

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

JANUARY, 1970

SUMMARY

A month of several very cold spells accompanied by strong onshore winds. In consequence, oil slicks were driven quite close to the shore and affected large numbers of Auks and also a few Divers. A count along the whole length of the Northumberland and North Durham coast lines revealed that at least 1500 birds had been washed ashore. A verbal report claimed that 1000 birds per day were being picked up in the Budle Bay area during a short period in mid month, but no figures are available. Distressed Divers also sought the shelter of fresh water and one appeared as far inland as Whittle Dene, remaining there for at least a fortnight.

Duck numbers were again high and this winter appears to have been particularly good for Goldeneye, Scaup, and Goosander. Another Smew was found, this time in north Northumberland, and up to 6 Bewick's Swans remained in the Ashington area.

The Aln estuary again produced a winter Greenshank for the third year running and the December Black Redstart was again seen at Seaton Sluice where a Little Gull appeared in mid month.

The Whitburn Shore Parks were there throughout the month, often seeking the comparative warmth of a local pit heap and providing many observers with very good views.

The proposed boat trips to the Arnes area never materialised because of the adverse weather, and it seems that, after last year's disappointments we are doomed to fail in this particular venture.

To date, February has produced a large count of Goosander at Whittle Dene, and a Mediterranean Gull and a Pittern at Gosforth Park.

Don't forget the Dinner on February 28th!

Classified List.

Diver (sp):-

19 S. off Cresswell on 1st, 4 H. off Auxley on 2nd and a party of 90 off Holy Island on 4th (S/ERM et al).

Black-throated Diver:-

1 S. off Annstead on 18th (ERS) and 2 off Holy Island on 25th (SE).

Great Northern Diver:-

8 identified in the large flock off Holy Island on 4th (ERM et al) and 1 at Lamburn on 31st (ERS).

Red-throated Diver:-

41 S. off Annstead during a S. gale on 18th (ERS) and the same movement noted to a lesser extent at Lamburn (ERM). Up to 4 noted at several other typical places but the following were noted on fresh water - 1 at Cresswell Pond on 17th and 2 after 24th (oiled), 1 at Whittle Dene after 24th (lightly oiled on wing), 1 near Auxley on 17th and 1 near Amble on 26th (TM/ERM/AM et al).

Great Crested Grebe:-

Singles off Holy Island on 11th and Seaton Sluice on 31st (ERM).

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 off Seahouses on 1st (J & Rice), 2 off Holy Island on 4th (ERM), 1 on Cresswell Pond on 13th (TM) and 1 off Lamburn on 31st (ERS).

/Slavonian Grebe

Slavonian Grebe:-

On 1st, 5 off Ross and 4 off Seahouses (J & Rice). 1 off Holy Island on 4th and 2 on 11th (ERI). 2 off Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Black-necked Grebe:-

1 off Holy Island on 25th (SE).

Little Grebe:-

Only 2 records: 1 near Annitsford from 16th - 27th (LH) and 1 at Holy Island on 25th (SE).

Gannet:-

On 4th, 3 S. off Holy Island, on 18th 2 S. off Bamburgh and on 31st, 1 S. off Annstead, 4 off Hauxley and 1 S. off Cresswell (BU/BRS).

Cormorant/Shag:-

A distinct S. movement off Seaton Sluice on 25th when at least 30 were counted in 1½ hours (B et al).

Heron:-

Parties of up to 3 noted from 9 widely scattered areas. 10 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RN et al).

Mallard:-

Numerous records of flocks of up to 200. Larger gatherings were as follows: 272 at Hallington on 1st (LH/ERI), 600 off St. Mary's on 3rd (S & RE), 300 at Gosforth on 4th (BG), 200 off Seaburn on 5th (BU), 450 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (SE). 1500+ at Budle Bay on 4th, 300 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (J & Rice), 284 at Colt Crag on 24th (LGH) and 200 off Cresswell on 31st (ERI).

Teal:-

A decrease since December with 150 at Gosforth on 4th (BG) being by far the largest gathering.

Gadwall:-

A pair at Washington on 24th (RN).

Wigeon:-

2 - 3000 in Budle Bay area throughout month (ERI/SE/BRS). 140 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RN), and parties of up to 60 noted from 10 other areas, mainly inland.

Pintail:-

1 in Budle Bay on 17th (BRS), 1 at Washington on 18th (BU) and 2 at Cresswell on 23rd (TH).

Shoveler:-

Only 1 record - a drake at Holywell on 4th (CED/BG).

Scaup:-

Continues to be unusually prominent. Max. counts were as follows:- 1 at Whittle Dene 1st - 3rd (LGH et al), 14 at Cresswell Pond on 1st decreased to 3 by 23rd (ERI et al), 7 at Holy Island on 4th (CV et al), 7 in Budle Bay on 18th (BRS). 1 off Seaton Sluice on 10th (RA/LGH), 1 off St. Mary's on 24th (GU). 3 near Hauxley on 30th (TH), 2 at Holywell (CED) and 1 at Monks House (BRS) on 31st.

Tufted Duck:-

Again Whittle Dene had the largest gathering with 389 there on 10th but a sharp decrease to only 20 by 25th (LH). Elsewhere, larger flocks were 72 at Holywell on 12th (S & RE), 120 at Gosforth on 18th (SE), and 50 at Hartburn on 25th (S & RE). Unusual occurrences were 9 on the sea off Seaton Sluice on 11th (SE) and 10 in Budle Bay on 18th (ERI).

Richard:-

Max. counts from more typical places were; 62 at Derwent Reservoir 2nd and 18th (J & Rice/RN), 55 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (SE) and 70 at Holywell (RN) on 25th. Up to 40 noted from many other waters including 3 on Fenham Flats on 11th and 1 in Budle Bay on 18th (ERI).

Goldeneye:-

Seen in small groups of up to 8 on almost every water. Larger counts were; 20 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RM), 15 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (SE) 14 at Cresswell Pond on 17th (RM), 24 in Budle Bay on 18th (LH) and 11 at Colan on 25th (B & IE).

Long-tailed Duck:-

12 at Bamburgh on 18th was the max. from that area during month (BRS). On 31st, 2 N. and 6 S. off Seaton Sluice (BG/ERM).

Velvet Scoter:-

1 on Coquet near Markworth from 1st - 4th (B & TH et al). 2 off Holy Island on 11th (RM), 4 off Annstead on 17th (BRS) and 2 off Bamburgh on 25th (SE).

Common Scoter:-

c200 in Bamburgh area on 18th (ERM). Only a few noted from elsewhere.

Goosander:-

A distinct increase since last month. Max. counts were 58 at Hallington on 1st, 25 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd, 37 at Greenlee on 17th, and on 24th, 23 at Colt Crag, 16 at Sweethope, and 30 at Whittle Dene (LGH/ERM/RN et al). On 17th, 1 at Holywell (RM) with 1 at Gosforth (SE) and 2 at Bothal next day (Bin). On 25th, 2 at Cresswell Pond (GU et al).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

30 in Holy Island - Bamburgh area on 1st (J & RMcC).

Smew:-

Female at Whittle Dene throughout month (IHA et al) and a male at Swinhoe Lakes on 18th (LGH/ERM).

Shelduck:-

Budle Bay showed a max. of 500+ on 4th (RM) and Fenham flats 100+ on same day (ERM). Unusual sightings were 4 at Hartburn on 1st (ERM), 1 at Gosforth on 4th (BG) and 2 - 4 at Washington between 18th - 30th (BU/RN).

Grey Lag Goose:-

On 31st, 1 at each of Washington and Budle Bay (RM/BRS). 8 over Hartburn on 3rd were probably of this species (SE).

Pink-footed Goose:-

A very tame bird feeding with farm geese at Cresswell from 10th until end of month (ERM et al). On 25th, 25 N. over South Shields (RS) and 1 in Budle Bay on 31st (BRS).

Brent Goose:-

400 on Fenham Flats on 4th and 25th but at least 1000 reported by a local authority on 7th/8th (ERM/SL). The adult at St. Mary's was last reported on 17th (BG/B & IE). 1 flew N. off Whitburn on 30th (BU).

Whooper Swan:-

Max. counts were 259 at Fenham Flats on 4th (ERM/LGH), 39 near Ellington on 4th (SE), 30 at Cresswell on 5th (TH), 32 at Holywell on 25th (CED/MN) 17 at Bothal on 25th (Bin) and 16 at Linton on 31st (SE). Parties of up to 12 noted from about 6 other waters.

Bewick Swan:-

6 at Bothal on 17th - 25th and still 4 on 31st (Bin/SE). 5 at Ellington on 21st (Bin).

Buzzard:-

1 near Northumberland/Cumberland border on 24th December (Bin).

Water Rail:-

At least 6 on the ice-free streams in Gosforth Park on 4th (BG).

Coot:-

467 at Seaton Burn on 2nd (LGH/ERM/CW) and c100 at Holywell most of month (B & IE et al). Recorded on salt water at Holy Island (1) on 4th and 11th,

/Budle Bay

Budle Bay (20) on 18th, and Amble Harbour (3) also on 18th (ERM).

Oystercatcher:-

100 near Boulmer on 10th (SE) was largest flock reported.

Lapwing:-

A suggestion of an influx on 24th/25th with c1000 at each of Whittle Dene and Walbottle (IHA), 500 at Washington (BU), 400 at Holywell (CDD) and 300 near Ashington (GU).

Grey Plover:-

Small parties of up to 4 noted from Amble, Hauxley, Cresswell and Whitburn during month. The Whitburn birds roosted with Dunlin and Shore Larks on a warm pit heap! (RA).

Golden Plover:-

Largest counts were 1000 at Whittle Dene on 25th (J & RMCC/IHA), 500 at Hauxley on 2nd and 230 at Holy Island on 4th (ERM).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Washington Pond on 31st (HS).

Turnstone:-

150+ at St. Mary's on 21st was the largest flock reported (B & ME).

Woodcock:-

A few at coast during cold weather with 1 - 2 at Cresswell from 7th - 13th (TH/MN), 2 at Whitburn on 7th (BU) and 1 at Bamburgh on 31st (ERS).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

24 N. off Hauxley on 2nd (ERS) and c350 at Holy Island on 25th (SE).

Green Sandpiper:-

At least 2 at Whittle Dene all month (IHA/J & RMCC).

Redshank:-

Up to 60 at Washington during month (BU/RM) and c100 in flooded fields near Hauxley on 31st (ERM).

Greenshank:-

Again a winter record from Alnmouth when 1 was seen there on 2nd (LGM/ERM/CW) - see also January 1969.

Knot:-

Max. counts from favourite spots were 250 at Bamburgh on 4th (ERM), 120 at Seahouses also on 4th (SE) and 600 at Seaton Sluice on 31st (LGM/BG et al).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Max. counts received were 34 at Bamburgh and 32 at Seahouses on 18th (ERM) and 40 - 50 at Seaton Sluice on 31st (BG et al). Up to 15 noted from 4 other points.

Dunlin:-

In moderate numbers all along coast. Larger gatherings were at Fenham Flats (c650 on 4th), Boulmer (c210 on 10th), Amble (c200 on 2nd), and near Hauxley (800 on 17th). On 7th, 30 roosting on a warm pit heap near Whitburn (RA).

Sanderling:-

St. Mary's had a max. of 51 on 31st (GU). No more than 25 reported from 5 other places.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

1 of the Scandinavian race at South Shields on 11th (RA).

Glaucous Gull:-

Single immatures noted at Faldon and Seaton Sluice on 10th (RA/LG/MN), on the Tyne at Walker on 26th - 31st (IHA), and at South Shields also on 31st (RA).

Iceland Gull:-

An adult at Newcastle Quayside on 29th December (BHM). Possibly the same bird as seen there in December 1968.

Little Gull:-

A first year bird flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 17th (BG).

Auks :-

Oiled birds were undoubtedly the feature of month. Distressed birds were first noted in numbers after about 11th and continued to be picked up on most beaches until end of month. Aggregate totals collected by E. Unwin for the Northumberland and Durham coast included 1160 Guillemots, 149 Razorbills, 40 Little Auks and 8 Puffins. At the same time many others were noted close inshore including a Little Auk at Seaton Sluice on 18th (SE). Moving S. at 100/hr. at Wamburgh on 18th and at c40/hr. at Seaton Sluice on 31st (EMM/BG). On the latter date most were Guillemots and again the majority were clearly oiled. Some were so badly handicapped that they were repeatedly being chased by Black Backs.

Long-eared Owl:-

1 at Gdsfirth on 18th (SU) and 1 near Ashington on 3rd, 21st and 24th (TH).

Short-eared Owl:-

Single birds seen at Holy Island, Holywell, Grawlington and Bolam. 3 at Gresswell on 1st. (See et al).

Shore Lark:-

22 in Whitburn/Marsden area from 4th until end of month (RA/BU et al).

Raven:-

At least 3 near Simonburn on 25th (CIA).

Redwing:-

Moving 1. at 100/hr. at Whitburn on 7th (RA). Never 1 feeding on beaches during very cold weather.

Stonechat:-

At least 2 at Cresswell during month (SE et al):

Black Redstart:-

Still 1 at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (per IIA) - see December 1969 report.

Grey Wagtail:-

Reported from Whittle Dene (3), Seaton Sluice (1), Holywell Dene (1), North Shields town centre (1), Gosforth (1) and Durham City (1) at various times during month.

Waxwing:-

1 in Tynemouth on 6th (GH).

Now hunting:-

A max. of c50 in Whitburn/Marsden area on 5th (BU/RA et al).

Tree Sparrow:-

An unusual gathering of c90 on Cresswell Links on 31st (SE).

List of Contributors

R. Adams. C. H. Adamson. I. H. Armstrong. W. Brady. C. E. Douglas.
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G. Upton. C. Ward. Mauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All February records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 7 RD by 8th March please.

ANNUAL CLUB DINNER

A final confirmation that this will be held on Saturday, 28th February, 1970 in the Tudor Room of the Avon Hotel, Osborne Road, Newcastle 2. Time 7.30.p.m. for 8.p.m. The favourite choice of menu did in fact turn out to be Menu I which was as follows:-

MENU 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.
Saute Potatoes.
Buttered Baby Carrots.
Celery Hearts.
Deep Apple Pie with Fresh Cream served with Lancashire Cheese.
Coffee - Mint Crisps.

(Price 24s. 0d. (+ 10 per cent. service charge).)

There will be a Room Hire Fee of 2s. 0d. per head.

Our Guest Speaker will be Mr. Tony Tynan, Curator of the Hancock Museum.

CLUB FIELD TRIP TO THE FIRTH OF FORTH

This trip will include visits to Aberlady Bay and Seafield to see the large numbers of sea duck wintering in this area.

The trip will be on Sunday, 22nd March and will start from Baxter's Cafe, Front Street, Tynemouth at 8.a.m. and picking people up from the Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m.

There are still 20 places available and the price will be about 13s. 0d. per head. Please send bookings to E. R. POORE, 5 BLIN ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND before 10th March.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

FEBRUARY BULLETIN 1970

SUMMARY.

The major activity of the month was the wildfowl count organised for 22nd and despite the very mixed weather 64 waters were covered by a total of 29 members. A detailed report, plus results, is enclosed with this bulletin.

As in December, Divers were again restless and were particularly prominent moving N. on 15th/16th during anticyclonic conditions and very cold weather.

There were some fluctuations in wildfowl numbers but apart from Goldeneye and Goosander a general decline was noticeable since last month, particularly with Mallard and Teal. The Whittle Dene Sned was again seen on several occasions whilst another was found just over the border. A few Bean Geese made a welcome reappearance at their favourite spot in the West of Northumberland whilst Brent Geese reached a peak of 1100 at Holy Island early in the month.

The 15th saw the appearance of 2, perhaps 3, species of large raptor at Holywell one of which may have been a Rough Legged Buzzard.

It is interesting that no Green Sandpipers were seen at Whittle Dene this month but 3 were seen together not far away on the Tyne at Dilston on 28th. The inference is obvious!

Of the passerines that were recorded, a few Waxwings, a Great Grey Shrike and a flock of Twite were the most unusual.

At the time of writing (mid March) the Bean Geese are still at Grindon Lough and have reached a total of just under 40.

Classified List.

Divers (sp):-

Off Hauxley 96 N. and 6 S. in only 30 minutes on 15th with an additional 20 on the sea. Next day 11 N. and 13 S. in one hour (HRS). At Bamburgh 75 Redthroats flew N. on 15th (HRS). Also moving S. off Cresswell (6 on 1st) and St. Mary's (18 on 10th and 4 on 28th) (J & RMcC/B & ME).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 off Bamburgh on 4th, 8th and 15th (JDP/ERM/BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

Residual inland birds from last month were at Whittle Dene from 1st-4th (IHA/RCT/TRB et al), at Cresswell, 2 on 1st and 1 until 8th (ERM/BG et al), at Hauxley on 1st (HRS) and at Newton Bog on 1st (ERM/BG). Small numbers identified at the usual coastal points.

Great Crested Grebe:-

2 off Alnmouth on 15th (ERM) and 23rd (TH).

Red-necked Grebe:-

1 off Hauxley on 1st (RA/LGG), 1 off Holy Island on 8th and 22nd (ERM/GU) and 6 off Bamburgh on 15th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe:-

5 off Ross Sands on 4th (JDP) and 2 off Holy Island on 8th (ERM/GU).

Little Grebe:-

Still scarce: Recorded from Alnmouth (1), nr. Beadnell (2), Bolam (1), Bothal (1), Annitsford (1) and Bardon Hill (1).

Gannet:-

Singles seen off Cresswell and Newton on 1st. On 4th, 25 N. off Bamburgh (JDP) and on 16th, 7 N. off Hauxley (HRS).

Cormorant:-

100+ in Marsden/Whitburn area on 25th was considered unusual (BU).

Heron:-

Recorded from 10 areas (3 coastal) with max. of 10 in Greenlee area on 1st (LGM/CW) and 5 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (RN).

Bittern:-

1 at Gosforth Park from about 8th - 22nd (BG).

Mallard:-

Max. counts were as follows; 250 at Whittle Dene on 1st and 11th (RCT/TRB/CW), 279 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (RN), 640 at Gosforth on 11th (CW) and 230 off St. Mary's on 22nd (JDP). Also 450 at Budle Bay on 4th (JDP). Up to 100 reported from numerous other waters. See separate table for 22nd.

Teal:-

c70 at each of Newton on 1st (ERM/BG), Holy Island on 8th and Gosforth on the 11th (CW) were the largest counts reported. See separate table for 22nd.

Gadwall:-

A drake in Budle Bay on 14th (BRS).

Wigeon:-

Up to 5000 in the Budle Bay area during month. Inland the max. counts were 65 at Holywell on 14th (CED), 100 at Grindon on 28th (LGM) 126 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and 75 at Whittle Dene on 11th (RCT/TRB). See separate table for 22nd.

Pintail:-

5 in Budle Bay on 8th (LGM) and 17 in Holy Island area on 22nd (per ERM).

Shoveler:-

4 at Alnmouth on 1st - the only record (BG/ERM).

Scaup:-

Still lingering in unusual numbers. Up to 10 in the Coquet Estuary during month (B & TH et al) and possibly the same 10 off Hauxley on 19th (HRS). Another 3 near Hauxley on 1st (RA/LGG), 1 off Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SE), 1 at Newton on 1st (BG/ERM) and 1 at Holywell on 15th/22nd (CED).

Tufted Duck:-

Counts in excess of 50 were as follows; 96 at Gosforth on 3rd (CW) 150 at Holywell on 11th (B & ME) and 350 at Whittle Dene on 13th (CMA). All were respective maxima. See separate table for 22nd.

Pochard:-

Counts in excess of 30 were as follows; 102 at Gosforth on 3rd (CW), 70 at Holywell on 14th (MN) - both maxima - and 40 at Coney Garth on 1st (J & RMcC). See separate table for 22nd.

Goldeneye:-

Present on almost every water. Double figures were noted at Greenlee (33 on 1st) Whittle Dene (19 on 1st), Bolam (11 on 4th), Derwent Reservoir (15 on 7th) and Broomlee (20 on 28th). See also separate table for 22nd.

Long-tailed Duck:-

c30 off Bamburgh from 4th - 5th but only 5 seen on 22nd (JDP et al).

Velvet Scoter:-

On 1st, 1 off Alnmouth and 1 at Newton (BG/ERM), on 4th, 1 off Bamburgh (JDP) and on 15th - 19th 1 off Hauxley (HRS).

Common Scoter:-

The largest numbers were in the Bamburgh - Holy Island area with 127 on 22nd (JDP). 60 off Hauxley on 15th (HRS).

Eiders:-

Rafts of up to 400 noted at several points on the coast, especially N. of Cresswell.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

c10 in Holy Island - Bamburgh area on 8th (ERM/GU). 1 at Newton on 1st (BG/ERM).

Goosander:-

Some large counts, especially at Whittle Dene, where 106 on 22nd is the largest recorded gathering for Northumberland. There were also as many as 80 there on 8th. The other large counts were made on 22nd (see table) but in addition there were 9 at Alnmouth on 1st (BG/ERM) and 14 at Greenlee on same day (LGM).

Smew:-

The female, still at Whittle Dene all month (IHA et al) and 1 just over the border at Yetholm on 22nd (MN/CW).

Shelduck:-

Max. in Budle Bay area was 750 on 22nd (see table). Elsewhere 8 at Alnmouth on 1st (BG/ERM), 8 at Amble on 15th and 7 N. off Hauxley on same day (HRS).

Grey Lag Goose:-

16 in Budle Bay on 15th (BRS) and 9 at Wingates on 22nd (CMA).

Bean Goose:-

A return to Grindon Lough after an absence of a few years with between 9 and 14 from 7th until end of month (LGM/BG et al).

Pink-footed Goose:-

The tame Cresswell bird still present on 1st and 8th (ERM/BG).

Brent Goose:-

1100 at Holy Island on 8th (LGM/MN/CW) in a winter when they appear to be more approachable than ever before. Also 1 at Bamburgh on 14th (caught and ringed), 2 at Budle Bay on 15th and 3 N. off Marsden on 28th (JMB).

Barnacle Goose:-

1 at Colt Crag on 22nd (IHA/J & RMcC).

Canada Goose:-

36 at Colt Crag on 1st and 22nd (IHA/SE/J & RMcC).

Whooper Swan:-

Double figures and respective maxima were as follows: on 1st, 16 at Ashington, 12 at Swallow Ponds, 16 near Ellington, 80 at Holy Island. On 13th, 19 at Wingates and 10 at Capheaton. On 14th - 22nd, 14 at Grindon. On 21st, 32 at Holywell. On 28th, 17 near Seaton Delaval. See also separate table.

Bewick Swan:-

Between 1 and 5 in the Linton, Bothal, Ashington area until 22nd (TH/ERM). 9 in Budle Bay on 15th (BRS).

Common Buzzard:-

1 at Holywell on 15th where an 'uncertain' bird had been seen on 14th (MN).

Hen Harrier:-

A female at Holywell on 15th and 28th (MN).

Goot:-

"Salt Water" records were 10 in Budle Bay on 8th and 2 at Amble on 16th (ERM).

Water Rail:-

Recorded at Hauxley, Gosforth, Pawston and Holywell between 11th - 22nd.

Oystercatcher:-

St. Mary's max. was 80 on 4th (B & ME).

Lapwing:-

A light W. - N.W. movement over the Northumbrian Loughs area on 22nd (BG/LGM et al).

Grey Plover:-

1 at Newton on 1st (CMA), 3 at Hauxley and 1 at Boulmer on 15th (ERM), 1 at Amble on 23rd and 4 at Cresswell on 26th (TH).

Golden Plover:-

370 on Holy Island on 8th (CW) and 80 near Warden on 13th (RG/EL).

Jack Snipe:-

1 at Gosforth Park on 15th and 28th (BG/MH). Also on 15th, 1 at Hauxley (2 on 19th) and 3 at Bamburgh.

Woodcock:-

1 at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS) and 3 near Seaton Delaval on 14th (AB/MN).

Curlew:-

On 22nd, 300+ on Holy Island (MH/KD) and 200+ in Budle Bay (ERM).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

100+ near Holy Island Causeway on 22nd (ERM).

Green Sandpiper:-

3 on the Tyne at Dilston on 28th may have been the "Whittle Dene" birds.

Knot:-

Over 1000 at St. Mary's on 4th (B & ME), 2000 at Fenham Flats on 22nd, 75 at Dunstanburgh on 15th and 60 in the Coquet Estuary on 1st (ERM).

Purple Sandpiper:-

Maximum of 100+ at St. Mary's on 6th (B & ME).

Dunlin:-

Largest numbers occurred at Fenham Flats (1000 on 22nd), Coquet Estuary (250 all month), Boulmer (250 on 15th), and Hauxley (250 most of month).

Sanderling:-

350 in Budle Bay on 4th (JDP). Smaller number (40 or less) at many other points.

Glaucous Gull:-

1 at Amble on 1st and 27th (RA/LGG/TH). 1 N. off Newton on 1st (BG/ERM), and an adult at Marsden on 28th (JMB).

Guillemot:-

Still conspicuous in small groups close inshore throughout month, most being oiled.

Little Auk:-

3 dead, all oiled, at Holy Island on 1st (RA/LGG). 1 dead at Holywell on 14th had been seen alive on the pond by keepers a few days previous. A bird being cared for in Sunderland had been gaining strength for almost two weeks when it suddenly took off from the garden lawn and flew off strongly toward the sea (per BU).

Long-Eared Owl:-

1 found dead on the road near Widdrington on 20th (TH).

Shore Lark:-

Still 21 in the Marsden area on 28th (JMB). 2 separate flocks flying over South Shields on 14th were possibly part of this flock.

Skylark:-

Signs of cold weather flocking at the coast, when 350 at Bamburgh on 15th and 400 at Hauxley next day.

Raven:-

A pair in the Cheviots on 7th (MN) and another pair near Halleypike on 28th (BG/LGM et al).

Fieldfare:-

50 at Hauxley on 2nd was the largest flock reported (HRS).

Redwing:-

80 in Priors Park all month was the largest flock reported.

Stonechat:-

Singles noted at Newton, Alnmouth and Hauxley (BG/ERM).

Grey Wagtail:-

Singles at Bardon Mill (1st), Whittle Dene (1st - 11th), and Cranlington on 1st.

Waxwing:-

1 at Bamburgh on 15th, 6 at Hauxley on 18th, 1 at Whitley Bay on 17th (MGH) and 1 in Sunderland on 27th - 28th (BU).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS).

Goldfinch:-

Small flocks (less than 6) noted at 6 different places. Also 15 at Seaton Sluice on 15th (BG) and 25 at Grindon on 28th (LGM).

Twite:-

Up to 35 in the Coquet Estuary between 19th and end of month (HRS).

Brambling:-

c50 near Ellington on 7th (TH).

Snow Bunting:-

4 on Cheviot on 7th (LGM/MN/CW).

Tree Sparrow:-

100 near Ellington on 8th (ERM).

List of Contributors.

R. Adams. C. H. Adamson. I. H. Armstrong. J. M. Bayldon. A. Belshaw.
T. R. Birkhead. W. Brady. C. E. Douglas. K. Dures. S. Edwards.
B. & M. Etherington. B. Galloway. L. G. Glass. R. Grey. B. & T.
Hallam. M. Hodgson. H. G. Horseman. E. Lobley. D. R. Neck.
L. G. McFarlane. J. & R. McCutcheon. H. Nattrass. R. Norman.
J. D. Parrack. T. G. Ramsey. R. C. Taylor. B. Unwin. G. Upton.
C. Ward. Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All March records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE 15 7RD. by 8th April please.

The next meeting is on 9th April and is the Club's A.G.M. Nominations are required for the 9 Committee positions, and these should be sent to the Secretary as soon as possible. All nominees must have a proposer and seconder.

After the formal business of the evening is completed, a quiz will be held. This provided good entertainment last year, why not come along and enjoy yourself?

B.T.O. ATLAS:

Most members will find enclosed with their Bulletins this month details of the B.T.O. Atlas Project for the 1970 season, and it is hoped that many people will participate in the project during this coming breeding season. Any members who wish to have more details or

cover specific areas, would they please contact G. McFarlane at a Club Meeting or at the following address:-

FOX AND HOUNDS ROAD, FENHAM, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 5.

