

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

JANUARY, 1968 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

Except for the 8th (when wind southerly) 9th (easterly) and 23rd (when S.E.) the winds all came from a westerly quarter. This was due to many 'Lows' moving across the area to the N. in rapid succession to one another. Cold weather conditions during first two weeks of the month with snow on 13th led to small hard weather movements. However, mild weather on 14th soon brought things back to normal. The 15th saw 'the gale', otherwise a pretty uneventful month. Large numbers of Red-necked Grebes seen on 28th; more and more species and numbers of duck using Budle Bay as a sanctuary; a remarkable Common Sandpiper; Great Grey Shrike and Lapland Bunting are other records worthy of special mention.

Classified List.

Divers (Sp?):-

On 7th, a northerly movement of 3 off Cresswell and 4 off Hauxley. 6 flew N. off Hauxley on 11th and 8 flew S. there on 15th (TH). About 30 off Ross Back Sands on 21st (CW).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 (possibly 3 or 4 others) off Alnmouth on 14th (EM).

Black-throated Diver:-

2 off Hamburgh on 6th and 13th (B.R.S.).

Grebes (SP?):-

10 - 15 off Ross on 21st (CW).

Great-crested Grebe:-

2 off Budle on 13th (B.R.S.) and 1 at Berwick on 31st (T.C. Smith).

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 at Roker Bay (slightly oiled) on 4th (RA). Off Budle 2 on 6th, 6 on 13th rose to a maximum of 43 by 28th (including a group of 15 (B.R.S.))

Slavonian Grebe:-

The largest total reported off Budle was of 12 on 13th (B.R.S.).

Little Grebe:-

1 at Holy Island on 21st (CW/LGM).

Gannet:-

5 off Seaham on 7th (ES).

Heron:-

Single birds reported at Dilston, Swallowship, Newburn, Hamburgh and Grindon Lough.

Mallard:-

Maximum numbers reported were 600 at Budle Bay on 14th, when 550 at Colt Crag, 300 at Whittle Dene on 6th when a similar total at Gosforth Park. 550-600 off St. Mary's Island on 20th (JEO).

Teal:-

117 at Gosforth Park on 1st (CW). 10 at Grindon Lough on 7th and regular at Washington after the thaw with a maximum of 40 (EM/ES).

Wigeon:-

5000 in Whittle Dene on 14th (B.R.S.) while only 1000 in whole of Fenham area on 27th - these birds seem to be making more use of Budle Bay as a sanctuary. 25 off St. Mary's Island on 20th (JEO) and 100 at Grindon on 31st (LGM). From 7 to 10 at Whittle Dene throughout month.

Pintail:-

4 males at Fenham Flats on 10th (TH). 2 in Budle Bay on 14th (B.R.S.).

Scaup:-

Female at Seaton Sluice on 20th (JEO) and 7 pairs at Berwick on 31st (T.C. Smith).

/Tufted Duck

Tufted Duck:-

244 at Whittle Dene on 6th dropped to 5 on 27th (IHA). 25 at Bolam on 7th (EM) and 45 at Holy Island on 21st (CW). Very few others reported except for 34 at Havannah on 28th (BW).

Pochard:-

About 35 present at Whittle Dene all month (IHA). On 7th, 5 at Bolam (EM) and on 28th, 4 at Havannah (BW).

Goldeneye:-

Over 15 at Colt Crag on 7th (EM). 27 at Berwick on 31st (T. C. Smith). Usual single birds seen offshore.

Long-tailed Duck:-

200 off Budle on 6th (B.R.S.) and 130 off Ross on 21st (CW). 1 at Colt Crag on 7th (EM) and 5 at Alnmouth on 14th. 1 still at Derwent Reservoir.

Velvet Scoter:-

1 at Bamburgh on 6th (B.R.S.).

Common Scoter:-

Maximum recorded this winter off Ross Back Sands of 2500 was reported for 21st. Only c300 present on other days of month (CW).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

10 at Alnmouth on 14th (EM) and the same number at Budle on 27th (CW). Usual small parties seen.

Goosander:-

1 off Bamburgh on 6th and in Warkworth Harbour on 9th and 14th (B.R.S./TH). On 16th, 1 at Bolam and 1 at Washington (ES). 1 at Colt Crag on 7th (EM). 2 at Whittle Dene on 27th (IHA) and on 31st, 6 at Greenlee and 1 at Broomlee (LGM).

Snew:-

Female at Whittle Dene on 27th (IHA) and a male in Budle Bay on 28th (B.R.S.).

Shelduck:-

300 in Budle Bay on 6th (EM) and small parties moving N. off Hauxley from 7th until 9th (TH).

Grey Geese:-

40 flew N. over moor from Allendale to Branch End road on 20th (RG/EL).

Grey Lag Goose:-

37 at Budle Bay on 14th and 9 there on 28th (B.R.S.).

Brent Goose:-

1 at Cresswell Ponds on 7th (TH). 650 at Holy Island on 21st (CW/MN et al).

Canada Geese:-

27 all month at Colt Crag. (1 Barnacle).

Mute Swan:-

200 in Holy Island/Budle area on 6th (EM). 140 at Berwick on 31st (T.C. Smith). Maximum of 8 at Grindon on 27th (JSB).

Whooper Swan:-

395 at Holy Island on 21st (CW/LGM et al). 32 at Grindon on 27th (JSB). From 24th - 27th, 23 at Ellington (TH). Many parties of 10 or less reported.

Bewick's Swan:-

5 on Holy Island on 21st (LGM/MN/CW/MNC).

Sparrow Hawk:-

A pair building nest and displaying on 7th in upper North Tyne.

Merlin:-

1 at Bamburgh on 4th (B.R.S.).

Water Rail:-

3 at Gosforth on 1st, 21 at Bamburgh on 5th and 3 at Prestwick Carr on 8th.

Coot:-

246 at Bolam on 7th (EM). 100 at Seaton Burn on 1st (CW). 78 at Holy Island on 21st (LGM) and 44 at Berwick on 31st (T. C. Smith).

Grey Plover:-

2 at Budle Bay on 6th and at Alnmouth on 14th (EM).

Golden Plover:-

c1000 in Druridge area on 8th and 29th (TH). Over 600 at Jarrow Slake on 2nd (RA). Smaller flocks reported from many other localities.

Turnstone:-

50 at Alnmouth on 14th (EM).

Common Snipe:-

45 at Bamburgh on 13th (B.R.S.).

Jack Snipe:-

Up to 3 present at Bamburgh for most of month.

Woodcock:-

Maximum of 3 at Bamburgh on 13th (during cold spell). Single birds at Holy Island on 6th (EM) and at Cresswell on 11th (TH).

Curlew:-

120 at Holy Island on 21st (CW).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 at Hilbourne on 21st (WGJ).

Common Sandpiper:-

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

Redshank:-

250 at Jarrow Slake on 21st (RA). 20 regularly at Washington (ES).

Knot:-

c1000 at Budle on 6th (EM) and 80 at St. Mary's Island on 20th (JEO)

Dunlin:-

Several hundred at Budle Bay on 6th and over a hundred at Alnmouth on 14th (EM). 250 at Jarrow Slake on 2nd (RA).

Sanderling:-

24 at South Shields on 2nd (RA).

Skua (Sp?):-

1 eventually flew S. off Cresswell on 7th (TH).

Gulls Sp?:-

A roost of 2400 at Seaton Burn on 1st (CW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

1 in Warkworth/Amble area on 11th and 14th.

Glaucous Gull:-

On 7th, 1 flew N. off Cresswell and 2 in Amble Harbour. 1 flew N. off Cresswell on 11th (TH). 1 at Alnmouth on 14th (EM). All were immature birds so it is possible for either 2 or 5 birds to be present in this area.

Wood Pigeon:-

During severe spell large flocks - c10,000 were seen at Washington and Seaham (ES).

Long-eared Owl:-

12 roosting in a single Scots Pine at Ponteland on 8th (EM).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 present at Bamburgh throughout month. 1 at Cresswell on 4th.

Hooded Crow:-

Present all month at Amble Harbour with a maximum of 5 on 11th (TH). 2 at Washington on 4th (ES).

Nuthatch:-

1 near Heddon on 1st (LGM) and 3 near Durham City on 19th (RN).

Fieldfare:-

Very small and widely scattered flocks reported this year. The largest being of c50 in size near Haydon Bridge on 31st (RG/EL).

Redwing:-

60 at Bamburgh on 3rd and cold weather S.W. movement noted on 4th. 50 present on 13th and very few around on the very mild 14th (B.R.S.).

Stonechat:-

1 at Alnmouth on 14th (EM) and 2 at Kinner Lough on 28th (LGM/CW).

Blackcap:-

Female at Milbourne from 27th onwards (WGJ).

Chiffchaff:-

2 at Forest Hall on 6th (Per IM).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Hexham on 7th (LG).

Waxwing:-

3 at Arcott on 3rd (MB). 5 at Ulgham Lane on 6th (CW/DM). 2 at Darras Hall on 8th and 3 on 12th (DI). 2 at Forest Hall on 10th (IM) and 4 at Fenham (Newcastle) on 27th (BW).

Goldfinch:-

On 7th, 2 flocks of 9 and 13 at Kielder (WGJ). 5 at Whittle Dene and 3 at Dipton (DI/LGH). The next day there were 12 at Prestwick Carr (EM) and 6 at Hauxley (TH).

Redpoll:-

Two flocks of 30 and 27 at Tarsset Burn, Kielder on 7th (LGJ).

Bullfinch:-

20 at Colt Crag on 7th (EM).

Chaffinch:-

On 7th, 300 at Dilston (LGH) and over 100 at Belsay (EM).

Brambling:-

The roost at Belsay had a peak of over 200 on 7th (EM). 200 at Prestwick Carr on 25th (ES).

Reed Bunting:-

60 at Seaton Burn on 1st (CV).

Lapland Bunting:-

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

Snow Bunting:-

130 at South Shields on 2nd and 90 at Whitburn next day. 40 at St. Mary's Island on 21st (DI). 25 on Town Moor on 28th (LGH). Many small parties scattered along the coastline.

List of Contributors

R. Adams.

I. H. Armstrong.

Bamburgh Ringing Station.

J. S. Booth.

E. Brady.

H. N. Coates.

R. Ellison.

L. Gray.

R. Grey.

T. Hallan.

I. Harrison.

W. G. Johnson.

B. Lobley.

L. G. Macfarlane.

E. Neek.

M. Nattrass.

A. Norman.

J. E. Orton.

E. Shearer.

T. C. Smith.

C. Ward.

B. Watson.

ADDEDUM TO DECEMBER:-

1 Hen Harrier at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (RE/LG).

OUTING TO SOLWAY FIRTH.

The 'bus will leave from Baxter's Cafe, Tynemouth at 8.a.m. (PROMPT) on Sunday 25th February, 1968 and will pick up Members outside Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m. (PROMPT) price 15s. Od.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

Newsletter No. 4:-

February, 1968.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT MEETING, THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WILL BE ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL ON 4TH APRIL, 1968.

The above meeting - to be held on the 4th April, 1968 is the A.G.M. and nominations will now be accepted for the nine Committee places to be filled. Please remember that all nominations must be accompanied by the names of the proposer and seconder. Please try to get to the A.G.M. because it is at this meeting that the future of the Club can be shaped. A strong Committee means a strong Club.

As a reminder the retiring Committee is as follows:-

Chairman:	Dr. J. D. Parrack.
Secretary:	I. H. Armstrong.
Treasurer:	A. Belshaw.
Committee:	P. Yeoman.
	L. G. McFarlane.
	C. Ward.
	G. Bruce. (Co-opted during year).
	J. Orton. (" " ")

Hobbies Exhibition:-

This Exhibition is to be held at Gosforth Park Racecourse (below the Main Grandstand) during the Spring Holiday week-end 31st May, 1st and 3rd June, 1968. The Club are taking part in this Exhibition, and we would welcome suggestions as to what should go on the Stand. The entire Exhibition is being arranged by the Rotary Club of Newcastle upon Tyne, who are expecting 12/15000 visitors over the week-end. This is a wonderful opportunity to publicise our Club's activities, so please do not be shy in coming forward to offer your help. Further details will be given in the next Bulletin.

Field Trips:-

Those of us who were fortunate enough to make the trip to the Solway on 25th February, enjoyed a magnificent day from both a weather and bird point of view. There can not be many Clubs who have an organised Field Trip where they are lucky enough to see a Snow Goose! Our next trip is likely to be to the Bass Rock on a date so far undecided. Why not join us?

Club Meetings:-

The final meeting of the present session will be on Thursday, 9th May, 1968, before we have our Summer break. Now is the time to be coming up with ideas for next session. If you have any suggestions for speakers or film shows or anything which will make a good Club evening please make them known to the Committee.

Breeding Census:-

We are now going into our second year with the Census, and extra help is urgently required. If you can help in any way at all, even if you can only do a small part of an area, please contact L. G. McFarlane the Census Secretary.

DO NOT FORGET THE A.G.M. THURSDAY 4TH APRIL, 1968, 7.15.P.M. FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, JESMOND ROAD, NEWCASTLE 2.

FEBRUARY, 1968 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

At the beginning of the month we were in a mainly westerly airstream with the Azores 'High' well-established and a complex depression near N. Norway. On 4th, a deep Low near Iceland moved towards the British Isles filling in as it progressed. A Low over the country on 5th gave S.E. winds and this depression remained near the British Isles until the 8th when it moved out into the Atlantic. A High over Scandinavia extended its influence southwards producing light to moderate easterly winds until the 13th. Pressure rose over Scotland on 14th during calm weather, and fairly stable conditions remained until 19th. From 20th until 27th winds were usually light and from an easterly direction due to anticyclones over our area. On 28th, the High moved too far eastwards (into Europe) and produced S.W. winds then and S. on 29th. Numbers of Ducks (except Tufted and Pochard) began to fall quite rapidly during mid February, conversely Tufted and Pochard rose to peak numbers by the month's end. Red-necked Grebe fairly common off Budle Bay for most of month, otherwise the month has brought the usual records for this time of year. A very quiet period.

Classified List.

Black-throated Diver:-

5 at Banburgh from 17th to 24th and 2 present throughout rest of month (BRS).

Great Northern Diver:-

2 off Banburgh on 25th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

8 off Banburgh on 27th, 3 present there for most of month (BRS). 1 off Newton on 10th (JEO).

Great Crested Grebe:-

2 close inshore near Warkworth on 25th (MN).

Red-necked Grebe:-

23 off Banburgh on 17th/18th, 16 there on 25th and only 2 on 27th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe:-

1 off Banburgh on 8th and 2 on 17th/18th (BRS).

Black-necked Grebe:-

1 still at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (RN).

Heron:-

On 29th, 2 at Derwent Reservoir.

Mallard:-

On 3rd, c250 at Whittle Dene and c50 at Havannah Pond (JEO). 250 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (RN). 300 at Whittle Dene all month (IHA).

Teal:-

Over 60 present at Holywell Ponds throughout month (CED), and a maximum of 40 at Washington on 2nd (ES). c50 at Havannah on 3rd (JEO) and 36 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (RN).

Gadwall:-

2 at Holy Island on 17th (LGH/MN).

Wigeon:-

Numbers fell at Budle Bay down to c500 by 27th (BRS). 30 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (JEO). 93 at Trindon on 18th (LGH) and 47 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (ES).

Shoveler:-

4 males at Holywell Ponds on 24th (CED).

Scaup:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 11th (MN) and a female at Cresswell on 20th (TH).

/Tufted Duck

Tufted Duck:-

Numbers slowly rose at Holywell from 40 on 3rd to 105 by 24th (CED). On 3rd, 24 at Havannah Ponds, and on 10th, 5 at Newton Ponds (JEO). 16 at Whittle Dene on 11th (IA). c45 at Grindon on 18th (RG/BL/WB).

Pochard:-

On 11th, 51 at Whittle Dene (IA). 39 on Holy Island Lough on 17th (MN). Numbers slowly rose at Holywell Ponds to c80 on 24th (CED). 15 on Derwent Reservoir on 29th (ES).

Goldeneye:-

8 at Newton on 10th and 2 on the sea (JEO). 11 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (RN) when 14 at Hallington and 10 at Colt Crag. 28 at Capheaton on 24th (LGH/MN). 2 or 3 at Holywell Ponds throughout month (CED). 20 at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (ES).

Long-tailed Duck:-

70 - 80 off Banburgh all month until 27th when very few about (BRS).

Velvet Scoter:-

2 off Banburgh on 17th (BRS).

Common Scoter:-

Over 300 off Banburgh on 27th (BRS).

Goosander:-

14 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (JEO) and 22 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (RN) when 5 at Hallington and 2 at Colt Crag (R+). Only 4 seen during last week of month.

Snew:-

Female present off Whittle Dene all month (IA) and 1 at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (ES).

Shelduck:-

Over 150 in Budle Bay on 25th (BRS).

Grey Lag Goose:-

22 at Budle Bay on 9th and 19 there until 27th (BRS).

White-fronted Goose:-

1 on 6th and 11th at Washington (ES). Notes received. 7

Pink-footed Goose:-

1 at Grindon on 18th (LGH).

Brent Goose:-

Over 1000 at Holy Island on 9th and c100 there on 17th (TH/MN).

Whooper Swan:-

59 at Holy Island on 9th, 14 at Ashington on 16th/17th (TH). 25 at Holywell Ponds on 18th (CED) when 4 at Grindon (RA) and 22 at Hallington (RG/WB/EL).

Bewick's Swan:-

4 at Longhirst on 4th (MN). 9 at Cresswell next day and 11 there on 27th (TH). 2 near Budle Bay on 18th (JMB/MB).

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 18th (CED).

Hen Harrier:-

Male at Grindon Lough on 25th (IA).

Water Rail:-

10 at Banburgh on 24th (BRS).

Moorhen:-

On 10th, 35 at Swallow Ponds and next day saw c70 at Holywell Ponds (MN/CED).

Coot:-

100 at Holywell Ponds throughout month (CED). 140 at Capheaton on 24th (LGH).

Jack Snipe:-

3 at Banburgh on 17th and 2 on 24th (BRS).

Woodcock:-

1 at Cresswell on 2nd (TH) and at Banburgh on 25th (BRS).

/Knot

Knot:-

Over 140 at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

Single birds at Cresswell on 7th and at Budle Bay on 9th (TH).

Glaucous Gull:-

2 immatures at Amble on 25th (MH) and 1 at Cresswell on 26th (TH).

Little Gull:-

An oiled bird found dead on shore at South Shields on 10th (RA).

Little Owl:-

Single birds seen at Milbourne, Belsay and High Hauxley.

Short-eared Owl:-

Birds at Newsham, Swallow Ponds and Bamburgh.

Green Woodpecker:-

1 at Wooller Common on 3rd (JKJ).

Greater Spotted Woodpecker:-

On 14th, 1 at Cresswell (TH).

Long-tailed Tit:-

The usual family parties of c10 reported from various localities.

Fieldfare:-

50 near Havannah on 3rd and c150 at Longhorsley on 10th (JEO). 18 at Bamburgh for most of month.

Redwing:-

Flocks of up to 200 seen from mid-February onwards at Seaham, Washington and Team Valley (ES). 20 at Bamburgh all month.

Grey Wagtail:-

2 at Bamburgh. 1 at Whittle Dene on 11th and 1 at Gosforth Park on 17th (IHA/CED).

Waxwing:-

On 18th, 1 at Throckley Fell (IHA) and 1 at Whitley Bay (CED).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Newsham on 2nd (JJJ).

Goldfinch:-

4 at Bamburgh on 17th (BRS) and 1 near Hexham next day (LGM).

Brambling:-

About 100 at Lucker on 18th (IHA).

Corn Bunting:-

The Bamburgh roost up to 70 in size (BRS).

Snow Bunting:-

On 10th, c50 at Swallow Ponds (MH) and c80 at Trow Rocks, South Shields (RA).

Tree Sparrow:-

c150 at Whittle Dene on 11th (IHA).

List of Contributors.

I. H. Armstrong.
H. Bell.
J. H. Baydon.
R. Adams.
Bamburgh Ringing Station.
C. E. Douglas.
W. Brady.
T. Mallan.
R. Grey.
E. Lobley.
L. G. Macfarlane.
R. Norman.
H. Nattrass.
J. E. Orton.
J. K. Jeffries.
E. Shearer.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 4TH APRIL, 1968
in the Friends Meeting House, Jesmond Road, Newcastle at 7.15.p.m.

Over 100 at ...

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

Single birds at ...

Glaucous Gull:-

2 immatures at ...

Little Gull:-

An oiled bird found dead on shore at ...

Little Gull:-

Single birds seen ...

Short-eared Owl:-

1 at ...

Green Woodpecker:-

1 at ...

Greater Spotted Woodpecker:-

1 at ...

Long-tailed Tit:-

The usual family parties of ...

Fieldfare:-

50 near ...

Redwing:-

Plumage of ...

Grey Wagtail:-

2 at ...

Waxwing:-

1 at ...

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at ...

Colaptes:-

1 at ...

Parus:-

About 100 at ...

Corn Martin:-

The ...

Swallow:-

On ...

Tree Sparrow:-

also at ...

List of Contributors.

1. A. ...

2. ...

3. ...

4. ...

5. ...

6. ...

7. ...

8. ...

9. ...

10. ...

11. ...

12. ...

13. ...

14. ...

15. ...

16. ...

17. ...

18. ...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:-

At the meeting held in The Friends Meeting House on 4th April, 1968, the Committee for the ensuing year was elected and is as follows:-

Chairman - Dr. J. D. Parrack.
Secretary - Mr. I. H. Armstrong.
Treasurer - Mr. A. Belshaw.
Recorder - Mr. B. Galloway.

and Messrs. M. Bell, G. Bruce, B. Marshall, J. Orton and P. Yeoman.

Considerable discussion took place on the future work of the Club and it was decided to organise a number of small surveys to allow as many Club Members as possible to participate.

RECORDER:-

Mike Bell, having held this post for over six years, felt that it was now time to hand over to someone else, and who can blame him? The fact that everyone receives a Bulletin each month tends to be taken for granted, but a lot of work goes into the preparation of the Bulletin and this is the sole responsibility of the Recorder. That such a high standard has been maintained over the years is due largely to Mike Bell, and the Club owes him a great debt of thanks.

Mike's successor is Brian Galloway who many of you will know, and to make Brian's task a little easier it is perhaps opportune to remind old, and inform new members, of the system for sending in records.

Special record forms are available and may be had on application to the Recorder. It is important to use these forms because they are part of the County Report record scheme as well.

All records should be sent to the Recorder no later than the date stated at the end of the Check List of the current monthly bulletin. If you have recently sent in records to the Secretary and they have not appeared in the bulletin, please do not think they have been ignored. All records are kept in the Club's record file, for use in enquiries or the County Report.

Remember, all records to the Recorder:-

B. Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne ... NE 15. 7RD.

