryneck:-

1 at Holy Island on 3rd (RN/LGM).

Swallow:-

For the first 12 days a steady southerly movement was noted though it was far more noticeable at the coast. Birds continued their movement in slightly diminishing numbers until 25th and from then onwards numbers rapidly dropped though still 20 at Cresswell on 30th.

House Martin:-

A few still present at Hauxley on 24th (H.R.S.). A large southerly movement noted off Bamburgh including Sand Martins on 10th (B.R.S.).

Sand Martin:-

By second week of month very few around. The last one reported was on 28th at St. Mary's Island (HP).

Hooded Crow:-

2 present at Bamburgh from 5th to 9th (B.R.S.).

Blue Tit:-

On 29th/30th a slight influx was noted at Druridge, Hauxley (TH/H.R.S.) and Priors Park (HP).

Coal Tit:-

Maximum of c8 at Hauxley on 17th (H.R.S.) fell to 1 by 25th.

Willow Tit:-

11 at Ellington on 3rd fell to 4 on 24th (CW).

Long-tailed Tit:-

On 11th, there were 24 at Gosforth Park (LGM), and 20 at Heddon on 24th (IHA).

Tree Creeper:-

1 at Hauxley on 29th and 30th (H.R.S.).

Fieldfare:-

The second Autumn birds were 2 at Tanfield Ponds area on 11th (RMP) On 16th, 1 on Holy Island (MN). 1 near Wallsend on 22nd (DR). From 25th onwards birds began to arrive in steady though small numbers. A flock of 17 at Hauxley on 25th and 8 at St. Mary's Island on 27th (HP). Smaller numbers elsewhere along coastal strip.

Redwing:-

The first this Autumn was at Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.) and from 27th onwards it began to come in in small numbers 15 being at Priors Park on 29th when 6 at Blyth Cemetery.

Blackbird:-

2 small influxes noted in coastal areas, one on 22nd and the other from 27th to 29th. Not many birds involved in either.

Wheatear:-

On 2nd/3rd, c30 at Hauxley, 20 at Cresswell and 54 on Holy Island. Numbers fell in all areas until only 1 at Hauxley by end of month (H.R.S./TH).

Stonechat:-

A male at Lynemouth on 29th (TH).

Whinchat:-

On 2nd/3rd, 20 at Hauxley, 18 at Cresswell and 13 on Holy Island. Numbers fell until none present by 19th. On 29th, 3 were at Cresswell (TH).

Redstart:-

18 at Hauxley and 6 on Holy Island on 3rd, numbers diminished in all areas and by 12th none present anywhere. On 29th a small influx occurred 7 being at Cresswell, 5 at Hauxley and at least 18 from St. Mary's Island to Tynemouth (TH/H.R.S./HP).

Robin:-

A very slight influx noted at Priors Park and Whitley Bay Cemetery on 29th.

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 at Holy Island on 3rd (RM/LGM).

Sedge Warbler:-

Single birds at Holy Island on 8th/9th and 20th (LGM/TH). 3 at Hauxley on 11th and 1 on 12th (H.R.S.).

/Icterine Warbler:-

2 at Druridge on 1st (IHA) and at Bamburgh on 5th (B.R.S.). 1 at Hauxley on 3rd and at Priors Park on 29th (H.R.S./HP) 7

Blackcap:-

Single birds near or in most coastal areas until 10th when 3 at Hauxley. Thereafter few and far between though on 29th, 1 at Lynemouth (TH) and at Hauxley (H.R.S.) where 7 were caught during month.

/Garden Warbler

Garden Warbler:-

On 3rd, 4 at Cresswell and 3 on Holy Island where there was a similar number on 12th (MN/CW). 1 at Gosforth Park on 17th was the last reported (LGM).

Whitethroat:-

There were 9 at Druridge on 3rd and 6 at Hauxley next day. 3 near Wooler on 11th and at Bamburgh on 12th (JKJ/B.R.S.). 1 at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 26th was believed to be the last seen.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

Single birds at Hauxley on 2nd/3rd and 12th/13th - at least 3 individuals concerned (H.R.S.).

Phylloscopus Warblers:-

On 3rd, 18 at Druridge (CW) and 6 on Holy Island which fell to 1 by 5th (RM/LGM). 3 at Priors Park on 12th (MH).

Willow Warbler:-

Hauxley had its peak of 15 on 3rd falling to 2 on 8th rising to 5 next day and the last one seen there was on 24th (H.R.S.). The last 2 reported were at Priors Park on 29th (HP).

Chiff-chaff:-

Single birds reported from Hauxley on 2nd, Bamburgh on 6th and 17th Sheepwash on 7th/12th/13th, Holywell Dene on 18th, Corbridge Fell on 20th, Priors Park on 22nd, Blyth Cemetery the next day and at Priors Park on 29th.

Greenish Warbler:-

The bird trapped at Bamburgh last month, was re-trapped there on 5th and heard singing (B.R.S.)_7

Wood Warbler:-

1 at Bamburgh on 5th (B.R.S.).

Goldcrest:-

Small numbers present in most coastal districts throughout month. A peak of 15 was reached at Hauxley on 6th (H.R.S.).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

A maximum of 7 at Holy Island on 4th and of 15 at Bamburgh on 5th (LGM/B.R.S.). Very few seen from then onwards the last reported being on 22nd at Holy Island (TH).

Pied Flycatcher:-

A small influx of 20 at Hauxley on 3rd and the Bamburgh peak of 10 was reached by 5th - this delayed action may be noticed happened with the warblers. Numbers slowly dwindled away and on 22nd/23rd there was another slight influx noted at Holy Island (6) and Priors Park (10) where there were 6 on 30th (MN/MH).

Meadow Pipit:-

A general southerly passage was noted at Hauxley on 24th (H.R.S.). A very large flock was feeding among the Millingworth building sites all month (FC).

Tree Pipit:-

1 at Hauxley on 6th and 8 on 25th (H.R.S.).

"Alba" Wagtails:-

12 at Bamburgh on 11th rose to 20 by next day (B.R.S.). About 20 flew S. off Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.).

Pied Wagtail:-

Over 20 in St. Mary's Island area on 19th with small numbers coming in off sea then and the next two days (HP).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Bamburgh on 6th and 2 there on 11th/12th (B.R.S.). 1 at Wallsend Park on 13th (DR).

Yellow Wagtail:-

Only 4 birds seen the last being one at Holywell Ponds on 20th (CED).

Woodchat Shrike:-

The bird mentioned last month was present until 2nd (TH)_7

Red-backed Shrike:-

1 at Druridge on 3rd and another there on 7th and 9th (TH et al).

Siskin:-

1 at St. Mary's Island on 25th (HP).

Redpoll:-

At Hauxley 60 on 11th fell steadily until only 6 present on 25th (H.R.S.).

Crossbill:-

A single bird at Bamburgh on 6th and 2 on 10th (B.R.S.).

Brambling:-

An early bird at Lewisburn on 12th (CED) and one at Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.).

Snow Bunting:-

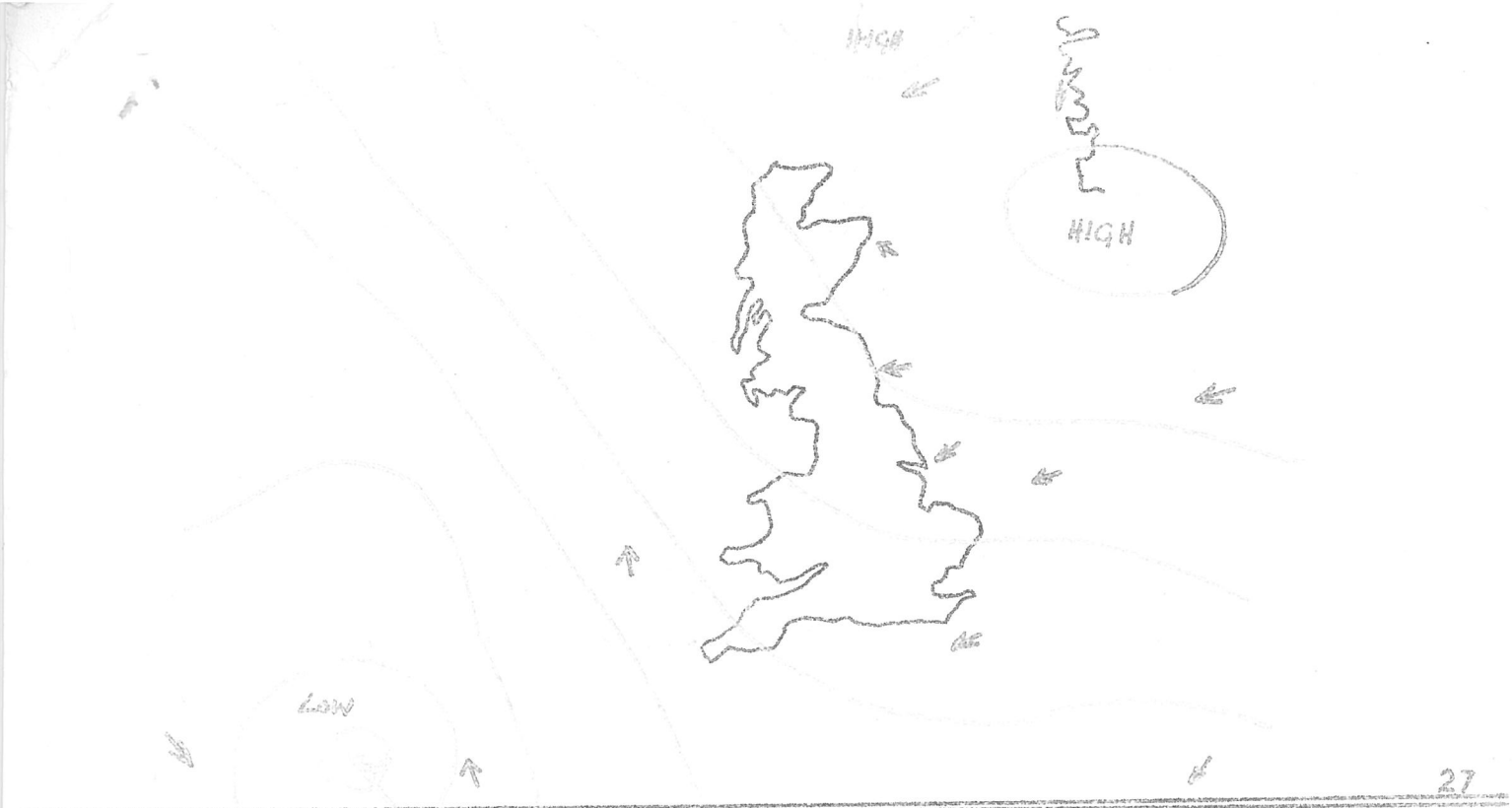
Single birds at Hauxley on 23rd and 29th and at St. Mary's Island on 26th (H.R.S./HP).

