

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

JANUARY 1971

SUMMARY

An interesting month in which the appearance of a Crane and the continued stay of the Ivory Gull were the most exciting events.

Because of the postal strike the Met. Office weather charts were not available for consultation but it did not seem to be cold weather that was responsible for an apparent movement of Little Grebes, Bewicks Swans, Coots, Lapwings, Golden Plover, and Snipe between 9th and 17th, and it was also on 9th that the Crane was first seen.

A light influx of Short-eared Owls was noted towards end of month and on 31st unusual numbers of Fulmars and Gannets were moving off-shore.

Duck numbers were remarkably high, particularly Mallard, Teal and Tufted Duck and Gosforth Park held almost 1800 waterfowl towards end of month.

Three records of Smew in the same month could be unprecedented, particularly when 3 birds found together, and Brent Geese reached their Winter maximum at Fenham Flats in mid-month.

Other interesting species included Black-necked Grebe, Bittern, Spotted Redshank, Great Grey Shrike and of course Waxwings and Twite.

The February bulletin should appear within a short time and will include results of the 'waterfowl' count conducted on 21st.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Great Northern Diver:-

1 or 2 off Ross on 1st (LGM), 1 off Holy Island on 3rd and 31st (RA/ERM et al) and 1 off Cresswell on 10th (ERM).

Red-throated Diver:-

Between 1 and 5 off Berwick, Alnmouth, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn during month.

Great Crested Grebe:-

Off Alnmouth 3 on 2nd (LGM) and 1 on 16th/17th. Off Seaton Sluice 1 on 7th and 16th (B & ME).

Red-necked Grebe:-

5 off Holy Island on 31st (RA/RAK).

Black-necked Grebe:-

1 on sea between Annstead and Beadnell on 3rd (MLH).

Little Grebe:-

3 of the 5 records were of birds on rivers with 1 on the Wansbeck, Morpeth, and 1 on the Aln, Alnmouth, on 17th and 6 on the Tyne between Corbridge and Hexham on 23rd (ERM/LGM). Others were of singles at Broomlee and Whittle Dene on 16th.

Fulmar:-

Moving N. at 100/hr. off Whitburn on 31st (BU).

Gannet:-

A single bird off Amble on 16th and an unusually heavy movement noted on 31st when 40 flew N. off Seaton Sluice (LGM).

Heron:-

Many records of up to 4 from inland and at the coast. 7 was the largest party, at Derwent on 9th (RN).

Bittern:-

A single bird again noted at Holywell Ponds on 23rd and 31st, (CED) for third successive Winter.

Cormorant:-

Recorded as far up the River Tyne as Blaydon on 7th (IK) and 12 on Tweed at Berwick on 3rd (ERM).

Mallard:-

Still large numbers present with maxima at each water as follows:- 1000 at Gosforth Park on 24th and 29th (FC/BG), 1000 at Colt Crag on 17th (RG/WB/EL), 595 at Derwent on 9th (RM), 400 at Whittle Dene on 2nd (J & RMCC/AJR), 350 at Holywell on 1st (CED), 300 at Hoselaw on 17th (MN/CW) and 200 off Cresswell on 10th (ERM). Up to 150 at many other waters.

Teal:-

Concentrations in excess of 60 were as follows:- 300 - 500 in Gosforth Park on 24th - 29th (FC/BG), 225 at Colt Crag on 24th (AJR), 150 in Budle Bay on 9th and 24th (BRS) and 100 at each of Holy Island, Cresswell and Capheaton between 10th - 17th.

Gadwall:-

2 at Killingworth on 18th (JDMcE).

Wigeon:-

900 in the Fenham Flats/Budle Bay area on 23rd was largest gathering reported (BRS), but some large inland flocks, with a max. of 267 at Derwent on 31st (RN/RG et al), max. 150 at Whittle Dene on 2nd (AJR), 150 at Hoselaw on 17th (MN/CW), max. 130 at Holywell on 16th and 100 at Gosforth on 29th (FC).

Pintail:-

Budle Bay where they were present most of month, contained a max. of 35 on 23rd (BRS). Elsewhere 2 at Cresswell on 10th (ERM), 1 at Grindon on 16th (LGM) and 2 at Holywell on 17th (CED).

Shoveler:-

3 records. 2 at Capheaton on 17th (CMA), 2 at Gosforth on 29th (FC) and 1 at Grindon on 31st (WGJ).

Scaup:-

2 - 4 in Amble Harbour between 9th and 23rd (J & RMCC et al). Elsewhere 1 at Cresswell on 10th (ERM), 1 at Seaton Sluice on 24th (LGM) and 1 inland at Gosforth on 24th (BG).

Tufted Duck:-

283 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (LGM) was by far largest concentration. - 80 at Gosforth Park on 29th (FC), max. 65 at Holywell on 7th (B & ME) and 57 at Hartburn on 17th were only other flocks in excess of 50.

Pochard:-

The largest counts were 60 at Hoselaw on 17th (MN/CW), 40 at Gosforth on 29th (FC) and 32 at Derwent on 9th (RN).

Goldeneye:-

The River Tweed produced highest concentration with 65 at Berwick on 3rd (ERM). 30 were at Broomlee on 16th (LGM), 19 at Derwent on 9th (RN), max. 18 at Whittle Dene on 10th (J & RMCC) and 15 at Capheaton on 17th (CMA). Up to 12 noted at many other waters.

Long-tailed Duck:-

Max. of 8 off Bamburgh on 24th (BRS) and 6 off Holy Island on 31st (RA/RAK).

Velvet Scoter:-

1 off Ross on 23rd (BRS) was only record.

Common Scoter:-

Max. of 55 off Bamburgh on 23rd (BRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:-

Up to 5 noted off Holy Island, Bamburgh and St. Mary's during month.

Goosander:-

Max. counts were 41 at Derwent on 9th (RN), 36 at Whittle Dene on 10th (J & RMCC), 27 at Greenlee on 9th (LGM), 24 at Colt Crag on 24th (AJR) and 17 on Tyne near Hexham on 3rd and 23rd. Up to 10 noted at several other waters including River Aln at Alnmouth.

Smew:-

Present at Whittle Dene all month with max. of 3 (all 'redheads') between 20th - 30th (LGM/CMA et al). A 'redhead' was also at Greenlee on 16th and a drake was in Budle Bay next day (LGM).

Shelduck:-

Budle Bay/Fenham Flats contained a max. of 512 on 17th (LGM). 1 at Holywell Pond and 5 off Seaton Sluice on 7th were unusual (B & ME).

Grey Lag Goose:-

65 at Hoselaw Loch on 17th (MN/CW) and a max. of 56 on Budle Bay on 24th/25th (BRS). Up to 56 in the Grindon area for most of month (LGM/WGJ) and 1 at Alnmouth on 10th (ERM).

Pink-footed Goose:-

46 in Budle Bay on 17th (LGM).

Brent Goose:-

400 on Fenham Flats for most of month with a max. of 800 - 1000 on 15th (BM et al).

Mute Swan:-

On 3rd, 60 at Beal and 43 at Berwick (ERM).

Whooper Swan:-

The largest numbers were present at beginning of month. On 3rd, max. 71 on the Holy Island area and 76 in Coldstream - Norham area and it was on 1st that a max. of 39 was at Holywell. On 9th, 38 were on the Northumberland Loughs in the west. 21 at Linton on 29th (CA) was only other count in excess of 15.

Bewicks Swan:-

More records than is usual. On 1st, 5 on Fenham Flats (LGM), on 9th/10th, 5 at Monks House, Seahouses (MLH/BRS), on 15th, 2 on Holy Island (BM) and on 24th, 7 in Budle Bay (BRS). Between 9th - 24th, 7 in Cresswell - Linton area (CMA/J & RMCC/ERM) and on 9th, 15 at Holywell Ponds (CED).

Sparrow Hawk:-

Singles reported from Alnmouth, Ponteland and Havannah.

Hen Harrier:-

A male in Kielder Forest on 24th (ERM).

Merlin:-

Singles in Holy Island, Fenham Flats, Ross and Budle Bay areas and also at Alnmouth and Cresswell between 1st - 24th.

Red Grouse:-

Very common on Allendale fells early in month (ERM).

Common Crane:-

A single, strong-flying bird provided many observers with excellent views as it remained in fields to S. of Alnmouth from 9th until at least 23rd (ERM et al).

Water Rail:-

1 at Fenham Mill on 1st was only record (LGM).

Coot:-

Max. counts were, at Holywell 65 on 17th and 23rd (CED) and at Broomlee 56 on 16th (LGM). More unusual records involved 10 in Berwick Harbour on 3rd (ERM), 13 in Budle Bay on 17th (LGM), 1 at Holy Island causeway on 15th, 25 in Amble Harbour on 9th (J & RMCC) and 9 on Quarry Pond, Whitley Bay on same day (JDMcE). Very few in Bolam/Capheaton areas on 17th (CMA).

Lapwing:-

Some large flocks, with 1000 at Whittle Dene on 10th and 17th and at Holywell on 29th (JSB/FC). 1500 at Holy Island on 15th (BM) and 600 at Pegswood on 17th (ERM).

Grey Plover:-

3 at each of Cresswell on 10th and at Hauxley on 17th (ERM). 1 at Ross on 10th (MLH/DL).

Golden Plover:-

1000-1200 at Whittle Dene between 10th - 17th (JSB/J & RMCC et al), 150 at Fenham Le Moor on 10th and 200 at Hauxley on 17th (MLH/DL).

Curlew:-

55 at Holy Island on 3rd was largest reported flock (ERM).

Woodcock:-

1 at Holywell Ponds on 1st (CED).

Common Snipe:-

An apparent influx noted at Holywell on 16th with at least 55 present (CED) and 45 at Alnmouth next day (BG).

Jack Snipe:-

On 17th, 1 in Budle Bay (LGM) and 2 at Alnmouth (ERM).

Green Sandpiper:-

1 at Whittle Dene all month (LGM/J & RMCC et al).

Spotted Redshank:-

1 again seen in Seahouses/Budle Bay area on 9th and 17th (BRS/LGM).

Knot:-

At least 1000 at St. Mary's by 29th (B & ME). On 9th, 250 on Coquet Island (ERM) and 90 in Amble Harbour (J & RMCC) and on 31st, 60 at Newton (RA/RAK).

Sanderling:-

60 at Whitburn on 31st was an unusual number for that area (BU).

Ivory Gull:-

The immature, first reported in December was still present at mouth of Tyne on 23rd.

Glaucous Gull:-

1 - 2 at Amble until 9th and on the latter, 1 at Holywell (LGM/J & RMCC/CED).

Short-eared Owl:-

Up to 4 in Killingworth area during month with peak on 29th (FC/JDMcE). 2 - 3 at Linton on 29th (CMA) and singles at Holy Island, Alnmouth, Hauxley and Holywell Ponds between 10th - 25th. 1 at Norham on 3rd.

Kingfisher:-

1 at Hexham on 23rd (LGM).

Skylark:-

Flock of 100 on Holy Island on 3rd (ERM).

Hooded Crow:-

1 at Ross on 1st (LGM).

Marsh Tit:-

Reported from Norham and Morpeth.

Stonechat:-

2 at Birling Carrs on 2nd (LGM).

Grey Wagtail:-

1 - 2 noted at Morpeth, Whittle Dene and Hexham during month.

Waxwing:-

Small flocks still present, with 12 at Westerhope on 1st (IK), 8 at Clara Vale on 11th (J & RMcC), 7 in Durham City on 21st (JAG) and singles at Annstead, Ponteland, South Shields and Sunderland.

Great Grey Shrike:-

1 near Belsay on 9th (WGJ).

Siskin:-

A flock of 50 in Allendale, near Sinderhope, on 28th (RG/WB/EL) and 8 at Bolam on 17th (CMA).

Twite:-

40 on Holy Island on 3rd (ERM), 30 at Amble on 9th (J & RMcC) and 6 at Alnmouth on 10th (ERM).

Redpoll:-

50 near Dilston on 23rd (LGM).

Brambling:-

16 at Aydon, Nr. Corbridge on 3rd was largest reported flock (RG/EL).

Snow Bunting:-

65 at Whitburn on 30th (RN) was largest flock but 34 at Killingworth on 13th (JDMcE) and 20 at Peterlee on 20th (JAG). Up to 14 also noted at Ross, Alnmouth and North Seaton.

Tree Sparrow:-

Flock of 150 at Annstead on 3rd (MLH).

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Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All records for March (and any remaining for January and February) to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE 15 7 RD by 8th April 1971 at the latest please.