HOBBIES EXHIBITION:-

A sub-committee has been formed to organise our part in this Exhibition, under the chairmanship of John Orton, 25 Lindale Avenue, Whickham Grange Estate, Whickham, Co. Durham.

The Exhibition is over three days:-

Friday,	31st May.	-	3.p.m.	-	8.p.m.
Saturday,	1st June.		10.a.m.	-	8.p.m.
Monday,	3rd June.		10.a.m.	-	7.p.m.

in the main building of Gosforth Park Racecourse. If you can help in any way at all (manning the stand for a while for instance) please contact John at the above address.

OTHER ADDRESSES YOU SHOULD KNOW:-

Chairman: Dr. J. D. Parrack, 54 Kingston Drive, Whitley Bay.
Secretary: Mr. I. H. Armstrong, 12 Valerian Avenue, Heddon on the Wall.
Treasurer: Mr. A. Belshaw, 29 Lovaine Place, North Shields.

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

BREEDING SURVEY.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR RECORDERS.

Preliminary analysis of the 1967 data has shown one or two shortcomings in the original method of recording. It is hoped that the following notes will be implemented this year by those participating in the Survey:-

1. Several observers seem to be reluctant to commit themselves to stating definite numbers of pairs in a particular square. They have been inclined to introduce meaningless words such as "scarce" or "uncommon". The recording of actual numbers of breeding pairs in a square is particularly important to the success of the Survey but this can be interpreted as stating the number of pairs within a certain limit of accuracy e.g. under 10, 20, or 25 pairs; 10 - 20, 25 - 50 pairs, etc. depending upon the species.

2. It is apparent that last year's Survey, whilst particularly productive and very encouraging both in the quantity of data collected and the coverage achieved, must have resulted in a loss of much information from more casual observers.

It is therefore intended this year to introduce a new category of recording for the casual observer which can be applied to all species in any locality.

If an observer records a species as obviously breeding but there is no indication of its true status in that square please send in the record with its locality or square reference as "present but status unknown".

This is particularly effective in "gap-filling" where an Area Organiser has been unable to arrange coverage of all of his area.

This method is also an obvious advantage where an Area Organiser has partly covered a square but has not completed it.

It should not be forgotten, however, that this is merely a gap-filling method of recording and should not be used to replace the recording of actual numbers of breeding pairs.

3. When submitting the final information for an area it would be of great assistance if Area Organisers could state which squares (if any) in their area were not covered.

4. Recording forms will be available at the next Club Meeting or upon request from Mr. C. Ward, 1 Bentinck Place, Bentinck Road, Newcastle 4.

5. I would further emphasise that this Survey is open to ALL Club members to participate and related to EVERY breeding species in EVERY part of the County including Newcastle itself.

The results for 1967 seem to be particularly encouraging and there seems little doubt that the Survey can only be called a success, although as indicated in the January Bulletin some areas, in particular need covering badly, and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking all those who took part last year and who have pledged their support this year, for their excellent assistance.

(Sgd.) Geoff. Macfarlane.
Secretary to Survey.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

MARCH, 1968 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

An anticyclone off W. coast dominated the weather until the 12th. Northerly gales on 5th/6th were the result of a deep depression over Scandinavia otherwise winds were usually light and from a N.W. direction. From 13th onwards, the anticyclone moved S. enabling a series of troughs to move across the country producing gale force S.W. winds on 16th/17th and strong N. Westerlies on 18th. Winds remained either N.W. or S.W. light to moderate due to a series of Lows moving over by the N. of Scotland until the 25th when a high pressure system developed over Europe giving for calmer winds from the S. A S.E. wind on 28th coupled with high temperatures produced a 'summers' day. From 29th until the month's close, winds resumed the N.W. direction and increased in strength lowering the temperatures.

Records of interest include the large number of Slavonian Grebes, Black-necked Grebes, Bewick's Swan, Spotted Redshank and Glaucous/Iceland Gulls. Except for a Redstart on 18th, it was not until 24th that the Summer migrants began to appear. Wheatears were (as usual) the first on the scene quickly followed by Sand Martins (28th) and on 30th Sandwich Terns, Phylloscopus Warblers, White Wagtails and Ring Ouzels all put in an appearance. The Great Grey Shrike could have been the same one as reported from this area earlier in the year. A very early Whinchat, a Mediterranean Black-headed Gull and a possible American Wigeon were other highlists to the month.

Classified List.

Divers (SP?):-

In 2½ hours, 19 flew N. and 6 flew S. off Cresswell on 7th, a smaller movement was noted there on 15th and during ½ hour on 21st, 22 flew N. and 3 flew S. (TH).

Black-throated Diver:-

Maximum of 7 off Bamburgh on 27th some of which were in Summer plumage (B.R.S.). 2 in Alnmouth Bay on 9th (CW/MN).

Red-throated Diver:-

6 in Alnmouth Bay on 9th (CW/MN). A peak of 37 was reached off Bamburgh on 24th (B.R.S.).

Great-crested Grebe:-

Birds noted on three inland waters by end of month. On 8th, 1 at Warkworth and 1 in Alnmouth Bay next day (CW/MN) and 2 there on 10th (BG).

Red-necked Grebe:-

Small numbers in Holy Island area with a maximum of 8 off Rudle on 23rd (B.R.S. et al). 1 in Alnmouth Bay on 9th and 1 in Newton Bay on 24th (IHA).

Slavonian Grebe:-

2 off Warkworth on 8th and in Alnmouth Bay next day (CW/MN). A peak of 79 (most of which were in Summer plumage) off Ross (Guide Point) on 24th (B.R.S.).

Black-necked Grebe:-

The seemingly regular party turned up in South Low (Holy Island) and numbered 6. They were present from 24th until the month's close and 4 were in full Summer plumage (B.R.S et al).

Little Grebe:-

Twos noted at Gosforth and Holywell on 25th, at Newton on 30th (CW/IHA) and Bolam on 15th (BH). 1 at mouth of River Aln on 10th (BG).

Gannet:-

140 flew N. off Holy Island on 3rd in 20 minutes (MN/CW/LGM) and 20 off Cresswell on 7th (TH).

Heron:-

Single birds reported at Alnwick on 2nd, Whittle Dene on 3rd, Harbottle on 16th, Alwinton on 30th, Langleeford on 31st, Derwent Reservoir on 24th, Broomlee on 29th and 2 at Hartburn on 15th.

/Mallard

Mallard:-

On 2nd/3rd 300 at Whittle Dene and at St. Mary's Island (IMA). Many other smaller flocks seen.

Teal:-

20 at Ellington on 13th (BM) and a similar number at Newton Pond on 24th (IMA). On 28th, 68 at Washington (ES) and on 30th, 120 at Eshott and 20 at Gosforth (AB/RN). 75 at Holywell on 3rd fell to 20 by 24th (CLD).

Gadwall:-

2 at Holy Island on 17th (RA/LG) and a female at Gosforth on 30th (RN).

Wigeon:-

260 at Budle Bay on 9th decreased to c50 by month's end (B.R.S.) 57 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (IMA). c60 at Grindon on 28th (RG/EL). Many parties of 30 or less seen, though a rapid decline in numbers apparent by 30th.

American Wigeon:-

Notes have been received of a bird seen at Budle Bay on 31st - a male (LGH/RN).

Pintail:-

4 at Cresswell on 2nd and a pair at Ellington from 20th onwards (TH). 1 on Holy Island on 17th (RA/LG).

Shoveler:-

A host of records. Maximums reported were:- 11 at Ellington on 17th (BM). 8 at Gosforth on 24th (C). 5 at Cresswell on 15th and 23rd (TH). Many single birds seen.

Scaup:-

Female at Cresswell until 11th (TH). 6 pairs off Berwick on 8th (JCS). Male at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (IMA) and at Amble on 9th (CW).

Tufted Duck:-

Numbers rose in Cresswell/Ellington area to 30 on 11th (TH) 51 at Gosforth on 30th (RN). 30 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (IMA). 60 at Holywell on 24th and 20 at Holy Island on 17th (RA/LG). A slight drop in numbers as month came to a close. Over 30 in Hartburn on 15th (BM).

Pochard:-

Maximum of 27 at Cresswell on 9th (IMA) dwindled slowly down to 2 by 29th (TH). 48 at Holy Island on 3rd fell to 12 by 17th (RA/LG). 60 at Hallington on 17th (RG/WB). 48 at Gosforth on 2nd fell to 33 by 24th (CW).

Goldeneye:-

On 6th/7th, 8 at Cresswell (TH). On 8th, 6 pairs off Berwick (JCS) and 10 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (ES). Most of inland waters had 7 or less at some time during month. A few seen offshore.

Long-tailed Duck:-

130 off Stag on 24th (B.R.S.) and a few others seen offshore further S.

Valvet Scoter:-

Male at Holy Island on 3rd (CW/RN/LGH).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

40 off Ross on 31st (B.R.S.) with small parties offshore frequently reported further S.

Goosander:-

13 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (IMA/JSB). Male at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (ES). and female at Warkworth on 21st (TH).

Smew:-

A 'redhead' seen at Whittle Dene on 3rd at the Derwent Reservoir on 18th (ES/IMA).

Shelduck:-

110 on Fenham Flats on 3rd (CW). On 13th, 6 at Cresswell and 1 at Washington next day (TH/ES).

Grey Geese (Sp?):-

About 40 flew N.W. over Wooler on 3rd (JKJ).
/White-fronted Goose

White-fronted Goose:-

1 at Grindon on 24th and 28th (RG/EL).

Grey Lag Goose:-

17 still at Budle Bay on 31st (B.R.S.). 2 flew N. off Ellington on 8th (TH) and 2 at Washington on 28th (ES).

Barnacle and Canada Goose:-

1 of each at Hartburn on 15th (EM).

Whooper Swan:-

72 at Holy Island on 3rd dropped to 40 by 24th. From 20th onwards numbers fell rapidly the last reported being 2 at Grindon on 28th when 6 at Ellington (RG/TH). About 30 in Cresswell area until 20th - 24th.

Bewick's Swan:-

An excellent month for this species. 10 at Longhurst on 8th (MN/CW). 4 at Ellington from 2nd - 13th (TH/BI). 4 at Hauxley on 11th (TH). There may have been more about, but it is difficult to sort out all the records from the Ashington/Cresswell/Hauxley areas.

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 at Varenford on 9th (JSB) and 1 near Chevington on 31st (EM).

Merlin:-

(IHA)

(LG)

Female at Druridge on 9th when 1 at Broomlee. 1 at Washington on 19th (ES). 2+ near Alwinton on 30th (LGM).

Water Rail:-

1 at Wooler on 30th (J.J.).

Grey Plover:-

1 at Newbiggin on 8th and 2 at Cresswell on 30th (BM) when 1 at Holy Island (J.K.J.).

Common Snipe:-

50 at Ellington on 15th and 20th (TH). c25 at Washington on 28th (ES).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Newton Pool on 24th (IHA). 2 at Alnmouth on 10th (BG).

Woodcock:-

2 in Upper Holywell Dene on 16th and 23rd (AB). 1 at Newsham on 28th (J.K.J.) and 1 at Bamburgh on 30th (B.R.S.).

Whimbrel:-

1 off Bamburgh on 29th (B.R.S.).

Spotted Redshank:-

Bird in winter plumage in Budle Bay on 9th (JSB).

Greenshank:-

1 at Alnmouth on 10th (BG).

Knot:-

About 500 at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (IHA).

Turnstone:- etc.

Redshank, Golden Plover, Purlpe Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sanderling and Oystercatchers have all been reported, but in usual numbers and habitats for this time of year.

Gulls:-

Large northerly movements of c1000 per hour noted off Hauxley on 7th and 23rd (TH/CW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

16 in Budle Bay by 23rd (B.R.S.).

Glaucous Gull:-

3 flew N. off Cresswell on 7th (TH). 1 at Seaham on 23rd (ES) and 1 at Ross next day (B.R.S.). 1 at Seahouses from 24th until 7th April (EM et al). All immature birds.

Iceland Gull:-

1 at Seaham on 10th (ES).

Mediterranean Black-headed Gull:-

An adult in full summer plumage at Holy Island on 24th - notes to be considered by Rarities Committee.

/Sandwich Tern

Sandwich Tern:-

2 off Bamburgh on 30th and 31st were the only ones reported (B.R.S.).

Barn Owl:-

Pair at Bamburgh during month (B.R.S.).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 at Cresswell on 9th and 2 at Make me Rich on 24th (GB).

Little Owl:-

1 at Trow Rocks, South Shields on 9th (RA/LG).

Sand Martin:-

2 at Grindon on 28th and 4 at Choppington next day (RG/RA). 3 at Hauxley on 30th (LG).

Hooded Crow:-

Maximum of 5 at Amble on 13th, only 1 on 21st (TH). 1 off Stag Rocks on 31st (B.R.S.). 1 at Warkworth on 10th (BG).

Fieldfare:-

50 at Ellington on 13th (BM), 35 at Cresswell on 23rd (CW) and c150 at Warden Law on 28th (ES).

Redwing:-

35 at Ellington on 13th (BM).

Ring Ouzel:-

First noted on 28th when 2 near Alwinton, by 30th, 9 in this area (CW/LGM/JA).

Wheatear:-

First recorded Spring arrivals was on 24th when 1 at Seaham and 2 at Wooler (ES/JKJ). On 27th, 1 at Newsham and next day saw 2 at Newsham, 1 at Warden Law, 2 near Bardon Hill and 12 in Druridge area. By 30th, 23 in Alwinton area (CW/LGM/MN). Birds continued to move in on 31st.

Whinchat:-

1 at Hauxley on 31st (H.R.S.).

Stonechat:-

Males seen at Hauxley, Bondicarr and Cresswell (TH).

Redstart:-

A very early bird at Tynemouth on 18th (MN).

Blackcap:-

Female near Kirkley Hall on 24th (JCS).

Phylloscopus:-

1 at Gosforth on 30th when 1 on Holy Island (JCS/JKJ).

Chiffchaff:-

On 30th, 2 at Eshott (AB) and 3 at Bamburgh (B.R.S.) where 1 was still present next day.

Goldcrest:-

An influx noted at Bamburgh and Holy Island from 29th to 31st when birds were constantly moving through with a maximum of 35 at each place (B.R.S./JKJ).

Pipits/Skylarks:-

Heavy northerly movements were noted along coastline from 24th onwards.

White Wagtail:-

1 near Alwinton on 30th (CW) and 1 at Holywell Pond on 31st (AB).

Grey Wagtail:-

A small but steady passage noted through Bamburgh throughout month (B.R.S.).

Waxwing:-

Up to 7 in Gosforth from 23rd February to 24th March (WRS).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Cresswell on 4th (TH) and at Newsham on 9th (JKJ).

Goldfinch:-

A flock of 24 at Harbottle on 10th (CW). 11 at Newton Hall, Felton on 23rd (EM).

Redpoll:-

20 at Elsdon on 16th and 25 at Swinhoe on 31st (LGM). 6 at Eshott on 30th (AB).

Siskin:-

Party of c10 just N. of Bellingham on 25th (EM).

Brambling:-

4 at Hallington on 17th and 5 at Cresswell on 23rd (RG/CW). Flock of c200 in the Alwin Valley on 28th (EM).

Snow Bunting:-

60 at South Shields on 2nd fell to 2 by 30th (RA/LG). 30 at Denton Burn on 10th and c20 at the Town Moor on 9th (JSB). 40 at Cresswell on 11th and 1 on 23rd (TH/CW). 30 at Seaham on 17th (ES). 1 at Ross on 24th (B.R.S.).

List of Contributors.

R. Adams. I. M. Armstrong. J. S. Booth. J. Arthur. A. Belshaw.
W. Brady. G. Bruce. Bamburgh Ringing Station. Hauxley Ringing Station.
B. Galloway. C. E. Douglas. L. Glass. L. Gray. R. Grey. T. Hallan.
W. G. Johnson. J. K. Jeffrey. D. Marshall. E. Lobley. H. Nattrass.
R. Norman. L. G. Macfarlane. E. Meek. E. Shearer. J. C. Smith.
W. R. Smith. C. Ward.

N.B. All records to Mr. Brian Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton 5,
NE 15 7Rd. by 8th May, 1968.

Brian Galloway has been elected Club Recorder for after over six years at the job I feel in need of a rest. I hope that the Club will support him by sending him information as regularly and as quickly as they have to me.

ADDENDUM TO FEBRUARY, 1968:-

Slavonian Grebe:-

10 off Bamburgh on 18th (BG).

Gannet:-

2 flew N. off Newton on 18th (BG) and c100 per hour flying N. off Holy Island on 4th (WGJ).

Heron:-

On 11th, single birds at Belsay, Wingates, Hartburn and 2 at Kielder. (BM).

Pintail:-

2 at Budle Bay on 18th (BG).

Scaup:-

Male at Newton on 18th and female at Holy Island on 4th (BG/WGJ).

Tufted Duck:-

50 at Hartburn on 11th (BM).

Pochard:-

On 11th, 30 at Hartburn, 80 at Whittle Dene, and 20 at Cresswell on 23rd (BM/BG). 27 at Holy Island on 4th (WGJ).

Goldeneye:-

10 at Wingates and 12 at Hartburn on 11th (BM). 14 at Newton on 18th (BG).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

On 18th, 4 off Bamburgh, 6 off Newton and 4 at Holy Island (BG).

Goosander:-

3 at Wingates during February (BM).

Grey Lag Goose:-

3 at Hartburn on 11th (BMO).

Whooper Swan:-

150 on Holy Island on 4th and 60-70 there on 18th (WGJ/BG). On 11th 11 at Hartburn and on 23rd, 12 at Linton (BM).

/Bewick/

Bewick's Swan:-

3 at Longhirst on 23rd (BM) and 2 at Holy Island on 4th (WGJ).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 trapped at Hilbourne on 5th (WGJ).

Little Auk:-

2 at Holy Island on 4th (WGJ) and 1 found dead at Newton on 18th (BG).

Blackcap:-

Female at Hilbourne all month (WGJ).

Waxwing:-

4 in Gosforth on 15th (BG).

Brambling:-

Over 100 at Belsay on 11th (BG).

Snow Bunting:-

c60 at South Shields all month (LG) and 3 at Holy Island on 18th (BG).

B. Galloway.

L. Glass.

B. Marshall.

W. G. Johnson.

ADDANDUM FOR JANUARY, 1968:-

A Sparrow Hawk near Hartburn on 14th, 2 Short-eared Owls at Hadstone on 24th, a Nuthatch near Heddon on 6th and 13th (BM) and 5 Great Crested Grebes at Alnmouth on 27th. A Bittern at Holywell Ponds on or about 18th (per CED).

The next Club Meeting will be held in The Friends Meeting House, Jesmond Road, Newcastle 2 on Thursday, 9th May, 1968 at 7.15.p.m. This Meeting will be the last for this session.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

APRIL, 1968 BULLETIN

Weather.

From the 1st until 5th high pressure over the Atlantic and a slow moving depression heading for Scandinavia, maintained a cold northerly air stream. On 7th, an anticyclone rapidly developed over the British Isles, and dominated the weather until 15th. The winds during this time being light or moderate cold S. Easterlies. On 15th, a depression to the S.W. of the country moved slowly N. and up to 22nd the warmer winds remained light S. or S.S. East. On 23rd, pressure rose, another anticyclone formed over the country then moved into the continent, giving S. Easterly winds except on 27th when light S.W. On 28th, a depression off Ireland began to make its slow way across the country giving S.E. winds until the month's close.

Summary.

The beginning of the month was relatively quiet but records such as Buzzard, Osprey, Ruff, coastal Chiffchaffs/Ring Ouzels and a Great Grey Shrike indicated that birds were on the move.

Dabbling ducks were noted passing through all month with numbers of Pintail and Shoveler being of special interest.

The transfer of the high pressure area over the North Atlantic to N. Europe from about 15th bringing warmer S.W. to S.E. winds probably accounted for a large scale arrival of Summer migrants during the subsequent week. The movement continued until the end of the month but a second peak was suggested on 27th/29th as winds became more easterly.

More interesting species recorded during this period were Garganey, Marsh Harrier, Little Ringed Plover, Black Tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, another Ruff, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Reed warbler and Blue Headed Wagtail.

The Sea-houses Glaucous Gull was again seen followed by two others during the above period, whilst Nuthatches and Ringfishers were found nesting.

Classified List.

Divers (Sp):-

30 in Banburgh - Badle area on 3rd (BRS).

Black-throated Diver:-

1 off Banburgh on 3rd and 2 next day (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

Single bird present on Cresswell Pond seen all month (TH/BN). Between 3rd and 28th mainly single birds were reported from Banburgh, Dunstanburgh, Howick, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Great Crested Grebe:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 7th (GB/BG). 3 at a recognised breeding site on 15th had increased to 7 by 28th (IHA/LGM/AN).

Red-necked Grebe:-

2 at Banburgh on 3rd (BRS).

Little Grebe:-

4 on Holy Island Lough on 14th (JKJ) and 1 still there on 27th (SE).

Manx Shearwater:-

4 flying S. off Dunstanburgh on 28th was the only record (ERN).

Fulmar:-

Reported from two inland localities. Moving S. at Hauxley at 100 per hour on 28th (HRS). A dark phase bird flew S. off Whitburn on 16th (RA/LG).

1. /Heron

Heron:-

3 in Budle Bay on 27th (RMP) whilst from inland, single birds were reported at Alnwick and Hartburn on 6th and Pontburn on 13th.

Gannet:-

On 27th, 86 flew S. off Holy Island in three quarters of an hour (SE). An adult was picked up alive below H.F. wires near Ponteland on 24th (WJ).

Mallard:-

50 at Cresswell on 5th and 10th (BM) and a maximum of c30 at Holywell Ponds on 24th (SE).

Teal:-

150 at Cresswell on 6th (JEO) and still c60 there on 13th (CW). At Holywell c35 on 6th and c25 on 20th (CED). On 14th, 26 at Grindon (LGM) and on 19th, 29 at Washington (BS). Smaller parties reported from several other localities.

Garganey:-

2 males and a female at Holywell on 12th/15th were first of the Spring (CED). A male was at Longhirst on 13th (CW) whilst a pair was seen at Cresswell on 25th (MN).

Gadwall:-

On Holy Island Lough, 3 from 2nd - 15th (MN/CW), 2 on 21st (RA/LGG) and 1 on 27th (SE).

Wigeon:-

The steady decline of the Budle Bay flock continued with 56 on 6th (BRS) falling to 16 on 27th (RMP). At Grindon, 50+ on 12th had fallen to 8 by 20th (RG/EL).

Pintail:-

Reported from 5 localities:- At Holy Island Lough the numbers fluctuated from between 15 on 15th (LGM/MN/RN) and 1 on 21st (RA/LGG). Still 3 present on 27th (SE/JKJ). Between 1 and 2 pairs at Ellington from 2nd until 24th (TH/BM), 1 at Cresswell on 12th/13th (BG/CW), a pair at Grindon on 20th (RG/EL) and a pair at Craster on the same day (RN).

