

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JANUARY, 1969 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

With the exception of the first few days of the month, January was reasonably mild as several depressions moved N.E. off the W. coast of Britain and associated fronts crossed the country.

In consequence, movements of birds were minimal but wildfowl remained high with Mallard, Wigeon and Goosander being particularly prominent.

Three species of Diver, three species of Grebe and a Black Gull were some of the sea birds to be noted in the Bamburgh area on one day during the month and both Pink Feet and Brent Geese were on Fenham Flats on the same day.

Further coastal records included 2 Greenshanks and 2 Glaucous Gulls, whilst inland, another Glaucous Gull was noted as well as Slavonian Grebe, Snew, Blackcap, Waxwing and Great Grey Shrike.

Of the 5 species of raptor reported during the month, 2 records concerned a Hen Harrier and a possible Rough Legged Buzzard.

Classified List.

Black-throated Diver:-

1 at Holy Island on 5th (GB/EG) and 5 in Bamburgh area on 11th (BN/BRS).

Great Northern Diver:-

On 11th, 2 at Holy Island and 2 at Bamburgh (MN/CW/BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

35 off Alnmouth on 1st (MN), c40 in Druridge Bay on 2nd (RA) until 5th. 2 off St. Mary's on 3rd (LGG) and on 11th, 16 in Bamburgh area (BRS/CW). 1 on Cresswell Pond on 19th appeared injured (SE).

Red-necked Grebe:-

4 in Bamburgh area on 11th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe:-

15 in Bamburgh area on 11th (BN/BRS). A record from well inland was of a single bird at Grindon Lough from 26th until 1st February (SE/LGM).

Black-necked Grebe:-

5 on Fenham Flats on 11th (BRS).

Little Grebe:-

1 On the River Tyne at Bardon Mill on 5th (LGM), up to 2 at Holywell until 11th (SE/CED). 1 at Bolan on 12th-15th (CMA/SE) and 1 at Hartburn on 19th (LGM).

Fulmar:-

Apparently now well established in all coastal areas and a concentration of 125+ at Cullernose on 19th (SE). 1 of the "Blue" race noted off Bamburgh on 25th (BN).

Heron:-

6 in Budle Bay on 5th (BG), 5 at Greenlee Lough on 19th (BG/BN) and 7 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (MN/CW).

Mallard:-

Again same large concentrations with maxima as follows - 1000 - 1200 at Colt Crag from 4th-19th (BG/BN/LGM/CW), 1000+ in Budle Bay on 5th (GB/BG), 136 at Wingates on 3rd (BN), 222 at Whittle Dene on 15th (CMA), 445 at Hartburn (LGM/CW) and 300 at Rallington (BN/BG) on 19th, 247 at Gosforth on 6th (CW) and 800 off St. Mary's on 25th (SE).

Teal:-

Larger concentrations were c50 at Grindon all month (LGM et al), 300 at Fenham Flats and Budle Bay on 5th (GB/BG), 112 at Gosforth on 6th, and 65 at Holborn Moss on 11th (CW).

Wigeon:-

The Budle Bay flock was estimated to be in the region of 8-10,000 on 5th (G/BG) and 500 on Fenham Flats on the same day. Derwent Reservoir showed a peak of c400 on 18th (LG) and c100 were off St. Mary's on 25th (SE). Smaller flocks of up to 80 were recorded from many other inland and coastal areas.

Pintail:-

2 at Hartburn on 3rd (BN) and 4 at Fenham Flats on 5th (GB/BG).

Shoveler:-

1 drake at Holywell all month (CED) and 2 drakes off St. Mary's on 25th (SE).

Scaup:-

A female on Holy Island Lough on 5th (GB/BG).

Tufted Duck:-

Counts in excess of 40 were as follows: 125 at Whittle Dene on 4th (SE), 51 at Wallsend Swallow on 12th (NN), 50 at Holywell on 26th (NN/CED).

Pochard:-

75 at Whittle Dene on 4th (SE), 70 on Holy Island Lough on 5th (BG/GB) and 54 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (NN/CW). Several counts of less than 10 were reported from many other localities.

Goldeneye:-

Many records of up to 9 from widespread localities. 14 at Hallington on 4th, 20 at Colt Crag on 4th-19th, 10 at Bolam on 15th and 16 at Broomlee Lough on 26th were the maxima recorded (LGH/CW et al).

Long-tailed Duck:-

On 5th, 5 off Holy Island (BG) and 5 off Cresswell (CV). 56 off Bamburgh on 11th (BRS/CW).

Velvet Scoter:-

A pair in Druridge Bay on 2nd (RA).

Common Scoter:-

300+ in Bamburgh area on 11th (BN).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

On 1st, 2 in Coquet Estuary (SE), on 2nd, 3 in Druridge Bay (RA) and on 5th, 3 off Alnmouth, 4 off Holy Island and 6 off Bamburgh (SE/GB/BG).

Goosander:-

Still plentiful and some large counts were noted. The respective maxima were: 33 at Whittle Dene on 25th (NN/CW), 15 at Colt Crag from 4th-19th (SE/BG/BN), 73 at Greenlee Lough on 19th (BG/BN) - perhaps the largest concentration ever recorded from one locality - and 20+ at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (LG). Also noted at Hallington (4 on 19th), Corbridge (3 on 1st), and Bardon Hill (8 on 12th).

Smew:-

Female at Whittle Dene on 4th, 15th and 26th (CHA/SE et al) and also at Greenlee Lough on 19th (BG/BN) possibly involved the same individual.

Shelduck:-

On 5th, 200 in Budle Bay and 250 on Fenham Flats (GB/BG), and on 11th c280 in Budle Bay (BN/BRS/CW).

Grey Lag Goose:-

Up to 4 at Holywell throughout month, 2 of which are semi domesticated. 157 at Hartburn on 3rd and 19th (BN/LGH/CW) and 30 flew N. over Slaley on 25th (CV).

Pink-footed Goose:-

c250 at Fenham Flats on 11th and 8 at Holywell on 3rd (CV/LGG).

Brent Goose:-

Counts at Fenham Flats varied between 200 on 5th (GB/BG), 130 on 11th (NN/CW) and 40 on 25th (NN).

Canada Goose:-

34 at Colt Crag on 19th (BN/BN) was the maximum noted from that area.

/Hooper Swar

Whooper Swan:-

Between 9 and 25 at Grindon Lough throughout month with a maximum on 1st (RN et al). On 4th, 7 at Whittle Dene (SE), and 6 at Colt Crag (CW), on 5th, 18 at Ellington (SE), on 11th, 85 at Fenham Flats (CW), on 18th 24 at Linton (BH); and on 19th, 12 at Hartburn (CW) and 45 at Holywell (CE). The Holywell flock had been present throughout month fluctuating between 41 and 45.

Bewick's Swan:-

3 at Linton on 18th (BH).

Nuzzard (sp.):-

Single bird seen at Holywell Ponds by CEO on 1st and RN on 26th and also by the gamekeeper on 4 occasions - showed some characteristics of a ROUGH LEGGED. Neither of the observers obtained adequate view however to make identification positive.

Sparrow Hawk:-

Singles reported from both Heddon (LG), Derwent Reservoir (LG) and Grindon Lough (SE).

Hen Harrier:-

Male at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (LG).

Merlin:-

Singles at Belsay on 5th (RN) and Ross on 11th (BRS).

Water Rail:-

1 at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (RN) may be a new locality.

Coot:-

Maximum counts were: 111 at Holywell on 1st (CE), 150 at Bolan (CMA) and 100 at Hartburn on 12th (SE), 35 at Bothal on 12th (SE) and 25+ at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (LG).

Lapwing:-

450 at Longhirst on 24th (BH) was the only count received.

Oystercatcher:-

100 at Boulmer on 5th (SE) and 58 at Whitley Bay on 14th (CMA) were the largest counts noted.

Grey Plover:-

2 at Madstone on 2nd (RA).

Golden Plover:-

500 on Holy Island on 5th (BG/GS) and 200 at Cresswell on 19th (SE) were the largest flocks noted.

Common Snipe:-

100 at Holywell from 1st-11th (CE) but none there on 19th and a few on 26th. 40 on Holy Island on 5th had increased to 100 by 25th (BG/RN).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Bamburgh on 11th (BRS). The only record.

Curlew:-

150 on Holy Island on 5th and 25th (BG/RN).

Greenshank:-

2 at Alnmouth on 5th were first seen on the shore before flying off to the N. (SE).

Bar-tailed Godwit/Knot/Dunlin:-

Mixed roosting flocks of c.15,000 on Fenham Flats and c.5,000 in Suddle Bay on 5th (GB/BG) over half of each being Dunlin.

Knot:-

The Seaton Sluice flock showed a peak of 1,000 on 25th (TCS). 280 at Bamburgh on 11th (CW).

Dunlin:-

c500 in Alnmouth - Boulmer area on 5th (SE).

Purple Sandpiper:-

65 at Bamburgh on 11th (CW). Flocks of up to 25 noted from 5 points along coast.

Sanderling:-

60 at Druridge Bay on 2nd (RA) and St. Mary's on 25th (TCS) were the highest counts received.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

A wintering record of 4 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (CW).

Glaucous Gull:-

Single first year birds at Swallow Ponds on 12th and Amble on 18th (MN) and an adult at Alnmouth on 5th (SE).

Black Guillemot:-

1 off Bamburgh on 11th may have been the bird reported from that part of the coast last month (BH).

Short-eared Owl:-

With the exception of 1 at Grindon on 3rd all other records were from 8 coastal localities and involved about 10 individuals.

Skylark:-

An apparent increase at Holywell from the usual c20 to c200 from 1st-5th (CED). No increases reported from elsewhere during this short cold spell.

Hooded Crow:-

4 at Amble on 1st (MN), 1 in Druridge Bay on 2nd (RA), 3 at Ross on 11th (CW) and 1 on Holy Island on 28th (RA).

Mistle Thrush:-

A very early record of nesting. A pair with eggs in a large workshop in a Wallsend shipyard on 28th. A mobile crane operates within 10' of the nest but does not appear to disturb the birds! (IHA).

Fieldfare:-

Many flocks of up to 100 in the vicinity of Colt Crag, Hallington and Whittle Dene on 19th (BG/BN) and 300 at the latter on 26th (SE).

Stonechat:-

On 1st, 2 at Cresswell and 2 at Warkworth (SE/MN) and 1 at Alnmouth on 5th.

Blackcap:-

At least 1 bird wintering in the Stocksfield area (LG).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Holywell on 19th (CED/MN) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 31st (CMA). 2 at Bardon Hill on 5th (LGN) and 2 at Weldon Bridge on 12th/14th (TCS) suggest an early return to inland breeding sites in mild weather.

Waxwing:-

At least 2 in Stocksfield at the end of month (LG).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 in the Jesmond Dene area from 9th until at least 29th (CMA/WSH et al).

Goldfinch:-

Small flocks still being noted throughout county.

Snow Bunting:-

c300 at Whitburn by 16th (RA/BU) and 2 at Howick on 19th (SE).

List of Contributors.

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All records for February to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7 RD by 8th March please.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

FEBRUARY, 1969 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

Persistent high pressure areas to the N. and N.E. of the British Isles dominated the weather during month. The winds were predominantly from a N.W. to N.E. quarter resulting in very cold weather and prolonged periods of snow.

Wildfowl counts were not as high as last month with most waters being frozen, but a spectacular concentration of over 400 Tufted Duck was noted on an ice-free reservoir at Whittle Dene. The same place produced an interesting "collection" of Green Sandpipers when as many as 4 may have been present.

The stormy weather during the first half of the month produced an extraordinary northerly movement of Gannets and Auks for the time of year, and both Little Auk and Black Guillemot were recorded. An Iceland Gull also appeared during this period and there were six records of Glaucous Gulls.

Bewick Swan, Hen Harrier, Great Grey Shrike and two more records of wintering Blackcaps were the other more noteworthy records for a very cold February.

Classified List.

Black-throated Diver:-

2 - 3 off Budle Bay on 9th and 15th (BRS).

Great Northern Diver:-

Singles off Holy Island, Stag Rocks and Annstead on 9th (RA/LGG/BRS)

Red-throated Diver:-

Only 1 record! 2 off St. Mary's on 16th (SE).

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 off Holy Island on 9th and 23rd (RA/ERN). 1 off Budle Bay on 15th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe:-

2 off Holy Island on 9th and 23rd (RA/ERN). 1 off Budle Bay on 9th and 12 neariegstone, Farnes on 15th (BRS). 1 still inland at Grindon Lough on 1st (LGN).

Little Grebe:-

On 2nd, 1 at Bolan (CW). On 8th, 3 at Holywell (CED) and 4 at Brarside Ponds near Durham (RN), on 9th, 1 at Gosforth (SE), on 12th onwards 2 on the River Wear at Durham (RN) and on 16th, 1 at Holywell (CED).

Gannet:-

Noted moving N. at several coastal points from Whitburn to Annstead between 8th and 22nd. Maximum counts came from the latter with 100/hr. on 8th, 300/hr. on 9th and 100/hr. on 16th (BRS et al). Movements of this scale are very unusual for the time of year.

Mallard:-

Maximum counts from the ponds etc. were as follows:- 120 at Hartburn on 2nd (CW), 400 at Whittle Dene Reservoir on 9th (BQ/LIA), 300 at Holywell on 9th (RA/LGG), 450 at Gosforth on 9th (SE/ERN) and 500 on the sea off Hartley on 15th. There was a slight suggestion of a fall off in numbers toward end of the month.

Teal:-

The Gosforth Park flock was at a maximum at the beginning of the month with 135 on 1st (CW). Apparently scarce almost everywhere during prolonged cold spell in mid-month.

Gadwall:-

A pair at Gosforth Park on 9th (SE).

/Wigeon

Wigeon:-

Numbers continue to fluctuate at Budle Bay with only c2000 there on 9th (RA/LGG). Maximum counts from inland were 100 at Grindon on 2nd (BG) 35 at Holywell on 8th (CED), 100 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th and 80 at Whittle Dene on 13th (RG/TE/EL).

Pintail:-

2 at Broomelee Lough on 1st (LGH), a drake at Whittle Dene on 13th and 16th (RG/TE/EL et al), and a drake on Holy Island Lough on 23rd (ERM).

Shoveler:-

Between 5 and 7 in Gosforth Park from 1st - 9th (CV et al), and 1 at Holywell on 8th (CED).

Scaup:-

On 9th, 1 at Newton (RA/LGG) and 1 inland at Whittle Dene (BG). On 22nd, 1 at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (BL).

Tufted Duck:-

Maximum counts were:- On 1st, 96 at Gosforth, 35 at Seaton Burn and 120 at Holywell (CW/SE). On 2nd, 56 at Hartburn and 40 at Grindon (CV/BG). 335 at Whittle Dene on 9th (THA) had increased to 420 by 16th (BG) when all but two reservoirs were completely frozen. Still 225 there on 22nd (SE).

Pochard:-

In all round increase in numbers was evident which is a feature of February - March. Maximum counts were:-

Whittle Dene	-	60	on	9th	(BG).
Seaton Burn	-	77	on	1st	(CV).
Gosforth	-	135	on	1st	(CV).
Holywell	-	120	on	16th	(CED).
Hartburn	-	45	on	2nd	(CV).
Holy Island Lough	-	56	on	9th	(RA/LGG).

Flocks of up to 30 noted at five other waters.

Goldeneye:-

A general decline since January, probably as a result of a very cold spell of weather. 9 at Colt Crag on 2nd (CW) was the maximum noted from any one locality.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

14 off Holy Island on 9th (RA/LGG) and 5 on 23rd (ERM). On 16th, 1 n. off Seaton Sluice (SE).

Goosander:-

Still plentiful before the cold spell with 23 at Greenlee on 1st (LGH), 34 at Whittle Dene on 9th (BG) and 5 at Hallington on 2nd (CW). 10 on the Tyne at Bardon Hill on 15th suggested that birds had moved to the unfrozen rivers in mid-month but on 16th still 4 at Derwent Reservoir (AJ) and 5 at Whittle Dene (JSB). 2 on the Coquet at Varkworth on 26th (TH).

Shelduck:-

203 in Budle Bay on 9th (CV).

Grey Lag Goose:-

1 near Benshaw on 8th (LGH).

Pink-footed Goose:-

1 with the 2 semi-domestic Grey Lags at Holywell from 1st-9th (SE et al).

Brent Goose:-

2 flew N. off Mustead on 16th (BRS).

Canada Goose:-

34 at Hallington on 16th (RG/TE/EL).

Barnacle Goose:-

Single bird flew N. off St. Mary's on 2nd against a strong N. wind (SE).

Whooper Swan:-

The Holywell flock fluctuated between 40 and 50 from 1st-16th but only 2 present on 22nd (SE/CED et al). Elsewhere:- On 2nd, 6 at Grindon (BG), 18 at Hartburn (CW), 6 at Colt Crag (CW) and 13 at South Linton (RA/LGG). On 8th, 22 at Longhirst (EM), on 9th, 13 on Holy Island (RA/LGG) and 10 nr. Ellington (AJ). On 16th 6 flew N.E. over Gosforth (BG).

/Bewick's Swan

Bewick Swan:-

On 8th, 6 at Longhirst and 2 at Lothal (BM)

Hen Harrier:-

1 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (AJ).

Merlin:-

1 at Bamburgh on 8th (BRS), 1 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and 1 at Chevington on 17th (TH).

Water Rail:-

recorded from Bolan Lake (1 on 23rd) and Bamburgh (4 on 15th). (BRS/SH). At least 6 in Gosforth Park on 22nd (SE) and 10 on a stream in Killingworth during the cold spell (F. Colley).

Coot:-

On 1st, 260 at Seaton Burn (CW) and on 8th, 41 at Lothal, 70 at Brasside and c110 at Holywell (BA/RN/CED).

Grey Plover:-

On 2nd, 2 at Newbiggin, on 9th, 2 at Newton (RA/LGG), on 22nd, 1 at Bondicarr and on 23rd, 2 at Cresswell (TH).

Golden Plover:-

600 in the Druridge area on 2nd (RA/LGG).

Common Snipe:-

c40 in Gosforth Park on 9th was by far the largest concentration reported (SE).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Bamburgh on 8th (BRS) and up to 3 at Gosforth Park during the month (SE).

Woodcock:-

An influx in coastal areas during the cold spell with 1 at Bamburgh on 9th and 2 on 15th (BRS), 3 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and 2 or 3 in Holywell Lane on 16th (CED). Also 7 in Gosforth Park on 9th (SE).

Green Sandpiper:-

Up to 2 seen regularly at Whittle Lane but 3 and possibly 4 there on 9th (TH et al). 1 on a stream near Fence Houses, Co. Durham between 6th - 14th (AJ).

Redshank:-

c100 at Washington on 28th (BU) is an unusually large concentration for the time of year.

Knot:-

170+ at Seaton Sluice (SE) and 1500 on Benham Flats (ERM) on 23rd.

Sanderling:-

60 at Whitburn on 2nd (BU) and at South Shields on 23rd (RA/LGG) were the largest flocks reported.

Purple Sandpiper:-

Maximum at Seaton Sluice on 20 on 16th (SE).

Glaucous Gull:-

Single 1st. y. birds at Holywell on 2nd and 22nd (RA/LGG), at North Shields (JHE/HB) and Cullercoats (ERM) on 16th and at the Coquet Estuary on 21st/22nd (B et al). Single adults at Annstead and Stag Rocks on 9th (BRS).

Iceland Gull:-

Second year bird at North Shields on 10th (JHE/HB).

Auks (SB):-

Heavy N. passage on 8th, 9th and 16th noted at four coastal points. Largest numbers were noted off Annstead with 1500/hr. on 9th and 2000/hr. on 16th (B et al).

Little Auk:-

On 9th, 16 flew N. off Annstead (BRS), 1 picked up alive and slightly oiled at Cresswell (Cliff Davis) and 1 flew N. off Whitburn (RN).

Black Guillemot:-

1 flew N. off Annstead on 9th (BRS).

/Collared Dove

Collared Dove:-

A sharp increase in numbers in the Denton area during the cold spell from 20 to almost 50 (F. Colley).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 near Colt Crag on 1st (IRA), 1 near Ashington on 9th (AJ) and 5 on Holy Island on 23rd (ERM).

Long-eared Owl:-

Maximum of 11 in Gosforth Park during month (SE).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

A further two records from urban areas during month - Wickham on 27th (WSH) and Wallsend on 3rd (JSB).

Skylark:-

Moving S. over Whitley Bay ahead of snow showers on 15th and several hundred in the fields near St. Mary's the following day (SE/CED).

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Chevington on 17th and 2 at Amble on 20th (B & TH).

Mistle Thrush:-

The breeding pair reported last month successfully reared two young on 17th from the nest in Wallsend (IRA).

Redwing:-

A few hundred moving S. ahead of snow showers at Whitley Bay on 15th (SE) and 200+ flew N. at Bamburgh on the same day (BRS). Some very weak birds in the vicinity of Seaton Sluice on 16th (SE).

Stonechat:-

Two well inland near Maltwhistle on 8th (L.).

Blackcap:-

1 at Norpeth all month (per BH) and 2 at Throckley on 16th (DLA).

Grey Wagtail:-

Reported from Seaton Sluice (2), Holywell (1), Gosforth Park (1), Whittle Dene (1), Bardon Hill (1), Durham City (1), Fence Houses (1) and Bamburgh (1).

Goldfinch:-

12 at Grindon on 1st was largest flock reported (LGH et al.).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 9th (SE/ERM) may have been the bird reported from Jesmond Dene last month.

Siskin:-

1 at Prudhoe on 16th (N.V. & M.A.H.).

Redpoll:-

20 at Prudhoe on 16th is an unusual concentration for the time of year (N. & M.A.H.).

Brambling:-

Small parties of up to 6 reported from widespread localities and 20 at Hartley Point on 15th/16th during the cold spell (CED et al.).

Snow Bunting:-

30 on Newcastle Town Moor on 7th (CW) and 90 - 110 at Whitburn on 9th (RN).

Tree Sparrow:-

Concentration of 30+ at Cresswell on 1st (SE).

List of Contributors.

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All records for March to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle, N.E. 15 7RD by 8th April, 1969.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

MARCH 1969 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

A cold month dominated almost entirely by strong, cold winds from an easterly quarter between 1st - 27th.