NEXT CLUB MEETING:-

Please note that as the Annual General Meeting of the Club is combined with the Dinner this year the next Club Meeting in the Medical School Lecture Theatre will be on Thursday, 13th May, 1971 at 7.15.p.m. We hope to have Dr. David Bellamy from Durham University as our speaker on that evening.

FIELD TRIP TO HOLY ISLAND

SUNDAY, 18TH APRIL, 1971

A Field Meeting will be held on Holy Island on this date. The tides allow a crossing after 11.30.a.m. and we will meet in the village square at 12 noon. Will all those wishing to attend write to E. R. MEEK, 5 ELM ROAD, CHEVIOT VIEW, PONTELAND. Transport will be by car and anyone needing a lift should indicate this in their letter.

B.T.O. ATLAS:-

The B.T.O. Ornithological Atlas Project is now entering the fourth of its five years. At the end of three seasons about 91 per cent of the 10 Km. squares in England, 85 per cent of those in Wales and 66 per cent of those in the Republic of Ireland have been well covered. However 59 per cent of those on Northern Ireland and 66 per cent of those in Scotland are still virtually untouched and much work remains to be done there. Club members who intend visiting other parts of the country during the Summer are reminded that a tremendous amount of information can be collected (and indeed, has been collected) from casual visits to unfamiliar localities. Any person requiring information on the project should contact me at the next Club Meeting.

Turning now to our local contribution to the project, it is very encouraging to record that of a total of 70 10 Km. squares in Northumberland additional information to 68 of those squares was obtained in 1970. The number of squares with over 50 species recorded now stands at 54 - but there is still much work to be done and offers to cover specific areas or assist on a casual basis are still required for this coming breeding season. All interested members should see me at the Club Meeting.

(Sgd). Geoff Macfarlane.

PROPOSED ROCK PIPIT SURVEY:-

Owing to a misunderstanding in the size of maps to be incorporated in the Club's Breeding Survey Report 1967 - 68 publication has had to be postponed although by the time this article appears, more encouraging news should be to hand. However one of the results of the Survey was the absence of confirmed breeding of the Rock Pipit on the Northumberland Coastline.

In order to investigate the matter more thoroughly it is proposed to carry out a specific enquiry into the breeding status of the Rock Pipit in Northumberland and if possible, into North Durham, during 1971.

The criteria for determining breeding will be those adopted in the B.T.O. Atlas Project but the Survey is primarily aimed at assessing numbers of breeding (and if possible non-breeding) pairs and observers are invited to cover specific stretches of the coastline. Full details will be given at the next Club Meeting and all interested members should contact me then or at home (28 FOX AND HOUNDS ROAD, FENHAM, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE 5 TEL. 36089). The project will, if necessary, be extended into 1972.

(Sgd.) Geoff. Macfarlane.

/SEE SEPARATE SHEET

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

FEBRUARY 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

February was comparatively mild and such settled conditions were probably responsible for the early disappearance of many Divers and some of the wintering flocks of surface feeding ducks. Diving ducks, probably on return passage through the area, showed a significant increase between 11th - 14th, particularly Goldeneye and Goosander, and inland Shelducks were probably on return passage westward after completing their moult.

Waders also appeared to be moving after mid-month, particularly Lapwings, Golden Plover and Curlew, and by 21st small numbers of Thrushes and Skylarks seemed to be migrating.

The second Club waterfowl count of the Winter was conducted on 21st and some interesting results were obtained, particularly in the Tweed Valley. The detailed results are summarised in a separate table at the end of the report.

Ivory Gull, Bittern, 4 Smew, Greenshank and 50 - 60 Twite were amongst the more unusual sightings in a rather quiet month.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Great Northern Diver:

1 off Holy Island on 13th (J & RMcC), 1 N. off Whitburn on 20th (BU) and 1 off Alnmouth on 21st (MH/KGD).

Red-throated Diver:

1 - 3 off each of Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn during month.

Red-necked Grebe:

1 off Ross Links on 21st (BG et al).

Slavonian Grebe:

6 off Ross Links on 21st (BG et al) and 2 off Bamburgh on 28th (IK).

Black-necked Grebe:

2 at Witton Le Wear on 14th (MR).

Little Grebe:

Singles at Alnmouth, Holywell, Brasside and Derwent and 5 - 6 on the Tyne at Hexham during month.

Cormorant:

2 as far up River Tyne as Wylam on 3rd (DLA) and 6 at Carham, on the Tweed, on 21st. 7 - 8 at Wallsend Swallow Ponds on 30th/21st was most unusual.

Heron:-

Many records of up to 4 from widely scattered localities.

Bittern:

1 at Holywell Ponds until at least 25th (CED/MH) and 2 may have been present on 6th (per CED).

Mallard:

A significant reduction since last month with maximum counts as follows:- 600 at Derwent on 14th (BG), 300 in Budle Bay on 6th (BRS), 250 at Whittle Dene on 7th (IHA) and also in Druridge Bay on 27th (BMn), 200 off St. Mary's on 4th and 22nd (B & ME) and in Gosforth Park on 20th (ERM), 155 at Holywell on 6th (CED) and 119 off Sunderland on 23rd (BU). Up to 100 at many other waters. (See also separate table for 21st). The 2 white birds at Colt Crag in December 1970 were again seen at Sweethope on 13th (RN).

Teal:

A similar reduction noted. 70 at Linton on 28th (RN) was largest flock reported but 40 - 60 were noted at Grindon, Gosforth and Holywell. (See also separate table for 21st).

Wigeon:

The expected decline was not so obvious with 1500 - 1600 still in Budle Bay between 6th - 20th (BRS), 250 at Derwent on 18th (RG/EL), 123 at Grindon on 20th (J & R McC) and 100 at Holywell on 6th (CED) and 300 just over the border at Hoselaw on 14th (AJR). (Also see table for 21st).

Pintail:

Outside 21st (see table) only record was of 3 in Budle Bay on 6th (BRS).

Shoveler:

Single pairs at S. Linton on 14th (ERM) and at Gosforth on 20th (IHA) and 5 at Hoselaw on 14th (AJR). (Also refer to table for 21st).

Scaup:

A pair in Amble harbour on 7th and female remaining until 28th (J & R McC et al). 1 at Middleton Hall on 6th (JMB).

Tufted Duck:

Still some sizeable flocks present although none greater than that of 100 at Holywell on 3rd (B & ME). Other counts in excess of 50 were 60 at Hartburn on 11th - 13th (RN et al) and 60 at Gosforth on 27th (FC). See also table for 21st.

Pochard:

Little change since January although 100 were at Gosforth on 27th (FC). Counts in excess of 25 were received from Capheaton (45 on 14th) and Holywell (30 on 15th and 28th) as well as Gosforth. An unusual record of a drake in Amble Harbour on 7th (J & R McC et al). See also table for 21st.

Goldeneye:

Outside 21st (see table) largest gatherings were; 30 at Derwent on 14th (BG), 28 at Broomlee on 13th (LGM) and 20 at each of Whittle Dene and Hartburn on the same day (RN), and 12 at Capheaton on 14th (ERM). Up to 10 at many other waters, including a few off-shore.

Long-tailed Duck:

On 21st, 20 off Ross (BG et al) and 2 off Hauxley (HRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:

2 - 6 in Alnmouth and Holy Island areas during month but see table for 21st. An unusual record of 1, a drake, at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BG) - see also 1970.

Goosander:

Traditionally the best month of the year for flocking on the rivers, ponds and reservoirs. Maximum counts were 50 at Derwent on 14th (BG), 41 at Whittle Dene on 11th (B & ME), 25 at Wingates on 14th (LGM/ERM), 12 on the Aln at Alnmouth on 28th (RN), 15 at Greenlee on 6th (LGM), and 10 on Tyne at Prudhoe on 10th (AJR). Up to 9 at several other waters including 5 N. off Alnmouth on 7th (BG/ERM). See also table for 21st.

Smew:

3 were again at Whittle Dene, this time for most of month, although on 7th, 4 were seen together and all 'redheads' (PK et al). The 'redhead' that was on the Northumbrian Loughs for most of month (LGM) may have temporarily joined the resident 3 at Whittle Dene on 7th. Also 1 at Witton Le Wear on 14th (MR).

Shelduck:

Away from Fenham Flats/Budle Bay area, interesting records were received from Grindon (2 on 2nd), Sweethope (2 on 11th) and Derwent (5 on 27th). These, together with 5 S. off Whitburn on 20th and 9 N. there on 27th, were probably on return migration after moult.

/Grey Geese

Grey Geese:

An unidentified flock of 30 or more was at Grindon on 22nd (RG/WB/EL).

Grey Lag Goose:

On 12th, 60 - 70 flew NW over Newcastle (BG/MR & ELS), on 13th/14th, 50 were at Hallington (RN et al) and the Budle Bay flock remained at 65 for most of month. See also table for 21st.

Brent Goose:

55 at Holy Island on 7th (LGM et al) and 3 still present on 21st (ERM).

Barnacle Goose:

Again 1 at Colt Crag with 41 Canada's on 21st (MR et al).

Whooper Swan:

An increase since late January as birds begin to return N. Max. counts were; at Fenham Flats 30 on 22nd (ERM), on Holy Island 28 on 13th (J & RMCC), in the Cresswell area 17 on 7th (BMn), at Ashington 21 on 28th (ERM), at Holywell 29 on 28th (CED), at Wingates 20 on 14th with 17 at Capheaton on same day, (ERM/LGM) and at Grindon 32 on 28th (MR). Up to 12 noted at several other waters but also refer to separate table.

Bewick's Swan:

3 at Holywell on 9th (BMn), and 2 in the Hauxley area between 14th - 28th (HRS).

Sparrow Hawk:

1 - 2 noted at Cresswell, Holywell, Gosforth, Hexham and Norham during month.

Merlin:

1 in the Warkworth/Alnmouth areas on 7th (J & RMCC) and 1 at Chollerford on 21st (LGM et al).

Black Grouse:

12 males found in Redesdale on 26th (ERM).

Water Rail:

1 at Bamburgh on 20th was only record.

Coot:

An increase since January with a max. of 80 at Holywell on 21st (CED). Also 122 at Broomlee on 6th (LGM) and 200 at Seaton Burn on 27th (FC). See also table for 21st.

Oyster Catcher:

Largest counts received were on 21st/22nd with 100 at each of Bamburgh and St. Mary's and 200 in Budle Bay. 3 passage birds were at Derwent on 27th (RN) and many were back at their breeding grounds in Tweed Basin by 21st (ERM).

Lapwing:

Further presence of very large flocks suggested heavy passage, with 2000 at Whittle Dene on 11th (B & ME), 1500 in Budle Bay on 6th (BRS) and at Holywell on 25th (MH), 100 at Wark on Tweed on 21st (ERM) and 700 at Birtley on 12th (RN). On 25th visible migration was noted over Kielder area (ERM).

Grey Plover:

c30 on Fenham Flats on 21st (BG et al) and 1 - 4 at Amble after 14th (HRS). 400

Golden Plover:

Probably moving with Lapwings during month. 2000 at Whittle Dene on 11th (B & ME), 400 at Druridge on 28th (RN) and 300 in Budle Bay and on Holy Island on 20th/21st (BRS/BG).

Snipe:

Some sizeable concentrations suggested early passage with 74 at Seahouses on 7th (LGM et al), 70 (the max.) at Holywell on 25th (MH), 40 at Hauxley on 24th (HRS) and 35 at Eshott on 21st (MH). Up to 20 at several other waters.

/Jack Snipe

Jack Snipe:

1 at Bamburgh on 6th (BRS) and 1 at Holywell on 7th (MH).

Curlew:

Also moving N. toward end of month. Holy Island recorded largest numbers with at least 400 moving over Island towards Goswick at dusk on 21st (BG et al).

Green Sandpiper:

1 at Whittle Dene all month (IHA/LGM et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

At least 1000 at Fenham Flats on 21st (BG et al).

Redshank:

Another species that has increased since January as birds move N. again. Cresswell recorded largest concentration with 60 - 70 on 7th (BG/ERM) but smaller flocks were noted at Holywell, St. Mary's, Amble and Alnmouth.

Greenshank:

1 again seen at Alnmouth on 7th (BG/ERM).

Knot:

The St. Mary's flock reached a peak of 1000 on 4th (B & ME). Also a few thousand on Fenham Flats on 21st (BG et al) and 150 - 200 at Bamburgh and Alnmouth during month.

Purple Sandpiper:

At least 100 at St. Mary's on 22nd (B & ME).

Dunlin:

Up to 300 noted at Whitburn, St. Mary's, Hauxley, Amble and Alnmouth during month with several thousand on Fenham Flats on 21st.