Shoveler:-

Up to 4 pairs recorded from Holy Island, Newton Bog, Craster, Hauxley, Holywell Gosforth Park, Walbottle, Grindon, Washington and Tanfield Ponds. 22 at Cresswell on 13th (CW) and 20+ at Ellington on 19th (BM) are worthy of special note.

Tufted Duck:-

Maximum from the ponds were:- 18 pairs at Gosforth on 2nd (TCS), 42 at Hartburn on 6th (JEO), 50 at Holywell on 15th (CED), 11 at Cresswell on 13th (BM/CW), 16 at Whittle Dene on 27th (JSB).

Pochard:-

A marked decrease in numbers since March and reported from only three localities:- 15 at Gosforth on 13th (CW), 3 at Newton on 12th (ERM), 2 at Hartburn on 6th (JEO).

Goldeneye:-

Again a decrease noted. 7 in Bamburgh area from 6th - 16th (SE/BRS). 3 at Newton on 27th (RMP), 3 at Holywell on 6th (CED), 6 at Grindon on 12th (RG/EL).

Long-tailed Duck:-

320+ in Bamburgh area on 4th further confirms that it has been an excellent winter for this species (BRS).

Common Scoter:-

Recorded from Bamburgh only with a maximum of 140 on 6th (BRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

A maximum of 15 in Seahouses - Bamburgh area on 6th (SE), 8 at Holy Island on 13th (CW), 4 at Newbiggin on 14th (BM).

Goosander:-

About 15 pairs reported back at breeding sites during month.

Shelduck:-

Numbers in Budle Bay fell from 60 on 6th to 32 on 17th (BRS). Small numbers reported from other coastal points but an inland record of 1 at Grindon on 20th is of particular interest (RG/EL).

/Geese (Sp):-

Geese (Sp):-

2 flew S.E. over Amble on 16th (TH)

Grey Lag Goose:-

1 in Hauxley area on 13th and 15th (HRS).

White-fronted Goose:-

The single adult at Grindon last month was reported on 3 occasions until 20th (RG/EL/LGM).

Canada Goose:-

14 at Sweethope on 12th (JEO); on 13th 4 at Pontburn and 3 at Rothley (CED), and on 20th, 5 were seen first at Chevington and later at Warkworth (GB/BG/B & TH).

Whooper Swan:-

2 at Swallow Ponds on 1st (TCS). On 6th, 23 at Hartburn (JEO), 13 at Ashington (B./TH) and 14 at Beal (CW). 7 at Linton on 10th (BM) and 5 at Wingates on 13th (EM).

Common Buzzard:-

1 near Chatton on 6th (JMB/HB).

Sparrow Hawk:-

1 near Whittingham on 14th (CW) and 1 at Stocksfield on 21st (LG) were the only records received.

Marsh Harrier:-

On 27th, a female or immature was watched quartering over reeds near Burnhope (ES).

Osprey:-

On 6th, a single bird was reported from the Derwent Reservoir (per RMP/PY).

Merlin:-

2 records received. A male in Belford area on 6th (CW) and 1 at Walbottle Ponds on 7th (JSB/IHA).

Kestrel:-

Many pairs seen throughout Northumberland.

Oystercatcher:-

2 at Whittle Dene on 7th (GB/BG) and pairs had returned to inland breeding sites at beginning of month.

Ringed Plover:-

Records of single birds received for Pontburn on 13th, Holywell on 15th (CED) and Washington on 26th (ES). Pairs returned to inland sites by mid-month.

Little Ringed Plover:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 28th (TH). There are very few records for this species in Northumberland.

Grey Plover:-

Reports were for Holy Island only with a maximum of 6 on 27th (SE).

Golden Plover:-

On 6th, 75 flew N. over Seahouses (SE) and 500 of the Northern Race at Dunstanburgh (JSB). On 16th, 300 at Prestwick Carr (ERM) and on 20th c70 at Grindon (RG/EL).

Turnstone:-

Only 3 records received. 50 at Budle on 12th and 60+ between Craster/Newton on 28th (ELM). On 27th, 300 at Holy Island (SE).

Common Snipe:-

On 6th, 50 at Cresswell (JEO) and 100+ near Seaton Delaval (AB), and 19 at Walbottle next day (IHA/JSB) were all part of a general increase. Reported from breeding areas from mid month.

Woodcock:-

A passage bird at Hauxley on 19th (HRS). 2 records from breeding areas at Newsham and Hindurg Dene.

Curlew:-

A maximum of 34 at Bamburgh on 3rd (ERS) and 30 at Hauxley until mid month (HRS).

Whimbrel:-

A few more than is usual for April. 1 flew N. at Seaham on 7th (ES) 1 at Cresswell on 27th and 7 in Chevington - Bondicarr area on 29th (TH).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

4 seen near Holy Island causeway on 19th (per BG).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

At end of month 7 at Holy Island on 27th (SE), 1 at Cresswell on 27th (TH) and 1 at Newton on 28th (ERM).

Common Sandpiper:-

1 at Cresswell on 19th was the first of the Spring (TH). During subsequent 2/3 days they became common on the "hill burns". Ad adult retrapped at Hepple on 28th had been ringed there as an adult in 1966 (GB/BG).

Spotted Redshank:-

A bird again reported from Budle Bay on 21st (RA/LGG) - see March 1968 Bulletin. 1 at Cresswell on 26th/27th (MN/TH).

Greenshank:-

At the coast 1 at Hauxley on 12th/13th (HRS) and 1 at Cresswell on 27th/30th (TH). An interesting record of 1 inland as far as Grindon on 14th (LGH).

Knot:-

70 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS) and 20 at Newton on 28th (ERM) were the only records.

Purple Sandpiper:-

On 15th, 7 at Hauxley (HRS), on 27th 16 at Holy Island (SE) and on 28th, 20 at Newton (ERM).

Dunlin:-

150 at Warkworth on 20th (GB/BG), 100 at Holy Island on 27th (SE) and 25 at Newton on 28th (ERM). 10 inland at Washington on 23rd (ES).

Sanderling:-

Only 1 record:- 17 at Seahouses on 6th (SE).

Ruff:-

A male at bondicarr on 5th (TH) and a female at Washington on 19th (ES).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

Evidence of the usual steady inland passage was obtained by observers at Glanton (90 on 21st LGH/MN/CW), Hepple (moving N. all day on 28th GB/BG) and Cheviot. Smaller numbers reported from the coastal areas.

Common Gull:-

560 per hour moving N. off Banburgh on 6th (BRS).

Glaucous Gull:-

Last month's Seahouses bird present until 6th (MN). 1 at Wallsend on 19th (AB) and 1 immature at Seaham on 28th (ES).

Sandwich Tern:-

Common in coastal areas from 12th onwards.

Little Tern:-

2 at Holy Island on 27th (ES) are the first of the Spring.

Turtle Dove:-

Single bird in Gosforth Park on 30th (MN).

Cuckoo:-

Single birds at Gosforth and Carset on 21st were the first of the Spring (CW/WJ). Became common thereafter in both coastal and inland areas.

Barn Owl:-

2 records received.

Long-eared Owl:-

Breeding again near Ponteland (ERM).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 in Hauxley area from 8th/13th (HRS), 1 at Prestwick Carr on 11th (ERM), 1 near Rothbury on 14th, 1 at Holy Island on 15th (CW) and 1 flew E. over Holywell on 22nd (SE).

Swift:-

An early record of 1 at Washington on 19th was followed by one at Swallow on 23rd (MN). No more records until 27th when several at Seaham (ES) and 1 at Stocksfield (LG). 1 at Longhirst on 28th (BN) and 1 at Darras Hall on 31st (BN) concluded the reports.

Kingfisher:-

Recorded from 2 localities in the S. of the county.

Hoopoe:-

1 seen briefly in Heaton on 19th (EL/WRS). It seems to be characteristic for this rare visitor to Northumberland to appear in built-up areas.

Wryneck:-

1 at Bamburgh on 20th is an unusual record for Spring (B & TH).

Swallow:-

First recorded on 16th when a single bird at Prestwick Carr (ERM) and 5 at Bamburgh next day (BRS). Recorded thereafter in increasing numbers as birds moved N. through the county.

House Martin:-

1 at Bamburgh on 17th was the first (BRS) followed by 1 at Seaton Sluice and 2 at Heddon on 20th (CED/IHA/JSB). Became increasingly common from 23rd onwards.

Sand Martin:-

Since end of March no records until 12th when 1 at Hauxley (HRS). Became more numerous after 17th and moving N. in large numbers along the coast on 27th/28th. 200 at Whittle Dene on 19th (WJ) and 150 at Holywell on 24th were the largest gatherings (SE).

Raven:-

4 pairs reported from Northumberland sites.

Hooded Crow:-

2 at Howick on 2nd (TH) and 1 at Beal on 6th (CW).

Rook:-

The interesting colony in the centre of Newcastle which was first formed in 1961 now contains 22 nests (RMP).

Marsh/Willow/Long-tailed Tits:-

Reported from scattered localities during month.

Nuthatch:-

Single pairs reported from three localities in Northumberland with two nests being found.

Fieldfare:-

Numerous records until 21st of gatherings up to 1000 throughout Northumberland suggested a hold up of potential emigrants awaiting favourable weather. Last recorded on 23rd when 120 near the coast at Newsham (JKJ).

Redwing:-

Very few records and last recorded on 20th from three localities:- 1 at Newsham (JKJ), 1 at Holy Island (TH) and 1 at Gosforth (TCS).

Ring Ouzel:-

Well established in breeding areas early in month. On passage, a maximum of 4 at Bamburgh between 1st/6th (BRS) and another on 16th. 1 on Holy Island on 15th (RN) and 20th (TH) and 3 on 21st (RA/LGG). 1 at Bondicarr on 17th (TH) and 1 at Holywell on 20th (MN).

Wheatear:-

Well established in the hills early in month. Small numbers moved through coastal areas until a peak occurred on 19th/21st when they were numerous on Holy Island (RA/LGG) and common at Hauxley. 19 on Holy Island on 27th (SE).

Stonechat:-

Singing males were reported from Newton (1), Hauxley (3), Chevington (1) and Seaham (1).

Whinchat:-

Since the March record, none until 19th/20th when 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1 at Newsham (JKJ). No further records until 27th/28th when small numbers were seen both inland and at the coast.

/Redstart

Redstart:-

All records were for the period 19th/22nd. At the coast 3 at Hauxley (HRS), 2/3 at Newsham (JKJ) and 1 at Seaham. Inland 1 at Allenbank (LGM), 2 near Stocksfield (LG) and 2 near Hepple (BG).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

First recorded from Stocksfield on 18th (LG) followed by 1 at Cresswell next day (TH). On 21st, 1 at Tarsset (WJ) and becoming widespread throughout county by last week in month.

Reed Warbler:-

Notes received of single bird singing in hedgerow at Washington on 29th (ES). It was seen again on 1st May but not subsequently.

Sedge Warbler:-

1 at Tanfield Ponds on 20th was first (RHF) followed by 3 at Holywell on 22nd (SE). On 23rd, 2 at Gosforth (TCS) after which date they were established in small numbers at most known breeding localities.

Blackcap:-

Female at Seaton Delaval on 13th (AB), male at Hauxley on 19th, 2 at Seaton Delaval and 2 in Howick Dene on 20th (AB/BG/GB). Another passage bird at Hauxley on 28th (HRS) by which time they were present in small numbers in breeding areas.

Whitethroat:-

1 at Cresswell on 18th was the first record (TH). On 21st, 1 at Burness (WJ), becoming common throughout county from 24th. 1 on the rocks at South Shields on 27th was an interesting record of an immigrant (RA/LGG).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 trapped at Hauxley on 28th was the first and only record (HRS).

Willow Warbler:-

First noted on 18th when 10+ at Stocksfield (WG) and 1 in Team Valley (ES). During next three days reported as plentiful from many coastal and inland localities and remaining so until end of month.

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Bamburgh on 1st and 3rd (BRS), 1 at Milbourne on 2nd (WJ), 2 near Heldon on 6th and 15th (JEO), 6 at Howick on 14th (GB/BG), 2 at Bamburgh on 16th (BRS), 1 at Cresswell on 18th/19th (TH), 1 at Hauxley on 20th and 2 on 24th (HRS).

Wood Warbler:-

3 at Stocksfield on 27th was the first and only record (JSB).

Goldcrest:-

Passage birds were reported from Bamburgh (10 on 4th), Hauxley (4 on 19th/20th), Seaton Sluice (1 on 21st) and Holy Island (1 or 2 on 21st).

Pied Flycatcher:-

1 at Newsham on 17th was the first (JJ) followed by several records on 20th; 1 at Howick (GB/BG), 1 at Allenbanks (LGM), 13 at Dipton and 1 at Stocksfield (LG).

Meadow Pipit:-

Moving through Bamburgh on 1st/3rd with 200+ each day (BRS).

Tree Pipit:-

First recorded on 20th when 7 at Bamburgh (B & TH) and 1 at Hauxley (HRS). On 27th 2 at Stocksfield (JSB).

White Wagtail:-

On 6th, 1 at Holywell (CED) and on 7th 1 at Whittle Dene (GB/BG). A host of records of parties of up to 4 between 19th/28th mainly from coastal areas.

Grey Wagtail:-

Up to 2 daily at Bamburgh from 1st/4th (BRS). Reported from 3 breeding localities.

Yellow Wagtail:-

First recorded on 18th when 2 at Washington (ES). On 19th, 2 at Cresswell (TH) and 3 at Gosforth (TCS). Became common during next three days at Holywell, Swallow, Cresswell and Hauxley.

/Blue-headed Wagtail

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

1 at Cresswell on 23rd (B & TH). / 1 on Holy Island on 14th "had a blue head but no eyestripe" (J J). This will be considered by the Rarities Committee. _/

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at South Charlton on 2nd (MH).

Hawfinch:-

Single bird on Holy Island on 20th (B & TH).

Goldfinch:-

Reported in small parties from nine localities, five of which were coastal.

Siskin:-

2 at Kielder on 7th (ERM).

Redpoll:-

An increase in numbers from 20th with 100 in the Rock (near Alnwick) area on 28th (SE).

Crossbill:-

Parties of 6 and 2 in the Kielder area on 6th/7th (ERM).

Brambling:-

6 near Rock on 7th (SE) was the only record.

Snow Bunting:-

1 at Banburgh on 1st/2nd (BRS).

List of Contributors.

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N.B.

All May records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE 15 7 RD by 8th June, 1968 please.

• **E. N.**

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

MAY, 1968 BULLETIN

WEATHER.

Shallow depressions moved N. over the Midlands until 7th, on 8th one was off France and 9th saw one to W. of Scotland producing S.E. winds. Pressure then began to rise and by 13th an anticyclone was to the S. of the country. It extended and slowly moved N.W., controlling the weather until 16th.

Drifting back again and later into Scandinavia it brought a cool, N. to N.E. airstream until 24th when a depression approached from the S.W. resulting in moderate S.E. winds. On 27th pressure rose again and a ridge of high pressure extending from Scandinavia dominated the weather until the end of the month.

SUMMARY.

In a month when the wind prevailed from an easterly quarter on 25 days out of 31, it was only to be expected that a steady passage of Summer visitors would be maintained. In addition to the usual May migrants a number of Eastern rarities appeared with Washington Ponds again figuring in the limelight.

During the period 4th/5th Osprey, Crane, Garganey, possible Little Ringed Plover and Ruff were noted whilst Hirundines were moving N. in large numbers. Between 10th/14th probable Marsh Harrier and another Osprey were seen with Terns, Auks and Hirundines all moving N. in good numbers.

Evidence of an overshoot of continental breeding species was afforded by the appearance of Quail, Kentish Plover, an unusual number of Scandinavian Waders, Black Tern, White-winged Black Tern and Red-breasted Flycatcher during the period 24th/30th.

An unusual number of Turtle Doves were recorded from 10th onwards and of the Winter species, late Red-throated Divers, Fieldfares and Redwing were noted.

Finally, towards the end of the month Fulmars, Gulls, Terns and in particular Shags, were found dead and dying along the coastline. There was no sign of oiling on the birds and all appeared to have been poisoned. Post mortem examinations are being performed on the corpses and the results should be available for next month.

Classified List.

Divers (Sp):-

1 flew N. at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

9 off Bamburgh on 5th (BRS) and 5 flew N. off Mauxley on 18th (HRS).

Great-crested Grebe:-

1 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (ES) and a pair at a second recognised breeding site on 25th (LGH).

Manx Shearwater:-

At Mauxley on 12th, 3 flew N. and 1 flew S. (HRS).

Fulmar:-

Passing N. off Mauxley at 80 per hour on 18th (HRS).

Gannet:-

A light movement off Bamburgh on 26th when 15 flew N. (BRS).

Shag:-

Towards end of month many Shags were found dead on the Northumberland and N. Durham coasts and the colony on the Farnes was severely reduced. The cause of the disaster is being investigated but it is believed to be connected with a simultaneous case of mussel poisoning that occurred in Newcastle amongst humans.

Heron:-

1 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (ES) and 1 at Hartburn on 4th (JEO).

Garganey:-

Male at Washington on 4th (RN) and again on 10th (ES). Male at Druridge on 14th (TH).

Gadwall:-

Female still at Holy Island Lough on 18th (RA/LGA) and male at Gosforth Park on 30th (SE).

Wigeon:-

3 records: on the 11th, 4 at Grindon, on 18th 4 at Hauxley (HRS) and on 31st, 1 at Gosforth Park (LGM).

Shoveler:-

Up to 3 seen at Holy Island, Newton and Holywell towards end of month whilst 9 were at Gosforth on 30th (SE/RA/LGG).

Tufted Duck:-

Small parties reported from Cresswell, Gosforth and Holywell with a maximum at the latter of 27 on 31st (SE/JEO).

Pochard:-

A pair on Holy Island on 25th (SE).

Goldeneye:-

Single birds at Newton on 18th and 26th and at Grindon on 26th (SE/LGM) whilst 10 were at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (ES).

Common Scoter:-

2 records. On 25th, 28 flew S. off Bamburgh (BRS) and on 26th, 9 flew N. off Dunstanburgh (SE).

Velvet Scoter:-

1 off Amble on 31st (TH).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

2 flew N. off Hauxley on 4th and 17 flew S. off Bamburgh on 31st.

Goosander:-

At least 6 pairs breeding in Upper Coquetdale (BG/JEO) and a pair with 3 young on the S. Tyne on 27th (LGM).

Shelduck:-

Breeding pairs reported from Budle Bay, Newton, Hauxley and Cresswell. 30 in Budle Bay all month were no doubt mostly non-breeding birds (BRS).

Canada Goose:-

A pair at Hallington on 1st were suspected of breeding (RG/WE/EL).

Sparrow Hawk:-

A pair near Wittingham during month (LGM).

Marsh Harrier:-

Notes have yet to be received on a bird reported as "not a male" on 12th at Longhoughton (TH).

Osprey:-

Single bird in Wooler area on 4th and 25th (MB/JLB) and another at Sweethope Lough on 11th (Bm.)

Merlin:-

Pair in Upper Coquetdale on 12th (BG).

Quail:-

1 heard calling near Beadnell on 26th (JLB/NE).

Common Crane:-

Single bird flew N. over Bamburgh on 5th (BRS). This record has been accepted by the Club Rarities Committee.

Water Rail:-

Single bird at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Coot:-

Seaton Burn continues to be one of the best breeding localities in the county for this species and 79 were seen there on 25th (LGM).

/Ringed Plover

Ringed Plover:-

Recorded from Washington all month with a maximum of 13 on 27th (RN/ES).

Little Ringed Plover:-

Single bird at Washington on 4th (RN). This record as well as that from Cresswell on 28th April (TH) cannot be accepted on the evidence submitted to date. Further details are awaited from the respective observers.

Kentish Plover:-

Full notes received on a female at Washington Ponds on 27th (ES). This record has been accepted by the Club Rarities Committee.

Turnstone:-

A steady decline in numbers reported from Banburgh and Hauxley. An inland record of 1 at Washington on 8th (ES).

Whimbrel:-

On 4th, 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and 4 flew S. over Chevington (BG/MN).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

A single bird reported from Grindon on 26th (LGM) and 1 at Hauxley on 8th (TH).

Green Sandpiper:-

Single bird reported from Washington on 21st (ES). 1 at Cresswell on 12th and 1 at Chevington on 27th (TH).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Longhirst on 2nd (MN). Present at Washington all month with a maximum of 3 on 9th (ES/RN).

Common Sandpiper:-

Single passage birds at Banburgh and Washington on 25th (BRS/ES).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 in breeding plumage at Washington on 27th/28th (ES).

Greenshank:-

1 at Cresswell from 1st until 26th (MN/TH). At Washington 2 on 14th and 25th and 4 there on 28th (RN/ES).

Little Stint:-

1 at Cresswell on 27th (TH).

Dunlin:-

Inland at Washington with a maximum of 10 on 8th (ES/RN).

Sanderling:-

A decline at Hauxley from 20 on 4th to 2 on 12th and non thereafter (HRS).

Ruff:-

4 at Washington on 4th and 1 on 26th (RN/per ES). 1 at Cresswell on 17th and 1 at Chevington on 30th (TH).

Arctic Skua:-

1 flew N. off Annstead on 19th (JHB/MP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

A light N. movement off Hauxley on 11th when 28 flew N. (HRS).

Glaucous Gull:-

1 at Holywell on 15th was an immature (MN). and another was at Seaham on 19th (ES).

Black Tern:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 24th (F. Colley).

White-winged Black Tern:-

1 in full breeding plumage at Washington Ponds on 30th May is the third record for Durham (ES).

Arctic/Common/Sandwich Terns:-

Moving N. off Hauxley on 11th, 12th and 18th with a peak on the latter date of 350 per hour (HRS).

Roseate Tern:-

Pair at Banburgh on 18th (RA/LGG) was the only record received.

Little Tern:-

Reported in parties of up to 4 from Bamburgh and Holy Island.

Guillemot/Razorbill/Puffin:-

Northerly passage noted off Hauxley on 11th (26), 12th (15 in half-an-hour), 18th (200 in half-an-hour) and 25th (100 in half-an-hour) (HRS).

Turtle Dove:-

More records than is usual. On 10th; 1 at Denton Burn (BG) and 1 at North Shields (MNC), on 11th, 1 at Bamburgh (BRS), on 28th, 1 at Cresswell (TH), on 29th, 1 at Warden (LH), on 30th, 2 at Corbridge Fell (RG/WE/EL) and on 31st, 1 at Bamburgh (BRS/TH).

Collared Dove:-

2 at Bamburgh on 5th and 4 on 11th were possibly passage birds (BRS).

Short-eared Owl:-

Single bird near Alwinton on 18th (JEO).

Mirundines:-

Swallows, Sand Martins and to a lesser extent House Martins noted moving N. in large numbers through both counties, on 4th, 5th, and 11th/14th. 350 Sand Martins at Holywell on 8th (MN) indicated the intensity of this movement.

Nuthatch:-

Bird singing in a fourth locality during the month (BG) - see April 1968 Bulletin.