It is hoped that the several new members of the Club will assist this year. They will find it very rewarding.

FIELD TRIP TO HOLY ISLAND - SUNDAY, 19TH APRIL, 1970

There will be a Club Field Trip to Holy Island on Sunday, 19th April, 1970. The coach will leave Baxter's Cafe, Tynemouth at 8.a.m. and pick up passengers at the Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne at 8.30.a.m.

If we have a full coach (42 people) the price will be 8s. 6d. per head.

All names to E. R. MEEK, 5 ELM ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND by 6th April, 1970 at the latest.

Tyneside Bird Club.

Wildfowl Count - 22nd February, 1970.

A total of 64 stretches of water, divided into 9 groups, was covered by 29 members and included all the major areas in Northumberland, N. Durham, a 10 mile stretch of the R. Tweed upstream from Berwick and 2 lakes (Yetholm and Hoselaw) just over the Scottish border in the North West.

Because of the difficulties in organising simultaneous coverage of 60-70 miles of coastline, no attempt was made to count wildfowl either roosting or feeding offshore. For this reason the abundant Eider has been omitted from the table shown overleaf, but it is perhaps worth recording that there were about 1200 in the Lindisfarne Reserve area on the day of the count.

A surprising absentee in the table is Shoveler - not a single bird to be found, and one would have expected more than 1 little Grebe to have been present at this time of the year.

The waters that drew a blank were Pallinsburn, Crag Lough, Little Swinburn, Ryal, Bolam, Rothley and Tunstall (Durham). Others not included in the table were as follows :

Pawston 2 Mute Swan; Kimmer Lough 47 Mallard; Cowey Sike 3 Teal; Hinds Shield 2 Teal, 7 Tufted; Fontburn 4 Goosander; Hauxley area 4 Teal, 1 Goldeneye, 2 Moorhen, 1 Coot; Chevington 6 Moorhen; Waskerly 7 Mallard, 2 Goosander; Smiddyshaw 27 Mallard, 7 Goosander; Hisehope 1 Mallard; Burnhope 12 Goosander.

As a final comment both the recorder and field secretary would like to thank everyone who took part particularly in view of the very mixed weather, and hope that the effort can be duplicated next winter when it is hoped to organise counts during both November and February. If we can encourage more observers to participate it may even be possible to cover much of the coastline at the same time.

	10m. Tweed from Berwick	Lindisfarne Reserve	Holburn Moss	Swinhoe Lake	Newton Pool	Howick Pool	Lilburn	Fenton	Hoselaw	Yetholm	Shield on the Wall	Grindon	Greenlee	Broomlee	Halleypike	Colt Crag	Sweethope	Hallington	Whittle Dene	Hartburn	Wingates	Capheaton	Belsay area	Seaton Burn	Havannah	Gosforth	Swallow	Holywell	Cresswell	Ellington Area	Linton	South Linton	Bothal	Ashington area	Woodhorn Area	Washington	Derwent Res.	Brasside	Blaydon	Total. (incl. the 11 other waters)	
Little Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Mallard	105	400	51	70	3	-	3	8	74	2	4	15	18	6	2	80	6	13	100	66	65	52	16	5	-	30	20	40	-	6	2	12	22	4	2	14	135	-	-	-	1523
Teal	-	170	-	12	6	-	-	4	8	-	-	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	34	30	-	-	45	13	4	12	10	-	20	30	-	-	13	24	-	6	474	
Wigeon	3	5000	2	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	132	-	-	-	5254
Pintail	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17		
Scaup	110	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	
Tufted	-	50	-	28	2	-	20	6	15	38	2	20	4	2	-	2	7	32	11	11	9	10	22	34	90	34	65	12	6	-	12	23	-	4	-	7	31	28	640		
Pochard	-	36	-	1	2	-	-	-	16	11	1	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	5	3	7	-	8	-	110	-	70	-25	-	5	15	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	356	
Goldeneye	269	20	-	1	14	3	-	-	28	32	1	4	5	20	3	-	3	5	4	1	4	14	1	-	-	1	-	5	7	1	-	-	4	-	1	-	21	12	-	485	
R.B. Merganser	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6		
Goosander	31	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	3	-	-	9	-	-	2	18	38	106	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	275	
Smew	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		
Shelduck	-	700	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	706	
Grey Lag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	
Bean Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	
Brent Goose	-	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	
Mute Swan	154	37	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	1	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	224	
Whooper Swan	16	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	9	-	-	-	-	5	16	-	-	-	-	12	11	-	-	-	-	-	156	
Bewick Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		
Moorhen	-	-	-	-	20	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	8	40	60	1	5	21	-	1	3	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Coot	187	-	-	4	-	1	19	6	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	22	-	-	13	380	2	15	65	75	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	33	30	37	911	

APRIL 1970 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

With low pressure persisting to the E. of Britain for 7 days from 4th, moderate N - NE winds resulted in a Northerly movement of sea birds including Divers, Fulmars and Gannets but the cold airstream delayed the arrival of Summer visitors.

A weak ridge of high pressure extending N. over Britain on 12th brought a few new Wheatears and Chiffchaffs and a N. passage of Meadow Pipits but we had to wait until 15th before the high pressure area intensified over N. Spain and gave us a warmer S.W. airstream. During the next few days Summer visitors became increasingly significant and by 18th Common Sandpipers, Willow Warblers, Swallows, Sand Martins and Yellow Wagtails had all reached us and Meadow Pipits were moving N. in their hundreds. By 20th, however, a cooler N.W. airstream had become established as a depression to the N. of Britain exerted its influence and the flow of Summer migrants ceased.

During the last few days of the month another weak ridge extended N. from Iberia and a further arrival of Summer visitors was noted. In addition another heavy N. movement of sea birds occurred between 25th - 29th involving Manx Shearwaters, Fulmars, Gannets, Lesser Black Backs and a few Skuas.

No real rarities were reported during the month but it is worth drawing attention to the absence of Common Whitethroat and Swift records both of which are usually noted before the end of April. It looks as though the Whitethroat is going to be a rare bird again this year.

Early May has been more rewarding with Little Egret, Scarlet Grosbeak, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Wrynecks, Bluethroats, Barred Warbler and Shore Larks but more about that next month.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black-throated Diver:-

1 off Annstead on 4th, 7 off Bamburgh on 5th (BRS), and 8 N. off St. Mary's between 6th - 12th (JDP).

Great Northern Diver:-

1 off Bamburgh on 5th (BRS) and 1 N. off St. Mary's on 8th (JDP).

Diver (sp):-

Still quite plentiful, even towards end of month. There appeared to be a N. movement between 6th and 12th with 57 off St. Mary's over 4 days (JDP/JEO), 10 off Holy Island on 11th (ERM) and on 12th, 13 off Hauxley (HRS) and 30 off Cresswell (TH). All of those identified were Red-throated. Smaller numbers reported from other regular areas including the bird seen at Washington last month. On 3rd, however, it was found beneath overhead wires and is now being cared for (BU).

Great Crested Grebe:-

Reported from Catcleugh (up to 7), Hallington (up to 3), Colt Crag (1), Seaton Burn (1) and Brasside (2). Also 1 off Alnmouth on 12th (ERM).

Red-necked Grebe:-

Up to 5 together off Holy Island between 4th and 19th, 4 of which were displaying on 11th (ERM/CW). 10 off Bamburgh on 5th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe:-

8 off Bamburgh on 5th but only 2 on 11th (BRS).

Little Grebe:-

Breeding pairs well established throughout S. Northumberland by 14th, being present on at least 11 waters and also at Washington (GU et al).

Manx Shearwater:-

1 N. off St. Mary's on 12th (JDP), 2 N. off Hauxley on 26th (HRS) and on 29th, 4 N. off Hauxley and 3 N. off Whitburn (HRS/BU).

Fulmar:-

Moving N. on several days, being most numerous on 6th (42 in 30 minutes off St. Mary's), on 12th (100 per hour off Hauxley), and on 26th (St. Mary's, Hauxley and Annstead, where off the latter they reached at peak of over 300 per hour). Single 'blue' birds were noted off Holy Island on 19th (ERM) and Annstead on 26th (BRS) whilst a normal bird flew N. low over Denton Burn on 25th (BG).

Gannet:-

Moving N. on several days and at a peak on 6th (96 N. off St. Mary's in 30 minutes), on 26th (60 - 70 per hour N. off St. Mary's, Hauxley and Annstead) and on 29th (60 N. off Hauxley in 30 minutes).

Cormorant:-

A most unusual record of 6 at Seaton Burn on 25th (CED).

Heron:-

Reported singly from 16 localities throughout month and 3 together at Grindon on 4th and 12th (JDP/GU et al). A suggestion of coastal passage on 11th/12th.

Mallard:-

80 on the sea off Cresswell on 4th was the largest flock reported. Up to 20 at most of the other regular haunts (ERM/CW et al).

Teal:-

Spring passage particularly marked during first 2 weeks. 75 at Linton on 4th was the largest flock reported but up to 35 were noted at each of Holy Island, Cresswell, Ellington, Newton and Grindon (ERM/CW et al) with smaller numbers elsewhere.

Garganey:-

Only 2 records: a pair at Holywell on 17th (CED) and a drake at Cresswell on 26th (E. Bird).

Gadwall:-

1 at Alnmouth until at least 12th (ERM/B & TH) and 1 on Holy Island on 21st (MFMM). Both females.

Wigeon:-

Still a few in Cresswell/Hauxley area on 22nd - 26th but the largest counts were early in the month with a maximum of 100 at Grindon on 12th (GU), and on 4th, 48 in Cresswell area and 20 at Holywell (ERM/CED).

Pintail:-

3 records; a pair at S. Linton on 4th (ERM/CW) and a pair on Holy Island on 19th and 29th (M.F.M.M.).

Shoveler:-

Spring passage mixed with the arrival of breeding birds continued throughout April. Reported from 16 different waters mainly near the coast but also inland as far as Capheaton (1 on 8th), Hallington (4 on 10th) and Grindon (2 from 19th - 29th). 9 at Gosforth on 7th was the largest party (ERM) but up to 8 noted at Holywell (CED et al) and 6 were at Washington on 20th (BU).

Scaup:-

A duck at Warkworth on 2nd (B & TH) and another at Alnmouth from 2nd - 12th (ERM). A drake in Gosforth Park on 5th (SJH), a duck at South Shields Park on 15th (RA) and 2 drakes at Cresswell on 25th/26th (JEO).

Tufted Duck:-

Counts in excess of 40 were received from Holywell (61 on 3rd), Hartburn (42 on 3rd) and Gosforth (64 on 13th). Reported from 19 other waters and generally decreasing as month progressed.

Pochard:-

20 at Gosforth on 7th was by far the largest gathering reported (ERM).

Goldeneye:-

Still some comparatively large counts with 17 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RN), 22 in Budle Bay from 5th - 12th (BRS), 22 at Capheaton on 8th and 31 at Hallington on 10th (ERM) but a distinct decrease toward end of month on most waters.

Long-tailed Duck:-

30 off Bamburgh on 5th (BRS) and 5 off Holy Island on 11th (ERM/CW).

Velvet Scoter:-

Up to 3 off Hauxley between 4th - 22nd (HRS) and 3 off Budle Point on 5th (BRS). 3 N. off Cresswell on 12th (TH).

Common Scoter:-

100 - 150 off Amble on 9th (TH).

Eider:-

Flocks of up to 300 still present off-shore N. of Cresswell in mid-month.

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Parties of up to 4 noted off St. Mary's, Hauxley, Alnmouth and Holy Island. A pair inland on Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RN).

Goosander:-

A few noted back in the breeding areas on the River Coquet as early as 1st (ERM). Still 19 at Whittle Dene on 6th and 18 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (ERM/RN). Also 9 flew S. over Stocksfield on 4th (LG). Other inland haunts held no more than 3 birds.

Shelduck:-

92 in Budle Bay on 18th (BRS). Breeding pairs were counted at Hauxley (3), Cresswell (8) and Coquet Estuary (6). 1 at Holywell Ponds on 22nd (CED).

Grey Lag Goose:-

77 at Budle Bay on 12th had reduced to 53 by 18th (BRS). Single birds were noted at Holywell on 3rd/4th (JEO et al) and Brasside on 17th (BMn).

Pink-footed Goose:-

2 at Holywell on 3rd/4th (JDP et al).

Canada Goose:-

1 on the River Coquet at Warkworth until at least 12th (B & TH et al). Up to 9 noted from Sweetthope/Hallington area (B & ME et al).

Mute Swan:-

20 at Alnmouth on 12th (ERM) and 45 at Berwick on 29th (TCS).

Whooper Swan:-

A general departure after about 12th continuing until end of month. Largest counts were made at Capheaton (14 on 3rd), Holywell (19 on 3rd), Grindon (13 on 4th and 12th) and Ashington (16 on 3rd). Reported from 7 other waters in parties of up to 7.

Common Buzzard:-

1 near Alwinton on 25th (RN) and a possible over Gosforth Park on 5th (MRS).

Sparrow Hawk:-

A probable passage bird in Budle Bay on 18th (BRS).

Goshawk:-

An escaped bird trailing jesses over Belford Moor on 11th (ERM/CW).

Merlin:-

1 near Blyth on 3rd (per CED), 1 on Holy Island on 22nd (MFMM) and 1 at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Red-legged Partridge:-

1 at Warenford on 25th (IHA).

Water Rail:-

1 in Gosforth Park on 7th (ERM), 2 at Bamburgh on 11th (BRS) and 1 at Cresswell on 16th (TH).

Coot:-

On 3rd, 112 at Holywell and 128 at Seaton Burn with 97 at Broomlee next day (JDP).

Oystercatcher:-

Up to 3 at Holywell until 19th (SJH et al) and 2 at Seaton Burn on 18th (CED).

Ringed Plover:-

Parties of up to 20 noted at 3 places on coast and a passage bird inland at Holywell on 17th (CED).

Little Ringed Plover:-

On 18th, 1 had returned to the site where they successfully nested in 1968 and re-appeared but were discouraged by excessive disturbance in 1969 (CED/IHA).

Grey Plover:-

1 on Fenham Flats on 18th/19th and 2 on Coquet Estuary on 25th (ERM/CW).

Golden Plover:-

Still 100 near Grindon Lough on 24th (IHA).

Turnstone:-

178 at St. Mary's on 10th (JDP), 50 at Holy Island on 19th (ERM) and 100+ on the Farnes on 25th (IHA).

Common Snipe:-

30 at Druridge on 10th (TH) was the largest gathering reported.

Woodcock:-

Single passage birds noted at Bamburgh on 12th (BRS) and Holy Island on 18th (MFMM).

Curlew:-

50+ on Holy Island on 18th (ERM).

Whimbrel:-

Singles flew N. over Hauxley on 13th and 29th (HRS) and 1 near S. Linton on 30th (CW).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

25 on Holy Island on 11th (ERM) and 1 at Cresswell Pond on 18th/19th (TH).

Black-tailed Godwit:-

6 at Cresswell Pond on 18th (TH) and 1 on Holy Island on 29th (MFMM).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 at Bamburgh on 12th and 18th (BRS).

Wood Sandpiper:-

1 near South Linton on 30th and possibly the same bird at Cresswell shortly afterwards (CW).

Common Sandpiper:-

First recorded on 18th when ones and twos were noted at Molesdon, Wylam, Langleeford and Ellington. Apparently well established in the Cheviots and Staward by 25th/26th.

Redshank:-

Evidence of Spring passage throughout month with a maximum of 72 at Hauxley on 4th, 127 in Budle Bay and 60 at Beal on 18th, 180 at Washington on 20th, 120 off Hartley on 24th and 80 in Coquet Estuary on 25th.

Spotted Redshank:-

1 at Bamburgh until 18th (BRS) and 1 near Beal on 18th/19th (ERM/CW).

Greenshank:-

1 on Holy Island on 17th (MFMM), 1 at Hauxley on 26th (HRS) and 1 at Bothal on 25th (BMn/CW).

Knot:-

100 off Hauxley on 11th (HRS), 100 on Holy Island on 19th (ERM) and 150 at Seaton Sluice on 24th (AB1).

Purple Sandpiper:-

50 at St. Mary's on 14th (GU), 102 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 25 at Holy Island on 19th, 40 at Hauxley on 24th (HRS) and 100+ on the Farnes on 25th (IHA).

Dunlin:-

400 in Budle Bay on 12th (BRS), 300 on Holy Island on 11th (ERM), 100 near Beal on 18th and 50/60 at Cresswell on 25th (JEO).

Sanderling:-

A max. of 85 at St. Mary's on 10th (JDP) and 65 on Holy Island on 19th (ERM).

Ruff:-

Between 5 and 7 at Bamburgh until 12th (BRS). 1 at Cresswell on 18th (TH), 1 at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) and 1 at Swallow Pond on 30th (CW).

Arctic Skua:-

1 chasing a Kittiwake off Seaton Sluice on 29th (B & ME).

Great Skua:-

A most unusual record of 2 N. off Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:-

Small numbers noted throughout area all month but a very heavy N. movement on 25th/26th when 33 off Hauxley in half-an-hour and 480 off Annstead in 1 hour. Flock of 40 at Grindon on 19th (RG/EL).

Common Gull:-

Flocks of up to 600 noted at several places until 17th and a N. movement of immatures off Seaton Sluice on 24th (ERM/ABl et al).

Glaucous Gull:-

On 6th, 2 N. off St. Mary's (JDP), on 11th and again on 26th. 1 N. off Annstead (BRS), on 18th 1 at Washington (RN/BU), and on 25th, 1 N. off Alnmouth. Present at Hauxley all month with a max. of 4 on 5th (HRS) and 3 at Holywell on 12th (ABl).

Iceland Gull:-

The wintering adult was last seen at Newcastle Quayside on 10th (BMn).

Kittiwake:-

Heavy N. passage noted off Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley and St. Mary's area on 4th - 7th and 25th - 29th with counts of up to 1000 per hour.

"Commic" Tern:-

First noted on 20th when 1 N. off Cresswell (TH). 30 N. off Seaton Sluice on 24th (ABl) and 6 N. off Hauxley next day. A Common Tern off Holy Island on 27th (MFTM).

Little Tern:-

3 N. off Seaton Sluice on 27th (B & ME).

Sandwich Tern:-

3 N. off St. Mary's on 3rd (JDP) was only the second record of the Spring. Thereafter became increasingly common moving N. offshore, reaching a maximum of 100 per hour off Whitley Bay on 23rd (B & ME et al) 3000+ on Farnes by 25th but no other species present (IHA).

Little Auk:-

1 found alive at Seaton Delaval on 4th but later died (per CED).

Tawny Owl:-

A very grey bird on Holy Island on 19th (ERM/CW) seems to be only the third record for the Island.

Short-eared Owl:-

Pair at Alwinton on 25th (RN).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

On 18th, 1 watched heading out to sea from Bamburgh (BRS).

Shore Lark:-

Last noted at Whitburn on 13th when 12 were present (BU).

Swallow:-

First noted on 14th with 1 at Stocksfield (LG). Another was seen there on 17th when 1 was at Hartley and by 18th they were moving N. at 30 per hour at Bamburgh. Thereafter recorded throughout area but still quite scarce by end of month.

House Martin:-

First noted on 19th when 1 at Seahouses (RA/RAK) and 5 in Gosforth Park (SJH). Next day 1 at Ellington (TH) and on 25th 1 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 2 at Staward (JDP). No other records.

Sand Martin:-

First noted on 15th when 3 were seen at Holywell (CED) subsequently became increasingly regular throughout Northumberland. By 18th they were moving N. at 90 per hour at Bamburgh and on 23rd/24th, 100+ at Felton (TH) and 150 at Gosforth Park (BG).

Hooded Crow:-

3 at Bamburgh on 5th (BRS), 1 at Amble on 10th and 1 on Holy Island on 11th (B & TH).

Fieldfare:-

Still plentiful at end of month, particularly inland. Larger flocks were 300 near Meldon on 12th and Stannington on 21st, (JKJ/KGD), 200 at each of Scots Gap and Longframlington on 1st, Bamburgh on 12th, Stocksfield on 16th and Rudchester on 23rd. 100 at Kibblesworth on 22nd - 29th and Stocksfield on 30th.

Redwing:-

Never many April records and this year no exception. 1 at Bamburgh on 12th - 19th (BRS), 4 in Newcastle on 14th (MRS) and 3 on Holy Island on 18th (MFMM et al).

Ring Ouzel:-

Apparently established in Upper Coquetdale and Allendale early in month (ERM/RG/WB).

Wheatear:-

Not really regular until after about 9th when they became more numerous both inland and at the coast. Coastal passage was most significant on 11th/12th and 18th/19th when up to 20 were at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Redstart:-

The first was 1 on Holy Island on 23rd/24th (MFMM) then 1 at Cresswell on 25th (CW). No other records.

Black Redstart:-

1 at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Grasshopper Warbler:-

First noted on 23rd/24th when 1 at Hauxley (HRS). Next day 3 at Bamburgh but no more records.

Blackcap:-

1 at Cresswell on 15th - the first (TH). On 18th, 1 on Holy Island (ERM et al) and on 21st 1 at Felton (TH). On 24th/25th, 2 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1 at S. Linton (CW). 1 in South Shields on 30th (RAK).

Willow Warbler:-

A very early bird at Staward on 4th (JDP?, but no more records until main arrival on 18th when they were noted throughout Northumberland and N. Durham. Many subsequent records.

Chiffchaff:-

1 at Bamburgh on 11th and 1 at Hauxley on 12th. A few arrived with Willow Warblers on 18th and 3 out of 6 on Holy Island were noticeably large and quite grey. Widespread thereafter but still scarce.

Goldcrest:-

A light fall noted at Bamburgh and Hauxley on 11th/12th and again on 18th when there were also 20 on Holy Island (HRS/BRS et al).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

1 at Denton Burn on 30th (BG) was the only record.

Meadow Pipit:-

Moving N. over Bamburgh and Hauxley on 11th in moderate numbers. A very heavy N. passage noted all along coast and even as far inland as Denton Burn on 18th, with a 1 - 2000 over Holy Island, and 300 per hour over Bamburgh.

Tree Pipit:-

Only 1 record: 3 at Bamburgh on 18th (BRS).

White Wagtail:-

Ones and twos noted both at coast and inland as far as Seaton Burn and Cramlington throughout the month.

Yellow Wagtail:-

3 at Washington on 18th were the first (BU) and next day 12 at Holywell (SJH/CED) and 1 on Holy Island (ERM). By 24th, 30 at Swallow Ponds (GU) and on 30th, 33 at Cresswell and 19 at South Linton.

Blue-headed Wagtail:-

A male trapped at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS) and 1 at Sheepwash on 26th (BMn).

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 at Rothbury on 1st (ERM) and on 18th near Greenlee Lough 1 (BMn).

Brambling:-

Late singles at Hauxley on 11th (HRS), and Holy Island and Bamburgh on 18th (ERM/BRS).

Corn Bunting:-

A roost of 35 in Gosforth Park on 7th (ERM).

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

FIELD TRIP TO FARNE ISLANDS.

SUNDAY, 21st JUNE 1970.

Transport for this trip will be by car leaving Hancock Museum at 8.15.a.m. so that cost of transport to Seahouses will simply be a part share in the petrol cost. The boat trip will cost 15s. Od. which will be required as a deposit with your booking. The boat will leave at 10.a.m. and do a round of the outer islands landing on Staple Island for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. We will then proceed to Inner Farne where we will be left for a considerable period (either $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 hours depending on weather conditions). Bookings for this trip close on Friday, 5th June, 1970.

FIELD TRIP TO THE BASS ROCK.

SUNDAY, 12TH JULY, 1970.

Bookings for this trip will be limited to 24. Transport will again be by car leaving the Hancock Museum at 8.15.a.m. and 9.15.a.m. There will be two boat trips each of 12 people one leaving North Berwick at 11.a.m. and returning at 4.p.m. and one leaving at 12 noon and returning at 5.p.m. The cost of the boat will be 14s. Od. per head. Bookings for this trip together with 14s. Od. deposit should be sent to me by Friday, 12th June, 1970 so that travelling arrangements can be announced in the next bulletin.

ERIC R. MEEK, 5 ELM ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

MAY 1970 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

Quite a spectacular month and probably the best May on record for migrants, particularly the more uncommon species.

The weather throughout the month was dominated by high pressure areas either extending S.W. from Scandinavia or N. from the Mediterranean Countries and except for a spell of westerlies between 20th - 27th and again on 31st, winds prevailed from an easterly quarter throughout.

On 1st - 3rd with High over Scandinavia joining with a High over Spain a heavy fall of Willow Warblers occurred as a cloud front extended N - S over the North Sea. Most were 'large' birds suggesting a N. destination and 1 showed characteristics of 'acredula'. A Little Egret also appeared.

The Scandinavian High persisted until 16th but as a low centre pushed slowly N.E. from Biscay the wind freshened from the E. and cloud cover increased. From 4th onwards typical N. European migrants became increasingly common along the coast. The peak occurred on 9th/10th by which time Hobby, Wrynecks, Black Redstarts, Lesser Whitethroats, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Water Pipit and Scarlet Grosbeak had been recorded as well as the more regular waders and passerines.

Except for 2 Bluethroats on 11th the flow seemed to have halted as the Low was now centred over Germany but a High ridge extending N. from Italy from 12th - 14th might have been responsible for the Bluethroats, Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrikes, Woodchat, Lapland Bunting and more Black Redstarts.

High centres over Scandinavia and the Azores linked by a ridge over Britain brought a further flow of migrants on 16th/17th, mainly Willow Warblers. The Westerlies from 20th onwards prevented further passerine falls but a heavy passage of Ringed Plover was noted as well as an influx of Little Gulls and some moderate sea bird movement.

A lull in the strong westerlies as a ridge extended N.E. over Britain to Scandinavia from 26th - 30th brought a heavy fall of Sedge and Willow Warblers, Spotted Flycatchers and an Icterine. Westerlies returned on 31st.

Other unusual species reported during month included Blue Winged Teal, Snow Goose, Albatross, Osprey, Grey Phalarope, Iceland Gull, Shore Lark and Grey Headed Wagtail as well as possible Spoonbill and Savi's Warbler.

June has brought Avocet, Whiskered Tern and another breeding record of Little Ringed Plover but details will be reserved until the next bulletin.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Diver: Recorded only at Hauxley and seen on 7 days with a maximum of 12 N. in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour on 24th (HRS).

Great Crested Grebe: Up to 5 at Hallington but only 1 present on 28th (CMA/ERM)

Red-necked Grebe: 2 off Holy Island on 7th and still 1 on 10th (MFMM)

Little Grebe: Present on many waters. 8 at Capheaton seemed to be largest count (CMA et al).

Albatross: 1 flying N. off St. Mary's on 7th was almost certainly a Black Browed (JDP). If confirmed this will be the first record for Northumberland although several other unidentified birds have been seen.

Manx Shearwater: Between 23rd - 31st, 43 Flew N. off Hauxley (HRS), 5 N. off Seaton Sluice (GU) and 3S. off Whitburn (per BU).

Fulmar: Moving N. off St. Mary's at 80 per hour on 7th (JDP) and up to 70 per hour off Hauxley on 7th, 10th and 24th (HRS).

Gannet: 160 per hour N. off St. Mary's on 7th (JDP), 130 per hour N. off Hauxley on 10th and 50 per hour N. there on 23rd/24th (HRS).

Heron: With the exception of up to 4 in the Bamburgh/Budle Bay area on 2nd - 25th (BRS) all records were of ones and twos well inland.

Little Egret: First seen at Budle Bay on 3rd a single bird spent at least a week in the area being last reported at Fenham Mill on 10th (IHA/MFMM/BRS et al). This is only the second record for Northumberland.

Spoonbill: 1 flying N. over Washington Ponds on 31st was reported as only third hand by B.U. Notes have been supplied but more details will be necessary for the record to be accepted.]

Mallard: 46 at Gosforth on 12th was largest count (SJH). Many broods reported from all over Northumberland.

Blue Winged Teal: Full notes obtained on drake at Low Newton on 30th and later at Cresswell on 4th June (MTR). The possibility of an escape from captivity cannot be ruled out but if accepted by the Rarities Committee it will be the second record for Northumberland.]

Garganey: 1 at Gosforth on 17th (SJH), a pair at Cresswell on 19th (MTR) and 1 at Washington from 28th until 2nd June (SJH/BU).