High pressure over Scandinavia between 12th - 22nd and an air stream originating from S.E. Europe was probably responsible for the arrival of two Spoonbills, one of which was found in an exhausted condition and later died. The occasional gale force S.E. winds also forced Red-throated Divers Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes on to coastal pools and with "oil slicks" just off the coast, some of the above, plus large numbers of Auks were obvious victims.

A count of dead birds along the tide line in Druridge Bay revealed the alarming figures of 159 Guillemots, 56 Puffins, 34 Razorbills, 2 Little Auks and a few Gulls. Most were oiled.

A few dark breasted Brent Geese appeared at three localities other than Holy Island, again probably forced down by adverse weather.

Goosander numbers were again high whilst a return passage northwards of surface feeding ducks and Whooper and Bewick Swans was evident.

Summer migrants were very scarce indeed with only Garganey, Green-shanks, Ring Ouzel, Wheatear, a few Black Redstarts and White Wagtail being reported. Other interesting records included a Bittern, a Spotted Redshank and a Little Gull

Classified List.

Diver (Sp.):-

11 N. off Ross on 2nd and 1 N. off Cresswell on 9th (SE).

Black-throated Diver:-

1 off Holy Island on 23rd (SE).

Great Northern Diver:-

Between 2 and 3 in the Holy Island area from 15th - 23rd (RA/LGG et al). 1 N. off Cresswell on 24th (BM).

Red-throated Diver:-

Still c50 on the sea off Alnmouth on 23rd (BM). 1 on the River Coquet at Warkworth on 15th (BM) and on 16th single oiled birds on a pool near Hauxley and at Cresswell Pond (EG/BM). 2 oiled birds were found dead at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (AJ). 1 on Killingworth Pond on 31st was quite time and apparently not oiled. It was still present on 8th April (F. Colley/EG).

Great-crested Grebe:-

1 on Cresswell Pond on 20th (TH). 1 at Longhirst from 22nd - 29th (MN/BM/ERM). 2 - 3 off Alnmouth on 23rd - 29th. (BM/ERM) and 1 off Holy Island on 26th (CMA).

Red-necked Grebe:-

All records are confined to the period 16th - 30th, a surprising number of which were on inland pools. There were up to 3 on Cresswell Pond during this period one of which was found oiled and dead on 23rd (LGM/CW/WGJ et al). On 19th, 1 at Holywell Ponds (MN). On 22nd, 1 on Newton Pool and 2 near Hauxley, the latter remaining until 29th (MN/HERS). Between 1 and 5 in Holy Island area from 21st - 24th (TH/RA/LGG et al) and 1 off Bamburgh on 24th (RA/LGG).

Slavonian Grebe:-

Inland records were of singles on the Coquet, Warkworth on 15th (BM), at Holywell from 19th - 29th (CED/MN), and at Brasside Ponds, Co. Durham on 26th (RM). 1 off Bamburgh on 2nd (SE) and c12 in Holy Island area on 23rd (MN et al).

Black-necked Grebe:-

2 in Holy Island Harbour on 15th (ERS) and 1 there on 23rd (LGM/MN/CW).

All records were of single birds from River Tyne at Wylam, River Twee at Norham, Bolan, Holywell and Bothal.

Heron:-

Single birds were noted emigrating to the E. at Seahouses on 15th (BRS) and at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS). Single birds also noted at Hallington on 5th, Shaftoe on 25th, Tarsset on 29th and Washington on 30th.

Bittern:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 23rd (CED).

Spoonbill:-

A healthy and strong flying bird was seen on a pond near Howick on 16th (LGM/CW). On 20th, an exhausted bird was picked up at a pool at Jughall, near Beadnell. Attempts to revive it with pieces of fish failed and it died after about one hour. It was later taken to the Hancock Museum (TH). It is probable that these were separate individuals.

Mallard:-

The largest flocks were at the beginning of the month. On 1st, 250 at Whittle Dene (NVH/MAH) and 200 at Hartburn (RA/LGG). On 2nd, 200 in Budle Bay (SE). On 9th, 250 off Cresswell (SE) and 440 at Derwent Reservoir (RN). 100 at Holywell throughout month (CED) but elsewhere a steady decline noted as the month progressed.

Teal:-

80 at Prestwick Carr was by far the largest flock reported (ERM). A general decline everywhere since February.

Garganey:-

Three of this Summer visitor. At Longhirst five on 16th (LGM/CW) and 3th (BM). A drake at Alnmouth on 23rd (BM).

Gadwall:-

2 at Holywell on 23rd (CED).

Wigeon:-

The Winter flocks continue to decline. On 1st, c1000 at Budle Bay and 100 at Whittle Dene (RN/NVH/MAH). On 4th, 80 at Derwent Reservoir (RG/EL/WE). On 5th, 121 at Hallington (CMA). On 23rd, 125 at Newton (KHA). On 27th, 60 at Grindon. Parties of up to 30 noted from five other localities.

Pintail:-

On 1st, 2 at Holywell (MN) and 2 on Holy Island (CMA). On 2nd, 2 at Whittle Dene (NVH/MAH) and still 1 on 5th. 1 still at Holy Island on 15th (TH) and 4 there on 23rd (WGJ). 2 at Grindon on 29th (LGM).

Shoveler:-

More records as breeding birds return and passage birds move through. Between 15th - 29th up to 9 at Linton (BG/BM et al) and up to 4 at Holywell (CED). 8 at Longhirst on 16th (LGM/CW). Up to 5 at Cresswell from 16th - 30th (TH/AJ). On 23rd, singles at Washington (RN) and Holy Island (WGJ).

Scaup:-

1 drake at Cresswell Pond on 11th (TH).

Tufted Duck:-

The Holywell flock reached a peak of 165 on 6th (MN/CED) after which a gradual decline was noted. Reported from 9 other waters with a maximum of 45 at Whittle Dene on 5th (CMA).

Pochard:-

93 at Holywell and 100 at Gosforth on 1st were the largest flocks reported (MN). Parties of up to 22 were noted from 8 other waters.

Goldeneye:-

Reported from 12 localities. Double figures reported from Whittle Dene (10 on 5th), Hallington (16 on 8th), River Tweed at Berwick (17 on 22nd and Newton (11 on 23rd).

Long-tailed Duck:-

On 21st-23rd 6 off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh (RA/LGG) and up to 12 off Holy Island (WGJ et al).

Common Scoter:-

A drake at Cresswell on 4th appeared oiled (TH). 45 off Bamburgh on 2nd (SE).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Up to 10 in the Holy Island area during the month (RA/LGG et al).
From 16th - 23rd a female at Cresswell Pond (BG/BM/AS). On 22nd, 5
at Berwick and on 23rd 6 at Alnmouth (BM).

Goosander:-

Still plentiful. 48 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th and 63 there on 9th
(BN et al). 28 at Whittle Dene on 9th and still 16 present on 29th (IHA).
Hallington showed a maximum of 9 on 8th (CHA et al). 6 near Norham on
22nd (BM), 12 at Greenlee on 29th (LGM) and 5 at Wingates on 30th (CED).
1 at Cresswell on 9th/11th and 4 on 30th/31st (TH et al). 6 at Hartburn
on 1st.

Shelduck:-

Breeding pairs became permanently established at coastal localities
during month. c170 in Budle Bay all month (CHA et al). 14 N. off
Cresswell on 1st (TH) and single birds inland at Washington on 8th and
23rd and at Holywell on 1st/2nd.

Grey Lag Goose:-

1 at Newton on 23rd (IHA).

Pink-footed Goose:-

1 at Holywell all month (CED) and 1 at Amble on 22nd (BN/CW).

Brent Goose:-

c50 on Fenham Flats on 23rd. At Cresswell Ponds 3 on 15th increased
to 9 by 20th and 11 on 23rd, 8 remaining until 26th (BG/RA/BM/TH et al).
On 16th, 1 in the Coquet Estuary (B/BM) and on 26th/28th 1 at South
Shields (RA/LGG). All were dark breasted with the exception of 1 of the
Fenham Flats birds.

Canada Goose:-

1 at Bamburgh on 16th (BRS).

Whooper Swan:-

Maximum counts were as follows:- 40 at Holywell on 9th and 16th
(CED/SE) reducing to 11 by 29th (BN). 15 on Holy Island Lough on 23rd
(RA/LGG) and 56 on Fenham Flats on 26th (CHA). 13 in Ashington area on
7th, 13 at Linton on 29th (T/BM/ERM), 15 at Wingates on 26th (TCS).
12 at Grindon on 29th (LGM et al).

Bewick's Swan:-

The relative abundance of records can be explained by return passage
through the county. On 1st, 1 on Fenham Flats (CHA), on 4th/7th up to 5
near Ashington (FM/BM). On 16th and 22nd three at Longhirst (LGM/BN).
On 21st, 4 at Seahouses (B & TH), on 23rd, 5 at Boulmer (BG/ERM/BN) and
on 24th, 9 at Rothal.

Sparrow Hawk:-

Single birds reported from 8 different localities.

Peregrine:-

An immature bird at Budle Bay on 15th and at Bamburgh on 29th (BRS).

Merlin:-

A male at Boulmer on 23rd (ERM/BG).

Water Rail:-

1 found dead in Budle Bay on 23rd had been killed by a predator.
5 at Bamburgh on 23rd (BM).

Coot:-

Maximum counts were:- 115 at Holywell on 2nd (CED). 54 at Bolam
on 16th and 155 on Holy Island Lough on 26th (CHA).

Oystercatcher:-

Passage birds on inland waters were noted at Derwent Reservoir
(3 on 9th), Longhirst (1 on 16th), Washington (1 on 23rd) and Whittle
Dene (2 on 29th).

Lapwing:-

8 washed up dead on the tideline between Cresswell/Mauxley on 23rd
and 15 between Amble/Alnmouth. 550 at Washington on 23rd (BN).

Grey Plover:-

87 had gathered on the Old Law, Moss Links at high tide on 2nd
(BN/LGM/CW). Single birds reported from Amble, Mauxley, and

Seaton Sluice between 16th - 23rd.

Golden Plover:-

250 at Cresswell on 26th, 20 of which were identified as belonging to the Northern race (TH/BM).

Common Snipe:-

On 16th, 130 at Longhirst and 30 at Chevington Burn (LGM/BG/BM). On 21st, 90 at Prestwick Carr (ERM) and on 23rd, 50 at Alnmouth (BM).

Jack Snipe:-

1 in Budle Bay on 23rd (LGM/CW).

Woodcock:-

1 at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Curlew:-

150 at Grindon on 27th (RG/WB/L) and 100 at Holy Island on 26th (CMA).

Green Sandpiper:-

Still 1 at Whittle Dene on 16th and 29th (INA).

Redshank:-

c100 inland at Washington on 30th (BU).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Greenshank:-

An early bird at Alnmouth on 23rd (BM).

Knot:-

c180 at Whitley Bay on 16th (SE).

Purple Sandpiper:-

30 in Blyth Harbour on 3rd (TH). 20 at Newton on 16th (LGM/CW) and c70 at Amble on 23rd (RA/LGG).

Sanderling:-

64 at Cresswell on 9th (SE) and a maximum at Whitburn of 36 on 6th (BU).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

2 at Alnmouth on 23rd, 1 at Alwinton on 25th (ERM/BG) and 2 in Budle Bay on 29th (BRS). 3 at Seahouses on 21st showed characteristics of the Scandinavian race (TH).

Common Gull:-

A gathering of 800 - 1000 adults in Alnmouth estuary on 23rd (ERM/BG).

Glaucous Gull:-

1 in Blyth Harbour on 3rd (TH). 1 at Hauxley on 16th (HRS) and 28th (TH) and 1 at Holywell on 29th (MN). All were apparently first year birds.

Little Gull:-

An immature bird flew S. off Cresswell on 16th (TH).

Little Auk:-

1 on sea at Beadnell on 20th (B & TH). Single dead birds found at Ross, Alnmouth, Amble and Druridge during month.

Long-eared Owl:-

1 in a copse near Linton on 24th (TH).

Short-eared Owl:-

Single birds noted from seven different localities. 2 in Ashington area most of month and 3 on Holy Island on 23rd.

Skylarks:-

Light N. movement noted at Bamburgh on 29th/30th (BRS).

Hooded Crow:-

Up to 15 on Ross Links between 2nd - 15th (MN et al). Elsewhere birds reported from Holy Island (2), Amble (1), Chevington (1), Cresswell (1), and Prestwick Carr (3).

Fieldfare:-

100 on Holy Island on 26th (CMA) and 70 at Cresswell on 28th (BM) were probably part of a pre-emigration build up.

/Ring Ouzel

Ring Ouzel:-

1 in the Breamish Valley on 30th was the only record and is the first of the Spring (LGN).

Wheatear:-

Only two records. The first at Beadnell on 20th (B & TH) and 1 at Wooler on 30th (JKJ/PJ).

Stonechat:-

Singles reported from Holy Island, Chevington, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice.

Black Redstart:-

A slight arrival after 15th. On 15th, 1 at Chevington (RA) and 1 at Seaton Sluice (JKJ). On 18th/19th 1 at Newsham (JKJ). On 20th, 1 at Newton and 2 at Beadnell with 1 still there on 21st (B & TH).

Robin:-

A few on the shore between Hauxley and Cresswell on 15th/16th suggested a small arrival (RA/BG/BH).

Meadow Pipit:-

Moving N. in small numbers at Bamburgh on 29th/30th (BRS).

Pied Wagtail:-

10 at Bamburgh and 30 at Heddon on 30th suggested a general N. passage.

White Wagtail:-

1 at Prestwick Carr on 21st, 1 at Alnmouth on 29th (ERM) and 2 at Heddon on 30th (IHA).

Grey Wagtail:-

8 moved N. through Bamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Redpoll:-

A flock of 50 in Bellingham area on 30th (WGT) and 4 at Amble on 23rd were almost certainly "Nealys" (BG/ERM).

Brambling:-

40 in Prudhoe area on 1st - 5th (NW/MAH) and c100 at Heddon on 16th (JSB).

Snow Bunting:-

2 at Alnmouth on 16th (BH) and 1 at Holy Island on 29th (TH).

List of Contributors.

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All April records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE 15 7RD by the 8th May, 1969 please.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

APRIL 1969 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

April was somewhat of an anticlimax after a warm, settled start to the month. Summer visitors were slow to arrive as cold North Westerlies prevailed between 10th and 17th, but there was a suggestion that Fieldfares were emigrating at this time.

A depression moved across the S. of the country after 18th and winds changed to an easterly quarter remaining there until 23rd. This brought a fall of Thrushes, Robins and two more Black Redstarts and a few Summer visitors were noted, but the main arrival did not take place until after 25th as winds became light westerly or none existent. Even then birds were still not plentiful with only one record each of Redstart and Whinchat and no records of Swift, Sedge and Garden Warbler, Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher. Most species appear to be arriving at least 10 - 14 days later than is usual for this time of year. Hoopoe, Black Redstart and Firecrest were the only unusual passerines to be recorded during the month although a single Lesser Whitethroat could be included in this group.

The more interesting non passerines included good numbers of Divers and Grebes, a "Blue" Fulmar, the Holywell Bittern, 2 Black Terns and 2 Black Guillemots.

At the time of writing, May has been no better than April and some "Summer" visitors are apparently still quite scarce.

Classified List.

Black-throated Diver:-

1 in partial Summer plumage on the River Coquet at Warkworth on 4th (SE/BMn). On 6th, 5 off Bamburgh (BRS) and 2 off Ross Links (BG/BM).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 N. off Annstead on 4th (BRS), 1 off Ross on 6th (BG/BM) and 1 off Holy Island on 20th (RA/LGG).

Red-throated Diver:-

On 4th, 8 off Bamburgh (BRS) and 3 off Howick (SE). 2 off Holy Island on 5th (SE) and 15 off Ross on 6th (BG/BM). The bird at Killingworth Lake, first reported in March, was last seen there on 14th (F.COLLEY).

Diver (Sp.):

Parties of up to 4 unidentified Divers were reported from several coastal points until 20th.

Great Crested Grebe:-

1 at Longhirst on 7th/8th (CW/M et al). 2 at Colt Crag on 5th (AJ) and up to 7 at Catcleigh Reservoir by 26th (ERM et al).

Red-necked Grebe:-

Between 1st - 6th up to 3 in Holy Island Harbour, 1 off Ross and 3 off Bamburgh (BRS et al). Still 1 off Holy Island on 20th (RA/LGG). The March bird still at Holywell Pond on 2nd (HM) and on 20th, 1 on a pond near Ashington (TH/BM).

Slavonian Grebe:-

The inland birds at Brasside (Durham) and Holywell were last noted on 3rd (RM) and 19th (CED) respectively. On 5th, 6 off Bamburgh (BRS) and c20 off Ross next day (BG/BM).

Black-necked Grebe:-

On 6th, 2 on Holy Island Slakes and 2 off Ross may well have been the same birds (BRS/BG/BM).

Little Grebe:-

Reported from 10 waters involving a total of about 12 pairs.

Fulmar:-

10 at an inland site about 11 miles from sea in N. Northumberland (CMA). A dark phase bird at Bamburgh on 4th (BRS).

/Gannet

Gannet:-

Moving N. at 60 per hour off Holy Island on 2nd (RGW) and c50 N. in about 1 hour off Whitley Bay on 19th (SE).

Heron:-

Single birds reported from Longhirst, Bolam and Bamburgh and 2 together at each of Holywell and Broomlee during month.

Bittern:-

The bird reported last month from Holywell was still there on 15th (per CED).

Mallard:-

68 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd was by far the largest flock reported (RN).

Teal:-

40 at Grindon on 19th was the largest flock reported (LGM).

Garganey:-

Reported only from Longhirst (South Linton) with 4 on 7th (MN/CW) and 2 on 20th (LGG).

Gadwall:-

2 pairs in the Holywell/Seaton Delaval area all month (CED/AB). A female at Gosforth Park on 19th (SE).

Wigeon:-

45 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RN) and only 30 left in Budle Bay on 4th (BRS).

Pintail:-

On 4th, 3 at Cresswell (B & TH/SE). 10 at Ellington on 8th (RN) and 2 at Hauxley on 24th (BRS).

Shoveler:-

Single pairs regularly reported from Linton, Washington and Gosforth. Up to three pairs seen at Holywell and two pairs at Hauxley and Newton. 6 drakes and 3 ducks at Linton on 2nd (B & TH et al).

Tufted Duck:-

c60 at Holywell all month (CED et al). On 5th, 30 at Colt Crag and 35 at Hartburn (AJ). 35 at Swallow Ponds on 7th and 36+ at Gosforth on 19th (SE). Smaller flocks noted at many other localities.

Pochard:-

16 at Gosforth on 19th was by far the largest concentration (SE). Reported as mainly small groups of 2 - 3 pairs from seven other waters.

Goldeneye:-

Still very plentiful, even until late in the month, being reported from 18 localities. The largest concentrations were at the beginning of the month with 15 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RN), 16 at Broomlee on 4th (LGM), 23 at Colt Crag on 5th (AJ) and 12 on Holy Island Slakes on 6th (BRS).

Long-tailed Duck:-

Still 65 in the Bamburgh area on 6th (BRS) and 10 off Holy Island on 20th (RA/LGG).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

7 off Bamburgh on 5th (SE) and 6 off Holy Island on 20th (RA/LGG).

Goosander:-

Up to 3 at Cresswell Ponds between 2nd - 7th (TH et al) and 1 at Hauxley on 7th (BRS). 18 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RN), 11 at Broomlee on 4th (LGM), 2 at Colt Crag on 5th (AJ), and 4 at Whittle Dene on 6th (JSB).

Shelduck:-

Still 89 in Budle Bay on 4th but a decrease to 38 by 20th (BRS). 2 inland at Holburn Moss on 17th (CMA).

Whooper Swan:-

The Holywell herd had reduced from 13 on 2nd to 1 by end of month (MN/CED). Up to 7 at Grindon between 8th and 27th (RG/EL/LGM). 15 at Hartburn on 6th (SE) and 4 at Wingates on 17th (CMA).

/Grey Geese

Grey Geese:-
45+ near Bolam on 15th were thought to be Pink Feet (JAJ).

Grey Lag Goose:-
2 at Hartburn on 5th (AJ).

Pink Footed Goose:-
The bird at Holywell throughout March was last seen on 20th (CED/SE).

Canada Goose:-
10 at Colt Crag on 5th, 8 at Reedswater on 5th (AJ) and 8 at Sweethope on 6th (SE). 2 on the Coquet near Warkworth for most of month (BG et al).

Sparrow Hawk:-
Reported from 8 inland localities. A probable emigrant flew E. high over Hauxley on 27th (BRS).

Merlin:-
Coastal records involved 1 at Bamburgh on 4th (BRS) and 1 at Amble on 24th (B & TH).

Inland records were singles at Haltwhistle on 6th (LGM), Whittle Dene on 13th (BM) and Coe Burn on 4th (AJ).

Water Rail:-
Still 4 at Bamburgh on 12th (BRS).

Oystercatcher:-
Noted back at inland sites during month.

Ringed Plover:-
Inland breeding birds were back at their sites by mid month. Up to 4 passage birds at Holywell Ponds during month (SE et al).

Turnstone:-
Counts from 7 coastal points between St. Mary's and Bamburgh on 4th/5th totalled 370 birds (SE).

Common Snipe:-
Large numbers reported from the Holywell - Seaton Delaval area. 100+ on 6th (AB), 60+ on 12th and c80 on 20th (SE).

Jack Snipe:-
1 near Seaton Delaval on 6th (AB) was the only record.

Woodcock:-
A migrant at Cresswell on 8th (TH).

Curlew:-
400 on the N. end of Ross Links on 6th (BM/BG). 34 flew N. at Holywell on 20th (SE).

Black-tailed Godwit:-
1 in the Seaton Delaval/Holywell area between 6th and 16th (AB/CED/SE).

Green Sandpiper:-
1 at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS).

Common Sandpiper:-
1 at Cresswell Ponds on 3rd (ERM) and 1 near Seaton Delaval on 6th (AB). There were another three records between 12th - 19th but the main arrival did not take place until about 26th.

Redshank:-
The Washington flock reached a peak of c180 on 17th subsequently declining to only 20 by 29th (BU).

Spotted Redshank:-
1 at Holywell on 26th (CED).

Purple Sandpiper:-
On 4th/5th a total of 35 at four coastal points between Seaton Sluice and Bamburgh.

Dunlin:-
300 in Budle Bay on 20th was by far the largest concentration recorded (BRS). Up to 6 passage birds at both Holywell and Washington Ponds during month.