Sanderling:

50 at Seaburn on 15th (RA), 40 at St. Mary's on 22nd (B & ME) and also at Whitburn on 23rd (BU).

Gulls:

A huge roost of perhaps 1000,000 on Fenham Flats on 21st (BG/ERM).

Ivory Gull:

The North Shields bird was last reported on 20th (KGD/MH).

Common Gull:

1500 at Widdrington on 28th (ERM).

Glaucous Gull:

Singles immatures noted at North Shields, Chevington, Hauxley and Amble during month. An adult and an immature were together at Seahouses on 20th (BRS).

Iceland Gull:

A second year at North Shields on 13th (MH).

Short-eared Owl:

1 - 2 at Holywell from 4th - 7th (MH/B & ME), 1 - 3 at Killingworth from 15th - 24th (JDMcE), and 1 at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Noted at Bolam, Hallington and Kielder.

Green Woodpecker:

Noted at Kielder.

Skylark:

Moving N. over sea in small flocks at Bamburgh and Ross on 21st (BG et al).

Raven:

Noted at Halleypike and in Cheviots (LGM/ERM et al).

Fieldfare:

A movement suggested between 20th - 28th with 50 at Bamburgh, 30 on Holy Island and 40 at Seaton Delaval.

Song Thrush:

30 on Holy Island on 21st (BG).

Redwing:

20 on Holy Island on 21st (BG).

Stonechat:

2 - 3 in Cresswell area during month (BMn).

Grey Wagtail:

Singles at Washington, Wallsend and Whittle Dene during month.

Waxwing:

Still a few present. 7 at Denton Burn on 4th (JSB), 3 at Cramlington on 7th (BMn), 1 at Killingworth on 6th (FC) and 2 in Darras Hall most of month (per BG).

Great Grey Shrike:

Still 2 in Holywell Dene until 7th (MN et al) and 1 at Plashetts on 25th (ERM). Singles over the Border in Tweed Valley on 14th and 21st.

Goldfinch:

Noted at Wallsend (1) and Tynemouth (4).

Siskin:

5 at Middleton Hall on 6th (JMB).

Twite:

At Holy Island most of month with max. of 50 - 60 on 7th (LGM et al). 3 at Wallsend Swallow on 18th (MH).

Brambling:

At least 30 at Wallington on 5th and 12 at Bolam on 16th (IK/RO).

Yellow Hammer:-

Over 100 at Wallsend Swallow after 18th (MH).

Snow Bunting:

c100 at Whitburn on 20th/21st (BU) and 40 at South Shields on 15th (RA). 12 at Ross on 21st (BG et al).

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Bamburgh & Hauxley Ringing
Stations.

All records for April to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE 15 7 RD by 9th May 1971 please.

Notes at Hallsby and the Church (AM 1884 et al).

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| 20. H. Amundson. | 20. H. Amundson. |

Notes at Hallsby and the Church (AM 1884 et al).

Tyneside Bird Club

Wildfowl Count - 21st February, 1971

Again most of the important waters in Northumberland and North Durham were covered but it is to be regretted that such waters as Capheaton and Bolam Lakes and Lilburn Pond could not be covered. Less effective cover of the coastline was also a pity but these disappointments were largely offset by the very considerable coverage of the River Tweed that was managed together with records from the River Tyne at Hexham and Blaydon.

Wildfowl numbers generally were disappointingly low presumably as a result of the mild weather with Mallard, Wigeon, Eider and Common Scoter numbers well below normal. On the other hand healthy numbers of Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Goosander and Grey Lag Geese were recorded.

Species omitted from the table because of lack of space were as follows:-

Slavonian Grebe (6) Red Necked Grebe (1) and Pintail (6) all from Lindisfarne Reserve. Gadwall (1) at Grindon Lough.

The waters that drew a blank were Tunstall, Hisehope, Havannah, Linn Heads, Little Swinburn and Cowey Sike. Killingworth had 4 Mute Swans, Waskerley 8 Goosander, Smiddyshaw 2 Mallard and Burnhope 5 Goosander.

Few Clubs can boast such comprehensive coverage of the waters in a County the size of Northumberland (with North Durham as well) and it would be of obvious ornithological importance to be able to make these counts a regular feature every year. A further November count should certainly be attempted.

As a final comment the field secretary and recorder would like to thank all those members who took part.

	TWEED ESTUARY	LINDISFARNE RES.	BAMBURGH	DRURIDGE BAY	CRESSWELL-NEWBIGGIN	BLYTH-TYNEMOUTH	R. TWEED (BERWICK-CARHAM)	HOSELAW LOCH	YETHOLM LOCH	KIMMER LOUGH	HARTBURN	WINGATES	ESHOTT	ASHINGTON AREA	HOLYWELL PONDS	SWALLOW PONDS	SEATON BURN	GOSFORTH PARK	WHITILE DENE	PARK DAM/SHIELD-ON-THE-WALL	GRINDON LOUGH	BROOMLEE LOUGH	GRAG/HALLEYPIKE LOUGH	HEXHAM (RIVER)	BLAYDON AREA	BRASSIDE PONDS	DERWENT RESERVOIR	TOTALS (including waters mentioned in Statement)
DIVERS	-	-	1	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
LITTLE GREBE	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5-6	-	-	-	-	9-10
MALLARD	-	35	-	270	130	201	202	40	-	100	24	3	40	19	90	30	18	65	100	2	15	6	4	10	23	8	276	1756
TEAL	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	40	40	1	-	25	-	-	25	-	-	-	15	-	7	365
WIGEON	-	1200	-	104	8	-	6	350	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-	-	40	20	-	80	26	-	-	-	-	196	2041
SHOVELER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
POCHARD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	4	-	10	6	-	23	75	-	1	21	15	-	-	1	22	9	233
TUFTED DUCK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	40	12	-	57	65	24	19	48	-	2	17	30	-	-	6	28	5	428
EIDER	-	93	12	163	38	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	307
CO. SCOTER	-	20	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
LONG T. DUCK	-	20	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
GOLDENEYE	27	1	-	-	-	-	192	15	12	-	5	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	14	-	-	31	-	12	-	-	9	337
SMEW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
R.B. MERGANSER	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	2	2	3	-	-	35	172
GOOSANDER	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	15	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	360
SHELDUCK	-	350	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1127
GREYLAG GOOSE	-	67	-	-	-	-	500	560	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	234
MUTE SWAN	109	15	-	11	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	2	4	2	2	-	3	-	5	1	-	4	-	-	255
WHOOPE SWAN	-	29	-	6	-	-	114	-	-	-	9	19	-	17	27	2	-	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
BEWICKS SWAN	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1041
COOT	60	6	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	50	-	-	55	80	40	350	21	-	15	19	141	8	-	61	60	30	160
MOORHEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	50	55	3	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	

MARCH 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

Although the month was generally mild, several periods of northerly winds delayed the arrival of the early Summer visitors and by end of month only Ring Ouzel and Wheatear had been recorded, although 2 Arctic Skuas on 29th were remarkably early. Lesser Black Backs were also noted, with increasing frequency, after 7th.

Migration of wildfowl and waders seemed to proceed throughout month with no really distinct peaks, but Grebes seemed to increase inland after about 14th with a peak during last few days.

Thrushes, Waxwings and Bramblings, the latter in larger numbers than have been seen all Winter, moved steadily through, with Waxwings showing an increase after 21st. Two Siskin flocks may also have been part of a large scale movement through the area on their way to the Continent.

Other interesting records included 2 Mediterranean Gulls, 3 Shore Larks, 2 Great Grey Shrikes, and the Holy Island Twites.

Early April has seen the appearance of a few more Great Grey Shrikes and 2 Lapland Bunting and by 17th Garganey, Sandwich Tern, all 3 hirundines, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Redstart had all been recorded. More about these next month.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black-throated Diver:

1 N. off Whitburn on 16th (BU).

Great Northern Diver:

1 off Holy Island on 28th (ERM/LGM).

Red-throated Diver:

At least 12 off Alnmouth on 13th (J & RMcC).

Great Crested Grebe:

On the sea, 7 off Alnmouth on 13th (J & RMcC) and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 7th (HW). Inland records involved 3 at Catcleugh on 23rd (CMA) and on 27th, 1 at Seaton Burn (IK/RO) and 1 at Gosforth Park (HW).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 off Holy Island on 28th (ERM/LGM).

Black-necked Grebe:

1 in Gosforth Park on 27th (HW).

Little Grebe:

Reported from 10 waters after 14th. 8 at Grindon on 27th was largest concentration (MR et al).

Fulmar:

7 ledges occupied at a quarry near Ford on 28th (ERM/LGM). A blue phase N. at Whitburn on 20th (BU).

Cormorant:

Inland records involved 8 - 9 at Wallsend Swallow for most of month (JDMcE et al) and 2 at Seaton Burn on 27th (IK/RO). 8 were also on Cresswell Pond on several occasions and feeding birds on Tweed were seen as far as 16 miles inland at Carham (LGM). At coast, a steady N. movement was noted off Whitburn between 1st - 20th in flocks of up to 29 (BU).

/Shag

Shag:

2 at Wallsend Swallow on 16th were most unusual (JDMcE).

Heron:

11 records of 1 - 3 birds, most of which were probably on passage. A colony in central Northumberland contained about 25 pairs on 30th.

Mallard:

Numbers continued to decline. 120 at Holywell on 14th (CED) and 105 at Derwent on 13th (RN) were by far largest flocks reported.

Teal:

Spring passage was most conspicuous at Washington where 75 - 90 were present from 6th - 14th (BU/RN et al). Holywell, Grindon and Holy Island were amongst some of the 10 other waters that held up to 45 between 14th - 22nd.

Gadwall:

Single birds were at Gosforth on 7th (BG) and at Grindon on 21st (ERM).

Wigeon:

Spring passage, involving birds returning N., was conspicuous at many waters. Budle Bay of course still held 1100 on 7th (BRS) when 320 were at Hoselaw in the N.W. (LGM/MN) but Grindon held up to 180 for most of month (IHA/RG et al) and Derwent 100 - 115 (RN/RG et al). 90 off St. Marys on 8th (B & ME) and up to 55 at Holywell in mid-month (CED) were further examples of larger gatherings.

Pintail:

Spring Passage was suggested by records of 1 at Holywell on 13th - 21st (CED et al), 2 - 4 at Washington between 14th - 23rd (RN/PK/BU) and 5 on Holy Island on 28th (ERM/LGM).

Shoveler:

An influx after about 13th, being most notable at Holywell where 4 - 8 were noted on several dates until 26th (CED/BG/B & ME). Up to 3 also noted at Gosforth, Havannah, Washington and Grindon. At Hoselaw in the N.W. 6 on 7th and 11 on 23rd (LGM/MN/CMA).

Scaup:

On 7th, 1 at Berwick (LGM) and 5 N. off Annstead (BRS).

Tufted Duck:

60 - 70 were largest concentrations, being noted at Gosforth on 7th and 22nd (BG/SJH). Bolam on 6th (IK), Hoselaw on 7th (MN/LGM), Holywell on 14th (CED), Northumberland Loughs on 13th (LGM) and Capheaton on 30th (ERM).

Pochard:

Largest counts were 107 at Hoselaw (LGM/MN), 60 at Gosforth (BG), 50 at Bolam (IK) and 50 at Hartburn (JSB) all on 6th/7th. Holywell held largest numbers of all other waters with 29 - 34 between 6th - 14th (CED et al).

Goldeneye:

Again Tweedmouth held largest numbers with 220 there on 7th (LGM/MN) but further up the river 35 were at Coldstream/Carham and 19 were at Hoselaw on same day. Elsewhere, 32 - 36 on the Northumberland Loughs between 13th - 27th, max. 18 at Whittle Dene on 6th (BG et al), 16 at Capheaton on 30th (ERM), 14 at Hartburn on 30th and 13 at Alnmouth on 13th (IHA) with smaller numbers at many other waters.

Long-tailed Duck:

20 off Bamburgh on 7th was only record (RN).

Common Scoter:

103 off Bamburgh on 7th (RN) and a small flock off Alnmouth (BG) were only records.

Red-breasted Merganser:

31 off Holy Island on 28th (ERM/LGM) was by far largest concentration. Also noted off Newton (1 on 14th - 21st) and Alnmouth (7 on 13th).

/Goosander

Goosander:

39 at Derwent on 13th was largest gathering (RN) but on 7th, 30 were on Tweed at Coldstream/Carham (LGM/MN). Double figures were also noted at Whittle Dene, 11 on 2nd, and Wingates, 12 on 30th (ERM) but up to 7 were noted at several of the other usual localities.