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.	B. Galloway.	M. Nattrass.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.	R. Grey.	R. Norman.
J. M. Bayldon.	T. Hallam.	R. M. Palmer.
J. S. Booth.	Hauxley Ringing Station.	H. Pattison.
D. Bradford.	H. Hodgson.	D. Richardson.
W. Brady.	J. K. Jeffrey.	C. Ward.
G. Bruce.	E. Lobley.	R. Willis.
F. Colley.	L. G. MacFarlane.	

Next meeting there will be a talk by J. D. Parrack, C. E. Douglas and R. Gooding on "Bird Watching in Majorca."

The next meeting will be held in the Y.M.C.A., Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne 1, on Thursday, 10th November, 1966 at 7.15.p.m.



HIGH

HIGH

HIGH

30

HIGH

LOW

HIGH

31

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

OCTOBER, 1966 BULLETIN

SUMMARY.

Much of the months weather was cyclonic, over 15 days winds coming from the easterly half of the compass. In more detail:- On 1st/2nd a light W. wind became E.N.E. on 3rd when a depression was to S.W. of the country. From 4th/6th an anticyclone moved from the N.W. to N.E. of the country producing N.E. and then S.E. winds which changed to light S.W. on 6th as it moved away. A shallow low over the country on 7th gave light S.S.E. then N.E. on 8th. By 9th another anticyclone was to N.E. of the area and winds were light S.E. then and on 10th. On 11th a ridge settled over the area giving W. winds though these only lasted the day for on 12th a deep depression was to the W. of the country which produced moderate S. Easterlies. These winds remained until 14th by which time the depression had moved away. A series of lows continued to cross the country until 26th (winds on 18th S.E., 19th S.S.E., 24th/25th N.E.) From 27th until the end of the month an anticyclone dominated the weather producing almost gale force E.N.E. on 27th, N.E. on 28th, light W. on 29th becoming Northerly on 30th and variable on 31st.

The month was perhaps unique because of its huge northerly movements of sea birds and in particular ducks. Goldeneye and Scaup numbers were exceptionally high during this 24th/28th period. To save space and repetition where Divers, Shearwaters, Ducks, Skuas, Gulls etc., were seen flying N. off the coastline, I have just mentioned the place with the day's total, e.g., 65 off St. Mary's = 65 flew N. off St. Mary's Island during a sea-watch. Any birds which were exceptions to this movement northwards are mentioned in full.

It may be noticed how greatly some of the species totals differ between St. Mary's, Hauxley and Bamburgh. Could this be due to an effect which the Coquet, and to a greater extent the Farne Islands have upon the routes of sea duck, shearwaters etc., pushing some nearer the shore and forcing others farther out to sea?

Dr. J. D. Parrack will be doing an article on these sea movements in the near future and would appreciate any further details (times, sizes of flocks etc., of sea-watching done from 24th/28th.

Also worthy of note are the late Shearwaters during 25th/27th, the Rough-legged Buzzard on 11th and the Shore Larks at Newbiggin at the end of the month. Thrushes and 'Starts' came in in large numbers on 6th, 9th/10th, 14th/15th and 27th. Northerly movements of Thrushes, Skylarks, Lapwings and Pipits noted on 29th/30th. From 13th/16th over 16 Great Grey Shrikes were seen, thousands of Goldcrests and a very large influx of Chiffchaffs. Could the 2 Yellow-browed Warblers be the same bird? At least 6 Red-breasted Flycatchers - 4 of which occurred from 13th/16th. First Waxwing on 25th and only a few seen as yet. Chaffinches and Bramblings had large influxes on 6th and 13th/14th.

A very interesting month, well documented with many records sent in, may I thank those who took time and trouble to do so. I have tried to do justice to as much of the information that I have to hand - but it is an impossible task!

Classified List.

Diver (Sp):-

A maximum of 22 off Hauxley on 22nd during a three-hour watch (H.R.S). Smaller numbers frequently recorded here and elsewhere along coast during month.

Black-throated Diver:-

3 off Bamburgh on 25th (B.R.S.). 4 off Bamburgh on 25th (B.R.S.). 4 off St. Mary's on 27th (JDP/HP) and a single bird at Cresswell on 29th (CW).

Great Northern Diver:-

Single birds off Bamburgh on 22nd and 28th (B.R.S.). 2 off St. Mary's on 27th (JDP/HP).

Red-throated Diver:-

On 27th, 16 off St. Mary's and 9 off Bamburgh and next day there were 5 at Bamburgh (JDP/B.R.S.). 8 at Cresswell on 29th (CW).

/Great Crested Grebe

Great Crested Grebe:-

2 at Colt Crag and 1 at Hallington on 16th (RG/EL/WB). 1 off Hauxley on 27th and 29th when 2 off Holy Island (H.R.S./JKJ).

Red-necked Grebe:-

2 off St. Mary's Island on 27th (JDP) flying N.

Slavonian Grebe:-

Single bird on sea at St. Mary's later flew S. (HP). 6 off Ross on 30th none being seen on 28th (B.R.S.).

Little Grebe:-

14 were visible at one time on 23rd at Holywell Ponds and still at least 6 at end of month which is a late date for these ponds - C.E.D. It was also on 23rd when 4 at Bolan, 5 at Hartburn and 15 at Capheaton. 2 at Cresswell on 26th and 7 at Grindon on 29th (LGM/TH).

Petrel (Sp):-

1 off Hauxley on 27th (H.R.S.).

Manx Shearwater:-

A small, late movement took place from 24th to 28th. Single birds seen on 24th/28th and 12 off Hauxley on 25th. On 27th, 5 were off St. Mary's, 6 off Hauxley and 2 off Bamburgh.

Great Shearwater:-

1 flew N. off Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.). Details sent to Rarities Committee. /

Sooty Shearwater:-

Single birds off Hauxley on 25th/26th and off St. Mary's next day (H.R.S./JDP).

Heron:-

1 at Cresswell on 6th, 3 on 8th and 2 on 16th. 7 at Bolan on 22nd (CW) and on 29th, 4 near Inner Farne (HE). Single birds reported at Hartburn, Sike, Holywell Ponds and Bamburgh.

Flamingo:-

The Holy Island bird reported on 9th and 12th (B & TH).

Mallard:-

A large sea movement from 25th/29th reached a peak on 27th when the days totals were 172 off St. Mary's, 338 off Hauxley and at least 265 off Bamburgh, though 386 off Bamburgh two days earlier when only 100 off Hauxley. The largest totals on inland waters were recorded on 22nd when 220 at Capheaton and 333 at Hallington (CW). The large flock of 225 present at Holywell Ponds until 16th rapidly diminished, only a few remaining by end of month (CED).

Teal:-

A similar movement was noted to that mentioned for Mallard, though of course smaller numbers involved. On 25th, 20 off Hauxley and 61 off Bamburgh and in a similar time on 27th, 145 off St. Mary's, 20 off Hauxley and 63 off Bamburgh. By 28th numbers down to below the 30s. in all these areas. Inland there were 80 at Gosforth Park at beginning of month which rose to 250 by 23rd and remained at that level for the rest of month (CW). Maximum of c300 at Holywell Ponds on 16th was halved by 30th (CED).