/Sanderling

Santerling:-

Up to 67 at Whitley Bay between 6th and 17th (SE). 32 at Annstead on 5th (BRS).

Ruff:-

1 in the Holywell area on 6th and 4 on 12th (AB/SE). 1 at Washington on 27th (BU).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

Moving N. in small numbers in the Hauxley area on 7th and at Bamburgh on 12th (HRS/BRS).

Glaucous Gull:-

A sub adult at Howick on 4th (SE), and a first year at Holywell on 7th was joined by a sub adult on 12th (AP/SE).

Black Tern:-

1 at Cresswell on 22nd (CW) and 1 near Seghill on 24th (LGH).

Common Tern:-

1 at Holywell Ponis on 26th (CED) was the only record.

Little Tern:-

3 at Embleton on 26th (JSB).

Sandwich Tern:-

2 at Boulmer on 4th was the first record (SE). Noted thereafter with increasing frequency from most coastal points.

Black Guillemot:-

1 off Holy Island on 2nd (RGW) and 1 off Farnes on 17th/18th (per (IHA)).

Cuckoo:-

Only four records. 1 at Ashington on 25th (WGJ), 1 near Seaton Delaval on 26th (AB), 1 at Hauxley on 27th (HRS) and 1 at Alwinton on 30th (TCS).

Short-eared Owl:-

Between 1st - 6th noted mainly as single birds at 5 localities. No records thereafter.

Hoopoe:-

1 in sand dunes at Bamburgh on 7th (BRS/B & TH).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

That Northern birds from last Autumn's invasion are still lingering in the area is confirmed by 1 trapped at Seaton Delaval on 19th (AB).

Swallow:-

4 at Longhirst on 20th was first record (RA/LGG) and another 2 were near Ponteland on 22nd (WGJ). From 25th onwards birds were noted moving steadily N. to N.W. over inland and coastal areas in both counties.

Sand Martin:-

2 at Felton on 9th (B & TH) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 10th (JKJ) were the first records. Further birds were noted on 15th, 19th and 20th and moving N. over the area with Swallows after 25th.

House Martin:-

1 at Brasside Pond, Durham on 25th was first record (ERM). During next few days small parties of up to 6 noted from 5 other localities.

Hooded Crow:-

Still numerous on Ross Links with 18 there on 6th (BRS). Between 1st and 19th single birds reported from 6 other localities.

Raven:-

An apparently poor breeding year with only 1 successful nest being reported (ERM).

Fieldfare:-

Some interesting pre-emigration flocking which is so typical at this time of year. A flock near Ponteland built up to 600 by 9th and then disappeared overnight. Another 500 passed through on 24th (WGJ). Similar numbers were noted at Colwell on 13th (RG/WB) and at Blanchland and Derwent Reservoir on 18th. Further afield, also on 13th, 250+ were at Walbottle (BMn) and 200 at Bellingham (CW).

Redwing:-

Still 100+ with Fieldfares at Walbottle on 13th (BMn) but only a handful reported from elsewhere.

Ring Ouzel:-

Apparently established in breeding areas by mid month (ERM et al). Passage birds noted at the coast on 15th (1 at Cresswell) and 26th (1 at Craster and 2 at Seaton Delaval) (JSE/TH/AB).

Blackbird/Song Thrush:-

Moving through Bamburgh in small numbers during first week of month (BRS) and very common at Hauxley from 22nd until 27th (BRS).

Wheatear:-

Well established in inland breeding areas by mid month. Reported from widely scattered coastal areas in small numbers on many days after 4th.

Stonechat:-

Single pairs at Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Whinchat:-

Only 1 record. 1 near Amble on 23rd (BH).

Redstart:-

Again only 1 record. 1 at Hauxley on 20th (BRS).

Black Redstart:-

3 further records after the slight influx in March. 1 at Annstead on 4th (BRS), 1 at Cresswell on 22nd (TH) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 25th (JMJ).

Robin:-

An obvious influx at the coast on 22nd - 24th with 20 at Cresswell and 30 at Hauxley (TH/CW).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 at Bamburgh on 25th was first and 4 there next day (BRS). Single birds also reported from Wooler (JMJ) and Dunstanburgh (JSB) on 26th and Craster on 27th (SE).

Blackcap:-

A female at Horsley on 13th (IMA) may have been a wintering bird. 5 other records were all of males and most probably Summer birds. 1 at Bywell (RG/WB) and 1 at Cresswell (TH) and 22nd, 1 at Wooler and 1 at Bamburgh on 26th (JMJ/BRS) and 1 at Hauxley on 27th (BRS).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Bamburgh on 26th is the first and only record (BRS).

Willow Warbler:-

The first was at Seaton Delaval on 12th (AB) and on 15th, 4 were singing at Felton (TH). Thereafter a few were noted at each of Gosforth and Cresswell but the main arrival did not take place until after 25th.

Chiffchaff:-

The first was at Howick on 4th (SD) and only four subsequent records. 1 at each of Stocksfield and Horsley on 13th (IMA), 2 at Felton on 15th (TH), 2 at Heddon on 20th (JSB) and 1 at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS).

Goldcrest:-

A slight influx at the coast on 12th (20 near Seaton Delaval) and 22nd (c10 at Hauxley).

Firecrest:-

An adult female trapped at Bamburgh on 26th/27th (BRS).

Pied Flycatcher:-

Only two records. 1 at Amble on 23rd (BH) and 1 at Dipton on 27th (WGJ).

Meadow Pipit:-

Many flocks of up to 150 noted moving N. over the Western part of Northumberland on 13th and 19th (BG/CW). A sudden influx in coastal areas on 27th (CED/BRS).

Tree Pipit:-

1 at Bamburgh on 26th and 3 there next day were the only records (BRS).

Pied Wagtail:-

Moving N. through Northumberland with White Wagtails throughout month. Of the latter there were up to 3 at Holywell between 12th - 26th. 5 were at Annstead on 26th (BRS) with 2 at Newton (IMA) and 1 at Washington next day (BU).

Yellow Wagtail:-

The first was 1 at Washington on 10th (RN) followed by 1 at Holywell on 19th (CED/MN). After 26th, up to 8 at Washington and several at Holywell (BU/CED). 2 at Seaton Sluice on 30th (JkJ).

Crossbill:-

A male feeding 4 juveniles in Kielder Forest on 20th (WGJ).

Brambling:-

1 at Whitley Bay on 21st and 1 at Druridge on 22nd were the only records.

Siskin:-

Parties of up to 6 noted in Kielder area on 5th - 7th (ERM). A female in Redesdale on 26th (ERM).

List of Contributors.

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Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All records for May to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle NE 15 7 RD by 8th June at the latest please.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 10th April, 1969 the following Committee was elected for the ensuing year:-

Chairman:	Dr. J. D. Farrack.
Secretary:	Mr. I. H. Armstrong.
Treasurer:	J. Orton.
Recorder:	B. Galloway.
Committee Members:	C. E. Douglas. B. Marshall. G. McFarlane. E. Meek. P. Yeoman.

During the heavy influxes of Spring passage birds during late April and early May unusually high numbers of Ring Ouzels, Lesser Whitethroats and Grasshopper warblers were recorded. Would members please keep a special watch for these species during the current breeding season, recording at least the presence of the birds in any particular area, and if possible, proof of breeding. Would any members visiting forestry areas please keep a careful watch for Siskins. This species appears to be increasing and any information would be useful.

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

FURTHER APRIL RECORDS.

Gannet:-

N. passage noted off Cresswell on 1st (70/hr.), on 18th (45/hr) and 20th (26 in 15 minutes).

Garganey:-

A drake at Longhirst (S. Linton) on 16th (BM).

Pintail:-

3 at Ellington on 15th (BM).

Bewick's Swan:-

A late bird at Linton on 23rd (BM).

Common Gull:-

Adults moving N. off Cresswell at several hundreds per hour on 18th (BM).

MAY REPORT.

SUMMARY.

Like April, May was a very wet month dominated almost entirely by E. to S.E. winds. Consequently Spring migrants continued to be slow in arriving and by the end of the month Wheatears, Redstarts and Whitethroats were still comparatively scarce.

Most records came from the coastal areas and involved continental drift migrants and some species that had probably "overshot" their breeding areas in W. Europe.

High pressure to the N. and S. of the country on 2nd - 9th and a series of depressions moving across Britain from W. to E. forced continental migrants off course and unusual numbers of Ring Ouzel, Fieldfare, Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat, Pied Flycatcher and Tree Pipit were noted. In addition, Marsh Harrier, Black-Tailed Godwit, Green and Wood Sandpiper, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Black Redstart, Grey Headed Wagtail and Ortolan Bunting were all reported.

With only two or three short breaks, this type of weather persisted throughout the month but falls of migrants were never so conspicuous. Nevertheless further unusual sightings included another Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Spotted Redshanks, unusual numbers of Greenshank, Little Gulls, a late Black Redstart, a Marsh Warbler and a Red Backed Shrike.

During the spell of fine weather at the beginning of June an adult White Winged Black Tern was recorded from Grindon Lough. It was seen for most of the day on 7th but had departed by early morning on 8th.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Great Northern Diver:-

1 N. off Annstead on 18th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

1 S. off Annstead on 3rd (BRS).

Great Crested Grebe:-

3 at Colt Crag on 22nd (RG/WE/EL).

Manx Shearwater:-

1 S. off Annstead on 25th (BRS) and 1 off the Farnes on 29th (ERM).

Fulmar:-

A dark phase bird flew N. off Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Heron:-

Up to 4 in Halleypike/Grindon area during month (ERM/LGM).

Spoonbill:-

Single birds found dead at Holy Island and Chatton during month (per BRS). This brings the Spring total to 3 (3 of which died).

/Garganey

Garganey:-

A drake at Holywell on 17th - 20th (CED) and a pair at Longhirst on 20th (BM).

Wigeon:-

2 in Grindon area during latter part of month (LGM/RN) and 5 in Budle Bay on 24th (BRS).

Shoveler:-

A pair at Holywell all month (CED) and perhaps 4 - 5 pairs in Cresswell - Ashington area between 20th - 31st (BM).

Scaup:-

A drake at Cresswell on 20th (TH).

Tufted Duck:-

Still over 50 at Holywell for most of month (CED). Smaller numbers noted elsewhere.

Goldeneye:-

Up to 3/4 at Washington until 13th (BU). 1 at Broomlee on 17th (LGM) and 1 near Thropton on 19th (CED).

Goosander:-

Still increasing as a breeding bird in N. Tyne, Redesdale and Upper Coquetdale (ERM/BG). 1 pair noted on the River Allen at Staward during month (JDP).

Shelduck:-

Still 100 in Budle Bay on 24th (BRS).

Grey Lag Goose:-

1 at Grindon from 17th until end of month (LGM/RN). 1 at Budle Bay on 24th (BRS).

Canada Goose:-

A pair on River Coquet near Warkworth for most of month (BG/LGG).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Male trapped at Bamburgh on 3rd/4th when other migrants were conspicuous (BRS).

Marsh Harrier:-

Female at Bamburgh on 3rd/4th and male on Holy Island on 30th (BRS).

Osprey:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 14th (MN).

Peregrine:-

A very tired bird allowed close approach at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).

Water Rail:-

Still 1 at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS).

Oystercatcher:-

A pair at Holywell Ponds for most of month is an unusual record for so late in the Spring (CED). Also 2 at South Linton Pond on 20th (BM).

Ringed Plover:-

70 in Budle Bay on 17th (BRS) and some late passage birds at Washington (max. 9 on 25th BU) and Holywell (10 on 31st (CED/MN)).

Whimbrel:-

4 records of birds moving N:- 2 over Whitley Bay on 8th (JDP), 1 over Bamburgh on 10th (BRS), 1 over Bedlington on 13th (JDP) and 1 over Hauxley on 17th (BRS).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

1 at Washington Pond on 4th (BU/SW) and 1 at Holywell on 9th (CED).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 at Bamburgh on 4th (BRS) and 2 at Marsden Quarry on 7th (SW et al).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Hauxley on 3rd (BRS) and 1 at Washington on 26th/28th (BU).

Common Sandpiper:-

Away from the breeding areas 1 at Holywell from 3rd - 17th (CED), and 1 at Cresswell on 11th (ERM). On nights of 13th and 14th single calls were heard over Whitley Bay, Ponteland and Denton Burn during overcast conditions (ERM/BG). 1 on the Farnes on 29th (ERM).

/Spotted Redshank

Spotted Redshank:-

3 at Washington on 8th/9th (RN/ER) and 1 at Holywell on 17th (CED/MN).

Greenshank:-

1 at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS) and 1 at Cresswell on 24th (RN).
Between 1 - 2 at Washington from 8th - 20th increasing to 6 on 25th and still three there on 28th (BU/RN/ERM).

Dunlin:-

Still 100 in Budle Bay on 17th (BRS). Up to four passage birds at Washington during month (BU).

Sanderling:-

56 at Annstead on 18th (BRS) and still 1 at Boulmer on 25th (ERM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

109 in Budle Bay on 10th (BRS) and 2 of Scandinavian Race at Washington on 20th (BU). British birds moving N.W. over Western part of county on 14th and 18th (ERM).

Glaucous Gull:-

A second Summer bird at Cresswell on 27th (TH) and two immatures at Holywell on 31st (MG).

Little Gull:-

An immature at Washington on 8th (ERM/BU) and two immatures at Cresswell on 22nd (TH). Still at least 1 at Cresswell on 31st.

Little Tern:-

On 10th, 1 at Holy Island (J.J/PJ) and 2 in Budle Bay (BRS). On 25th 2 off Boulmer and 1 at Cullernose.

Roseate Tern:-

6 off Boulmer on 25th and 2 at Cullernose on same day were first of year (ERM).

Collared Dove:-

2 passage birds at Bamburgh on 27th/28th (BRS).

Long-eared Owl:-

1 at Kielder on 5th (ERM) and a passage bird at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS).

Short-eared Owl:-

Passage birds noted at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS) and Holywell on 17th (CED). Noted as very common as a breeding bird in the Kielder area this year (ERM).

Swift:-

2 at South Shields on 6th (LGG) was the first Spring record. Apart from 1 in Durham City on 7th (ERM) there were no others until a sudden arrival of breeding birds to most sites on 11th - 13th (BG/TCS et al).

Kingfisher:-

A pair displaying near Durham City on 30th (J. Ginnever).

Hoopoe:-

1 found dead at Bamburgh on 10th was judged to be a different bird to that reported in April (BRS). An unconfirmed report of 1 in Earsden Village on 25th (per RFJ).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

Single passage birds noted at South Shields on 5th (SE) and Bamburgh on 10th (BRS).

Wryneck:-

2 at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS) and 1 in Marsden area on 7th - 10th (LGG/SW).

House Martin:-

A heavy N. movement noted between 22nd - 21st when parties of up to 70 were noted feeding over waters at Hauxley, Ashington and Washington (B/BM).

Sand Martin/Swallow:-

Involved to a lesser extent in the heavy House Martin passage of 22nd - 31st (B/BM).

Golden Oriole:-

1 found dead by the roadside in locality where they attempted to nest in 1968.

Fieldfare:-

Some late records which is characteristic of this species. Small parties of up to four from several coastal points on 4th - 8th with as many as 35 in the Marsden area on 5th (LGG et al).

Redwing:-

Two late records; 1 at Marsden on 7th (SW) and 2 trapped at Bamburgh on 24th (BRS).

Ring Ouzel:-

A pronounced arrival in coastal areas on 3rd - 7th probably involving continental breeding birds. There were 2 at Bamburgh (BRS), 1 at Blyth (CED), 2/3 in Holywell Dene, 2 at Whitley Bay, 4 at Marsden (JDP), 3 at South Shields and 10 at Marsden (RA/LGG/SW).

Wheatear:-

Very few in the usual breeding areas. Coastal passage was evident on 11th when 14 were at Annstead (BRS).

Whinchat:-

Became increasingly conspicuous after 3rd.

Redstart:-

Notably scarce inland during month. 2 at Marsden on 6th - 8th (SW) and at Bamburgh 1 on each of 10th, 11th and 25th (BRS).

Black Redstart:-

1 at Marsden on 6th/7th (LGG/SW) and a late bird in a garden at Seaton Sluice on 27th (P & JKK).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

Single birds at St. Mary's, Bondicarr and Hauxley on 7th - 11th but particularly plentiful at Bamburgh with 5 on 3rd, 10 on 10th and 3 on 27th (BRS et al).

Marsh Warbler:-

1 trapped at Bamburgh on 27th is only the second record for Northumberland of this controversial species, although there should be no doubt about its identity during Spring (BRS).

Sedge Warbler:-

4 at Bamburgh on 3rd were the first of Spring (BRS). At least 3 were singing at Seaton Burn on 4th (BG) but they did not become really established until as late as 10th.

Blackcap:-

On 3rd, 8 at Bamburgh and singles at Hauxley, Whitley Bay and Holywell Dene. Most were very tired or in an exhausted condition. During next 7 days up to 2 were noted at each of Holy Island, Marsden, Hauxley and Washington. Still 2 at Bamburgh on 24th (BRS).

Garden Warbler:-

3 at Washington on 9th were the first of Spring (almost 3 weeks late!) The only other records were from Bamburgh with 1 on 11th, 3 on 17th and 2 on 24th (BRS).

Whitethroat:-

Another late species. 4 at Bamburgh on 10th were the first of year! A few were present inland after 13th but were generally reported by several observers as very scarce indeed.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

On 3rd/4th, 2 at Bamburgh (BRS), 1 at Hauxley (HRS), 2 in Holywell Dene and 1 in Whitley Bay Cemetery (JDP). 1 at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS) and 1 at Cresswell on 20th (TH).

Willow Warbler:-

A marked movement through coastal areas at the beginning of month with 21 at Bamburgh on 3rd, 20 at Marsden on 6th and 26 at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS/SW). Smaller numbers noted at several other coastal points.

Chiffchaff:-

at Bamburgh 4 on 3rd, 2 on 10th and 1 on 26th (BRS). 1 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS). All were passage birds.

Wood Warbler:-

Rarely noted as a migrant on N.E. coast but this year 1 at Marsden on 7th (SE), 1 at Budle Bay on 11th and 1 at Bamburgh on 26th/27th (BRS). Noted establishing territory inland at Staward on 10th (JDP).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

10 at Marsden on 6th was the first Spring record (SW) and further passage birds noted at Bamburgh on 17th (2) and Druridge on 22nd (1). Noted inland at Durham on 12th (a pair).

Pied Flycatcher:-

Coastal passage noted between 3rd and 17th. On 3rd/4th 3 at Bamburgh 1 at Hauxley, 1 at Blyth (CED). On 6th, 2 at Marsden (SW), on 7th, 1 at Whitley Bay (JNJ), on 10th, 1 at Bamburgh and on 17th, 1 at Hauxley.

Tree Pipit:-

A conspicuous movement noted after 3rd. 30 at Bamburgh on 3rd and 5 at Whitley Bay on 4th (JDP). Between 4th - 9th up to 8 daily at both Marsden and South Shields (RA/LGG/SW). Further Bamburgh records involved 5 on 10th and 1 on 25th (BAS).

White Wagtail:-

On 17th, 1 at each of Bamburgh and Holywell (BRS/MN) and on 23rd, 1 at Chevington (BM).

Yellow Wagtail:-

A male belonging to the Grey Headed race was noted at Washington Ponds on 9th (ERM).

Red Backed Shrike:-

Unconfirmed reports were received of an adult male on both the Farnes and Holy Island in mid month (per MB).

Siskin:-

A party of 6 near Holystone, River Coquet on 11th (BG). Noted as plentiful in Kielder area this Summer (ERM).

Brambling:-

Some late records: 4 at Whitley Bay on 4th (JDP), 1 at Marsden on 7th (SE), 1 at South Shields on 8th (RA) and 5 on Holy Island on 10th (P & JNJ).

Red Headed Bunting:-

An adult male at Holywell Ponds on 31st may have been an escape from captivity (MN). 7

Ortolan Bunting:-

1 flew N. over Bamburgh on 3rd giving the characteristic call note (BRS).

List of Contributors.

R. Adams.	R. F. Jenkins.
M. Bell.	E. Lobley.
W. Brady.	Mr. & Mrs. McCutcheon.
F. Colley.	L. G. McFarlane.
C. E. Douglass.	E. R. Meek.
B. Galloway.	M. Mattrass.
L. G. Glass.	R. Norman.
R. Grey.	J. D. Parrack.
T. Hallan.	T. C. Smith.
Hauxley & Bamburgh Ringing Stations.	B. Unwin.
P & J. K. Jeffery.	S. Whale.

All records for June to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle NE 15 7RD by 8th July, 1969 at the latest please.

ITEMS IN NEWSLETTER AND BULLETINS:-

Will all members please note that if they wish any items of news to appear in either of these publications they must, depending on their contents, be sent to either the Recorder or the Secretary. If it is a query or information concerning birds it should be sent to the Recorder, and all other items to the Secretary.

CRESSWELL PONDS:-

The Club has been given permission, through the auspices of the R.S.P.B., and the co-operation of the land owner, permission to patrol the main pond with the purpose of preventing the indiscriminate slaughter, which is an all too common feature of these ponds. We urgently require volunteer wardens who would be prepared to spend a little time at Cresswell periodically, on a rota system. Apart from contributing to the welfare of the birds which pass through and live at Cresswell, this, with the Autumn Passage season rapidly approaching, is an ideal opportunity for close study of the area. Please help with this valuable work, and contact the Secretary for details as soon as possible. The secretary's address is:-

I . H. Armstrong,
12 Valerian Avenue,
Heddon on the Wall.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM NATURALISTS TRUST:-

The Trust was formed several years ago to safeguard the unspoilt natural features of the two counties and prevent the destruction of their wildlife. These worthy objects deserve the support of every naturalist and those of us who value our natural heritage should be members. The annual subscription is £1 (10s. 0d. under 21) and application forms can be obtained at Club Meetings or direct from the Hancock Museum.

The Trust already has several reserves and has secured rights over many areas of biological interest in the two counties. You may know other places needing protection. If so please tell us and we will inform the Trust, but don't delay - to-morrow may be too late. Remember your own favourite spot may be the next to go.