Fieldfare:-

2 at Hauxley on 4th and 3 at Bamburgh on 11th.

Redwing:-

1 at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Wheatear:-

An influx at Hauxley on 4th involved 15 noticeably large birds (HRS).

Stonechat:-

Single pairs reported from Chevington and Newton (SE/JEO/BG).

Redstart:-

At the coast 3 on Holy Island on 5th (MN/LGM/CW) and 1 at Newton on 26th (SE).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

Coastal records from Hauxley (1 on 4th), Chevington (1 on 4th and 2 on 8th) and Druridge (1 on 11th and 14th) (MN/BG/TH).

Reed Warbler:-

1 singing in Gosforth Park on 31st (LGM).

Sedge Warbler:-

An influx at Hauxley on 4th with 15-20 present (HRS).

Blackcap:-

3 at Holy Island on 5th (MN/LGM/CW), 2 at Hauxley on 11th (HRS), 1 at Bamburgh on 11th and 2 next day (BRS), 2 at Washington Ponds on 14th (RN).

Garden Warbler:-

On passage at Hauxley (1 on 11th, 1 on 25th), and Bamburgh (1 on 25th, 1 on 26th and 1 on 31st).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Hauxley on 4th (BRS) and 1 at Amble on 5th (TH).

Chiffchaff:-

1 on passage at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS). 4 at Cawledge Burn on 5th (MN).

Wood Warbler:-

At the coast, 1 at South Shields on 11th (RA/LGG) and 1 at Bamburgh next day (TH). Recorded inland with 3 at Allenbanks and 1 at Warden (TCS), 5 in Dipton area (RG/WE/EL) and 1 at Rowlands Gill (RG).

/Spotted Flycatcher

Spotted Flycatcher:-

1 at Ryhope on 5th is the first record for this Spring (RA/LGG). Generally this bird was late in arriving. At Bamburgh a peak of 8+ was reached on 31st after being first seen there on 18th (BRS).

Pied Flycatcher:-

On passage; at Holy Island, 1 on 5th, and Hauxley, 1 on 11th (MN/CW/BRS). 1 at Holystone, R. Coquet, on 18th (JEO) and 40+ pairs in Dipton area 1 at end of month (BG).

Red-breasted Flycatcher:-

Female trapped at Hauxley on 25th is a very unusual record for Spring (BRS).

Tree Pipit:-

At at Bamburgh 1 on 5th, 8 on 11th and 2 on 12th (BRS).

White Wagtail:-

2 at Washington Ponds on 4th (RN).

Grey Wagtail:-

Single pairs reported from Holystone (JEO); Aydon (TCS) and Rowlands Gill (BG).

Goldfinch:-

Still apparently plentiful in coastal areas until mid month, with 8 at Hauxley on 4th and 8-10 at Bamburgh between 11th and 18th. 3 reports of pairs in hill areas.

Crossbill:-

A party of 9 near Bellingham on 5th (B.Mn.).

List of Contributors.

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N.B.

All June records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE 15 7RD by 8th July, 1968 on RECORD SHEETS PLEASE.

Gettysburg, Pa.

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

JUNE 1968 BULLETIN.

Further May records:-

Records received that were too late for publication in the May Bulletin are as follows:-

Red-throated Diver:-

On 19th definitely 1 and another 2 Divers (sp.) flew N. off Holy Island (CMA).

Manx Shearwater:-

2 flew N. off Holy Island on 19th (CMA).

Gadwall:-

Pair at Linton on 11th (B. Marshall).

Spotted Redshank:-

2 at othal on 11th/12th (B. Marshall).

Arctic Skua:-

1 on Holy Island on 19th (CMA).

Common Gull:-

On 19th off Holy Island a heavy N. movement when over 100 were counted in 1 minute (CMA).

Little Tern:-

3 at Holy Island on 19th (CMA).

Weather in June.

During the first three days the British Isles lay in a col, and winds were S.E. on 1st and 2nd, and N.E. on 3rd. On 4th a depression moved in from Iceland and winds became westerly until 8th. On 9th an anticyclone became established over the country and dominated the weather until 14th giving very light S. winds. From 15th onwards shallow depressions moved in from the Atlantic and winds became westerly and of varying strength. On 28th a ridge of high pressure developed over the country producing moderate S. Easterlies during the last two days.

Summary.

An interesting month with a surprising number of out of season observations.

Lingering Great Northern and Red-throated Divers, Turnstone, Sanderling and Glaucous Gull were reported from the coast, whilst Goldeneye and Fieldfare were seen inland.

Late Spring passage continued from the end of May into the first few days of June during which period Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint, Ruff, Avocet, Little Gull, Turtle Dove and White Wagtail were recorded.

There was a slight suggestion of return passage during the last few days of the month when Turnstones, Dunlin, Ruff and Arctic Skua were reported from coastal areas as a ridge of high pressure extended from Scandinavia.

Finally, breeding records included an encouraging number of Great Crested Grebes, Tufted Duck and Heron, a pair of Herring Gulls at an inland site, 2 pairs of Redstart and an unsuccessful attempt by a pair of Golden Orioles.

Classified List.

Great Northern Diver:-

2 in full Summer plumage flew N. off Seaham on 3rd (ES).

Red-throated Diver:-

1 off Alnmouth on 9th (BG).

Great Crested Grebe:-

Recorded from 7 localities, 6 in Northumberland and 1 in North Durham. The Durham pair reared 2 young but no young have yet been reported from the Northumberland waters. This species is maintaining its steady increase as breeding bird.

Manx Shearwater:-

2 flying N. in Staple Sound, Farne Islands on 29th (JMB).

Fulmar:-

Inland records refer to 1 flying N. over Newcastle on 3rd (BG) and 1 at Pawston Lake near Yetholm on 29th (CW/LMN/MN). 9/10 pairs present at an established inland breeding site in the North of the county. (JMB/MB).

Heron:-

Recorded from Pawston Lake on 8th and 29th (1 and 4 respectively), Kinner Lough on 16th (3), Rothley Lake on 21st (1), and Lilburn Pond on 29th (1) (LGM/MN/CW). Also 2 flew W. over Alnwick on 23rd (EIM).

Mallard:-

Flocks of 75 at Gosforth Park on 2nd (RN) and 70 at Pawston Lake on 29th (LGM/MN/CW). Up to 5 breeding pairs reported from Upper Coquet, Hallington, Bolan, Holywell and Capheaton (CMA/BG).

Teal:-

Reported breeding from Upper Coquet, and Linnheads (BG), 10 at Grindon on 22nd (GB).

Gadwall:-

2 ducks at Gosforth Park on 2nd (RN).

Wigeon:-

A drake at Gosforth Park for most of month (CW).

Pintail:-

1 at Cresswell on 25th (LGM/CW).

Shoveler:-

1 pair and 4 drakes at Gosforth on 2nd (RN), 5 drakes at Newton Bog on 5th (CMA) and 2 drakes at Washington on 13th (ES).

Tufted Duck:-

At Pawston Lake 27 on 8th and 49 on 29th (LGM/MN/CW); at Colt Crag up to 20 during month (CMA/BG); at Hallington 19 on 13th (CMA) and at Brasside Ponds near Durham 15 on 16th (RMP). Successful breeding reported from Gosforth (1 pair); Fenton, near Wooler (1 pair); Pallinsburn near Coldstream (3 pairs); Linnheads (7 pairs) and Brasside (1 pair).

Pochard:-

Successful breeding reported from Gosforth Park (5 young) and Pallinsburn (2 young). (JMB/MN/CW). Also up to 13 at Gosforth (RN), 7 at Brasside (RMP), 4 at Capheaton and 3 at Bolan (CW) during month.

Goldeneye:-

Female on the Coquet, near Holystone on 3rd (BG), and an immature drake at Newton Bog on 5th (CMA). Female at Warkworth on 30th (JMB).

Grey Lag Goose:-

14 with Canada Geese at Sweethope Lough on 23rd (GB/BG).

Canada Goose:-

On 5th, 11 flew S. over Newcastle (IHA) and on 7th 45-50 spent 3 hours circling low over North Shields before flying out to sea in mid afternoon (MNC). 15 at Sweethope Lough on 23rd (GB/BG). A pair reared 4 young at Hallington Reservoir during month (RG/WB/EL).

Sparrow Hawk:-

3 young reared from a nest in Upper Coquetdale during month (BG).

/Peregrine

Peregrine:-

1 seen to take a Sandwich Tern on the Farne Islands during the month (per (ERM)).

Merlin:-

8 nests found in the Kielder area during month. The eggs from 3 did not hatch whilst at least 12 young were reared from the other 5. (ERM). 3 young reared at a site in Upper Coquetdale (BG).

Coot:-

On 13th, at Holam 33 adults and 16 young, and at Capheaton 93 adults and 14 young. 140 adults at Seaton Burn on 26th with 140 adults at Seaton Burn on 26th with only a few young (GB/CW).

Oystercatcher:-

c50 at Longhoughton Steel on 29th (ERM).

Lapwing:-

A steady build up of non-breeding and juvenile birds from 4th when 14 at Longhirst and 60 at Cresswell (CW). On 16th, 15 at Kimmer Lough and 40 at Burnhope (CW/RN). On 17th/18th, 50 at Holywell and 22 at Gosforth (CW). On 21st/23rd, 700+ at Clayton Fell, 200 at Grindon, 40 at Elsdon and 200 at Hepple (GB/BG/CW).

Ringed Plover:-

At Cresswell Ponds, 12 on 2nd (BG) and 6 on 4th (CW). 12 pairs reared young on a 2 mile stretch of the River Coquet near Holystone during month (BG). Single birds reported from Longhirst on 4th and Washington on 17th (ES/CW).

Turnstone:-

2 at Bamburgh on 3rd (ERS) and 26 at Longhoughton Steel on 29th (ERM).

Curlew:-

Recorded moving N. off Seaton Sluice in small numbers on 29th/30th including a flock of 16 on the latter date (RN).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Washington on 4th (ES).

Redshank:-

Flocks of 10 at Colt Crag on 13th (CMA) and 18 at Cresswell on 16th (CW).

Little Stint:-

Single bird at Cresswell Ponds on 2nd may have been that which was reported there on 27th May. (GB/BG).

Dunlin:-

2 records; 3 at Grindon on 22nd (GB) and 1 at Washington on 28th (ES).

Sanderling:-

Still 20 in Druridge Bay on 5th (RN).

Ruff:-

On 3rd/4th 2 females at Washington (BG/ES) and on 25th 1 male at Cresswell (LGM/CW).

Avocet:-

1 watched swimming for half-an-hour at Cresswell Pond on 1st (LGG).

Arctic Skua:-

A light phase bird flew S. on 29th (RN).

Gulls (sp):-

The Chevington roost contained 1200 Herring, 400 Common, 350 Greater Black-back, 150 Lesser Black-back and 100 Black-headed on 25th (CW).

Herring Gull:-

A pair reared 2 young on a moorland bog in the S. of the county (MN/LGM).

Glaucous Gull:-

An adult on the Farne Islands during month (per ERM).

Little Gull:-

A sub-adult on the Farne Islands during month (per ERM).

Kittiwake:-

21 occupied nests were counted on old warehouse ledges on Newcastle Quayside on 13th (RMP).

Common Tern:-

Up to 15 frequented Washington Ponds from 24th until end of month (ES). 3 at Burnhope Reservoir on 16th (RN).

Turtle Dove:-

On 2nd, 1 at Greenhaugh (MN/LGM/CW) and 1 at Bamburgh (BRS).

Barn Owl:-

Single pairs successfully reared young at Killingworth and Kielder whilst a pair was reported breeding at Bamburgh.

Short-eared Owl:-

1 at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS) and 2 pairs with young in Kielder Forest during month (EL).

Nightjar:-

For the third year in succession no birds seen or heard at the Kyloe and Dipton sites.

Swift:-

A light S. movement in coastal areas on 29th/30th with 18 off Hauxley on each day (HRS) and a few off Seaton Sluice (RN).

House Martin:-

Over 175 occupied nests under Tillmouth Bridge, near Coldstream on 8th (CW/LGM/MN). Smaller colonies reported under road bridges in Upper Coquetdale (TCS).

Golden Oriole:-

A pair made an unsuccessful attempt at breeding at a Northumberland locality during month.

Fieldfare:-

1 at Kimmer Lough on 16th (MN/LGM/CW).

Stonechat:-

Only 1 pair breeding at Bamburgh this year (5 pairs in 1967) (BRS).

Reed Warbler:-

A pair in Gosforth Park during month (MN).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 seen and heard at Kilbryde, Corbridge on 2nd/4th (WB).

Chiffchaff:-

During the month reported from Spondlestone (1), Alnwick (10), Dipton (2), Beaufront (2) and Hexham (2).

White Wagtail:-

One trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 2nd appeared exhausted (BRS).

Grey Wagtail:-

This species appears to have made a full recovery as a breeding bird since the disastrous hard winter of 1962/63.

Crossbill:-

3 seen in Kielder Forest on 30th (ERM).

Goldfinch:-

Reported during the month from Gosforth Park (1), Hauxley (1), Durham City (2) and Holystone (4).

List of Contributors:- I. H. Armstrong, C. H. Adanson, J. M. Payldon, M. Bell, W. Brady, G. Bruce, H. N. Coates, Bamburgh and Hauxley Ringing Stations, B. Galloway, L. G. Glass, R. Grey, R. F. Jenkins, E. Little, E. Lobley, L. G. MacFarlane, E. R. Meek, M. Nattrass, R. Norman, R. M. Palmer, E. Shearer, T. C. Smith, C. Ward.

Request for information:- Several hundred young Black-headed Gulls have been colour ringed at a Northumberland colony this year. The Recorder would welcome any observations of birds displaying colour rings noting the colour and if possible the leg on which the ring appears and also the date and place.

All July records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle, NE15 7RD by 8th August, 1968 on record sheets please.

SUMMARY.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the northerly movement of sea birds that occurred from 13th onwards, reaching a peak on 14th-16th. Strong northerly winds and heavy seas brought out of season species such as Divers, Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Goldeneye, Greanser, Little Auk and Pomarine Skua, whilst abnormal numbers of Gannets, Common and Velvet Scoters, Bar-tailed Godwits and Terns were reported. In addition, one Balearic Shearwater, a few Manx, several Great Skuas and 6 Little Gulls were seen.

On 20th a Red-necked Grebe appeared inland and a Jack Snipe was seen on the Farnes.

Further Little Gulls were reported from inland whilst during the last ten days of the month the Scandinavian waders began to appear in small numbers at inland waters. This period also saw the beginning of a southerly movement of passerines with phylloscopus and sylvia warblers, and flava wagtails passing through coastal areas.

An adult male Blue-headed Wagtail trapped at Holywell on 31st terminated a very interesting July indeed.

Classified List.

Black-throated Diver:-

At St. Mary's Island 1 on 15th and 16th in breeding plumage (JDP).

Great Northern Diver:-

On 8th, 1 at Newton (AJ), on 13th, 1 flew S. off Whitburn (RA. LGG), and on 16th, 1 at St. Mary's Island (JDP).

Red-throated Diver:-

1 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 11th (CW).

Great Crested Grebe:-

In addition to the birds reported from 7 localities last month, a single bird was seen in the Northumbrian Lakes on 13th (CW/LG/RN). No young have yet been reported from the Northumberland sites.

Red-necked Grebe:-

Single bird in full Summer plumage at Bothal Pond between 20th and 25th (CW/LG/BG/BM et al).

Little Grebe:-

Successful breeding reported from Newton, Bolan, Capheaton, Colt Crag, Woodhorn, Holborn, Bothal, Holywell and Longhirst.

Manx Shearwater:-

All except two records were of birds flying N. On 9th, 11 off Hauxley in half-an-hour and 3 off Cresswell (BM). On 11th, 6 off Seaton Sluice in 1½ hours (CW). On 13th, 2 off Whitburn (RA/LGG). On 14th, 4 off Seaton Sluice in 1 hour (CW). On 16th, 21 off Cresswell (RN), 12 off St. Mary's (JDP) and 14 off Seaton Sluice (CW). On 17th, 20 off St. Mary's (JDP/CW). On 20th, 1 off Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Balearic Shearwater:-

On 16th, 1 seen flying N. off St. Mary's (JDP). This record will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Fulmar:-

Off St. Mary's, 53 flew N. in 2½ hours on 16th and 23 flew N. in 3½ hours on 17th (JDP). On 8th July, 49 were counted on the Ridges of Bamburgh Quarry (AJ).

Gannet:-

Heavy N. passage noted between 14th and 20th with an apparent peak on 16th when 324 adults and 58 immatures were counted off St. Mary's in 2½ hours (JDP). Outside this period smaller numbers were noted moving N. off Hauxley, Cresswell and St. Mary's.

Heron:-

Numerous records involving parties of up to 4 throughout month,

/mainly

Grey Lag Goose:-

On 9th, 1 at Washington and on 13th 1 at Alnmouth (GB/ES).

Canada Goose:-

2 flew N. off Cresswell on 29th (CMA).

Whooper Swan:-

An unusually early record of 2 at Swallow Ponds on 30th (GB).

Kestrel:-

In a nest from which three young were reared at Langleeford the remains of 7 Skylarks, 2 Song Thrushes, 2 Meadow Pipit, 2 Field Voles and 2 Grass Snakes were found on 7th (AJ).

Merlin:-

1 chasing Linnets near Bedlington on 28th June (AJ).

Coot:-

On 8th, 103 at Newton (AJ) and on 21st, 400 at Capheaton (CW).

Oystercatcher:-

27 flew S. off Seaton Sluice on 7th (CW) and 22 at Cresswell on 20th (BM/CW).

Lapwing:-

Flocks of between 50 and 500 reported from widespread localities from 6th onwards. On 13th, 1300 at Grindon was by far the largest concentration (CW).

Ringed Plover:-

Inland passage birds at Tanfield Ponds (2 on 7th/14th) and Bothal (1 on 25th) (RMP/RN). 32 near Beadnell on 27th (IHA).

Golden Plover:-

At New Delaval 100 on 11th had increased to 450 by 23rd (CW). On 27th/28th 120 in Budle Bay and 750 near Beadnell (IHA/CW). On 30th 200 near Allendale and 40 near Staward (RG/EL).

Turnstone:-

5 at Newton on 8th (AJ). 12 at Hauxley on 11th and 20 on 20th (HRS) 9 at Whitley Bay on 21st (SE), 150 on Holy Island on 27th (CW) and 20 at Cresswell on 31st (BG).

Jack Snipe:-

On 20th a single bird was reported by research workers on the Inner Farne. (per BG).

Curlew:-

Small parties in coastal areas during month with a maximum of 110 in Budle area on 27th (CW).

Whimbrel:-

Between 6th and 31st there were 13 records involving a total of 18 individuals.

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

1 flying N. off Hauxley on 7th was the first of the Autumn (HRS) whilst 194 were counted flying N. off the coast between 14th and 23rd. 1 was seen inland at Washington on 17th (ES).

Green Sandpiper:-

At Washington up to 5 present between 5th and 31st (RA/LGG/ES/RN). On 14th, 1 at Sanburgh (HRS). Up to 3 at Bothal between 20th and 31st (GB/BG/BM). On 27th, 1 at Holy Island (CV) and on 30th 1 at Longhirst (BM).

Wood Sandpiper:-

On 4th, 13th and 15th, 1 at Washington (SE/BG/ES). On 8th/9th 1 at Cresswell (BM) and on 31st, 1 at Druridge (GB/BG).

Common Sandpiper:-

Passage birds noted from 6th onwards in parties of up to 5 from Beal, Beadnell, Alnmouth, Hauxley, Newton, Chevington, Cresswell and Washington.

Redshank:-

A general increase in numbers in coastal areas as the month progressed. 60 at Cresswell on 31st was the maximum recorded (BG).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 at Cresswell on 22nd and 29th (CMA).

/Greenshank

mainly from ponds close to the sea. 2 seen flying S. off Whitburn on 13th (RA/LGG).

Mallard:-

Many records of small parties from widely scattered localities. 62 at Holborn Moss on 25th was the largest flock reported (CMA).

Teal:-

Again small numbers from widely scattered localities. 22 at Longhirst on 28th was the largest flock reported (CW).

Garganey:-

At Longhirst, 3 on 8th and 6 between 20th and 30th (BG/BM). A drake at Cresswell on 18th (RN).

Gadwall:-

On 21st, 2 at Gosforth Park (SE) and on 27th, 2 at Cresswell (IHA).

Wigeon:-

Single birds reported from Cresswell and Newton on 8th (AJ/BM). Holywell on 27th (GB/BG) and Holy Island on 28th (CW). 12 flew N. off St. Mary's on 24th (JDP).

Shoveler:-

Reported in flocks of up to 10 from Newton, Druridge, Cresswell, Longhirst, Ashington, Woodhorn, and Gosforth.

Scaup:-

On 14th, 4 drakes, at Warkworth, 2 at Cresswell (also 16th and 18th) and 1 in Druridge Bay (JMB/RN). On 17th, 1 flew N. off St. Mary's (JDP/CW) and on 20th, 3 flew E. off Hauxley (H.R.S.).

Tufted Duck:-

Further successful breeding reported from Holywell (7 pairs), Capheaton (1 pair) and Hallington (3 pairs) brings the number of known sites to 8. In addition, flocks were reported from Colt Crag (60 on 18th), Broomlee (20 on 13th), Capheaton (50 on 21st) and Whittle Dene (28 on 26th).

Pochard:-

On 10th, 30 at Holywell (CED), 24 at Hartburn on 21st (CW), and 18 at Capheaton on 18th (CMA).

Goldeneye:-

On 8th, 1 at Warkworth (AJ). On 18th, 1 at Bolan (CMA) and on 25th, 1 at Derwent Reservoir (RN). Off St. Mary's, 1 N. on 24th, 1 S. on 25th, 9 N. in four hours on 26th and 4 N. in one hour on 27th (JDP/HP/CW).

Long-tailed Duck:-

Off St. Mary's 3 N. on 17th, 2 N. on 18th, 2 N. on 26th and 1 N. on 30th (JDP).

Velvet Scoter:-

Exceptional numbers reported from 15th onwards. Off St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice 111 were counted passing N. between 15th and 30th with a peak of 32 in three hours on 15th (RN/MN/HP/JDP/CW). Off Cresswell a flock of 20 on the sea on 18th (RN). Off Seaham 3 flew N. on 15th (ES).

Common Scoter:-

Again exceptional numbers moving N. from 13th onwards. Off St. Mary's between 15th and 30th, 1419 flew N. in a total of 30 hours watching (RN/JDP/HP). This movement was also reported by other observers at different points along the coast. Flocks of 400 and 250 were noted on the sea at Hauxley and Druridge Bay respectively during the above period (HRS/JMB).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Between 2nd and 27th a total of 37 were counted flying N. mainly off St. Mary's. Again the peak of the movement occurred on 15th/16th (RN/JDP/HP/CW).