Gadwall:-

1 off Hauxley on 23rd (H.R.S.).

Wigeon:-

Off shore movements were regularly reported but in small flocks throughout month until 25th when flocks of up to 60 passed Hauxley all day while at Bamburgh only 41 were seen. By 27th there was a sharp rise. 440 off St. Mary's, 157 off Hauxley and 508 off Bamburgh while the next day saw 5 off Hauxley and 262 off Bamburgh. The movement had almost completely terminated by 29th. Inland records all date from 22nd, when 35 at Capheaton (CW). On 29th, 105 at Grindon (LGM) and smaller flocks at many other waters.

Pintail:-

A maximum of 5 at Gosforth Park on 2nd and 22nd (LGM) when 3 at Hallington (CW). Single birds off Bamburgh on 1st, Hauxley on 27th and at Bolan on 23rd.

Shoveler:-

Most records concern inland haunts. A maximum of 68 at Gosforth Park on 8th (LGM). 9 at Holy Island on 10th (TH). On 22nd, 32 at

Capheaton, at least 24 at Seaton Burn (CW/CED) and 15 at Bolam next day. Many smaller parties reported.

Scaup:-

The large sea movement from 26th/28th produced exceptionally high numbers off St. Mary's Island on 27th when 472 were counted. 40 off Seaham, 90 off Hauxley but none off Bamburgh. On 28th, 7 off St. Mary's 40 off Hauxley, 3 off Bamburgh and 2 off Ross Links.

Tufted Duck:-

22 at Gosforth Park on 2nd (CW). On 23rd, 55 at Bolam while only 11 at Whittle Dene (low total probably due to building operations there). The 29th saw 61 at Grindon and 19 at Broomlee (LGM). Holywell Ponds had very few the maximum being 20 on 30th (CED).

Pochard:-

Maximum of 47 at Gosforth Park on 16th (CW) and at Holywell Ponds 30 on 30th (CED). 10 at Seaton Burn on 22nd when 15 at Capheaton and 11 at Hallington (CW). On 23rd, 10 at Hartburn and on 29th, 11 at Greenlee (LGM). 58 flew offshore at Hauxley on 27th and 1 on 28th (H.R.S.).

Goldeneye:-

Again a remarkable passage offshore from 25th/28th. On 25th, 1 off Hauxley and 95 off Bamburgh. Only a few birds off these areas on 26th but on 27th large numbers again; 58 off St. Mary's, 8 off Hauxley, 94 off Bamburgh and 40 at Seaham. By 28th, numbers had diminished though still large for this species. 25 off St. Mary's and 53 off Bamburgh, 9 off Warkworth on 30th (BG). Inland parties of 8 or less at Gosforth Park, Capheaton, Grindon, Greenlee, Broomlee, Bolam, Seaton Burn and Holywell Ponds.

Long-tailed Duck:-

On 27th, 1 off Seaham and 10 off Hauxley (ES/H.R.S.) and on 28th 1 off St. Mary's Island, 2 at Newbiggin, 8 at Bamburgh and 10 off Ross Links.

Velvet Scoter:-

2 off Seaton Sluice on 6th (CTB). On 15th, 4 off Hauxley and 3 at Bamburgh. From 24th/30th a 'crop' of records. On 27th, 18 off Hauxley and 7 off St. Mary's and on 29th, 7 off Cresswell and Hauxley. 12 at Ross Back on 30th. Many single birds.

Common Scoter:-

Small numbers through the month an increase occurring from 26th/28th. On 26th, 80 off Hauxley and on 27th, 38 off here and 28 off Bamburgh. On 28th, 200 off St. Mary's, 60 off Newbiggin and 43 off Bamburgh. 400 at Bamburgh on 22nd, 129 there on 29th and 150 at Ross on 30th when 350 at Warkworth and 1 at Holywell Ponds (BG/CED).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Small numbers offshore throughout month with an increase in activity from 24th/29th. On 25th, 5 off Hauxley and 14 off Bamburgh and on 27th, 11 off St. Mary's, 6 off Hauxley, 10 off Bamburgh and 7 off Seaham (JDP/ES). On 28th, 14 off Bamburgh, on 29th, 20 off Newbiggin (BM) and 4 at Warkworth on 30th (BG).

Goosander:-

11 at Greenlee on 29th (LGM).

Shelduck:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 2nd (LGM). Small parties offshore from 22nd/29th totalling no more than 17 on any particular day.

'Grey Geese':-

2 records concerning birds flying S. 13 over Whitley Bay on 22nd (HP) and 21 over Hauxley next day.

Grey Lag Goose:-

14 flew in off the sea at Holy Island on 10th (B & TH). 25 flew S. over St. Mary's on 14th (HP) which could have been the party of birds at Holywell Ponds on 23rd that had been present for at least a week (W. J. Potts). 1 at Gosforth Park on 21st (CTB). From 29th/31st a flock of 70 in Bamburgh - Holy Island area (JKJ/B.R.S.).

Pink-footed Goose:-

2 flew S. off St. Mary's on 9th (HP) and 55 N. over Ross Links on 30th (B.R.S.).

Brent Goose:-

On 27th a flock of 16 off St. Mary's (JDP) and 2 off Hauxley.

/Barnacle/Canada Goose

Barnacle/Canada Goose:-

1 Barnacle in company with 20 Canada on Colt Crag on 16th (RG/EL/WB).

Whooper Swan:-

8 off Bamburgh on 8th. 5 at Holywell Ponds on 16th rose to 12 by 30th (CED). On 9th, 36 at Holy Island rose to 66 by 12th and 95 by 29th (TH et al). 4 at Amble on 22nd and next day there were 2 flying S. off Hauxley, 2 at Heddon, 2 near Belsay and 4 at Hartburn (BG/LGM/IHA). 3 on sea at Seaton Sluice on 17th (HP). On 29th, 9 at Cresswell and 3 at Halleypike.

Buzzard:-

1 flew in from E. at Hauxley on 16th and passed inland c $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to S. of the observers.

Rough-legged Buzzard:-

1 near St. Mary's for most of morning of 11th (HP).

Sparrow Hawk:-

A juvenile at Hauxley on 16th (H.R.S.). A female at Gosforth Park on 22nd (LGM). A female at Bamburgh and a male at Budle Bay on 31st (D.R.S.).

/Hobby:-

1 at St. Mary's on 17th (HP)_7

Peregrine:-

1 flew N. over Hauxley on 16th 'chasing' 2 Kestrels. On 29th, 1 flew N. out to sea at Bamburgh and 1 at Ross Links next day.

Merlin:-

Single birds at Ross Links on 9th, Hauxley on 15th and 22nd, St. Mary's on 28th, Halleypike on 29th and Bamburgh on 30th.

Kestrel:-

4 at Hauxley on 14th and 5 at Bamburgh on 30th.

Water Rail:-

Single birds at Howick Haven on 15th and Hauxley on 23rd. A maximum of 8 at Bamburgh during month.

Coot:-

Maximum numbers reported were 320 at Holywell Ponds on 3rd dropping to 260 by 22nd and 321 at Capheaton on 23rd (CED/LGM).

Lapwing:-

1200 from Whitley Bay to Blyth on 4th (JDP). 435 at Cresswell on 8th (CW) and over 500 at Holywell Ponds on 12th and 30th (CED). On 16th there were 350 at Hauxley flocks of up to 10 flying S. all day. This movement continued the next day when at Killingworth 30 and 45 flew by and at Lemington 12 and 20 were seen (BG). Over 400 at St. Mary's (HP). 300 at both Newsham and Widdrington on 20th and 22nd respectively (JKJ/BI). 800 at Bamburgh on 30th, birds moving N. over here from 28th/31st.

Ringed Plover:-

27 at Honks House on 7th (RGW).

Grey Plover:-

1 at Cambois on 8th and 24 at Fenham Flats on 9th (RA/G.,CF.) when 2 flew over Whitley Bay Cemetery (MN). 1 at Hauxley from 15th/24th.

Golden Plover:-

Largest flocks reported were 19 at Hadstone on 8th (CW/MN) and 3000 at Hauxley on 16th dropping to 1200 by 26th.

Turnstone:-

50 at Bamburgh from 1st to 7th.

Snipe:-

47 at Gosforth Park on 2nd (LGM). c10 feeding in vicinity of St. Mary's during first half of month (HP). Maximum of c100 at Holywell Ponds on 8th (CED). Birds noted arriving at Hauxley on 9th and 14th numbers rising there to 35 by 29th, when 57 at Cresswell (H.R.S/MN). 30 at Alnmouth on 22nd (BI).

Jack Snipe:-

2 at Gosforth Park on 2nd. 1 at Bamburgh from 16th until end of month. 1 at Cresswell on 24th (TH) and at Hauxley 1 on 22nd, 5 on 23rd, 2 on 24th and 1 on 25th.