Gadwall: 2 at Cresswell on 9th (LGM/ERM), 1 at Brenkley on 17th (KGD/MH), and 2 at Low Newton on 30th/31st (MTR).

Wigeon: Stragglers were noted at Cresswell (1 - 3 on 2nd - 11th) Linton (2 on 12th) and Budle Bay (up to 4 from 16th - 31st).

Pintail: 2 at Grindon on 16th (LGM).

Shoveler: Continued to move through until late in month with as many as 17 in Gosforth Park on 12th and still 8 on 17th (SJH). Up to 6 noted at 8 other waters.

Tufted Duck: 52 at Gosforth on 14th (SJH) was by far the largest count.

Pochard: Still 33 at Gosforth on 14th (SJH). Bothal was only other place where they were seen with up to 3 between 14th - 26th (MTR/MH).

Goldeneye: 1 at Holywell on 2nd (CED), 1 at Amble on 12th (CMA) and 3 in Budle Bay on 10th (BRS).

Long-tailed Duck: 1 off Holy Island on 7th (MFMM).

Common Scoter: 12 off Cresswell on 2nd (JA.McC) and 6 off Bamburgh on 24th (BRS).

Red-breasted Merganser: Noted only off Hauxley with up to 3 between 2nd and 25th (HRS).

Goosander: Reported in breeding areas at Catcleugh, Langleeford, N. Tyne and Staward during month.

Shelduck: Maximum of 95 in Budle Bay on 24th (BRS). Off Hauxley, 13N on 22nd and 8 N. on 24th (HRS). 2 at Holywell on 10th - 16th (CED).

Grey Lag Goose: 1 on Holy Island on 1st and 8th (MFMM), 1 at Fontburn on 3rd (CED), 1 N. off Cresswell on 19th (TH) and 1 at Grindon on 28th - 30th (MRS/JA.McC).

Pink Footed Goose: The tame Cresswell bird still present and flying freely on 29th (ERM).

Snow Goose: Full notes obtained on an adult flying N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (GB).]

Barnacle Goose: 1 still at Sweethope Lough on 24th (B & ME).

Canada Goose: 26 at Sweethope on 24th (B & ME) and 2 at Washington on 30th (BU). 6 plus a pair with 4 young at Hallington on 19th (RG/WB/EL).

Whooper Swan: 4 at Colt Crag on 3rd (RN).

Sparrow Hawk: 2 reported from inland sites. At the coast single passage birds were seen at Bamburgh on 9th, Holy Island on 1st (MFMM) and Cresswell on 22nd (TH).

Osprey: 3 birds seen: 1 at Holywell from 16th - 19th (B & ME/MN), 1 in Hulne Park on 16th (CMA et al) and 1 near Haltwhistle on 23rd (D. Allen).

Hobby: A very tired bird on Holy Island on 8th (MFMM).

Peregrine: A bird trailing jesses at Cresswell on 27th was thought to be of this species (per TH).

Merlin: Only 1 passage bird: a male at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS).

Coot: On 22nd, 60 at Holywell and 64 at Capheaton (CMA) and 54 at Washington on 27th (BU). 1 seen to drown a Carrion Crow in Gosforth Park on 17th (ABl).

Oystercatcher: Up to 6 at Holywell until 16th (CED et al) and still a flock of 55 near Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Ringed Plover: Passage took place throughout month, with a distinct peak during fourth week. 40 at Cresswell Pond on 19th (TH/MTR), 252 in Budle Bay (BRS) and 33 at Washington (per BU) on 25th and 10 at Wallsend Swallow on 26th (JDP). Away from breeding sites, also occurred inland at Cramlington, Holywell and Seaton Burn.

Grey Plover: At least 8 at Fenham Mill on 6th - 12th (MFMM/CMA) and 1 at Hauxley on 9th (HRS). 1 at Washington on 29th (SJH).

Turnstone: 1 at Holywell on 9th and 2 on 10th (CED) and still 85 at Annstead on 9th (BRS).

Whimbrel: Between 1 and 4 at Hauxley from 1st - 13th (BMn/HRS), 1 in Budle Bay on 6th (BRS) 3 on Holy Island on 10th and 2 on 11th (MFMM) and 2 N. off St. Mary's on 14th (JDP).

Black-tailed Godwit: 1 at Washington from 10th - 23rd (ERM/RN/BU).

Bar-tailed Godwit: Only 2 records; 1 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS) and 1 in Budle Bay on 16th (BRS).

Green Sandpiper: 1 - 2 at Hauxley from 7th - 9th (HRS). 1 on Holy Island on 8th (MFMM).

Wood Sandpiper: 1 on Holy Island on 8th (MFMM), 1 at Hauxley on 8th - 10th (HRS), 1 at Cresswell on 9th (LGM) and at Washington 2 from 9th - 20th with 7 on 11th (RN et al). 1 at Killingworth on 23rd (GB).

Common Sandpiper: Coastal passage in evidence from 2nd - 11th with up to 3 at Holy Island, Hauxley, Cresswell etc.

Spotted Redshank: 1 at Washington from 4th - 6th and another there on 20th (BU).

Greenshank: 1 in Budle Bay on 2nd - 25th (BRS), 1 at Holywell on 22nd (MN) and 1 at Washington on 9th - 10th (RN/ERM).

Knot: Only 2 records; 13 at Hauxley on 2nd and 2 there on 24th (HRS).

Purple Sandpiper: 6 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS), 5 on Holy Island on 9th (MFMM) and 6 at Seaton Sluice on 25th (GU).

Little Stint: 1 at Cresswell from 15th - 18th (MN/TH) and 1 at Washington on 20th (RN).

Dunlin: 30 at Cresswell on 19th was by far largest group reported (MTR). 7 were well inland at Broomlee Lough on 27th (MR).

Curlew Sandpiper: A bird still in Winter plumage near Hauxley on 9th (MTR). Not often noted in Spring.

Sanderling: Still 97 on Holy Island on 4th (MFMM) and 22 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Ruff: 1 at Washington from 11th - 25th (RN/BU).

Grey Phalarope: A very unusual record of 1 on Holy Island on 8th (per MFMM)

Common Gull: A pair with a nest and 3 eggs in the southern half of Northumberland on 23rd. There are very few records of nesting Common Gulls for the county.

Glaucous Gull: Still quite plentiful with 2 at Hauxley on 2nd and 1 on 31st (HRS), 1 at Cresswell on 2nd (JA.McC), 1 at Druridge on 9th (LGM), 1 at Washington from 5th - 13th (BU et al) and 1 at Annstead on 31st (BRS). All were immatures.

Iceland Gull: A second year bird with the Glaucous at Washington from 10th - 13th (BU) and a probable at Hauxley on 16th (HRS).

Little Gull: At Holy Island Lough 2 on 17th, 5 on 24th and 6 on 30th (BRS). At Cresswell 1 on 28th/29th (TH/ERM). All were immatures.

- Kittiwake: N. passage of up to 350/hr. noted at Hauxley and Cresswell on 5 dates between 10th and 31st inclusive.
- Black Tern: 1 at Holywell on 6th and 17th (CED/MN).
- Terns (sp): Moving N. off Hauxley at 150/hr. on 24th (HRS).
- Common/Arctic/Roseate: All reported by mid month off the coast.
- Little Tern: 1 - 2 at Cresswell on 2nd - 3rd (AB/J & RMCC), 1 at Holy Island on 16th (JKJ) 1 in Budle Bay on 24th - 31st (BRS), 3 at Seaton Sluice on 27th (RFJ), 1 at Newton on 31st (MTR).
- Razorbill/Guillemot: Some heavy N. movements off Hauxley with 200 - 250/hr. on 10th, 23rd and 24th (HRS).
- Turtle Dove: 2 at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS) and 2 at Washington on 28th (per BU).
- Collared Dove: Very prominent on coastal passage at beginning of month as birds were seen arriving from E. Up to 4 daily on Holy Island between 3rd - 16th (MFMM/JKJ), up to 7 at Bamburgh between 1st - 3rd (BRS), 1 or 2 at Hauxley on 9th and 24th (HRS) and up to 6 at Priors Park between 4th - 7th (KGD/MH). 70 at Earsdon on 28th.
- Cuckoo: 1 at Simonside on 1st (GU) after which there was an abundance of records from all over the county.
- Short-eared Owl: 1 at Bamburgh on 24th - the only record (BRS).
- Long-eared Owl: 1 on Holy Island on 4th (MFMM).
- Swift: The first of the Spring were 1 on Holy Island on 4th followed by 1 at Kenton Bar on 5th (BMN) - some 10 days late. By 9th there were several at Holywell and next day they were seen at Gosforth, Derwent Reservoir and Staward. From 13th onwards they became increasingly common over breeding areas throughout Northumberland.
- Nightjar: 1 singing in Northumberland Park, North Shields on 17th/18th (MC).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker: At least 1 on Holy Island from 4th - 8th (MFMM).
- Wryneck: More than are seen in most Autumns. 1 at Priors Park on 4th (KGD), up to 4 at Hauxley between 7th - 11th (HRS), 1 at South Shields on 8th (RA), 1 at Seaton Delaval on 14th (AB) and 1 on Holy Island on 24th (JMB/MB).
- Shore Lark: A late record of 7 at Hauxley on 3rd - 5th (HRS).
- Hirundines: All 3 species were noted moving steadily N. through both counties throughout month. House Martins seemed particularly prominent towards end when there were 80 in a mixed flock over Gosforth Park on 29th (GB).
- Fieldfare: Quite prominent at coast until 17th. Most common on Holy Island where there were 30 on 9th, 50 on 12th and 25 on 16th (MFMM/JKJ). Up to 9 reported almost daily from 5 other points down the coast and 1 inland at Wark on 16th (LGM et al).
- Redwing: 3 late birds on Holy Island on 10th (RA/RAK).
- Ring Ouzel: Passage birds noted at Holy Island (1 on 1st, 2 on 5th and 1 on 6th), Hauxley (1 on 2nd) and Bamburgh (1 on 16th and 2 on 17th).
- Blackbird: 2 young reared from a "nest box" in Kenton by 17th (MRS).
- Wheatear: Very conspicuous at the coast during first half of month. 30 on Holy Island on 5th (MFMM) and 100 there by 16th. 10 - 20 in both Bamburgh and Hauxley areas between 2nd - 11th. 1 of the Greenland Race at Seaton Delaval on 14th (AB).
- Stonechat: A pair fledged young from a nest near Hauxley (HRS).
- Whinchat: First noted on 3rd when singles were at both Cresswell (AB) and Hauxley (HRS). Next day 2 at Cleadon (per BU) and 2 on Holy Island and thereafter became increasingly common all along coast but only in small numbers. 30/40 on Holy Island on 16th was by far the largest count (JKJ et al).
- Redstart: Noted amongst the influx of continental birds at beginning of month but only in small numbers. Between 1st - 16th up to 13 on Holy Island (RA/RAK) up to 7 at Bamburgh (BRS), up to 3 at Hauxley and in ones and twos at Seaton Delaval, Whitley Bay and Marsden.

Black Redstart: An unusual number of records for the time of year. At Holy Island 1 on 5th, 1 on 6th, 2 on 10th, 1 on 11th and 1 on 16th (MFMM/JKJ et al). On Farnes 6 on 13th (BL). At Hauxley 1 on 9th and another in Amble on 14th (HRS). Druridge 1 15th/16th (TH).

Blue Throat: 2 on Holy Island on 11th (MFMM), and 5 were on the Farnes on 13th (BL). Single birds that may have been of this species were reported by inexperienced observers at Holywell on 14th and Cresswell on 16th.

Robin: Up to 10 almost daily at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley between 7th - 17th. Most were very pale and judged to be of continental origin.

Grasshopper Warbler: A spate of records from 2nd onwards from both inland (Gosforth Park, Cramlington and Ryton) and the coast (Holy Island - Cresswell) and perhaps more plentiful than is usual. A seemingly heavy influx occurred on 9th/10th when there were 12 at Bamburgh and up to 20 in the Hauxley area. 1 on the Farnes on 13th (BL).

/Savi's Warbler: A bird heard singing, but not seen, on Holy Island on 4th was thought to have been a Savi's. Notes have been submitted to B.B. (MFMM)./

Sedge Warbler: 2 were heard singing in Gosforth Park on 19th April (SJH) but not recorded elsewhere until 1 at Holy Island on 1st followed by 1 at Bamburgh on 2nd and 1 at Hauxley on 3rd. Thereafter became increasingly common with distinct influxes on 9th (14 at each of Hauxley/Bamburgh), and 23rd/26th (45 at Bamburgh and 30 at Hauxley).

Icterine Warbler: 1 trapped at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS) is first Spring record for Northumberland. The first ever record of this species in the county was a bird shot in Jesmond on 20th June 1889 but this should be classed a "Summer sighting".

Blackcap: Prominent, but only in small numbers, on passage at the coast between 2nd and 25th. Counts varied between 1 and 4 at many places between Holy Island and Marsden. Birds were well established inland by mid month with 10 at Hartford on 16th (AB1) and smaller numbers in Jesmond Dene, Seaton Delaval and Gosforth Park.

Barred Warbler: 1 singing at Seaton Delaval on 14th was obviously part of the influx of continental species taking place at that time (AB). Again this is the first Spring record for Northumberland.

Garden Warbler: Surprisingly few records and very late. Several at Hartford on 2nd (AB1) were the first of the Spring. Thereafter 1 - 2 noted from only Holy Island, Bamburgh, Cresswell and Seaton Delaval but a suggestion of an influx on 26th when 8 at Bamburgh (BRS).

Whitethroat: 1 at Holywell on 2nd was first of the Spring (CED) but not really regular throughout Northumberland until after 9th/10th. It is gratifying to see that there are obviously more than in 1969 but numbers are still not up to their normal level.

Lesser Whitethroat: Undoubtedly the bird of the month. It has been an unprecedented Spring for this species with birds appearing all along the coast. On 1st, 1 on Holy Island (MFMM) but no more until 6th when 1 at Tynemouth (KGD/MH) and 1 on Holy Island. By 9th/10th the movement was at its peak with 30 on Holy Island, 38 at Bamburgh, 20 at Hauxley, 10 between Cresswell and Hauxley, and up to 4 at 5 other points. Thereafter numbers slowly fell but still 9 on Holy Island on 17th. Inland 1 - 3 at Seaton Delaval between 7th - 23rd (AB), and on 17th, 1 at each of Gosforth Park and Wooler.

Willow Warbler: 3 distinct influxes noted. On 1st - 3rd up to 110 on Holy Island and 80 at Bamburgh and 1 trapped at Hauxley on 3rd (the peak of the passage), showed distinct characteristics of the N. Race (*acredula*). On 11th - 16th up to 200 on Holy Island, 16 at Bamburgh and 80 in Holywell Dene and on 26th, 50 at Bamburgh. These records were supported by observations of smaller numbers at other points along coast.

Chiffchaff: Also noted on coastal passage throughout month but in less spectacular numbers than Willow Warbler. The peak occurred on 9th - 11th with 8 - 12 at Hauxley and 10 - 15 in South Shields. A few were also noted on Holy Island and Bamburgh and still 3 at the latter on 30th. 6 singing males at Hartford on 16th (AB1).

Wood Warbler: A few noted in the coastal arrivals. At Bamburgh 1 on 9th, 3 on 10th and 2 on 16th (BRS). At Hauxley 1 on 9th (HRS). Singles also noted at Holywell (B & ME) and Hartford on 16th (AB1).

Goldcrest: Up to 8 noted on Holy Island, at Bamburgh, Craster, Hauxley and Whitley Bay between 7th - 16th, and 20 in Holywell Dene on 9th (JDP et al).

Spotted Flycatcher: 1 at Ryton on 3rd (J & RMCC) and 1 at Seaton Delaval on 7th (AB). On

On 13th, 1 in Holywell Dene and on 16th, 5 on Holy Island and 1 at Bamburgh but not noted with any degree of regularity until after 23rd/26th when a moderate fall was witnessed at Bamburgh (30) with smaller numbers at Hauxley.

Pied Flycatcher: First noted on 7th when 1 at Priors Park (KGD/MH). Next day 4 on Holy Island (MFMM) and on 9th, 6 at Hauxley and 4 at Bamburgh. By 10th, 9 on Holy Island, 2 at Craster and new birds were continually appearing at Hauxley and Bamburgh. The peak of the movement seemed to be over by 12th but on 16th/17th still 6 on Holy Island (JKJ et al) and 2 at Seaton Delaval on 14th (AB). Breeding birds had returned to their haunts at Dipton, Staward and Langleaford after 9th/10th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher: An adult male was present at Hauxley on 7th (HRS) - only the eighth Spring record for the county.

Tree Pipit: On 3rd, 3 at each of Bamburgh and Seaton Delaval and on 3rd - 7th, 1 - 2 on Holy Island. On 8th - 11th up to 10 on Holy Island (MFMM) and Hauxley (HRS), 5 at Bamburgh (BRS), 1 at Whitley Bay (CED) and 2 at Marsden (BU). Also noted inland at Simonside (GU) and Gosforth Park (SJH). From 13th - 16th, 1 - 3 at Bamburgh and Hauxley and 1 at the latter on 24th.

Water Pipit: Full notes taken on 1 at Cresswell on 9th (CW).]

White Wagtail: On 2nd, 2 at Annstead (BRS) and 4 at Holywell (CED) and 1 at Hauxley next day. On 5th, 1 on Holy Island (MFMM), on 9th, 1 at Cresswell (LGM) and on 23rd, 1 at Holywell (CED).

Yellow Wagtail: Reported from many areas throughout month. Largest counts were 25 - 30 at Annstead on 2nd/3rd (BRS) and 25 at Swallow on 4th (GU).

Grey Headed Wagtail: 1 seen at Cresswell on 9th (ERM) and on 19th a bird at Holywell was either Ashy or Grey Headed (CED/MN).]

Blue Headed Wagtail: 1 at Annstead on 2nd/3rd (BRS) and 1 at Cresswell on 9th (ERM).

Red Backed Shrike: A male on Holy Island on 12th and possibly the same bird there on 17th on 17th (CAM/JMB). Also male on Farnes on 13th (BL).

Woodchat Shrike: An adult watched for six hours at Priors Park, Tynemouth on 17th (KGD/MH) This will be third record for the county.]

Hawfinch: 1 at Ryton on 7th (J & RMCC) and 1 found dead at Hartford on 30th (AB1).

Goldfinch: Parties of up to 11 noted from both inland and at the coast.

Siskin: 1 at Wark on 27th (ERM).

Scarlet Grosbeak: A male trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 9th (BRS).

Crossbill: Family party of 5 near Wark on 28th (ERM).

Brambling: On Holy Island 1 on 3rd and again on 16th (MFMM/JKJ). 1 at Priors Park on 8th (MH/KGD).

Lapland Bunting: A male on the Farnes on 13th (BL).

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NOTE FROM THE RECORDER:- It is encouraging to see the number of individual contributors increasing month by month and May 1970 must have been our best ever in this respect. It also follows that the compiling of records takes longer as the number of contributions increase. Thus, to make my job easier I would very much appreciate it if all members would send in their records on the Club record forms and it would save time if they were cut before posting. If you do not have any forms then let me know but in an emergency, pieces of paper 3" wide x 4" deep, to cover each species, would suffice. Keep the date, place and

quantity in separate columns and put your name on the bottom. Thank you.

All June records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE 15 7 RD by 9th July please.

FIELD TRIP TO THE BASS ROCK. SUNDAY 12TH JULY 1970

Boat 1.

Meeting Hancock Museum at 8.15.a.m. Leaving North Berwick at 11.a.m. Returning 4.p.m.

E. R. Meek.
M. Bell.
J. M. Bayldon (2).
M. Rigby (2).
C. Ward.
L. G. McFarlane.
D. Allen (2).
G. Clayton.
L. Gray.

Boat 2.

Meeting Hancock Museum at 9.15.a.m. Leaving North Berwick at 12 noon. Returning at 5.p.m.

I. H. Armstrong (2).
J. E. Orton (2).
B. Etherington (2).
Mrs. A. Bryson.
Miss M. Detchon.
Miss E. R. Harbottle.
R. Jenkins.
Mrs. Y. Templer.
R. Phillips.

0781 JULY 1975 YACHTS BOON BAY OFF OF PORT ANGLE

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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

JUNE BULLETIN 1970

SUMMARY.

June was a very warm, dry month and like May was dominated by winds from an easterly quarter.

Apart from low water levels affecting the nesting success of Great Crested Grebes, most species seemed to have enjoyed a successful breeding season during the very settled weather conditions.

With a S.E. airstream covering most of W. Europe from 2nd - 10th rare migrants were still appearing in coastal areas. A Whiskered Tern made a brief stop on 7th/8th, an Avocet appeared and remained for 16 days and 2 Black Terns were seen.

A deep depression to the W. of Britain from 11th - 13th was possible the reason for the appearance of a few Skuas offshore on 14th but settled weather returned until about 24th when a Spoonbill was seen and the Avocet disappeared.

The last few days, with another low pressure centre to the W. of Britain, seemed to bring a slight influx of waders, particularly Curlew and Oystercatcher, and a flock of 16 Black Tailed Godwits was seen.

Other interesting species recorded during the month were last month's Blue Winged Teal, Garganey, breeding success of both Gadwall and Little Ringed Plover, Osprey, Quail, Spotted Redshank and a possible Scarlet Grosbeak.

Classified List.

Great Crested Grebe:

Only 1 record of successful breeding when 3 young were seen at N. Durham site. In Northumberland up to 10 at Catcleugh, 2 at Colt Crag and 2 at Whittle Dene.

Little Grebe:

Reported from Colt Crag, Holywell, Bothal and S. Linton but no doubt present on many more waters.

Manx Shearwater:

20N off Whitburn in 1½ hours on 24th (RN) and 10 N off Seaton Sluice on 29th (MN).

Gannet:

Adults and immatures moving N. off Seaton Sluice and Whitburn on 14th and 17th respectively (SJH/BU).

Heron:

4 at each of Catcleugh and Tarsset on 7th and 14th respectively (ERM). Singles reported from several places.

Spoonbill:

1 at Beal Point on 24th (TGR). This seems to be the 14th Northumberland record, 9 of which have been from the Holy Island area. A detailed description has been received of the bird seen at Washington on 31st May. There now seems to be no doubt of its authenticity. (A Dunbar, per BU).

Mallard:

150 at Gosforth Park on 7th (SJH) was by far the largest flock. Bred successfully at Swallow, Upper Coquetdale and Redesdale in good numbers and no doubt at many other localities.

Teal:

A breeding record of 1 with 4 young at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (SJH). Also quite plentiful in breeding areas on Upper Coquetdale (BG).

Blue Winged Teal:

As reported last month a drake was at Cresswell on 4th after being seen at Newton on 30th May. (MTR)

Garganey:

1 at Washington on 1st - 2nd (BU) and a drake near Cresswell on 20th and 24th (LGM/ERM et al).

Gadwall:

Female with 3 young at a N. Durham locality late in month. Reported by several observers.

Wigeon:

Only 1 record. A drake near Cresswell on 24th (ERM/MTR).

Shoveler:

A few, mainly single drakes, reported from their favourite breeding areas near Ashington. Also up to 10 at Gosforth Park (SJH) and 4 at Grindon (JSB/LGM).

Tufted Duck:

Only breeding record received was of 2 ducks with 8 and 7 young respectively on the River Coquet west of Rothbury (BG) - a new locality. Concentrations of non-breeding birds did not exceed 20 and were reported from Gosforth, Colt Crag, Sweethope, Whittle Dene and S. Linton.

Pochard:

Again, a duck with 8 young at Pallinsburn, in the N.W. of Northumberland (MN/CW/LGM). No other breeding records. 13 at Holywell on 29th (ERM).

Common Scoter:

Between 10th and 29th 6 records of flocks of up to 47 moving N and S off both Seaton Sluice and Whitburn (GU/RN et al).

Eider:

By 14th, 140 ducklings in Fenham Mill area (TGR) 6 juveniles also noted as far S. as St. Mary's Island by 28th (AB).

Red Breasted Merganser:

Again a female seen at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (SJH). An unusual gathering of 25 on Fenham Flats on 21st (TGR).

Goosander:

An increase in the breeding population on the N. Tyne this year and at least 10 females with young on the Coquet W. of Hepple (There was a flock of 19 non-breeding females there on 20th) (ERM/BG). Also breeding at Staward.

Shelduck:

4N and 1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 14th (SJH). Breeding at Cresswell (possible 8 pairs - ERM), Amble (1 pair - TH) and Fenham Mill (first young seen on 24th - TGR).

Grey Lag Goose:

2 at Sweethope on 14th (SJH), 6 at Brenkley on 19th (KGD/MH) and 1 at Holystone on 28th (BG/ERM). 50/60 S. over Fenham Flats on 20th were reported as Grey geese but were probably of this species (TGR).

Canada Goose:

11 young and 27 adults at Sweethope on 14th (SJH/ERM). The usual wandering flocks, typical of this time of year, were reported on 11th (42 W. over Wark), 14th (10 E. over Tarsset on N. Tyne), 20th (15 - 24 over Stocksfield and 38 at Cresswell) and on 25th, 9 at Fenham Mill (TGR/ERM/MN et al).

Sparrow Hawk:

1 at Killingworth on 26th possibly suggested a welcome return to breeding in Gosforth Park (JDMcE).

Osprey:

1 in the Falstone - Plashetts area of the N. Tyne for most of month (per ERM).

Merlin:

5 nests located in Border Forests and 1 nest on the Simonsides (ERM/BG).

Kestrel:

18 nests found in the Border Forests reflects the general status of this bird as a common breeding species in Northumberland.

Quail:

2 just over the border at Yetholm on 28th (MN/LGM/CW).

Corncrake:

A pair near Netherwitton on 11th (BL).

Coot:

147 at Broomlee Lough on 27th (LGM).

Oystercatcher:

Flocking and perhaps an influx noted during last 2 weeks. Cresswell Pond had a max. of 52 on 13th (GU et al), there were 76 at Hauxley on 20th (HRS) and on 28th, 36 came in from E. at St. Mary's (AB).

Lapwing:

Flocking noted as early as 7th when 70 in Weardale (RN) and on 20th, 150 at Whittle Dene (JSB).

Ringed Plover:

Washington Ponds had a max. of 12 on 3rd (RN) and single birds at Cramlington on 11th (GU) and Holywell on 14th (SJH). Again a common breeding bird in Upper Coquetdale this year but seems to have reached saturation point with 12 pairs on one 2 mile stretch for the last 3 years (BG).

Little Ringed Plover:

3 young reared from the locality referred to in last month's bulletin and another pair with 4 eggs at a second locality. These are the second and third breeding records for Northumberland.

Curlew:

A suggestion of an influx on 27th with 8 at Washington (RN), 28 W. over North Shields and 16 near Seaton Delaval (AB).

Whimbrel:

1 at Cresswell on 13th (MN).

Black-Tailed Godwit:

1 at Washington until 10th (SJH/RN/BU) and a flock of 16 on Fenham Flats on 26th (TGR).

Green Sandpiper:

1 near Seaton Delaval on 13th (AB) and 1 at Holywell on 27th (GS).

Wood Sandpiper:

1 at Cresswell on 7th (ERM) and 1 nearby on 24th (ERM/MTR). 1 at Washington on 12th (RN).

Common Sandpiper:

A good breeding year in the W. of Northumberland (ERM/BG). 2 at Hartford most of month probably bred (AB1). A passage bird at Holywell on 29th (ERM).

Redshank:

Again plentiful as a breeding bird in Upper Coquetdale (BG) and 8 pairs bred near Brenkley (KGD/MH). 15 - 30 at Washington between 24th - 27th (RN/BU).

Spotted Redshank:

A Summer plumage bird near Cresswell on 14th (MTR).

Greenshank:

1 at Cresswell on 4th and 7th and 1 at Bothal on 14th and 24th (ERM/MTR). 1 in the Holywell area on 13th (AB/GS).

Dunlin:

3 well inland at Grindon on 28th (JSB), 2 at Washington all month (RN), 1 at Seaton Delaval on 13th (AB), and at Cresswell 2 on 11th and 6 on 24th (ERM/MTR).

Ruff:

On 21st, 1 at Cresswell and another at Bothal (ERM/MTR). On 25th, 1 at Ellington, may have been the Bothal bird (MTR).