Shelduck:-

Pairs with young reported from Budle Bay, Coquet Estuary and Cresswell. Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 1 flew N. on 2nd (RN), 9 flew N. on 22nd and 1 flew N. on 26th (JDP).

Greenshank:-

At Beal, 2 on 27th (CW). At Cresswell, 1 on 28th and 3 on 29th (CMA/BG). At Longhirst, 1 on 8th and 3 between 25th and 30th (BM/RN/CW). At Bothal, 2 on 25th and 1 on 26th (BM). At Washington between 1 and 3 from 13th until 24th (BG/ES/RMF).

Knot:-

7 at Bamburgh on 14th (BRS) whilst on 20th, 17 at Hauxley (HRS) and 7 at Cresswell (BM/LGH/CW).

Purple Sandpiper:-

1 at Hauxley on 7th and 9th (HRS), 2 at Bamburgh on 14th (BRS) and 4 on Farnes on 21st (BG/BM).

Little Stint:-

Single bird at Cresswell on 18th (RN).

Dunlin:-

A gradual build up in numbers in coastal areas as the month progressed. A peak of 30 at Cresswell was reached on 31st (GB/BG). Whilst up to 6 were recorded daily at Washington (ES). 11 at Bothal on 20th (BG/BM).

Sanderling:-

4 records:- On 13th, 8 at South Shields (RA/LGG), on 14th, 7 at Bamburgh (BRS), on 20th 9 at Hauxley (HRS) and on 27th, 95 on Holy Island (CW).

Ruff:-

Up to 2 at Cresswell all month. On 7th, 2 at Tanfield (RMP), 1 at Washington between 26th and 31st (RA/LGG/ES) and 1 at St. Mary's on 27th (HP).

Arctic Skua:-

Between 3rd and 29th a total of 22 were counted flying N. and 2 S. at several points between Hauxley and Whitburn. 6 off St. Mary's on 26th was maximum recorded on any day (JDP et al).

Great Skua:-

On 11th, 5 flew N. in 1½ hours off Seaton Sluice whilst off St. Mary's single birds flew N. on 23rd, 25th and 26th (CW/HP).

Pomarine Skua:-

At Seaham single birds were recorded on 28th and 30th (ES).

Little Gull:-

More records than is usual. Off St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice 3 adults flew N. on 16th, 1 adult flew N. on 23rd and 2 juveniles flew N. on 30th (RN/JDP). An adult at Washington from 19th until end of month (RA/LGG/ES) and an adult at Holywell on 27th/28th (GB/BG/MN).

Greater Black-backed Gull:-

Moving N. off Hauxley at 120/hour on 7th and 40/hour on 20th. Most were immatures (HRS). 138 were counted on the Long Ranny, near Beadnell on 27th (IHA).

Kittiwake:-

Heavy N. movements were noted off Hauxley on 9th (1000/hour), St. Mary's on 15th (950 in three hours) and 16th 1050 in four hours) (HRS/JDP). 2 were seen at Holborn Cross on 25th (CMA).

Common Tern:-

Recorded inland at Washington all month with a maximum of 22 on 19th (ES). Also 1 at Holywell Ponds on 27th (BG).

Roseate Tern:-

Moving N. with other sea birds from 13th until end of month with a peak of 30 on 16th (JDP et al:-

Little Tern:-

More records than is usual. Single birds reported from Hauxley on 7th (HRS), Budle Bay on 12th (AJ), Cresswell on 20th (BG), Newton on 21st (RA/LGG) and Druridge on 29th (BM). At South Shields 2 on 6th and 4 on 20th (RA/LGG), 2 on Holy Island on 12th (AJ) and on 27th, 2 near Beadnell and 3 at Seaham (IHA/ES). On four days between 15th and 26th, 7 were counted passing N. and 2 S. off St. Mary's (JDP).

Sandwich Tern:-

A heavy N. passage noted off St. Mary's on 15th-17th when 3500+

were counted in at total of $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours (JDI/CW).

Guillemot/Razorbill/Puffin:-

Off Hauxley moving N. at 100/hour on 3rd, 30/hour on 7th and 60/hour on 9th (HRA). On 20th, 40 Puffins flew N. in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour (HRS).

Little Auk:-

2 flying N. off St. Mary's on 17th were in Summer plumage (JDP). An unusual record for July.

Barn Owl:-

Further breeding reported from Widdrington (BM) and South Shields (SE).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 in Allendale on 30th (RG/EL), 1 at Newton on 27th (IHA) and 1 being mobbed by Herons and Terns over Cresswell on 31st (GB/BG).

Swift:-

Moving S. off Hauxley and Seaton Sluice between 1st and 3rd during thunderstorms. At Seaton Sluice, 74 were counted in 1. hours (RN).

Sand Martin:-

Passage birds reached peaks of 100 at Cresswell on 8th (BM) and 500 at Holywell on 25th (GB/CED). Also noted moving S. over Whitley Bay on 21st (SE).

Stonechat:-

A pair feeding young at Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Reed Warbler:-

Again noted singing in Gosforth Park on 21st (SE).

Blackcap:-

A passage bird trapped at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 21st (SE).

Willow Warbler:-

Passing through Hauxley during last week of month with a peak of 8 on 27th (HRS).

Chiffchaff:-

An early passage bird trapped at Hauxley on 27th/28th (HRS).

Yellow Wagtail:-

c50 at Cresswell on 8th (BH).

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

An adult male trapped and ringed at Holywell Ponds on 31st (CED).

List of Contributors.

I. H. Armstrong. C. M. Adamson. R. Adams. J. M. Bayldon. G. Bruce. C. B. Douglas. S. Edwards. B. Galloway. L. G. Glass. R. Grey. A. Jobling. L. G. Macfarlane. E. Marshall. E. Martin. E. Lobley. M. Nattrass. R. Norman. H. Pattison. J. D. Parrack. R. M. Palmer. E. Shearer. C. Ward. Bamburgh and Hauxley Ringing Stations.

The Recorder apologises for the absence of a weather summary but holiday arrangements have resulted in the maps not being collected from the Tynemouth Coastguard.

All records for August to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE 15 7RD, by 8th September, 1968 please.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

WINTER PROGRAMME.

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER INCLUSIVE.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 12TH, SEPTEMBER, 1968 | - | BIRD TRIPS TO FRANCE - P. YEOMAN. |
| 10TH OCTOBER, 1968 | - | CRESSWELL PONDS ON FILM - E. BAIRD. |
| 26TH OCTOBER, 1968 | - | 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER, IMPERIAL HOTEL.
(GUEST SPEAKER: JAMES ALDER). |
| 13TH NOVEMBER, 1968 | - | JOINT FILM SHOW WITH R.S.P.B., CITY HALL,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 1. |
| 14TH NOVEMBER, 1968 | - | SPAIN ON A STRING - M. BELL. |
| 12TH DECEMBER, 1968 | - | AUDIO VISUAL LECTURE.
(EXCELLENT SLIDES COUPLED TO TAPE RECORDED
LECTURE). |

All Club Meetings in Friends Meeting House, Jesmond Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne commence at 7.15.p.m. second Thursday in each month.

TYNNE FIELD CLUB

WINTER PROGRAM

STARTING TO DECEMBER INCLUSIVE

- 1ST, SEPTEMBER, 1968 - THE TRIP TO FRANCE - D. YOHAN.
- 10TH OCTOBER, 1968 - CROSS-COUNTRY ROUNDS ON RAIN - D. BAIRD.
- 20TH OCTOBER, 1968 - 10TH ANNUAL YOUNG GENTLEMEN'S DINNER, IMPERIAL HOTEL. (GUEST SPEAKER: JAMES A. DILL).
- 13TH NOVEMBER, 1968 - JOINT WITH SHOT AND R.S.I.D., CITY HALL, INDEPENDENT UNION TYPE, I.
- 14TH NOVEMBER, 1968 - BRANCH OF A STING - I. BAIRD.
- 15TH NOVEMBER, 1968 - AUDIO VISUAL LECTURE. (RECORDING SLIDES CONTAINED TO TAPE RECORDED LECTURE).

All Club Meetings in Friends Meeting House, 105 and 106, Newcastle upon Tyne to begin at 7.15 p.m. second Thursday in each month.

AUGUST 1968 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

The weather favoured immigration of waders and passerines during three periods of the month.

High pressure extending from the North during the first five days resulted in falls of Willow Warblers, Whitethroats and Pied Flycatchers in coastal areas on 3rd/4th and also a few waders.

High pressure over Scandinavia and a Low to the S.W. produced E. to S.E. winds from 9th-14th. During this period Fieldfares began to appear and a Brambling, a Bluethroat, 2 Icterines, a Barred Warbler and a Red Backed Shrike were recorded along with a few of the commoner migrants.

During the "lull" until 23rd, Little and Temmincks Stint were reported and a Stone Curlew was seen at Cresswell.

A high pressure area extended from the Azores to Scandinavia from 22nd-27th and on 23rd a light S.E. wind and overnight rain brought a fall of "drift" migrants. The wind changed to N.E. on 24th and with low cloud for the next five days a Corncrake, Fieldfares, a Redwing, Wheatears, Whinchats, Redstarts, 2 Reed Warblers, a Barred Warbler, Garden and Willow Warblers, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, Common Whitethroats and Pied Flycatchers were all grounded at the coast. Waders were also affected and large numbers of Ruff in particular were recorded, with Turnstone and Knot appearing inland.

Further July Records:-

Manx Shearwater:-

On five days between 2nd-16th, 26 flew N. through Staple Sound and 14 flew S. (JAG).

Great Shearwater:-

Notes received on six birds, 2 on 2nd., 2 on 10th and 2 on 11th that flew N. past Staple Island (JAG) will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Glaucous Gull:-

An adult on the Farnes on 3rd and 11th (JAG).

Great Skua:-

Off Staple Island 1 on 8th., 8 on 11th and 3 on 12th (JAG).

Little Gull:-

A 1st year on Brownsman on 3rd and 21st (JAG).

Gulleneye:-

2 at Chevington on 20th (ERM).

Classified List

Diver (sp):-

At Hauxley, 1 S. on 24th, 1 N. on 26th and 1 N. on 28th (H.R.S.).

Red-throated Diver:-

Off Seaton Sluice 1 N. on 15th and 1 N. on 26th (RN).

Great Crested Grebe:-

1 pair still present on each of two inland reservoirs during month but no young were seen (WB/RG/EL). At the coast single birds reported from Hauxley and Seaham on 3rd (H.R.S/ES), Seaham on 7th (ES), Holy Island on 11th (AJ), South Shields on 17th/18th (RA), St. Mary's on 24th (SE) and Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S.).

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 flew N. off Newbiggin on 9th (BM).

Little Grebe:-

3 at Whittle Dene on 30th was an unusual record for this locality (IHA). On 31st, 19 at Bolam, 16 at Hartburn and 22 at Capheaton (LGM/CW).

Manx Shearwater:-

34 were reported moving N. off the coast on six days between 6th and 26th.

Sooty Shearwater:-

On 25th, 2 flew N. off Seaton Sluice (RN) and 3 flew N. off Hauxley (H.R.S.) Another flew N. off Hauxley on 26th (H.R.S.).

Fulmar:-

All records were of birds moving N. with counts being made on 11 days between 6th and 29th. Passage was heaviest during the period 6th-9th when up to 300 per hour were noted. (BM/CW et al).

Gannet:-

As with Fulmar all records refer to birds moving N. 14 counts between 1st and 29th showed a peak passage of about 100 per hour on 6th-9th. (BM/CW et al) and again on 29th when 70+ passed Hauxley in half-an-hour.

Heron:-

Many records of parties of up to three from coastal areas probably involved a total of 16 birds.

7 in Dudge Bay on 11th deserves special mention (AJ).

Mallard:-

A build up in numbers towards the end of month when 150 were at Gosforth Park on 21st (RN), 200 at Holywell on 24th and 300 at Capheaton on 31st (LGM/CW).

Teal:-

Parties of up to 30 noted on inland waters and c50 at Newton on 31st (SE). Between 21st-26th a light N. movement was noted at the coast with up to 60 birds per day being seen.

Garganey:-

Between 3 and 5 at Longhirst from 2nd-11th and 3 at Bothal on 14th (BM/MN).

Gadwall:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 21st and 24th (RN/LGM/CW) and 3 at Tanfield Ponds on 31st (RMP).

Wigeon:-

A gradual build up in numbers as the month progressed with a particular concentration of records between 24th and 31st. Generally, small parties were recorded from widespread localities. 22 at Whittle Dene (IHA) and 68 N and 15S off Seaton Sluice (RN) on 26th, 25 off Hauxley on 28th (H.R.S.) and 35 at Hartburn on 31st (LGM/CW) were the largest numbers reported.

Pintail:-

1 at Blaydon Ponds on 10th (BL). At Cresswell Ponds 1 on 17th and 25th (LGM/CW) and 2 on 27th (RA/LGG). 1 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 26th (RN).

Shoveler:-

Parties of up to 10 reported from five waters in Cresswell/Ashington Area. 30 at Gosforth Park on 21st (RN) and 13 at Holywell on 24th (CW).

Scaup:-

3 flew N. off Hauxley on 3rd (H.R.S.) and 3 flew N. off St. Mary's on the 4th (CW).

Tufted Duck:-

Reported from Cresswell (5 on 27th and 2 on 31st), Newton (2 on 31st) and Whittle Dene where a maximum of 38 was noted on 29th (IHA et al).

Pochard:-

2 at Whittle Dene on 21st (IHA), 4 at Cresswell on 27th (RA/LGG) and 1 at Newton on 31st (SE).

Goldeneye:-

2 flew N. off St. Mary's on 24th and 1 at Newton on 31st (SE).

Long-tailed Duck:-

2 drakes at Colt Crag Reservoir on 1st were no doubt linked with the early appearance of this species at the coast during the second half of July (WB/RG/EL).

Velvet Scoter:-

At Seaham 1 on 3rd and 2 on 7th (ES). Off St. Mary's 1 N. on 7th (CW). Off Seaton Sluice 1 on 8th (IHA) and 1 on 26th (RN). Off Hauxley 1 on 26th and 27th (H.R.S.)

Common Scoter:-

Noted moving mainly N. between 1st and 4th and again between 23rd and 26th at Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's. 105 off St. Mary's on 4th and 59 off Seaton Sluice on 26th were the respective maxima during each period.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

A pair off Holy Island on 11th (AJ). 1 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 25th (ERM).

Shelduck:-

In addition to the usual groups of adults and juveniles off the coast 4 records came from inland waters. At Washington a juvenile from 5th-9th and an adult on 11th (ES). An adult at Barnston Ponds on 14th (RA/LGG) and 2 at Whittle Dene from 21st until 28th (IHA). Flock of 24 flying S. off Hauxley on 29th was unusual (H.R.S.).

Grey Geese (sp):-

14 flew S. over Milbourne on 28th (WGJ).

Grey Lag Goose:-

Between 5th and 22nd, 2 on a golf course near Bedlington (AJ).

Canada Goose:-

25 flew S. over Heddon on 19th and 1 came in off the sea at Druridge on 25th (IHA).

Whooper Swan:-

The two birds at Swallow Ponds last month reported as being early have in fact been resident there for the last three years (LGM/MN).

Buzzard:-

1 at Milbourne on 30th/31st (WGJ).

Sparrow Hawk:-

All records refer to the period 21st-31st when single birds were reported from Gosforth Park, Bolam, Wallington and Chevington, (BL/LGM/CW) and 2 were seen in Hartford Dene (AJ).

Montagu's Harrier:-

An adult male near Bellingham on 9th (PWEC).

Merlin:-

1 remained in the Bedlington area throughout month (AJ).

Water Rail:-

2 at Grindon Lough on 10th may be a new locality (IHA).

Corn-crake:-

Single bird flushed by a harvester at Chevington Burn on 31st (BL/EM/MN).

Oystercatcher:-

Interesting counts of 95 in Coquet estuary on 8th (CMA) and 41 at Cresswell Ponds on 25th (BM).

Lapwing:-

Large flocks reported from Grindon (500 by 10th), Whittle Dene (500 from 11th until 31st) and Washington (440 on 23rd). (IHA/RN).

Ringed Plover:-

At Boulmer 51 on 3rd (LGM). Present at Whittle Dene between 24th (4) and 31st (2) with a peak on 25th of 13 (IHA).

Grey Plover:-

3 in Budle Bay on 18th (LGM/RN/CW) and 1 flew N. off Hauxley on 24th (H.R.S.).

Golden Plover:-

On 10th, 200 at Grindon (IHA) and 17 on the Farnes (JAG). on 11th, 200 at Whittle Dene increasing progressively to a maximum of 1000 on 31st (IHA). On 18th, 250 at Beadnell and 250 in Budle Bay (LGM/CW) and on 30th, 1000 near Catton (RG/WB/EL).

Turnstone:-

2 interesting inland records from Whittle Dene; 1 on 24th and another on 27th (IHA). This species was last reported inland in September 1962 when 1 was again seen at Whittle Dene.

Common Snipe:-

60 at Whittle Dene on 17th (IBA) and 80 at Washington on 5th (ES) were the respective maxima for each locality. Small numbers also reported from Hauxley and Cresswell.

Jack Snipe:-

2 at Cresswell on 25th (CW) constitutes the Autumn's second record.

Curlew:-

The Budle Bay flock had increased to 177 on 18th (B.R.S/CW).

Whimbrel:-

Parties of up to 5 regularly noted moving S. over coastal areas throughout month. A flock of 8 flying S. at Chevington on 11th was the maximum recorded (BG/BI/MN).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Total of 8 flew N. off Hauxley on six days during month. 4 at Whitley Bay on 24th (SE) and 2 on Holy Island on 29th (RA/LGG).

Green Sandpiper:-

An excellent month for this species. Reported from 12 localities and probably involving a total of c35 individuals. 12 at Washington on 5th/6th is an exceptional concentration (ES) whilst up to three were recorded from waters as far apart as Bamburgh, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene and Tanfield.

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 in the Cresswell area on 3rd (BG/BI/MN). 1 at Washington on 18th and 30th (RN) and 1 at Whittle Dene on 24th/26th (IHA).

Common Sandpiper:-

Between 4th and 29th parties of up to 4 recorded from mainly coastal localities.

Redshank:-

100 at Cresswell on 11th was by far the largest concentration reported (AJ). 30 on Brownsman on 9th constituted a large influx (JAG).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 on Brownsman on 9th (JAG) 1 at Cresswell between 11th and 25th (AJ/LGM/CW). 1 at Whittle Dene from 17th-24th (IHA) and up to 2 at Washington from 17th-23rd (RN/SW).

Greenshank:-

Many records from the coast and inland as far as Rolan, Whittle Dene and Tanfield. 8 at Beal on 18th (LGM/CW), 6 at Longhirst on 11th (BM/MN) 6 at Whittle Dene on 25th (IHA) and 5 at Washington from 17th-30th (RN/SW) were the largest concentrations reported.

Knot:-

30 at Hauxley on 1st (H.R.S.), 30 at Whitley Bay on 23rd (SE) and 20 at Cresswell on 27th (RA/LGG) were the largest numbers recorded. Two inland records were unusual; 1 at Washington from 7th-13th (ES) and at Whittle Dene 7 on 24th and 2 on 25th (IHA).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Up to 5 at St. Mary's from 1st-26th (SE/CW) and 1 on Holy Island on 29th (RA/LGG). The Farnes flock had increased to 120 by 17th (JAG).

Little Stint:-

1 at Cresswell Ponds from 18th until 27th (AJ et al).

Temminck's Stint:-

Notes received on a single bird at Washington Ponds on 17th (SW/A. Temple/G. Bond). This record will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Dunlin:-

450 at Budle Bay on 10th (B.R.S.) was by far the maximum number recorded. Present at Whittle Dene between 17th-31st with a maximum of 11 on 30th (IHA).

Sanderling:-

At Hauxley numbers gradually increased from 22 on 4th to 82 on 28th (H.R.S.). Only small parties recorded from other coastal points.

Ruff:-

Many records of parties of up to 6 from all along the Northumberland coast and inland as far as Whittle Dene. The largest flocks reported were at the end of the month, with 8 at Whittle Dene on 25th (IHA), 24 at Cresswell on 28th/29th (BM/MN) and 40 at Washington on 22nd (SW)./Stone 4.

Stone Curlew:-

Notes received for a single bird at Cresswell on 18th (AJ). This record will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Arctic Skua:-

Many records from all along the coast. A general N. movement was noted between 3rd-11th with a maximum of 11 off Hauxley on 11th, and moving S. between 21st-31st with a maximum of 10, again off Hauxley, on 24th.

Great Skua:-

All records are of birds moving N. On 7th/8th, 1 off St. Mary's and 2 off Seaham (CW/ES). On 22nd, 1 off Boulmer (B.Mn.) and on 25th 1 off Seaton Sluice (RN). Off Hauxley, 1 on each of 23rd, 24th and 29th and 11 on 25th (H.R.S.).

Great Black-backed Gull:-

Moving N. at 140/hr. on 6th and a gathering of 800 at Reggie's Burn rubbish tip on 24th (LGM/CW).

Little Gull:-

Last month's bird still present at Holywell (until 27th) and Washington (until 23rd) (MN/RN et al). Also 1 adult at Swallow from 4th-18th (MN), 2 1st. Y. flew N. off Hauxley on 24th and 1 N. on 25th (H.R.S.).

Glaucous Gull:-

A 1st. Y. flew N. off Hauxley on 28th (H.R.S.).

Kittiwake:-

Moving N. off St. Mary's at 600/hr. on 1st, 170/hr. on 4th, 130/hr on 6th and 110/hr. on 7th (CW).

Black Tern:-

1 flew N. off Newbiggin on 7th (BM), 1 at Cresswell on 11th (AJ), 1 at Swallow Ponds from 14th-18th (MN) and three at Hauxley on 23rd (H.R.S.).

Common Tern:-

At Washington Ponds 12 on 13th, 4 on 20th and 1 on 23rd (RN/ES). 1 at Gosforth Park on 24th (LGM/CW).

Roseate Tern:-

Single birds seen off Hauxley, South Shields and Bamburgh whilst 40 flew N. in one hour off St. Mary's on 6th (CW).

Little Tern:-

Only 1 record: 1 at South Shields on 18th (RA).

Sandwich Tern:-

1 inland at Swallow Ponds on 24th (CW/LGM).

Tern (sp):-

Moving N. off St. Mary's at 250/hr. on 1st and slowly increasing to 800-1000/hr. by 7th (CW).

Turtle Dove:-

1 at Hauxley on 31st (H.R.S.).

Cuckoo:-

Single juveniles at Holy Island on 29th (LGG et al). and Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S.).

Short-eared Owl:-

on 11th, 1 at Chevington (BG et al). on 29th, 1 at Cresswell (ERM et al). On 30th/31st 1 at Bamburgh (B.R.S.).

Swift:-

Single birds at Hauxley on 25th and 27th (H.R.S.).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

A single bird at Hauxley from 27th-31st may have been an immigrant (H.R.S.).