/Woodcock

Woodcock:-

Single birds at St. Mary's on 10th and Hauxley on 28th. 2 at Holy Island on 14th and at Cresswell on 29th.

Whimbrel:-

1 at Hauxley on 1st/2nd.

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Small numbers noted from Ross (6), Budle Bay (7), Hauxley (5) and Monks House (5).

Common Sandpiper:-

1 at Seaton Sluice on 6th (CTB).

Redshank:-

106 at Cresswell on 5th (TH). 114 feeding behind Whitley Bay Cemetery on 18th (HP) and 100 at Hauxley on 29th.

Spotted Redshank:-

3 at Banburgh on 1st and 2 on 2nd.

Greenshank:-

2 at Banburgh on 1st and 1 on 2nd. Single bird at Holywell Ponds on 8th (CED) and at Cresswell on 16th (TH).

Knot:-

c200 at Monks House on 7th (RGW). 100 at Hauxley on 22nd dropped to 35 by 26th. 300 at Banburgh on 2nd and on 28th during 1½ hours 570 flew N. 100 at St. Mary's the same day (HP).

Purple Sandpiper:-

40 at St. Mary's on 12th (HP). 20 at Banburgh on 1st and 10 on 7th. Very few elsewhere.

Little Stint:-

1 at St. Mary's on 12th (JMJ) and 2 at Cresswell on 19th (TH).

Dunlin:-

2 at Gosforth Park on 2nd (CW). 200 in Budle Bay on 7th (RGW). c160 at Cresswell during most of month.

Sanderling:-

30 at Hauxley on 22nd.

Ruff:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 4th, 15th and 24th (B & TH). 2 at Holywell Ponds on 12th (HP).

Arctic Skua:-

During ½ hour on evening of 4th, 32 off St. Mary's (JDF). Small numbers coasting on each day until 15th when 8 off Hauxley. On 27th, 8 off St. Mary's, 4 off Hauxley and 7 off Banburgh. Last report is of 1 at Seaham on 28th (ES).

Great Skua:-

6 off Seaham on 4th (ES). At Hauxley 4 on 15th, 4 on 24th and 1 on 25th.

Pomarine Skua:-

On 4th at St. Mary's - 3 (JDF). On 27th at Hauxley 3 in 2 hours in the morning and 23 in 1 hour during evening including a flock of 10 (H.R.S.) and 6 passed St. Mary's around mid-day (JDF).

Glaucous Gull:-

An immature bird on Staple Island on 29th (MB).

Little Gull:-

2 immature off St. Mary's on 5th (JDF). /and a flock of c20 mostly adults in Tynemouth Haven on 16th (A.R. Lowe)/

/Sabines Gull:-

A 1st. W. bird at Seaton Sluice on 9th (CW). /

Kittiwake:-

Large sea movements noted on 4th, 8th, 24th and 27th when a peak at Banburgh was reached at 3.p.m. two hours after that at St. Mary's.

'Commic' Terns:-

Last reported in Northumberland were c15 at Hauxley on 22nd and in Durham 50 at Seaham on 23rd (H.R.S./ES).

/Roseate Tern

Roseate Tern:-

4 at Bamburgh on 1st with 1 Sandwich Tern.

Little Auk:-

2 off Bamburgh on 25th and 6 off St. Mary's on 28th (B.R.S/HP).

Little Owl:-

1 at Havannah on 16th (LGM).

Short-eared Owl:-

Single birds at Meggies Burn and Blyth on 5th, Cresswell on 8th, St. Mary's on 13th, Tynemouth Haven on 16th, Bamburgh on 22nd with a bird coming in high from far out to sea on 28th, at Hauxley on 29th and at Holywell Ponds throughout month.

Hoopoe:-

1 on Holy Island on 10th and 14th though not seen between these dates (B & TH).

Skylark:-

Southerly coasting movements were noted at Hauxley on 9th, 14th and 16th. c300 at St. Mary's on 17th (HP). On 29th/30th a large scale northerly movement was noted at Bamburgh when 100 and 370 were counted on each morning.

Shore Lark:-

16 at Newbiggin on 28th and 9 on 29th/30th (BM/RA/GMcF.)

Swallow:-

Birds were seen fairly frequently up to 20 in number until 15th/16th. Thereafter rapidly becoming scarce the last records being 2 at Bamburgh on 26th and 1 at Cresswell on 30th (B.R.S/BG).

House Martin:-

On 6th, 20 in Holywell Dene (CTB) and c100 at Heddon which had dropped to 20 by 9th (IHA). 6 at Hauxley on 15th and 3 at Guide Post on 17th (H.R.S/TH).

Sand Martin:-

2 flew S. over Newcastle on 17th (BM).

Hooded Crow:-

2 at Bamburgh on 25th and 30th.

Magpie:-

4 at Cresswell on 8th (CV) and 7 at Heddon on 9th (IHA).

Blue Tit:-

c40 at Hauxley on 2nd and 20 on 8th (H.R.S.). Slight increase at Priors Park on 10th (also noted at Whitley Bay Cemetery) 16th and 29th (HP).

Nuthatch:-

1 seen and heard at Bamburgh on 2nd.

Wren:-

Small influxes noted at Hauxley on 2nd and 22nd.

Fieldfare:-

Few seen until 9th/10th when a massive influx took place along the entire coastline though numbers were far greater from Hauxley northwards - Holy Island had many thousands going over until mid afternoon on each day. A wave came across on 14th/15th. On 29th/30th there was a large N. - N.W. movement of birds - over 1000 in 1 hour at Heddon and 5000 at Bamburgh. On most of the other days of the month small parties of birds came in from the E. somewhere along the coast.

Song Thrush:-

Large "Falls" took place on 6th/10th and 14th along the coast, though numbers not so high as Fieldfare. A total of 275 at Priors Park, Whitley Bay Cemetery and St. Mary's on 10th (HP). Many hundreds were pouring in at Hauxley on morning of 14th and numbers continued to arrive here and further N. until 16th.

Redwing:-

On 1st, an influx at Seaton Sluice (200 came in) and at St. Mary's. At Hauxley over 1000 came in. From 2nd/8th small flocks came in each day and on 9th/10th heavy immigration took place. Parties of 80 were arriving at Hauxley. At Holy Island 10 per cent of all thrushes were Redwings on 9th and this proportion had increased to 50 per cent by next day (H.R.S/TH).

Also on 10th there were 400 at St. Mary's, 300 at Priors Park where 410 came in in 35 minutes (HP). Small flocks on 11th/12th and on 13th numbers began to rise again. By 14th many thousands were pouring in at Hauxley with lower figures reported at Holy Island and S.E. Northumberland. Numbers slowly dwindled until movement almost completely ended by 17th thereafter very few birds came in.

Ring Ouzel:-

Small numbers noted on the coast until 22nd, birds coming in with other thrushes from 6th to 14th. On 6th, 6 in Holywell Dene (CTB); on 9th, 11 at Hauxley and 13th, 7 at Holy Island (B & TH). On 14th there were 8 on the Old Blyth Waggonway (JDP). Smaller numbers seen at Bamburgh, Cresswell, Howick, Seaham, St. Marys and Whitley Bay Cemetery.

Blackbird:-

Influxes of this species correlate very closely to those mentioned previously though never very plentiful. As yet there has not been a large Blackbird movement as we have come to expect of recent years. During the period of immigration 9th to 16th it was not until the 15th that this species began to dominate, and even this was only at Holy Island while Whitley Bay and Cresswell had their large numbers on 16th. Hauxley had their largest movement of the Autumn on 27th/28th when 150 present. It was noticeable that 'falls' of this species were very local in distribution.

Wheatear:-

1 or 2 birds present in many coastal areas until 16th. 2 at St. Mary's from 17th/20th and 1 at Bamburgh on 23rd (HP/B.R.S.).

Stonechat:-

A male at Cresswell on 5th/7th and a female on 18th (TH). At Hauxley 1 on 9th, 2 on 22nd and 1 on 27th (H.R.S.). 4 at Hadstone on 8th (MN/CW). 1 at St. Mary's on 10th and a pair at Foxton on 15th (LGM). Usual numbers at Bamburgh.

Whinchat:-

After 3 at St. Mary's on 6th (JKJ) only 4 single birds seen - the last being on 22nd at Howick Haven (IHA).

Redstart:-

Small numbers came in with Thrushes until 17th. 25 on Holy Island on 10th and 30 on 14th (TH). c20 at Hauxley on 14th/15th (H.R.S.) when 10 near Howick. On 16th, 5 at Priors Park, 8 at Whitley Bay Cemetery, and 6 at Whitley Bay Cemetery (CW). Elsewhere in coastal areas, numbers were below 5 during first three weeks of month, the last being 2 at Cresswell on 19th except for an anomaly at Bamburgh where 2 on 22nd/23rd and 1 on 30th (TH/B.R.S.).