B.T.O. ATLAS:-

The results of the Club's breeding census have been passed on to the B.T.O. for use in their Atlas, but due to the fact that our census used $\frac{1}{4}$ x 10 Km. square as the basic unit, against the 10 Km. square used by the B.T.O., certain of the Counties rarer breeding records have not been sent to the Atlas Organiser. However, Dr. Sharrock has suggested that the cards be sent to the project marked CONFIDENTIAL and will be kept separately from the normal record cards, under lock and key, accessible only to Dr. Sharrock. The species concerned are Great Crested Grebe, Sparrow Hawk, Buzzard, Heron, Little Ringed Plover. All Tern sp., Kingfisher, Raven and Short-eared Owl (except coastal records). If any observers who submitted records of the above species objects to his records being sent to the B.T.O. please contact the Breeding Census Secretary L. G. McFarlane, 28 Fox & Hounds Road, Newcastle upon Tyne as soon as possible.

THE NATIONAL ESTUARINE SURVEY:-

The Club has volunteered to assist the R.S.P.B/B.T.O. in the Estuarine Survey between August 1969 and April 1970. Counts will be made once per month noting the numbers of Grebes, Divers, Ducks, Geese, Waders and Gulls.

Areas to be covered will be Fenham Flats, Budle Bay, Long Nanny, Aln and Coquet and possibly Chevington, Wansbeck and Tyne if sufficient "counters" can be accumulated. Anyone who is interested in participating in this project should contact Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7RD. as soon as possible, stating the area he/she could cover. It is important, however, that volunteers should be able to confidently identify all of the commoner species named above and is capable of "accurate estimations" if this is at all possible! An instruction sheet will be supplied to all volunteers.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB. JUNE 1969 REPORT.

Summary.

The first 12 days of the month were mainly warm, dry and sunny as an anticyclone was centred over the British Isles. Winds were mainly light and S. easterly and it was during this period that a White Winged Black Tern appeared well inland at Grindon Lough.

Except for a short spell of light E. to S.E. winds from 21st - 26th, the remainder of the month was dominated by a westerly airstream bringing changeable conditions.

The month was generally very quiet with no outstanding breeding records and very few obvious periods of migration although during the last few days a few species of wader appeared to be on the move.

Early in the month a Black Tern and a late Fieldfare were noted whilst up to 5 Little Gulls were in the Cresswell - Longhirst area. 3 of the latter were still present in early July.

An adult Long-tailed Skua provided a most interesting record almost as the month terminated.

Classified List.

Great Crested Grebe:-

Reported from 3 separate localities in Northumberland. Definitely nesting at 2 of the waters.

Little Grebe:-

Reported from 8 localities during month, most being breeding birds.

Fulmar:-

Reported nesting at 3 inland sites during month.

Heron:-

Indications of a N.W. movement towards the end of month were suggested on 29th when 4 flew over South Shields (RA), 1 flew over Cresswell Ponds and 1 was at Chevington (TH).

Mallard:-

There are signs that it has been a very successful breeding season for this species.

Garganey:-

A drake at Longhirst on 11th (BH).

Shoveler:-

Single pairs noted at Newton, Grindon and Washington during month and single birds noted at Linton and Bondicarr.

Wigeon:-

A pair at Grindon on 8th (ERM).

Tufted Duck:-

Still present at 11 waters during month. 28 at Brasside on 10th (RN) and 25 at Hallington on 29th (CW) were the largest counts reported. Breeding reported from only one water.

Pochard:-

24 at Brasside on 10th (RN) and 19 at Holywell on 27th (CW) and reported as mainly single birds from 5 other waters. A pair reared 5 young in Gosforth Park (CW).

Common Scoter:-

Female on Cresswell Pond on 5th (BM).

Shelduck:-

58 adults in Budle Bay on 12th (CMA). Adults with young noted at Newton, Anble, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Grey Lag Goose:-

1 at Grindon on 7th - 11th (RG/EL/CMA).

/Canada Goose

Canada Goose:-

Successfully nested at Hallington and Sweethope (RG/EL/BG). 17 flew N. over Ellington on 15th and 26 at Cresswell next day (TH). On 21st, 35 at S. Linton (BM).

Barnacle Goose:-

1 summering with Canadas at Sweethope. Seen on 11th (ERM).

Peregrine:-

1 flew W. up Coquet Valley, near Holystone on 30th (BG/BM).

Corncrake:-

At least 1 calling in Hexham - Corbridge area in 24th (RG/WB/EL).

Coot:-

43 at Capheaton on 5th and 47 at Hartburn on 25th were maximum counts reported. All were adults.

Oystercatcher:-

Concentrations of non breeding birds were noted at Long Nanny, Beadnell on 14th (/") and at Cresswell Pond on 13th - 17th (43) (BM/LGM).

Lapwing:-

Early flocking of non-breeders and juveniles noted from 7th onwards. Between 7th and 28th the flock at Longhirst (S. Linton) steadily increased from 50 to 300 (BM). On 11th, 100 at Grindon (CMA) on 12th two small parties totalling 37 flew N. over Cresswell (BM), on 12th/13th c150 at Wingates and on 29th, 80 at Capheaton (CW).

Redshank:-

18 at Holywell on 24th (CW) and 19 at Washington on 25th (RN).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 in Summer plumage at Capheaton on 29th (CW).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 at Longhirst on 21st (BM) and 1 at Washington on 24th (RA/LGG).

Common Sandpiper:-

Records suggest that it has been a very good breeding season for this species. Single passage birds noted at Washington on 1st (BG/BM), Woodhorn on 11th (BM) and Cresswell on 29th (TH).

Ruff:-

1 at Holywell on 24th (CW).

Long-tailed Skua:-

Adult seen at close range at Marsden on 25th as it harried Kittiwakes. It later flew off to the S. (BU).

Claucous Gull:-

Sub adult at Washington on 4th (RN) and an immature at Holywell on 12th - 15th (MN).

Black-headed Gull:-

Counts at several inland colonies indicate that there has been a marked reduction in the breeding population this year.

Little Gull:-

Between 4th and 12th definitely 3 and possibly 5 at Cresswell Ponds. (TH). 4 at Longhirst on 21st and 2 there on 28th may have been Cresswell birds (BM). 1 at Washington on 5th (RA/LGG). All were immatures.

Common Tern:-

1 at Washington Ponds on 18th (RN) and 2 at Longhirst on 21st (BM).

Black Tern:-

1 at Washington on 4th/5th (RN/RA).

/White-winged Black Tern:-

As reported last month an adult was watched for most of the day at Grindon Lough on 7th. (Mr. & Mrs. McCutcheon). This is probably the first record for Northumberland. The record will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee but there seems little doubt about its authenticity.

Turtle Dove:-

1 near Corbridge on 17th/18th was the only record (WB).

/Swift

Swift:-

Continually moving N. over Cresswell - Chevington area on morning of 29th (TH).

Fieldfare:-

A very late bird near Ponteland on 7th (ERF).

Redstart:-

1 near Hauxley on 24th must have been an early passage bird as the nearest breeding area is several miles away (TH).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

A pair carrying food near Sheepwash on 18th were probably feeding young out of the nest. This is a new locality (TH).

List of Contributors

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M. Nattrass.
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All July records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE15 7RD before 8th August, 1969 please.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JULY 1969 BULLETIN

SUMMARY.

July was dominated by anticyclonic weather and the warm, dry conditions continued to encourage successful breeding of most species.

Mass migrations of birds were never conspicuous but interesting movements of Manx Shearwaters, Shelduck, Curlew, Dunlin, Common Tern and Swift were recorded.

As is typical of July, waders were the most reported species and by the end of the month most of the traditional northern birds has been reported. A flock of 5 Black-tailed Godwits was particularly unusual.

All 4 species of Skua were reported during the month and Little Gulls were again prominent.

Two Peregrines and 2 Fieldfares complete the list of more unusual sightings with the latter posing the unanswerable question; were they breeding?

Classified List.

Diver:-

1 unidentified bird flew N. off Cresswell on 11th (TH).

Manx Shearwater:-

N. movements noted as follows off St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice.

110 N. in 1 hour on 6th (MN/CW). 86 N. in 1½ hours on 7th (MN/CW) 74N in 1½ hours on 8th (MN/CW). 2 N. on 10th (MN/CW). 26 N. on 28th (JDP). 13 N. on 29th (JDP). Also 40N. off Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Heron:-

Passage birds noted at Longhirst on 27th (2), and Holywell Ponds on 14th (4).

Garganey:-

A drake at Longhirst on 26th/27th (BN).

Pigeon:-

At Grindon 1 on 6th and 3 on 19th (LGM). At Holywell 2/3 on 18th/19th (CB).

Pintail:-

3 at Washington on 9th and 7 there on 23rd (RN).

Shoveler:-

Successfully bred at Lilburn and Pallinsburn Lakes. A small brood also noted at Linton Pond. Parties of up to 9 reported from 5 other waters.

Scaup:-

1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 6th. On 6th and 9th a female at Holywell (CW).

Tufted Duck:-

Successfully bred at Gosforth Park, Holywell, Lilburn, Pallinsburn, Fenton, Linshiels and Limheads. About 25 broods were reared, 16 of which were at Holywell.

Pochard:-

Successfully bred at Gosforth and Pallinsburn (CW et al).

Velvet Scoter:-

4 N. on each of 28th and 29th off St. Mary's (JDP).

Common Scoter:-

Noted moving N. off several coastal points on 7 days during month. 269 off St. Mary's on 28th/29th was the maximum number recorded (JDP et al). A drake well inland at Broonlee Lough on 19th (LGM).

/Red-breasted Merganser

Red-breasted Merganser:-

As many as 35 off Ross Links on 27th (ERM) is an unusually large concentration for the time of year.

Shelduck:-

Flock of 27 flew E. down the Tyne Valley at Wylam on evening of 2nd (IHA). Part of the traditional moult migration.

Grey Lag Goose:-

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

Peregrine:-

An adult and an immature at Washington Ponds on 27th (BU). The immature was seen regularly during remaining few days of month (BM et al) and was still present during first two weeks in August.

Corncrake:-

1 near Corbridge during first two weeks may have been last month's bird. A pair had a nest destroyed by a reaper at Acomb on 19th (IHA). 1 in Hauxley area during month.

Ringed Plover:-

43 at the Long Nanny burn on 27th (IHA). Smaller numbers noted passing through inland ponds throughout month.

Golden Plover:-

300 at Grindon on 24th (RG/EL). 55 at Holywell on 25th (CED) and 70 at Annitsford on 29th (LGM).

Turnstone:-

1 at Washington Ponds on 19th (BG) was still present on 23rd (RA/BM).

Common Snipe:-

c30 at Washington on 29th (BM).

Curlew:-

A heavy N. movement noted between 9th and 13th at several points on the coast. Off Cresswell 35N on 9th and 27 N on 11th (ERM/TH). On 12th, 34N off Seaton Sluice in 1½ hours (CW). 15 N over Holywell (BG) and 58N off Newton (ERM). On 13th, 95N off Newton in 3½ hours (BG). 100 at Holy Island Flats on 27th (ERM).

Whimbrel:-

From 10th onwards parties of up to 3 noted moving S. at several coastal points between Seal and St. Mary's. 2 at Holywell on 15th, 1 on 27th (MN/CED) and 1 at Washington on 18th (BM).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

Flock of 5 flew S. off Cresswell on 22nd (TH).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Moving N. with Curlew at beginning of month with 4 off Seaton Burn on 12th and 9 off Newton on 13th (BG). On 22nd, 4 at Cresswell (TH) on 27th, 10 at Ross (ERM) and on 28th/29th, 18 flew N. off St. Mary's (JDP).

Green Sandpiper:-

On 15th, 1 at Washington (RA/LGG), on 23rd, 1 at Swallow Ponds, on 25th, 2 at Chevington (MN/BG), on 27th, 6 or 7 at Longhirst (MN/BM) and 2 at Hauxley (HRS).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Washington on 18th (BM).

Common Sandpiper:-

Moving S. through both counties, particularly in coastal areas from 5th onwards. Mainly single birds were involved but parties of up to 6 were noted from Cresswell Ponds and similar localities.

Redshank:-

Up to 50 at Washington during month (BM et al).

Greenshank:-

1 at Holywell from 18th - 27th (CED). On 27th, 1 at Beadnell (IHA), 1 at Swallow Ponds (MN). 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1 at Longhirst (BM). Present at Washington on most days during month with a maximum of 7 on 9th (RM et al).

Knot:-

23 at Cresswell on 22nd (TH) increased to 36 by 26th (CW). 30 at Ross on 27th (EM) and 1 inland at Washington on 29th (BU).

Dunlin:-

Passage birds were noted throughout month from as far inland as Grindon. The peak of the movement appeared to be in mid-month when on 19th the Washington flock had reached a maximum of 145 (BG). Also on 19th, 10 were noted at each of Grindon (LGM), Swallow (MN) and Holywell (CED) whilst next day there were 350 at Beal (CW). Most birds were adults in Summer plumage.

Sanderling:-

On 27th, 15 at Hauxley and 25 at Ross (EM).

Ruff:-

1 at Bondicarr on 9th (TH). 1 N. off Newton on 12th (ERM) and 1 at Grindon on 25th (JDP). At Washington 1 from 19th - 23rd, 3 on 27th and 6 from 29th - 31st (BG/BU/BM et al).

Arctic Skua:-

Recorded as mainly single birds from many coastal points between 2nd and 31st. On 28th - 30th off St. Mary's 8 flew N. and 10 flew S. in a total of 4½ hours watching (JDP et al).

Great Skua:-

2 flew N. off St. Mary's on 30th (JDP).

Pomarine Skua:-

Off St. Mary's on 28th - 30th a total of 6 flew N. and 1 flew S. (JDP).

Long-tailed Skua:-

An immature noted off Cresswell on 9th (ERM). This record will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Glaucous Gull:-

1 flew S. off Cresswell on 16th (TH).

Little Gull:-

3/4 continued to be seen at Longhirst throughout month (BM/MN et al). On 4th an immature found dead at Marsden (BU); on 8th, 1 flew N. off St. Mary's and on 23rd an adult at Holywell Ponds (MN).

Common Tern:-

Present at Washington Pond throughout month with a maximum of 15 on 29th (BU et al). Also noted inland at Longhirst, maximum of 11 on 30th; Bothal, 4 on 27th; Holywell, 4 on 15th; and Swallow, 3 on 26th. (MN/CW/BM).

Arctic Tern:-

1 inland at Washington on 29th (BM).

Little Tern:-

10 near Beadnell on 27th (IHA).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 at Holywell on 23rd (CED).

Swift:-

N. movements noted over Longhirst on 6th (BM) and then at Newton on 13th, 60 - 70 per hour (BG). S. movements noted on 16th/17th in Amble - Cresswell area when continual groups of 10 birds were passing (TH) and again on 26th when they were moving over Hauxley at 500/hr. between dawn and mid-day. 100 were at Ross following day (ERM).

Fieldfare:-

During June 1, possibly 2 were watched for 2 - 3 hours in the Simonside area near Rothbury. (CED).

Lesser Whitethroat:-

Pair near Heddon were feeding fledged young by end of month. Another new locality (IHA).

List of Contributors:- I. H. Armstrong. R. Adams. C.E. Douglas. B. Galloway. D. G. Glass. R. Grey. T. Mallan. E. Lobley. B. Marshall. D. R. Meek. L. G. McFarlane. H. Nattrass. R. Norman. J. D. Parrack. B. Unwin. C. Ward. Hauxley Ringing Station. All August records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE15 7 RD by 8th September, 1961 please.

Estuary Survey.

The response to the request for regular counters for this project was poor. I would thus be grateful if any members visiting either Fenham Flats, Mudle Bay, Aln estuary and Coquet estuary between August 1969 and April 1970 would note the following points when counting/estimating numbers of birds:-

- a) Note numbers of Divers, Grebes, Cormorants, Ducks, Geese, Swans, Waders, Gulls and Terns.
- b) Record state of tide during period of counting. e.g., low tide, half flood etc.
- c) Note weather conditions.
- d) Note any disturbance.
- e) Note time at which count was made, from start to finish.
- f) When counting Gulls a frequency rating may be used if counting is impossible:-

A = 1 - 10
B = 10 - 100
C = 100 - 1000

D = 1000 - 10,000
E = 10,000 - 100,000
F = 100,000+ -

- g) Note whether the birds are roosting (R) or feeding (F).

Please submit all information with your usual monthly records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE 15 7 RD.

B.T.O. Atlas Project:-

R. Norman, 9 Tenter Terrace, Durham Cith, is co-ordinating breeding records for the 10 km. square numbers NY94, NZ04, 14, 24, 34, 44, 15, 25, 35, 45 and 46.

These refer to areas in County Durham and he would be grateful for any breeding records for both 1968 and 1969.

Tyneside Bird Club Programme 1969 - 70

- 11th September, 1969 - Art of Taxidermy - David Burleigh.
- 3rd October, 1969 - Joint Meeting N.B.S. - Birds of Morcanbe Bay - John Wilson.
- 11th October, 1969 - Members' Night.
- 13th November, 1969 - Lapland - E. Meek.
- 26th November, 1969 - R.S.P.B/Tyneside Bird Club film show City Hall.
- 11th December, 1969 - Films by E. Bird.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

AUGUST BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

August was a month of continual interest bringing a steady passage of N. European waders, a few moderate movements of sea birds, a moderate fall of passerines at the coast and a few rarities.

Persisting high pressure over N. Europe during much of the first half of the month resulted in winds from an easterly quarter for most of the time and Whimbrel, Greenshank, Green, Wood and Common Sandpipers and Ruff all passed through in good numbers. Two Temmincks Stints were also seen and 2 juvenile White-winged Black Terns appeared.

Disturbances moving D. across S. England in mid-month forced many Willow Warblers down at the coast and they were accompanied by 3 Icterine and 5 Barred Warblers and a few Lesser Whitethroats and Pied Flycatchers.

The second half of the month was dominated by N. to N.W. winds as low pressure persisted over Scandinavia. Sea birds became prominent and both Manx and Sooty Shearwaters were seen in reasonable numbers moving N. Little Gulls continued to appear and 2 Mediterranean Gulls were reported.

An exciting termination to the month was the arrival of three flocks of Curlew Sandpipers.

So far September has brought a juvenile Whiskered Tern to S. Linton, unconfirmed reports of 3 Pallas Sandgrouse in the Holy Island area (1 shot) and unprecedented numbers of Barred Warblers to the coast (8 in Hauxley area alone on 14th/15th). The September Bulletin should make interesting reading!

CRESSWELL POND WARDENS.

WOULD THOSE CLUB MEMBERS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO WARDEN CRESSWELL PONDS PLEASE ARRANGE TO BE AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING ON 9TH OCTOBER, 1969 WHEN ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO START THIS VALUABLE WORK. RECENT EVENTS AT THE POND, INCLUDING THE KILLING OF TWO OF THIS YEARS CYGNETS, MAKE IT IMPERITIVE THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE QUICKLY.

Classified List for August.

Great Crested Grebe:-

2 at each of Hallington and Colt Crag and singles at each of Catcleugh and Derwent Reservoir during month (RG/WB/EL et al).

Black-necked Grebe:-

1 in winter plumage at Holywell Ponds from 8th - 23rd (CED et al).

Little Grebe:-

Movement away from the breeding areas appeared to take place after mid-month when singles were noted at Washington and Whittle Dene (BU/INA).

Gannet:-

140 S. off Holy Island in 1 hour on 11th (RN). Moving N. at 100/hr. off St. Mary's on 23rd (JDP).

Fulmar:-

On 15th - 17th moving N. off Hauxley at 60/hr. (HRS) and a light N. movement noted off Cresswell on 29th (BN).

Manx Shearwater:-

A steady N. movement noted off Hauxley (80) and St. Mary's (56 in 5 hours) on 23rd/24th (HRS/JDP). Also 22N off Hauxley on 17th (HRS). 2 other records refer to small numbers offshore on 4th and 30th.

Sooty Shearwater:-

Moving N. with Manx on 23rd when 22 passed St. Mary's in a 5 hour watch (JDP). 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 30th (RN).

/Heron

Heron:-

Many records involving mainly single birds from all along coast. Larger numbers were reported at Budle Bay (max. of 8 on 30th), Holywell Ponds (6 on 16th), Cowey Sike Reservoir near Grindon (11 on 24th/27th) and Derwent Reservoir (5 on 24th).

Mallard:-

40 at Washington Ponds on 7th was the largest flock reported (ERM).

Teal:-

A steady build up as month progressed. Max. counts were Washington, 80 on 26th (BM); Budle Bay 120 on 30th (BRS) and Holywell 40 on 31st (CED).

Garganey:-

Successful breeding may have occurred in the Ellington Area where a duck was seen with 9 juveniles on a pool on 2nd (MN). Up to 4 at S. Linton (Longhirst) between 3rd and 13th (BM/CW), 3 at Druridge on 16th (LGH), 1 at Washington on 22nd (BM) and 1 at Grindon on 24th (LGM).

Gadwall:-

4 in Gosforth Park on 16th (CW/LGM).

Wigeon:-

Between 8 and 11 at Cresswell after 3rd (BM/CW) up to 3 at Holywell after 10th (CED) and 5 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Pintail:-

5 at Gosforth on 12th and 1 at S. Linton (Longhirst) on 17th/23rd (LGH/CW).

Shoveler:-

Washington recorded a max. of 20 on 3rd (BU et al) and 34 were at Cresswell on 16th (RN). Flocks of up to 12 were noted from 4 other waters.

Tufted Duck:-

42 at Whittle Dene on 25th was indicative of the beginning of Autumn build up (IHA).

Velvet Scoter:-

1 off Ross on 12th, 1 off Banburgh on 29th and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 30th (RN/BRS).

Common Scoter:-

70 in Druridge Bay on 29th (BM) and 105 N. off Seaton Sluice in almost three hours on 30th (RN).

Goosander:-

Still 9 on the N. Tyne near Falstone on 16th (IHA).

Shelduck:-

Between 1 and 4 at Washington Pond from 19th - 31st (RA/LGG et al) and 2 at Wallsend Swallow Pond from 5th - 24th (CED/MN). All were juveniles. Up to 20 in Budle Bay during month (BRS).

Grey Lag Goose:-

2 at Grindon Lough all month.

Sparrow Hawk:-

A female at Banburgh on 27th and another at Fenham Flats on 29th (BRS).

Peregrine:-

As reported in July an immature male was at Washington Ponds until at least 9th (BU/BM et al).

Merlin:-

At Banburgh a female on 9th and a male on 17th (BRS). 1 on Holy Island on 10th/11th (RN).