Swallow:-

Moving S. through coastal areas from 17th onwards (CMA et al). A roost of 5000 in Gosforth Park on 21st included a pure white bird (BL).

Marsh Tit:-

Not a common bird so 6 at Villington on 31st is worthy of note (LGM/CW).

Nuthatch:-

On 31st, 1 at Bolan and 2 at Wallington (CW/LMG).

Fieldfare:-

An incredible number of early records since the first on the Farnes on 20th July. 3 on Brownsman on 8th and 3 on 9th (JAG). 6 at Bamburgh on 10th (B.R.S.). 2 at Washington on 11th (SW). On 14th, 20 on Brownsman (JAG) and 6 at Swallow Ponds (MN). Many records from thereafter of parties of up to 17 from all along the coast.

Redwing:-

An early record of 1, trapped at Hauxley, on 25th (H.R.S.).

Wheatear:-

Slight influx in coastal areas after 23rd with a maximum of 12 at Hauxley on 25th (H.R.S. et al).

Stonechat:-

1 at Hauxley on 26th (H.R.S.).

Whinchat:-

Appeared with Wheatears in coastal areas after 24th with a maximum of 6 at Hauxley and Holy Island this date (H.R.S et al).

Redstart:-

Up to 3 at many places along the coast from 24th-31st.

Bluethroat:-

Full notes obtained on a single bird on Staple Island on 14th (JAG).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

On 3rd/4th up to 3 recorded from Bamburgh, Cresswell and Choppington (B.R.S/BM/MN).

Reed Warbler:-

1 at Seaton Sluice on 25th (ERM) and 1 trapped at Hauxley on 30th (H.R.S.).

Icterine Warbler:-

Full notes received on single birds on Brownsman on 11th (JAG) and at Bamburgh from 11th-18th (B.R.S.). The latter was trapped and ringed.

Blackcap:-

1 at Chevington on 11th (BM/BG) and 1 at Craster on 25th (BM/RA). Single birds trapped at Hauxley on 3rd, 26th and 31st (H.R.S.).

Barred Warbler:-

1 on Brownsman on 14th (JAG) and 1 at Chevington on 31st (BL et al).

Garden Warbler:-

Light influx from 13th-17th and again after 23rd with birds being reported from Holy Island (1), Bamburgh (2), Brownsman (1), Hauxley (6) and Whitley Bay (1).

Whitethroat:-

18 at Bamburgh on 3rd/4th (B.R.S.), 1 on Brownsman on 13th (JAG) and up to 15 at several coastal points between 24th-31st.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

At Hauxley 2 on 10th and 1 on 17th (H.R.S.). On 25th, 1 at Craster (RA/BM) and 1 at St. Mary's (MB).

Willow Warbler:-

On 3rd/4th 10 at Bamburgh and Hauxley. On 11th, 11 trapped at Hauxley (H.R.S.). Between 24th-31st between 15-30 present daily at Hauxley and small numbers reported from other coastal points.

Chiffchaff:-

1 singing in Gosforth Park on 24th (LGM/CW).

Goldcrest:-

1 at Bamburgh on 4th (B.R.S.) and up to 6 at Hauxley and Bamburgh between 26th-31st.

Spotted Flycatcher:-

Singles trapped at Hauxley on 17th, 24th and 26th (H.R.S.) and on 31st, 25 at Wallington after a heavy shower (CW).

Pied Flycatcher:-

On 4th, 15 on Brownsman with 3 remaining until 6th (JAG). Innumerable records from coastal points after 23rd. The maximum reported were:-

On 23rd, 5 at Hauxley.
On 24th, 9 at Whitley Cemetery, 8 at Blyth Cemetery and 30 at Hauxley.
On 25th, 18 at Bamburgh and 20 between Hauxley and Cresswell.
On 28th, 12 at Priors Park.
On 29th, 15 on Holy Island and 8 at Bamburgh.

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Warkworth on 31st (SE).

Yellow Wagtail:-

35 at Cresswell on 11th (CV) and 20 at Whittle Dene on 16th (RG/WB).
30 at Washington on 22nd (SE).

Meadow Pipit:-

Notes received on an apparently diluted form of this species at Cresswell Ponds on 11th (AJ).

Red-backed Shrike:-

1 seen near Washington on 13th (SWO was probably a result of the small scale "drift" that occurred during this period.

Goldfinch:-

Up to 15 at both Bamburgh and Hauxley during month. Parties of up to 8 reported from five other localities. 1968 seems to have been a very good year for this species.

Brambling:-

A very early record of 1 on Brownsman between 3th-17th (JAG).

Siskin:-

1 at Staward Peel on 2nd (DEM).

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Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations, Farne Islands Records -
J. A. Ginnever.

All September records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE 15 7 RD by 9TH OCTOBER, 1968 please.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

SEPTEMBER 1968 BULLETIN.

Summary.

High pressure over Scandinavia dominated the weather until the 13th when winds varied from N.E. to S.E. and resulted in a general S. flow of migrants through the county. Northern waders reached a peak during this time and a Hobby, a Bluethroat and the first Great Spotted Woodpecker were seen.

On the 13th, a depression became established to the S. of the country before deepening and moving E. into N. France. Winds became steady from E. to N.E. and a considerable fall of migrants was noted from 13th/16th. Besides the commoner species usually associated with such a movement more Great Spotted Woodpeckers appeared and 2 Reed Warblers, Siskin, Red-backed Shrike, 1 (or 2) Hoopoes, Osprey, 2 Icterine Warblers and Snow Buntings were noted. A significant N. movement of sea birds was also noted including unusual numbers of Sooty Shearwaters.

Another depression moved E. into the North Sea via Britain on the 18th and again an E. to S.E. airstream persisted during the subsequent two days. Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Red-breasted Flycatcher and 40 Barnacle Geese were seen and 2 American Buff Breasted Sandpipers appeared.

Between 22nd and 30th winds were predominantly from a W. quarter with a depression to the W. of Ireland, although S.E. winds were experienced on 25th/26th. More interesting species during this period were Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Buzzard, Black Tern and Barred Warbler.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Great Northern Diver:-

1 off Bamburgh on 7th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

Off Hauxley 1 N. on 14th and 1 S. on 28th (HRS).

Great Crested Grebe:-

A juvenile at Longhirst on 1st and 6th (BM/MN), 2 at Seaton Burn on 7th, 2 at Holy Island on 22nd (LGM/RN) and 1 at Tynemouth on 29th (F. Colley).

Red-necked Grebe:-

At Bamburgh, 6 on 7th and 4 on 22nd (BRS).

Little Grebe:-

Reported from 15 waters with maxima of 17 at Longhirst on 2nd, 20+ at Colan on 7th (CW), 11 at Hartburn on 8th (SE) and 8 at Capheaton on 5th (CHA).

Manx Shearwater:-

Only 2 records: 1 N. off Hauxley on 1st (HRS) and 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 16th (RN).

Sooty Shearwater:-

An unusually heavy N. movement between 14th/16th. On 14th, 25 N. off Hauxley in 1½ hours (HRS). On 15th, 17 N. off Hauxley in 1 hour and 1 N. off Seaton Sluice (RN). On 16th, 10 N. off Seaton Sluice in 3 hours (RN) and 2 N. off Hartley (CV).

Fulmar:-

On 15th, moving N. off Hauxley at 120/hour (HRS) and off Seaton Sluice at 70/hour (CW).

Gannet:-

Moving N. on several days with a peak on 14th/16th of 300/hour off Holy Island and Hauxley (RN/CW et al).

Shag:-

2 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 1st is a most interesting and unusual record as this species is rarely seen inland in Northumberland (CW/LGM).

/Heron

Heron:-

Parties of up to 4 reported from many inland and coastal sites but an apparent influx on 15th with 14 at Capheaton (CMA) and 7 at Hallington (RG/WB/EL).

Mallard:-

Numbers continue to increase with 400 at Capheaton on 5th (CMA), 95 at Broomlee on 15th (LGM), and 250 at Hartburn on 28th (CW).

Teal:-

A similar build up in numbers with 100 at Havannah on 7th (LGM), 60 at Colt Crag on 8th (SE), 140 at Budle Bay on 7th and 22nd (BRS), 60 at Capheaton on 15th (CMA) and 280 at Holywell on 29th (CED).

Gadwall:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 5th and 17th (LGM/MN/RN).

Wigeon:-

Again numbers continue to increase. On the 7th, 26 N. off South Shields (RA/LGG) and 15 N. off Hauxley. On 14th, 160 N. off Hauxley, on 15th, 98 at Broomlee (LGM) and 21 at Capheaton (CMA). On 22nd, 100 at Budle Bay and 40 at Hartburn (SE) and on 28th, 47 off Hauxley. Smaller numbers reported from 8 other waters.

Pintail:-

On 14th, 2 at Grindon (RG/EL) and on 28th, 6 at Hartburn (CW).

Shoveler:-

Reported from Hallington, Grindon, Holy Island, Hartburn and Gosforth with a maximum of 26 at the latter on 17th (RN).

Scaup:-

Female inland at Gosforth Park on 17th (RN).

Tufted Duck:-

Up to 130 at Colt Crag all month (CW et al) and up to 20 at 8 other waters.

Pochard:-

On 1st, 50 at Wingates (LGM/CW). On 8th, 65 at Hartburn increasing to 100 on 22nd (SE). On 28th, 85 at Wingates and 45 at Whittle Dene (CW). Up to 20 reported from 3 other waters.

Velvet Scoter:-

On 16th, 1 S. off Seaton Sluice and on 22nd, 2 N. off Hauxley (RN/HRS).

Eider:-

An interesting count of 2200 off Bamburgh on 7th is the largest BRS have recorded in the area.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

15 off Ross Links on 7th (BRS) and 14 at Holy Island on 22nd (LGM/RN) 1 N. off Hauxley on 15th (HRS).

Shelduck:-

12 in Budle Bay on 1st and only 3 there on 8th (SE/RE).

Grey Lag Goose:-

A few records at the beginning of the month. On 1st, 1 at Colt Crag (LGM) and 1 at Newton (RE). On 3rd, 2 at Holywell (SW) and on 5th, 2 at Hallington (CMA).

Barnacle Goose:-

Flock of 40 flew S. over Longhirst on 21st (CW).

Canada Goose:-

35 adults at Colt Crag on 1st and 30th (LGM/CW).

Mute Swan:-

200 at Tweedmouth on 25th (TCS).

Buzzard:-

A very tired or injured bird in Jesmond Dene on 28th (GB).

Osprey:-

1 near Riding Hill between 17th and 22nd (RE).

Sparrow Hawk:-

On 8th, 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Friars Park (HRS/CW) and on 14th 1 near Seahouses (CW).

/Peregrine

Peregrine:-

1 flew S. over Holywell Dene on 15th (JDP).

Hobby:-

A first year bird at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Merlin:-

1 near Seahouses on 14th (CW).

Water Rail:-

2 at Bamburgh on 21st (BAS).

Coot:-

201 at Broomlee on 15th and 300+ at Seaton Burn on 21st (LGM). 83 at Capheaton on 5th, 121 at Bolam on 15th and 124 at Holywell on 24th (CMA).

Lapwing:-

500 at Kirkley on 14th (IHA). 600 at Acklington on 22nd and 800 near Korpeth on 29th (BG) were the largest flocks reported.

Ringed Plover:-

Between 1 and 3 at Whittle Dene Reservoir on 1st-4th and 2/3 at Colt Crag Reservoir from 1st - 15th (CW et al).

Grey Plover:-

4 at Holy Island on 8th (RG), 1 on 15th (RA/LGG) and 8 on Fenham Flats on 17th (JKJ). On 14th, 4 N. off South Shields and 4 N. off St. Mary's (JDP).

Golden Plover:-

On 7th, 150 at Hauxley (HRS) and again on 22nd. 300+ at Klondyke on 19th (LGM), 400 at Cresswell on 28th (CW) and 750 near Catton on 29th (RG/BL). 4000 at Jarrow Slake all month (SE).

Common Snipe:-

60 at Washington on 1st (BM), 30 at Whittle Dene on 2nd (IHA), and 50 at Holywell on 15th (CED) were the largest concentrations reported.

Curlew:-

40 at Hauxley all month (HRS) was the largest number reported.

Whimbrel:-

Moving S. over coastal districts all month. 26 were seen over Hauxley on 9 days from 1st-29th and 9 seen at Holywell on 2nd (CED).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

1 at Budle Bay on 7th (BAS). 2 flew N. off St. Mary's on 14th (JDP) and 1 at Bamburgh on 20th.

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

A record of 1 inland at Colt Crag Reservoir on 6th (RG/WB/BL). Parties of up to 6 noted regularly in coastal areas.

Green Sandpiper:-

No records after 6th when 1 at Colt Crag (RG/WB/BL) and 1 at Washington (RA/LGG). On 1st, 2 at Bamburgh, 2 at Bothal and 3 at Washington (BM). On 2nd, 2 at Choppington (CW) and 1 at Chevington (BG).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at St. Mary's on 1st (GB), 2 at Washington on 14th (SE) and 1 at Holywell on 19th (MN).

Common Sandpiper:-

Parties of up to 3 seen at Holy Island, Hauxley, Amble and Whitley Bay with a maximum of 3 at the latter on 24th.

Spotted Redshank:-

At Longhirst 1-3 between 1st and 6th (BM et al). On 2nd, 4 at Cresswell, 3 at Bothal, and 2 at Swallow (LGM/CW). On 4th, 2 at Linton (RG/WB). On 7th, 1 at Budle Bay (HRS). On 14th and 21st, 1 at Beal (CW). On 20th, 1 at Washington (SE).

Greenshank:-

Still quite plentiful with up to 3 present on many waters close to the coast. 4 at Longhirst on 1st (BM). 7 at Holywell on 11th (MN), 6 at Washington on 14th (SE), 5 at Bamburgh on 28th (BAS) and 10 at Beal on 22nd (CW/LGM) are worthy of species note.

Knot:-

200 flew N.E. over Friars Park on 26th (MH).

/Little Stint

Little Stint:-

1 at Cresswell on 28th/29th (MN/BMn. et al.).

Dunlin:-

12 at Whittle Dene Reservoir on 2nd (IMA) had reduced to 6 on 6th. (RG/WB/EL). Concentrations of no more than 30 reported from the coast.

Curlew Sandpiper:-

1 at St. Mary's on 24th (SE).

Sanderling:-

70 at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Ruff:-

Many records of parties of up to 4. Washington (maximum of 30 on 6th) and Longhirst (max. of 31 on 2nd) were again the better waters. 13 at Bothal on 2nd, 10 at Holy Island on 14th (CW) and 4 as far inland as Grindon on 14th (RG/WB/EL) deserve special mention. Still 2 at Longhirst on 30th (BM).

Buff Breasted Sandpiper:-

Notes, received from B. & TH on 2 at Cresswell Pond on 18th, will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee. 7

Arctic Skua:-

Numbers still low. 11 off Hartley on 16th was the max. recorded (CW).

Great Skua:-

On 2nd, 1 off Hauxley. On 15th, 2 N. off Hauxley, 1 S. off Seaton Sluice (RN) and 2 off Holy Island (CW). On 16th 1 N. off Hartley (CW).

Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

Single bird belonging to this race was identified at South Shields on 7th (RA/LGG).

Greater Black-backed Gull:-

Moving N. at 800/hour off Hartley on 16th (CW) and 500 near Holywell on 20th.

Black-headed Gull:-

Moving N. at 800/hour off Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Little Gull:-

The single birds at Washington and Holywell were still present being recorded until 6th (RA/LGG) at the former and until 21st (CED et al) at the latter. 1 at Ellington on 4th (WB/RG).

Kittiwake:-

A heavy N. movement noted at the coast on 14th/16th with a peak of 1200/hour at Hauxley on 14th.

Black Tern:-

1 at Ellington on 28th/29th (RA/PY/SE).

Sandwich Tern:-

Still 2 at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Comic Tern:-

Still 2 at Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Cuckoo:-

1 came in from the E. at Hauxley on 4th. On 14th/15th 1 at Druridge Wood (IMA/RA).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 at Bamburgh on 1st and 7th (BRS), 2 at Swallow on 4th (BMn.), 1 at Allendale on 7th (SE), 2 at Holywell on 19th (MN) and 1 on 29th (RFJ).

Swift:-

5 records: 5 at Holy Island and 1 at Whitley Bay on 2nd (CED), 1 at Hauxley on 3rd (BRS), 4 at Bamburgh on 20th (BRS) and 1 at Cresswell on 26th (BM).

Kingfisher:-

1 at Norpeth early in the month (per EG).

Hoopoe:-

Single bird watched in the sand dunes at Hauxley for 1½ hours on 14th (HRS) and another (or the same?) seen at Druridge on the following day (PY).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

Following the single bird at Hauxley at end of August there were a

further 20+ birds reported from along the coast in September. 1 on Holy Island on 8th (RE) and up to c10 there between 15th-22nd. Also on 15th, 1 trapped at Bamburgh was a Northern bird, (confirming their origin) 2 at Blyth (RN/CED), 1 at Whitley Bay (JDP/LH). 1 at Alnmouth (per JDP) and 1 at South Shields (RA/LGG). On 16th, 5 in North Shields (MNC) and possibly as many as 4 in Marsden - South Shields area (SW). 1 still present in South Shields on 28th (SW). Single birds at Klondyke and Ulgham may also have been part of this influx.

Skylark:-

A heavy S. movement at Hauxley on 28th/29th with flocks of up to 200 passing over (HRS).

Swallow:-

Noted moving S. in coastal areas on many days during month. Still 100 at Hauxley on 29th.

Sand Martin:-

Late records on 29th of 1 at Ellington (SE) and 1 at Hauxley.

Fieldfare:-

Up to 20 reported from many localities throughout month.

Song Thrush:-

An influx in coastal areas after 26th with 50 at Hauxley (HRS) and 30+ at Priors Park (MH).

Redwing:-

3 on Holy Island on 15th (MN/LGG), 1 at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS), 1 in Blyth Cemetery on 25th and 29th (G/RN), and 200 in South Shields on 30th (SW).

Ring Ouzel:-

1 at Bamburgh on 15th and 28th (BRS) and 5 at Marsden on 30th (SW).

Blackbird:-

An apparent influx after 25th with 45 in Whitley Cemetery (RN). 60+ in Priors Park (MH) and "many" at Marsden (SW).

Wheatear:-

Apparent influxes on 13th/15th and 22nd/28th with up to 40 on Holy Island, 30 at Hauxley and 25 at Whitley Bay. Still 2 as far inland as Haydon Bridge on 24th (RG/WD/SL).

Stonechat:-

1 at Hauxley on 5th and 1 at Whitley Bay on 13th (MH).

Whinchat:-

Involved in the movements of 14th/16th and 22nd/28th. 28 at Holy Island on 14th (MN) and 12 there on 22nd (LGM) were the largest concentrations during each period.

Redstart:-

Reported from the coast in small numbers on almost every day. An apparent peak on 14th/15th when 12 on Holy Island, (MN/CW). 7 at Bamburgh and 10 at Hauxley. Still 1 in Blyth Cemetery on 29th (GE) and 1 at Marsden on 30th (SW).

Bluethroat:-

A 1st. year female trapped at Bamburgh on 8th (BRS).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 trapped at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Reed Warbler:-

2 at Bamburgh on 14th/15th 1 of which was trapped (BRS).

Sedge Warbler:-

A very late bird at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Icterine Warbler:-

1 in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 15th (JDP) and another possible at Priors Park on 16th (MH).

Blackcap:-

2 at Bamburgh on 14th and singles on 19th, 20th and 22nd (BRS). Singles at Hauxley on 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 14th and 29th (HRS). 1 at Priors Park on 14th (MH) and 1 on Holy Island on 22nd (CW). /Barred Warbler

Barred Warbler:-

The single bird at Chevington at end of August was seen again on 2nd (BG/BN/IN). 1 at Bamburgh on 20th (BRS) and 29th (RE).

Garden Warbler:-

Up to 2 at Hauxley on 6 days between 10th and 29th. 6 on Holy Island on 14th/15th (RA/CW) and 6 at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS) where they were noted regularly after 7th.

Whitethroat:-

Still 1 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

On 1st and 22nd, 1 at Hauxley (HRS). On 2nd, 1 at Chevington (BG). On 14th, 1 at Bamburgh (BRS).

Willow/Chiff:-

30 at Hauxley and 10 at Priors Park on 1st/2nd were probably all Willow Warblers. On 14th/16th 6 on Holy Island (CW) and 6 at Priors Park (MH).

Willow Warbler:-

9 at Bamburgh on 20th (BRS).

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Hauxley on 14th and 2 on 21st (HRS) and singing birds heard at Gosforth Park on 7th (LGM) and Corbridge on 28th (WB).

Goldcrest:-

3 at Holy Island on 15th (RA/LGC) and 30+ at Priors Park next day (LM). Up to 12 at Hauxley most of month.

Spotted Flycatcher:-

1 at Whitley Bay on 5th and on 14th 4 on Holy Island and 2 inland at Wark (RW/CW).

Pied Flycatcher:-

Up to 8 at most coastal points on many days during month. 1 at Hauxley on 29th was the last record.

Red-breasted Flycatcher:-

A 1st. year trapped at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Meadow Pipit:-

Large numbers noted moving S. at Whitley Bay and Hauxley on 13th, 22nd and 28th (MH/HRS).

Tree Pipit:-

1 at Priors Park on 10th (MH).

White Wagtail:-

1 in Priors Park on 14th (MH).

Grey Wagtail:-

Singles at Bamburgh on 1st and 21st and 2 on 22nd (BRS). 1 at Budle Bay on 8th (RE) and 1 at Cresswell on 26th (BK).

Yellow Wagtail:-

Only 2 records; 1 at Whitley Bay on 5th (RN) and 5 at Haydon Bridge on 8th (TOS).

Red-backed Shrike:-

Singles at Hauxley on 13th, 14th and 21st possibly involved 2 individuals.

Goldfinch:-

Again several records including flocks of up to 20 from Font, Hartburn, Ulgham, Hauxley and Chevington.

Siskin:-

1 on Holy Island on 14th/15th (JMJ/CW).

Snow Bunting:-

Singles on Holy Island on 14th, 17th, 19th and 22nd. 1 at Hauxley on 15th (HRS) and 3 at St. Marys on 28th/29th (SE).

List of Contributors.

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OCTOBER 1968, BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

High pressure moving in from the S.W. provided little in the way of passerine immigration during the first four days but light N.E. winds from 5th - 7th brought Barred Warbler, 2 Yellow-browed Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Great Grey Shrike, the first substantial fall of Turdidae, 2 Black Redstarts, an influx of Titmice, a Honey Buzzard and a light N. movement of duck. Turdidae immigration continued until 9th and another Yellow-browed Warbler was recorded.

Between 10th - 17th a deep depression moving in from the N. Atlantic gave strong westerly winds and most of the interesting information came from duck counts. However, a Wryneck and a Yellow-browed Warbler were noted during this period and an adult Little Gull appeared.