Smew:

Last noted at Whittle Dene on 7th when 1 only was present (BG/J & RMcC).

Shelduck:

Budle Bay held 150 on 7th (RN), and on 13th a total of 18 were in Alnmouth/Amble harbours (J & RMcC). 2 at Washington on 6th (RN) and 2 at Gosforth Park on 20th (MR) suggested late overland passage. Also 3 S. off Seaton Sluice on 29th (SJH).

Grey Lag Goose:

The largest flocks were just over the Border in N.W. with 285 at Spronston and 101 at Hoselaw on 7th (LGM/MN). The Budle Bay flock reduced from 70 on 7th to 41 by 21st (BRS et al). Elsewhere 24 were at Hartburn on 12th (CMA) and 60 at Hallington on 14th (RG/WB EL).

Brent Goose:

Still 60 in Holy Island area on 7th (RN).

Canada Goose:

2 pairs at Hallington on 14th (RG/WB/EL) was only record.

Mute Swan:

92 at Tweedmouth on 7th (LGM/MN) and 14 at Amble on 13th (J & RMcC) were largest counts.

Whooper Swan:

Some interesting counts as return passage continued. The largest flocks were noted at Spronston, 38 on 7th (LGM/MN); Holywell, 21 - 22 from 13th - 21st (CED et al); Capheaton, 17 on 14th (CMA); Grindon, 33 - 35 from 9th - 21st (RG/GU et al); Hartburn, 28 - 45 from 7th - 30th (JSB/ERM et al). Many records of parties of up to 10.

Bewick's Swan:

3 near Budle Bay on 7th (RN) and 1 at Bamburgh on 20th/21st (BRS). Grindon held 4 between 14th - 21st (ERM/WGJ).

Sparrow Hawk:

Noted at Bamburgh (1 on 7th), Ponteland, Gosforth and Slaley.

Peregrine:

A falcon at Killingworth on 1st may have been of this species (JDMcE).

Merlin:

Singles in Holywell Dene on 13th (RM), and Holy Island on 28th (LGM/ERM).

Water Rail:

Several at Gosforth (BG et al) and 1 near Belsay (WGJ) towards end of month.

Moorhen:

14 in Budle Bay on 7th (BRS) may have been part of a movement.

Coot:

55 on Tweed Estuary on 7th (LGM/MN) 80 at Holywell on 6th (CED), 91 at Broomlee on 13th (LGM) and 150 at Seaton Burn on 29th (ERM). Up to 40 many other lakes and ponds.

Oystercatcher:

Overland passage was suggested by 2 - 4 at Whittle Dene between 6th - 27th (IHA/JSB/BG), 1 at Grindon on 14th (J & RMcC), 1 - 2 at Holywell between 20th - 26th (CED), 3 at Derwent on 28th (J & RMcC) and 1 at Seaton Burn on 29th (ERM). 41 at Amble on 13th was largest coastal gathering.

Ringed Plover:

An inland passage bird at Holywell on 13th/14th (CED).

Grey Plover:

5 at Bamburgh on 7th (IK) and 30 on Holy Island on 28th (ERM/LGM).

Turnstone:

Largest flock was 70 on Holy Island on 28th (ERM).

Jack Snipe:

1 at Ross on 14th (LGM).

Woodcock:

An unusual record of 1, probably on passage, at Killingworth on 17th (JDMcE). Noted in breeding areas at Prestwick Carr and Belsay.

Curlew:

Over 600 in Holy Island/Budle Bay area on 7th, 100 at Derwent on 13th (RN) and 100 at Grindon between 9th - 15th (LGM et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

20 at Holy Island on 28th (ERM) and 5 at Newton on 21st (ABl et al).

Green Sandpiper:

The Whittle Dene bird was present throughout month (MR et al) and 1, possibly the same, near Corbridge on 7th. Also 1 near Wooler on 28th February (JKJ).

Redshank:

Passage was suggested by 100 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS), 129 at Alnmouth/Amble on 13th (J & RMcC), 70 at Holywell on 21st (BG), 150 at Washington on 25th (RN et al) and 100 on Holy Island on 28th (ERM). Smaller numbers as far inland as Grindon.

Knot:

600 - 700 at St. Mary's for most of month (BG/B & ME) was by far largest reported gathering.

Purple Sandpiper:

200 at St. Mary's on 8th was a very large gathering (B & ME). Smaller numbers, usually less than 10 at several other points on coast.

Dunlin:

At least 1000 still in Holy Island area on 28th (ERM). 246 at Amble on 13th (J & RMcC) was only other large count. Holywell attracted 1 - 5 between 6th - 13th (CED).

Arctic Skua:

An unusual record on 2 S. off Seaton Sluice on 29th (SJH).

Lesser Black-Backed Gull:

6 records of 1 - 2 birds, mainly moving N. at localities as far apart as Budle Bay and Greenlee Lough between 7th - 27th.

Common Gull:

250 at Whittle Dene on 28th (MR).

Glaucous Gull:

Singles off Annstead on 7th and 21st (BRS) and off Alnmouth on 13th (J & RMcC).

Mediterranean Gull:

An adult on Holy Island on 14th and 28th (LGM/ERM et al). Also a ringed bird reported via ABl following a plough at Belford between 1st - 10th. A yellow colour ring, as well as the metal ring, was noted.

/Collared Dove

Collared Dove:

Seen at Haydon Bridge, a new area, on 13th (LGM).

Barn Owl:

Noted at Milbourne (WGJ).

Long-eared Owl:

A tired bird in Holywell Dene on 14th (BG).

Short-eared Owl:

Wallsend Swallow attracted 4 between 16th and 30th (JDMcE). 1 - 2 also noted at Prestwick Carr, Havannah, Killingworth, Holywell and Budle Bay during month.

Shore Lark:

Still 3 at Whitburn on 6th (RN).

Green Woodpecker:

Noted at Redesmouth.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Noted at Ovington, Stocksfield, Slaley and Dipton Mill.

Raven:

A pair at a nest site in Cheviots.

Hooded Crow:

1 at Benton on 23rd (KGD).

Marsh Tit:

Noted at Belsay.

Willow Tit:

Quite plentiful at Prestwick Carr toward end of month.

Long-tailed Tit:

Half completed nest at Corbridge on 28th (MR).

Fieldfare:

The usual pre-emigration gatherings were noted inland, with 200 near Eglington on 12th (CMA), 110 at Milbourne 15th - 31st (WGJ), 120 at Wingates on 30th (ERM) and 150 at Wooler on 28th (JKJ). Up to 80 at several other localities.

Song Thrush:

Light influx noted at Priors Park, Tynemouth on 30th (JGD).

Redwing:

25 at Bamburgh on 21st (BKS) and 4 at Wallsend Swallow on 26th (MRS) were only site records but they were heard emigrating on 2 successive nights near end of month (BG).

Ring Ouzel:

3 in College Valley on 28th (LGM/ERM) were first of Spring.

Wheatear:

1 at Tynemouth on 30th (KGD) was first and only record.

Stonechat:

3 at Chevington on 6th (HRS).

Grey Wagtail:

As many as 7 in Gosforth Park on 1st were unusual (HW). Singles also noted at Chevington and Holywell on 6th - 13th.

/Waxwing

Waxwing:

2 at Westerhope on 6th (IK/RO) but after 21st, 1 - 2 noted from Milbourne, Heddon, Whitley Bay and Sunderland, suggested return passage.

Great Grey Shrike:

1 at Wooler on 28th February (JKJ) and 1 in Holywell Dene on 28th (MN).

Hawfinch:

1 at Staward on 30th (MR).

Greenfinch:

Flock of 300 at Ellington on 6th (LGM).

Goldfinch:

Noted at Killingworth (6) and Stonehaugh (10).

Siskin:

2 large flocks noted. 60 at Corbridge on 6th (MR) and 100 at Stocksfield on 14th reducing to 40 by 21st (IHA/J & RMcC).

Twite:

Still 20 - 25 on Holy Island on 7th (RN).

Crossbill:

1 - 2 at each of Stocksfield, Halley Pike and Wark between 13th - 27th (IHA/J & RMcC/LGM).

Chaffinch:

An early nest, almost completed, at Redesmouth on 20th (WGJ).

Brambling:

On 7th, 60 at Bolam (J & RMcC), on 13th, 40 at Wallington (MR & ELS) and 10 at Holywell (RA) and on 11th, 12 at Milbourne (WGJ).

Snow Bunting:

20 at Whitburn on 6th (RN), 2 at Boulmer on 13th (IHA) and 4 at Holy Island on 28th (EMM/LGM).

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All April records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle NE15 7 RD by 9th May 1971 please.

APRIL 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

A very mixed month with a combination of early and late arrivals. With high pressure to the N. off the Country and a low pressure centre over France, moderate NE winds brought a heavy movement of Fulmars, Lesser Black-Backs and Common Gulls on 3rd/4th. As the high transferred E. into Scandinavia and the low slowly receded into the Bay of Biscay, winds became more Easterly and with low cloud cover between 6th - 9th a few Great Grey Shrikes made landfall and the first Willow Warblers and Garganey were seen. The weather became more settled during the next few days as a High centre was located over Britain but heavy cloud cover over N. France was probably responsible for the arrival of only a few Summer visitors.

A ridge of high pressure accompanied by clearing skies extended N. from France on 17th and a few more Summer migrants arrived including an Osprey but it was not until after 20th that the bulk arrived under similar but warmer conditions. By 23rd the same High centre had transferred NE to Scandinavia and with SE winds traversing almost the whole of central and N Europe many continental migrants made landfall on E. coast of Britain. Most of the regular Summer migrants were involved but the more interesting species included another Osprey, Red-footed Falcon, Crane, Little Gull, Wryneck, Black Redstart and a few Lesser Whitethroats. The month terminated with a Black Tern on 28th and a late flock of Barnacle Geese on 29th but Common Whitethroats and Garden Warblers had still to arrive.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Great Northern Diver:

In Holy Island area 1 on 4th and 14th and 3 on 25th (RA/RAK/ERM).

Diver (sp):

1 - 3 off several coastal points all month. 23 off Alnmouth on 10th (ERM) and 5 - 8 off Cresswell between 10th - 12th (RN/GU et al). Most birds were identified as Red-throated.

Great Crested Grebe:

Inland records involved single birds at Gosforth until 26th (BG/DEP et al). Whittle Dene on 10th (JSB), Hallington on 22nd/24th (CMA/BHT) and Northumberland Loughs on 9th and 28th. Up to 3 were noted at Catcleugh, 2 were at Brasside on 9th and 2 at Seaton Burn on 16th (JEP/IK). Offshore, 1 off Farnes on 11th (B & ME) and 1 off Holy Island on 25th (BL).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 off Holy Island from 14th - 25th (ERM et al) and 10 off Bamburgh on 11th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe:

1 off Holy Island on 9th (IK/RO).

Little Grebe:

Breeding birds well established on at least 14 waters, and passage through the area was suggested by a peak of 7 at Washington on 14th falling to nil by 28th. Grindon Lough had attracted 10 by 26th (J & RMCC et al).

Fulmar:

A very heavy N. movement off Hauxley on 4th reaching a peak of about 500 per hour (HRS).

Gannet:

Small numbers noted moving N. off Hauxley on 5 days between 3rd - 21st (HRS).

Cormorant:

Up to 6 were again feeding at Wallsend Swallow Pond for most of month (LJM et al).

Heron:

Passage was suggested by a number of records of mainly single birds from Holy Island, Howick, Cresswell and Washington between 4th and 22nd. 4 at the latter on 8th (JWP) was the largest group away from the inland feeding haunts of breeding birds.

/Mallard

Mallard:

Derwent Reservoir with 80 on 3rd (RN) and Cresswell with 70 on 13th (GU) were the only areas that held in excess of 25 during month.

Teal:

Counts in excess of 40 were made at Holy Island on 4th (40+), Grindon on 9th (c40), Washington on 8th (85) and Ellington on 18th (40+).

Garganey:

A pair at Washington from 6th - 9th (JEP) and 1 - 3 pairs at Gosforth from 9th - 12th (BG/HW). At Hauxley, a female on 12th and a pair on each of 18th and 22nd (HRS).

Gadwall:

A suggestion of Spring passage with 5 records. 1 at Derwent on 3rd (RN), 1 at Newton on 10th (CMA). 2 at Witton-le-wear on 18th (MR), 2 at Holy Island on 25th (BL) and 1 at Grindon on 26th - 28th (J & RMcC/LGM).

Wigeon:

Still 122 at Grindon on 8th (LGM et al) and during last week of month small parties were lingering at several of the regular Winter haunts.