Oystercatcher:-

Only 2 counts received. 60 at Cresswell on 3rd (CW) and 250 on Holy Island on 10th (RN).

Lapwing:-

2500 between Heddon and Whittle Dene on 29th (IHA) and smaller flocks noted elsewhere in the county.

/Ringed Plover

Ringed Plover:-

Passage through Washington reached a peak of 34 on 19th (BM et al) Flock of 30 at Hauxley on 15th and 80 at Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Little Ringed Plover:-

1 at Washington on 4th and again on 12th - 14th (BU/BM). The latter was identified as a juvenile.

Grey Plover:-

1 at Cresswell Pond on 2nd/3rd (BM/MN) and 20 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Golden Plover:-

The largest counts were during the last few days of the month when 1000 at Whittle Dene on 29th (IHA) and 550 in Budle Bay on 31st (LGM/CW).

Turnstone:-

1 again inland at Washington on 12th/13th (BM/MN). 115 at St. Mary's on 14th (JDP).

Common Snipe:-

Peak numbers at Washington were c60 on 3rd (BU) and c80 on 22nd (BM). Smaller numbers were noted elsewhere.

Curlew:-

120 in Budle Bay on 10th (CW).

Whimbrel:-

Many records of small parties moving S. over coastal areas. The movement appeared to be heaviest at the beginning of month when on 2nd 4 at Whittle Dene (IHA), and flock of 12 flew W. over Holywell (CED). On 6th flock of 14 S. over Cresswell (TH) and on 7th flock of 24 S. over Chevington (BG/ERM et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

3 inland at Washington on 3rd (BU). 400 at Holy Island on 10th (RN).

Green Sandpiper:-

Reported from 13 localities mainly in parties of up to 3. At S. Linton 4 on 3rd and 12th. 4 were also noted at Washington on 3rd, Bamburgh on 16th, and Holywell on 21st. 6 were at Seaton Delaval on 17th. 2 records from well inland were singles at Elstone on 16th and Colt Crag on 22nd.

Wood Sandpiper:-

Reported from 8 localities in parties of up to 3. Up to 4 were regularly seen at Washington and 7 were counted there on 17th (RA/LGG/LGM). No records after 23rd.

Common Sandpiper:-

Passage birds noted from 12 localities in groups of up to 8. On 10th, 12 at Beal and 13 in Budle Bay (CW et al). On 12th, 12 at Holywell (CED) and on night of 15th/16th at least 5 separate calls heard as birds passed S. over Newcastle (BG). 10 at Washington on 25th (RN).

Redshank:-

500 in Fenham Flats on 29th and 200 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Spotted Redshank:-

Up to 3 at Washington between 6th and 14th (BM/BU et al) and 1 there on 30th (RA/LGG). 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 16th and 28th (CED/IHA) 1 near Seaton Delaval on 19th and 3 at North Seaton on 21st (JMJ).

Greenshank:-

Recorded from 17 localities in groups of up to 6 and mainly during middle part of month. These numbers were exceeded at Budle Bay (9 on 10th) and Wallsend Swallow (9 on 11th) (LGM/MN/CW et al). There were only four days on which this species was not reported.

Knot:-

The Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's flock was at a max. of 82 on 9th (B.Mn.) and 500 at Holy Island next day (RN). 1 at Washington on 4/5th and again on 25th/29th (BU et al).

Little Stint:-

1 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

✓Termincks Stint

Termincks Stint:-

1 at Washington from 3rd - 10th and 2 there on 5th. BU first found the bird on 3rd but on morning of 5th BM located two together. These were subsequently seen by many observers including RA/LGG/BG/ERM et al. As a formality, the record will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee. /

Dunlin:-

600 in Budle Bay on 10th (CW) and 2500 on Fenham Flats on 29th (BRS). Parties of up to 20 noted from several localities during month.

Curlew Sandpiper:-

1 at Washington on 5th (BG) and 1 at St. Mary's on 14th (JDP). A large influx during the last few days of month. At Washington 4 on 26th increased to 29 on 28th (BM). 27 were still present on 31st (BU et al). At Wallsend Swallow 16 on 30th (LGM/MN/CW) and still 10 next day (CED). At Alnmouth 1 on 29th (BM). At Budle Bay 9 on 30th (BRS).

Sanderling:-

A rare occurrence of 1 inland at Wallsend Swallow on 16th (CED). 90 at Hauxley on 15th had increased to 150 by 24th (HRS).

Ruff:-

Recorded from 13 different localities in groups of up to 6 and seen almost every day. Washington had the biggest numbers with a max. of 22 on 8th (CW et al). and still 10 on 31st (BU). Wallsend Swallow had a max. of 8 on 31st (CED) and there were 7 at Beal on same day (MN/CW).

Arctic Skua:-

Regular in small numbers off most coastal points. Apparently moving S. on 22nd/23rd when 8 were seen off Cresswell in one hour (TH) and 36 were counted off St. Mary's (JDP) in five hours).

Great Skua:-

On 11th, 2 S. off Holy Island (RN), on 22nd, 1 N. off Cresswell (TH) on 23rd 8 N. off St. Mary's (JDP), on 24th 1 N. off Hauxley (HRS) and on 26th, 1 N. off Bamburgh (BRS).

Glaucous Gull:-

1 flew S. off Hauxley on 9th (HRS).

Little Gull:-

Present throughout month at several localities. Max. counts were Washington - 4 on 25th (BU et al). Holywell - 2 on 9th/10th (BG/CW et al). S. Linton - 4 on 12th/15th (MN/BM/ERM). Budle Bay - 1 on 10th (LGM/CW/MN). Annstead - 1 N. on 16th and again on 30th (BRS). Both adults and immatures were involved.

Mediterranean Gull:-

A second year in Beadnell Harbour on 24th (per CED) and 1 on Holy Island during month (BL). Both records will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee. /

Black Tern:-

2 at Wallsend Swallow on 10th (CED) including 1 adult. 3 at Holywell on 11th (MN/CW/BM).

White-winged Black Tern:-

1 at Holywell Ponds from 9th - 11th was first seen by CW and subsequently by at least 10 others. 1 at Washington on 12th (BM/BU) was considered to be a different bird but I have yet to receive confirmation data. Both were juveniles, the Holywell bird being the third for Northumberland and the second this year. It is the second successive year that one has been seen at Washington. Both will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee. /

Common Tern:-

Parties of up to 8 noted regularly from ponds on the coastal strip. A maximum of 15 at Washington from 1st - 8th (BU/BM et al). A small group heard calling as they passed S. over Denton Burn on the night of 15th/16th (BG).

Roseate Tern:-

Noted in small numbers all along the coast during month with records as far S. as Whitburn.

/Little Tern

Little Tern:-

An immature at Washington on 12th (BU). At Cresswell 1 on 4th, 3 on 6th, 1 on 9th and 5 at the pond on 13th (TH/CW/BM).

Turtle Dove:-

1 in Gosforth Park on 1st (BM).

Swift:-

6 at Wallsend Swallow on 31st (CED) was the last record.

Kingfisher:-

1 trapped in Holywell Dene on 17th (JDP).

Swallow:-

Roosts of up to 1000 noted at Chevington and Holywell (BG/CED). Trapping indicated a very high percentage of juveniles.

Hooded Crow:-

2 early birds in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Redstart:-

Single migrants noted at Bamburgh on 15th (RN) and Amble on 31st (BH).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

Still present at Cresswell/Chevington early in month.

Icterine Warbler:-

Single first year birds trapped at Hauxley on 16th and 17th (HRS). 1 probable seen in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 13th (JDP).

Blackcap:-

Single passage birds trapped at Hauxley on 16th and 17th (HRS).

Barred Warbler:-

1 at Hauxley on 14th was joined by a second on 17th. Both were trapped (HRS). Also during this period 1 at Seaton Sluice on 15th (GB) and 2 on Holy Island on 17th (BL).

Garden Warbler:-

Passage birds trapped at Hauxley were 1 on 2nd/3rd, 5 on 14th, 1 on 15th, 4 on 16th and 1 on 17th (HRS). Also 2 at Bamburgh on 16th (BRS).

Whitethroat:-

1 trapped at Hauxley on 16th was the first there this year! A reflection of the scarcity of this species throughout the county in 1969.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Washington on 13th (BU). At Hauxley 1 on 15th, 2 on 16th, 3 on 17th and 1 on 24th (HRS). 5 in Holywell Dene on 17th (JDP) and 1 at Druridge on 19th (TH).

Willow Warbler:-

The large influx on 13th - 17th brought a peak of at least 70 at Hauxley on 16th (HRS). 20 at Whitley Bay on 13th (JDP), 14 on Holy Island on 15th (RN) and 11 trapped at Bamburgh on 16th (BRS).

Pied Flycatcher:-

2 at Hauxley on 2nd/3rd and again on 8th/9th (HRS). On 7th, 2 at Chevington (BG/ERM et al), and on 10th, 2 on Holy Island (RN). During period 13th - 17th, 7 at Hauxley and Bamburgh, 5 at Tynemouth, 2 at Seaton Sluice (BM) and Whitley Bay (JDP) and 1 at Blyth (CED).

Grey Wagtail:-

2 at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Yellow Wagtail:-

Very numerous at Holywell all month with up to 40 birds daily (CED).

List of contributors:-

I. A. Armstrong. R. Adams. C. M. Adamson. W. Brady. G. Bruce. C. E. Douglas. B. Galloway. L. G. Glass. R. Grey. B & T. Hallam. J. K. Jefferey. E. Lobley. B. Little. B. Marshall. M. Martin. E. R. Meek. L. G. McFarlane. M. Nattrass. R. Norman. J. D. Parrack. B. Unwin. C. Ward. Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All September records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE15 7 RD by 8th October, 1969 please.

The next Club Meeting is on Thursday, 9th October, 1969 at the Friends Meeting House on Jesmond Road starting at 7.30 p.m. prompt. It will take the form of an informal members night so if you have a pet subject of your own, some interesting colour slides to show or have been somewhere of ornithological interest for your holidays why not come along and tell us all about it for 5 - 15 minutes.

BARMSTON POOL:-

There will be a meetint at the Blue House Centre (formally the Civil Defence Hall) Blue House Lane, Washington, Co. Durham on Friday, 26th September, 1969 at 7.30 p.m. The intention is to form a local group to preserve the above-mentioned pool.

At the meeting, the award winning R.S.F.B. film "The birds of Teesmouth" will be shown. All are welcome.

B.T.O. ATLAS:-

Most of the 1969 breeding records have now been received and sent on to Tim Sharrock the National Organiser of the Atlas project. It appears that the coverage for Northumberland has been so good that it is amongst the best four or five counties in the country at present and looks like being one of the very few counties that will achieve 100% coverage. This does not mean that all the work has been done but I think that all the observers who have contributed so far can be well pleased with their efforts.

(sgd.) G. Macfarlane.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

SEPTEMBER 1969 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

A very good month all round with a heavy passage of sea birds (11th/14th), good numbers of ducks and waders, a heavy arrival of continental drift migrants (17th/21st) and a few rarities.

The first week in the month provided two of the month's three rarities with a Whiskered Tern on 4th/5th and a Red-throated Pipit on 6th. It was during this period that two Barred Warblers and a Red-breasted Flycatcher were also noted.

The few days that followed were relatively quiet as high pressure slowly developed to the N. of the country. The advent of N. winds on 11th brought a second Red-breasted Flycatcher, 2 more Barred Warblers and Shearwaters, Fulmars and Gannets were moving in large numbers. The sea bird movement continued until 14th and included unusual numbers of Sooty Shearwaters and Great Skuas, a few Pomarines and a Little Auk.

Moderate N.E. winds on 14th/16th brought a "rush" of Barred Warblers by which time the high pressure centre had become firmly established over Scandinavia. During the next three days a low pressure area with associated fronts moved slowly E. over N. France bringing with it S.E. winds, low cloud and rain. Conditions were ideal for grounding migrants on their way to Iberia from Scandinavia and sure enough hundreds of Redstarts and Robins suddenly appeared all along the coast. With them were lesser numbers of Wheatears, Pied Flycatchers, Garden and Willow Warblers and Dunnocks, and the usual less common Wrynecks, Bluethroats, Reed Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats, Barred Warblers and a Red-breasted Flycatcher. A few species of wader were also involved and a Nightingale was seen. By 20th, the wind had swung to S.W. and numbers of passerines began to fall. An Isabelline Wheatear seen at South Shields, disappearing on night of 21st during W. gales.

The last week of the month was dominated by Westerlies during which time interesting movements of Little Grebes and Coots were noted and duck numbers continued to increase on inland waters.

At the time of writing, October has been dominated by light S.S.E. winds and has brought to the coast huge numbers of Redwings, a few Yellow Browed Warblers, a Nightingale and a Pectoral Sandpiper. So again the October bulletin should make interesting reading, particularly if everyone sends in their records.

Classified List.

Great Northern Diver:-

Off Holy Island 2 S. on 9th and 1 S. on 11th (B & TH). 1 N. off Annstead on 14th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

On 13th, 4 N. off Annstead (BRS) and 13 N. off Hauxley (HRS). Remaining records were from Hauxley with 2 N. and 8 S. on 14th and singles on each of 15th, 21st and 28th.

Great-crested Grebe:-

At Colt Crag, 3 on 4th and 4 on 14th (RG/WS/EL), at Whittle Dene 1 from 7th/14th (IHA et al), at Derwent Reservoir 2 on 14th and 19th and 1 until end of month (RN et al). 1 off Seaton Sluice on 13th (CED) and 1 S. off St. Mary's on 27th (ERM).

Black-necked Grebe:-

1 at Whittle Dene from 23rd until end of month (IHA/JA & RMcC).

Little Grebe:-

An interesting passage through Whittle Dene with distinct peaks of 14 on 9th and 12 on 23rd (IHA/JA & RMcC). Also 10 were at Derwent Reservoir on latter date (LG). Perhaps an indication of a movement through the Tyne Gap!

/Manx Shearwater

Manx Shearwater:-

31 flew S. off Holy Island in 80 minutes on 11th (B & TH). A distinct N. movement on 13th - 15th when 84 were counted off Hauxley (62 on 13th), 25 off Annstead (on 14th) and 4 off Whitburn (14th).

Sooty Shearwater:-

Off Holy Island 1 on 11th (B & TH) and 1 N. on 14th (CW). Off Annstead 8 N on 14th (BRS). Off Hauxley 2 on 6th, 18 on 13th, 4 on 14th, 1 on 15th and 2 on 28th. All flew N. (HRS). Off Whitburn 4 N. on 14th (BU).

Fulmar:-

Moving S. off Holy Island at 330/hr. on 11th (B & TH). Moving N. off Hauxley on 13th at 100/hr. and 50/hr. on 14th (HRS).

Gannet:-

Some very heavy movements noted. Off Holy Island 530/hr. N. and 260/hr. S. on 11th (B & TH). On 13th, 3600 N. off Annstead in only 75 minutes and 230 N. off Hauxley in 5½ hours. Still moving N. off Annstead next day at 600/hr. (BRS).

Heron:-

Many records with a suggestion of an influx during mid month. Budle Bay had a maximum of 15 on 7th (BRS) and Derwent Reservoir 18 on 14th (RN). Parties of up to 3 were noted from 7 other localities.

Bittern:-

1 found near Holywell Ponds on 18th had been dead several days (CED)

Mallard:-

Continues to increase. Maximum counts were 150 at Bothal on 6th (BM et al), 100 at Holburn Moss and 500 at Budle Bay on 14th (CW), 250 at Holywell on 14th (CED), 300 at Hartburn and 124 at Colt Crag on 27th (CW) and 150 at Whittle Dene on 28th (IHA).

Teal:-

An increase toward end of month. Max. counts were 250 at Budle Bay on 14th (CW) when 40 at Holywell (CED). 50 at Bothal on 6th (IHA et al), 80 at Whittle Dene after 23rd (JA & RMcC) and on 27th, 97 at Capheaton (CW) and 80 - 90 at Washington (RA/BU).

Gadwall:-

2 at Washington on 20th (JA & RMcC).

Wigeon:-

Became increasingly numerous after 14th when they were noted moving mainly N. off Annstead, Hauxley and Whitburn. On three days between 14th - 18th a total of 223 passed N. off Whitburn/Marsden. Also on 14th, 1200 on Fenham Flats and 800 in Budle Bay (CW). 2000 in Budle Bay by 29th (CMA).

Pintail:-

On 6th, 5 at Bothal (IHA et al) and 1 at Newton (SE) on 9th, 1 at Washington (BM et al), on 13th, 1 N. off Annstead (BRS) and on 14th, 5 N. off Hauxley and 1 in Budle Bay (CW/HRS). On 24th, 2 at Swallow Ponds (MN) and on 30th, 1 at Cresswell (TH).

Shoveler:-

An obvious decrease since August and only 1 record after 14th, of 2 at Holywell on 21st (CED). 10 at Bothal on 6th was the max. recorded (BM).

Scaup:-

1 N. off Annstead on 14th (BRS). The only record.

Tufted Duck:-

The Whittle Dene flock slowly increased to a max. of 58 by 25th. (IHA/JA & RMcC). 71 at Hartburn on 27th (LGM/CW).

Pochard:-

A suggestion of an influx after 13th when 9 flew N. off Annstead (BRS) and 7 flew N. off Hauxley (HRS). On 20th, 22 at Brasside (RN), on 23rd, 35 at Derwent Reservoir (LG), on 27th, 38 at Hartburn and by end of month 70 at Whittle Dene (JA / RMcC).

Long-tailed Duck:-

An isolated, early record of 1 flying N. off Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

/Velvet Scoter

Velvet Scoter:-

Off Annstead 1 N. on 13th and 4 N. on 14th (BRS). Off Hauxley 2 N. on 14th (HRS). Off Newton 2 S. on 29th (JAG).

Common Scoter:-

On 13th/14th, 84 N. off Annstead (BRS), 59 N. and 22 S. off Hauxley and 35 N. and 10 S. off Whitburn (BU).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

33 off Ross on 12th (BM) may have been same flock as reported in July. Singles N. at Hauxley on each of 13th and 28th (HRS).

Goosander:-

2 at Colt Crag on 14th (RG/WB/EL) and 2 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (LG).

Shelduck:-

Still 3 at Washington on 1st (RN). 1 at Holywell Ponds on 14th (CED) and 55 in Budle Bay on same day (LGM/CW).

Goose (sp?):-

31 flew W. over Felton on 22nd (TH) and 17 - 18 flew N. off St. Mary's on same day (SE).

Grey Lag Goose:-

Still 2 at Grindon on 11th and 1 at Colt Crag on 14th (RG/WB/EL).

Pink Footed Goose:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 25th (IHA).

Barnacle Goose:-

1 with Canada's at Hallington and Colt Crag on 14th and 27th (LGM/CW et al).

Canada Goose:-

43 - 44 at Hallington/Colt Crag on 14th/27th (RG/WB/EL et al).

Mute Swan:-

A suggestion of restlessness during month when small numbers noted moving N. over Hauxley on 4 days. 1 at Whittle Dene on 14th/16th (IHA) where it is not often recorded.

Whooper Swan:-

10 flew S. over Newton on 1st (per BG) and 3 flocks totalling 25 flying S. over Amble on the same day may also have been of this species. 10 Swans, again unidentified, flew S. off Lamburgh also on 1st (TH). 6 Whoopers flew S. over Longhirst on 21st (BG).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Singles at Hauxley on each of 17th and 21st (HRS) and a family party of 4 at Bolam on 27th (LGM/CW).

Common Buzzard:-

At Hauxley on 2nd, 1 flew in from the W. before turning S. along the coast (HRS).

Hen Harrier:-

Female at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd (JA & RMCC).

Merlin:-

Female at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Red Grouse:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 8th (IHA/JA & RMCC) - an unusual locality!

Coot:-

80 at each of Bothal on 6th (BM) and Bolam on 27th (LGM). 315 at Broomlee on 28th (LGM) is the largest count ever made there and on the same day 24 at Whittle Dene (IHA) is the most reported from there for many years. However, at Holywell a marked decrease was noted after 21st (CED) This poses the question, do coastal breeding birds move away W. through the Tyne Valley during early Autumn?

Lapwing:-

Flocks of up to 500 noted from Capheaton, Holywell, Whittle Dene, Derwent Reservoir etc.

Ringed Plover:-

Inland passage continued at Washington with a max. of 8 on 27th (BU et al). Also between 1 and 2 at Holywell, Whittle Dene and Hallington during month.

/Grey Plover

Grey Plover:-

55 at Ross on 12th (BM) and 40 at Fenham Flats on 14th (LGM/CW). Singles on Holy Island from 7th - 12th (B & TH), Boulmer on 20th (CMA) Hauxley on 13th and Cresswell on 23rd (RG/WB/EL).

Golden Plover:-

Up to 600 at Whittle Dene during month (JA & RMcC/IHA). Flocks of up to 200 noted from six other localities with a suggestion of a slight immigration on 11th when 38 flew in over Holy Island (TH et al).

Common Snipe:-

Max. counts were 60 at Washington on 27th (RA), 80 at Whittle Dene on 29th (IHA) and up to 30 at each of South Linton, Hauxley, Bothal, Swallow and Holywell during month.

Curlew:-

No change in the Budle Bay flock with still 120 there on 14th (LGM/CW).

Whimbrel:-

A marked contrast to August with only 6 records consisting of 9 birds: 2 flying S. over Newton on 29th were the last reported (JAG).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

2 at Holy Island on 12th (TH). 1 at Holywell on 13th (SE), 2 at Washington on 14th (BU) and 1 at Woodhorn (nr. Ashington) on 19th - 21st (BM et al).

Green Sandpiper:-

Reported from 5 localities. 2 at S. Linton on 4th (BM), 1 at Hauxley on 9th, up to 3 at Holywell until 21st (CED), up to 3 at Whittle Dene all month (JA & RMcC/IHA) and 1 at Swallow Ponds until 7th (SE).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Hauxley on 3rd/4th (ERS), 1 at N. Seaton on 4th (JKJ), 1 at Woodhorn on 28th/30th (TH) and up to 4 at Washington between 18th - 27th (BM et al).

Common Sandpiper:-

A suggestion of a small passage from 14th - 25th with parties of up to 5 noted from 12 localities as far inland as Derwent Reservoir. 7 on the Coquet near Amble on 14th was largest party (SE).