Avocet:

1 at Cresswell between 8th and 24th (TH/MTR et al).

Arctic Skua:

On 14th, 2N off Cresswell (TH) and 5 N. off Seaton Sluice (SJH/MN/RN).

Great Skua:

Also on 14th, 1 N. off Whitburn (BU).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

A pair again breeding at Marsden (SJH).

Herring Gull:

6 nests in Embleton Quarry (LGM/MN).

Glaucous Gull:

An adult at Holywell on 13th (AB/GS). A second year bird off Seahouses on 21st was seen by all members on the Farnes Trip. A third year bird at Amble on 29th (TH).

Little Gull:

1 at Cresswell until 21st then three seen on 24th (B & TH et al). All immatures.

Kittiwake:

Off Whitburn 250N. in one hour on 14th and 217 N. in 90 minutes on 17th (BU).

Black Tern:

On 7th, 1 at Gosforth Park (AB1/SJH) and possibly the same bird at Killingworth (FC). On 14th, at Swallow Ponds 1 (LGM/RN).

Whiskered Tern:

Full notes made on an adult near Ashington on 7th (TH). Almost certainly the same bird at Cresswell next day (MTR). If accepted this will be the third record for Northumberland.

Common Tern:

15 at Washington Ponds by 27th (RN/BU).

Little Tern:

12 breeding pairs located during month at 2 sites.

Guillemot/Razorbill:

On 17th, 96N and 13S off Whitburn (BU).

Short-eared Owl:

Less plentiful in the Border Forests than last year. Only 2 pairs located (ERM).

Kingfisher:

A pair nesting on the N. Tyne (ERM).

House Martin:

226 nests under Twizel Bridge, Tillmouth on 28th (LGM/MN/CW). An increase of c50 since the last count in 1968.

Raven:

No successful breeding reported this year.

Jay:

An astounding increase in the Border Forests over the past 2 years and now commoner than ever before (BL/ERM).

Marsh Tit:

Breeding at Belsay, Dipton, Plashetts and Starward.

Fieldfare:

1 at Swallow Ponds on 4th (KGD).

Redwing:

An unsuccessful attempt at nesting was suspected between this species and Song Thrush at Hartford (AB1).

Redstart:-

Numbers back to normal in the Border Forests after a lean year in 1969 (ERM).

Grasshopper Warbler:

Records suggest a good breeding year throughout Northumberland.

Chiffchaff:

A migrant trapped at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Wood Warbler:

Heard singing at Dipton (5) and Belsay (1) - (ERM).

Pied Flycatcher:

Nest boxes have this year attracted 32 pairs in the Dipton area, 7 pairs near Hartburn, 5 pairs in Kielder and 3 pairs at Mitford (ERM/BL).

Siskin:

Common in the Kielder area this year (BL). Also noted at Staward when 3 on 6th (ERM).

Scarlet Grosbeak:

An unconfirmed report of 1 singing near Beamish Hall, Co. Durham on 30th but more notes will be necessary (J Morris)✓

Crossbill:

1 at Kielder on 7th (ERM) and 14 in the village there on 14th (BL).

Red-headed Bunting:

1 near Sunderland on 27th was obviously an escape but it should also be remembered that this species is no longer on the British List.

Corn Bunting:

Breeding was noted at Stocksfield this year (LG).

CORRECTION

Woodchat Shrike: The record last month should read the fifth for the county instead of the third.

List of Contributors

J. S. Booth. A Blackett. A. Belshaw. F. Colley. A. Dunbar. K. G. Dures. J. C. Forrest.
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J. Morris. R. Norman. M. Nattrass. M. T. Rigby. T. G. Ramsey. G. Storey. G. Upton.
B. Unwin. C. Ward.

...successful breeding reported this year.

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

B.T.O. ATLAS PROJECT:

By now this year's breeding season will be more or less over and it would be helpful if Members who have breeding records for the county could begin sending them to me as soon as possible. Casual records very frequently complete important gaps in coverage and I will be most grateful if as many casual records as possible can be extracted from observers' log books and sent to me - Geoff. Macfarlane, 28 Fox & Hounds Road, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne 5.

An unsuccessful attempt at nesting was suspected between this species and Song Sparrow at Hartford (AB).

Numbers back to normal in the Border Forests after a lean year in 1989 (EM).

Records suggest a good breeding year throughout Northumberland.

A migrant trapped at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Heard singing at Dipton (S) and Jelney (1) - (EM).

Next boxes have this year attracted 32 pairs in the Dipton area, 7 pairs near Hartford, 5 pairs in Kielder and 3 pairs at Mifford (EM).

Common in the Kielder area this year (BL). Also noted at Toward when 3 on 6th (EM).

An unconfirmed report of 1 singing near Beamish Hall, Co. Durham on 30th but more notes will be necessary (J Morris).

I at Kielder on 7th (EM) and 14 in the village there on 14th (BL).

I near Sunderland on 27th was obviously an escape but it should also be remembered that this species is no longer on the British list.

Breeding was noted at Stockfield this year (IG).

The record last month should read the fifth for the county instead of the third.

List of Contributors

- J. G. North, A. Blackett, A. Balshaw, T. Colley, A. Dunbar, K. G. Dimes, J. G. Foxton, I. G. Grey, M. Hodgson, Hauxley Kielder Station, B. Galloway, D. & T. Hallam, S. J. Kingston, B. Little, L. J. Milton, J. D. Morris, J. G. Macfarlane, H. R. Mack, J. Morris, K. Norman, M. Watterson, M. T. Rigg, T. G. Ramsay, G. Storey, G. Upton, B. Upton, C. Ward.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JULY 1970 BULLETIN

SUMMARY.

July was predominantly an unsettled month with winds, of varying strength, blowing from a westerly quarter as a series of depressions tracked across the country.

There were few days on which conditions were favourable for grounding passage birds and with the exception of a peak movement of Common Sandpipers and Dunlin in mid-month we had to wait until after 25th before waders and passerines became at all conspicuous. It was also about this time that Manx Shearwaters were seen moving N. together with 1 Sooty Shearwater and reasonable numbers of Gannets, Fulmars and Kittiwakes. Two Glaucous Gulls and an adult Little Gull also appeared and an early Red-necked Grebe was seen.

On 31st, after a few days of more settled weather followed by 2 cloud fronts, associated with a small depression, crossing S. Scotland, a heavy influx of Sedge Warblers was noted at one coastal locality. Perhaps these had been forced down at the coast after crossing the country on the clear nights of 29th/30th.

Other interesting records included a Black-necked Grebe, the Kielder Osprey, another breeding record of Little Ringed Plover, summering of Little Gulls, successful nesting of Kingfisher and a Hawfinch.

Early August has been rather quiet with a continued lack of records of the traditional waders but on 16th an early Barred Warbler was trapped at Hauxley so next month's bulletin may be a little more interesting.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Red-throated Diver:

On 26th, 1 N. off Bamburgh and 1 E. over Farnes (SJH).

Great Crested Grebe:

Up to 3 at Derwent Reservoir between 3 - 13th (RN/J & RMCC/MR) and 1 - 3 at Colt Crag from 8th - 22nd (RG/WB/EL). 5 adults + 1 young at Catcleugh on 17th (CMA).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 on sea off Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Black-necked Grebe:

Adult at Whittle Dene on 23rd (per BL).

Little Grebe:

Reported from Derwent Reservoir (2), Wallsend Swallow (3+), Colt Crag (4), Sweethope (2), Wingates (2) and Crosswell (3).

Manx Shearwater:

Noted moving N. on 10 days between 1st and 26th. Heaviest movements took place on 16th, with 35 off Cresswell in 20 minutes (TH) and 35 off Whitburn in 40 minutes (BU), and on 26th, with 30+ off Farnes (SJH/BU) and 35 off Hauxley in one hour (HRS). Up to 8 noted off several points on the other 8 days.

Sooty Shearwater:

1 N. off Bamburgh on 26th (SJH).

Fulmar:

Moving N. at 50 per hour off Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Gannet:

120 N. off Hauxley in 1 hour on 26th (HRS).

Heron:

A suggestion of an influx after mid-month with up to 6 at Derwent Reservoir (RN et al), 2 coming in from E. at Hauxley (26th) and Hartley (17th), and 1 - 2 at Druridge, Ellington, Cresswell, Holywell and Washington.

Mallard:

No concentrations greater than 50.

Teal:

By 31st, 52 at Derwent Reservoir (J & RMcC) where a second brood was seen on 13th (RN).

Gadwall:

Still present at the N. Durham breeding site on 31st.

Pintail:

1 at Bothal on 19th (RN).

Snoveler:

More records as family parties disperse, with 9 at Gosforth on 12th (SJH), 7 at Holywell on 20th (CED) and 11 at Washington on 31st (BU). Smaller numbers at 4 other waters.

Scaup:

5 off Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Tufted Duck:

27 at Gosforth on 5th (SJH) was largest flock of adults. 11 broods reared at Holywell totalling c50 young (CED). 5N. off Seaton Sluice on 15th (MH/KGD).

Pochard:

13 at Gosforth on 12th (SJH) was largest gathering but also reported from Holywell, Washington, Whittle Dene and Derwent Reservoir.

Velvet Scoter:

A drake near Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Common Scoter:

Largest flocks were between Hauxley and Cresswell with 450 off Chevington on 7th, 150 off Cresswell on 8th and 100 - 170 near Hauxley on 28th/31st (TH/HRS). Also noted in flocks of up to 50, mainly moving N. off Farnes and Seaton Sluice.

Red-breasted Merganser:

1 N. off Hauxley on 17th (HRS).

Canada Goose:

2 adults and 4 juveniles at Hallington on 16th (RG/WB).

Buzzard:

1 near Slaley on 3rd (per BL).

Sparrow Hawk:

Breeding at Dipton, Kielder, Hulne Park and Coquetdale.

Osprey:

Still 1 present in Kielder area during July (BL).

Merlin:

15 young reared from 7 known nests in Northumberland (ERM/BG/LGM).

Corncrake:

1 heard at Mounces on the N. Tyne on 8th and a pair lost a nest near Riding Mill during month (ERM/BL).

Coot:

113 at Holywell on 3rd (CED) but a poor breeding year there.

Oystercatcher:

70 near Hauxley on 22nd (HRS), 45 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (J & RMcC) and 63 at St. Mary's on 27th (MH).

Lapwing:

Flocks continue to increase with 400 at Derwent Reservoir by 24th (J & RMcC/RN). On 9th, 2 flocks, each of 20, flew S. at Chevington after 15 came in off the sea at Cresswell on 8th (TH).

Little Ringed Plover:

A pair reared at least one young from yet another Northumberland locality - the third this year. Between 14th - 28th, 2 adults and 2 juveniles seen at Washington probably bred locally (BU/RA et al).

Golden Plover:

120 near Bellingham on 18th, 30 near Cresswell on 19th (ERM) and 50 at Whittle Dene on 30th (MR).

Turnstone:

130 near Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Common Snipe:

35 at Washington on 18th (BU) and 20+ near Seaton Delaval on 8th (MH).

Jack Snipe:

1 possible at Swallow Pond on 27th. Notes will be considered (GU).]

Curlew:

A flock of 250 in Upper Coquetdale on 11th (BG).

Whimbrel:

Singles noted over Holywell, Wallsend, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice after 16th. At Hauxley they were noted moving S. almost daily until a heavy passage took place between 26th - 31st with 31 passing over on 29th. Also witnessed over the Cresswell area with 10 on 26th and 22 on 27th (TH).

Black-tailed Godwit:

1 at Cresswell on 4th (GS), 1 N. at Hauxley on 9th (TH), 1 at Holywell on 10th (CED/MN), and 1 at Washington on 21st (RN).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

3 N. off Chevington on 9th, 7 N. off Cresswell on 16th, 1 N. off Hauxley on 19th and 2 off Hauxley on 25th (TH/HRS).

Green Sandpiper:

2 - 4 at S. Linton between 2nd and 27th (TH/ERM). On 15th, 1 near Seaton Delaval (MH/KGD), on 25th 1 at Cresswell (J & RMcC) and 1 at Chevington (MN), on 26th, 2 at Ellington (MN) and on 28th, 1 near Hexham (BL).

Wood Sandpiper:

On 1st, 1 at S. Linton (MN), on 10th, 1 at Lynemouth (TH), on 11th, 1 at Washington (MH) and 3 there on 28th - 31st (RA/RAK et al). On 31st, 1 at Derwent Reservoir (J & RMcC).

Common Sandpiper:

Many records of birds on passage after 4th. Noted at most coastal ponds and even on the shore but largest numbers occurred at Whittle Dene (max. 13 on 14th), Alnmouth (14 on 19th), Cresswell (6 on 26th), Derwent Reservoir (max. 15 on 31st) and Chevington (7 on 31st). 40 near Hexham on 28th were mainly passage birds (BL).

Redshank:

A build-up in numbers at coast as month progressed (ERM et al). Increases were also noted at Washington and Derwent Reservoir (BU/J & RMcC).

Spotted Redshank:

1 at Washington on 21st (RN).

Greenshank:

With exception of 2 at Holywell on 20th/21st (CED/MN) all records were of single birds from a total of 8 coastal localities between 11th and 30th.

Knot:

2 at Hauxley on 21st were first of Autumn. 28 there on 22nd (HRS), 12 at St. Mary's on 27th (MH) and 50 in Coquet Estuary on 30th (ERM).

Purple Sandpiper:

1 at St. Mary's on 13th and 6 by 27th (MH). 60 near Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Dunlin:

Noted at several coastal ponds throughout month. Holywell and Washington showed a peak on 18th - 22nd with 22 and 47 respectively. Cresswell Pond had a max. of 30+ on 25th. Also 35 on Coquet Estuary on 19th and c160 on Fenham Flats on 30th.

Sanderling:

Up to 6 in Hauxley area between 22nd - 31st (HRS).

Ruff:

Up to 4 at Washington throughout month (MN/RA/BU). On 5th, 1 near Seaton Burn (MH/KGD) and on 12th, 1 at Holywell (CED).

Arctic Skua:

Noted off 6 points between Beal and Whitburn between 4th and 30th. No more than 4 seen on any one day.

Great Skua:

1 N. off Cresswell on 16th (TH).

Great Black-backed Gull:

A suggestion of an influx after 28th with 600 near Embleton and 500 at Chevington (ERM).

Glaucous Gull:

Unusual records of single adults S. off Bamburgh on 26th and at South Shields on 29th (SJH)

Little Gull:

Up to 4 immatures at each of S. Linton and Ellington areas during month (ERM/MN et al). An immature at Washington from 5th - 12th (RA/RN) and on 25th an adult at Cresswell Pond (BG).

Kittiwakes:

N. Movements noted off Seaton Sluice on 15th (150 in 20 minutes) and Hauxley on 25th/26th (up to 400 per hour). (MH/KGD/HRS).

Common Tern:

Noted inland at Wingates - a pair - on 7th (CMA). Also the usual Autumn flocks seen near Ellington (max. 10 on 23rd), on the Wansbeck at Stakeford (25 on 2nd), and Washington (max. 50 on 20th).

Little Tern:

2 at Cresswell Pond on 11th and 1 there on 25th (LGM/J & RMCC/MN).

Auk:

Moving N. at 200 per hour off Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Barn Owl:

Successful nesting reported from Kielder and in 'S.E. Northumberland'.

Short-eared Owl:

Probable nesting near Derwent Reservoir (J & RMCC).

Swift:

On 8th, moving S. at c260 per hour over Cresswell/Druridge area (TH).

Kingfisher:

1 at Chollerford most of Summer (RFJ) and 7 young reared from the nest, on N. Tyne, reported last month. By end of month at same site a second clutch was almost ready for hatching (ERM).

Swallow:

Roost of c500 at Chevington on 31st (ERM).

House Martin:

This year c80 nests in the boat house at Colt Crag (RG/WB).

Carriion Crow/Hooded Crow:

A hybrid on the upper N. Tyne Valley on 18th (ERM).

Stonechat:

A juvenile at Cresswell on 23rd (ERM).

Sedge Warbler:

A large concentration of 400 - 500 at Chevington Burn on 31st constituted a heavy influx. 123 were trapped. (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat:

1 at Sheepwash on 8th but no indications of breeding (TH).

Blackcap:

Different single birds on coastal passage at Hauxley on 20th, 24th and 29th (HRS).

Willow Warbler:

Small numbers on passage at Hauxley (HRS) and Scaton Sluice (CMA) after 20th.

Wood Warbler:

1 singing in Gosforth Park on 12th (AB1/SJH).

Meadow Pipit:

A suggestion of a small coastal movement in Scaton Sluice/Whitley Bay area on 5th (AB1).

Grey Wagtail:

1 on coast at Chevington on 31st (ERM).

Yellow Wagtail:

50+ at Wallsend Swallow by 30th (MH/KGD et al).

Hawfinch:

1 at Staward on 10th (MR).

Siskin:

2 at Bellingham on 18th (ERM).

Crossbill:

1 at Ponteland on 5th (ERM).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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G. Storey. G. Upton. B. Unwin.

The enquiry will continue throughout this coming Winter until April 1971. Any member who can cover the Coquet or Aln estuaries, Budle Bay or Fenham Flats on a regular basis (monthly preferable) counting ducks, waders and gulls, please contact Bryan Galloway URGENTLY.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

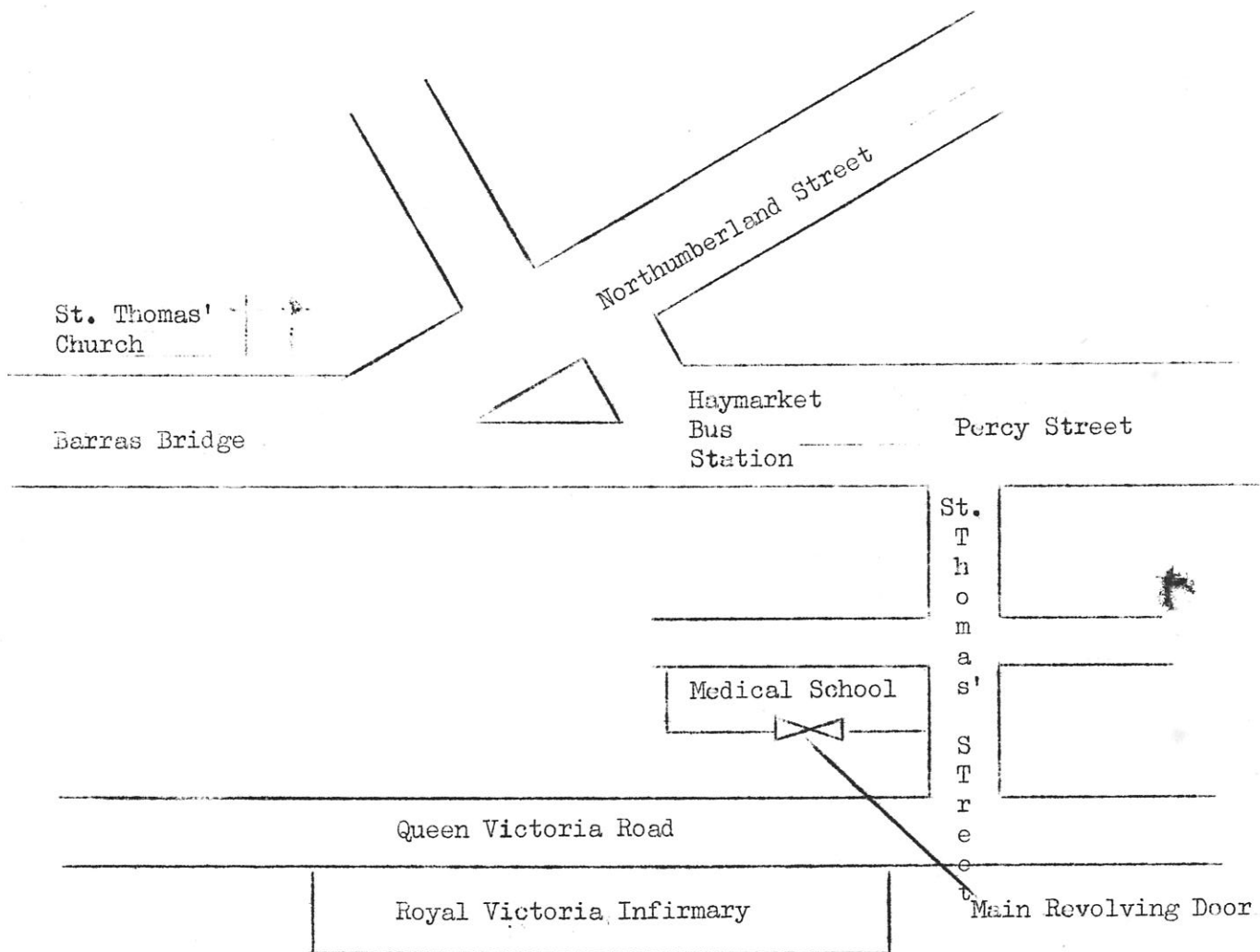
NEWSLETTER

NEW MEETING PLACE

JULY, 1970

Please remember that the meetings for the coming session will take place in No. 3 Lecture Theatre, Medical School, Newcastle upon Tyne. The first meeting will be on Thursday, 10th September 1970 and will commence at 7.p.m.

Entrance to the Medical School is through the main door on Queen Victoria Road situated as shown in the sketch:-



The route to the lecture theatre will be signposted inside the building and stewards will be on duty to direct members.

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER:-

SEPTEMBER 10TH

BIRDWATCHING ON ISLAY

ERIC BIRD & ERIC MEEK

OCTOBER 8TH

MEMBERS NIGHT

NOVEMBER 12TH

RSPB FILM (title to be announced).

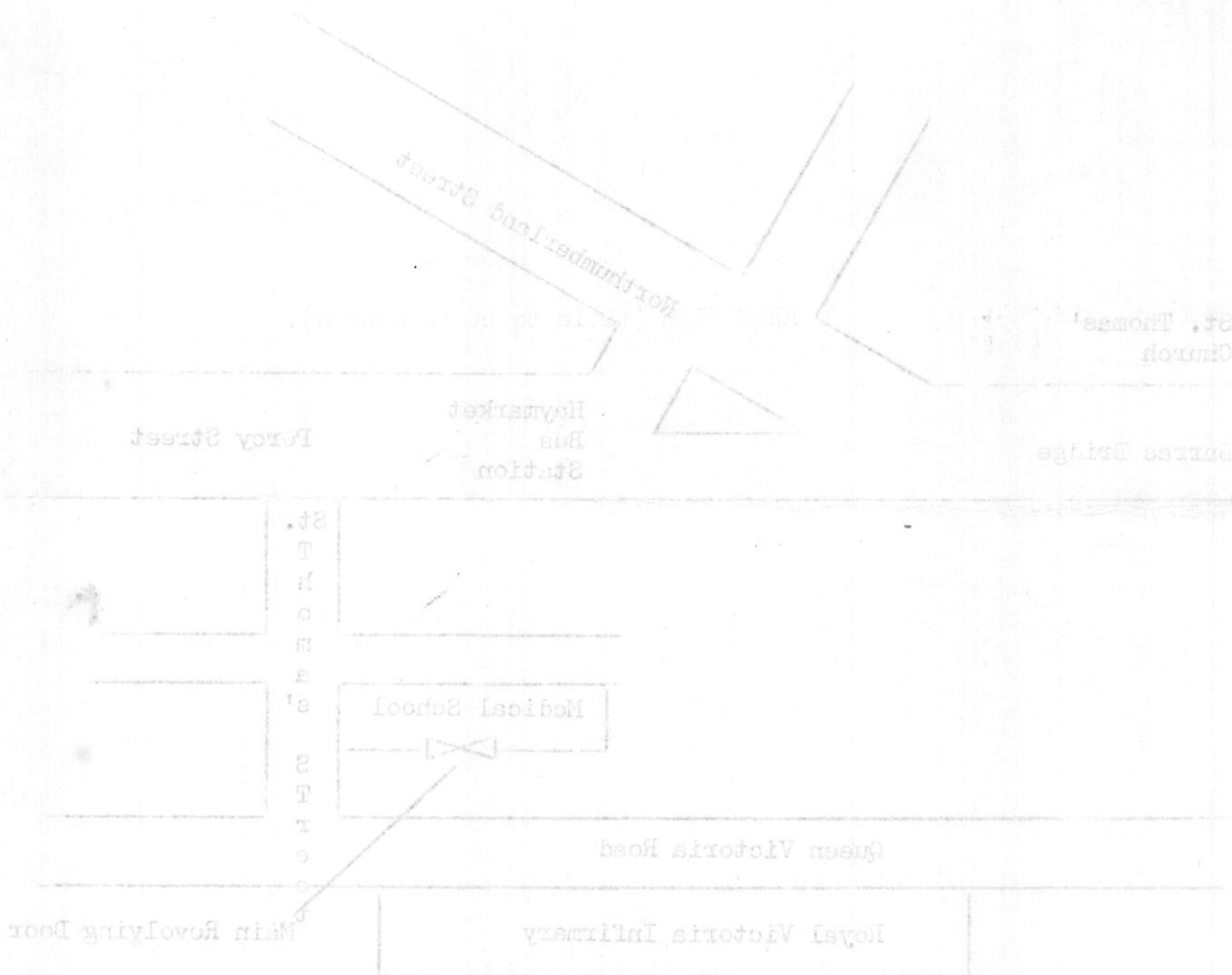
DECEMBER 10TH

BIRDWATCHING IN IRELAND

BRIAN UNWIN

BARMSTON POOL:-

Complaints have been received from the farmer who owns the land that the above pool is situated on, regarding the conduct of some Club Members visiting the pool. Members are reminded that this is private land and permission must be obtained from the farmer, Mr. Snowdon, before entering the field, although the occasions on which this is necessary should be few as good views of most species can be obtained from the road.



The route to the lecture theatre will be signposted inside the building and onwards will be on duty to direct members.

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER:-

ERIC BIRD & ERIC BIRD

BIRDWATCHING ON 10TH

SEPTEMBER 10TH

MEMBERS NIGHT

OCTOBER 8TH

KEEP FILM (title to be announced).

NOVEMBER 12TH

AUGUST 1970 BULLETIN

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

SUMMARY.

During the first 15 days of the month conditions were generally quite settled as High Pressure centres over Scandinavia and the Azores dominated the weather, but storms over the Low Countries on 7th/8th may have been responsible for the appearance of 3 Red Crested Pochard on 9th.

On 16th a depression centres in the Irish Sea resulted in strong SE winds and rain grounding a few continental migrants at the coast. Waders also became more numerous and sea birds were noted moving N. offshore. By 19th High Pressure began to intensify over Scandinavia and with another shallower depression stationary over S. England more passerines and waders were grounded on their way S. Numbers were not really high but as a cloud front moved S. over the North Sea on 22nd - 23rd unusual numbers of Wrynecks appeared with a few Chats, Warblers (including Icterine, Barred and Greenish), Flycatchers Red-backed Shrikes and Ortolan Buntings. Wader numbers were at their highest about this time (e.g. Lapwing) and sea birds (including Sooty Shearwaters and Great Skuas) were still prominent moving N.

More settled weather returned on 25th and during the subsequent week 'redirected' birds (i.e. those that had made landfall farther N.) were noted moving S. through the area.

Other unusual species recorded were Black-necked Grebe, Little Ringed Plover, Jack Snipe, Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers, possible Termincks Stints, and Hawfinch.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Diver:-

1 at Seaton Sluice on 16th and again on 23rd (AB1 et al) and 1 at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) were all identified as Red-throated. 3 (sp.) at Ryhope on 23rd (RN).

Great-crested Grebe:-

2 at Catcleugh on 8th (CMA) and 1 at Colt Crag all month (RG/WB/EL et al).

Slavonian Grebe:-

1 at Bamburgh on 15th and 1 at Annstead on 23rd (BRS). 1 inland at Whittle Dene on 31st (ERM/MR et al).

Black-necked Grebe:-

1 at Whittle Dene all month (IHA)J & RMCC/MR).

Little Grebe:-

Reported from 9 waters. 12 at Holywell on 28th (GU) was the largest number reported. In early September 2 adults with 3 young on the Quarry Pond, Broadway, Whitley Bay suggested successful breeding at this unlikely site (JDMcE).