Pintail:

Holy Island Lough attracted up to 6 between 3rd and 25th (RA/RAK/MR et al). 1 at Linton on 10th was the only other record (RN).

Shoveler:

Noted from 12 waters mainly near coast, the 2 exceptions being Hallington (2 on 22nd) and Grindon (up to 3 most of month). Seven, on Holy Island on 25th, was largest gathering. Most of the records were probably of passage birds.

Tufted Duck:

27 at Grindon on 9th (J & RMcC), 40 at Holywell on 10th (GU) and 72 at Capheaton on 22nd (CMA) were by far largest counts, although many waters still held small parties at end of month.

Pochard:

Only reported from Hallington, Gosforth, Bothal and Swallow and counts did not exceed 15.

Goldeneye:

Present on most waters, even during latter half of month and an aggregate of 112 on the Northumberland Loughs on 8th (LGM). Other counts in excess of 10 were received from Derwent (16 on 3rd), Whittle Dene (15 on 10th and still 11 on 25th) and Beal (20 on 12th).

Long-tailed Duck:

An unusual and interesting record of 1 inland at Whitley Bay Quarry on 26th (JDMcE). Bamburgh/Holy Island area was responsible for all the other records and a max. of 30 was noted there on 12th (ERM/LGM et al). Still 8 present on 25th.

Common Scoter:

Up to 12 noted off Newton, Alnmouth and Hauxley between 3rd - 22nd (ERM et al).

Red-breasted Merganser:

Noted off several points between Holy Island and Seaton Sluice but Cresswell, with a max. of 16 on 12th (GU), provided largest gathering.

Goosander:

28 at Derwent on 3rd (RN) and 12 at Bywell on 9th (BG). Hartburn, Hallington and Colt Crag each held 1 - 4 birds but by mid-month most records were of small parties at the breeding areas on the Tyne and Coquet. A pair with 5 young at Kielder on 17th was a remarkably early date (BL).

Snew:

Female still at Broomlee Lough on 8th (LGM).

Shelduck:

Budle Bay had a max. of 100 on 3rd (BRS). Other recognised haunts contained more than the breeding populations with 10 at Newton on 12th (ERM), 16 at Hauxley on 11th (HRS), and 16 - 21 at Cresswell between 9th - 22nd (RN et al). Inland records involved 3 at Whittle Dene on 5th (BEP), 1 at Blaydon on 27th (BL) and 1 at Broomlee on 28th (LGM/ERM).

Grey Lag Goose:

A flock of 300 at Hartburn on 4th is unusual for time of year (JEP). In Budle Bay/Fenham Flats area 69 on 3rd had declined to 50 by 10th. (BRS/IHA et al). 1 at Holy Island on 18th (LGM) and 1 at Holywell on 22nd (B & ME).

Pink-footed Goose:

A solitary bird at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Brent Goose:

2 late parties on Fenham Flats with 9 dark-breasted there on 16th and 9 pale-breasted on 23rd (per JMB).

Barnacle Goose:

Flock of 68 N. over Holy Island on 29th (per JMB).

Canada Goose:

5 pairs in Sweethope, Hallington, Colt Crag area (RG/WB/EL et al).

Mute Swan:

54 at Berwick on 12th (ERM) and 20 at Amble on 10th - 16th (HRS). 2 swimming N. off St. Marys on 9th (MRS/ELS) made an unusual site.

Whooper Swan:

A significant decrease since March. 33 at Hartburn on 4th (JEP/J & IMcC) was by far largest flock. 3 - 6 in Cresswell area between 9th - 18th and 3 at Beal on 4th (ERM/FG et al) were only other records.

Buzzard:

1 at Hepple on 12th (per ERM).

Sparrow Hawk:

Reported from Falstone, Bellingham, Belsay, Horsley, Stocksfield, Molesdon and Washington.

Osprey:

Two records; 1 at Falstone on 17th and 1 near Etal on 25th (BL).

Merlin:

1 at Bamburgh on 17th (BRS) was only record.

Red-footed Falcon:

A female remained in Backhouse Park, Sunderland from 24th until 29th. Many observers obtained excellent views at close range as it fed both on the wing and on the ground, and also whilst it rested in the lower branches of the trees. This seems to be the third record for Co. Durham (C. Briggs/RA/RAK/BU et al).

Kestrel:

Early nesting was noted near Ponteland when 2 pairs each had 4 eggs by 20th (ERM).

Black Grouse:

Lecks were located in Kielder (9 cocks on 7th) and Alwin Valley (3 cocks on 25th (BEP).

Crane:

1 was seen and filmed on Holy Island on 24th (per ERM).

Water Rail:

1 at Bamburgh on 4th (BRS) and heard calling in Gosforth Park on several occasions (BG).

Coot:

Continued passage, probably involving emigrating birds, was suggested by records in unusual localities; 1 on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 9th (GU), 8 at Whittle Dene on 10th and 25th (IHA/JSB) and 1 killed on a main road near Gosforth on 11th (AB1/HW). 40 at Holywell on 10th (GU) and 50 at Capheaton on 22nd (CMA) were largest counts from the typical haunts.

Oystercatcher:

200 at Ross on 12th (ERM) and 70 at St. Mary's on 21st (B & ME).

Grey Plover:

Fenham Flats/Ross held at least 160 on 12th/13th (ERM/LGM). Elsewhere 1 at Boulmer on 4th (ERM) and 1 at Hauxley on 12th (HRS).

Golden Plover:

50 at Grindon on 4th (MR), 200 at Longhoughton on 4th (LGM/ERM) and 150 at Newton on 11th (BG). The latter 2 flocks contained a large proportion of the N. race.

Turnstone:

170 at St. Mary's on 24th (MH) and up to 50 at 5 other points on the coast.

Snipe:

150 at Gosforth Park on 3rd (HW) and 31 at Linton on 4th (ERM/LGM).

Jack Snipe:

1 on Holy Island on 24th (BL).

Woodcock:

Single passage birds in Wallsend Park on 8th (JSB) and on Holy Island on 13th (ERM).

Curlew:

100 on Holy Island on 12th (ERM).

Whimbrel:

At Hauxley 1 N. on 19th and 1 N. on 22nd (HRS).

Black-tailed Godwit:

1 at Alnmouth on 18th (RN), 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 21st (JDMcE) and 1 at Brenkley on 25th (MH).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

Only 20 remained on Fenham Flats by 18th (IGG).

Green Sandpiper:

The Whittle Dene bird was still present on 24th (BHT/BEP et al) and 1 on the Tyne at Corbridge on 20th may have been same bird (MR).

Common Sandpiper:

First noted on N. Tyne at Chollerford on 10th (per RA) and on 13th, 2 at Wylam (IHA). A few were on most rivers by 17th/18th and the species had become well established throughout area by 25th.

Redshank:

Spring passage continued throughout most of month, largest flocks being noted at Washington (max. 130 on 8th), Ross (85 on 12th), Alnmouth (100 on 18th) and Hauxley (100 on 24th).

Spotted Redshank:

1 at Holywell on 15th (MN).

Purple Sandpiper:

Still 150 - 200 on the St. Mary's area on 20th/21st (B & ME/RH). Up to 25 at several other points on coast.

Dunlin:

300 at Ross on 12th (EHM) and smaller flocks noted at many other coastal points. 1 inland at Grindon on 28th (LGM).

Sanderling:

90 at St. Mary's on 20th (RH) was by far largest flock reported.

Ruff:

A male at Washington on 27th/28th (RN/JEP/BU).

Lesser-Black Back Gull:

Spring passage continued throughout month both overland and at coast. 200 per hour at Annstead on 3rd suggested a peak about that time (BRS et al) whilst Scandinavian birds were noted at Hauxley (1 on 24th and 3 on 25th).

Common Gull:

Spring passage reached a peak early in month with 1000 at Widdrington, 800 at Amble and 1000 at Longhirst on 3rd (BG/EHM), 500 at Cresswell on 4th and 3 - 4000 at Derwent on 8th (MR).

Glaucous Gull:

1 at Hauxley on 4th (HRS) and 1 at Annstead on 3rd - 11th (BRS).

Little Gull:

An adult on Holy Island on 25th (BL).

Mediterranean Gull:

1 reported off Ross on 17th (HW) but no notes received. □

Kittiwake:

N. passage noted off Hauxley on 4th and 22nd (up to 300 per hour) and off Whitley Bay on 28th (1000 per hour).

Black Tern:

1 at St. Mary's on 28th eventually flew off N. (RH).

'Commic' Tern:

7 N. off St. Mary's on 28th was the first and only record (RH).

Little Tern:

1 at Holy Island on 24th (BL).

Sandwich Tern:

First noted on 11th with 2N. off Newton (BG) and 15N. off Hauxley (HRS). Became increasingly common thereafter passing N. at 40 per hour off Hauxley on 20th and at 60 per hour on 22nd (HRS).

Auks (sp):

Moving N. at 200 per hour on 4th (HRS).

Stock Dove:

Noted, probably breeding, at Wallsend Park, Benton and Denton Burn.

Cuckoo:

Only 2 records; 1 at Ravensworth on 25th (LJM) and 1 at Derwent on 30th.

Barn Owl:

Noted at Earsdon, Harnfordham and South Shields.

Little Owl:

Noted at Brenkley.

Tawny Owl:

1 arrived from E. at South Shields at mid-day on 9th (RA).

/Long-eared Owl

Long-eared Owl:

Noted at Gosforth, Ponteland (breeding) and Holy Island (1 on 24th).

Short-eared Owl:

1 - 3 noted at several points between Holy Island and Washington Ponds until 18th. Further inland, records from Alwinton, Blanchland, Brenkley and Ponteland probably involved breeding birds.

Kingfisher:

Only reported from Witton-le-Wear (MR).

Green Woodpecker:

Heard in Hulne Park and at Stocksfield.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Noted at Gosforth, Stocksfield, Bolam and Hulne Park.

Wryneck:

A passage bird at Bamburgh on 24th (BRS).

Shore Lark:

Still 3 at Whitburn on 13th (BU).

Swallow:

The first was at Holywell on 14th (AB) followed by 1 at Washington on 15th (RN) and 1 at Hauxley on 16th (HRS). By 17th/18th small numbers were present in several areas, mainly near coast. A heavy movement took place on 25th when 70 per hour were noted moving N. at Newton (FC), 100 were at Hallington (MRS/ELS) and 50 at Whittle Dene (IHA/JSB).

House Martin:

The first, were 2 at Hexham on 17th (BG) followed by 2 at Felton and 1 at Bamburgh on 18th. During the subsequent week, records were received from many areas as far apart as Colt Crag, Hartley and Wallsend Swallow.

Sand Martin:

Late in arriving. First noted on 12th with 2 at Gosforth Park (BG) and several at Stocksfield (BL) but it was not until after 18th that they were reported with any degree of regularity.

Raven:

A pair in the Border Forest on 21st but no nest could be found. Another poor year for this species.

Marsh Tit:

Reported from Bolam and Howick Dene.

Fieldfare:

Pre-emigration flocks were noted all over the area, mainly inland, until late in the month. The largest were 150 at Whittle Dene on 1st, 200 at Whitley Chapel on 7th (MR), 400 at Kirkwhelpington on 3rd (IK/RO), 100 at Matfen on 5th (BEP), 700 at Bardon Mill on 17th and 100 at Bellingham on 28th (LGM). 1000 on Holy Island on 24th (BL), 170 at Hauxley on 26th (HRS), 500 at Cresswell on 26th (JEP) and 140 at Swallow Ponds, Wallsend (LJM) and 29th had probably all been forced down during adverse weather conditions.

Song Thrush:

A distinct influx was noted on 24th with many on Holy Island and more than is usual at Tynemouth and Marsden (BL/KGD/RA).

Redwing:

Up to 20 at 10 different localities between 8th and 24th. A species that is not often seen during April.

Ring Ouzel:

Passage birds at Hauxley (1 on 9th/10th), Holy Island (2 on 14th, 3 on 24th and 4 on 25th) /Bamburgh

(2 on 23rd), North Seaton (1 on 27th) and Killingworth (2 on 28th).

Blackbird:

Passage was most obvious on Holy Island with 20 - 50 on several dates between 13th - 24th RA/ERM). Also 50 trapped at Hauxley during month, mainly between 3rd - 19th. The nest box in Kenton is again being used this year (MRS/ELS).

Wheatear:

Passage through coastal areas seemed to reach a peak on 22nd - 25th with 150 on Holy Island (BL), 25 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 20 at Hauxley. Birds were not as plentiful as usual inland, even at end of month.