Spotted Redshank:-

Reported from 10 localities as far inland as Whittle Dene and probably at least 27 individuals involved. A suggestion of an influx after 20th. 10 - 12 at Swallow Ponds on 22nd - 26th (MN et al). is largest Northumberland concentration for eight years.

Greenshank:-

Still plentiful until mid month with parties of up to 5 being noted from 11 localities. 4 at Beal on 28th was the last record (CMA).

Knot:-

Flocks of up to 60 noted from Holy Island, Hauxley, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice. 500 flew N.E. over Priors Park on 18th (MH).

Little Stint:-

1 at each of Holywell (CED) and Washington (BU) on 14th and then an apparent influx with a concentration of records between 19th - 30th. Woodhorn had a max. of six on 22nd and Washington a max. of five on 19th - 21st. 5 on Holy Island on 21st and singles noted at Hauxley, Budle Bay, Swallow and Whittle Dene (TH/BM/CMA et al).

Dunlin:-

Apparently moving through with Little Stints with up to 20 being noted at the same ponds between 14th and end of month.

Purple Sandpiper:-

12 at Whitley Bay on 6th (SE) and 5 at St. Mary's on 13th.

Curlew Sandpiper:-

A gradual decrease in numbers since last month's influx. 28 at Washington on 1st (RU) reduced to 1 by 27th, 10 at Swallow on 4th/5th fell to 2 by 7th (MN et al). 3 at Holy Island on 12th and 1 at Woodhorn from 10th - 26th (B & TH). 1 at Holywell on 13th (CED). 2 at Boulmer on 20th (CMA), 1 at Cresswell on 23rd (RG/WB/EL).

/Sanderling

Sanderling:-

80 at Holy Island on 14th (CW/LGM) and 60 at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Ruff:-

Many records and even more plentiful than in August. An apparent influx after 14th with 45 at Washington (BU) and 8 at Holywell (SE) on 14th. 11 flew S. at Hauxley on 18th, 12 at Capheaton on 27th (LGM/CW) and 9 at Whittle Dene on 30th (IHA). Parties of up to 7 noted from 9 other localities:

Arctic Skua:-

Off Hauxley, passage was mainly N. and a total of 88 were counted on five days with a peak on 13th/14th when 43 were noted. Smaller numbers noted off Holy Island, Annstead, Whitburn and Cresswell.

Great Skua:-

Off Holy Island 4 N. and 3 S. on 11th (B & TH). Off Annstead 2 N. on 13th and 15 N. on 14th (HRS). Off Hauxley 22 N. on 13th and 6 N. on 14th (HRS). Off South Shields 1 on 12th (RA).

Pomarine Skua:-

On 11th, 1 flew N. off each of Holy Island and Hauxley (TH/HRS) and on 14th, 1 N. off Annstead (BRS).

Little Gull:-

An adult at Holywell on 1st - 4th (MH/CED) and an adult at Washington from 1st - 25th with 2 on 14th (BU/B. et al).

Kittiwake:-

Moving N. at up to 600/hr. off Hauxley on 13th/15th (HRS) and an apparently sick bird at Holywell on 7th (ERM).

/Whiskered Tern:-

A juv. at S. Linton on 4th/5th was first seen by LM/LGM and later by CED/JDP/MN. Full notes were taken and these will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Black Tern:-

An immature at Holywell on 12th and 2 off Annstead next day (CED/BRS)

Sandwich Tern:-

Moving S. off Tynemouth on 2nd and Hauxley on 21st. 3 still off Newton on 30th (JAG).

Common Tern:-

Up to 3 inland at Washington until 19th (RM et al).

Little Auk:-

1 off Seaton Bluice on 13th (CED/SE). An early record.

Turtle Dove:-

1 at Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Long-eared Owl:-

1 on Holy Island on 7th/8th (B & TH).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 on Holy Island on 12th (B & TH). The only record.

Swift:-

2 over Holywell Dene on 21st was the last record (JKJ).

Wryneck:-

On 18th, 1 in Priors Park (MH), on 19th, 1 at South Shields and 1 at Harsden (LGG) and on 20th, 1 at Bamburgh and 1 at Hauxley.

Swallow:-

10,000+ roosting at Holywell on 4th and 1500 at Whittle Dene until mid month. Moving S. over coastal areas on 21st - 26th (HRS/CMA).

Sand Martin:-

10 at Holywell on 4th were the last to be reported (SE).

House Martin:-

Coasting S. with Swallows on 21st (HRS).

Treecreeper:-

Migrants noted at Priors Park, Tynemouth on 19th (MH) and Holy Island on 21st (LGM/CW).

/Fieldfare

Fieldfare:-

First recorded on 11th when 5 flew W. over Stocksfield (LG) and 1 on Holy Island (B & TH). 2 on Holy Island next day but no subsequent records.

Song Thrush:-

Hauxley noted slight influxes on 6th/8th and 18th and 35 in Whitley Cemetery on 17th (SE).

Redwing:-

Only 2 records. 2 at Hauxley on 5th and 1 on Holy Island on 17th (TH).

* Blackbird:-

Noted in the passerine arrival of 17th - 18th with as many as 60 in Whitley Cemetery (SE).

Wheatear:-

The 3rd commonest migrant in the fall of 17th - 21st with a total of c450 noted between Holy Island and Marsden. 1 in built up area in the West End of Newcastle on 19th (BG).

Whinchat:-

A few arrived on 17th - 21st but no more than 10 noted from any one area.

Stonechat:-

2 at Cresswell on 14th (SE) and 2 at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Redstart:-

The commonest species in the huge arrival on 17th - 21st. Over 750 counted from 12 coastal points with a max. of 250 in Priors Park on the afternoon of 17th. Penetrated as far inland as Swallow Ponds and still one there on 29th.

Black Redstart:-

1 on Holy Island on 9th (B & TH).

Nightingale (sp):-

1 at Hauxley on 18th may have been one of two species. Seen only briefly (HRS).

Bluethroat:-

3 records: 1 at Priors Park on 17th (MH), 1 trapped at Hauxley on 18th and 1 at St. Mary's on same day (JHJ).

Robin:-

The second most plentiful species at the coast on 17th - 21st with 20 - 30 at Holy Island, Craster, Whitley Bay, Priors Park and South Shields and 60 at Hauxley.

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 on Holy Island on 8th (TH).

Reed Warbler:-

3 trapped at Hauxley between 18th - 20th (HRS).

Sedge Warbler:-

Last reported on 21st when 1 at Hauxley.

Blackcap:-

At Hauxley single birds almost daily until 3 on 20th. On same day 10 at Bamburgh, 3 at Craster and 1 at Druridge. 2 at Marsden on 18th and 1 at Priors Park on 19th.

Barred Warbler:-

At Hauxley, 1 from 1st - 4th then between 14th - 16th. 5 were trapped and there were probably 8 - 10 in the area. 2 remained until 23rd. On Holy Island, 1 on 9th and 2 on 12th (B & TH) and 1 near Chevington on 14th. 1 at South Shields on 19th (LGG).

Garden Warbler:-

Between 1 - 4 at most coastal points during month with a concentration of records on 17th - 20th. Priors Park had a peak of 25 on 19th and 9 on Holy Island on 21st.

Whitethroat:-

Only reported from 7 localities, all coastal. A few involved in the passerine immigration of 17th - 20th. 6 at Priors Park on 19th was largest concentration.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

1 at Hauxley on 9th, 18th and 21st with 2 on 20th. 2 on Holy Island on 17th (TH), 1 at Marsden on 18th (BU) and 1 at Druridge on 19th - 22nd. Also present in Whitley Cemetery on 17th/18th (CED).

Willow Warbler:-

Particularly plentiful during period 17th - 21st with 40 at Priors Park, 30 at South Shields and 30 on Holy Island. Smaller numbers at other coastal points.

Chiffchaff:-

At Hauxley, 1 on 18th and 2 on 21st (HRS).

Goldcrest:-

Involved in the movement of 17th - 21st with parties of up to 25 recorded from all along the coast.

Spotted Flycatcher:-

Also involved in the movement of 17th - 21st with up to 6 on Holy Island, 16 at Bamburgh, 7 at Hauxley and 20 at Priors Park. Smaller numbers noted all along the coast.

Pied Flycatcher:-

Many arrived on 17th - 21st. Max. counts were 34 on Holy Island (LGM/CW), 10 at Bamburgh (BRS), 20 at Hauxley (HRS), 30 at Druridge (TH), 100 at Priors Park (MH) and 20 at South Shields (RA). Smaller numbers noted all along coast both before and after this period.

Red-breasted Flycatcher:-

1 trapped at Hauxley on 8th/9th (HRS) and 1 at Amble on 18th (TH). 1 on Holy Island on 11th showed all characters of this species but lacked the white in the tail (B & TH).

Dunnock:-

Small numbers arriving with other migrants on 17th - 21st when 20 at Hauxley (10 trapped showed characteristics of the continental race) and 30 at Chevington. At Priors Park an influx of 30+ on 11th.

Meadow Pipit:-

Coasting S. at Hauxley in large numbers on 8th, 20th and 21st with over 1000 on each day (HRS).

Tree Pipit:-

1 at Marsden on 17th/18th (BU), 3 at Priors Park on 18th (MH) and 6 in Hauxley area on 21st (HRS).

/Red-throated Pipit:-

1 at Hauxley on 6th seen by observers well acquainted with the species. This will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee. 7

Yellow Wagtail:-

Last recorded on 20th when a few passed S. over Hauxley and Newcastle (BG). One of the "dark-headed" races seen only briefly at Priors Park on 18th (MH).

Snow Bunting:-

Between 12th - 14th, 6 on Holy Island (LGM/CW/TH), 1 at Ross (BE/IN), 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Whitburn (BU), on 21st, 2 at Hauxley (HRS) and on 30th, 1 at Newton (JAG).

List of Contributors

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McCutcheon. M. Nattrass. R. Norman. J. D. Parrack. B. Unwin. C. Ward.
Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All records for October to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W.
Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE 15 7RD.

*Isabelline Wheatear:-

Notes taken on a bird almost certainly of this species at South Shields on 20th/21st (RA/LGG et al). If accepted this will be only the second record for Britain and the first this century. 7

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

NEWSLETTER NO. 10:

SEPTEMBER, 1969.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB/R.S.P.B. FILM SHOW:-

The films for this year's show are:- "Where the Curlew Calls" - filmed in the North Yorkshire dales by James Munro who made the award winning "Birds of Teesmouth" film. "Puffins come Home" - the life of the Puffin. "Sea Eagles for Fair Isle" - the re-introduction of these magnificent birds by the R.S.P.B.

The show will once again be introduced by James Alder.

Tickets are now available for this event which is in the City Hall on Wednesday, 26th November, 1969 at 7.30.p.m. Last year's show was a great success with 1400 people there; please do your part in helping to make this year an even greater success. The Club is now in a reasonably happy financial state due mainly to last year's show, the profit being evenly divided between the Club and the R.S.P.B. Let us really earn our share of the profit by selling as many tickets as possible for this year's show. A few people took tickets to sell, at the last Club Meeting, but many more could do so. Tickets are obtainable from me Ian Armstrong, 12 Valerian Avenue, Reddon on the Wall, by post or at the next Club Meeting.

ESSAY PRIZE:-

The Committee have decided that as an incentive to producing articles for the Annual Report an essay prize of £5 cash will be awarded annually, at the discretion of the Committee. Entries for this year's award should be sent to the Secretary by no later than 28th February, 1970.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:-

These are now due, and the Treasurer would welcome a completed subscription form and the money as soon as possible. His address is:- John Orton, 25 Lindale Avenue, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CRESSWELL PONDS:-

The Club has now commenced wardening these ponds with a view to preventing the indiscriminate slaughter which has been such an unfortunate feature of the area in the past. We still require volunteer wardens, so if you can help for a few hours each month, at week-ends, please contact the Secretary as soon as possible - I. H. Armstrong, 12 Valerian Avenue, Reddon on the Wall.

FIELD TRIP TO SOLWAY:-

This trip is to see wintering geese of the Solway Area on Sunday, 7th December, 1969. Full details will be given at next Club Meeting and in the next Bulletin but booking for the bus will now be accepted on first come first served basis. 40 places are available. Write to field Secretary Mr. B. Meek, 5 Elm Road, Cheviot View, Ponteland.

ILLUSTRATED TALK:-

At the next Club Meeting on Thursday, 13th November, 1969 Eric Meek will be giving an illustrated talk on his recent trip to Lapland. This commences at 7.30.p.m.

OCTOBER 1969 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

For almost 3 weeks of the month the weather was dominated by a high pressure area over Central Europe. Resultant winds were from a southerly quarter and it remained warm and dry almost throughout the month.

After 5th, conditions were seemingly favourable for the emigration of birds from Northern Europe and during the subsequent 3 weeks Redwings were seen and heard passing over an almost every day, pausing only briefly. Also involved were Starlings and Bramblings but Fieldfare records were few. The movement seemed to be at a peak on 18th/19th when Lapwings, Golden Plover and Skylarks were also involved and it was on this latter day that a Pectoral Sandpiper was caught and ringed.

A few more Divers and Grebes were noted at sea as the month progressed and a Black Guillemot was seen on 11th. Inland, a large flock of Pintail was noted and a Long-tailed Duck and 2 Red-breasted Mergansers were out of place. Small flocks of Geese were noted after 9th and 4 species were identified, whilst of the 6 species of raptor reported a Goshawk was seen on 4th. As usual a few birds stayed late including 2 Swifts whilst a Nightingale was not only late but is probably the first fully authenticated record of this species in Northumberland.

Of the more unusual species Barred and Yellow Browed Warblers, and Great Grey Shrike were all reported and the more northerly Twite, Shore Lark and Lapland Bunting were seen during the last few days of the month.

The more changeable and often stormy weather in November has resulted in good sea bird movements and 9th - 12th saw a northerly movement of Little Auks of similar scale to that noted in 1959. So the November Bulletin should be interesting.

Classified List.

Black-throated Diver:-

2 off Annstead on 26th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

Reported from Ross, Bambergh, Annstead, Alnmouth, Hauxley and Cresswell. 5 off Ross on 4th and off Bambergh on 25th, and 12 off Alnmouth on 29th were the largest counts.

Great Crested Grebe:-

Up to 2 at Colt Crag throughout the month (Bln. et al). 2 at Catcleugh on 10th (JEO), 1 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (RM) and 1 on the sea off Boulmer on 5th (CMA).

Red-necked Grebe:-

On 4th, 2 off Ross (BRS), on 5th, 1 off Boulmer (CMA), on 26th, 2 off Holy Island (JH/OW/LGM) and on 31st, 2 off Budle Bay (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe:-

2 in Holy Island Harbour on 4th (BRS).

Black-necked Grebe:-

The bird reported last month from Whittle Bene was last seen on 8th (JA & RMCC), 1 at Lingates Moor on 4th (CMA).

Little Grebe:-

11 at Ellington Pond on 10th (BM) and 10 at Broomlee on 12th (LGM)
Up to 6 reported from 5 other waters.

Manx Shearwater:-

3N off St. Marys on 1st (SE).

Gannet:-

Largest counts were reported from Holy Island with 2508. in 90 minutes on 5th (SE) and a "substantial" N. Movement on 25th (ERM).

Cormorant:-

1 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 12th (RG/WB/EL).

Heron:-

Further large counts involved 10 at Budle Bay on 5th and 25th, 14 at Catclough on 10th (JEO) and 16 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (RN). Up to 5 noted from seven other localities including 3 on the Farnes on 11th (CMA et al) and 3 in from the E. at Hauxley next day.

Mallard:-

The Colt Crag flock increased from 470 on 16th (RG/WB/EL) to 600+ by 26th (BMN). Except for 250 at Whittle Dene on 25th (JA & RMCC) numbers seemed to be less than those reported last month.

Teal:-

450 at Budle Bay on 5th (BRS) was the only indication of an increase since September. At Bothal, Holywell, Washington and Whittle Dene numbers remained unchanged.

Garganey:-

A late drake at Holborn Moss on 4th (CW/LGM).

Gadwall:-

1 in Budle Bay on 4th (LGM).

Wigeon:-

Numbers fluctuated at Budle Bay during month but 2350 there on 27th (BRS) was the maximum reported. On 12th, 150 N. off Hauxley, 100 off Holy Island (RA) and 117 inland at Broomlee (LGM). During next few days 20 - 30 were noted at each of Whittle Dene, Hartburn and Derwent Reservoir. 50+ off Alnmouth on 31st.

Pintail:-

43 at Holburn Moss on 4th increasing to 52 by 26th must be the largest concentration ever to have been recorded in the county (MN/LGM/CW). On 4th/5th, 5 at Fenham Flats and 4 in Budle Bay (BRS) and on 28th - 31st, 3 at Cresswell (CMA/TH/ERM).

Shoveler:-

7 at Whittle Dene from 5th - 8th (JA&RMCC) was the only record.

Scaup:-

1 at Cresswell from 8th - 30th (TH) but 5 there on 11th (JA&RMCC). 1 at Holy Island on 5th and 12th (RA/LGG/SE) and 3 off Annstead on 25th (BRS). 2 at Whittle Dene on 12th (CMA) and 1 at Gosforth Park on 26th (RM).

Tufted Duck:-

Little change at Hartburn since last month and a decrease at Whittle Dene to only 15 on 12th (CMA). On 16th, 30 at Hallington and 85 at Colt Crag (RG/EL/WB).

Pochard:-

Also a decrease since last month with only 11 at Hartburn on 19th (SE) and 35 at Whittle Dene on 12th (JA&RMCC) but a slight increase at Derwent Reservoir to 45 on 12th (RN).

Goldeneye:-

1 off Ross on 4th (BRS) and 3 off Holy Island next day (SE). On 11th, 6 at Cresswell (JA&RMCC) and 3 off Banburgh with 2 off St. Marys next day. On 25th, 111 off Annstead and 25S at Hauxley after which up to 6 were noted from several localities.

Long-tailed Duck:-

An immature at Bothal Pond from 4th-10th (BM). On 12th, 1 off Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's (SE/BMN), and on 27th, 2 flew N. off Hauxley (BRS). 30 - 60 off Banburgh after 25th (BRS).

Velvet Scoter:-

Off Hauxley 1N on 12th and 3N on 27th (BRS). Off Annstead 5N on 25th and 11N on 26th (BRS).

Common Scoter:-

160 off Ross on 4th (BRS) was by far the largest flock reported.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

A very unusual record of 2 inland at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (RN) when a total of 12 flew N. off Hauxley (BRS). Also at Hauxley 5N on 26th when 4 N. off Holy Island (ERM). Off Ross 63 on 4th and on 31st 45 in the Banburgh area (ERM). Off Ross 63 on 4th and on 31st, 45 in the Banburgh area. (BRS). 1 on Lynemouth Burn on 28th and 1 at Cresswell

Pond on 30th (TH/ERM).

Goosander:-

3 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (RG/TB/EL) and 5 at Colt Crag on 26th. (BM).

Shelduck:-

4 seen to arrive at Washington Ponds from E on 25th (RN).

Grey Lag Goose:-

20 at Hartburn on 19th (SE), 1 at Cresswell on 24th (TH) and on 26th, 7 flew N. over Hauxley (HRS) and 4 at Holburn Moss (LGM).

Pink-footed Goose:-

At Hauxley, 150 flew S. on 23rd, 21N. on 26th and 3 arrived from the E. on 30th (HRS). On 4th, 11 flew S. over Holburn Moss (LGM/CW).

Barnacle Goose:-

By 12th a second bird had joined the 42 Canada Geese at Colt Crag (RG/WE/EL).

Geese (sp):-

6 unidentified birds flew S. near Hauxley on 9th (B & TH).

Mute Swan:-

c120 on the River Tweed at Berwick on 11th (SE).

Whooper Swan:-

In the N. of the county 22 at Fenham Flats on 4th had increased to 76 by 26th (LGM et al). 11 at Budle Bay on 26th (HRS). On 10th, 5 at Bothal (BM) and 6 at Catcleugh (JEO), on 25th, 4 at Whittle Dene and on 26th, 2 at Hauxley and 2 at Colt Crag (BM).

Buzzard:-

1 trapped in a mist net at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS) after being seen to arrive in a tired condition from the NW.

Sparrow Hawk:-

On 2nd, 1 at Denton Burn, Newcastle (BG). On 12th, 1 came in from the E. at Hauxley, 1 flew N. at Priors Park (TH) and 1 on Holy Island (RA/LGG). Another at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Goshawk:-

Full notes taken on an immature female being mobbed by crows in the Rothbury area on 4th (CHA et al). This will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.]

Peregrine:-

An immature at Washington on 16th (RN).

Merlin:-

Single birds at Hauxley on 7th, 26th and 29th (HRS). 1 at Hartburn on 19th. (SE) and 1 on Holy Island on 25th/26th (ERM et al).

Kestrel:-

1 flew S. about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile offshore near Hauxley on 9th and a very tired bird in Ambie on 26th (B & TH).

Water Rail:-

Singles at Hauxley on 11th/12th (HRS).

Coot:-

A further increase at Broomlee since 28th September to 383 on 12th (LGM). Still 23 at Whittle Dene only until 19th then 14 until end of month (JA&McC). Elsewhere c70 at Hartburn on 19th (SE) and 50 at Bolan on 12th - 19th (CHA).

Oystercatcher:-

An interesting count of 127 at St. Marys on 12th (SE).

Lapwing:-

Hauxley recorded a heavy coasting movement on 19th when several hundred flew S. in about 3 hours. This was noted on a smaller scale at Cresswell (HRS/TH) on the same day and over North Shields on 24th (SE).

Ringed Plover:-

40 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Grey Plover:-

Up to 3 at Hauxley between 5th - 19th (HRS) and 3 at Boulmer on 9th (RG/EL). 15 on Holy Island on 26th (ERM).

Golden Plover:-

Up to 1000 at Whittle Dene during month (JA&R McC/BN). 450 at Budle Bay on 5th had decreased to 20 by 27th (BRS). Small flocks noted coasts S. with Lapwings at Hauxley on 19th (HRS). 250 on Holy Island by 26th (BRM).

Turnstone:-

85 on 1st was the maximum reported from the St. Mary's area (SE).

Common Snipe:-

Little change in numbers since September but birds undoubtedly moving through the county as confirmed by a record of 2 on Farnes on 11th (CMA), a few arriving from the E. at Hauxley on 19th and also at Holy Island on 26th (HRS/ERM).