Manx Shearwater:-

Off Annstead 1 N on 21st and 1 N on 23rd (BRS). Off Hauxley 12 N on 16th (HRS). Off Whitburn 3 N on 1st, 2 N on 9th (RA).

Sooty Shearwater:-

1 N off Annstead on 9th (BRS), 1 N off Seaton Sluice on 16th (LGM). On 20th, 7 N off Holy Island (J & RMCC), 7 N off Seaton Sluice (MB/JDP) and 1 N off Whitburn (BU). 4 N off Annstead on 21st (BRS).

Fulmar:-

A heavy N movement noted all along the coast between 16th and 22nd with a peak of 100 per hour noted at Hauxley on 20th (HRS et al). Single dark phase birds noted N. off Hauxley on 22nd and 27th.

Gannet:-

As with Fulmar, noted moving N. in large numbers between 16th and 22nd with counts varying between 130 and 380 per hour at Seaton Sluice, Hauxley and Holy Island. 100 per hour S. at the latter on 28th (J & RMCC).

Heron:-

Parties of up to 4 noted at many localities, mainly at the coast, throughout month but birds were noted as far inland as Catcleugh. Larger numbers were noted at Budle Bay, (7-8 from 9th - 23rd), Derwent Reservoir (max. 11 on 10th) and Whittle Dene (5-6 from 14th - 31st).

Mallard:-

47 at Colt Crag on 8th (B & ME) was the largest flock reported.

Teal:-

A distinct build up as the month progressed and noted in numbers at many waters. Largest flocks occurred at Whittle Dene, (max. 84 on 31st), Colt Crag (74 on 28th), Holywell (50 on 28th) and Washington (80 on 16th).

Garganey:-

More records than is usual. On 15th, 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and 2 at Cresswell (LGM). 2 at Holywell from 9th - 31st (MN et al). 1 at Holy Island Lough on 23rd (J & RMCC). 7 in the Ellington - S. Linton area between 2nd and 31st suggested successful breeding in the area.

Gadwall:-

Between 3 and 5 in the Ellington - Cresswell area between 15th - 31st (LGM et al).

Wigeon:-

2 at Washington on 2nd (J & RMCC). 22S. off Seaton Sluice on 22nd (AT), 30 in Budle Bay on 23rd (MR) and 8 at Colt Crag on 28th (B & ME).

Pintail:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 17th (IHA/MR), 2 at Newton on 18th (IHA) and 1 at Holywell on 27th (GU).

Shoveler:-

Small numbers at many waters in and as far inland as Grindon. Up to 36 in the S. Linton area throughout the month suggested successful breeding of at least 3 pairs. 15 at Cresswell on 22nd may have been part of this flock and a max. of 16 at Holywell on 26th (LGM/MN et al). 11 at Washington on 11th (BU).

Scaup:-

2 N. off Whitburn on 2nd (BU) and 1 at Whittle Dene on 31st (ERM/MR).

Tufted Duck:-

Successful nesting at Sweethope (1 pair), Bolam (1 pair), Holywell 3+ pairs) and Hallington (1 pair). 70 at Colt Crag on 8th increased to 150 by 28th (B & ME).

Pochard:-

Double figures reached at Derwent Reservoir (10 - 12 on 4th - 10th) and Capheaton (10 - 17 on 8th - 19th).

Red-crested Pochard:-

Full notes received on a drake and 2 ducks at Holywell Ponds on 9th (CED/MN). Escapes?? The record will be considered by the Rarities Committee.

Velvet Scoter:-

On 20th, 5 N. off Seaton Sluice (MB/JDP) and 10 N off Whitburn (BU). 2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 22nd (AT) and 1 N off Cresswell on 26th (TH).

Common Scoter:-

Off Whitburn 73 on 1st, 49 on 8th, 24 on 9th and 45 on 20th (RA/BU). All moving N. 126 N. off Seaton Sluice on 20th (MB/JDP) and 100+ at Hauxley on 9th (HRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

1 N. off Hauxley 10th (HRS).

Goosander:-

5 near Wark on 30th (B & ME).

Shelduck:-

2 records of flocks on moult migration through the "Tyne Gap" with 8 at Colt Crag on 8th and 18 on 28th (B & ME).

Buzzard:-

1 near Staward on 28th (BMn).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Singles noted at Lowick (28th), Hauxley (23rd, 28th, 29th) and Chevington (7th).

Peregrine:-

Female near Bellingham on 19th (RTG).

Merlin:-

A suggestion of a movement through coastal districts during last week with 1 on Holy Island and 1 at Cresswell on 23rd and again on 28th/29th and 2 flying S. at Hauxley on 30th.

Kestrel:-

Pair reared 2 young on conveyor belt supports at Stella Power Station (FC).

Coot:-

130 at Capheaton on 8th (CMA) and 120 at Holywell on 9th (CED).

Oystercatcher:-

85, mainly S. at Whitburn on 2nd (BU), 100 at St. Mary's on 10th (BMn), 1500 at Ross on 16th (J & RMcC), 390 in Budle Bay on 29th (BRS). Max. of 80 at Cresswell on 17th (FC et al).

Lapwing:-

A suggestion of a very heavy movement through the area on 20th/24th when flocks of 1000 strong were noted at Beadnell, Radcliffe, Red Row and in the Whittle Dene/Heddon area and 1600 near Stamfordham.

Ringed Plover:-

Largest counts were 60 in Beadnell Bay on 24th (J & RMcC), 85 in Budle Bay on 29th (BRS) and 50 at Alnmouth on 31st (LGM). Present at Whittle Dene after 8th with a max. of c20 on 17th (MR et al) and a max. of 35 at Washington on same day (BU).

Little Ringed Plover:-

Still 2 at Washington on 4th (RA/RAK).

Grey Plover:-

1 on Fenham Flats on 7th (RHK) and 1 N. at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS). Interesting inland records of 1 at Holywell on 19th (MN) and 1 at Swallow on 23rd/24th (MN/BU).

Golden Plover:-

Some large flocks noted. 1000 near Chevington on 2nd (HRS). 200 in Allendale on 5th (RG/EL), 1200 at Brandon on 21st, max. of 700 at Whittle Dene on 26th (IHA et al), 500 at Beadnell on 23rd (J & RMcC) and 900 in Budle Bay on 29th (BRS).

Turnstone:-

Some remarkable numbers at Whittle Dene Reservoir between 15th and 24th with a max. of 12 on 16th (IHA/J & RMcC/MR). Also inland, 3 at Washington on 21st (RN).

Snipe:-

Largest numbers were at Washington with a max. of c50 on 4th (BU et al).

Jack Snipe:-

A bird again seen at Wallsend Swallow when 1 on 26th (HW).

Whimbrel:-

Noted moving S. over the coastal strip on most days with a total of 67 during 17 days at Hauxley. A distinct peak was noted between 1st and 5th when 35 flew S. over Fenham Flats, 13 over Cresswell, 33 over Seaton Sluice and 4 over Whitburn (JKJ/BMn/RA).

Bar-tailed Godwit:-

Up to 4 noted at 6 points between Holy Island and Whitburn.

Green Sandpiper:-

Noted at many places in parties of up to 3 as far inland as Whittle Dene. Holywell Ponds regularly had up to 4, with 5 on 7th (MN et al). Following a heavy rain shower on 15th a flock of 7 was near the lake at Killingworth (FC).

Wood Sandpiper:-

A less plentiful species than the former but ones and twos noted at 6 different localities throughout month. 6 at Cresswell Pond on 21st (TH et al).

Common Sandpiper:-

Parties of up to 4 from many waters. The largest gatherings were at the beginning of month with c10 at Chevington from 1st - 10th (HRS), and 15 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (MR) but still 12 at Alnmouth on 31st (LGM/RN).

Redshank:-

500 in Budle Bay on 2nd (B & ME), 50 on Coquet Estuary on 9th (HRS) increasing to 210 on 31st (LGM) when 1600 at Alnmouth.

Spotted Redshank:-

No records until 14th when 2 at Washington (RN) and next day 1 on Holy Island (J & RMCC) and 1 S. at St. Mary's (AT). 2 were at Whittle Dene on 16th where they increased to 8 by 31st (IHA/MR et al) and on 17th, 1 near Annitsford. On 21st, 1 at Holy Island, Chevington and Cresswell and next day 2 at Holywell. 4 were at Swallow on 26th and Washington had a max. of 4 on 16th. 4 in Budle Bay on 29th.

Greenshank:-

Ones and twos at many of the usual ponds during month as far inland as Colt Crag, but generally scarcer than it has been for some years. Largest numbers were at Budle Bay (7 on 22nd - 29th), Whittle Dene 6 on 24th) and Washington (5 on 16th).

Knot:-

25 - 30 in Hauxley area on 9th increasing to 100 by 22nd (HRS). Between 5 - 15 noted at Holy Island, Cresswell and Bamburgh from 15th - 17th. On 16th, 3 inland at Whittle Dene (MR).

Purple Sandpiper:-

2 at Craster on 5th (RHK) and on 22nd, 1 at Amble (HRS).

Temmincks Stint:-

Possibly 3 on Fenham Flats on 7th (RHK) 7.

Little Stint:-

An unusual number of records. First noted on 17th when 2 at Washington, (rising to a maximum of 8 on 22nd) on 20th, 1 appeared at Whittle Dene (1 - 2 seen until 30th), on 21st - 23rd 5/6 on Holy Island, on 22nd - 31st 3/4 at Cresswell, on 25th/26th 1 - 2 at Woodhorn and from 25th - 28th 1 - 2 at Holywell.

Dunlin:-

Up to 50 at many points on the coast. Inland maxima were, at Whittle Dene 39 on 23rd, (IHA/MR et al) at Holywell 25 on 28th (CED et al) and at Washington 40 on 19th (BU).

Curlew Sandpiper:-

First noted on 16th when 8 at Boulmer and 2 at Cresswell (JCF). On 20th 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and another 2 there on 22nd/24th. Also on 22nd, 1 in Budle Bay (BRS) and 2 at Holywell (AT) whilst on 23rd, 6 at Whittle Dene (IHA/MR), 1 at Washington (BU) and 1 at Woodhorn (JKJ). By 24th/28th, 3 at Holywell and Woodhorn and still 4 at Whittle Dene where 2 remained until 31st. 3 at Washington on 31st (ABl et al).

Sanderling:-

50 at Chevington on 2nd was by far the largest flock (HRS). A most unusual record of 1 inland at Whittle Dene on 24th (IHA).

Ruff:-

Scarcer than it has been for some years. At Holywell from 7th - 23rd with a max. of 5 on 22nd (CED/AT et al). 3 on Holy Island from 16th - 28th (J & RMCC). 6 at Washington on 11th and still 2 on 25th (RA et al). 1 at Cresswell on 16th (BG) and 2 on 21st (TH) and up to 5 at Woodhorn 22nd - 25th (JKJ/TH). Up to 7 at Swallow 23rd - 27th and up to 4 at Whittle Dene 24th - 31st. Max. of 5 at S. Linton 25th - 31st (GU et al), 8 in Budle Bay 25th/26th when 1 at Cramlington.

Arctic Skua:-

Small numbers off most points at coast throughout month. On 16th, 12 off Seaton Sluice (Abl et al) and 21 N. off Hauxley in 1 hour (HRS). On 21st, 21 N. off Annstead in 3 hours (BRS).

Great Skua:-

On 1st and 2nd 1 N. off Whitburn (BU/RA). On 8th, 1 N. off Hauxley where 7 N. on 16th and 4 N. on 22nd (HRS). Off Holy Island 2 on 16th and 1 on 20th (J & RMCC). Off Seaton Sluice 2 N. on 20th. On 21st, 5 N. off Annstead with 1 on 22nd, 1 on 23rd and 1 on 29th (BRS). 1 off Howick on 23rd (IHA).

Pomarine Skua:-

1 off Annstead on 21st (BRS) and a probable off Holy Island on 7th (RHK).

Glaucous Gull:-

1 at Holywell on 7th and 1 at Hauxley on 16th. Both immatures. (HRS/MN).

Little Gull:-

Still 3 immatures in the S. Linton area on 2nd (ERM) and 1 at Washington until 11th (RA/RAK). On 2nd, 2 adults S. off Whitburn (BU). An immature at Newton Pool from 15th - 24th (J & RMCC et al) and at Seahouses 2 on 21st and 1 until 26th (RTG et al). 2 immatures at Holywell on 15th (AT) and single adults N. off Annstead on 21st and 23rd and off Hauxley on 31st (BRS/HRS).

Kittiwake:-

Heavy N. movements off Hauxley (2000 in 1 hour on 16th, 500 in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on 22nd) and Cresswell (500 in $\frac{1}{4}$ hour on 21st and 100 an hour on 25th with 300 an hour next day). 600 on Cresswell Pond on 21st (TH) and 1000 - 1500 in the Coquet Estuary on 22nd and 27th (HRS/CMA).

Black Tern:-

Off Hauxley 2 'probables' N. on 10th and a party of 9N. on 31st (HRS). On 16th, 1 at Bothal (BG), on 17th, 1 N. at Seaton Sluice (MB), 1 at Cresswell and 1 off South Shields (MTR). On 19th, 1 at Holywell (MN).

Terns sp:-

S. movements (mainly Common and Sandwich) off Whitburn on 2nd (BU) and off Holy Island (mainly Sandwich at 150 per hour) on 28th (J & RMCC).

Common Tern:-

2 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th and a max. of 36 at Washington on 17th (RN).

Little Tern:-

Off Seaton Sluice 1 on 1st, 7 on 2nd and 2 on 9th (LGM et al). 3 S. off Holy Island on 28th (J & RMCC) and 1 off Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Turtle Dove:-

1 at Cresswell on 23rd (TH).

Cuckoo:-

A late inland record of 1 near Alwinton on 16th (MRS).

Long-eared Owl:-

An unusual coastal record of 1 at Chevington on 1st (HRS).

Short-eared Owl:-

1 in Allendale on 5th (RG/EL), 2 on Holy Island on 19th (J & RMcC) and 1 on 28th (JKJ).
1 near Cresswell on 23rd (RA/RAK).

Swift:-

Breeding areas were forsaken at Hexham by 9th (RG), Forest Hall by 15th (FC), Cramlington by 22nd (BMn) and Denton/Blaydon by 26th (BG/LJM).

Kingfisher:-

An unusual record of 1 at Chevington on 4th (ERM). 2 near Corbridge on 27th (MR), 1 at Wark on 30th (B & ME) and 1 on the Brunton Burn in Gosforth on 31st (P & TV). The records suggest a reasonably successful breeding season.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:-

1 trapped at Bamburgh on 9th (BRS) may have been a migrant.

Wryneck:-

About 30 individuals were recorded along the coast between 20th - 31st as 'drift' migrants were arriving in moderate numbers. Bamburgh noted a max. of 3+ on 25th/26th after the first on 20th (BRS). There were at least 5 on the Farnes on 23rd (BL) and after 2 at Hauxley on 22nd, 15 were recorded on 23rd (HRS). 1 was at Druridge on 23rd (TH) and at St. Mary's 1 on each of 20th, 22nd and 23rd (JKJ/MB et al). Also on 23rd/24th 1 at Tynemouth, South Shields (1 - 2 until 31st) Marsden, Holywell and Whitley Cemetery.

Swallow:-

1 trapped at Holywell on 9.5.70 had been ringed in Natal, S. Africa on 12.4.70 - only 27 days before (CED).

Song Thrush:-

Conspicuous at Hauxley during influx of migrants on 23rd (HRS).

Ring Ouzel:-

A remarkable record of 1 in a Wallsend Shipyard on 6th (IHA).

Blackbird:-

A third brood of 3 young fledged from a nest in Gosforth by 14th (MRS). The nest was on top of a bay window!

Wheatear:-

A moderate arrival on 22nd/23rd with 10 - 20 at Hauxley and 30+ between Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's (ABl et al).

Stonechat:-

Pair bred successfully at Bamburgh (BRS).

Whinchat:-

Involved in the general arrival of 22nd/23rd with up to 30 at Hauxley (HRS) and smaller numbers at Bamburgh and St. Mary's. Again 30 at Hauxley on 28th/29th when a light influx noted at Bamburgh.

Redstart:-

An early migrant at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and another at Druridge on 16th (RA et al). Between 21st - 31st 1 on Holy Island, 1 - 2 at Bamburgh, 3 - 4 at Hauxley and 1 at Blyth.

Robin:-

A few arrived during general influx of 22nd - 30th. 7 new birds trapped at Hauxley.

Grasshopper Warbler:-

1 on Holy Island on 16th and 22nd (J & RMcC), 1 at Bamburgh on 15th and 21st (BRS) and 1 at Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Reed Warbler:-

1 near Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Sedge Warbler:-

As reported last month 4 - 500 at Chevington on 1st constituted a very heavy influx (HRS).

Icterine Warbler:-

Single Hippolais almost certainly of this species at St. Mary's on 21st (JKJ). At Druridge from 22nd - 25th (TH et al) and at Hauxley on 22nd - 23rd (HRS).

Blackcap:-

1 - 2 at Bamburgh from 20th - 23rd (BRS) and at Hauxley single new birds trapped on 2nd and 15th (HRS).

Barred Warbler:-

Reported only from Hauxley where 1 trapped on 16th and a further 3 trapped between 23rd - 30th (HRS).

Garden Warbler:-

Between 8th - 21st, 6 singles trapped at Hauxley and a max. of 15+ present between 22nd - 24th (HRS). 10 on Holy Island on 23rd (J & RMcC) and up to 4 at each of Bamburgh, Druridge and St. Mary's between 20th - 22nd.

Whitethroat:-

Up to 4 at each of Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley between 21st - 29th.

Lesser Whitethroat:-

2 on Holy Island (J & RMcC) and 3 in Budle Bay (BRS) on 22nd. Between 20th - 27th at least 3 at Hauxley (HRS). 1 at Ovingham on 21st (RTG).

Willow Warbler:-

c50 in Hauxley area on 5th and further influxes noted on 15th (30) and 22nd/23rd (c25). Up to 10 at each of Bamburgh and Whitley Bay between 21st - 25th. A suggestion of large numbers inland at Ovingham on 17th (RTG).

Greenish Warbler:-

Full notes taken on 1 trapped at Bamburgh on 22nd - the third there since 1965 (BRS).

Chiffchaff:-

Only 1 record. 1 at Bamburgh on 23rd (BRS).

Spotted Flycatcher:-

Only a few - at Druridge/Hauxley - in the influx of 22nd/24th.

Pied Flycatcher:-

An unusual record of 1 in Denton Burn on 5th (BG). Prominent at the coast after 16th particularly 22nd/23rd when c20 on Holy Island (J & RMcC), 12 at Hauxley (HRS), 20 at Blyth Cemetery (CED) and 10 at Marsden (BU/RA). Smaller numbers at Bamburgh and Seaton Sluice Area.

Tree Pipit:-

1 at Chevington on 1st (HRS), 1 at Blyth Cemetery on 23rd (CED) and 3 at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 - 3 at Bamburgh on 29th/30th and 1 at Hauxley on 29th.

Red-backed Shrike:-

Single juveniles at Hauxley from 23rd - 28th (HRS) and at Bamburgh on 24th/25th (BRS). Both trapped.

Hawfinch:-

An adult on Kielder Burn on 19th (RTG).

Crossbill:-

3 at Washington on 15th (per BU).

Ortolan Bunting:-

1 at Hauxley from 23rd - 28th (HRS) and 1 on the Farnes on 23rd (BL).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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J. C. Forrest.	L. J. Milton.	Hauxley & Bamburgh Ringing
B. Galloway.=	B. Martin.	Stations.

All records for September to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7ED by 8th October 1970 please.

R.S.P.B. FILM SHOW:-

This year's show, in conjunction with the Northumberland and Durham Naturalists Trust, will be held in the City Hall, Newcastle at 7.30.p.m. on Wednesday, 7th October, 1970. Introduced by James Alder, the films to be shown are "Winged Aristocrats" an exciting new film on the birds of prey of Europe, and "Birds of the Grey Wind" showing the varied bird life of Northern Ireland. Tickets are 6s 0d adults, 4s 0d children and can be obtained from J. G. Windows, Central Arcade or City Hall Booking Office.

S.E. NORTHUMBERLAND PONDS:-

Will members please note that the ponds in the Ashington Potlands area are now strictly private and are not accessible by Club Members. The ponds include Ellington, Linton, Longhirst, Coneygarth and other waters in the area. The ban does not apply to the ponds at Cresswell. Members are again reminded that before entering any private land anywhere in the two counties permission should first be obtained from the land owner concerned.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:-

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due, and should be sent as soon as possible to the Treasurer, Mr. J. Orton, 25 Lindale Avenue, Whickham Grange Estate, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

SEPTEMBER 1970 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

Westerly weather dominated September and it was not until the last few days that there was any appreciable abatement in the strong winds. The appearance of American Waders seemed inevitable and sure enough 2, possibly 3, Pectoral Sandpipers were seen as well as a possible Bairds Sandpiper. Another Pectoral turned up in early October when a Buff Breasted Sandpiper was seen on Holy Island.

Waders in general were in good numbers and the draining of the N. reservoir at Whittle Dene illustrated how attractive the area could be if there was a permanent area of suitable feeding. Species recorded there included Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Temmincks and Little Stints and Curlew Sandpiper. In fact the latter 2 species were particularly prominent at the coast after about 8th with birds remaining until early October at least.

The gales also drove a Manx Shearwater inland on 9th and 3 Pomarines were seen during the month. On 1st, a possible Whiskered Tern was reported and from 12th - 17th a Marsh Harrier frequented the Northumbrian Loughs. It was about mid month that Wigeon were moving N. in large numbers and about the same time 2 early flocks of Brent Geese were reported.

Passerines were not really in evidence until the last few days of the month as High Pressure over N. Europe began to exert its influence and it was during this brief spell that 3 species of shrike, Icterine and Barred Warblers and a probable Tawny Pipit appeared.

As the month closed a Chilean Flamingo visited Derwent Reservoir for over a week but the bird was almost certainly an escape from captivity.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black Throated Diver:-

4 S. off Annstead on 22nd (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:-

5 N. off Seaton Sluice on 13th (AB1/HW) and 6 N. off Annstead on 27th (BRS). Unidentified Divers were noted off Hauxley (10 between 5th - 27th) and Seaton Sluice (2 on 19th).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE:-

Only 1 record; 1 at Colt Crag on 13th and 20th (RG/WB/EL et al).

BLACK NECKED GREBE:-

The Whittle Dene bird, present since late July, was last seen on 6th (IHA/BG et al).

LITTLE GREBE:-

The largest numbers were noted at Holywell Ponds, with a maximum of 17 on 8th (CW). Up to 4 were noted at 7 other waters.

MANX SHEARWATER:-

An exhausted bird picked up inland at Stocksfield on 9th during a period of Westerly gales (LG). 2N. off Hauxley on 13th (IRS) and 1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 27th (LGM et al).

SOOTY SHEARWATER:-

1 N. off Cresswell on 10th (MH) and 1 N. off Annstead on 21st (BRS).

FULMAR:-

Moving N. off Hauxley on 7th reaching a peak of 100 per hour in evening (HRS).

GANNET:-

Heaviest movements were noted off Hauxley with up to 180 per hour N. on 7th and up to 400 per hour on 22nd (HRS).

CORMORANT:-

1 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th and a count of 170 on Marsden Rock on 27th (RN).

/Chilean Flamingo:-

1 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th remained until at least 3rd October (LG et al). No doubt an escape from captivity.

HERON:-

Recorded in small numbers at many waters and also at the coast. Largest gatherings were at Fenham Flats (6 on 6th), Budle Bay (max. 13 on 19th), Alnmouth (10 on 13th) and Derwent Reservoir (max. 23 on 27th).

MALLARD:-

Largest counts were from Capheaton, 200 on 13th (CMA); Colt Crag, 400 on 20th (DMn); Budle Bay, 700 on 27th (BRS); Whittle Dene, 200 on 20th (BG); and Grindon, 200 on 20th (MR).

TEAL:-

Max. counts and those in excess of 50 were as follows:- On 1st, 100 at Washington (RA/RAK), on 5th 102 at Whittle Dene (JSP), on 20th, 95N off Hauxley with 120 per hour N. on 22nd (HRS), on 26th 80 at Grindon (RG/WB/EL) 700 in Budle Bay, on 27th, 60 at Gosforth (LGM) and on 29th, 60 at Grindon (RG et al).

GARGANEY:-

1 at Holywell on 3rd (GU) and 1 near Cresswell on 11th (ERM).

GADWALL:-

4 at Gosforth on 8th (MH) and 1 at Holywell on 9th (GU).

WIGEON:-

Became increasingly common as the month progressed, with small parties appearing at many waters. Larger gatherings were 200 in Budle Bay on 27th (HRS), 80 off Seaton Sluice on 20th (ABL) and 70 on 27th, 60 at Grindon on 26th and 70 at Derwent Reservoir on 29th. Moving N. off Hauxley on 8 days between 13th and 27th reaching a peak of 160 - 180 per hour on 20th/22nd. Off Annstead 100 N. on 22nd and 115 N. on 27th. These coastal movements are a feature of this time of the year.

PINTAIL:-

2 at Gosforth Park on 8th (MH), 2 in the Coquet Estuary on 19th (CMA) and 3 N off Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

SHOVELER:-

Holywell showed a peak of 25 on 13th (GU). On 21st, 13 at Swallow Pond (MN) and on 27th at least 66 in Gosforth Park (LGM). Only other records were 1 at Washington on 1st (RA/RAK), 3 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS) and 5 at Whittle Dene on 27th (MR).

SCAUP:-

1 at Whittle Dene on 5th - 11th and 2 there on 20th (J & RMCC/B & ME).

TUFTED DUCK:-

Whittle Dene numbers built up to a max. of 48 by 27th (JSB et al). 38 at Hartburn on 6th (B & ME) and 63 at Colt Crag on 13th (CMA).

POCHARD:-

On 12th, 32 at Greenlee (LGM). 40 at Capheaton on 13th (CMA) and 20th (BMn). 20th also produced 60 - 70 at Whittle Dene (BG/MR), 20 at Colt Crag (BMn et al) and 16 at Grindon (MR).

GOLDENEYE:-

2 on Holy Island on 26th (LGM/RN).

LONG-TAILED DUCK:-

An early bird off Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

VELVET SCOTER:-

2 N. at Annstead on 26th (BRS).

COMMON SCOTER:-

60 off Hauxley on 22nd and 100 off Chevington on 27th when 85 N. off Annstead. Up to 30 off Seaton Sluice during the month moving either N. or S. (B & ME et al).

RED BREASTED MERGANSER:-

35 off Ross on 6th (LGM). Off Hauxley 1 N. on 10th, 10 N. on 20th and 2 N. on 22nd (HRS).

GOOSANDER:-

Single females on the Tyne at Corbridge on 1st (MR) and Bellingham on 27th (BL). 10 at Colt Crag on 20th (BMn/B & ME).

SHELDUCK:-

A young bird near St. Mary's all month (MH/KGD et al) and another at Washington on 4th and 15th (RN). 4 - 5 at Cresswell most of month and 9 N. off Annstead on 27th.

GREY LAG GOOSE:-

22 flew S. over Felton on 3rd (BG) and 1 at Colt Crag on 20th (B & ME).

BRENT GOOSE:-

A very early record of 2 flocks of 20 and 30 flying NE at Tynemouth (KGD).

CANADA GOOSE:-

40 - 48 in the Colt Crag area on 13th and 20th (B & ME et al).

MUTE SWAN:-

A party of 15 in the Killingworth/Swallow area on 25th/27th were somewhat unusual (BG/BMn) and 10 at Holywell on 28th (MH) were probably part of this flock.

BUZZARD:-

2 at Stanhope (Weardale) on 12th/13th (J & RMcC) and 1 near Alwinton on 20th (BW).

SPARROW HAWK:-

1 flew S. over Denton Burn on 13th (BG) and 1 arrived from the SE at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

MARSH HARRIER:-

An immature at Greenlee Lough on 12th (LGM) and probably the same bird at Grindon Lough on 17th (MRS).

PEREGRINE:-

1 over the Cumberland Border near Alston on 1st (BMn). 1 at Stanhope on 13th (H & RMcC) and 1 at Cresswell also on 13th (B & ME).