High pressure over Scandinavia and a complex low pressure system to the S.W. of the country gave a S. to S.E. airstream between 18th and 27th. Conditions were ideal for Turdidae immigration and many thousands were reported arriving from the E. Peaks appeared to be on 19th and again on 24th/25th. At the same time a few Black Redstarts appeared together with a Siberian Lesser Whitethroat, 2 Great Grey Shrikes, a Waxwing and several Woodcock. 7 Bewick Swans may have also been connected with this movement.

During the last few days a deep depression to the N. of the British Isles curtailed the movement of passerines and little of interest was reported.

Classified List.

Diver (sp):-

At Holy Island 2 N. on 1st, 4 on 2nd and 25. on 6th (B & TR). 8 S. at Hauxley on 6th (BRS) and 20 in Druridge Bay on 3rd (CW).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 S. off Holy Island on 1st and 2 there on 2nd (B & TR).

Red-throated Diver:-

35 in Alnmouth Bay on 13th (BR, BM et al) and 1 N. off Whitburn on 20th (SV).

Red-necked Grebe:-

2 off Sanburgh on 22nd (BRS).

Little Grebe:-

6 at Bolan on 13th (CMA) was the highest number reported from 5 waters

Gannet:-

Up to 10 moving N. on each of the 6th and 12th off Hauxley and 1 off Seahouses on 22nd (CMA).

Heron:-

Still plenty of records and up to 13 recorded from Budle Bay (BRS et al). 6 at Pawston Lake on 5th (CW) and 2 on the Farnes on 14th (CMA) are perhaps worthy of special note. Recorded as mainly single birds from other localities both inland and coastal.

Mallard:-

Many records involving flocks of up to 400. The larger numbers are as follows:-

400 at Pawston on 5th (CW) and 200 at Kinner Lough on same day. c150 in Budle Bay most of month.

200 at Whittle Dene on 11th and 20th (BR/LIA).

200 at Holborn Moss on 12th (CMA).

200 at Gosforth on 13th (SE).

200 at Hartburn on 20th (IMA) and 180+ at Erwent Reservoir on 27th (RN).

Teal:-

Larger concentrations were as follows:-

/100

100 at Holborn Moss on 2nd and 460 at Lilburn on 5th (CW). 500 in Budle Bay on 6th, 250 at Holborn Moss on 12th and on 13th, 130 at Capheaton (CMA) and 120 at Gosforth (SE).

Gadwall:-

2 at Gosforth on 13th (SE). 2 at Hartburn on 26th (LGM).

Wigeon:-

The Penham Flats/Budle Bay flock was already at 4,500 by 6th (BRS) whilst on 13th, 400 at Swinhoe and 450 at Holborn (CW). Parties of up to 40 noted at many inland waters during month. N. movement at coast was noted at Hauxley, Chevington and Whitburn on 5th, 6th, 19th and 26th when a total of about 400 was counted.

Pintail:-

Holborn Moss and Swinhoe Lake remain by far the best areas for seeing this species in good numbers. 38 were at Holborn on 2nd and 20 at Swinhoe on the same day. On 13th, 18 were at Holborn and 2 at Swinhoe (CW). On 6th, 2 flew N. off Hauxley (HRS).

Shoveler:-

Recorded from only three waters. Gosforth had a maximum of 45 on 13th (SE) whilst 1 was at Washington on 11th and 2 at Swallow on 13th (BI/SE).

Scaup:-

All records were of single birds on fresh water. 1 at Cresswell on 9th/15th (B & TH), 1 at Whittle Dene on 11th/27th (IHA/BG/BI) and 1 at Bolam on 26th (CW).

Tufted Duck:-

83 at Whittle Dene on 6th and 83 at Hartburn on 20th (Whittle Dene (JSB) (Hartburn IHA). were by far the largest concentrations reported. 1 on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 12th (SE) is an unusual occurrence.

Pochard:-

140 at Whittle Dene on 5th (IHA/BG/SE), 70 at Gosforth on 13th (SE), 52 at Hartburn on 26th (LGM/CW) and 47 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (RN) were the largest flocks reported.

Goldeneye:-

On 6th, 13 N. off Chevington (BI/BI) and small numbers moving S. off Hauxley/Bamburgh on 8th, 13th and 19th. On 20th, 23 off Bamburgh (BRS). The larger inland concentrations were towards end of month with 9 at Whittle Dene on 20th, 7 at Holywell on 26th/27th (CED), 21 at Bolam on 26th (LG/CW) and 12 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (RN).

Long-tailed Duck:-

Off Bamburgh 3 on 13th, 8 on 22nd and 14 on 27th (BRS).

Velvet Scoter:-

On 6th, 12 N. off Hauxley (HRS) and 7 S. off Holy Island (B & TH). 1 off Dunstanburgh on 26th (JSB).

Common Scoter:-

120 off Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

4 N. off Hauxley on 6th and 3 S. there on 19th (BRS). On 12th, 2 off Holy Island (CMA), on 13th, 3 off Alnmouth (BI/BI/et al), and on 20th, 17 S. off Whitburn (SU) and 26 off Bamburgh (BRS).

Shelduck:-

80 in Budle Bay on 20th (BRS).

Grey Geese:-

19 flew S.E. over Alnmouth on 14th (CMA).

Grey Lag Goose:-

23 at Holborn Moss on 12th (CMA) and 4 at Cresswell on 24th (B & TH).

Pink footed Goose:-

5 at Holywell Ponds on 26th (CED).

Barnacle Goose:-

4 on Holy Island on 1st (CW).

Mute Swan:-

167 on Holy Island Slakes on 12th (CMA).

/Whooper

Whooper Swan:-

Apart from the "resident" 2 at Swallow Ponds, 6 records probably involved a total of 44 birds. On 6th, 13 at Holy Island and 1 at Washington (RA). On 26th, 4 at Wingates (CW) and 20 flew E. over South Shields (SW) and on 30th, 6 at Grindon (CIA).

Bewick Swan:-

On 26th, 7 at Wingates (CW/LGM).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Singles at Hauxley on 5th, 6th and 8th were all judged to be immigrants.

Honey Buzzard:-

A bird probably of this species seen only briefly at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Merlin:-

On 1st and 4th, 1 on Holy Island (B & TH), on 5th, 1 at Bamburgh (BRS) and on 26th, 1 at Hauxley (HRS).

Water Rail:-

Only 2 reported; 1 at Swallow on 8th (SW) and 1 at Alnmouth on 25th (EM).

Coot:-

100 at Bolam on 13th (CIA), 245 at Hartburn on 26th (LGM/CW) but only 60 at Holywell during month (CED). (For this time of year the lowest count at the latter locality since 1964).

Oystercatcher:-

100+ at Whitley Bay on 4th (SE) and 100+ in Budle Bay on 6th (CIA).

Lapwing:-

250 at Whittle Dene on 11th was largest flock reported (BM). Noted moving S. over South Shields on 5th/7th (57, Alnmouth on 13th (60-70), South Shields on 20th (30) and Hauxley on 27th (300 in 2½ hours).

Grey Plover:-

On 2nd, 1 on Penham Flats, on 3rd 1 at Cresswell (CW) on 6th 2 at Budle Bay (CIA) and on 18th 2 at Hauxley (HRS).

Golden Plover:-

1500 at Hauxley on 5th and 1000 in Budle Bay on 6th (CIA). 100 at Whittle Dene on 20th (IHA), 300 at Christon Bank on 26th (BMn), and 480 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (RN).

Turnstone:-

120 at Whitley Bay on 4th was largest concentration reported (SE).

Common Snipe:-

On 5th, 100+ at Holywell (CED), on 11th 100+ at Whittle Dene (BM), on 12th, 50 at Holborn Moss (CIA), on 19th, 20 came in from the E. at Hauxley (HRS) and on 26th 50 at Capheaton (CW).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS) and 1 at Bamburgh on 26th/27th (BRS).

Woodcock:-

On 7 days between 5th and 27th a total of 10 were noted at Hauxley. Immigrants were also noted at North Shields (1 on 20th), Priors Park (1 on 24th), Marsden (1 on 25th and 28th) and Dunstanburgh (1 on 26th).

Curlew:-

c50 in Budle Bay on 6th (CIA).

Whinbrel:-

A late bird at Holy Island on 6th (RA).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

500+ on Penham Flats on 2nd (CW);

Green Sandpiper:-

3 at Whittle Dene on 6th and still 1 on 20th (JSB/BM/IHA).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Swallow Ponds on 8th is a late record for this species (SW).

Redshank:-

82 at Alnmouth on 7th (BM), 75 at Cresswell on 8th (CW) and 60 at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Spotted Redshank:-

More records than is usual for October. 1 at Holywell all month. On 5th, 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Warkworth (MN). On 25th, 1 at Alnmouth (EM) and on 27th, 1 at Washington (SW).

Greenshank:-

All records refer to the first few days. 6 at Fenham on 2nd (CW), 1 at Warkworth on 5th (EM), and on 6th, 3 at Bamburgh, 1 at Holywell and 1 in Budle Bay (BRS/CED/SE).

Purple Sandpiper:-

17 at Seaton Sluice on 26th was the largest number reported (CMA).

Little Stint:-

Single bird at Cresswell from 8th - 11th (TH/CW).

Dunlin:-

2000 on Fenham Flats on 2nd and still 5 as far inland as Capheaton on 26th (LGM/CW).

Sanderling:-

62 at Hauxley on 13th was the largest flock reported (HRS).

Ruff:-

12 at Newton on 6th (SE). Between 1 and 4 at Washington until 11th (RA/BM/CW). 2 at Longhirst on 7th (BA), 2 at Capheaton on 13th and 1 on Farnes on 22nd (CMA). 1 at Holywell on 13th, 19th/20th (CED/SE).

Arctic Skua:-

Off Holy Island 3 flew S. on 1st and 2 flew S. on 6th (B & TH). The only records.

Great Skua:-

On 6th, 2 flew N. off Hauxley and 1 S. off Holy Island (B & TH).

Greater Black-back Gull:-

Moving N. off Hauxley at 4000/hr. on 31st and 100 at Meggies Burn on 19th (CW).

Kittiwake:-

Moving N. at 200/hr. at Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Little Gull:-

An adult at Seaton Sluice on 12th (SE).

"Commic" Tern:-

2 at Bamburgh on 27th (BRS) was the last record.

Sandwich Tern:-

1 off Whitburn on 20th is quite a late record for this species (SW).

Auk (sp):-

Moving S. off St. Marys at 300/hr. on 19th (CW).

Short-eared Owl:-

Total of 9 individuals noted along coast between Holy Island and Chevington. Single birds also seen inland at Holywell and Swallow.

Green Woodpecker:-

1 seen in vicinity of Newcastle University on 5th (IHA) flying towards St. Mary's Place!

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

Still being seen at coast. At Aouth Shields, 1 on 2nd and another on 6th (per LGG). 1 at Warkworth on 26th and 1 at Hauxley on 27th. 1 found dead on the Farnes on 14th had been deaf for about a month (CMA).

Wryneck:-

A late wanderer trapped at Bamburgh on 12th/13th (BRS).

Skylark:-

Noted moving S. over Hauxley on 11 days between 5th - 29th reaching a maximum of 100/hr. on the latter date.

Swallow:-

Last recorded on 26th when 4 at Bamburgh and 1 at Hauxley. A heavy S. movement noted on 3rd - 5th in both Hauxley and South Shields areas.

House Martin:-

1 flew S. over Chevington on 10th (TH) and 1 at Holywell on 13th (SE).

Hooded Crow:-

A handful of coastal records suggests a slight immigration. 1 at Holy Island on 6th, 1 at South Shields on 20th and 1 at Sheepwash same day. 2 on South Shields beach on 26th (RA/TH).

Blue Tit:-

Influx in Bamburgh/Hauxley areas on 5th/12th involved 30 at each locality.

Coal Tit:-

On 5th/6th, 6 at Bamburgh and 10 at Hauxley (5 of the latter came in to the wood from the E. with a flock of Fieldfares).

Long-tailed Tit:-

Coastal movement noted at Bamburgh (22 on 21st/27th) and Hauxley (10 on 5th and 8 on 7th).

Treecreeper:-

1 arrived at Hauxley with Titniece on 5th and remained for the rest of month (HRS).

Wren:-

Small numbers noted at Hauxley, North Shields, Tynemouth and Barnes between 5th and 24th.

Fieldfare/Redwing:-

Conditions favoured immigration from the Continent on 4th, 5th, 6th, 10th, 19th, 20th, 25th and 26th and a total of many thousands were noted arriving at most coastal points. Flocks of up to 200 were also noted flying W. well inland, and both species could be heard calling as they passed W. over Newcastle all night long.

Song Thrush:-

On 2nd, 60 on Holy Island (CW) and on 6th, 50 at Hauxley (HRS).

Ring Ouzel:-

Noted arriving with the commoner Turdidae. At Holy Island, 1 on 2nd and 3 on 5th (CW/TH). 1 at Foxton on 4th (LGM). 2 at Hauxley on 5th and 2 at Bondicarr on 6th. 1 at Marsden on 19th/20th (RS/LGG) and 20 between Marsden and Whitburn (SW). On 26th, 2 at Marsden, on 27th 1 at Hauxley and on 28th 1 at Whitburn.

Blackbird:-

Probably the best October for immigrant Blackbirds for three years, with hundreds noted arriving from the E. at many coastal points on 5th, 8th/9th, 19th/20th, 25th - 27th.

Wheatear:-

A few noted along coast during first few days with 2 at Hauxley on 13th being the last record.

Stonechat:-

8 between Druridge and Hauxley on 19th (LGM) and 1 at Washington Ponds on 27th (CW).

Whinchat:-

Singles at Hauxley and Chevington on 6th and 1 at Cleadon on 12th (per LGG).

Redstart:-

On 5th, 1 at Holy Island (TH), 1 at Bamburgh and 1 at South Shields (LGG). On 6th, 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Chevington (HRS/TH). On 12th, 2 at Craster (JSB). On 19th, 2 at Hauxley and 1 at Bamburgh.

Black Redstart:-

5 or 6 birds reported. 1 or 2 on Holy Island on 5th (TH) and on 19th/21st 1 at Craster (BL), 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Marsden (RA/LGG). 1 at Dunstanburgh Castle on 26th/27th (JSE/INA).

Blackcap:-

1 on Holy Island on 2nd (TH). Between 5th - 29th, 13 were noted at Bamburgh and 8 at Hauxley. On 20th, 1 at each of Blyth and Whitley Cemeteries (LGM) and 1 at South Shields (RA/LGG). On 24th, 1 at Priors Park and on 26th, 1 in South Shields (MNC/RA/LGG).

Barred Warbler:-

A 1st. y. bird trapped at Hauxley on 6th remained until 8th (HRS).

/Garden Warbler

Garden Warbler:-

Between 1 - 2 at Holy Island from 1st - 5th (B & TH). 7 noted at Hauxley on six days between 5th - 31st (HRS). Singles at Bamburgh on 6th and 27th (BRS). 1 at South Shields on 20th (RA/LGG).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

Single bird belonging to the Siberian race trapped at Craster on 20th (BL).

Willow/Chiff:-

1 inland at Fawston Lake on 5th (CW).

Willow Warbler:-

1 trapped at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Chiffchaff:-

3 at Bamburgh on 5th/6th (BRS). 2 at Hauxley on 5th/6th, 1 on 18th and 1 on 20th (HRS). 1 in South Shields on 4th (per LGG).

Yellow-browed Warbler:-

1 on Holy Island on 5th/6th (TH). 1 at Bondicarr on 6th (TH) and 1 at Hauxley on 9th was eventually trapped during a W. gale on 13th (HRS).

Goldcrest:-

Small parties in coastal areas all month with peaks of 20 at Bamburgh on 12th/13th and Hauxley on 5th, 12th and 28th.

Spotted Flycatcher:-

A straggler at Bamburgh on 13th (BRS).

Pied Flycatcher:-

Singles at Bamburgh on 6th and 12th, and 1 at Cresswell on 19th (BRS/LGH).

Red-breasted Flycatcher:-

1 on Holy Island on 6th (B & TH).

Meadow Pipit:-

Small coasting movements to the S. noted at Hauxley on 5th and 12th (HRS).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Hauxley on 5th and 21st (HRS). 2 at Whittle Dene on 5th and 1 on 13th (SE/IA). 2 at Whitley Cemetery on 19th (CW). 1 at Denton Burn from 20th - 31st and 1 at Fawdon on 25th (EG).

Waxwing:-

1 at Bamburgh on 20th and 27th (BRS).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 on Holy Island on 5th (TH). On 19th, 1 at Chevington (TH) and a "probable" in South Shields (per LGG).

Starling:-

Noted arriving from the E. with "Thrushes" at Hauxley on 5th (HRS) and South Shields on 19th (RA/LGG).

Goldfinch:-

Many records of up to 12 from mainly coastal areas. An exceptionally good year for this species in Northumberland.

Siskin:-

3 at Bamburgh on 12th (BRS).

Brambling:-

Small numbers arriving during periods of "Thrush" immigration with peaks on 5th (70 on Holy Island) and 19th (12 at Hauxley and 14 at St. Marys).

Snow Bunting:-

2 at Whitley Bay on 4th (SE), 22 at South Shields on 5th and 4 on 15th (per LGG). 1 at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS).

Tree Sparrow:-

c50 at Whittle Dene on 20th (IA).

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Records for November to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle NE15 7RD before 8th December, 1968 please.

TYNESHIRE BIRD CLUB.

NOVEMBER 1968 BULLETIN

SUMMARY.

The month opened with strong N.NE winds and squally weather as high pressure persisted to the N. of the country and low to the S.E. Sea birds were moving N. close inshore at this time and several littoral passerines were recorded at the coast. Of the ducks, Tufted and Pochard were of particular interest as these are not often seen over the sea whilst Great Skuas, Glaucous Gulls, Blackcaps, Garden Warblers, Parus Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Wheatear and more Great Spotted Woodpeckers were recorded.

An intense anticyclone over Scandinavia dominated the weather until about 23rd and winds were mainly light and from an easterly quarter. With the exception of a few little auks, the coast was surprisingly quiet. However, the inland waters provided some interesting records where Great Northern Diver, Velvet Scoter, Diver, Shelduck and Fowls Swans were noted and late Spotted Redshanks were seen.

Westerly weather persisted for a few days after 23rd and little of outstanding interest was noted.

The month terminated with yet another species in strange surroundings when a Long-tailed Duck appeared inland.

Classified List.

Diver (sp):-

Single bird at Wallington Reservoir on 17th was almost certainly Great Northern from description (VE/RG/EL). c20 in Alnmouth Bay on 24th (BG/EL) were mainly Red-throated and up to 5 counted flying N. and S. off Hauxley on six days between 3rd and 24th.

Black-throated Diver:-

1 off Alnmouth on 24th (BG/EL).

Red-throated Diver:-

On 24th, 2 off Sandburgh (IA) and 6 in Truridge Bay (CLA).

Great Crested Grebe:-

1 at Seaton Burn on 13th (EL) and 1 at Wallington on 17th (VE/RG/EL).

Little Grebe:-

Still present on at least 7 waters with 6 at Ellington on 3rd (SE), 10 at Olywell on 17th (CEG/OW) and 6 at Grindon Lough on 30th (RG/EL).

Gannet:-

On 2nd, 4 flew N. off Seaton Sluice (BG) and on 3rd, 6 N. off Hauxley (HRS).

Fulmar:-

Single bird had returned to a nest site at Marsden on 3rd (RA).

Heron:-

On 16th, 5 at Valleypike, 2 at Greenlee and 1 at Cowey Sike (LGM). On 17th, 1 at Alesay and 1 at Capheaton (LA/LGG/CLA). On 22nd, and 30th 1 at Washington (WJ) and also on 30th, 7 at Budle Bay (BRS) and 1 at Broomlee (LGM).

Hallard:-

Large numbers reported from both inland and the coast. On 2nd, 277 N. off Seaton Sluice in 1½ hours and 40 N. off Hauxley (BG/BS). On 9th 55 N. off Anstead in 1 hour and 300 at Hartburn (EL/BS). On 10th, 166 in Budle Bay and 200 at Little Bene (BRS/IA). On 17th, 500 at Gosforth (CW), 444 at Wallington and 1100 at Colt Crag (RG/W/EL). On 28th, 584 off Hartley Point (CA) and smaller numbers in this vicinity on several other days (SE et al).

Teal:-

212 in Budle Bay on 10th (BRS) and c500 at Spindlestone on 24th (IA).

Wigeon:-

c4000 in Budle Bay and c2000 on Benham Flats on 24th (IA/RA/LGG).

110 at Grindon on 5th and 30th (RG/EL) and smaller numbers elsewhere during month.

Pintail:-

Drake at Gosforth on 23rd (CED).

Shoveler:-

Between 25-50 at Gosforth from 17th-30th (CED/CW) and 10 at Seaton Sluice on 30th (CW).

Scaup:-

4 flew N. off Annstead on 9th (BRS). Drake at Cresswell from 1st - 20th (TE) and 1 in Amble Harbour on 24th (EAS).

Tufted Duck:-

The maxima from the ponds were c40 at each of Whittle Dene (IHA) and Bolam (CHA) on 17th, 100+ at Colt Crag on 15th (B.Mn.), c45 at Hartburn on 3rd (SE) and 66 at Holywell on 17th (CED). 5 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 2nd (BG).

Pochard:-

51 at Bolam on 10th (IHA) and 75 at Whittle Dene on 17th were the respective maxima for these waters. Up to 15 noted at Holywell and Hartburn during month and 35 flew N. off Seaton Sluice on 2nd (BG).

Goldeneye:-

On 2nd, 4 N. off Seaton Sluice (BG). On 9th, 20 at Bolam (ERM) and smaller counts on later dates. Also on 9th, 8 at Hartburn, 22 on Holy Island Slakes and 4 off Annstead (JHB/IB). On 10th, 9 at Whittle Dene (IHA) and smaller numbers thereafter. Also 7 at Rothal until 17th (SE). On 15th, 20 at Colt Crag (B.Mn) and on 16th, 7 at Broomlee, 6 at Grindon and 5 at Washington (LGH/BU). On 17th, 11 at Holywell (CED) and on 30th, 11 at Broomlee (LGH) and 8 at Gosforth (CW).

Long-tailed Duck:-

50-60 off Bamburgh on 10th and 24th (BRS). 3N. off Cresswell on 1st (TA), 2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 2nd (BG) and 3 N. off Hauxley on 3rd (BRS). An inland record of 1 at Gosforth Park on 30th (CW).

Common Scoter:-

c65 off Bamburgh on 24th (SE).

Velvet Scoter:-

3N. off Annstead on 9th and 3 N. off Bamburgh on 10th (BRS). 1 inland at Holywell on 16th/17th (CED/CW) was a female and possible the same bird at Gosforth Park on 30th (CW). This species is virtually unknown inland in Northumberland.