Jack Snipe:-

On 6th, 1 picked up injured at Priors Park (MH). 1 at Cresswell on 12th - 19th (B & TH), 4 in the Hauxley area on 19th (HRS) and 1 at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS). On 25th, 1 was seen to arrive from the E. at Annstead.

Woodcock:-

1 at Bamburgh on 19th and 28th. 3 at Hauxley on the latter date suggested an influx.

Whimbrel:-

A late bird on Holy Island on 19th (BRS).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

On 5th, 1 on Holy Island Lough (SE).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

20 on Holy Island on 26th (ERM) and 60 in Budle Bay on 27th (BRS).

Green Sandpiper:-

2 present foremost of month (JA&R McC).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 at Washington from 1st until at least 26th (B/ES et al) and another late bird at Woodhorn from 8th - 17th (TH).

Redshank:-

c100 at Cresswell on 10th (BN) and 150 at Warkworth on 26th (BG/JAG).

Spotted Redshank:-

On 1st, 5 at Swallow Pond (MN), on 4th, 1 at Whittle Dene (JA & R McC), on 19th, 1 at Hauxley (BRS) and up to 2 at Cresswell from 4th - 31st (TH).

Greenshank:-

1 in Budle Bay on 4th/5th (BRS) and from 26th - 29th, 1 at Warkworth (BG/JAG) and 1 near Hauxley (HRS).

Knot:-

Still c60 in Seaton Sluice area on 18th (SE).

Purple Sandpiper:-

15 at St. Mary's on 12th (SE) was the maximum reported. Also noted at Bamburgh and Whitburn (12th).

Little Stint:-

1 at Cresswell from 8th - 26th (TR/JDP) and 1 at Whittle Dene on 8th (IHA).

Pectoral Sandpiper:-

A bird identified as belonging to the American race was seen and later trapped near Hauxley on 19th. It remained in area until 23rd. (BG/JAG/ERM/BN). This record the third for Northumberland, will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Dunlin:-

350 in Coquet Estuary at Warkworth on 26th was by far the largest number reported (BG/JAG).

Curlew Sandpiper:-

1 at Budle Bay on 5th (BRS), 1 at Woodhorn from 1st - 24th (TH) and 1 at St. Mary's from 1st - 12th with 2 on 1st (SE et al).

Sanderling:-

28 at Hauxley on 18th was the largest flock reported (RA et al).

Ruff:-

4 at Budge Bay on 5th gradually fell to 1 on 26th (BRS). Present at Whittle Dene until 19th when the maximum of 7 was recorded (JA&RM/C) 1 at Woodhorn from 9th - 24th (TH).

Arctic Skua:-

11 flew N. in 55 minutes off St. Mary's on 1st (SE). Only a few records of mainly single birds after this date until 19th when the last was seen off Cresswell (TH).

Glaucous Gull:-

An immature at Hauxley on 25th (BRS).

Common/Arctic Tern:-

Still relatively common early in the month but a distinct S. passage between 7th - 12th. 1 off each of Hauxley and Whitburn on 29th/30th.

Auks (sp):-

Moving S. off Berwick on 11th (90 in only 5 minutes) and St. Mary's on 12th (30 in 90 minutes) (SE). Moving N. off Hauxley on 27th - 30th at up to 50 per hour.

Black Guillemot:-

1 off Farnes on 11th (CHA).

Short-eared Owl:-

Not many records. 1 at Holywell on 16th - 19th (CHA/JDP) and 1 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (BS).

Swift:-

Single late birds at Boulmer and Cresswell on 9th (TH).

Skylark:-

Moving S. and arriving from E. all along coast between 10th - 19th. Largest movements were noted in Hauxley area with 130 S. in 90 minutes on 10th and hundreds coasting on 19th.

Shore Lark:-

1 on N. side of Coquet Estuary at Warkworth on 26th (JAG/BG).

Swallow:-

Many records of small parties early in month, mainly of birds moving S. Still 3 - 4 at Cresswell on 30th (JDP et al).

House Martin:-

20 at Gosforth on 4th (TCS), 2 at Hauxley on 7th, 2 at Heddon on 11th (IHA) and 2 at Bamburgh on 18th.

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Warkworth on 26th (JAG).

Mistle Thrush:-

More than usual at coast early in month. On 4th, 18 at Annstead, 5 at Priors Park and 2 at Hauxley and on 6th/8th 5 - 13 at Druridge (TH).

Fieldfare:-

A paucity of records. 150 at Hauxley on 12th, and 65 at Bamburgh on 31st were exceptional counts. Most of the 11 other records involved only a handful of birds.

Song Thrush:-

Small arrivals noted at Hauxley between 5th - 19th with a max. of 30 on 5th (BRS).

Redwing:-

In contrast to the Fieldfare, innumerable records. Moving over both counties in a S. to S.W. direction on most days and nights from 5th onwards and many thousands obviously involved. Largest counts were noted on 11th/12th with 800 at Bamburgh, 1700 at Hauxley, 450 at Tynemouth and 270 seen making their first landfall as far inland as Broonlee Lough. Another heavy, mainly S. movement was noted on 18th/19th with 800+ over Bamburgh and Holy Island, 'thousands' over Hauxley and smaller numbers elsewhere.

Ring Ouzel:-

1 at Hauxley on 18th (HRS) and 1 at Bamburgh on 19th (BRS).

Blackbird:-

There have been better Octobers for this species but significant arrivals were noted on 12th, (270 at Bamburgh and 50 at Hauxley) 19th (30 trapped at Hauxley in late afternoon) and on 26th/28th (80 on Holy Island, 205 at Bamburgh and hundreds at Hauxley).

Wheatear:-

At Hauxley 3 on 4th, 1 on 19th, 2 on 23rd (HRS). 1 well inland at Falstone as late as 19th (IMA) and 1 at Warkworth on 29th (JAG/TH).

Stonechat:-

Up to 3 at Hauxley most days.

Whinchat:-

2 at Bamburgh on 5th and at Hauxley 1 on 18th and 1 as late as 24th.

Redstart:-

Between 5th and 21st a few single birds noted at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Cresswell and Cambois. On 12th/13th, 2 at Tynemouth and 4 at South Shields. Probably 17 birds involved altogether.

Black Redstart:-

1 at Holy Island on 12th (RA/LGG) and 18th (IMA).

Nightingale:-

1 trapped at Hauxley on 11th (HRS) constitutes the first fully authenticated record of this species in Northumberland. It will be considered by the Club Rarities Committee.

Blackcap:-

Moving through coastal districts throughout the month with 8 at Bamburgh, 18 at Hauxley, 3 at Cresswell and 3 at Tynemouth.

Barred Warbler:-

2 at Hauxley on 4th and 1 until 6th had both been in area since mid September.

Garden Warbler:-

Only 1 record. A bird feeding on the rocks at Whitburn on 12th (BU).

Whitethroat:-

Late birds at Hauxley on 5th and Bamburgh on 12th.

Willow Warbler:-

Late birds at Cresswell on 16th (TH) and Seaton Delaval on 26th (JEO).

Chiffchaff:-

On 11th/12th 2 on Holy Island (RA/LGG) and 2 at Hauxley. On 18th, 1 at Bamburgh.

Yellow-browed Warbler:-

1 trapped at Tynemouth on 11th (MH) and 2 on Holy Island on 12th (BL)

Goldcrest:-

No real significant arrivals but present all along coast throughout month including 1 on Farnes on 22nd (CMA et al).

Pied Flycatcher:-

1 at Bamburgh on 5th, 1 on Holy Island on 12th (RA) and 1 at Hauxley on 12th and 18th.

Meadow Pipit:-

Moving S. over Hauxley area on 10th, 12th, 22 and 27th in moderate numbers.

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Bamburgh from 5th - 27th and 1 at Hauxley on 22nd.

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 in Hauxley area on 18th and 22nd (HRS).

Starling:-

Flocks of up to 50 arriving from E. at Holy Island and Hauxley on 12th. On 19th a very heavy S. coasting movement noted at Hauxley and Cresswell when tens of thousands in flocks of up to 500 were counted between dawn and 14.00 hrs.

Goldfinch:-

40+ near Bardon Hill on 12th (LGH) and smaller numbers elsewhere.

Siskin:-

1 on Farnes on 11th (CHA) and 1 at Hauxley next day. 40 at Hauxley between 18th and 25th and 3 at Bamburgh on 26th.

Twite:-

At least 1 at Hauxley on 23rd and 1 on Holy Island on 25th (ERM).

Brambling:-

Noted almost daily at coast after 5th, usually up to 10 birds. Peak arrivals occurred on 11th/12th with 20 at Bamburgh, 150 at Hauxley and to a lesser extent on 18th/19th and 22nd when up to 30 at Cresswell Hauxley, Bamburgh and Tynemouth.

Lapland Bunting:-

1 on N. side of Coquet Estuary on 26th (JAG).

Snow Bunting:-

Singles noted at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Warkworth, Anble and Hauxley between 11th and 26th, but 10 on Holy Island on the latter date.

Tree Sparrow:-

c30 coasted S. at Hauxley on 12th.

List of Contributors.

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All November records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE15 7RD by 8th December 1969 please.

Field trip to Solway Area - Sunday, 7th December, 1969.

A 45 seat bus has been booked at a cost of £30. To date only 25 people have expressed interest in going and thus to keep the cost per person to a minimum we obviously require a full attendance. Anyone who wants to go and has not already informed Eric Neek, please do so before 3rd December and unless they receive a reply they can safely assume that they have been included in the party.

The bus will leave Baxter's Cafe, Front Street, Tynemouth at 8.a.m. prompt and pick up en route to the Hancock Museum (8.15.a.m.) Denton Burn (8.30) and Heddon (8.40). Anyone anticipating a pick up other than from Tynemouth or the Hancock please contact Charles Douglas, 25 Briardene Road, Whitley Bay, Telephone Whitley Bay 24827. Packed lunch and walking shoes are essential.

Address of Field Secretary: Eric Neek, 5 Elm Road, Cheviot View, Ponteland.

Social Night: An all male night has been arranged for Friday, 28th November at the Bridge Hotel, near Swing Bridge, Newcastle. A room has been booked so why not come along for a pint and a sandwich with the lads! Kick off 7.30.p.m.

Annual Subscription:- As stated last month these are now due and unless they are renewed before end of November this will be your last bulletin.

Next Meeting:- On 11th December Eric Bird will be showing us some more of his bird films. If these are anything like last years then it will be a very enjoyable evening. Commences 7.30.p.m.

Members are reminded that the next joint meeting with the N.H.S. is on Friday, 5th December, 1969 at 7.30.p.m. at the Hancock Museum, when Mr. R. Baylton who is one of our members, will give a talk (with slides) on a visit to Austria..

SUMMARY

November was a very cold, wet month being dominated almost entirely by strong winds from a Northerly quarter which eventually brought snow on 28th.

Conditions were thus ideal for the immigration of waterfowl and large numbers of surface feeding ducks were suddenly apparent during the first few days of the month. Whooper Swans were also noted arriving at this time and few late Warblers were reported.

From 9th onwards seabird passage became of increasing significance as Little Auks moved N. offshore in sizeable numbers with a few late Manx Shearwaters, Fulmars and Skuas. 2 Storm Petrels were seen (1 found dead) and both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were reported. Diving ducks were also moving in large numbers with Goldeneye being the most plentiful but being closely followed by Scaup and Long-tailed Ducks.

The 15th/16th (the peak of the sea passage) brought a final rush of Blackbirds and Fieldfares and a large increase in Wigeon and Dunlin to coastal areas whilst throughout the following week there appeared to be an immigration of "eared" owls.

Snow during the last few days brought with it Brent Geese, Snow, a few Goosander and an increase in Whooper Swans and Tufted Duck. The more unusual records for the month included Ben Harrier, Shore Larks, Barred Warbler, Siberian Chiffchaff and Lapland Bunting.

December has been reasonably quiet so far but work has commenced on the sea watching tower that we have leased at Seaton Sluice. On 7th the field trip to S.W. Scotland was a great success and was enjoyed by all. Close views were obtained of 3 species of geese (including 3000 Barnacles) and there were good numbers of other waterfowl and birds of prey to keep everyone happy. A short stop at the Bags Head at Brampton on the return journey was generally appreciated, particularly by the folk-singing section, and after a further short but essential stop for someone who shall remain nameless, the bus arrived back in Newcastle at about 9.30 pm. Eric Meek must be thanked for organising a really good day out.

Classified ListDivers (sp):-

Quite common offshore with birds moving N and S. Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 7N and 12S on 1st and 15N. on 23rd (SE/BG) and up to 5 seen on 5 other dates. Off Whitburn 10N on 16th (RN) and up to 5 daily off Hauxley.

Black-throated Diver:

2 S. off Sunderland on 7th were almost certainly of this species (BU).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 off Holy Island on 16th (RA).

Red-throated Diver:-

8 off Alnmouth on 2nd (BR), 7 in Duridge Bay on 8th (RA) and 5 off Holy Island on 16th. Up to 3 noted off Cresswell/Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's.

Great Crested Grebe:-

On 2nd, 1 off Alnmouth (EM/BH) and 2 off Seaton Sluice (SE).

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 off Lamburn on 1st (BR), 1 off St. Mary's on 2nd (SE) and 2 off Holy Island from 16th - 30th (RA/CW et al).

Little Grebe:-

Still lingering on partially frozen pools with up to 4 being reported from 5 different localities.

Storm Petrel:-

During the N. gales in mid month, 1 found dead on Blyth Beach on 17th (JDP) and a petrel probably of this species seen in flight off

St. Mary's on 15th (SE).

Manx Shearwater:-

Three late records: On 16th, 1 N. off Annstead (BRS) and 4N off Holy Island (MN/ERI/LGM). On 23rd, 2N off St. Mary's (BG).

Fulmar:-

Between 15th - 23rd, 3N off Holy Island (ERI), 4 N and 2 S. off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's (SE/BG/JDP) and 3N off Hauxley (HRS).

Gannet:-

Small numbers moving N. on most days. 25N off St. Mary's in 2½ hours on 23rd was largest count (BG et al).

Cormorant:-

Up to 7 on the River Tyne at Blaydon during month (ERM) and 1 at Swallow Ponds on 24th (MN).

Heron:-

A fall off in numbers since last month with only 4 in Budle Bay on 8th (CHA) and 7 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (RN). Recorded from 9 other widely scattered areas totalling only 10 birds.

Mallard:-

A large increase since October with maximum counts as follows: 150 off St. Mary's on 1st (SE). On 2nd, 350 near Grindon (BG). 250 at Hartburn (J & RMcC), 400 at Gosforth (CW). 200 at Hallington and 400 at Colt Crag (CHA). On 9th, 545 at Derwent Reservoir (RN). On 29th, 380 at Holywell (BG/CW et al). On 30th, 500 at Whittle Dene (IHA/BG et al).

Teal:-

A definite influx during the month and a few moving N. offshore. Maximum counts were c150 at Washington on 1st - 16th (BU et al). 300 at Gosforth on 2nd (CW et al), c110 at Bothal on 2nd (SE) and c360 at Holywell on 16th (JDP). Up to 80 at each of Holy Island, Whittle Dene, and Derwent Reservoir all month and moving N. off St. Mary's with up to 80 per day between 15th - 23rd (JDP/BG/SE et al).

Gadwall:-

1 at Gosforth on 9th (CW).

Wigeon:-

Some huge numbers in the Fenham Flats/Budle Bay area with 8 - 10,000 there on 15th - 16th and again on 30th (ERI/MN/CW/LGM). A heavy N. movement noted offshore from 8th - 30th all along the coast. Maximum counts were 700 N. off Hauxley on 15th and 312 N. on 22nd and off St. Mary's 405 N. on 22nd/23rd (JDP/BG/SE et al). Inland flocks stood at 20 - 30 at Whittle Dene, Derwent Reservoir, Hallington and Gosforth with 150 - 250 at Grindon between 2nd - 15th.

Pintail:-

On 1st - 3rd between 3 and 5 at Cresswell (BM et al), 1 at Gosforth (SE/CW), and 2 at Hartburn (JDP). 3 at Holborn Moss on 14th (CHA), 2 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS), and 1 N. off Hauxley on 15th.

Shoveler:-

67 at Gosforth Park on 2nd was an unusually large number for the time of year (CW). There were still 47 there on 9th and 12 on 22nd. Only 1 other record - 2 at Hartburn on 2nd (J & RMcC).

Scaup:-

Moving N. offshore between 15th - 23rd with 16 off Annstead (BRS), 95 off St. Mary's (SE/JDP/BG). 3 off Alnmouth (ERI) and 18 off Hauxley (HRS). At Cresswell Pond 1 on 17th and 2 on 29th (TH). 1 at Holywell Pond on the latter date (CEB). and 1 on Holy Island on 30th (CW/LGM).

Tufted Duck:-

A sharp rise at Whittle Dene from 50 on 22nd to 275 on 30th (IHA/J & RMcC/BG). 150 at Colt Crag on 2nd (CHA), 75 at Hallington on 18th and 50 at Holywell on 22nd (SE).

Pochard:-

Whittle Dene showed a maximum of 95 on 2nd (BG), Gosforth a maximum of 90 on 9th (CW) and Derwent Reservoir 60 on 9th (RN). On all other waters numbers did not exceed 10. Moving N. offshore with other ducks on 22nd/23rd with 23 off St. Mary's (BG).

Goldeneye:-

Became increasingly common as the month progressed and a heavy N. passage noted between 15th - 30th. Examples of the latter were - off Annstead

29N on 30th (BRS), off Alnmouth 42N. on 25th (ERM), off Seaton Sluice/
St. Mary's 92N in 1½ hours on 15th, 145N in 1 hour on 22nd (BG/JDP) and
30N in ½ hour on 23rd.

Large numbers inland coincided with this movement with 20 at Colt Crag
and 21 at Hallington on 18th (CHA) and 22 at Whittle Dene (J & RMcC) and
15 at Gosforth Park on 22nd (LGH/CW). There were also 19 at Derwent
Reservoir on 9th (RM) and up to 8 noted from many other waters.

Long-tailed Duck:-

20 - 40 in the Ross/Bamburgh area between 1st and 16th (BRS/CW et al).
Off St. Mary's 1 N. on 1st and 15th (ERM/SE) and 47 N. in 2½ hours on
23rd (BG). On 25th, 3 N. off Alnmouth (ERM) and on 30th 4N. off Annstead
(BRS). Off Hauxley 2N on 1st, 3N on 9th, 3N on 22nd and 11 there on 25th.

Velvet Scoter:-

More than is usual and mainly moving N. Off Seaton Sluice, 1 on 2nd, 3
on 22nd and 5 on 27th (JKJ et al). Off St. Mary's 1 N. on 23rd (BG).
Off Whitburn 1 N. on 15th (RM). Off Holy Island 4 N. on 16th (CW et al).
Off Bamburgh 2 on 1st (BRS). Off Annstead 2 on 30th (BRS). Off Alnmouth
6 on 29th (ERM). Off Hauxley, 14 on 5 dates between 1st and 29th.

Common Scoter:-

200 off Ross on 16th (ERM) and 150 N. off Hauxley on 15th (BRS) were by far
the largest numbers reported.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Between 15 - 35 off Bamburgh/Ross from 1st - 16th (BRS/CW et al). On
15th, 14 N. off Annstead (BRS) and 7 N. off Seaton Sluice (ERM). 6
off Holy Island on 16th (RM) and up to 3 noted regularly off Seaton Sluice/
St. Mary's /Alnmouth throughout month.

Goosander:-

Unusual localities were 2 N. off Hauxley on 22nd, 1 at Holywell Ponds
(BG/MN et al) and 3 N. off Seaton Sluice (SE) on 29th, and 1 N. off
Annstead on 30th (BRS). 10 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th and up to 5 noted
from 7 other more typical areas.

Sniew:-

An immature bird present on Ellington Pond on 28th/29th (B & TH).

Shelduck:-

Prominent offshore in the S.E. of the county between 15th and 23rd when
they were moving both N. and S. On 22nd 31 N. off St. Mary's and 12 S
off Seaton Sluice (ER/SE) and on 23rd, 10 N. off Cresswell (JDP).
Smaller numbers noted on other days and 9 also S. off Whitburn on 15th
(RM).

Grey Geese:-

7 unidentified birds flew S. over Ross on 16th (LGH et al).

Grey Lag Goose:-

Hartburn had a max. of 72 on 2nd (JDP) (J & RMcC et al). Elsewhere 1 at
Cresswell on 2nd (BMN), 5 in Budle Bay on 8th (CHA), 1 at Grindon on
15th and 3 at Ross on 30th (LGH/CW).

Pink-footed Goose:-

4 S. over Holywell Ponds on 22nd (LGH/CW).

Brent Goose:-

c200 on Penham Flats on 30th (MN/LGH/RA/CW).

Canada Goose:-

17 at Hallington on 18th (CHA).

Whooper Swan:-

The Penham Flats herd continued to increase to 275 on 16th and to over
400 by 30th with only about 40 Pute Swans (LGH/MN/CW et al). Elsewhere
there were innumerable records of parties of up to 10 from 1st onwards,
mainly in S.E. Northumberland. Numbers in excess of this were 30 at
Holywell on 9th (BG/MN), 12 at Wingates on 14th (CHA), 27 at Grindon on
15th (LGH) and 12 at Cresswell on 28th (TH).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Singles at Hartburn and Ponteland during month (JDP/ERM).

Hen Harrier:-

Female at Holywell on 29th/30th. (BG/LGM/MN/CW). A female had also been seen by W. J. Potts at Newsham on 1st. (CED).

Merlin:-

1 at Swallow Ponds on 9th (MN) and 1 over the Coquet Estuary on 1st (HRS).

Water Rail:-

At least 2 in Gosforth Park during month (CW).

Moorhen:-

105 at Holywell during last week of month (LGM/CW).

Coot:-

The unusual Whittle Dene flock fell from 12 on 2nd to 1 by 30th (J & RMCC et al). 440 at Seaton Burn on 9th had increased to 563 by 22nd (BG/LGM/CW/ERM). A slight decline at Broomlee since last month with 230 on 15th (LGM). Holywell flock slowly increased to 70 by 29th (CED) and 68 at Bolam on 14th when the lake was almost frozen (CMA).

Oystercatcher:-

140 at St. Mary's on 1st was the largest flock reported (SE).

Lapwing:-

A suggestion of a coastal arrival on 1st when 23 came in at Seaton Sluice (SE). 535 at Washington on 22nd was the largest flock noted (RN).