Stonechat:

An unusual record of 1 inland at Hexham on 14th and 27th February (AJR). 1 at St. Mary's on 24th (KGD).

Whinchat:

A very early bird near Hepple on 12th (per ERM). 1 at Hauxley on 16th (HRS) and between 21st - 25th up to 10 were noted at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley, St. Mary's, Washington and Denton Burn.

Redstart:

The first was at Holywell on 21st (RH) followed by 1 at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS). Between 24th - 27th up to 10 were noted at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Whitley Bay, Marsden, Slaley, Whittle Dene and Newburn.

Black Redstart:

1 in Priors Park, Tynemouth on 24th (KGD).

Robin:

Coastal influxes were noted at Hauxley on 9th - 11th and at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley on 24th/25th. Average numbers were 10 - 15 on each occasion and most were probably Continentals.

Grasshopper Warbler:

An early record of 1 at Stocksfield on 13th (per ERM) followed by singles at Prestwick Carr on 20th (ERM) and Capheaton on 22nd (CMA). An influx occurred on 23rd - 25th when up to 4 were noted at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Druridge.

Sedge Warbler:

Only observed at 3 localities; 2 on Holy Island on 24th (BL), 1 at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS) and 1 - 2 at Gosforth Park between 27th - 30th (ERM/BG).

Blackcap:

First reported on 24th when 2 on Holy Island (BL). Next day 1 at Bamburgh and 2 at Ravensworth (LJM). Only other record was 1 in Holywell Dene on 30th (RH).

Garden Warbler:

Only 1 record; 1 at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Whitethroat:

Also only 1 record; a male at Hauxley on 23rd - 25th (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat:

A very early bird singing at Hartford on 10th (AB1). All other records were at the coast between 23rd - 25th with 3 on Holy Island, 3 at Hauxley and 1 at Bamburgh.

Willow Warbler:

First noted at Priors Park, Tynemouth with 1 - 3 on 8th/9th (KGD/MH) by 11th 3 were at Hexham (AJR) and on 14th singles were on Holy Island (ERM) and at Gosforth Park (BG). Thereafter numbers steadily increased with a distinct influx on 18th and again on 22nd - 25th. An 'acredula' (N. race) was trapped at Hauxley on 19th.

/Chiffchaff

CHIFFCHAFF:

First noted at Dipton (1 on 11th) and Ravensworth (1 on 12th). (BL/LJM). On 16th, 1 at South Shields (RA) and after 18th they were noted at Hulne Park, Ravensworth, Hexham, Heddon and Gosforth Park.

Goldcrest:

Small scale passage through coastal areas was noted on most days between 3rd and 25th. 25 at Howick on 4th (ERM), 12 at Hauxley on 10th - 12th (HRS) and 12 at Bamburgh on 17th - 18th (BRS) were largest counts.

Pied Flycatcher:

1 at Bamburgh on 17th/18th (BRS) was the first. Only other records were 3 on Holy Island on 24th/25th and 1 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Meadow Pipit:

An increase noted in Hauxley on 9th (HRS).

Tree Pipit:

The first were 2 at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS) with 5 there on 24th. On 25th, 1 at Dipton (JSB) and 1 at Whittle Dene (AJR). 1 at St. Mary's on 29th was the only other record.

White Wagtail:

On 18th, 1 at Holy Island (ERM), 2 at Cresswell and 1 at Alnmouth (RN). On 22nd, 3 at Annstead (BRS) and on 29th, 1 at Swallow Ponds, Wallsend (LJM).

Grey Wagtail:

Noted at Sheepwash, Hulne Park, Langleeford and Hartford.

Yellow Wagtail:

2 on the Farnes on 14th (IK/RO) were first. On 17th, 1 at Kielder (BL) and on 19th, 1 at Hadstone (HRS). After 21st a steady increase was noted throughout area with 12 at Whittle Dene on 25th (AJR) being the largest gathering.

Great Grey Shrike:

Several records between 6th - 11th suggested a small influx. 1 at Whitley Bay on 6th (JDMcE), when 3 were on the Farnes (per BRS), 1 at Bamburgh on 7th until 18th (BRS), 1 at Beadnell and 1 at Cornhill on 8th (per ERM), 1 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS) and 1 at Beal from 9th - 11th (IK/RO).

Waxwing:

1 at Tynemouth on 7th/8th (KGD/MH), 3 at Whitburn on 12th (per DU) and 1 on Farnes on 17th (BRS).

Hawfinch:

1 at Hartford on 5th/6th (per ABL).

Goldfinch:

Noted at Sunderland, Denton Burn, Washington, Tynemouth, Hauxley, Hallington, and Alwinton.

Siskin:

2 near Ryton on 5th (J & RMcC), 150 at Dipton on 11th (JEP), 20 at Stocksfield on 13th (IHA). On 18th, 10 at Budle Bay, 15 at Bamburgh and 6 at Hulne Park (ERM/RA). 1 at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Twite:

Up to 25 at Hauxley on 8 days between 3rd and 21st (HRS). 2 on Holy Island on 24th (PL).

Crossbill:

A pair in Kielder on 9th (BL).

Brambling:

Between 21st - 29th, singles were noted at Tynemouth (KGD), St. Mary's (AJR), Hauxley (HRS) with 2 on Holy Island (BL). Only 1 record outside this period when 1 was at Wallington on 3rd (BEP) 8. /Corn Bunting

Corn Bunting:

Noted on Holy Island, at Chevington, Holywell, Shiremoor and Ponteland.

Lapland Bunting:

2 on Holy Island on 13th (ERM).

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

ANNUAL REPORT

This year the Annual Report will take the form of an illustrated summary of the birds seen during 1970. 3000 copies are being printed by a local publisher, and entitled "Birds in Northumbria" it will be on sale to the general public in most bookshops by the end of June at the latest, at 50p per copy. All members who have paid a subscription of £1 (i.e. 25p towards the Annual Report) will be able to obtain a copy from the Club for a further 12½p (2s. 6d) so do not rush off to your nearest bookshop and buy a copy. Please tell your friends, however, as it is most important that this new venture is a success.

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

A volunteer is required (preferably from the coast area) to duplicate the Tyneside Bird Club's Monthly Bulletin. Please contact Bryan Galloway.

FIELD TRIPS

FARNE ISLANDS - SUNDAY, 13 JUNE 1971

There are still places available on this trip which will leave Seahouses at 10 a.m. Transport from the Hancock Museum to Seahouses will be by private car and lifts can be arranged for those needing them. Bookings must be made before 1st June, 1971.

BASS ROCK - SUNDAY 11TH JULY, 1971

The date of this trip has now been confirmed. Mr. Marr is now operating a new larger boat so we do not have to limit numbers to 24. The boat will leave North Berwick at 12.30 p.m. and return at 5.30 p.m. Transport to North Berwick will be by private car and lifts can be arranged if you let me know. Price will be 16s. 0d. (80p). Bookings please before Monday, 21st June 1971 to Eric Meek, 5 Elm Road, Cheviot View, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

MAY 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

May was a very settled month as high pressure areas over Scandinavia and N. Europe dominated the weather.

With the exception of only a few days, winds were from an Easterly quarter, sometimes cool, sometimes warm and it was during these cooler, more cloudy spells that the most interesting species were seen.

From 1st - 9th Summer visitors continued to arrive, including Northern Willow Warblers, but the Easterly winds also brought a Garganey, Little Gulls, 2 Hoopoes, and a Wryneck.

With high pressure over the North Sea on 12th/13th an Osprey and a Bluethroat were seen and a Marsh Harrier turned up on 14th but with the exception of some late Whooper Swans on 16th it was not until 23rd, during S.E. winds and rain, that the remaining 'rare' birds were found. Holy Island produced Thrush Nightingale, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Grey-headed Wagtail and during the subsequent week both Honey Buzzard and another Marsh Harrier were seen elsewhere in the county.

The more interesting breeding species included 19 pairs of Merlin, Corncrake, Turtle Dove, Kingfisher, Lesser Whitethroat and Hawfinch, and at long last Common Whitethroats seem to be returning to their former status.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Diver (sp):-

2 off Hauxley on 8th were probably Red-throated (HRS).

Great Crested Grebe:

Reported from Catcleugh (5 pairs), Seaton Burn (3), Hallington (2), Whittle Dene (1) and Gosforth Park (1) for most of month.

Little Grebe:

Well established on many waters.

Manx Shearwater:

9 N. off St. Mary's on 23rd (MH).

Cormorant:

Up to 4 attracted to Wallsend Swallow Pond during month (AB1/GU et al).

Heron:-

2 of Northumberland's largest colonies each contained about 25 pairs. Budle Bay attracted 5 on 8th (BRS) and 1 - 2 noted from other waters.

Mallard:

40 in Budle Bay on 22nd (BRS) was largest count. By 28th ducklings were noted at Wolsingham, Derwent and Whittle Dene (J & RMCC/RN).

Garganey:

A drake at Whittle Dene on 8th (JSB) and a pair at Cresswell on 26th (MH).

Wigeon:

Up to 7 at each of Grindon, Gosforth Park and Budle Bay until 22nd.

Pintail:

A pair in Budle Bay on 8th and 22nd (BRS).

/Shoveler

Shoveler:

3 pairs at each of Gosforth Park (BG) and Washington (JEP/BU) during month. 4 drakes at Cresswell on 11th (BEP) and 2 in Druridge Bay on 12th (GU).

Scaup:

A drake in Budle Bay on 9th and 14th (BRS).

Tufted Duck:

The largest reported flocks were 31 at Washington on 9th (JEP) and 30 at Gosforth on 7th (BG).

Pochard:

Up to 10 in Gosforth Park until 10th (BG/ERM). 1 at Whittle Dene on 22nd (JSB).

Goldeneye:

2 at Hartburn on 2nd (GU), 2 at Whittle Dene until 9th (JSB/J & RMCC) and 6 at Derwent on 2nd (RN) reducing to 3 by 20th (BU).

Long-tailed Duck:

4 at Bamburgh on 8th and still 1 in Budle Bay on 14th (BRS).

Eider:

245+ drakes, no ducks, off Bamburgh on 29th (MH).

Red-breasted Merganser:

3 off Holy Island on 22nd (ERM).

Goosander:

10 young accompanied by 2 adults at Redesmouth on 29th (ERM).

Shelduck:

80 in Budle Bay on 2nd (BRS) and 25 at Cresswell on 11th (BEP). Unusual records involved 1 at Blaydon Pond on 1st (BL), 1 at Hexham on 12th (MR) and Washington (2) on 22nd/23rd (JEP/BU).

Grey Lag Goose:

2 at Cresswell Pond until 8th (BG/ERM et al).

Barnacle Goose:

1 at Sweethope Lough on 29th.

Canada Goose:

3 pairs hatched a total of 10 young at Hallington (RG/WB/EL). 29/30 adults and 6 young at Sweethope on 29th.

Whooper Swan:

5 at Cresswell Pond until 16th (DL/MH/AJR/GU et al).

Sparrow Hawk:

Passage birds noted at Hauxley (1 on 2nd) and Bamburgh (1 on 2nd and 1 on 30th). Noted inland at Slaggyford, Durham and Chillingham.

Honey Buzzard:

1 flying E. over Ellingham on 30th made off N.E. towards Seahouses. Full notes obtained (JMB).

Marsh Harrier:

Single female or immatures were noted at Washington on 14th (per JEP/BU) and at Stanhope Burn near Blanchland on 29th (J & RMCC).

Osprey:

1 near Derwent Reservoir on 12th (per BU) was watched carrying a fish over the A68.

Merlin:

19 breeding pairs located in Northumberland (ERM).

Kestrel:

14 nests found in Kielder area (ERM), 1 nest at Swinburne (NFR), 3 nests at Ravensworth (LJM) and 1 nest in Sunderland (BU).

Water Rail:

Heard calling in Gosforth Park on 2nd and 7th (BG) and at Whittle Dene on 28th (AJH).

Corncrake:

1 at Anick, Hexham on 12th (MR).

Coot:

9 - 11 passage birds at Whittle Dene until 22nd (JSB).

Ringed Plover:

175 in Budle Bay on 15th (BRS) and flock of 64 on Holy Island on 22nd (ERM). Most were probably Northern birds.

Little Ringed Plover:

1 at Cresswell on 26th (MH).

Grey Plover:

Up to 9 in Budle Bay until 15th (BRS). 2 on Holy Island on 22nd (ERM).

Golden Plover:

Noted in breeding areas at Wannies, Simonsides, Planchland and Kielder (ERM).

Turnstone:

Still common on Holy Island on 22nd (ERM).