Black Redstart:-

1 at St. Mary's on 6th and another on 11th/12th (HP/JDP). Single birds at Holy Island on 13th (TH) and Blyth Cemetery from 14th to 16th (JKJ) during which time there were 4 in Hauxley area. On 16th, 2 at Hartley and 2 at Preston Grange on 18th/19th (MN et al). 1 at Newbiggin Point on 30th (RA/G.McF.)

Bluethroat:-

1 at Cresswell Ponds on 13th (A.R. Lowe) 7

Robin:-

Very small influxes took place until 14th when large scale immigration took place and continued until 16th. On 14th, c600 at Hauxley over 100 at Whitley Bay Cemetery and 45 in Priors Park. On 15th, 119 from Alnmouth to Cullernose (numbers decreasing steadily northwards - LGM). 30 at both Blyth Cemetery and St. Mary's (BG). 70 at Cresswell, 25 at Hadstone and over 200 in Hauxley area. On last day of movement (16th) c60 at both Hauxley and Bamburgh, over 50 at Priors Park, 30 on Holy Island and 20 at Seaham. No apparent increase during remainder of month.

Sedge Warbler:-

Single birds at Alnmouth and Foxton on 15th (LGM).

Reed Warbler:-

On 14th, 1 at Hauxley and 1 at St. Mary's (H.R.S/CTB).

Blackcap:-

Moving through coastal districts in small numbers (6 or less) until 17th. On 22nd 3 at Bamburgh, 1 remaining until 24th and last record was of 1 at Hauxley on 28th.

Garden Warbler:-

Very few records in comparison to Blackcap. Single birds at Bamburgh on 2nd, Cresswell on 8th and Tynemouth Park on 9th. 2 at Holy Island on 11th and 1 on 13th. Most of the last records came from Hauxley where from 14th/16th and from 26th/28th at least 1 was present. Last reported was on 31st at Seaham (ES).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

Single birds at Hauxley on 1st/2nd and at Holy Island on 11th (H.R.S/TH).

Phylloscopus Warblers:-

Small numbers in coastal areas until 13th when 12 at Holy Island. By 14th over 50 there and 30 the next day (TH) when 3 at Cresswell and 3 near Boulmer. On 16th, 3 at St. Mary's (CW), 20 at Seaham and 1 at Cresswell on 19th.

Willow Warbler:-

From 12th/14th 1 at Hauxley and 2 singing at Priors Park. Another at Hauxley on 16th (H.R.S/HP).

Chiffchaff:-

A few records until 10th when a remarkable influx began and continued until it reached a peak from 14th/16th. On 10th/11th/13th over a dozen or more birds on each occasion at St. Mary's area (JDP). On 14th c40 at Hauxley and c20 there on 15th when 12 at Blyth Cemetery and only 3 at Bamburgh. By 16th, 60 at Bamburgh, c30 at Holy Island, 7 at Priors Park and only c10 at Hauxley. Single birds at Newsham on 19th, Hauxley on 22nd/24th. 9 at Bamburgh on 22nd, 2 on 23rd and 1 until end of month.

Yellow-browed Warbler:-

1 trapped at Hauxley on 1st remaining until 8th when 1 at Cresswell (H.R.S/CW/MN).

Goldcrest:-

Small influxes noted in coastal areas on 6th/9th and 11th. On 13th over 300 at St. Mary's (JKJ). By 14th, 350-400 at Hauxley and very numerous on both these days on Holy Island (H.R.S/TH). On 15th, 50 per cent drop at Holy Island but numbers still at the 400 mark at Hauxley, and birds moving S. from Alnmouth to Cullernose all day. Also 80 at Cresswell, over 35 at Hadstone (CW) over 100 at Blyth Cemetery, 30 at St. Mary's (EG) and over 60 in South Shields Marine Park (RGW). On 16th 80 at Bamburgh, 100 at Hauxley, 60 at Holy Island, 100 at Priors Park and 20 at Seaham. Another small influx noted on 28th.

Pied Flycatcher:-

9 at Hauxley on 1st falling to 1 on 16th was fairly representative of all coastal areas. On 16th, the last birds of the season were seen, 4 at Bamburgh, 3 at Priors Park and single birds on St. Mary's and Holy Island (H.R.S et al).

Red-breasted Flycatcher:-

1 at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 5th and St. Mary's on 6th (JDP et al). 1 at Holy Island on 10th/11th and 14th (B & TH). 1 at Hauxley on 13th and 2 on 14th/15th and another on 16th (H.R.S.).

Dunnock:-

A marked increase at Whitley Bay Cemetery of 30 on 2nd many remaining until 4th. 45 at Priors Park on 7th (CW/HP).

Tree Pipit:-

1 at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 29th (HP).

Grey Wagtail:-

A pair at Bamburgh from 23rd until end of month. 1 at Hauxley on 9th.

Yellow Wagtail:-

1 at Seaham on 6th (ES) and 2 at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 10th (HP).

Waxwing:-

1 at Bamburgh on 25th/27th when 2 at Hexham (B.R.S/EL). 5 in Holywell Dene on 28th (HP) and by 29th, 10 at Bamburgh where there were 15 the following day (moving N.) and 2 on 31st.

Great Grey Shrike:-

Another species which has had exceptionally high numbers this month 1 at Holy Island on 11th and from 13th/16th birds began to flood in. On

13th 3 at Holy Island, on 14, 2 at Old Elyth Waggonway and 5/6 at Hauxley. On 15th, 2 at Halstone, 1 at Cresswell, 1 at Boulmer and 1 at Bondicarr. On 16th besides many of the above-mentioned birds remaining in the same areas, 2 at Bamburgh and 1 at Whitley Bay Cemetery. From this date onwards birds began to disperse, the only seemingly new records being of single birds at Holywell Dene on 28th and Rothbury on 30th (TH/JDP/CW/HP/H.R.S./B.R.S et al).

Starling:-

Heavy immigration noted at Hauxley on 14th when hundreds came in during the morning (H.R.S.). Also from 21st until end of month northerly movements and light immigration was noted at St. Mary's, Hauxley and Bamburgh.

Hawfinch:-

1 on Holy Island on 14th (B & TH) and on 16th, 1 in Priors Park (CW/MN).

Goldfinch:-

On 16th, 3 at Hauxley and on 22nd, c30 at Howick Haven. A maximum of 10 at Bamburgh on 30th (H.R.S./IHA/B.R.S.).

Siskin:-

4 at Bamburgh on 1st and on 6th, 2 at St. Mary's with 1 at Priors Park (B.R.S./JDP/HP). On 11th, 2 at St. Mary's (HP). 3 at Holy Island on 13th/14th (TH) and on 16th, 3 at Bamburgh and 1 at Hauxley. 5 at Sheepwash on 26th and 10 moved N. through Bamburgh on 30th (TH/B.R.S.).

Linnet:-

On 5th over 90 at St. Mary's and 350 at Hauxley on 8th (HP/H.R.S.).

Redpoll (including variants):-

10 flew S. at Hauxley on 9th and 10 at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 11th (H.R.S./HP). /On 30th, near Rothbury 2 birds having characteristics of Arctic and 5 having those of Healy CW. 7

Bullfinch:-

1 at Hauxley on 8th. By 30th at Black Heddon a roost of 30 had become established - 7 at Deedon the same day (H.R.S./CW).

Crossbill:-

1 at Hauxley on 4th (H.R.S.).

Chaffinch:-

Influxes connected to those of Brambling. A slight increase in coastal areas on 8th/9th and 10th. A large fall on 13th/14th when 30 in Whitley Bay Cemetery over 300 passed S.W. over Hauxley before mid-day and numerous on Holy Island. On 22nd over 180 at Howick Haven. On 28th, 25 in Holywell Dene and 55 at Cresswell the next day. 60 at Bamburgh on 30th and 45 flew N. there during the morning of 31st.

Brambling:-

Small influxes during the first week with a peak on 6th. From 8th to 10th a more marked immigration took place. Small flocks of c20 birds were arriving on Holy Island on 9th/10th and c30 at Hauxley on 8th/9th. 16 at St. Mary's on 10th. On 13th/14th large numbers came in. c150 at Holy Island on 13th and over 100 moved S.W. over Hauxley on 14th when a flock of 60 flew in the same direction over Holy Island. By 15th, 25 at Cresswell and 10 at Elyth Cemetery. Very few came in after this date though 22 at Bamburgh on 23rd and 90 flew N. there on 30th when 14 near Stanley (B.R.S./JDP/H.R.S et al).

Little Bunting:-

On 10th/11th and 17th one at St. Mary's Island (JDP/HP) 7

Lapland Bunting:-

1 at St. Mary's on 1st (MN) and at Hauxley on 16th (H.R.S.).

Snow Bunting:-

2 at St. Mary's on 1st and 30 there on 10th (MN/HP). 1 at Berwick on 12th (B & TH). On 22nd, 1 at Howick Haven (IHA) and 3 flew S. at Hauxley where one remained until 27th (H.R.S.). 4 at Newbiggin on 29th (BM) and 5 at Bamburgh next day (B.R.S.).