MERLIN:-

On 4th, 1 in Wallsend (HW), on 9th, 1 near Seaton Delaval (MH), on 13th, 1 at Colt Crag (RG/WB/EL), on 26th, 1 at Washington and on 27th, 1 at Whittle Dene (J & RMcC).

KESTREL:-

A distinct S. movement noted at Hauxley during month when some 15 individuals were counted coasting, mainly just offshore.

COOT:-

254 at Broomlee on 12th (LGM).

OYSTERCATCHER:-

60 at St. Mary's on 16th (GU) a max. of 54 at Cresswell on 19th (CMA), and 80 flew N. at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

LAPWING:-

100 coasted N. off Seaham on 4th (AJR) when 200 at Howick. 300 at Whittle Dene on 2nd (IHA), 600 at Brenkley on 8th (MH) and on 19th - 24th, c600 at Holywell (B & ME et al). 800 in Budle Bay on 19th (CW) and 500 at Red Row on 21st (HRS).

RINGED PLOVER:-

A large count of 129 between Alnmouth and Boulmer on 5th (LGM) and still 40 on 24th (CMA). Moving S. through Hauxley between 20th - 27th, with a peak of 86 on 21st when 1 was trapped wearing a Norwegian ring (HRS). Whittle Dene had a max. of 12 on 3rd and 8th and last noted there on 13th (IHA) et al). 2 at Washington on 4th and 27th (RN) and 2 at Hallington on 13th (RG et al).

GREY PLOVER:-

A most unusual inland record of 1 at Whittle Dene on 2nd/3rd (IHA/J & RMcC). At Hauxley 75 on 13th, 85 on 21st and 1 S. on 26th (HRS). At Cresswell 1 on 18th (GU) and 2 on 24th (TH). At Budle Bay 14 on 26th when 8 at Beal (LGM). At Lynemouth 1 on 20th (RA et al) and on 27th, 1 on Coquet Estuary (BG).

GOLDEN PLOVER:-

A suggestion of a peak movement through Northumberland on 19th - 21st when 1750 in Budle Bay (CW) 1000+ at Whittle Dene (JSB) 2000 at Red Row (HRS), and 2 - 3000 at Druridge (TH). Smaller numbers at these and other localities throughout month.

TURNSTONE:-

125 at St. Mary's on 16th (GU) was the largest gathering reported.

SNIBE:-

A distinct increase after 18th when 50 at Cresswell (TH). Next day Whittle Dene had a peak of 47 (JSB) and on 20th, 22 on Holy Island (CW) and 15 arrived at Hauxley (HRS). By 26th, 40 at Washington (RN) and 42 at Hauxley (HRS).

JACK SNIBE:-

1 at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS).

CURLEW:-

300 in Budle Bay on 19th (CW).

WHIMBREL:-

Still moving through coastal districts during month in small numbers. 4 at Holy Island on 13th (LGM) and 5 S. at Amble on 9th (TH) were largest numbers reported. 1 inland at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (RG/WB) and still 1 at St. Mary's on 27th (JDMcE).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT:-

1 at Ellington Pond from 6th - 24th (TH et al). 1 S. at Cresswell on 10th and 1 on the pond on 11th (MH/TH). 1 at Beal on 13th (LGM/RN).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT:-

Small numbers all along coast. Largest numbers were at Holy Island (100+ on 18th) and Budle Bay (100 on 19th). 18 S at Hauxley on 6th and 20 at Boulmer on 24th. An unusual inland record of 1 at Whittle Dene on 4th (BL).

GREEN SANDPIPER:-

1 - 3 birds reported from 7 localities during month. 1 on Tyne at Corbridge was farthest inland (MR).

WOOD SANDPIPER:-

1 in Ellington/Cresswell area from 7th - 9th (TH et al). 1 at Boulmer on 5th (LGM), 1 at Whittle Dene on 13th (IHA) and 2 at Swallow on 26th (HW).

COMMON SANDPIPER:-

A decrease as month progressed but still 2 at Whittle Dene on 20th (BG) and 13 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (LG).

REDSHANK:-

70 at St. Mary's on 16th was largest flock reported (GU).

SPOTTED REDSHANK:-

Particularly prominent at Whittle Dene with 9 on 2nd decreasing to 2 by 11th and still 1 on 27th (IHA et al). At Budle Bay up to 3 between 13th and 27th (CW et al). 1 in the Holy Island area on 13th and 19th (LGM et al). At Washington 1 on 1st (RA et al), at Ellington 1 - 2 between 14th - 21st (TH et al) and at Swallow 1 - 3 between 19th - 28th (BM/MN).

GREENSHANK:-

1 - 2 at many localities S. from Budle Bay and as far inland as Hallington. 4 on the Tyne at Corbridge on 1st (MR), 5 at Alnmouth on 5th (LGM) and 5 at Budle Bay on 27th (BRS).

KNOT:-

150 at Bamburgh on 3rd (BG) and 200 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS). No more than 40 elsewhere on the coast.

LITTLE STINT:-

Many records of small parties and an inland locality, Whittle Dene, provided the largest gathering with 11 there on 11th (IHA et al). Holy Island had up to 7 between 13th and 27th (CW et al). 2 at Annstead on 21st (BRS). 1 at Warkworth on 14th and at Hauxley on 21st (HRS). Cresswell had a max. of 4 on 18th, and present at Lynemouth between 10th - 30th with 5 on 17th - 19th and 6 on 30th (TH). At Holywell 1 on 8th and 2 on 24th (B & ME et al), at Swallow 4 on 15th (GU) and at St. Mary's, 2 on 20th (MH/KGD).

Temmincks Stint:-

A bird at Whittle Dene on 2nd and 4th (IHA/BL) but notes have not yet been received. 7

PECTORAL SANDPIPER:-

1 at Ellington Pond on 6th was first seen by GU and later by TH. It was subsequently seen and photographed by many observers and was last reported on 12th. This is the 4th Northumberland record, having been accepted by the Rarities Committee. A bird seen only briefly at Washington on 15th may have been of this species (RA/RN) but satisfactory notes were obtained of 1 at the same place on 21st (JAG).

Bairds Sandpiper:-

A bird possibly of this species was watched feeding with Dunlin at St. Mary's Island on 21st and 23rd (KGD/MH/GU/JKJ). Notes are being considered by the Club and Northumberland Rarities committees.

DUNLIN:-

The inland localities, Whittle Dene, Holywell, Washington and Derwent Reservoir each had up to 40 during month. At the coast largest counts were 150 at St. Mary's on 19th (MH) and 100 in Coquet Estuary on 27th (BG).

CURLEW SANDPIPER:-

A good Autumn for this species with 1 as far inland as Whittle Dene on 8th (MR). Birds were present throughout month with max. counts of 7 at Fenham Mill on 6th (LGM) 13 on Holy Island on 20th (RA et al), 20 in Budle Bay on 27th (BRS), 4 in Coquet Estuary on 27th (BG/ERM), 4 at Lynemouth on 18th - 21st (TH et al), 3 at Washington on 1st (RA et al), 2 at St. Mary's on 20th - 26th (BG/GU). Singles at Ellington on 18th - 20th and Annstead on 21st.

RUFF:-

In ones and twos at many localities, even 2 as far inland as Grindon on 12th (LGM). As many as 18 at Whittle Dene by 12th (LGM/GU et al), and 5 at Hallington on 13th (RG et al). On 11th, 6 at Cresswell (TH) and another 6 flew S. On 26th, 5 at Washington (J & RMCC) and next day 4 in Budle Bay (MR).

SANDERLING:-

80 at Hauxley on 14th was month's maximum (HRS).

ARCTIC SKUA:-

Particularly prominent on 27th when 14 off Seaton Sluice (AB1 et al), 8 off Hauxley (HRS) and 8 off Annstead (BRS).

POMARINE SKUA:-

1 off Ross on 6th, 1 off Holy Island on 26th (LGM) and 1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 27th (AB1/LGM et al).

GREAT SKUA:-

1 S. off Hauxley on 5th (HRS) and off Annstead 1 on 22nd and 11 N. on 27th (BRS).

GLAUCOUS GULL:-

1 in Amble/Hauxley area most of month (TH/HRS).

LITTLE GULL:-

A 1st. y. in Amble on 26th (HRS) and an adult at Washington on 27th (RN).

BLACK TERN:-

1 off Holy Island on 13th (LGM), 1 at Holywell from 14th - 24th (MN et al), 1 S. off Annstead on 22nd (BRS).

Marsh Tern (sp):-

A bird thought to be a Whiskered Tern was watched for some time at close range at Holywell Ponds on 1st (AB1). The record is being considered by British Birds, Northumberland and the Club Rarities Committees.

'COMMIC' TERN:-

A steady S. movement of 50 - 60 per hour at St. Mary's on 12th (BG). - A juv. at Scotswood Bridge on the Tyne on 28th (BL).

ROSEATE TERN:-

A flock of 14 flew off inland over Budle Bay on 27th (BRS).

LITTLE TERN:-

1 S. at Cresswell on 10th (TH).

SANDWICH TERN:-

Noted moving S. off Seaton Sluice on 3rd, 9th and 19th (B & ME) and off Hauxley on 22nd - 27th (HRS) at up to 35 per hour.

SHORT-EARED OWL:-

1 near Cresswell on 11th (ERM) and 2 at Holywell on 15th (MN).

SWIFT:-

Last records were on 11th - 13th when up to 3 at Hauxley (HRS) and 2 at Denton Burn (BG).

KINGFISHER:-

On 13th, 1 at Corbridge (MR) and 1 at Stanhope (J & RMCC).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER:-

(BHR) 1 in the west end of Newcastle on 20th - 25th (BG).

SKYLARK:-

A general S. movement between 18th - 26th when they were noted passing over Bamburgh, Hauxley, Cresswell and Tynemouth.

SWALLOW:-

Moving S. most of month, particularly noticeable at Hauxley with up to 50 per day.

HOUSE MARTIN:-

Smaller numbers moving S. with Swallows, but still many remaining at end of month.

SAND MARTIN:-

Late birds moving S. at Hauxley on 5th (5) and 12th (10).

TITS:-

Became prominent at coast after 8th with up to 30 (mainly Blue Tits) at Bamburgh and Hauxley and a flock of 100 at Washington. 3 Coal Tits at Hauxley on 26th and a Marsh Tit in Tynemouth on 15th. Single Willow Tits at Hauxley, Hadstone, Chevington and Washington.

TREECREEPER:-

Single passage birds trapped at Hauxley on 6th - 13th and 25th - 27th (HRS).

WREN:-

Moving through Hauxley after 12th with a max. of 8 - 10 on 15th (HRS).

MISTLE THRUSH:-

3 flocks totalling 20 flew S. over Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

FIELDFARE:-

An early bird at Greenlee on 12th and another on Holy Island on 26th (LGM).

SONG THRUSH:-

Influxes of 15 on 21st, 10 on 23rd and 30 on 26th/27th at Hauxley (HRS).

REDWING:-

Between 23rd - 27th up to 7 at Hauxley and 3 at Marsden (RA). 30 on Holy Island on 26th (LGM) and 10 in Priors Park, Tynemouth on same day (MH/KGD).

BLACKBIRD:-

A suggestion of an influx on 23rd/24th with up to 25 at Marsden and Hauxley (RA/HRS).

WHEATEAR:-

Still a few at coast by end of month.

WHINCHAT:-

As with Wheatear, no large 'falls'.

REDSTART:-

Very few records. At Hauxley 2 on 5th/6th, 4 on 11th/12th and 1 - 2 daily after 22nd (HRS). 1 - 2 at Priors Park on 21st and 28th (KGD/MH). 1 at Whitburn on 7th, 2 at Marsden on 24th (RA) and 1 near Warkworth on 27th (BG/ERM).

ROBIN:-

At Hauxley influxes of 25 on 14th and 30 on 25th (HRS).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER:-

Single birds at Bamburgh until 20th (BRS) and 2 at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

SEDGE WARBLER:-

Late birds at Bamburgh (1 on 13th), and Hauxley (4 on 18th and 1 on 27th).

ICTERINE WARBLER:-

Single Hippolais Warblers almost certainly of this species at Hauxley on 13th (HRS) and Priors Park on 27th/28th (KGD/MH).

BLACKCAP:-

Coastal passage was noticeably at a peak on 13th (5 at Hauxley) and 19th/20th (6 at Hauxley, 3 at Bamburgh, 2 in Whitley Bay). Singles at Hauxley and Bamburgh on many other days.

BARRED WARBLER:-

Singles at Hauxley on 5th - 13th and 24th - 27th (HRS). 1 on Holy Island on 27th (BL).

GARDEN WARBLER:-

At Bamburgh, 1 on 12th, 1 on 20th, 2 on 26th (BRS). At Hauxley 1 on 6th, 7 on 12th, 1 on 14th, 1 on 24th (HRS). At Priors Park 2 on 19th, 1 on 27th (MH).

WHITETHROAT:-

At Hauxley 1 on 5th, 2 on 12th, 1 on 21st - 25th (HRS). 2 at Bamburgh on 12th (BRS) and 1 in Whitley Bay on 20th (JDMcE).

LESSER WHITETHROAT:-

1 at Bamburgh on 12th (BRS) and 1 on Holy Island on 13th (LGM/RN).

WILLOW WARBLER:-

12 in the Hauxley Area on 11th/12th was largest fall reported. Still 1 at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

CHIFFCHAFF:-

Displaced the Willow Warbler after about 12th when 1 - 2 at Bamburgh, up to 5 at Hauxley, 1 - 2 at Tynemouth, 1 in Blaydon and 1 in Gosforth Park.

WOOD WARBLER:-

1 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

GOLDCREST:-

Up to 12 at several points along coast after 12th.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER:-

1 at Hauxley on 24th was last to be reported (HRS).

PIED FLYCATCHER:-

Up to 4 at 4 coastal localities from Bamburgh to Marsden between 7th - 27th.

MEADOW PIPIT:-

Moving S. over Hauxley on several days after 5th. 400 S. over St. Mary's in 3 hours on 12th (KGD/MH) and 100 + at Swallow Ponds on same day (HW) was typical of the scale of these movements.

Tawny Pipit:-

Notes received on a "large, sandy-coloured pipit" at Whittle Dene on 27th (IHA/J & RMcC) are being considered by the Rarities Committee.

TREE PIPIT:-

2 passed SW over Denton Burn on 4th (BG) and 1 near Washington on 8th (BU).

PIED WAGTAIL:-

Small parties moving through coastal districts throughout month particularly between 3rd - 12th.

GREY WAGTAIL:-

1 at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS) was probably on passage.

YELLOW WAGTAIL:-

Last record was of 1 at Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE:-

1 in Marsden Hall on 23rd/24th (RA).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE:-

1 near Amble on 27th (MR).

WOODCHAT SHRIKE:-

A juvenile on Holy Island on 26th/27th (LGM/RN et al). The record was accepted by the Club Rarities Committee.

GOLDFINCH:-

Most plentiful during last week of month with up to 14 at Bamburgh and up to 10 at Hauxley.

SISKIN:-

3 at Marsden Hall on 23rd (RA), 1 at Hauxley on 26th and 1 at Bamburgh on 27th.

CROSSBILL:-

40 at Smales on the N. Tyne on 27th (BL).

SNOW BUNTING:-

6 on Holy Island on 26th (LGM/RN) and 1 near the Avenue at Seaton Delaval on 27th/28th (MH).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS:-

R Adams	L. Gray	R. Norman
C. M. Adamson	R. Grey	M. Richardson
R. Atkinson	T. Hallam	A. J. Richards
I.H. Armstrong	M. Hodgson	M. R. Smith
A. Blackett	B. Little	B. Unwin.
W. Brady	E. Lobley	G. Upton
J. S. Booth	B. Martin	B. Watson
K. G. Duress	E. R. Meek	C. Ward
B & M Etherington	L. G. McFarlane	H. Wilson
B. Galloway	J & R McCutcheon	Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing
J. A. Ginnever	J. D. McElwee	Stations
	M. Nattrass	

All records for October to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S W Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7 RD by 8th November 1970 please.

FIELD TRIPS

1. CLUB DUCK COUNT - SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 1970

The following group leaders have agreed to cover the areas listed below. If you wish to take part in this count please contact the leader of the area you wish to visit. Beginners are especially welcome:-

- (i) Northumbrian Loughs
L G McFarlane, 28 Fox & Hounds Road, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne 5.
- (ii) Whittledene, Hallington, Colt Crag etc.
I. H. Armstrong, 12 Valerian Avenue, Heddon on the Wall.
- (iii) North West (Lilburn, Pawston etc)
C. Ward, 32 Meadow Road, Lemington.
- (iv) N. Durham.
R. Norman, 9 Tenter Terrace, Durham.
- (v) South East (Holywell, Gosforth Park, Coast from Blyth to Tynemouth).
C. E. Douglas, 25 Brierdene Road, Whitley Bay.
- (vi) Ashington/Cresswell Area.
E. R. Meek/E. Bird (Unfortunately due to access restrictions we cannot take any more in this area).
- (vii) North East (Holy Island, Budle Bay, Swinhoe Lakes etc).
J. E. Orton, 25 Lindale Avenue, Whickham.
- (viii) Bolam, Hartburn, Fontburn etc.
C. Adamson, 5 Denway Grove, Seaton Sluice.
- (ix) Coast from Beadnell southwards to Alnmouth.
J. A. Ginnever, Shincliffe House, Shincliffe, Co. Durham.
- (x) Coast from Stag Rocks to Beadnell.
P. Hawkey, 11 Crewe Street, Seahouses.

2. TRIP TO SOLWAY - SUNDAY, 13 DECEMBER 1970

The coach will leave Baxter's Cafe, Tynemouth at 8.a.m. and pick up at the Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m. With a full coach the cost should be about 17s 0d per head. The closing date for bookings is Monday, 23 November 1970. Please write to E. R. MEEK, 5 ELM ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

SUBS ARE NOW DUE, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE TREASURER, MR. J. ORTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE ADDRESS IS:-

25 LINDALE AVENUE, WHICKHAM, NEWCASTLE

B. Upton
C. Upton
D. Watson
C. Ward
H. Wilson
Hawley and Partners Kingston
Stations

B. Little
E. Lofley
B. Martin
E. H. Meek
L. G. McFarlane
J. & H. McGeehan
J. D. McIlwain
M. Mettress

A. Blackett
W. Brady
J. S. Booth
K. G. Duncanson
B. & M. Etherington
B. Galloway
J. A. Ginnerver

All records for October to Brian Galloway, 115 Southway, 2 W Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne
Help 7 in by 8th November 1970 please.

FIELD TRIPS

1. CLUB DUCK COUNT - SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 1970

The following group leaders have agreed to cover the areas listed below. If you wish to take part in this count please contact the leader of the area you wish to visit. Beginners are especially welcome:-

(i) Northumbrian fens
J. C. McFarlane, 28 Fox & Hounds Road, Tenham, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.

(ii) Widdledene, Killingdon, Golf Club etc.
I. H. Armstrong, 12 Valerian Avenue, Heddon on the Wall.

(iii) North West (Lillburn, Pawanston etc)
C. Ward, 32 Meadow Road, Killingdon.

(iv) N. Durham.
R. Norman, 9 Tenter Terrace, Durham.

(v) South East (Hollywell, Gosforth Park, Coast from Nirth to Tynemouth).
C. H. Douglas, 25 Friar Lane, Whitley Bay.

(vi) Ashington/Cresswell area.
R. R. Meek (Unfortunately due to access restrictions we cannot take any more in this area).

(vii) North East (Holy Island, Puffin Bay, Swinnow Lakes etc).
J. R. Orton, 25 Lindale Avenue, Whickham.

(viii) Holam, Hartburn, Pontburn etc.
C. Adamson, 5 Denway Grove, Seaton Sluice.

(ix) Coast from Beadnell southwards to Alnmouth.
J. A. Ginnerver, Shirecliffe House, Shirecliffe, Co. Durham.

(x) Coast from Star House to Beadnell.
F. Hawkey, 11 Crowe Street, Seaham.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

OCTOBER 1970 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

With the exception of the periods 10 - 17 and 20 - 22, October was dominated by westerly to north westerly weather as a series of depressions moved eastwards across N. Scotland.

Conditions were thus rarely favourable for the migration of passerines from the Continent. Even the small flush that occurred between 10 - 17, as high pressure became established over Denmark, was nowhere near the scale we are sometimes used to in October but the light SSE winds did bring Redwings, Ring Ouzels, Blackbirds, 2 Black Redstarts, 2 Reed Warblers, Blackcaps, a Yellow Browed Warbler, 2 Great Grey Shrikes and Bramblings. The generally settled weather on the Continent at that time however allowed migration of Turdidae, Robins and Goldcrests to S. Europe proceed unhindered.

Northerly gales on 20/21 resulted in an interesting movement of sea birds, particularly as the storms abated. Divers, Ducks, Gulls and Pomarine Skuas were very much in evidence and a possible Booby (sp) was seen off St. Mary's. Within a week of the gales, which affected much of the N. European sea board, 3 Grey Phalaropes were seen together and both Geese and Whooper Swans became more numerous.

Early in month a few Shearwaters were moving N. and both Pectoral and Buff Breasted Sandpipers were reported. Little Stints and Curlew Sandpiper continued to move through coastal districts and in mid month a possible Ferruginous Duck appeared. Despite the apparent adverse weather conditions, the last week of the month was not without interest as the first Waxwings arrived, being the forerunners of a heavy invasion early in November, and as well as a possible Temmincks Stint both Woodchat and Great Grey Shrikes were reported.

Altogether an interesting month.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black-throated Diver:

At least 4 N. off St. Mary's on 22nd (ERM/JDP).

Great Northern Diver:

Off St. Mary's 2 N on 4th, 1 N on 8th and 1 N on 22nd (ERM/JDP). Off Cresswell 2 S on 18th (JDP). Off Hauxley 1 N on 15th and 3 N on 24th (HRS) and off Bamburgh 1 on 24th (BRS).

Red-throated Diver:

Many records of birds moving offshore throughout month between Holy Island and Whitburn. The largest movements were on 22nd/24th when 24 N off St Mary's (ERM/JDP) and 21 N and 4 S off Hauxley (HRS) when 14 off Cresswell (PLG). Most of the unidentified Divers were probable of this species.

Great Crested Grebe:

1 at Bolam on 18th and 25th (CMA). 1 off Holy Island on 11th (RN), 1 off St Mary's on 22nd (ERM/JDP), 1 at Cresswell on 24th (PLG) 1 off Hauxley on 26th and 28th (HRS), 3 off Seaton Sluice on 31st (GU).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 off Bamburgh on 10th (RN).

Little Grebe:

Up to 5 noted at Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Bolam, Derwent, Woodhorn and Hauxley and a max. of 9 at Holywell on 3rd (RN et al).

Manx Shearwater:

Off Hauxley 7 N on 3rd and 2 N on 4th (HRS) and off St Mary's 1 N on 22nd (ERM).

Balearic Shearwater:

1 N off Hauxley on 3rd (HRS) showing distinctly duller underparts than Manx that were passing at the same time.

Sooty Shearwater:

A total of 11 N off Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Fulmar:

A few back at the Farnes by 31st (ERM).

Gannet:

Still a few off several coastal points during month.

Cormorant/Shag:

Cormorants were commoner than usual off Seaton Sluice on 4th when at least 100 were counted mainly moving S (AB1/B & ME). Both species moving N. in moderate numbers off St Mary's on 22nd (ERM).

Booby sp:

What was thought to be a juvenile blue-faced was observed flying N off St Mary's on 21st (JDP). The Rarities Committee have sought expert advice on this unique sighting.

Chilean Flamingo:

The Derwent Reservoir bird was last seen on 4th (RN et al) and what was probable the same bird was present at Colt Crag on 18th - 24th (RG et al) and at Hallington on 27th (CMA).

Heron:

Noted arriving from the E at Boulmer (1 on 1st), Seaton Sluice (5 on 4th), Holy Island (1 on 10th) and Sunderland (1 on 30th). Small parties at the usual localities amongst which Budle Bay had a max. of 8 on 10th - 18th and Derwent a max. of 11 on 4th. 7 near Alwinton on 30th.

Mallard:

Moving N offshore on 21st/22nd with 261 off St Mary's in 5½ hours and 113 off Whitburn in 1 hour (JDP/BU). The largest inland counts were a max. of c100 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (BG), 300 at both Capheaton and Colt Crag on 18th/19th (CMA/RG et al) and 220 at Whittle Dene on 24th (J & RMCC). Also 400 in Budle Bay by 10th (RN).

Teal:

94 flew N off St Mary's in 5½ hours on 21st/22nd (ERM/JDP). Counts in excess of 70 were 120 at Washington on 3rd, max. of 230 at Holywell on 18th (CED), 600 in Budle Bay on 10th (BRS) and a max. of 200 at Derwent on 31st (RN).

Gadwall:

1 at Cresswell on 3rd (BG) and 1 N off Holy Island on 10th (ERM).

Wigeon:

650 in Budle Bay on 10th (RN) had increased to 3000 by 18th (RA/RAK). On 15th, 250 N off Hauxley (HRS), on 17th 258 at Broomlee (LGM), on 18th, 76 at Hallington (RG et al), and on 31st, 75 at Derwent (RN). 158 N off St Mary's in 4 hours on 22nd (ERM).

Pintail:

Up to 7 in Budle Bay between 10th - 17th (BRS) and 1 N off St Mary's on 21st (RH).

Shoveler:

7 at Newton on 1st and 4 on 18th (CMA/RA). 20 at Gosforth Park on 4th (ERM), 1 at Fenham Flats on 18th and 1 - 2 at Capheaton between 19th - 31st (CAM/MR).

Scaup:

2 at Whittle Dene on 4th and 1 on 10th (RN/JSB). Off Hauxley 4 N on 3rd, 1 on 10th and 2 on 14th (HRS). 4 N off Holy Island on 10th and 1 N on 22nd (ERM).

Tufted Duck:

41 at Whittle Dene on 3rd and 10th (JSB) and 45 at Hallington on 18th (RG/WB/EL), were by far the largest flocks reported. 35 flew S low over the sea at Hauxley on 15th (HRS).

Pochard:

Largest counts were 33 - 35 in Broomlee/Shield on The Wall area on 17th - 24th (LGM/AJR), and 43 at Derwent on 31st (RN). Also noted at Hartburn, Capheaton and Whittle Dene.

Goldeneye:

On 3rd, 2 N off Whitburn (BU) and 1 N off Hauxley (HRS) and then many records after 15th. A heavy N sea movement between 21st and 24th produced 115 off St Mary's on 21st/22nd (ERM/JDP) and 28 off Whitburn (BU), at least 70 off Seaton Sluice on 23rd (B & ME) and 41 off Hauxley on 24th (HRS). By 24th, 22 at Whittle Dene (J & RMCC) and on 31st, 39 at Derwent (RN).

Long-tailed Duck:

On 1st, 1 at Lynemouth (B & TH) and on 3rd, 1 S off Hauxley (HRS). Up to 8 off Bamburgh after 10th (RN et al) and on 22nd 10 N off St Mary's (ERM/JDP). Ones and twos at various points along the coast after this date but 3 inland records are of interest; On 25th 1 at Colt Crag and 1 at Hallington (CMA) and on 31st, 2 at Derwent (RN).

Velvet Scoter:

1 off Bamburgh on 10th and 24th (BRS). Singles off Seaton Sluice on 25th and 31st (GU) and off Hauxley on 24th - 28th (HRS). On 21st - 22nd, 19 N off St Mary's (ERM/JDP).

Common Scoter:

On 22nd, 74 N off St Mary's (ERM/JDP) and on 24th, 140 N off Hauxley (HRS). Flocks of 30 - 50 off Bamburgh/Farnes on 24th and 27th (CMA).

Ferruginous Duck:

What was thought to be an immature bird was seen at Holywell Ponds on 18th (CED). The record is being considered by the Committee.]

Red-breasted Merganser:

Up to 9 off 7 points on coast between Holy Island and St Mary's after 3rd and 11 off Bamburgh on 10th (RN). On 21st/22nd, 36 N off St Mary's (ERM/JDP).

Goosander:

1 at Corbridge on 9th (MR), 2 N off Seaton Sluice on 22nd (ERM) and 19 at Colt Crag on 25th (CMA).

Shelduck:

Inland records of 1 at Derwent on 11th and then 2 from 13th - 31st (BG/RN et al) and 1 at Gosforth Park on 15th (CED). 30 in Budle Bay on 27th (CMA).