Woodcock:

Breeding at Dipton, Slaley, Prestwick Carr, Kielder, Grasslees Burn, and Ravensworth. (BG/ERM/LJM).

Curlew:

32 in Budle Bay on 14th (BRS).

Whimbrel:

Passage noted between 5th and 31st with 2 over Gosforth (BL), 1 N. at Cresswell, 2 N. at Boulmer (ERM), 1 at Alnmouth (RH), 1 at Bamburgh (BRS), 1 at Washington (JEP) and 5 on Holy Island (ERM).

Black-tailed Godwit:

1 at Washington until 12th (RN/JEP) and what was judged to be a different bird there on 22nd - 25th (JEP/BU). 1 S. at Boulmer on 9th (ERM) and 1 at Cresswell on 11th (BEP).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

4 in Budle Bay on 1st (BRS).

Wood Sandpiper:

1 at Wallsend Swallow on 24th and 2 at Cresswell on 26th (MH).

Spotted Redshank:

1 at Budle Bay on 1st (BRS) and up to 3 at Washington until 7th (RN/JEP et al).

Greenshank:

1 in Budle Bay on 1st/2nd (BRS), 1 at Otterburn on 19th (AB1) and at Washington 1 from 17th - 28th with 2 there on 20th (RN/JEP/BU).

/Knot

Little Stint:

3 at Cresswell on 20th was most unusual (BEP).

Dunlin:

300 in Budle Bay on 15th (BRS).

Sanderling:

8 at Hauxley on 8th (HRS) and 3 in Budle Bay on 15th (BRS).

Glaucous Gull:

8 at Hauxley on 8th (HRS) and 3 in Budle Bay on 15th (BRS).

Glaucous Gull:

1 at Annstead until 15th (BRS), 1 at St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice on 3rd (RH) and 1 at Washington on 3rd and 23rd (JEP).

Little Gull:

On 8th, 1 at Newton (FC) and 1 found oiled, later died, at Seaburn (BU). On 11th, 2 at Cresswell (JAG/BEP) and on 27th, 3 S. off St. Mary's (MH).

Common Tern:

1 at Whittle Dene on 8th (JSB).

Arctic Tern:

1 off Ross on 31st was only record but no doubt present on Farnes well before this.

Roseate Tern:

1 at Alnmouth on 14th (RH) was the first.

Little Tern:

Noted in Budle Bay (4 on 8th) and Holy Island (2 on 22nd).

Auks:(sp):

42 S. off St. Mary's in 30 mins. on 27th.

Turtle Dove:

3 in the Budle Bay area on 8th/9th and 1 at Bamburgh on 9th (BRS).

Cuckoo:

Quite common and widespread after first few days of month.

Barn Owl:

Nesting in North Shields and at Kielder (AB1/ERM).

Tawny Owl:

Noted at Gosforth Park, Wallington and Holywell.

Long-eared Owl:

Noted at Budle Bay, Ponteland and Wark Forest, the latter two with nests (BRS/ERM).

Short-eared Owl:

3 at Washington on 1st (JEP) and on 8th, 1 at Holywell (GU) and 2 at Bamburgh (BRS). Records from Ponteland, Blanchland, Derwent and Allanheads all involved breeding birds.

Swift:

First noted over Wylam (AJR) and Blaydon (BL) on 1st. Became increasingly common after 7th over most breeding areas.

Kingfisher:

Noted at Hexham/Corbridge (2 pairs), Durham (1 pair), Witton le Wear and Alnmouth. The latter being a new area in recent years.

Hoopoe:

1 at Morpeth on 2nd (per ERM) and 1 at Alnmouth early in month (per IHA).

/Green Woodpecker

Green Woodpecker:

Noted at Swinhoe and near Alwinton.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Noted at Gosforth, Bolam, Wylam and Colt Crag.

Wryneck:

1 trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS).

Hooded Crow:

1 at Bamburgh on 2nd (BRS).

Marsh Tit:

Noted at Howick, near Alwinton, Gosforth Park and Stannington (BG/ERM/MLH).

Willow Tit:

Noted in Castle Eden Dene and Gosforth Park.

Nuthatch:

Noted at Wallington and in Hulne Park.

Fieldfare:

Still some sizeable flocks present early in month with 120 at Kirkwhelpington on 2nd (ERM) and 50 near Rothbury same day (BEP). 30 at Prestwick Carr on 4th and still 1 on Holy Island on 23rd (ERM).

Redwing:

1 at Bamburgh on 8th and 16th (BRS).

Ring Ouzel:

Breeding at Frosterley, Sipton, Sinderhope, Blanchland, Kielder, Alwinton, Wannies. A passage bird at Bamburgh on 15th (BRS).

Blackbird:

4 young fledged from Kenton nest box (MRS/ELS).

Stonechat:

Pair at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS).

Whinchat:

A suggestion of coastal passage at Alnmouth and Hauxley on 14th/15th (RH/HRS).

Redstart:

Passage birds at Hauxley (1 on 8th, 1 on 23rd), Cresswell (1 on 8th) and Holy Island (1 on 23rd).

Thrush Nightingale:

Full noted obtained of 1 on Holy Island on 23rd (ERM/JAG). This is the 3rd Northumberland record.

Red-spotted Bluethroat:

A male at Hauxley on 13th (HRS) - the third Spring in 4 years to have been noted in Northumberland.

Grasshopper Warbler:

Widespread by end of first week.

Sedge Warbler:

A slight influx noted in coastal areas on 9th, 14th and 16th. 1 retrapped at Hauxley on 9th had been ringed as an adult there in 1965 (HRS).

/Blackcap

Blackcap:

By mid-month up to 6 noted from Gosforth, Heddon, Hartford, Holywell and Beamish. 1 - 3 passage birds at Hauxley, Bamburgh and Holy Island between 2nd - 31st.

Garden Warbler:

Noted at Gosforth, Hartford, Alnwick after 7th. Passage birds at Bamburgh (2 on 16th), Boulmer (1 on 9th), Hauxley (1 on 31st) and Whitley Bay (1 on 24th).

Whitethroat:

Although rather late in arriving, not being well reported on until after 8th, numbers seem to be returning to their pre 1969 status.

Lesser Whitethroat:

Between 1st - 9th mainly single birds were seen at Bamburgh, Holy Island, Budle Bay, Hauxley, Cresswell and Bolam. By 22nd about 4 pairs were in breeding territories in the Bamburgh area (BRS et al).

Willow Warbler:

Between 1st - 9th passage noted at Bamburgh (up to 30), Hauxley (up to 6) and Holywell Dene (up to 40) involved a large number of Northern birds. 1 of the race 'acredula' was seen in Howick Dene on 9th (ERM).

Chiffchaff:

Single passage birds at Sunderland on 1st (BU), and at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Howick on 9th.

Wood Warbler:

First noted on 5th - 7th when 1 was singing in Gosforth Park (BG/ERM). On 9th, 2 at Stocksfield (JSB) and 1 in Allendale (BEP). On 15th, 1 at Bamburgh (BRS) and next day 2+ in Hulne Park, Alnwick (GU). Further records from Harbottle and Tarsset after 22nd (BEP/ERM).

Spotted Flycatcher:

First noted on 8th when 1 was in Holywell Dene (GU). Next day 1 in Howick Dene (ERM) and by 15th widespread throughout area.

Pied Flycatcher:

Became established in breeding areas at Dipton, Allendale, Corbridge, Wallington and Stocksfield during first week. Passage birds noted at Sunderland (4 on 1st), Bamburgh (1 on 1st and 2 on 16th) and Whitley Bay (1 on 24th), 1 in Gosforth Park on 2nd and another there on 8th - an unusual locality (DL).

Red-breasted Flycatcher:

Recorded in Northumberland for the third time in past 4 Springs with 1, a female, on Holy Island on 23rd (ERM/JAG).

Tree Pipit:

Well established in breeding areas after about 9th. Passage was particularly conspicuous at Bamburgh with 10 on 1st, 8 on 2nd and 14 on 8th (BRS).

White Wagtail:

3 at Annstead on 1st (BRS).

Grey Wagtail:

Noted at Wallington, Upper Coquetdale and Boulmer.

Yellow Wagtail:

Noted at Annstead, Cresswell, Washington, Stanhope, Wallsend and Coquetdale.

Grey-headed Wagtail:

A male on Holy Island on 22nd/23rd (JAG/ERM).

Waxwing:

A very late bird in Budle Bay on 8th (BRS).

/Hawfinch

Hawfinch:

Again noted at Hartford, with a pair there on 20th (JEJ). An unusual record of 1 at Budle Bay on 1st (BRS).

Siskin:

Breeding in Border Forests and at Stanhope (ERM/LGM/J & RMcC).

Redpoll:

Moving N. at Bamburgh on 15th and 1 trapped wore a French Ring (BRS).

Crossbill:

24 in Kielder Forest on 29th suggested a successful breeding season (ERM). 1 in Redesdale Forest on 31st (LGM).

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

ANNUAL REPORT:

As detailed in April Bulletin 'Birds in Northumbria' (50p) is now available. Members who have paid £1 subscription please send a 12¹/₂p postal order to Bryan Galloway and a copy will be sent by return. Those who have subscribed 15s Od. need to send 37¹/₂p.

VOLUNTEER still required to take over duplication of the Monthly Bulletin. Contact Bryan Galloway as soon as possible.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

JUNE 1971 BULLETIN

ANNUAL REPORT

As detailed in April/May Bulletins 'Birds in Northumbria' is available to all Club Members at 12¹/₂p. Any member who has not yet received a copy please send the 12¹/₂p to Bryan Galloway.

SUMMARY

Despite the rather cool showery weather in June, breeding success seems to have been high in many species, although waders have had better years.

Sea bird movements were quite prominent on several dates particularly early in the month, when during N - NE winds, Manx Shearwaters, Fulmars, Lesser Black-Backs, Kittiwakes and Auks were all noted in unusual numbers.

Out of season records were very much in evidence with some interesting wader counts on Fenham Flats on 12th and a few records of each of Goldeneye, Red Breasted Merganser and Wigeon.

The most interesting records, however, involved a Ring-tail Harrier at the coast, 2 Ospreys, Little Ringed Plover, Black Tern, Black Guillemot and Hoopoe.

Early July has been quite spectacular in that a Sociable Plover remained at Ouston Airport for almost a week but as far as I know it was last seen on 11th. There are less than 10 records for the British Isles.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Great Crested Grebe:

Single pairs were noted at Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Gosforth Park and Heselaw Loch whilst at Hallington a pair and 2 young were seen on 27th.

Manx Shearwater:

Noted moving N. on 7 days between 3rd - 30th. 8N. off St. Mary's on 6th (MH) and 20 N. off Seaton Sluice/Whitburn on 20th (BG/FW/WBO) were largest counts.

Fulmar:

Two heavy movements noted; 80/hr. N. off Whitburn on 3rd (BU) and up to 300/hr. N. off St. Mary's and Hauxley on 6th (MH/HRS).

Gannet:

Moving N. at 30/hr. off Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and at 25/hr. off Seaton Sluice on 20th (BG/HW).

Cormorant:

A gathering of 105 at the N. end of Ross Links on 12th (LGM/JH).

Heron:

67 pullii ringed from 3 of Northumberland's largest heronries during month. Small parties noted at many scattered localities. Perhaps the most interesting records involved 7 on Fenham Flats/Budle Bay on 12th (LGM/JH) and 1 N. off Whitburn on 26th (WBO).

Mallard:

At least 60 young hatched at Wallsend Swallow (MH et al). Other breeding records came from Bywell (1 brood), Whittle Dene (2 broods), N. Tyne and Coquet Valleys.

Teal:

Broods noted on N. Tyne and River Coquet (ERM/BG).

/Gadwall

Gadwall:
Pair at Grindon on 5th (LGM).

Wigeon:
June records are unusual but 7 in Budle Bay on 12th (LGM/JH) and 11 N. off Seaton Sluice on 20th (BG).

Shoveler:
Noted at Newton Pool and Grindon (WAK/LGM).

Tufted Duck:
On 27th, 60 at Hoselaw Loch (MN/CW) and 20 at Whittle Dene (JSB). 3 drakes on Harbottle Lough on 20th (BEP).

Pochard:
42 at Hoselaw Loch on 27th and young were again reared at Pallinsburn (MN/CW).

Goldeneye:
Unusual records of 1 at Whittle Dene on 5th (JSB) and 1 at Hallington on 27th (J & IMcC).

Common Scoter:
Moving N. off Whitburn on 26th (20) and 30th (62) (WBO).

Eider:
Gatherings of adult drakes were noted in Amble Harbour (100 on 6th) and at Ross (220 on 12th) (HRS/LGM).