Will all members please send their November reports to me, M. Bell, 15 Rosewood Crescent, Newcastle 6 not later than Tuesday, 6th December, 1966.

Unless subscriptions have been paid this will be the last bulletin you will receive. Outstanding subscriptions to be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. R. Gooding, 55 Beach Road, Tynemouth. /The

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

R. Adams.
I. H. Armstrong.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.
C. T. Sell.
H. Bell.
W. Brady.
C. E. Douglas.
b. Galloway.

R. Grey.
b. & T. Mallan.
Stannumley Ringing Station.
P. Hogg.
J. K. Jeffrey.
E. Lobley.
L. G. Macfarlane.
G. McFarquar.

B. Marshall.
M. Nattrass.
R. H. Palmer.
J. B. Parrack.
H. Pattison.
E. Shearer.
C. Ward.
R. G. Willis.
P. Yeoman.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TYNESIDE BIRD
CLUB WILL BE HELD IN THE Y.M.C.A.
BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE 1, ON
THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER 1966 AT 7.15 p.m.
AND A R.S.F.B. FILM "HIGHLAND BIRDS"
WILL BE SHOWN. PLEASE GIVE THIS MEETING
YOUR SUPPORT. FRIENDS WILL BE WELCOME.

SUMMARY.

The month began with an anticyclone contred to the N.W. dominating the weather and producing N.E. winds until 3rd when it became calm. On 4th a low moved rapidly S.E. from Iceland giving moderate S.S.E. winds then becoming N.N.W. by 5th. After its departure a ridge became established and from 7th until 14th winds were usually light and either N.W. or S.W. On 15th a very deep depression from Iceland moved S.E. bringing low temperatures and strong N. to N.W. winds. On 18th and 19th these winds became light northerly. Another low began to affect the weather on 21st when winds were strengthened and moved to E.E. by next day. From 23rd until end of the month the winds and weather were determined by the Azores High and depressions constantly moving across its northern edge. This meant that the lows were moving over the British Isles results in winds from a westerly quarter.

A very quiet month. Spotted Crake at Priors Park, Tynemouth and a Sabines Gull at Seaham being the only 'rare' birds reported. A few records of Waxwings (though none after 24th). An influx of Snipe and a few Thrushes on 18th/19th/20th. Shore Larks remained at Newbiggin until 12th. Little Auks on 19th when Black Redstart at Bamburgh. One of the poorest Novemberers I have ever known, activity of any note only occurring on c4 days during the whole month, namely 1st - 3rd, 12th, 19th - 20th.

Classified List.

Diver (Sp):-

5 flew N. off Rauxley on 6th (H.R.S.) and 15 off St. Mary's Island on 19th (MN).

Black-throated Diver:-

1 at Bamburgh on 13th (B.R.S.). 4 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 17th (HP).

Red-throated Diver:-

20 off Alnmouth on 12th (BG) was the largest number reported up to 10 being seen offshore off most coastal points during month.

Great Crested Grebe:-

1 off Alnmouth on 12th (BG/BN).

Red-necked Grebe:-

5 off Bamburgh on 26th and 1 next day (CW/MN).

Slavonian Grebe:-

3 off Bamburgh on 26th and 1 on 27th (CW/MN).

Sooty Shearwater:-

1 flew N. off Seaham on 6th (ES) and off Cresswell on 19th (CW).

Gannet:-

Small northerly movements noted offshore until 19th.

Heron:-

1 at Cresswell on 4th, 2 near Elsdon on 13th, 6 at Hartburn on 29th (TH).

Mallard:-

The largest flock seen was of 500 at Elyth Bay on 26th (RA/G.RcF). c250 at Edmundbyers Reservoir and Holywell to Seaton Sluice (RW/HP/BN).

Teal:-

By 27th, 200 at Whittle Dene (IHA/JSB) and on 26th, c100 in Elyth Bay (RA/G.RcF). Flock of c1000 at Holywell Ponds on 10th (AF).

Wigeon:-

Besides over 2000 in Holy Island area during month 150 at Holywell Ponds by 9th, 22 at Whittle Dene on 20th, 60 in Elyth Bay on 26th and 21 at Gosforth Park next day. Small flocks flew S. off St. Mary's on 5th and N. on 17th (IHA/G.RcF/HP/CW).

Pintail:-

2 at Swinhoe on 14th (CW).

Shoveler:-

30 at Gosforth Park on 5th rose to 38 by 27th (CW). 1 at Cresswell on 4th/5th and 4 at Holy Island on 27th (TH/MN).

Scaup:-

1 flew N. off Hauxley on 6th (H.R.S.). 12 in Roker Bay on 7th which had been present for ctwo weeks previously (RA). 15 flew N. off St. Mary's on 17th as did 30 off Seaham next day (HP/ES). 2 at Cresswell on 19th, 1 at St. Mary's on 20th and at Gosforth Park on 27th.

Tufted Duck:-

20 at Holywell Ponds on 9th (HP) and 27 at Whittle Dene by 27th (IHA/JSB).

Pochard:-

15 at Holywell Ponds on 9th (HP) and a maximum of 124 at Whittle Dene on 20th (IHA). On 25th, 8 at Edmundbyers Reservoir and on 27th, 39 at Gosforth Park (CW/RW).

Goldeneye:-

35 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 17th and 10 on 19th (HP). 8 at Edmundbyers Reservoir on 13th (ES) otherwise small numbers seen offshore and in 1's or 2's in inland lakes.

Long-tailed Duck:-

40 off Bamburgh for most of month though 50 on 12th (B.R.S.).

Velvet Scoter:-

Present off Bamburgh during most of month. 2 or 3 off St. Mary's Island from 16th - 20th. 2 off Hauxley on 6th and off Cresswell on 19th (H.R.S/CW).

Common Scoter:-

A maximum of c600 off Bamburgh on 26th (CW). On 17th, 152 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 17th (HP).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

15 off Budle Bay on 6th (BM). 8 flew N. off St. Mary's on 17th (HP). Very few others reported.

Goosander:-

5 at Smiddyshaw Reservoir (Waskerly) on 13th (ES).

Shelduck:-

50 at Budle Bay for most of month. 6 flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 2nd (HP). No others reported.

Pinkfooted Goose:-

A flock of c120 flew S.E. over Killingworth on 10th (BG).

Whooper Swan:-

1 on 5th rose to 32 at Cresswell by 13th, 28 at Ellington on 24th rising to 33 by 30th (TH). During first half of November 12 at Holywell Ponds. 17 at Warkworth on 19th (BG) and 20 at Holy Island on 27th (MN).

Bewick Swan:-

Single bird at Ellington on 23rd/24th (TH).

Merlin:-

1 at Alnmouth on 12th (BG/BM) and 1 near Darston on 20th (HP).

Spotted Crane:-

1 at Priors Park on 3rd (HP). Notes were given to Rarities Committee

Coot:-

150 at Seaton Burn on 12th (BG).

Lapwing:-

On 25th/26th/27th large flocks reported. 100 at Edmundbyers (TW). 300 at Whitley Bay (G.HCF) and c300 at Whittle Dene (JSB).

Golden Plover:-

c500 at Whittle Dene on 27th (IHA).

Snipe:-

A small influx took place on 5th/6th when 50 at Warkworth and 10 at Holbourn Moss. A larger movement occurred on 12th when 60 at Cresswell, 60 at Alnmouth, 40 at Hauxley and 25 at Warkworth which had risen to 40 by 19th (BG). On 20th, 10 at Whittle Dene and at least 30 at Edmondbyers Reservoir on 25th (JSB/RW).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.). Other single birds at Warkworth on 5th and 12th, Cresswell and Alnmouth on 12th. 2 at Warkworth on 19th (BG).

Woodcock:-

1 at Newbiggin on 5th and 7 near Elsdon on 13th (BG/CW).

Curlew:-

On 26th and 27th at Holy Island 285 in the fields (LGM/RN et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

50 in Budle Bay on 6th (BM).

Redshank:-

60 at Cresswell on 5th (BM) and same number at Holywell Ponds on 8th. On 3rd, 150 at St. Mary's Island (HP).

Knot:-

300 at Seaton Sluice on 5th and 250 on 29th (BG/BM).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Maximum reported was 41 at Seaton Sluice on 29th (BM).

Dunlin:-

At Cresswell, 300 on 5th and 210 on 12th (BM/LGM).

Sanderling:-

32 at St. Mary's Island on 1st (HP), and 35 at South Shields beach on 25th (RA).

Arctic Skua:-

On 1st, 5 flew N. off St. Mary's Island and 2 off Cresswell. Next day 9 off St. Mary's Island (HP) and on 6th there was 1 and 1 off Seaham Harbour. The last reported was off St. Mary's on 17th.

Great Skua:-

Only 1 seen and that was off Seaham Harbour, flying N. on 6th (ES).