Grey Plover:-

43 at Ross on 16th (CW/LGM et al), 1 at Amble on 2nd (BM/ERM) and 1 N. off Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Golden Plover:-

The flock on Holy Island was at a max. of 520 on 30th (LGM et al). 800 at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Common Snipe:-

Up to 30 noted from many areas and 80 on Holy Island on 30th (LGM).

Woodcock:-

Probable immigrants at Hauxley on 7th - 16th, 2 on 21st and 3 on 22nd (HRS). 2 at Ross on 16th (ERM/LGM).

Bar-tailed Godwits:-

140 at Fenham Flats on 16th (ERM).

Green Sandpiper:-

3 at Whittle Dene on 16th and still 1 on 30th (IHA/J& RMCC/BG).

Redshank:-

The Washington flock stood at 95 on 22nd (RN).

Spotted Redshank:-

The 2 Cresswell birds present throughout October were last noted on 3rd/4th (TH).

Knot:-

350 in Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's area on 9th and 23rd (BG et al) and 100 at Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Purple Sandpiper:-

The Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's flock was at a maximum of 35 on 2nd (SE/BG).

Dunlin:-

1000+ flew N. off Hauxley in 1½ hours on 15th and the movement noted on a smaller scale off St. Mary's on same day (HRS/JDP). Also on 15th/16th c550 in the flooded fields around Hauxley and 600 in Fenham Flats area (MN/ERM). 210 in Coquet Estuary on 2nd (BM/ERM).

Sanderling:-

Small numbers all along coast with 60 at St. Mary's on 1st (SE) and 68 at Hauxley most of month being the largest flocks reported.

Arctic Skua:-

A few moving during the N. gales. Off Seaton Sluice 1 S. on 1st and 1 N. on 29th (SE). On 16th, 2 N. off Lambourgh (HRS) and 1 N. off Holy Island (RA) and on 23rd 1 N. off St. Mary's (JDP). Off Hauxley 1 N. on 14th and 1 S. on 29th (HRS). 1 at Cresswell Pond on 8th (TH) and 2 unidentified Skuas off Holy Island on 16th (RA/ERM).

Great Skua:-

1 S. off Whitburn on 8th (BU), 2 S. off Annstead on 15th (BRS), 1 N. off Holy Island on 16th (CW et al) and 1 N. off St. Mary's on 23rd (BG).

Pomarine Skua:-

1 N. off Holy Island on 16th (RA).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

A late bird at Bothal on 2nd (SE) and on 15th a total of c300 of the Scandinavian Race flew N. off St. Mary's. Later the same day, 2 of this race found dead on Blyth Beach (JDP).

Glaucous Gull:-

A second year bird at Swallow Ponds on 9th (MN). Off Annstead singles flew N. on 15th, 16th and 30th (BRS). Off Hauxley, 1 N. on 29th (HRS) and off St. Mary's 1 N. on 15th (MN/JDP). All except the Swallow bird were first years.

Iceland Gull:-

a first year flew N. off Annstead on 30th (BRS).

Kittiwake:-

Some heavy movements noted both N. and S. particularly on 15th/16th when up to 1000/hr. were counted passing N. off down the coast (BM et al).

'Commic' Tern:-

Between 1st - 4th up to 5 noted off Amble (Bd/BH), Cresswell, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's (SE).

Little Auk:-

On 7th, 2S off Seaburn (BU). On 12th, 33 N. in 1 hour off Hauxley (HRS). On 15th/16th 6 and 1 flew N. of Whitburn (RN). On 25th, 2 N. of Alnmouth (ERM) and 2 N. off Hauxley (HRS). On 30th, 24 N. off Annstead (BRS).

Auk (sp):-

On 1st/2nd moving N. off Hauxley at 180/hr (HRS) and 60 Guillemots flew N. off Annstead on 30th (BRS).

Woodpigeon:-

During snow on 29th/30th a suggestion of a N.E. movement over Denton Burn (RA/BG).

Collared Dove:-

2 young in a very late nest at Benton on 19th were both blown out and are now being cared for. The mild/dry weather in October probably encouraged late nesting (FC).

Barn Owl:-

Singles reported at Cresswell and Ponteland.

Long-eared Owl:-

The traditional roost near Ponteland contained 8 birds on 29th and 1 trapped at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Short-eared Owl:-

A sudden increase in records with some birds arriving from the E. 3 at Swallow Ponds on 2nd (MN), 1 at Druridge on 9th, 1 at Ashington on 14th (B & TH). 1 in from the E. at Annstead on 15th (BRS) and on 22nd, 1 at Seaton Burn (CW/LGM) and singles arrived at Seaton Sluice (ERM/SE), St. Mary's (BG) and Hauxley (HRS). 2 on Holy Island on 30th.

Skylark:-

Flocks of 150 at Cresswell on 29th (TH) and 200 at St. Mary's on 30th (SE).

Shore Lark:-

At Seaton Sluice 2 on 9th - 14th, 3 on 16th and 4 on 30th (JKJ).

Hooded Crow:-

2 at Ross on 30th (LGM et al).

Nuthatch:-

At Bolam 1 on 1st (B & ME) and 2 on 9th (JDP). At Dipton 1 on 23rd (ERM).

Fieldfare:-

A significant arrival after 15th as hundreds arrived at Hauxley, Newbiggin Seaburn and St. Mary's (BH/ERM/SE). Relatively common in flocks of up to 200 throughout Northumberland for rest of month.

Redwing:-

Not as abundant as in October but up to 50 noted together both inland and at the coast and 200 at Prestwick Carr. on 29th (ERM).

Blackbird:-

A heavy arrival from the S. noted on 15th with hundreds at Hauxley, Newbiggin and Seaburn (Bil/ERM/IM). Still moving inland over North Shields on 18th (SE).

Stonechat:-

Resident throughout month at Hauxley (3), Chevington (1), Cresswell (2), and Seaton Sluice (2).

Grey Wagtail:-

Singles resident at Whittle Dene and at a Wallsend Shipyard throughout month (LGA/IMA et al).

Blackcap:-

2 at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Barred Warbler:-

A late bird at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Whitethroat:-

A very late bird at Hauxley on 1st (HRS).

Chiffchaff:-

At Hauxley 1 on 1st, 1 on 14th - 17th (trapped and identified as the Siberian Race), and 1 trapped on 21st - 23rd.

Goldfinch:-

Flocks of up to 6 from 4 localities.

Bullfinch:-

Parties of up to 6 noted from 5 different localities.

Lapland Bunting:-

3 near Hauxley on 9th (HRS).

Snow Bunting:-

Small parties of up to 9 noted from 6 localities and a flock of 41 flew N. over Cresswell on 12th (TH).

Tree Sparrow:-

A large gathering of 150 - 200 at Whittle Dene on 30th (Bil).

List of Contributors:-

I. H. Armstrong. R. Adams. C. H. Adamson. F. Colley. C. E. Douglas. S. Edwards. B & M Etherington. B. Galloway. B & T. Hallam. J. K. Jeffrey. B. Marshall. Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations. E. R. Meek. B. Martin. L. G. McFarland. J & R. McCutcheon. M. Nattrass. R. Norman. J. D. Parrack. B. Unwin. C. Ward.

All December records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE15 7 RD by 8th January at the latest please.

TYNE SIDBIRD CLUB

NEWSLETTER NO. 11

NOVEMBER 1969

IMPORTANT

FIELD TRIP TO MARINE ISLANDS AREA

24 names were obtained at the last Club Meeting thus filling the boat for both trips on Sunday, January 18th 1970. We feel that there are possibly a further 24 people in the Club who wish to go so the following arrangements have been made.

Those who put their names down at the last Club Meeting will make their first attempt at going out on 18 January. If unsuccessful they will try again a fortnight later on Sunday, 1 February.

I would like another 24 names to fill 2 more boats. Will you please write to me by 1 January if you wish to go. These people will make their first attempt at the trip on Sunday, 25 January and their second attempt a fortnight later on Sunday, 8 February when writing will you please state whether you wish to go in the morning boat (10.am from Seahouses) of the afternoon boat (2.p.m..from Seahouses).

To check on whether the trip will be made would you please ring Ian Armstrong at Wylam 2591 between 7.15.a.m. and 7.30.a.m. on the morning of their proposed trip.

E. R. HEEK, 5 ELM ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Club Dinner will be held in the "Avon Hotel", Osborne Road on Saturday, 28 February 1970.

Last year an excellent evening was had by all and we hope that attendance will be as good again this year. Would all those wishing to attend please send their bookings to E. R. HEEK, 5 ELM ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE as soon as possible and state their choice of menu from (A), (C) or (I) below. Would those who made their booking with Ian Armstrong at the last Club Meeting please also write in order to state their choice of menu.

An additional charge of about 3s 6d will be made to cover Room Hire and Service Charge.

- (A) Potage Agnes Sorrel (Chicken flavoured with mushroom, garnished with Julienne of mushroom, Chicken and Tongue).
Roast Stuffed Turkey with Chipolatas,
Roast Potatoes,
Creamed Potatoes
Brussel Sprouts,
Buttered Carrots,
Lemon Meringue Pie,
Coffee, Mint Crisps 21s 6d. 2 ff
- (C) Potage Asparagus,
Filets of Sole Dolinec with White Wine Sauce and chopped mushrooms,
Roast Chicken with savoury stuffing and bacon rolls,
Boiled New Buttered Potatoes,
Fluted Potato Cries,
Minted Garden Peas,
Buttered Potatoes,
Chocolate Mousse with Fresh Cream,
Coffee, Mint Crisps 22s 6d.
- (I) Potted Shrimps served with warm Buttered Toast,
Consomme Cock a Leekie,
Roast English Sirloin served in thickly cut slices with Horseradish sauce and
Yorkshire Pudding,
Baked Jacket Potatoes,

CLUB CHAIRMAN

The Committee have appointed the Secretary, Ian Armstrong to a new position of Chairman/Secretary to fill the vacancy.

JANUARY MEETING

The Committee would like to wish all Club Members and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

DECEMBER 1969

SUMMARY

A mixed month with interesting reports of sea birds, wildfowl, waders and passerines.

Divers were particularly restless with significant movements occurring on 6th, 18th and 30th. The 6th also brought a Grey Phalarope, a late Manx Shearwater and more little Auks, whilst from about 18th onwards Scaup and Shelduck also appeared to be on the move.

During an interim period from 11th - 16th Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Great Grey Shrike, Black Redstart and Waxwing were all reported and a Smew was seen at Whittle Dene for the third successive year.

Most of the remaining unusual sightings were made during the very cold weather between Christmas and New Year and included Bewick Swans, Hen Harrier, Spotted Redshank, another Black Redstart and Waxwing.

Finally, Green Sandpipers continue to winter at Whittle Dene with up to 3 being reported and some very high Mallard counts were received from about 5 different areas.

During early January a flock of 25-30 Shore Larks were seen between Marsden and Whitburn, the Smew continues to live at Whittle Dene and the Holy Island flock of Brent Geese suddenly increased to about 1000 as the flats froze over. There is also a suggestion that there may have been a slight influx of Waxwings, so keep an eye on your cotoneaster bushes.

Classified List

Diver (Sp):-

Some interesting movements offshore with 56N and 53 off Cresswell in 2¼ hours on 18th, and 32 N and 1 S off Hauxley in ½ hour on 30th (TH). 13 off Longhoughton Steel on 27th (ERI).

Black-throated Diver:-

1 off Alnmouth on 9th (CHA).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 N off Annstead on 6th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

Up to 4 identified from 5 different points on the coast. Off Annstead 19 flew E. on 6th (BRS).

Great Crested Grebe:-

1 off Alnmouth on 26th (ERM/LG/CW).

Red-necked Grebe:-

2 flew N. off Annstead on 6th (BRS). Off Holy Island 1 on 21st and 2 on 30th (BG/ERM).

Slavonian Grebe:-

Off Holy Island 1 on 21st and 30th (ERM/BG) and 5 on 31st (J & RMCC). 2 off Lamburn on 9th (CHA).

Little Grebe:-

Only 1 record; 1 on frozen lake at Bolan on 12th (CHA).

Manx Shearwater:-

1 N. off Annstead on 6th - a very late bird (BRS).

Fulmar:-

Became increasingly common all along the coast as month progressed, with largest numbers (c150) being noted in the Holy Island and Cullernose areas.

Heron:-

Max. count at Derwent Reservoir was 15 on 13th (MN/RN). Up to 4 noted from 4 other areas.

Mallard:-

Up to 100 noted from many waters. Largest max. counts were 850+ in

Budle Bay on 31st (J & RMcC), 300 at St. Marys on 27th (B & ME), 700 at Gosforth on 28th (CW), 750+ at Whittle Dene on 20th (LAI), 506 at Hallington on 2nd (CHA), 760 at Colt Crag on 13th and 300+ at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (C).

Teal:-

Up to 70 noted from many waters. 3 figure counts were received from Whittle Dene (c120) and Holy Island (c200) on 21st and Gosforth (245) on 28th (SE/ERM/CW).

Gadwall:-

A drake in Budle Bay on 30th (BG/ERM).

Pigeon:-

c8000 in Budle Bay/Fenham Flats area all month (ERM et al). The inland flocks at Derwent Reservoir and Whittle Dene Reservoir increased to 90 and 66 respectively toward end of month (RA/LGG/CW).

Pintail:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 20th (LAI), 1 at Holy Island on 30th (ERM/BG) and c20 in Budle Bay on 31st (J & RMcC).

Scaup:-

A suggestion of an influx towards end of month. At Cresswell Pond 2 until 18th then 3 - 14 between 26th & 31st (T et al). At Whittle Dene 2 on 13th (CW). At Holy Island 12 on 30th and 16 off Bamburgh on same day (BG/ERM). On 25th/26th, 5 in Hauxley area (IRS). On 6th, 6 W. off Annstead (ERS).

Tufted Duck:-

Only at Whittle Dene did the numbers exceed 30 with a maximum of 245 on 21st (SE).

Pochard:-

Again Whittle Dene together with Derwent Reservoir held the largest numbers with same maxima of c70 on 28th (RS/J & RMcC). 40 at Seaton Burn on 14th and up to 10 from 6 other waters.

Goldeneye:-

On 6th, 13N off Annstead (RS) and on 20th, 12 flew inland over Seaton Sluice (SE). Largest inland counts were; 12 at Hallington on 12th (CHA), 9 at Bolam on 22nd/26th (J & RMcC/RN) 18 at Howick Pool on 27th (ERM et al) and 15 at Whittle Dene on 28th (RA/LGG).

Long-tailed Duck:-

At least 12 off Bamburgh on 9th (CHA) and 2 off Seahouses Harbour on 30th (BG/ERM).

Velvet Scoter:-

2 W. off Alnmouth on 26th (LAI et al) and 1 in Anble Harbour on 31st (B & TH).

Common Scoter:-

At least 500 off Bamburgh on 30th (BG/ERM).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

30 in the Holy Island area on 30th (J & RMcC). 1 at each of Alnmouth, Newton, Beadnell and Seahouses on 26th - 30th (BG/ERM).

Goosander:-

Derwent Reservoir and Whittle Dene Reservoir had max. counts of 33 and 9 respectively both on 13th (CW). 1 in Anble Harbour on 1st and 2 at Cresswell Pond on 28th (B & TH).

Smew:-

Female at Whittle Dene from 13th until end of month and still present in mid-January (MN/CW/RA et al).

Shelduck:-

A suggestion of some restlessness between 18th - 22nd. On 18th, 15N and 1 S off Cresswell (TH) and 6 on the pond. On 20th, 44 off Whitburn (BU). On 21st, 1 at Whittle Dene (SE). On 22nd, 2 at Colt Crag (J & RMcC). c250 on Fenham Flats at end of month (ERM et al) and 600 in Budle Bay on 30th (J & RMcC).

Goose(sp):-

20 W over Widdrington on 3rd (B & TH), 11 W. over Beal on 27th (TGR) and 10 at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (JCF).

Pink-footed Goose:-

47 flew E. over Hauxley on 26th (IRS).

Brent Goose:-

230-250 on Fenham Flats after 21st (LGM/BG/ERM). An adult at St. Mary's on 20th (SE/MN) remained until at least early January and an immature at Cresswell Pond on 28th (TH).

Mute Swan:-

70 at Fenham Flats on 30th and 40 in Budle Bay on 31st. These were max. counts.

Whooper Swan:-

Max. of 350 in Fenham Flats on 30th (BG/ERM). Holywell Ponds had a max. of 58 on 6th but still 39 on 28th (E & ME/MN). 27 at Cresswell Pond on 28th (RA/LGG). Up to 5 noted from several other localities.

Bewicks Swan:-

5 at Couthal Pond on 28th (RA/LGG).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Singles seen at Greenlee and Fenham Mill.

Hen Harrier:-

Female near Fenham Flats on 26th (TGR).

Merlin:-

1 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Water Rail:-

1 noted at Prestwick Carr on 20th (ERM).

Coot:-

400 at Seaton Burn on 14th (J & RMcC).

Lapwing:-

Flocks of 500 - 700 at Whittle Dene, St. Mary's, Cresswell and Hauxley near end of month.

Ringed Plover:-

42 at Foxton on 26th was largest gathering reported (LGM).

Grey Plover:-

Small groups of up to 4 noted along coast between Longhoughton and Cresswell. More in Holy Island area with at least 30 on 30th (BG/ERM).

Golden Plover:-

400 - 500 noted at each of Holy Island, Beadnell and Whittle Dene throughout month.

Snipe:-

Large count of 100+ near Radcliffe on 25th (HRS).

Woodcock:-

2 at Washington Ponds on 31st (MN).

Curlew:-

Flock of 100 near Newton on 27th (ERM/LGM).

Green Sandpiper:-

At Whittle Dene all month with a max. of 3 on 27th (J & RMcC).

Spotted Redshank:-

Wintering bird at Budle Bay on 30th (BG/ERM).

Knot:-

250 at Fenham Flats and Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 21st. 120 near Newton on 27th (ERM et al). Seaton Sluice/St. Marys flock was at max. of 400 on 20th (SE et al).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Sudden increase at Seaton Sluice to 155 on 20th when 22 at Whitburn. (SE/MN/BU). 25 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS) and 30 at Seahouses on 30th (BG/ERM).

Dunlin:-

Flocks of up to 200 noted from Holy Island, Beadnell, Alnmouth, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Sanderling:-

60 at Hauxley on 26th (HRS). 65 at St. Mary's on 20th (SE) and 40 at Whitburn on 20th (BU).

Grey Phalarope:-

Close views obtained of 1 in Seahouses Harbour on 6th (per LGM).

Glaucous Gull:-

A second year at Hauxley on 25th/26th (HRS) and a first year at Bamburgh on 30th (BG/ERN).

Little Auk:-

24 H. off Annstead on 6th (ERS).

Long-eared Owl:-

1 "singing" near Belsay on 29th (BG/ERN).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 came in from E. and landed at Crosswell on 18th (TH). 1 at Prestwick Carr on 20th (ERN) and 2 at Druridge on 28th (TH).

Jackdaw:-

Completely white bird at Berwick Hill on 28th (BG/ERN/LGM).

Fieldfare:-

Noteable influx after 21st with birds arriving from E. at Holy Island and "many" at Hauxley, St. Mary's and Bolam (B & ME et al).

Redwing:-

Increased as with Fieldfare but in lesser numbers (B & ME et al).

Stonechat:-

On 26th, 3 at Alnmouth and 3 at Hauxley (ERN/LGM et al).

Black Redstart:-

Very late or wintering birds noted at Seaton Sluice on 14th and Alnmouth on 26th (ERN/LGM/CW/TH).

Blackcap:-

Male in Amble on 11th (B & TH).

Chiffchaff:-

1 in Amble on 2nd and with the Blackcap on 11th (B & TH).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 at Seaton Sluice on 18th and up to 3 at Whittle Dene during month (CMA/J & McC).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Washington on 12th/13th (LU/BN).

Maxwing:-

1 at Killingworth on 16th (BN) and an exhausted bird at Fenham Mill on 31st (TGR).

Goldfinch:-

20 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS) and smaller numbers elsewhere.

Siskin:-

4 at Belsay on 29th (BG/ERN).

Reepoll:-

1 probable "Healy" at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Snow Bunting:-

Female near Newton on 27th (ERN).

List of Contributors

R. Adams. B. H. Adamson. S. Edwards. B & M. Etherington. J. C. Forrest.
B. Galloway. Glass. B & T. Hallan. B. Marshall. E. R. Meek.
L. G. McFarlane. J & R. McCutcheon. L. Nattrass. R. Norman.
T. G. Ramsey. B. Unwin. C. Ward. Bamburgh and Hauxley Ringing Stations.

All January records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.V. Denton, Newcastle NE15 7 RD by 8th February, 1970 please.

FEBRUARY FIELD OUTING.

On Sunday, 22nd February an attempt will be made to count the wild-fowl present on all waters in Northumberland and N. Durham. The area has been divided into 8 sections as follows, with names of leaders in brackets:-

North West Pallinsburn, Pawston, Lilburn etc. (C. WARD).

North East Fenham Flats, Budle Bay, Newton, Howick etc. (J.E. ORTON/E. MEEK)
North Central Bolan, Hartburn, Pontburn, Wingates etc (C. M. ADAMSON)
South Central Whittle Dene, Colt Crag, Mallington, Sweethope etc (I. H. ARMSTRONG).
East Cresswell, Ellington, Linton, St Linton, Ashington etc (leader required)
South East Holywell, Swallow, Gosforth, Seaton Burn etc (C. E. DOUGLAS)
West Northumbrian Loughs etc. (B. GALLOP/L. G. MCFARLANE)
North Durham Washington, Derwent etc. (R. NORMAN).

This is an opportunity for experts to polish up on their counting and for beginners to get to know their wildfowl, so anyone who is interested please contact Eric Meek, 5 Elm Road, Cheviot View, Ponteland before the next Club Meeting on 12th February stating which area they would like to cover and whether they require transport. Note that a leader is required for the East section.

C L U B D I N N E R

Club Dinner - Saturday, 28th February, 1970 - 8.p.m. Avon Hotel. The Committee regret that, at the request of the Avon Hotel, we can only have one menu. From the bookings already received we will choose the most popular menu and order that one. If, because of this unfortunate change in arrangements, anyone wishes to cancel their booking, please write at once to E. R. MEEK, 5 ELM ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND.

At the moment the most popular choice of menu would appear to be the chicken dinner.