Eider:-

A female at Whittle Dene Reservoir on 9th (JSE) provides the third inland record of a "sea duck" this month. Again this is an exceptional record.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

4 N. off Seaton Sluice on 2nd and 1 N. off Hauxley (BG/BRS). 2 off Bamburgh on 24th (IHA/SE).

Goosander:-

On 16th, 17 at Greenlee (LGH) and on 17th, 30 at Colt Crag and 2 at Hallington (WB/RG/EL).

Shelduck:-

103 in Budle Bay on 10th had increased to c500 by 24th (BRS/IHA). 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 2nd (BG) and off Hauxley 3N. on 3rd, 16 N. on 16th and 5 N. on 17th (BRS). 1 at Washington on 22nd and 30th (BU) - another sea duck inland!

Grey Geese:-

25 at Colt Crag on 15th were probably Grey Lags (B.Mn.).

Grey Lag Goose:-

Between 2 and 8 at Holywell from 9th - 30th (CED/BG/CW). On 17th, 7 at Colt Crag (JB/RG/EL) and 36 at Wingates (BM) whilst the day previous 20 flew N. over Whittle Dene Reservoir (SE).

Barnacle Goose:-

1 flew S. over Holywell on 18th (C) and 1 at Boulmer on 30th (T).

Canada Goose:-

35 at Hallington on 17th (WB/RG/EL).

Whooper Swan:-

1 in Hauxley area from 5th - 13th (TE/HRS). 1 at Wingates on 17th and 22 there on 17th (ERM/BU). 3 at Colt Crag on 15th (Bm) and 1 on 17th (RG et al). 12 at Holywell on 16th and 2 more on 17th (CD). Also on 17th, 8 flew E. over Bothal and 2 at Hallington (RA/RG et al). On 24th 1 at Ellington, 6 at Fenham Flats (RA/LGG) and 1 at Bamburgh (IHA). On 27th - 29th, 8 at Whittle Dene (P/BC) and on 30th, 15 at Grindon (RA/RG et al).

Bowick's Swan:-

18 flew N.E. over Hartburn on 9th (ERM) and 16 at Cresswell next day (TH) may have been part of this flock! 1 at Washington from 10th-30th (BU).

Merlin:-

Male near Bedlington on 29th (AJ).

Water Rail:-

1 at Klondyke on 12th (LH) and 17 at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Coot:-

c180 at Bolam on 9th - 17th (ER/CMA). c330 at Seaton Burn on 13th (CD) had increased to 430 by 30th (CW).

Lapwing:-

c200 at Whittle Dene on 10th (IHA). 500 at Washington on 16th and 300 near Annitsford on 17th (BU/CW). Also on 17th 800-1000 at Cresswell (SE). Bird in diluted plumage at Cambois on 7th was almost all white (TH).

Grey Plover:-

20 in Fenham Flats/Budle area on 24th (RA/LGG).

Golden Plover:-

400 at Whittle Dene on 16th (SE), 350 at Annitsford on 17th (CW). 1000+ in the Widdrington area on 24th (BG) and 650 in Budle Bay on 24th (BRS).

Common Snipe:-

The larger numbers reported were c50 at Lavannah on 13th (ER), and 80 at Hauxley and 100+ at Holywell on 17th (HRS/CED).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Bedlington on 5th-7th (AJ). 1 at Alnmouth on 24th (BG/ERM). 1 at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Woodcock:-

Still plenty of records. At Hauxley, 1 on each of 1st, 8th and 17th (HRS). At Marsden Hall 1 on 3rd and 1 on 9th (RA). At Cresswell/Druridge 1 on 4th and 1 on 8th (TH). At Washington 1 on 11th, 2 on 16th, 1 on 30th (BU). At Sweetnope Lough 1 on 17th (JSB).

Redshank:-

300 at Jarrow Slake on 24th (AJ).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 near Hauxley on 4th (TH). Between 1 and 2 at Holywell until 17th (CED/BG/CW).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 at Whittle Dene Reservoir on 16th/17th (SE/AJ).

Purple Sandpiper:-

40 at Seaton Sluice on 9th (BG). 20 at St. Mary's on 23rd and 1 at Bamburgh on 24th (SE).

Dunlin:-

200 at Amble on 16th and 24th (BR/HRS). 150 at Hauxley (HRS) and 150 at Cresswell on 17th (SE). 200 at Jarrow Slake (AJ) and 400 in Budle Bay on 24th (SE).

Knot:-

On 3rd, 200 flew N. off Hauxley (HRS). On 9th, 200 at Seaton Sluice (BG). On 16th/24th, 200 at Amble (BR/BG). On 23rd, 150 at St. Mary's Island (SE). On 24th, 100 at Bamburgh (IHA).

Ruff:-

Late bird at Washington on 10th/16th (BU).

Arctic Skua:-

Very tired bird at Cresswell Pond on 15th (TH).

Great Skua:-

On 1st, 15 flew N. in 80 minutes off Cresswell and later 5 flew off Chevington (TH). On 3rd, 2 flew N. off Hauxley (HRS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

Bird of the British race at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Glaucous Gull:-

On 3rd, 1 flew N. off Annstead (HRS) and 2 flew N. off Hauxley (HRS). All were identifiable as 1st. year birds.

Little Gull:-

Immature near Hauxley on 7th (TH).

Auk (sp):-

Moving N. off Hauxley at 300/hour on 8th (HRS).

Little Auk:-

On 9th, 16 flew N. off Hauxley in flocks of 8, 5 and 3 (HRS).

Turtle Dove:-

A very late bird with 20 Collared Doves in South Shields on 19th (RA).

Short-eared Owl:-

2 at Holywell on 16th/17th (CEB) and 3 on 23rd (BN). 1 at Bedlington on 29th and 2 at Ewesey on 30th (AJ). 5 at Killingworth during month (PC).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

Still being recorded from the coast. On 2nd, 1 at Bamburgh (trapped and identified as belonging to Northern Race) and 1 at Hauxley. On 5th 1 in Wallsend appeared very tame (JSB). On 9th, 1 at Bamburgh and on 24th, 1 at Swallowship (?) (LGH).

Swallow:-

Late bird at Bamburgh on 9th (ERS).

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Chevington on 16th/17th (TH). 3 at Alnmouth (BG/ERN) and 4 at Budle Bay on 24th (SE). 2 at Amble on 24th/30th (BG/TH/ERN).

Fieldfare:-

Still arriving from the E. at Hauxley on 2nd but only in small numbers (HRS). c200 in Heddon area on 16th/24th (JSB/SE).

Redwing:-

Flock of 200 in Holywell Dene on 17th (CW).

Wheatear:-

1 at Hauxley on 2nd and 16th (HRS).

Stonechat:-

Probably three pairs between Cresswell and Hauxley during month (TH/SE/HRS). Pair at Sunderland airport on 30th (BU).

Blackcap:-

On 2nd/3rd between 4 - 6 at each of Bamburgh and Hauxley. Still 2 at Hauxley on 8th and 2/3 at Marsden Hall on 13th (RA).

Barred Warbler:-

Single very late bird at Hauxley on 2nd - 16th (HRS).

Garden Warbler:-

On 2nd/3rd, 2 at each of Bamburgh and Hauxley (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Hauxley on 3rd may well have belonged to the Siberian race (HRS).

Chiffchaff:-

At Hauxley, 1 on 1st, 4 on 2nd, 2 on 3rd and 1 on 9th (HRS). Those trapped on 1st/3rd belonged to northern race (abietinus) and that on 9th belonged to eastern race (tristis). 1 trapped at Cresswell on 20th (TH). 1 at Heddon on 24th (JSB) and 1 at Gosforth on 30th (CW).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 near Bothal on 3rd (SE). On 10th, 1 at Whittle Dene and 1 at Mitford (IHA/CW). 3 at Eamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 near Flessey on 30th (AJ).

Goldfinch:-

Parties of up to 17 recorded from widespread localities.

Snow Bunting:-

8 at Chevington on 2nd, 10 at Cresswell on 4th (TH), 10 at Alnmouth (BG/BRH) and 25 at Ross on 24th (RA/LGG). 25 at Eamburgh on 30th (BRS).

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All records for December to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle NE 15 7RD before 8th January please.

Please keep a look out for colour ringed Black-headed Gulls and send details to B. Galloway.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

DECEMBER, 1968 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

The dominant weather feature of the month was undoubtedly the cold spell from 27th/31st when heavy snow spread S. over most parts of the region. As a result, Lapwings, Snipe, Thrushes, Pipits and Starlings were all noted moving S. ahead of snow showers and Wood Pigeons were recorded moving N.N.W. in huge flocks.

Prior to this, the month had been comparatively mild and good numbers of wildfowl were recorded from both inland and the coast. Of particular interest were the unusual numbers of Goosanders at the coast an influx of Whooper Swans, a Snow, and three White-fronted Geese. Brent Geese and Bewick Swans were also seen.

Intense high pressure over N. Europe during the first ten days, and hence cold weather there, might have been responsible for the wildfowl numbers but there does not seem to be any obvious reason why the Goosanders should have appeared at the coast.

Other "typical oddities" recorded during the month were Black-necked Grebe, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Black Guillemot and Hawfinch whilst Black-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper and Chiffchaff were all "out of season".

Classified List.

Great Northern Diver:-

1 in South Shields Harbour on 7th (RA/LGG).

Red-throated Diver:-

1 on Cresswell Pond on 22nd (BM). 10 on sea at Cresswell on 17th and 45+ in Alnmouth Bay on 30th were mainly of this species (BG/ERM). Also 15 flew N. off Alnmouth on 30th.

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 off Banburgh on 22nd (BM).

Great Crested Grebe:-

2 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 1st (LGM/CW).

Black-necked Grebe:-

Single bird watched at 70 yards range in Skate Road, off Ross Links on 21st (SE).

Little Grebe:-

Up to 6 at Bolam Lake all month and still 5 on 28th (TCS et al). Present at Holywell all month with a maximum of 3 on 14th (CED). 1 at Cresswell Pond from 15th - 30th (TH et al). 1 on the River Wansbeck at Morpeth on 13th (AJ) and 2 on River Aln at Alnmouth on 30th (BG/ERM).

Fulmar:-

At least 6 off Banburgh on 21st and this is the first record of birds having returned to their breeding areas after almost three months absence.

Gannet:-

3 adults flew N. off St. Mary's Island on 25th (ERM).

Heron:-

8 at Greenlee on 14th and at Pawston on 15th (LGM/CW). 4 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (RW) and 2 at each of Belsay, Wallington, South Charlton and Swinhoe during mid month.

Mallard:-

Again some large counts. 1300 at Colt Crag on 1st (LGM/CW) decreasing to 150 on 15th (RA/LGG). 30 at Whittle Dene on 8th increasing to c250 by 30th (AJ/LHA). A maximum at Hartburn on 15th of c200, 800+ in Budle Bay on 21st, c200 in Gosforth Park on 22nd - 26th, and c600 in the Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's area by 22nd (SE/ERM et al). Up to 150 noted from many other waters.

/Teal

Teal:-

c200 at Gosforth Park on 8th increased to 310 by 26th (BG/BM/ERM). Up to 120 at Holywell all month reaching a maximum on 14th (CED). c125 in Ross/Budle Bay area on 21st (SE). Up to 40 noted on many other waters.

Gadwall:-

A drake in Budle Bay on 28th (ERM).

Wigeon:-

A steady build up in numbers at Budle Bay, until at least 6000 were there on 22nd (BM et al). 4000 on Fenham Flats on 26th were no doubt part of this flock (ERM). 2000 on sea off Seaton Sluice on 22nd (SE) and inland, there were 100 at Grindon and 50 at Colt Crag on 15th (RA/LGG) and 44 at Whittle Dene on 30th (IHA).

Pintail:-

3 flew towards the coast over South Charlton on 19th (AJ) and 2 on sea off Hartley on 23rd (CMA).

Shoveler:-

Up to 12 at Gosforth Park during month (ERM et al) and up to 7 on Holy Island Lough (CMA). 2 at Bothal on 15th, 1 at Holywell on 22nd and possibly the same bird on sea off Hartley on 22nd (SE).

Scaup:-

3 records, all from inland, and all females. 1 at Gosforth Park on 8th (BG/BM et al), 2 at Washington on 6th (BU) and 1 at Cresswell Pond on 14th (TH).

Tufted Duck:-

39 at Whittle Dene on 8th gradually increased to c300 by 30th (IHA et al) - an exceptional concentration and probably one of the largest that has been recorded in Northumberland. Maximum counts from Holywell and Colt Crag were c90 on 14th (CED) and c100 on 15th (RA/LGG) respectively. Up to 40 noted on many other waters.

Pochard:-

Whittle Dene again provided the largest numbers with a maximum of c100 there on 30th (IHA). 22 on Holy Island Lough on 1st (CMA) and 50 at Colt Crag on 15th (RA/LGG) were the only other counts to exceed 10.

Goldeneye:-

Maximum counts were as follows:- 16 at Bolam on 1st (LGM), 38 at Colt Crag on 13th (CMA), 10 at Cresswell Pond on 15th (SE), 20 at Greenlee on 14th (LGM), 8 at Hallington on 17th (RG/WE/EL) and on 22nd 14 at Derwent Reservoir (RN) and 9 at Gosforth Park (SE). Parties of up to 6 reported from 8 other localities.

Long-tailed Duck:-

1 still on Gosforth Park Lake on 8th (BG/BM et al). 80-100 off Skate Road, Ross on 21st (SE).

Common Scoter:-

150 off Darburgh on 22nd (BM) was the maximum number reported.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

21 off Holy Island on 8th was largest count made in that area (LGM/RN). 3 off Alnmouth on 30th (BG/ERM), 2 off Seaton Sluice on 22nd and a "redhead" at Swallow Ponds on 26th was either a female Merganser or Goosander (RN). 2 at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (BM).

Goosander:-

An unusual number of records from coastal localities and some large concentrations inland. First noted at the coast on 11th when 4 were on Cresswell Pond. During the subsequent week numbers there fluctuated between 10 (on 14th) and 1 (on 18th). Between 14th and 30th up to 6 in the Coquet Estuary (TH et al). On 22nd, 2 flew W. over Holywell (SE) on 25th/26th, 1 off Hartley (AJ/ERM), on 26th, 1 off Tynemouth (AJ), on 27th, 1 flew N. off Alnmouth (BG) and 4 flew N.W. there on 30th (RG/ERM). Inland (13 at Greenlee on 21st), 7 at Font and 17 at Derwent on 22nd (ERM/RN), 6 at Hallington on 13th (CMA) and 34 at Whittle Dene on 30th (IHA).

Snew:-

Female at Whittle Dene on 22nd - 30th (RB/IHA).

Shelduck:-

c200 on Fenham Flats and c250 in Budle Bay for most of month. 600+

in Budle Bay on 21st was probably an integration of the two flocks (SE/BM/ERM/AJ). On 14th, 8 flew N. over Cresswell/Chevington area and from then until 17th, 2/3 at Cresswell Pond.

Correction for November, 1968:-

1 at Washington on 22nd/30th should in fact be 3 (BU).

Grey Lag Goose:-

c60 in Hartburn-Pontburn area on 15th-22nd (ERM). On 14th, 10-12 at Holywell (CED). On 20th, 4 flew S. over Seaton Sluice (CMA) and next day 5 flew S. over Fenham Flats (SE). On 31st, 16 in Budle Bay (BRS). Single "Grey Geese" at Bamburgh and Budle Bay on 21st were thought to be Pink Feet (SE).

White-fronted Goose:-

3 on the mainland at St. Marys on 26th (AJ).

Brent Goose:-

3 separate counts made on Fenham Flats between 8th and 28th showed a fluctuation between 100+ and 148 (ERM/BM/MN).

Canada Goose:-

c30 in Hallington/Colt Crag area on 13th (CMA).

Mute Swan:-

c250 at Tweedmouth on 13th (TCS).

Whooper Swan:-

A suggestion of an influx during second half of month. Maximum counts were c200 in stubble field near Beal on 1st (CMA), 12 at Whittle Dene on 21st (RG et al). 11 at Colt Crag on 17th (RG et al). 7 at Hartburn on 22nd, 8 at Prestwick Carr on 25th (ERM) and on 26th, 27 at Grindon (RG et al), 41 at Holywell (CED) and 10 at Linton (RN).

Bewick's Swan:-

At Whittle Dene, 10 on 1st (LGM/CW) and 4 remained on 8th and 21st. 7 on Holy Island Lough on 1st, increasing to 10 by 8th (CMA/MN). 1 at Greenlee on 14th (LGM).

Merlin:-

1 at Bedlington on 6th (AJ), 1 at Coquet Estuary on 7th (ERM), 1 at Holy Island on 8th (MN et al).

Kestrel:-

An interesting count of 14 between Gosforth Park - Plessey - Blagdon on 25th (AJ).

Water Rail:-

15 - 20 in Gosforth Park on 8th (BG/ERM). 1 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS) and 4 at Prestwick Carr on 25th (ERM).

Coot:-

c250 at Bolam during month (RA et al). On 15th, c150 at Hartburn (SE) and on 17th a tired bird in the sand dunes at Seaton Sluice (CMA).

Lapwing:-

Flock of c3000 at Whittle Dene on 5th (RG/WB/EL). On 7th, c500 near Hauxley (HRS), and on 8th, 600+ at Bothal and 400+ at Cresswell (SE). On 27th, moving S.W. ahead of snow showers at Alnmouth (20 in half-an-hour) (BG).

Grey Plover:-

1 at Bamburgh on 21st (SE), 2 at Holy Island on 28th and 2 in Coquet Estuary on 30th (BG/ERM).

Golden Plover:-

Present at Whittle Dene all month with maximum of 1200+ on 8th (JSB/AJ).

Common Snipe:-

On 1st, c100 at each of Holywell (CED) and Holy Island Lough (CMA). On 27th moving S. ahead of snow showers at Alnmouth - 10 in half-an-hour and another 3 on the shore (BG).

Jack Snipe:-

Single birds at Gosforth on 21st (RM), Prestwick Carr on 25th and Fenham Flats on 28th (ERM).

Woodcock:-

Only 1 record, of a single bird at Gosforth on 22nd (SE).

/Bar-tailed Godwit

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

c200 at Fenham Flats on 28th (ERM).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

A wintering record of 1 at Fenham Flats on 28th (ERM).

Green Sandpiper:-

Again wintering at Whittle Dene when 1 seen there on 8th (JSS).

Knot:-

c150 in Coquet Estuary all month (BG/ERM), c100 at Bamburgh on 21st (SE), c600 at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (CED), and on 28th, 1000 at Fenham Flats and 500 in Budle Bay (ERM).

Purple Sandpiper:-

65 at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 21st (SE).

Dunlin:-

c300 in Coquet Estuary on 7th, c150 at Alnmouth most of month, c500 on Fenham Flats and c200 in Budle Bay on 28th (ERM/BG).

Sanderling:-

Maximum counts were 25+ at Cresswell on 8th, 23 at South Shields on 14th, and 40+ at Whitley Bay on 27th (RA/SE/ERM).

Glaucous Gull:-

Single 1st. y. birds noted at Aulie on 15th (TH), flying N. off Mauxley on 30th (HMS) and at Seahouses on 31st (MB). An adult at Alnmouth on 17th (ERM).

Iceland Gull:-

Full noted received on an adult at Newcastle Quayside on 6th (B.Mn.)

Black Guillemot:-

1 off Holy Island on 8th (HM/LGM/CW) and 1 off Bamburgh on 21st (SE).

Woodpigeon:-

Many thousands noted moving W - N.W. over 3 different areas after heavy snow showers on 27th/28th. On 28th, c1000 over Denton Burn, on 29th, c15000 over Heddon, on 30th 3000+ over Alnmouth and on 31st 3000+ over Heddon.

Long-eared Owl:-

8 at Prestwick Carr on 25th (ERM).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 at Holywell on 1st and 14th (CED/HM) and 1 at Bedlington on 6th and 21st (AJ).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

Single birds recorded at unusual localities; in Jesmond (CED), South Gosforth (GB) and Sunderland (BU) during month. These may be connected with the influx of Northern birds that was noted during August - November.

Skylark:-

Moving S. at 50 per hour over Alnmouth on 27th ahead of snow showers (BG).

Hooded Crow:-

Up to 5 in Coquet Estuary during month (BG/ERM/TH). 4 at Holy Island on 8th (LGM et al), 1 at Chevington on 18th (TH), 1 at Rothley on 22nd, and 1 at South Charlton on 19th/31st (AJ).

Marsh Tit:-

2 noted near Stocksfield on 25th (CMA) and 2 at Belsay on 8th (ERM)

Nuthatch:-

2 at Bolan on 5th and 15th (TH/ERM).

Fieldfare:-

Flocks of up to 150 noted from widespread localities. Moving S. ahead of snow showers at Alnmouth on 27th at c100/hr. (BG).

Song Thrush:-

Moving S. at Alnmouth at c80/hr. on 27th (BG) and also noted on beach at St. Mary's on same day (MH).

Redwing:-

Moving S. over Alnmouth on 27th at 200/hr (BG). After this date up to 500 roosting at Tynemouth and 300 near Heddon (BG/MH). 60 at

/Druridge

Druridge on 26th may have been connected with this movement (RN).

Stonechat:-

2 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS), 1 at Cresswell on 8th and 30th (ERM/SE) and 2 at Alnmouth on 30th (BG/ERM).

Chiffchaff:-

Wintering bird at Belsay on 8th (ERM).

Rock Pipit/Meadow Pipit:-

More than is usual for this time of year at both St. Mary's and Hauxley after the snow on 27th/28th (MH/HRS).

Grey Wagtail:-

During month single birds noted at Newcastle Quayside, Gosforth Park, Whittle Dene, Milbourne, Alnmouth, Holywell and Monkseaton.

Waxwing:-

1 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Starling:-

During heavy snow on 27th, 2000+ near St. Mary's and moving S.W. over Alnmouth at 30 per hour (MH/BG). An "all buff bird" at Cresswell roost during month (TH).

Hawfinch:-

1 near Heddon on the Wall on 29th (BG/DM).

Goldfinch:-

Parties of up to 7 from widespread localities.

Snow Bunting:-

4 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS) and 25 at Cresswell on 14th (TH).

List of Contributors

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Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All records for January to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE 15 7 RD by 8th February please.

During or 26th may have been connected with this movement (22).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (23), 1 at 10:15 on 26th (24) and 2 at 10:15 on 26th (25).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (26).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (27), 1 at 10:15 on 26th (28) and 2 at 10:15 on 26th (29).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (30), 1 at 10:15 on 26th (31) and 2 at 10:15 on 26th (32).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (33).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (34), 1 at 10:15 on 26th (35) and 2 at 10:15 on 26th (36).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (37).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (38).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (39) and 2 at 10:15 on 26th (40).

List of Contributors

2 at 10:15 on 26th (41), 1 at 10:15 on 26th (42) and 2 at 10:15 on 26th (43).

2 at 10:15 on 26th (44), 1 at 10:15 on 26th (45) and 2 at 10:15 on 26th (46).