Pomarine Skua:-

Off St. Mary's flying N, 6 on 1st, 2 on 2nd and 4 on 17th (HP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

2 in Budle Bay on 12th (B.R.S.).

Little Gull:-

6 flew N. off Seaham Harbour in a flock during a strong N.E. wind on 18th (ES).

/Sabine's Gull:-

An immature flew N. off Seaham on 2nd. Full notes to Rarities Committee (ES). 7

Kittiwake:-

Large northerly movements noted offshore on 1st, 2nd and 17th of up to 2000 per hour.

Little Auk:-

On 17th, 1 flew N. off St. Mary's (HP) and on 19th, 5 flew N. off there and 6 off Cresswell (HP/CW).

Barn Owl:-

A bird was present all month at Marton Cemetery, South Shields (RA).

Short-eared Owl:-

2 at Hauxley on 20th (H.R.S.).

Hooded Crow:-

2 at Bamburgh until 13th (remaining until end of month (B.R.S.)). 6 to 8 at Ross Links on 26th/27th (CW/M et al). 1 near Wooler on 20th and 28th (JLJ).

Skylark:-

An influx of c100 at Cresswell on 19th (CW) and c100 near Holywell Dene on 26th (AB).

Shore Lark:-

Of the Newbiggin birds reported last month, the last 4 were seen on 12th (JSE).

Blue Tit:-

Flock of c50 in Holywell Dene on 8th (HP).

Willow Tit:-

3 to 4 at Seaham on 3rd (ES).

Fieldfare:-

Numbers well down for this time of year. Only 3 flocks reported. 50 at Holywell Dene on 19th (HM). 30 at Whittle Dene on 20th (IHA) and

c500 near Holywell Ponds on 26th (AB).

Redwing:-

Very scarce so far. c20 at Whittle Dene on 20th (JAB).

Blackbird:-

36 at Cresswell on 19th, 32 at Whitley Bay Cemetery the next day indicated a slight influx (CW).

Redstart:-

1 near Earsdon on 8th (HP).

Black Redstart:-

Single bird at Bamburgh on 19th (B.R.S.).

Willow/Chiff Warbler:-

1 at Seaham on 3rd (ES).

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Bamburgh on 13th was a bird first caught on 26th October (B.R.S.)
1 at Holywell Dene on 19th and 1 near Wooler on 28th (MN/JKJ).

Goldcrest:-

On 5th, 1 at Blyth Cemetery and 8 at Hauxley where there were 6 on 6th, 1 on 7th and 12th and 4 on 13th (H.R.S.).

Grey Wagtail:-

2 at Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.). 1 in Holywell Dene on 8th (HP) and on 27th, 2 at Gosforth Park (LGH) and 1 at Stannington Vale (CW).

Waxwing:-

3 at Newsham on 3rd (P. Jeffrey). 2 at Hauxley on 13th (H.R.S.). 1 at Bamburgh on 19th/20th (B.R.S.) and 2 at Westoe Village, South Shields on 24th (G.McF). 6 at North Shields on 26th (AB).

Great Grey Shrike:-

An immature on the Old Blyth Railway on 8th and an adult on 9th (HP).

Starling:-

A roost of 50,000+ at Warenford on 26th (CW).

Hawfinch:-

Single bird at Tritlington on 2nd (RMP).

Greenfinch:-

250 at Warkworth on 5th (BM).

Goldfinch:-

2 at Holywell Dene on 9th and 1 at Cresswell on 19th (HF/CW).

Bullfinch:-

7 in Gosforth Park on 5th (LGH).

Brambling:-

On 20th there were 12 at Whittle Dene (IHA) and on 27th, 17 at Havannah and at Prestwick Carr a flock of 150 feeding in the hedges and 250 feeding in nearby field (CW).

Corn Bunting:-

1 on Holy Island on 27th (MN).

Snow Bunting:-

2 at Newbiggin on 5th and 12th (BG/MN).

Tree Sparrow:-

c20 at Whittle Dene on 20th (IHA/JSB).

List of Contributors

R. Adams.
I. M. Armstrong.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.
A. Belshaw.
J. S. Booth.
B. Galloway.
T. Hallam.
Hauxley Ringing Station.
B. Galloway.
J. K. Jeffrey.

L. G. Macfarlane.
G. McFarquar.
B. Marshall.
M. Nattrass.
R. Norman.
R. H. Palmer.
H. Pattison.
E. Shearer.
C. Ward.
R. Willis.

Correction to October Report:-

Golden Plover:- 19 on 8th October, 1966 should read 1900 (CW).

Yellow-browed Warbler:- There were 2 birds. The Cresswell bird was not ringed (CW).

Due to pressure of work J. P. Deacon is unable to continue as Club Chairman. May I take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of all our members for the work and enthusiasm which he devoted to the Club since he joined in 1959. Dr. J. D. Parrack has kindly consented to take over the position of Club Chairman and we wish him well.

Unfortunately, we are also losing our Treasurer, Mr. R. Gooding who has received promotion in his work and has to return to London. Mr. Gooding has been a very active member in our Club and although we are sorry to see him go we wish him every success in his new post and hope that his visits North will not be too infrequent. Mr. A. Belshaw will act as Treasurer until April next year.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB RARITIES COMMITTEE.

Report of Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd November, 1966.

Accepted:-

Buzzard (3.4.66).
Blue-headed Wagtail (23.4.66).
Sooty Shearwater (4.9.66).
Sooty Shearwater (25.8.66).
Mediterranean Black-headed Gull (var.)
Water Pipit (1.5.66).
Pratincole (2.7 et seq).
All Icterine Warblers except that in following column).
Rough-legged Buzzard (11.10.66).
Arctic Warblers (2 on 29.8.66).
Greenish Warbler (30.8.66).
Barred Warblers (29.8.66).
Red-breasted Flycatchers (5 and 6.10.66).
Woodchat Shrike (1.9.66 et seq).
Great Grey Shrikes (11.4.66 and 14.10.66).
Gull-billed Terns (21.8.66 and 10.9.66).

Rejected:-

Pomarine Skua (no date).
Southern Cormorant (13.3.66).
Icterine Warbler (25.8.66).
(Accept as Hippolais sp?).
Gull-billed Tern (18.8.66).

Decision deferred:-

Hobby (3 and 7.9.66).
Hobby (17.10.66).
Little Bunting (10.10.66).
Bonelli's Warbler (10.10.66).

The next meeting of the Tyneside Bird Club will be held in the Y.M.C.A., Blakett Street, Newcastle 1. on Thursday, 12th January, 1967 at 7.15.p.m.

A merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Club Members and good hunting in 1967.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

DECEMBER, 1966 BULLETIN.

The 1965 Annual Report is still available price 5s. 0d. post paid. Please support your Club and make it a financial success - at the moment we are well in the red and until more copies are sold, likely to remain so.

SUMMARY.

During the month depressions frequently appeared in the Iceland area moving in this direction but on 2nd an exceptionally low depression crossed the N. of the country. There were several cold outbreaks behind the cold fronts of these depressions notably on 3rd, 9th to 11th, 24th to 25th but these were short-lived and were soon replaced by air of warmer origin.

A very quiet month. The Bittern at Holywell since November is interesting as is the record of a Grey Plover off St. Mary's Island. 2 Great Grey Shrikes, 2 Lapland Buntings, 4 Waxwings, an Iceland and Glaucous Gull were the only other records of note.

Classified List.

Diver (Sp):-

Small numbers flying N. off Hauxley and Cresswell on 4th and 10th (H.R.S/RW).

Black-throated Diver:-

3 at Bamburgh on 29th and 1 on 31st (B.R.S.).

Great Northern Diver:-

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

Great-crested Grebe:-

1 off shore at Cresswell on 17th and at Bamburgh on 29th (MN/B.R.S.).

Red-necked Grebe:-

Maximum of 5 in Bamburgh area from 29th - 31st (B.R.S.).

Slavonian Grebe:-

5 off Ross Links on 29th and 6 on 31st (B.R.S/MN).

Little Grebe:-

Maximum of 4 at Bolan on 4th and 2 at Grindon Lough on 11th (LGM/EM). Single birds reported at Whittle Dene, Felton and Holywell Ponds throughout month.

Gannet:-

1 flew N. off Bamburgh on 18th and 31st (EM/B.R.S.).

Heron:-

4 at Edmundbyers Reservoir on 8th (RG/WB). 2 at Halleypike until 18th (EM/LGM) when 1 at Greenlee. 1 at Dipton Woods on 10th and 2 at Washington on 21st (PE).

Bittern:-

A bird first seen on 26th November seen again on 11th and 31st (W.J. Potts/CED).

Mallard:-

400 at Gosforth Park for most of month. 380 at Edmundbyers Reservoir on 11th (RW). Numbers slowly increased at Whittle Dene until by 18th over 300 present there and 280 at Hallington (LGM/IHA). Smaller numbers reported from many areas.

Teal:-

300+ present in Gosforth Park for most of month. c100 at Whittle Dene from 4th to 11th (IHA). 120 at Holbourn on 31st (LGM). Many flocks of 33 or less in number reported.