Grey Geese:

Unidentified flocks were reported flying W over Gosforth on 21st (c40), NW over Sunderland on 22nd (100+), W over Cramlington on 24th (28), over Capheaton on 31st (12) and Hauxley on 28th (12).

Grey Lag Goose:

At Holywell for most of the month increasing from 7 on 2nd to 35 on 26th and 48 by 31st (AB/CED/BG). On 24th, 2 at Swallow (HW), on 25th, 11 at Whittle Dene (AJR), on 29th, 2 near Annstead (JHA), and on 31st 7 at Derwent (RN).

Pink Footed Goose:

1 S at Warkworth on 3rd (BG) and 27 N at Amble on 21st (HRS).

Brent Goose:

6 N off Seaton Sluice on 23rd (B & ME) and possibly the same 6 on Budle Bay on 27th (CAM).

Barnacle Goose:

On 3rd, 25 N off St Mary's (GEC) 1 off Holy Island (B & TH) and 2 at Holywell (AB1/RN). On 4th, 32 NW over Derwent were probably of this species (RN). On 18th, 40 on Fenham Flats (CAM) and 17 W over Budle Bay (RA/RAK). 1 at St Mary's on 30th (RH) and possible same bird

flying S at Seaton Sluice on 31st (BG).

Canada Goose:

Max. count from Colt Crag area was 44 on 18th (RG et al).

Mute Swan:

Still 14 at Swallow Ponds on 3rd (HW et al).

Whooper Swan:-

On 3rd, 1 at Holywell (AB1/RN) and 2 over Gosforth next day (ERM). From 8th - 18th up to 10 in Holy Island area (B & TH et al) and on 17th, 5 at Broomlee and 3 at Halleypike Loughs (LGM). Up to 9 at 3 other localities after 18th but by 25th, 40 at Holywell (CED) increasing to 61 by 31st (AB).

Sparrow Hawk:

2 near Ponteland at end of month and singles noted at Bamburgh (17th), Grindon (17th), Whittle Dene (3rd), Alwinton (30th) and Hauxley (15th).

Peregrine

1 at Cresswell on 24th (B & ME).

Merlin:

Singles at Bamburgh (BRS) and Budle Bay (RA/RAK) on 18th and Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Water Rail:

Only 2 records; 2 at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS) and 1 at Hauxley on 17th (PLG).

Coot:

465 at Broomlee Lough on 17th (LGM) but no more than 45 at Holywell during month (CED).

Oystercatcher:

113 at St Mary's by 14th (GU).

Lapwing:

Movements at coast were in evidence on 4th (100 W at Seaton Sluice), 15th, 18th, 27th and 29th (small flocks N. W and S at Hauxley). 580 at Derwent on 31st (RN).

Ringed Plover:

Still 45 at Hauxley on 17th after a good September (HRS).

Grey Plover:

20 at Holy Island on 10th (ERM) and up to 4 at Budle Bay, Hauxley, Cresswell and St Mary's on various other dates.

Golden Plover:

On 7th 400+ at Jarrow Slake (MH), on 10th, 500 on Holy Island (ERM), and on 24th, 200 at Whittle Dene (J & RMcC).

Snipe:

Max. of c40 at Whittle Dene on 10th and 24th (JSB/J & RMcC), 90 - 100 near Hauxley on 10th - 18th (HRS) and 30 at Seaton Delaval on 17th (AB), and on Farnes 1 on 17th and 8 on 31st (CMA/ERM). Small gatherings at many other places.

Jack Snipe:

1 at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS), 1 at Annstead on 11th and 1 at Holywell on 18th (JDP).

Woodcock:

A remarkable gathering of 17 feeding on exposed mud at Derwent on 31st (RN). Singles at Denton Burn (BG), Tynemouth (KGD), Seaton Delaval (AB) and Hauxley (HRS) between 21st - 28th.

Curlew:

40 at Holy Island on 10th was largest flock (ERM).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

c100 on Holy Island on 10th (ERM). Also in ones and twos at Hauxley and St Mary's.

Black Tailed Godwit:

2 at Warkworth on 10th (RFJ) and 1 on Holy Island on 3rd (B & TH).

Green Sandpiper:

The only record was 1 at Whittle Dene for most of month (JSB/J & RMcC).

Common Sandpiper:

A late bird at Warden (S. Tyne) on 31st (JHA).

Redshank:

250+ at Jarrow Slake on 7th (MH).

Spotted Redshank:

1 at Cresswell on 2nd (TH), 1 in Budle Bay on 10th (BRS), 1 in Holywell area from 10th - 18th (AB/MN et al), 1 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and 2 at Swallow on 24th (HW).

Greenshank:

2 on Holy Island on 9th (TH) and 1 at Cresswell on 17th (ERM).

Knot:

Only 1 report; 150 at Hauxley all month (HRS).

Purple Sandpiper:

40+ at Seaton Sluice on 25th (AB/HW). Up to 20 at 3 other points. 3 at Lynemouth on 1st - 2nd (B & TH).

Little Stint:

On 3rd, 2 at Washington (still 1 on 17th) and 3 on Holy Island where they peaked at 6 on 9th and still 5 on 11th (TH/ERM/RN). 4 at Fenham Le Moor on 9th (B & TH). 1 at Swallow on 25th (GU).

Temminck's Stint:

1 accompanying a Little Stint at Swallow on 25th was probably of this species. The record will be considered by the Committee. ✓

Pectoral Sandpiper:

1 at Lynemouth on 2nd (TH) constitutes the 5th Northumberland record and the second this Autumn. It is possible that this may have been the bird seen at Ellington in September.

Buff Breasted Sandpiper:

1 feeding with Lapwings on Holy Island on 9th is the third record for Northumberland (TH). It has been accepted by the Committee.

Dunlin:

114 at Alnmouth on 10th (J & RMcC) was the largest gathering and inland records involved 8 - 10 at Derwent between 4th - 13th (RG et al), 15 - 20 at Colt Crag on 18th and 2 at Swallow on 3rd.

Curlew Sandpiper:

Between 1st - 3rd singles reported from Warkworth (BG), Hauxley, Lynemouth (TH) and Washington (RN). On 2nd, 2 at St Mary's (BG/MH). At Holy Island up to 8 between 3rd and 11th (B & TH/ERM) and 20 in Budle Bay on 10th (BRS).

Sanderling:

59 at St Mary's on 24th and c60 at Cresswell Pond on 31st were largest reported flocks (GU).

Ruff:

Up to 4 in Budle Bay between 10th - 18th included 1 with a white head (J & RMcC et al). 1 at Derwent on 10th (RG/EL) and 7 S at Whitley Bay on 21st (RH).

Grey Phalarope:

2 in Amble Harbour on 25th/26th were joined by a third on 27th. All allowed close approach (HRS).

Arctic Skua:

Still a few offshore. Hauxley noted the largest movements with 7 N on each of 3rd and 15th.

Pomarine Skua:

During the sea bird movement of 22nd, 40 Skuas N off St Mary's involved at least 17 Pomarines (in 1 flock). All others were unidentified (ME/ERM/JDP).

Glaucous Gull:

A second year at Hauxley all month and another 2 birds in Amble on 31st (HRS). A first year N off St Mary's on 22nd (ERM/JDP).

Little Gull:

2 adults and 2 immatures at Cresswell Pond on 12th (B & TH) and an immature S off Hauxley on 15th (HRS).

Kittiwake:

100 per hour N off St Mary's on 21st /22nd (ERM/JDP).

Black Tern:

A late record of 1 at Hauxley on 17th (HRS).

Commie Tern:

Last noted on 18th when 3 off Hauxley (HRS).

Roseate Tern:

A sick bird at St Mary's on 11th (RH).

Little Tern:

A late bird S off St Mary's on 2nd (MH).

Little Auk:

On 22nd, 2 N off Seaton Sluice/St Mary's (ERM/JDP).

Auks (sp):

Moving N off Hauxley at 30 - 40 per hour on 24th - 26th (HRS).

Turtle Dove:

A late record of 1 near Corbridge on 11th (AJR).

Collared Dove:

2 on Holy Island on 11th were probably migrants (ERM).

Short-eared Owl:

Immigrants noted arriving from the E. at Holy Island (1) on 8th (BH) and ones and twos at Swallow, Cresswell, Holywell, Lynemouth and Grindon. 2 at St Mary's on 22nd (JDP).

Skylark:

S. coasting movements at up to 150 per hour noted between 10th and 27th at Holy Island, Cresswell, Hauxley and South Shields.

Shore Lark:

2 on the Coquet Estuary on 3rd (BG) and 3 there on 31st (HRS). 1 at Hauxley on 17th and 6 flew N along the shore on 25th (HRS).

Swallow:

Last noted on 31st when 4 at Hauxley (HRS).

House Martin:

Last noted on 25th when 4 at Alnmouth (ERM/BG).

Sand Martin:

A late record of 2 at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Hooded Crow:

1 in Budle Bay on 17th (J & RMcC).

Nuthatch:

2 at Wallington Hall on 10th (B & ME).

Treecreeper:

Passage birds at Hauxley (1 on 3rd), Holy Island (1 on 10th) and Bamburgh (3 on 11th).

Wren:

Peak passage noted at Hauxley, Seaton Delaval and Tynemouth during the first part of month. 4 on the Farnes on 31st (ERM).

Mistle Thrush:

Small numbers on passage at Hauxley and South Shields but at Bamburgh 50 moved through on 10th and 18 on 17th.

Fieldfare:

Noted from 3rd onwards but immigration tended to reach a peak between 22nd - 31st when flocks of up to 100 were noted moving W both inland and at the coast. On the latter date hundreds were moving W over the Farnes despite a strong W wind.

Redwing:

Immigration peaked a little earlier than Fieldfare at sometime between 10th - 18th but still a few hundred moving W over the Farnes on 31st.

Ring Ouzel:

1 at Hauxley on 14th and 4 arrived next day (HRS). On 17th, 2 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 1 at Marsden (RA) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 16th (RH).

Blackbird:

Immigration was particularly apparent on 11th (100 on Holy Island), 14th - 17th (up to 140 at Bamburgh and Hauxley) and 27th - 31st (small flocks arriving at Hauxley, Farnes and Budle Bay).

Wheatear:

Last noted on 24th when 1 at Annstead (BRS).

Stonewheat:

5 at Bamburgh on 10th included a bird ringed in Druridge Bay during Summer of this year (BRS). Up to 3 at Boulmer, Hauxley, Lynemouth and St Mary's.

Whinchat:

1 on Holy Island on 11th (ERM) and at least 1 at Hauxley from 15th - 18th (HRS).

Redstart:

Singles at Bamburgh on 11th, St Mary's on 13th, Priors Park on 15th and 2 on the Farnes on 17th. At Hauxley up to 2 between 14th and 25th.

Black Redstart:

1 on Holy Island on 11th (ERM) and 1 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

Reed Warbler:

Singles trapped at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and Bamburgh on 17th (BRS).

Blackcap:

Moving through the Area all month and most conspicuous at the coast. A peak occurred on about 15th - 17th with 5 at Bamburgh, 6+ at Hauxley, 1 at Priors and 4 at Marsden.

Barred Warbler:

A bird ringed in September was still present at Hauxley on 11th (HRS).

Garden Warbler:

2 at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS) and 3 on Holy Island on 11th (ERM).

Willow Warbler:

Late singles at St Mary's on 13th (GU) and Hauxley on 17th (HRS).

Chiffchaff:

1 in Wallsend on 7th (JSB) and 1 at Bamburgh on 24th (BRS). At Hauxley up to 6 between 14th - 17th and 1 - 2 on 24th - 25th (HRS).

Yellow-browed Warbler:

1 in Priors Park, Tynemouth on 15th/16th was trapped and ringed (MH/KGD).

Goldcrest:

No more than 12 at any locality during month.

Pied Flycatcher:

On 3rd, 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1 in Whitley Bay Cemetery (ERM).

Grey Wagtail:

Singles at Bamburgh, Whitley Bay, Whittle Dene and Wallsend and up to 4 in Durham City.

Yellow Wagtail:

A late bird at Whitley Bay on 6th (RH).

Waxwing:

Perhaps will figure as the species of the Autumn because at the time of writing it seems we have witnessed a large scale invasion. 8 at Bamburgh on 24th (BRS) and 14 flying S over Alnmouth on 25th (BG/ERM) heralded the invasion and by 29th, 12 had passed through Hauxley (HRS), 30 were at Budle Bay (JHA) and at least 30 were in the Exhibition Park, Newcastle (RA et al). On 31st, 3 or 4 were at South Shields (RA) and the Newcastle flock peaked at about 200 in early November.

Great Grey Shrike:

1 at Marsden on 13th (per BU), 1 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and 1 in the Holywell/Seaton Delaval area on 25th and 31st (CED/AB).

Woodchat Shrike:

A most unusual and late record of an adult at Seaton Delaval on 24th (AB). The record will be considered by the Committee.

Starling:

A heavy N. movement over St Mary's on 22nd (ERM).

Goldfinch:

10 at Hauxley on 4th was the largest flock reported.

Siskin:

An unusual record of 40 in Denton Burn on 22nd (BG).

Twite:

20 in the Coquet Estuary on 29th (ERM).

Redpoll:

Flocks of up to 50 were noted at Seaton Delaval and Gosforth Park on 3rd - 10th (AB/AJR).

Chaffinch:

Moving through Hauxley in moderate numbers on 15th, 17th, 27th and 29th (HRS).

Brambling:

On 11th/12th 50 arrived at Annstead (HRS) 6 on Holy Island (ERM) and 25+ at Tynemouth (MH). Only small numbers noted after this date.

Lapland Bunting:

1 in Coquet Estuary on 3rd (BG), 2 on Holy Island on 10th (ERM), 1 at Annstead on 11th, 17th/18th (BRS) and 1 at Tynemouth on 12th (MI).

Snow Bunting:

Up to 4 at Holy Island, Farnes, Hauxley, Warkworth and Lynemouth between 3rd - 31st.

Tree Sparrow:-

Noted as commoner than usual in several coastal districts after 17th as birds coasted S. Largest numbers were at Bamburgh (150 on 24th) and Alnmouth (100 on 25th).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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All November records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7 RD by 8th December please. Let me know if you require record forms.

FIELD TRIP TO SEAFIELD AND FIRTH OF FORTH

On Sunday, 24 January 1971 there will be a field trip to the Seafield area to see the large numbers of sea duck which Winter in the area. Last year at this time Scaup numbers, for example, reached 35,000.

Would all bookings for this trip be sent to me before Christmas please together with a deposit of 10s. Od.

Travelling arrangements will be as for the Solway trip.

Eric R Meek, 5 Elm Road, Cheviot View, Ponteland.

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT UNLESS THEIR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE PAID, THIS WILL BE THE LAST BULLETIN THEY WILL RECEIVE.

Leeward Islands: 1 in Cooper Battery on 3rd (BG), 2 on Holy Island on 10th (EM), 1 at Anniston on 11th (EM), 1 at Tynemouth on 12th (EM).

Snow Bunting: Up to 4 at Holy Island, Tynemouth, Warkworth and Lynnhall between 3rd - 11th.

Tree Sparrow: - Noted as commoner than usual in several coastal districts after 17th as birds ceased to migrate. Largest numbers were at Tynemouth (150 on 21st) and Lynnhall (100 on 22nd).

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B. & M. Eborington.	E. R. Hook.	H. Wilson.

ALL November records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Galloway, E. W. Dutton, Newmarket, Newmarket. NE15-7 and by 8th December please. Let me know if you require record forms.

FIELD TRIP TO SEAFIELD AND WITHIN OF NORTH

On Sunday, 24 January 1971 there will be a field trip to the Seafeld area to see the large numbers of sea ducks which winter in the area. Last year at this time Seafeld was, for example, reached 35,000. Would all bookings for this trip be sent to go before Christmas please together with a deposit of 10s. 0d.

Traveling arrangements will be as for the Solway trip.

Eric R. Hook, 5 Elm Road, Clive View, Tynemouth.

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT BOOKINGS FOR THE 1971 TRIP WILL BE DUE BY 15th DECEMBER. THIS WILL BE THE LAST DATE FOR BOOKINGS.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

NOVEMBER 1970 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

With respect to visible migration, the most significant period of the month was 7th/8th, when during rather cold weather with moderate ENE winds both sea birds and migrating passerines were very much in evidence. Off several points on the coast Divers, Ducks, 3 species of Skua, Little Gulls, Kittiwakes and Auks were observed moving N. in numbers whilst 3 immigrant Long-eared Owls were seen together with 1 (possible 2) Eastern Chiffchaffs and a Yellow browed Warbler. The 10th brought a Hobby and a Rough-legged Buzzard but westerly weather for the remainder of month curtailed any obvious immigration from the Continent.

The Club wildfowl count on 22nd produced some very interesting and valuable results with large numbers of Mallard, Wigeon, Whooper Swans and Grey Lag Geese and it seemed that all members who participated had a very enjoyable day.

Other more unusual species reported during the month were Black-necked Grebe, Bewicks Swans, Shore Larks, Great Grey Shrike and Lapland Bunting and as well as being a Waxwing year it seems that unusual numbers of Twite have visited Northumberland. Keep your eyes open as there were still some present early in December.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black-throated Diver:

Singles off Seaton Sluice on 11th (B & ME) and Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS) and 2 off Cresswell on 21st (CW).

Great Northern Diver:

1 N off Annstead on 7th (BRS). 1 off Cresswell on 21st (CW) and 1 off Holy Island on 22nd (BG/JEO et al).

Red-throated Diver:

2 off Holy Island on 7th (AJR) and 15 off Cresswell on 21st (CW), whilst unidentified divers were moving N. on 7th (6 at Craster, 3 at Hauxley) and 8th (10 at Hauxley).

Great-crested Grebe:

1 at Bolam on 7th (LGM/RN et al), 1 at Killingworth on 1st - 3rd (FC), 2 off Hauxley on 8th (HRS), 1 off Cresswell on 21st (CW) and 1 N. off St. Mary's on 24th (RH).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 off Hauxley on 8th (HRS) and 1 off Holy Island on 14th and 22nd (BU/CW) et al. 1 off Ross on 22nd (BG/JEO).

Black-necked Grebe:

2 in Holy Island Harbour on 7th (AJR).

Little Grebe:

Up to 2 reported from Bolam, Capheaton, Grindon and Alnmouth during month.

Manx Shearwater:

A late bird off Seaton Sluice on 15th (HW).

Fulmar:

Plentiful at breeding sites during last week of month with over 100 at Cullernose on 22nd (JAG et al).

Gannet:

On 7th/8th up to 8 moving N. off Annstead, Craster and Hauxley (BRS/BG/HRS). 3 late adults N. off Craster on 29th (ERM).

Heron:

Up to 3 at 11 different and widely scattered localities. On 22nd, 9 at Derwent and 12 in Weardale (RN).

Mallard:

Some very large counts in what is probably the best month of the year for this species. On 22nd a total of c4,500 were in the area (see separate sheet). Max. counts in excess of 150 were - 1000 in Budle Bay on 22nd (BG/JEO et al), 1000 at Colt Crag for most of month (CW/IHA et al), 660 at Gosforth on 8th (CW), 510 at Derwent on 22nd (RN) 400 at Capheaton on 14th (ERM), 200 at Sweethope on 22nd (IHA) and 200 at Whittle Dene on 29th (J & RMCC). A light N. movement noted off Annstead and Hauxley on 7th/8th with up to 50 per day.

Teal:

Again some large counts and many flocks of up to 70. Largest numbers were at Holywell (max. 220 on 15th), Gosforth (250 on 22nd), Holburn Moss (400 on 14th) and Budle Bay (360 on 21st).

Gadwall:

2 pairs at Budle Bay on 22nd (BRS).

Wigeon:

The Lindisfarne Reserve flock was probably in excess of 20,000 for most of month - possibly the largest ever gathering for that area (AJR/BG/JEO et al). Some large inland flocks with 270 at Derwent and 150 at Broomlee on 22nd and 83 at Hallington on 7th (LGM/RN). On 7th/8th up to 190 per day N. off Annstead and Hauxley.

Pintail:

All records were from Lindisfarne Reserve - Holburn Moss Area with a max. of 40 on 22nd (BRS et al).

Shoveler:

66 at Gosforth on 8th was by far the largest gathering (CW) and still 12 there on 29th. Other records were 1 at Colt Crag on 7th (LGM), 2 at Capheaton on 14th/15th (ERM/CMA) and 2 at Holywell on 15th (CED), 1 at Cresswell on 28th (TRB).

Scaup:

77 N. off Annstead on 7th (BRS), 2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 15th (MH), 1 at Cresswell Ponds on 14th - 18th (RH/TH) and 2 there on 21st (CW).

Tufted Duck:

Hallington had the largest flock with 130 on 7th increasing to 227 by 22nd (IHA/CW et al). 74 at Whittle Dene on 15th (J & RMCC) and a max. of 52 at Holywell on 22nd (CED). Smaller flocks at many other waters. 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 1st (B & MR) and again on 8th (BG) were unusual.

Pochard:

c70 at Capheaton on 14th/15th (ERM/GU) was the largest flock. Also 52 at Whittle Dene on 7th (CW) and 44 at Derwent on 22nd (RN). Several records of up to 30 but on 7th/8th 4 N. off Annstead (BRS) and 25 N. off Seaton Sluice (BG).

Goldeneye:

Always a good month and this year no exception, particularly during first half. Largest counts were 53 at Colt Crag, 35 at Sweethope and 15 at Whittle Dene on 7th (LGM/CW/RN). 29 at Hallington on 15th - 18th (RG/WB/EL), 21 at Derwent on 22nd (RN) and 23 at Holy Island on 28th (LGM). Moving N. on 6th - 8th with 6 off Whitley Bay, 25 off Annstead and 19 off Hauxley.

Long-tailed Duck:

43 in Holy Island - Bamburgh area on 22nd. Between 7th - 21st, 19N. off Hauxley, 6 N. off Annstead and 3 N. off Craster. Also 1 - 3 off Alnmouth, Seaton Sluice and Whitley Bay during month. Up to 3 on Cresswell Ponds until 14th (J & RMCC et al) and further inland 1 at Holywell on 22nd (CED) and 1 at Bolam on 14th - 16th (ERM/WGJ).

Velvet Scoter:

Off Hauxley up to 6 between 8th - 29th (HRS). On 7th/8th 2 at Holy Island (AJR), 7 N. off Annstead (BRS), 5 N. off Craster (BG) and 4 N. off Cresswell (B & TH). On 14th, 1 off each of Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's (B & ME), and 2 S. off Cresswell (B & TH). On 21st, 3 off Cresswell (CW) and next day 1 off Ross (BG/JEO et al).

Common Scoter:

140 off Hauxley on 10th was by far the largest flock of month (HRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:

A heavy N. movement on 7th/8th with 55 off Annstead, 5 off Craster and 17 off Hauxley. 23 in the Lindisfarne area on 22nd and 1 - 3 off Beadnell, Alnmouth and Seaton Sluice - Tynemouth during month.

Goosander:

10 at Hallington and Colt Crag all month (CW et al) and 20 at Derwent on 22nd (RN) were largest gatherings. At coast 5 on Cresswell Ponds on 7th (J & RMCC).

Shelduck:

370 on Lindisfarne Reserve on 22nd (per ERM). On 8th, 45N. off Annstead and 50 N. off Hauxley.

Grey Lag Goose:

Continues to be more plentiful than usual. On 1st, 50 N. over Whitley Bay (B & ME) and 42 on sea off Alnmouth (ERM). On 8th, 21 N. off Hauxley (HRS). On 13th, 16 at Cresswell (ABL) and on 22nd, 20 over both Sandycroft (JMB) and Holy Island (BG/BU) and 7 over Swinhoe (BG/JEO). c400 became established in the Holburn Moss/Fenham Flats area during the second half of month (BG/BU et al) and a similar number frequented the Fontburn/Hartburn/Wingates area for most of month (CMA/LGM/RN). It is possible that 80 - 105 in the Colt Crag/Hallington/Whittle Dene areas from 7th - 29th were part of the latter flock (IHA et al).

Brent Goose:

10N. off Annstead (BRS) on 7th and 6 N. off Seahouses on 28th (LGM). 150 - 200 on the Lindisfarne Reserve on 22nd (BG/JEO/BU et al).

Barnacle Goose:

1 at Hartburn on 14th - 14th (ERM/WGJ) and 1 in Colt Crag - Hallington area on 22nd - 29th (IHA/CMA).

Canada Goose:

Max. of 42 in Hallington area on 9th (CMA). 5W. over Cresswell on 18th (RH).

Mute Swan:

An aggregate of c230 in the Tweed Estuary/Holy Island area on 22nd.

Whooper Swan:

An aggregate of c460 in the area on 22nd when largest flocks were on Fenham Flats (271), Holywell (75), Broomlee (47), Capheaton (20) and Sweethope (19). With the exception of latter, where there were 22 on 28th (MRS), all the others were also the month's maxima. Also 16 - 17 at Alnmouth on 9th and 28th (LGM).

Bewick Swan:

3 at Alnmouth on 9th (LGM) and on 15th 4 at Holburn Moss (per ERM) and 1 joined the Whoopers at Holywell for a short time (BG et al).

Buzzard:

1 at Newton on 22nd (JAG).

Rough-legged Buzzard:

1 soaring over Backworth on 10th was almost certainly of this species (JDMcE).

Sparrow Hawk:

Records of 12 individuals during month, 5 of which were from the coast.

Hobby:

A most unusual and very late record of a first year bird near Hauxley on 10th (HRS).

Peregrine:

1 over Fenham Flats on 22nd (BG/JEO et al).

Merlin:

On 7th, 1 at Cresswell (J & RMcC) and 1 at Fenham Flats (AJR). On 15th, 1 at Alnmouth (ERM/LGM). On 21st, 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and on 22nd, 2 in Budle Bay (BG/JEO) and 1 at Whittle Dene (IHA). On 29th, 1 at Warkworth (ERM).

Water Rail:

2 at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Coot:

The largest flocks were found on 22nd when 530 were at Seaton Burn (CED) and 373 at Broome (LGM).

Oystercatcher:

c150 in Budle Bay on 22nd was largest count (BG/JEO et al).

Lapwing:

Small flocks noted arriving at coast on several days and some large flocks noted between 21st - 29th with 500 at Longhirst (CW), 750 near Pegswood (ERM) 600 at Holywell (GU/CED), 1000 at Whittle Dene (JSB et al) and 500 at Colt Crag (J & RMcC/IHA).

Grey Plover:

1 at each of Beadnell and Hauxley on 22nd and 29th respectively (JDMcE/HRS). At least c150 in Lindisfarne Reserve on 22nd (BG/JEO et al).

Golden Plover:

Larger flocks were 600 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS), 500 at Henshaw on 21st and on Holy Island on 14th - 28th (LGM/CW) and c1000 at Whittle Dene on 29th (JSB et al).

Snipe:

No concentrations in excess of 35.

Jack Snipe:

Up to 3 at Whittle Dene between 15th - 29th (IHA/J & RMcC).

Woodcock:

Single immigrants noted at Craster, Hauxley, Tynemouth and Sunderland between 1st - 8th.

Curlew:

60 in Holy Island area on 14th (CW) was largest flock reported.

Bar-tailed Godwit:

2 - 3000 on Fenham Flats on 22nd (BG/JEO).

Green Sandpiper:

1 at Whittle Dene all month with 2 - 3 on 7th (MR et al).

Redshank:

c140 at Washington on 8th was by far largest gathering reported (BU).

Spotted Redshank:

1 in Budle Bay on 22nd (BG/BRS/JEO). 1 at Monks House on 28th (RN/LGM) was probably same bird.

Greenshank:

Late birds at Alnmouth on 15th (LGM) and at Monks House on 22nd (JDMcE).

Knot:

c10,000 on Fenham Flats on 22nd (BG/JEO et al). 150 at Hauxley on 15th (HRS) and 500+ in the St. Mary's area by 24th (RH et al). 1 inland at Whittle Dene on 29th (J & RMc).

Purple Sandpiper:

40 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS) and 150+ in Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's area by 24th (RH et al).

Dunlin:

On 22nd, c10,000 at Fenham Flats and c3000 in Budle Bay (BG/JEO et al). Colt Crag, where they were present all month, had a max. of 64 on 7th (CW et al). 200+ on Coquet Estuary on 15th and 150 at Cresswell on 22nd (ERM).

Sanderling:

138 on St Mary's on 24th (RH) was by far largest gathering. Up to 35 at many coastal points.

Arctic Skua:

2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 1st (ABl et al), 2 N. off Annstead on 7th (BRS) and 1 off Cresswell on 22nd (TRB/RCT).

Great Skua:

On 7th, off each of Bamburgh (BRS) and Craster (BG) 1, and 2N. off Annstead (BRS).

Pomarine Skua:

On 1st, 1 off Seaton Sluice (ABl/B & ME/HW) and on 7th, 2 N. off Craster (BG) and 3 N. off Annstead (BRS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

A late bird N. off Dunstanburgh on 1st (ERM).

Glaucous Gull:

1 at Hauxley most of month and 2 at Amble on 28th (HRS). A first year N. off Annstead on 8th (BRS) and 1 at Newton on 22nd (JAG).

Little Gull:

A suggestion of a light N. movement on 7th when off Annstead (BRS), Craster (BG) and Hauxley (HRS) and Cresswell (B & TH) a total of 6 adults and 7 immatures were counted in flocks of 5, 5, 2 and 1.

Kittiwake:

Moving N. at the above points on 7th, reaching a peak of 1200 per hour at Annstead (BRS et al).

Little Auk:

2 N. off Annstead on 8th (BRS) and on 15th, 1 N. off Whitburn (RN) and 2 N. off Seaton Sluice (MH).

Auk (sp):

A heavy N. movement off Hauxley on 8th reaching a peak of 700 per hour during a.m. (HRS). Over 60 N. off Seaton Sluice on 15th (ABl et al).

Collared Dove:

A roost of over 300 near Monkseaton during month (MH/KGD).

Barn Owl:

Singles at Radcliffe (14th), Seaton Delaval (15th) and Lynemouth (dead on 22nd).

Long-eared Owl:

Singles at Hauxley, Tynemouth and Sunderland (exhausted) on 7th were obviously part of an influx (HRS/KGD/BU).

Short-eared Owl:

Between 5th - 22nd 9 individuals reported, all in coastal areas, between Fenham Flats and Whitley Bay.

Skylark:

Small coastal movements noted on 10th and 29th (Hauxley) and 22nd (Holy Island area).

Shore Lark:

3 at Whitburn on 8th (RN).

Swallow:

1 S at Hauxley on 1st (HRS) but very late records near end of month involved 2 at Monkseaton on 25th (RH) and 1 at Linnheads Lake on 27th (per ERM).

House Martin:

1 at Alnmouth on 1st (JAG/ERM), 2 at Heddon on 9th (IHA) and 1 at Boulmer on 15th (BW).

Corvidae:

'Huge' roosts at Shaftoe and Warenford during month involved 'thousands' of Rooks and Jackdaws (BG/ERM).

Marsh Tit:

1 - 2 reported from Belsay, Capheaton and Sunderland (ERM/BU).

Nuthatch:

1 at Wallington on 15th (IK).

Dipper:-

1 at Hallington on 22nd (IHA) could be a new locality.

Fieldfare/Redwing/Blackbird:

Small coastal arrivals noted between 1st - 8th at Bamburgh and Hauxley with up to 50 of each.

Stonechat:

4 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS), 1 at Seaton Sluice on 17th (RH), 3 at Newton (JAG) and 1 at Cresswell (ERM) on 22nd.

Blackcap:

At Hauxley, on 7th 1, and another on 10th (HRS) and near Ponteland 5 trapped between 6th - 19th (WGJ).

Chiffchaff:

1 of the Eastern race (tristis) trapped at Hauxley on 7th (HRS) and another on Holy Island on same day may have also been of this race (AJR).

Yellow-browed Warbler:

1 trapped at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Goldcrest:

A slight influx on 7th - 8th with up to 15 at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Grey Wagtail:

Up to 4 at each of Whittle Dene and Durham City during month (IHA/RN). Singles noted at Bolam, Wallsend, Bamburgh and Sunderland.

Waxwing:

The invasion continued throughout month and many reports received from as far inland as Hexham of flocks of up to 30. The Newcastle Exhibition Park flock reached a peak of c140 between 5th - 8th and most of these birds were roosting in Rye Hill (RA et al). Other large flocks involved 200 in Morpeth (per ERM), 150 in Sunderland (BU) and 300 in Spennymore (per JAG). Small flocks were still moving through during early December, but the invasion has clearly passed its peak.

Great Grey Shrike:

Still 1 in the Holywell area on 14th and 21st (GU/CED).

Starling:

Numerous in coastal districts toward the end of month. A survey of the Newcastle roost in mid October by TRB and RCT revealed a total of almost 16,000, over half of which were in the vicinity of the Central Station /Grainger Street.

Siskin:

2 at Hauxley on 8th (HRS), 6 at Corbridge on 14th (MR) and 11 in Budle Bay on 22nd (BG/JEO).

Twite:

An unusual number of records. On 15th, 30 - 40 in Alnmouth (B & TH et al), on 21st, 7 in Budle Bay (BRS), on 28th, 35 on Holy Island (LGM/RN) and up to 9 in the Coquet Estuary during the month (JAG/ERM).

Brambling:

Only 5 records, involving small flocks of up to 6 birds.

Lapland Bunting:

2 flew S over St. Mary's area on 17th (RH).

Snow Bunting:

60 - 70 at Ross Links on 22nd (BG/JEO) was by far largest flock but up to 8 in 7 other coastal areas during month.

Flamingo:

The Colt Crag bird was last seen on 22nd (IHL et al). 7

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C. E. Douglas.	L. G. McFarlane.	Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing
B & M. Etherington.	J & R McCutcheon.	Stations.

All December records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE157RD by 8th January 1971 please.

NOTE:

Tim Birkhead, a club member and zoology student at Newcastle University, is collecting birds' heads and skulls as part of a project. He would be grateful, if any finds could be sent to him at the Department of Zoology, The University, Newcastle NE17RU and is particularly interested in Divers, Ducks, Geese, Swans, Waders and Gulls. Postage will be refunded but please do not send anything until after 12th January 1971. Specimens could also be collected.

PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY CLUB MEETINGS:

JANUARY, THURSDAY 14TH - Quiz by J. Ginnever.

FEBRUARY, THURSDAY 11TH - M. Bayldon is to give a talk on 'Bird Watching in Turkey'.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL TYNESIDE CLUB MEMBERS.

Starling: Numerous in coastal districts toward the end of month. / survey of the Newcastle coast in mid October by TMS and MCT revealed a total of almost 15,000, over half of which were in the vicinity of the Central Station / Gillingham Street.

Starling: 2 at Haskley on 8th (MRS), 2 at Gillingham on 14th (MR) and 11 in Bugle Bay on 22nd (MR/MS).

Twitter: An unusual number of records. On 15th, 30 - 35 in Gillingham (S & M et al), on 21st, 7 in Bugle Bay (MRS); on 22nd, 35 on Holy Island (MRS) and up to 9 in the Guller Battery during the month (JAG/MS).

Breastling: Only 3 records, involving small flocks of up to 6 birds.

Lapland Bunting: 2 at 8 even St. Mary's area on 17th (MR).

Snow Bunting: 60 - 70 at Rose Links on 22nd (MR/MS) was by far largest flock but no to 8 in 7 other coastal areas during month.

Thrush: The Gold Thrush was last seen on 22nd (M et al).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS:

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Mr. M. Adamson.	Mr. Galloway.	Mr. Watterson.
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Mr. Blackett.	Mr. T. Hallam.	Mr. J. P. O'Brien.
Mr. M. Bayliss.	Mr. Higson.	Mr. Richardson.
Mr. Gray.	Mr. Hildreth.	Mr. J. Richards.
Mr. Gray.	Mr. Hodgson.	Mr. R. Smith.
Mr. S. Heffer.	Mr. Johnson.	Mr. C. Taylor.
Mr. H. Hinkley.	Mr. Kerr.	Mr. Unwin.
Mr. W. E. Gurnea.	Mr. Lobbey.	Mr. Upton.
Mr. Colley.	Mr. H. Mack.	Mr. Watson.
Mr. G. Dimes.	Mr. J. Milton.	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. E. Douglas.	Mr. G. McFarlane.	Mr. Haskley and Edinburgh Kingsley
Mr. M. Richardson.	Mr. J. H. McCutcheon.	Mr. Statton.

All December records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Dorton, Newcastle upon Tyne, N.E.1 1ST JANUARY 1971 please.

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The bird club member and ecology student at Newcastle University, is collecting birds heads and skulls as part of a project. He would be grateful if any birds could be sent to him at the Department of Zoology, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, particularly interested in Bittern, Duck, Gull, Swallow, Wren and Thrush. Postage will be refunded but please do not send anything until after 15th January 1971. Specimens could also be collected.

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Tyneside Bird Club.
Wildfowl Count - 22nd November 1970.

Some 60 stretches of water, divided into 12 groups, were covered by a total of about 40 members and included all of the major areas in Northumberland, N. Durham and 2 lakes (Yetholm and Hoselaw) just over the Scottish border in the North West.

Coastal coverage (between Holy Island and St. Mary's Island) was also attempted with moderate success considering the enormous tasks for the few people involved.

Species omitted from the table because of lack of space were as follows :-

Single R.N. Grebes at Holy Island and Alnmouth, a G.C. Grebe at Holy Island, Little Grebes Grindon (1) and Lynemouth (2), 4 Gadwall at Budle Bay, 3 Scaup at Holy Island, 1 Smew at Hoselaw and 1 Barnacle Goose at Colt Crag.

Of the 53 Divers recorded single G.N. and B.T. Divers were noted off Holy Island and Bamburgh respectively.

The waters that drew a blank were Ryal, Linnheads, Little Swinburn, Killingworth, Hisehope and Burnhope. Tunstall produced 1 Goosander while Lilburn, Fenton and Pawston had an aggregate total of 200 Mallard, 65 Teal, 50 Wigeon, 3 Tufted, 2 Pochard, 2 Mute Swan and 22 Coot. Holborn Moss was not covered on the actual day but on 15th November there were 250 Mallard, 160 Teal, 1500 Wigeon, 14 Pintail, 5 Tufted Duck, 3 Goldeneye, 430 Grey Lags, 3 Pink Feet and 4 Bewicks Swans whilst on 21st 7 White Fronts were seen on the Lindisfarne Reserve.

It is proposed to conduct another count, perhaps on an even larger scale, in late February 1971 to obtain a comparison with the current observations. Numbers of Tufted, Pochard, Goldeneye and Goosander should have increased by then but it will be interesting to note whether the current large numbers of Mallard, Teal, Wigeon, Whooper Swan and Grey Lag Goose will be maintained.

As a final comment both the field secretary and the recorder would like to thank everyone who participated and hope that at least as many members will turn out in February.

Wildfowl Count - 22nd November 1970
Tyneside Bird Club

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Coastal coverage (between Holy Island and St. Mary's Island) was also attempted with moderate success considering the enormous tasks for the few people involved.

Species omitted from the table because of lack of space were as follows:-

Single R.N. Grebe at Holy Island and Alnmouth, a G.C. Grebe at Holy Island, Little Grebes Grindon (1) and Pennington (2), 4 Gadwall at Angle Bay, 3 Scup at Holy Island, 1 Swan at Houshaw and 1 Barrow's Goose at Coit Craig.

Of the 55 Divers recorded at St. Mary's, St. Mary's and St. Mary's were noted off Holy Island and Bamburgh respectively.

The waters that drew a blank were Rye, Linnhead, Little Swinburn, Kilhampton, Hiscope and Barnaby. Tunstall produced 1 Goosander while Alnmouth, Norton and Pennington had an aggregate total of 200 Mallard, 65 Teal, 50 Wigeon, 3 Tufted, 2 Pochard, 2 White Swan and 22 Goof. Holborn Moss was not covered on the total day but on 15th November there were 250 Mallard, 160 Teal, 150 Wigeon, 14 Pintail, 5 Tufted Duck, 5 Goldeneye, 450 Grey Lag, 3 Pink Feet and 4 Hawick Swans whilst on 15th 7 White Fronts were seen on the Lindisfarne Reserve.

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An official comment both the field secretary and the recorder would like to thank everyone who participated and hope that at least as many members will turn out in February.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

DECEMBER 1970 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

The appearance of an immature Ivory Gull and an adult Ross's Gull at the mouth of the Tyne on the 18th and 24th respectively were undoubtedly the highlights of the month.

Close views were obtained of both species on each side of the river and although the Ross's has not been seen since the turn of the year, the Ivory was still present on 16th January. One can only speculate as to how they ever reached us but strong N. winds blowing directly from the Arctic pack ice on 2nd/3rd and again on 22nd may have been responsible.

The cold Northerly airstream, combined with rough conditions in the North Sea between 22nd - 31st forced many seabirds close to the shore and large numbers of Divers, Fulmars and Ducks were moving N. 3 species of Skua were also noted together with a few Little Auks and some small parties of waders.

Of the many other interesting records received 2 lots of White Fronted Geese, a possible Gyr Falcon, a Black Tailed Godwit, a Grey Phalarope, an Iceland Gull, a Mediterranean Gull, an exceptionally late Swallow and a large flock of Snow Buntings all deserve special mention.

Early January has not been without interest. A Crane appeared at Alnmouth on 9th and was still present on 17th and the general feeling amongst those who have seen it is that it is not an escape from captivity.

Black-throated Diver:

An unusual number off St. Mary's where 4 S. on 5th/6th and 12 N. between 24th - 28th (JDP). 1 at Bamburgh on 6th (BRS) and 1 off Holy Island on 28th (AJR).

Great Northern Diver:

Off Holy Island up to 4 between 25th - 30th (LGM/ERM/RN et al). Off St. Mary's 1 S. on 6th and 3 S. on 27th/28th (JDP).

Red-throated Diver:-

Up to 4 off 7 different points on coast during month. A heavy N. movement between 24th - 30th; e.g. 43 N. in 2 hours off St. Mary's on 24th (JDP) and 16 N. off Cresswell in half-an-hour on 30th (BG/ERM).

Great Crested Grebe:

1 off Holy Island on 26th and 30th (ERM/BU).

Red-necked Grebe:

Between 25th - 30th up to 6 on Holy Island area (LGM et al).

Slavonian Grebe:

1 off Holy Island on 4th (ERM) and 7 off Bamburgh on 6th (BRS).

Black-necked Grebe:

1 in Gosforth Park on 3rd (MRS).

Little Grebe:

Singles reported from Gosforth, Holywell, Ovington (River Tyne), Hamsterley (River Derwent) and Grindon between 12th - 26th.

Fulmar:

Unusual numbers moving N. during last few days with 32 N. in 2 hours at St. Mary's on 27th (JDP) and 50 N. in 15 minutes off Cresswell on 30th (BG/ERM).

Gannet:

2 off Seahouses on 27th (ERM) and 2 N. off Cresswell on 30th (BG/ERM).

Cormorant:

As many as 10 on River Tyne at Ryton on 31st (J & RMcC).

Shag:

1 circled Holywell Ponds on 5th but did not settle (CED).

Heron:

Derwent Reservoir had a max. of 19 on 5th (J & RMcC et al). 7 at Hallington on 13th (WB/RG/EL) and no more than 3 noted at 4 other localities.

Mallard:

Flocks in excess of 150 were as follows; 1100 in Budle Bay on 24th (AJR), 600 at Gosforth on 3rd (MRS), 393 at Derwent on 23rd (RN), 415 (including 2 white birds) at Colt Crag on 22nd (CMA) when 250 at Whittle Dene (J & RMcC). 200 at each of Holywell 12th (CED) and Holburn Moss on 26th (ERM).

Teal:

On 3rd, 200+ at Gosforth (MRS) on 4th, 110 on Holy Island (until 28th), on 5th, 130 at Holywell (CED), on 6th, 200 in Budle Bay (BRS), on 26th, 100 at Holburn Moss (ERM). Smaller numbers elsewhere and in the S. of the Northumberland county a steady decline as the month progressed. 61 N. off St. Mary's in two hours on 27th (JDP).

Wigeon:

Still in the region of 15 - 20,000 in Fenham Flats area on 8th (BG/BM). 155 at Derwent on 23rd (RN) and 80 at Holywell on 26th (GU). Smaller numbers at 5 other waters. Off St. Mary's 601 N. in three-and-a-half hours on 22nd/23rd (JDP).

Pintail:

Budle Bay/Fenham Flats had a maximum of 60+ on 6th (BRS). 1 S. off Cresswell on 30th (BG/ERM).

Shoveler:

At Gosforth Park 15 on 3rd and 9 on 16th (MRS). 1 at Colt Crag on 22nd (CMA). No other records.

Scaup:

A heavy N. movement noted off St. Mary's between 22nd - 27th when in a total of seven-and-a-half hours 333 were counted (JDP). 1 inland at Capheaton on 13th (CMA) and a pair at Holburn Moss on 26th (ERM).

Tufted Duck:

Max. counts were during period 13th - 16th when 71 at Capheaton (CMA). 70 at Gosforth (MRS) and 78 at Holywell (CED/GU). Up to 40 at many other waters. Not often seen over the sea but 4 N. off Cresswell on 30th (BG/ERM).

Pochard:

106 at Capheaton on 13th (CMA) was by far largest concentration.

Goldeneye:

327 N. off St. Mary's in 7½ hours between 22nd - 27th (JDP). Double figures were recorded at Derwent 26 (max) on 5th (RN), Whittle Dene 12 (max.) on 6th (J & RMcC), Budle Bay 18 (max.) on 6th (BRS), Bolam 10 on 19th (MRS) and Tweedmouth 85 on 26th (MN/RN).

Long-tailed Duck:

Bamburgh showed a max. of 60+ on 4th (ERM et al). Up to 4 off several points N. of Alnmouth. Off St. Mary's 46 N. between 23rd - 27th (JDP) and 6 N. off Cresswell on 30th (BG/ERM).

Common Scoter:

60 off Bamburgh on 8th (BG/BM) and a female came down on Cresswell Ponds on 30th (ERM/BG).

Velvet Scoter:

4 N. off St. Mary's on 23rd (JDP).

Red-breasted Merganser:

A max. of 12 in the Holy Island area on 28th (RA et al). Up to 5 off several points N. of Alnmouth and on 23rd, 6 N. off St. Mary's (JDP et al).

Goosander:

84 at Broomlee Lough on 12th was a very large count for the time of year and is probably the largest recorded gathering for that area (LGM). Whittle Dene had a max. of 12 on 20th - 22nd (IK/J & RMCC) and Derwent a max. of 18 on 23rd (RN). On 13th, 7 at Colt Crag and 6 at Capheaton (MR) whilst at the coast 3 N. off St. Mary's on 22nd - 24th (JDP), 2 in Beal/Budle Bay area on 27th and 7 at Alnmouth on 30th (BG/ERM).

Shelduck:

Between 23rd - 28th, 206 N. off St. Mary's (JDP) and on 26th, 320 in Budle Bay/Fenham Flats area (RN).

Grey Geese (sp):

£ N. at Cresswell on 5th (JKJ).

Grey Lag Goose:

4 at Hartley on 4th (HW), 27 N. at Fenham Flats on 8th (BG/BM) and 19 in Budle Bay on 26th (RN). 300 at Hartburn on 15th (CMA) when 21 flew over Fontburn. 1 at Holywell on 19th (CED).

White-fronted Goose:

12 at Cresswell Pond on 19th (J & RMCC) and 5 flew N. off Sunderland next day (BU).

Brent Goose:

The Holy Island flock increased from 200 to 500 during month. On 27th, 4 of the flock were dark breasted birds (ERM/LGM et al). 1 N. off St. Mary's on 23rd (JDP).

Barnacle Goose:

1 with 39 Canada Geese at Colt Crag on 13th (MR).

Mute Swan:

40 on Fenham Flats on 20th (RA et al).

Whooper Swan:

The Fenham Flats flock decreased from c300 on 6th (LGM) to only c30 by 27th (ERM et al). The Holywell flock also steadily decreased from 82 on 5th to nil by 28th (CED). 51 at Broomlee Lough on 12th (LGM), 15 at Capheaton and 10 at Colt Crag on 13th (MR) and 5 at Alnmouth on 19th (J & RMCC). 10 at Wingates on 15th and 15 at Grindon on 24th (CMA).

Bewick's Swan:

3 immatures at Cresswell Ponds on 30th (RG/ERM).

Sparrow Hawk:

Singles reported from Corbridge, Wallsend, Gosforth and Ravensworth.

Merlin:

3 - 4 in the Holy Island/Budle Bay area at end of month (LGM et al). 1 near Wooler on 24th (AJR).

Gyr Falcon:

Unconfirmed reports of 1 in the Fenham Flats area during month (BU et al).

Water Rail:

Gosforth Park provided only record with 1 on 3rd (MRS).

Coot:
390 at Broomlee on 12th (LGM) and 40 at Tweedmouth on 26th (MN/RN). Up to 60 at several waters.

Lapwing:
500 at Holywell on 13th 0 19th was largest flock reported (CED).

Grey Plover:
c200 on Fenham Flats on 8th (BG/BM).

Golden Plover:
500 on Holy Island on 8th (BG/BM) and 400 at Whittle Dene on 20th (IK).

Snipe:
40 at Alnmouth on 19th was largest gathering reported (J & RMCC).

Jack Snipe:
1 at Whittle Dene on 6th (J & RMCC) and 3 at Alnmouth on 30th (ERM/BG).

Black-tailed Godwit:
An unusually late record of 1 at Fenham Flats on 8th (BG/BM).

Bar-tailed Godwit:
7 - 8000 on Fenham Flats/Budle Bay during month (per ERM).

Green Sandpiper:
1 at Whittle Dene during month (JSB/J & RMCC et al) and on 5th, 1 on River Tyne at Dilston may have been same bird (LGM).

Spotted Redshank:
1 in Budle Bay on 6th (LGM/BRS) was no doubt last month's bird.

Knot:
c700 at St. Mary's on 12th and 25th (ERM/GU) 2 - 300 at Bamburgh from 4th - 8th (BG/BM et al). 120 on Holy Island on 20th (RA et al) and 100+ in Amble Harbour on 30th (BG/ERM).

Purple Sandpiper:
70+ at St. Mary's on 12th (ERM) was by far largest gathering, but 175 N. in three hours at same place on 23rd (JDP).

Dunlin:
322 at Amble on 19th was largest recorded count (J & RMCC). Still 20 at Colt Crag on 1st falling to 6 by 13th (RG et al). 366 N. in five hours on 23rd/24th off St. Mary's (JDP).

Sanderling:
c40 at St. Mary's on 25th (GU) was largest flock reported.

Grey Phalarope:
1 in Seahouses Harbour between 3rd - 6th (BRS/ERM/WGJ).

Arctic Skua:
Single late birds N. off Hauxley on 7th (HRS) and off St. Mary's on 23rd (JDP).

Great Skua:
A late bird N. off St. Mary's on 23rd (JDP).

Pomarine Skua:
3 late birds N. off St. Mary's on 23rd (JDP).

Ivory Gull:
An immature bird in either its first or second winter was first seen at South Shields on 18th. It was subsequently seen on innumerable occasions at both North and South Shields and provided many observers with excellent views. It was still present in mid.

January favouring the area between North Shields Fish Quay and the Black Middens. This seems to be the third Northumberland record, the first this century, and the second for Durham (F. Grey/RA/MB et al).

Common Gull:

Two large gatherings were 1200 near Warkworth on 20th (ERM) and 2000+ at South Shields on 31st (RA/LGM).

Glaucous Gull:

1 in the Hauxley/Amble area throughout month (HRS/LGM). 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 12th (ERM), 1 S. off Alnmouth on 19th (J & RMcC), single juveniles off St. Mary's on 21st and 27th (JDP) and 1 at South Shields on 26th (J & RMcC).

Iceland Gull:

1 at the mouth of Tyne on 20th was a sub-adult (RA/LGM/BU/IHA et al).

Mediterranean Gull:

The adult was again seen on Holy Island on 8th (BG/BM) and 25th -27th (ERM/LGM et al).

Ross's Gull:

An adult was first seen at South Shields on 24th by RA et al and subsequently on both sides of the mouth of the Tyne until 31st. Many observers were fortunate to see this, only the 8th British, second Northumberland and first Durham records, and some feel that 2 separate individuals may have been involved. I have no record of the bird(s) having been seen in January and as yet there is no confirmatory evidence to conclude that 2 birds were involved.

Little Auk:

Off St. Mary's 7 N. on 23rd and 1 N. on 27th (JDP). 2 flew on to the Flats at Holy Island on 26th (ERM/LGM).

Wood Pigeon:

1000+ flew N. over South Shields during very cold weather on 31st (RA/LGM).

Long-eared Owl:-

3 at the Prestwick Carr roost on 5th (ERM) and 3 at Ravensworth on 18th (LJM).

Short-eared Owl:

2 at Elswick on 6th (LGM) and singles at Fenham Flats (BG), Holywell (CED/GU) and Budle Bay (ERM) during month.

Sky Lark:

Moving N. at South Shields at 60 - 80 per hour during the morning of 31st (RA/LGM).

Shore Lark:

3 at Whitburn on 29th (RN).

Swallow:

1 at Cresswell on 5th (JKJ) is the latest record since 1954 when 1 was at Berwick on 31st.

Hooded Crow:

1 in Budle Bay on 6th (BRS) and 26th (LGM) and 1 at Klondyke on 29th (LGM).

Dipper:

A most unusual record of 1 in Gosforth Park on 5th (HW).

Redwing:

A light N. movement over South Shields on 31st (RA/LGM).

Stonechat:

1 at Seaton Sluice on 12th and 17th (CED/JKJ) and 2 at Cresswell on 20th (GU).

Grey Wagtail:
1 in Wallsend Park on 7th and 17th (JSB).

Waxwing:

Small parties of up to 10 continued to be seen throughout month but a general decline was noted as month progressed particularly at South Shields (40 down to 6) in a few days after 1st and at Sunderland (150 down to nil in the first week). (RA/BU et al).

Great Grey Shrike:

1 near Belford on 11th (per AB1) and 1 near Hexham on 12th (per IHA).

Starling:

A few thousand moved N. over South Shields during cold weather on 31st (RA).

Goldfinch:

A sizeable flock of 30+ near Matfen on 19th (MRS).

Siskin:

Up to 4 at each of Corbridge, Colt Crag, Milbourn, Amble and Budle Bay during month and on 8th, 15 at Fenham le Moor (BG/BM et al).

Twite:

2 flocks totalling c55 in the Holy Island area on 27th (ERM/LGM et al). 5 at Hexham on 5th 6th (AJR) and 7 in Budle Bay on 6th (BRS). 2 at Amble on 30th (HRS).

Brambling:

20 near Henshaw on 12th (LGM) was the largest flock reported.

Snow Bunting:

500 - 650 at Whitburn/South Shields between 20th - 29th (IHA/RN/BU et al). Flocks of up to 12 at 6 other places between Fenham Mill and Holywell Ponds.

Tree Sparrow:

40 - 50 at Killingworth on 18th (JDMcE) was largest flock reported.

List of Contributors:

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All January records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE 15 7 RD by 8th February 1971 please:

Duck Count 21st February, 1971:

A repeat of the outing on 22nd November 1970 when leaders will be as follows:-

Holy Island/Budle Bay - B. Galloway, J. E. Orton.
N. W. Northumberland - M. Nattrass, C. Ward.
Fontburn/Hartburn/Bolam etc - C. M. Adamson, M. Hodgson.
Northumberland Loughs - L. G. McFarlane, R. Adams.
Colt Crag/Whittle Dene etc - I. H. Armstrong.
Cresswell/Ashington areas - L. Gray, W. Johnson.
Holywell/Gosforth/ Seaton Burn etc - C. E. Douglas.
Tynemouth - Cresswell (coast) - T. Birkhead.
Cresswell - Amble (coast) - L. Gray, W. Johnson.
Amble - Beadnell (coast) - M. Rigby.
Beadnell - Bamburgh (coast) - P. Hawkey.
Berwick - River Tweed - E. R. Meek.

Any member wishing to participate please contact either the respective area leader or the Field Secretary - E. R. Meek, 5 Elm Road, Chaviot View, Ponteland.