Gadwall:-

1 at Bamburgh on 29th (B.R.S.).

Wigeon:-

Numbers fluctuated a great deal during month - varying from 23 to 140 at Grindon Lough. On 11th, 24 at Whittle Dene and 20 at Gosforth Park. On 24th, 40 at Holywell Ponds (JSB/BG).

Pintail:-

3 at Hallington on 18th, 1 at Holbourn and 3 at Swinhoe on 31st (LGM).

Shoveler:-

Maximum at Gosforth Park on 11th of 15 (BG).

Scaup:-

2 at Cresswell on 17th (MN).

Tufted Duck:-

70 at Whittle Dene on 4th fell to 14 by 18th and then rose to 165 on 27th (IHA/LGM). Also on 4th, 42 at both Bolam and Capheaton. On 11th, 20 at Grindon Lough, 40 at Gosforth Park and 20 at Swallow Ponds (BG et al). 40 at Holywell Ponds on 24th and 41 on Holy Island Lough on 31st (MN).

Pochard:-

Maximum of 123 at Whittle Dene on 11th (IHA). 32 at Capheaton on 4th (LGM) and 80 at Gosforth Park on 24th (MN). Many flocks of 20 or less were reported over a wide area.

Goldeneye:-

c40 at Edmundbyers Reservoir on 11th (EM). 14 at Colt Crag on 18th (MN). Small parties of 6 or less seen in both coastal areas and inland throughout month.

Long-tailed Duck:-

140 off Banburgh on 29th, and from the Farnes to Ross Links on 30th/31st there were 270 (B.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

c100 off Stag Rocks on 18th and 200 off Ross on 31st (EM/MN).

Goosander:-

1 flew N. over Coquet Island on 4th (H.R.S.). 4 at Halleypike on 11th (EM). On 18th, 1 at Broomlee and 13 at Colt Crag (LGM) and 5 at Hartburn next day (TH).

Shelduck:-

On 28th, 39 on sea at Cresswell and 2 flocks (one of 75 and the other of 15) on sea off South beach, South Shields (TH/MC).

Grey Geese:-

c200 flew W. over Corbridge fell on 7th (WB). 2 on Fenham Flats on 18th were not Grey Lags (EM). 25 flew N. near Sunderland on 22nd (PH).

/Lesser White-fronted Goose:-

1 at Cresswell on 18th (B & TH). Photographs will be sent to Rarities Committee when available. 7

Pink-footed Goose:-

2 flew N. off Banburgh on 31st (B.R.S.).

Brent Goose:-

400 at Fenham Flats on 18th and 100 there on 31st (EM/MN et al).

Barnacle Goose:-

The bird seen at Colt Crag on 13th November was seen again at Hallington on 1st (RG).

Canada Goose:-

21 at Hallington on 1st and 21 at Colt Crag on 18th (RG/WB/EL).

Whooper Swan:-

175 on Slakes near Holy Island on 29th (B.R.S.). At Ellington a maximum of 32 on 10th/11th and 31 on 18th (TH). 9 at Holywell Ponds on 10th (EM). 7 at Seaton Burn on 11th (BG) when 10 at Swallow Ponds (MN). 9 at Grindon on 27th (LGM). Smaller parties frequently reported in coastal areas.

Bewick Swan:-

2 at Ellington on 17th/18th (TH/MN). 8 on Holy Island on 31st (LGM/MN/CW).

Sparrow Hawk:-

On 4th, 1 at Capheaton, 1 at Killingworth (LGM/BG) and 1 near Ponteland (EM).

Merlin:-

A dead bird found at Halleypike on 18th (LGM).

Kestrel:-

Only 4 reported.

Water Rail:-

c15 at Gosforth Park on 11th (BG).

Moorhen:-

2 birds found dead in Lower Holywell Dene in a hawthorn hedge had presumably become entangled whilst fighting and were unable to free themselves (MH).

Coot:-

On 4th, 127 at Bolan and 380 at Capheaton (LGM). 300 at Seaton Burn on 11th (BG) and 132 at Swinhoe on 31st.

Lapwing:-

Over 900 near Felton on 3rd (MH) and on 11th, 400 flew W. over Edmundbyers Reservoir (RN) and c500 at Heddon (IHA). A maximum of c600 at Cleadon on 22nd (MC) and 400 at Holywell Ponds on 24th (BG).

Grey Plover:- 2 at Hauxley on 10th (H.R.S.).

Golden Plover:- About 200 at Grindon on 13th (RG) and c900 at Jarrow Slake on 21st (MC) 300 at Holy Island on 31st (LGM). Smaller flocks elsewhere.

Snipe:-

55 at Hauxley on 3rd (H.R.S.) over 40 at Gosforth Park on 4th (MN) and c75 at Prestwick Carr on 14th (EM).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Hauxley on 3rd and 1 at Warkworth on 10th (H.R.S./EM).

Woodcock:-

Only one record of a bird at Broomlee on 18th (LGM).

Curlew:-

40 at Hauxley on 4th and 380 at Holy Island on 31st (H.R.S./LGM).

Green Sandpiper:-

A wintering bird yet again at Whittle Dene on 11th and 18th (IHA/JSB).

Redshank:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 4th (IHA/JSB).

Knot:-

5000 at Budle Bay on 18th (EM). 160 at Jarrow Slake on 21st (MC) and c800 at Seaton Sluice on 27th (BG).

Purple Sandpiper:-

On 10th, 8 at Hauxley (H.R.S.) and a maximum of 40 at Seaton Sluice on 24th (BG).

Sanderling:-

20 at Hauxley on 10th and 26 at South Shields on 27th (H.R.S/MC).

/Grey Phalarope:-

1 seen swimming about 20 feet from the shore at St. Mary's Island on 26th (MH/MNC). Notes to Rarities Committee. 7

Glaucous Gull:-

An immature flew N. off Ross on 31st (LGM/CW/MN).

Iceland Gull:-

1 at South Shields beach on 21st (MC) (A. McFarquhar and R. Adams saw this bird earlier in the day).

Shore Lark:-

7 near Banburgh on 18th (EM).

Hooded Crow:-

Besides the 2 wintering at Banburgh, 5 at Ross on 18th and 7 there on 31st (EM/LGM).

Dipper:-

1 at Broomlee on 18th (LGM/CW).

Fieldfare:-

Very few about, only 2 records: 9 near Druridge on 10th (RW) and c50 at Whittle Dene next day (IHA/JSB).

Redwing:-

Still very low numbers. Maximum at Cresswell of 25 on 15th (TH). At Whittle Dene 50 on 11th (IHA/JSB). 25-30 at Hexham on 22nd (RG) and over 30 at Northumberland Park, Tynemouth on 24th (MH).

Stonechat:-

2 at Hauxley on 4th (H.R.S.).

/Blackcap

Blackcap:-

Male at Eshott on 17th (MH).

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Killingworth on 26th (G. Bruce).

Grey Wagtail:-

Many records:- Present throughout month at Gosforth Park and Bamburgh. 1 at Whittle Dene on 11th and 18th when 1 at Heddon (IHA). 2 at Sheepwash on 15th (TH).

Waxwing:-

1 at Cresswell on 15th (TH) and 3 at Heddon on 18th (IHA).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Sheepwash on 15th (TH) and 1 at Holywell Dene on 31st, probably wintering as it has been seen twice since (CED).

Goldfinch:-

2 at Seaton Sluice on 24th (BG).

Bullfinch:-

At Heddon on 10th, 23 present (LGM) was the highest total reported.

Chaffinch:-

Over 50 near Seaton Delaval on 10th (MH).

Brambling:-

120 at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (MH) and over 60 at Belsay and 15 at Hauxley the following day (LGM/HRS). On 11th, 6 at Whittle Dene and 25 at Edmundbyers Reservoir (IHA/RN).

Lapland Bunting:-

1 at Hauxley on 4th (H.R.S.) and 1 at Chevington on 30th (EM).

Snow Bunting:-

1 at Hauxley on 4th (H.R.S). 6 at Stag Rocks on 3rd and 20 there on 30th (H.R.S.). 25 in Newcastle on 6th and c80 at Whitburn on 23rd and c75 at South Shields on 28th (MC).

List of Contributors

I. H. Armstrong.

Bamburgh Ringing Station.

J. S. Booth.

W. Brady.

R. Chalmers.

M. N. Coates.

C. E. Douglas.

S. Galloway.

R. Grey.

T. Hallam.

Hauxley Ringing Station.

H. Hodgson.

P. Hogg.

E. Lobley.

L. G. Macfarlane.

E. Heek.

M. Nattrass.

R. Norman.

C. Ward.

R. Willis.

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING - Easter 1966 in the Comargue. A talk on bird watching in this area, how to get there and what can be seen. Illustrated talk by three of the Club Members with coloured slides. The meeting will be held in the Y.R.C.A., Blackett Street, Newcastle 1 at 7.15.p.m. on Thursday 9th February, 1967.