Red Breasted Merganser:
Unusual numbers noted for June. Off Whitburn 1 N. on 16th, 2S. on 18th, 4 N. on 20th and 3 N. on 30th (WBO) and off Holy Island 7 N. on 12th (CMA).

Goosander:
Bred successfully on Rivers Coquet, N. & S. Tynes and River Allen. Non-breeders noted at Bywell (6 on 20th) and Amble (1 on 20th).

Shelduck:
106 adults on Budle Bay/Fenham Flats on 12th (LGM/JH) and 4 S. off Whitburn on 15th (WBO). A brood of 10 ducklings on sea off Boulmer on 20th (IK/RO).

Grey Geese (sp):
16 E. over Sidwood on N. Tyne on 5th (J & RMcC).

Grey Lag Goose:
1 at Sweetthope on 27th (J & RMcC).

Snow Goose:
A flock of 8 N. off Whitburn on 24th must have been escapes from captivity.

Canada Goose:
23 young reared in the Sweetthope, Hallington, Colt Crag group (J & RMcC et al).

Buzzard:
1 in College Valley on 5th (HW).

Harrier (sp):
A female flying S. over Hauxley on 1st was almost certainly a Montagu's (HRS).

Osprey:
1 at Kielder on 3rd (ERM) and 1 summering in the Hallington/Whittle Dene/Derwent areas (IHA).

/Merlin

Merlin:

31 young ringed from 13 nests in the area during month. It is possible that 16 pairs successfully reared young.

Kestrel:

22 nests found in the Border Forests alone this year (ERM).

Coot:

112 on Yetholm Loch on 27th (MN/CW).

Lapwing:

Flocking first noted on 17th with 20 at each of Kielder and Sweethope (ERM). By 26th, 200 at Grindon (LGM).

Ringed Plover:

Coastal breeding confirmed at Hauxley (1 pair), Druridge Bay (2 pairs) and Ross Links (13 pairs) (LGM/JH). 1 found dead at Whitburn late in May had been ringed at Seahouses as a juvenile in August 1963 (BU).

Little Ringed Plover:

Breeding confirmed at only 1 locality - a reverine site in the S. of Northumberland.

Grey Plover:

An unusual gathering of 80 on Fenham Flats on 12th - all in winter plumage (LGM/JH).

Golden Plover:

Breeding noted on Hexhamshire Common and the Simonsides (BEP/BG).

Turnstone:

5 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Curlew:

65 on Fenham Flats on 12th (LGM/JH). On 17th, 10 W. over Holywell (MH), on 18th, 17 on the Farnes and on 19th, 16 at Falstone (ERM). On 30th, 44 N. and 10 S. off Whitburn (WBO).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

120, mostly in Winter plumage, on Fenham Flats on 12th (LGM/JH).

Wood Sandpiper:

1 at Washington on 17th (MH).

Knot:

1 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and 4 on Fenham Flats on 12th (LGM/JH).

Dunlin:

25 on Fenham Flats on 12th (LGM/JH).

Sanderling:

1 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and 6 at Ross on 12th (LGM/JH).

Arctic Skua:

Singles N. off Whitburn on 3rd and 15th and 4 S. there on 30th (WBO).

Lesser Black-Back Gull:

An unusual N. movement of adults over Hauxley on 5th, flocks of up to 20 being involved (HRS).

Glaucous Gull:

1 at Embleton on 26th (BG/DL).

Little Gull:

An immature at Cresswell on 2nd (ERM/BEP).

/Kittiwake

Kittiwake:
Moving N. at 200/hr. at Whitburn on 3rd (BU) and at 400/hr. at St. Mary's/Hauxley on 6th (MH/HRS).

Black Tern:
1 at Whittle Dene on 13th (JSB).

Common Tern:
14 flew NE over Wark Forest on 6th (BU) and 1 at Hoselaw Loch on 27th (MN/CW).

Little Tern:
4 nests found at a mainland site. Birds also noted at 2 other localities in the N. of Northumberland.

Auk:
100/hr. N. off Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Black Guillemot:
1 flew S. off Whitburn on 30th (WBO).

Barn Owl:
Successful nesting noted at Kielder and at Killingworth. Broods of 6 and 5 respectively were reared. Also suspected nesting in Westerhope, South Shields and Washington areas.

Short-eared Owl:
8 young in a nest in Wark Forest was indicative of the adequate supply of voles this year. 6 other pairs found in Border Forests and 1 on Holy Island on 3rd may have been breeding (ERM/J & RMcC).

Swift:
During squally conditions 500 flew S. in 20 minutes at Embleton on 26th (BG).

Kingfisher:
Suspected breeding on the Tyne at Hexham (MR).

Hoopoe:
1 in the Hauxley area early in month was seen by several local people (HRS).

Green Woodpecker:
Noted in Plessey Woods and at Dipton.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:
Noted at Dipton and in Hulne Park.

Great Tit/Blue Tit:
8 Great Tits and 2 Blue Tits were reared from same nest box at Stocksfield in a year that has been very good for both species, particularly Great Tit (ERM).

Marsh Tit:
Noted in Irthing Valley and at Stocksfield.

Long-tailed Tit:
Noted at Bywell and in the Allen Valley.

Fieldfare:
A late bird in Holy Island area on 2nd (J & RMcC).

Stonechat:
Successful nesting noted at Chevington and Hauxley (HRS).

Redstart:
Noted nesting at up to 1200 feet in the Kielder area where breeding success has been excellent.

/Reed Warbler

Reed Warbler:

A pair in Gosforth Park on 2nd and 13th (LGM/JH/HW).

Chiffchaff:

12 singing males counted in Hulne Park, one of the most favoured localities of this species in the area.

Wood Warbler:

Common again in the Allen Valley. Also noted near Elsdon, Devils Water, Dipton, Kielder and Stocksfield.

Spotted Flycatcher:

A late passage bird on Holy Island on 2nd/3rd (J & RMcC).

Pied Flycatcher:

8 pairs on the River Wansback between Meldon - Mitford, 4 pairs at Tarsset, 5 pairs at Redesmouth and 32 pairs on Dipton/March burns (ERM).

Siskin:

Quite common in Kielder Forest this year (ERM).

Redpoll:

Nested successfully in Wallsend Park - a new area.

Bullfinch:

Continues to increase in Kielder Forest.

Crossbill:

Parties of 3 and 4 noted in the Wark Forest on 6th and 19th (BU/ERM).

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All records for July to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle 5 by 8th August 1971 please.

SEA WATCHING FACILITIES

In addition to the Seaton Sluice watch tower to which members can obtain entry by purchasing a key for 12¹/₂p (contact I. H. Armstrong), Whitburn Point Bird Observatory is now in operation and anyone interested in using it please contact B. Unwin, 2 Albyn Gardens, Sunderland.

Red Warbler:
A pair in Grafton Park on 8th and 19th (18/11/51).

Chiffchaff:
12 similar males counted in Hulse Park, one of the most favoured localities of this species in the area.

Wood Warbler:
Common again in the Allen Valley. Also noted near Elston, Devils Water, Dighton, Kildare and Stockfield.

Spotted Flycatcher:
A large passage bird on 8th and 19th (18/11/51).

Pied Flycatcher:
8 pairs on the River Wansbeck between Melton - Melton, 4 pairs at Tanset, 2 pairs at Redemount and 32 pairs on Dighton Marsh (18/11).

Blackbird:
Quite common in Kildare Forest this year (18/11).

Indigo Bunting:
Nested successfully in Walsingham Park - a new area.

Chiffchaff:
Continues to increase in Kildare Forest.

Cuckoo:
Parties of 3 and 4 noted in the Wark Forest on 8th and 19th (18/11).

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All records for July to August Galloway, 115 Southway, S. W. Denton, Newcastle 5 by 8th August 1951 please.

SEA WATERS FACILITIES

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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

JULY 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

As mentioned in the June Bulletin the highlight of July was the appearance of a Sociable Plover at Ouston Airport on 6th where it remained until 12th. It was seen by several members but others were less fortunate.

There were two interesting periods during the month, the first occurring between 16th - 18th as sea birds were moving N. offshore. Shearwaters and Skuas were noted in numbers and Gannets were particularly prominent. During this same period an Osprey was watched fishing over Fenham Flats and a few days afterwards a Long-tailed Skua was seen on consecutive days off Whitburn.

The second period commenced on 23rd and continued until 26th and involved mainly waders, although some sea birds were again prominent. Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper were the most interesting species but Turnstones, Knot and Purple Sandpiper were also obviously arriving.

The more interesting breeding records included Great Crested Grebes, Corncrake, Little Ringed Plover and Lesser Whitethroat whilst a Hobby, seen early in the month, might have been breeding in the area.

The bad weather in mid-August brought unprecedented numbers of Sooty Shearwaters close inshore and over 120 were counted moving N. off Hauxley on 14th with smaller numbers further down the coast. More detailed information will appear in the August Bulletin.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Diver (sp):
Noted off Whitburn; 2N. on 10th, 1 N. on 13th and 1 S. on 23rd (WBO) and off Seaton Sluice; 1 S. on 12th and 1 S. on 25th (B & ME).

Great Crested Grebe:
Breeding was confirmed for the first time on record at Gosforth Park where a pair hatched 2 young. Young were also noted at Hallington (2) and Seaton Burn (1) whilst breeding was suspected at Catcleugh, Colt Crag and Whittle Dene.

At the coast, 1 was on the sea off Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Little Grebe:

Breeding birds present at many waters, mainly in the S.E. Singles at Whittle Dene from 7th - 19th and at Cresswell from 20th - 25th may have been on passage.

Manx Shearwater:

Recorded mainly moving N. on 13 days during month. Whitburn provided the largest counts although between 16th - 18th a heavy passage was noted all along the coastline. Maximum counts were 70 N. in 2 hours on 16th, 95 N. in 10 hours on 17th and 50 N. in 1½ hours on 18th (WBO/HRS/JEP/RA/GU et al). 22 N. in ½ hour off Hauxley on 24th suggested further heavy passage. 1 N. off Whitburn on 16th was thought to be a 'Balearic' (per BU).

Sooty Shearwater:

On 18th 1 N. off Whitburn (RA/RAK) and 3 off Cresswell (JEP).

Fulmar:

58 ledges occupied at the Cullernose Point colony on 3rd (LGM). Light N. passage noted at Hauxley on 18th and 24th.

/Gannet

Gannet:

N. passage was noted 5 days, being particularly heavy on 18th when up to 300 were noted off Hauxley, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn.

Heron:

Up to 4 noted at several waters as far inland as Hallington, particularly after 20th. Concentrations of 5 at Fenham Flats on 18th (TGR) and 9 at Cresswell on 29th (BEP) were the largest reported.

Mallard:

30 at Capheaton on 19th was largest gathering reported (CMA).

Teal:

Up to 7 noted at Holywell, Hauxley and Whittle Dene.

Gadwall:

1 at Holywell Ponds on 30th (CED).

Wigeon:

At Gosforth Park 1 on 7th and 26th and 3/4 on 28th (LGM/GD).

Shoveler:

Successful breeding noted at Holywell (5 young) and Washington (CED/RA). By end of month 23 were at Washington (RA/BU/ et al). Grindon and Whittle Dene each had up to 4 birds (CMA/LGM/JSB).

Scaup:

Early records involved 1 S. off Whitburn on 10th (WBO), 2 N. at Hauxley on 18th (HRS) and a drake at Cresswell from 25th up to 29th (ERM/BEP/GU).

Tufted Duck:

Successful breeding noted at Holywell (35 young), Whittle Dene (18 young), Bolam (9 young), Pawston (25 young), Gosforth Park (2 broods) and Allenheads (2 broods), 83 at Whittle Dene by 28th (IHA et al) was an unusually large gathering. 3 N. off Seaton Sluice on 1st (B & ME) and 5 on Tyne at Corbridge on 10th (MR) were in unusual localities.

Pochard:

A brood hatched at Gosforth Park (JH/LGM). 32 at Hoselaw on 29th were unusual (CMA) and up to 11 were present at Whittle Dene for most of month (IHA/JSB). Also noted at Capheaton, Colt Crag, Hallington, Bothal, Holywell, S. Linton.

Velvet Scoter:

Off Whitburn 1 S. on 2nd, 2 N. on 3rd, 4 N. on 5th and 3 N. on 17th (WBO). Off Seaton Sluice 1 N. on 3rd (GU).

Common Scoter:

Noted off Hauxley, St. Mary's and Seaton Sluice but Whitburn provided the largest numbers with 212 N. and 35 S. on 4th, 109 N. on 5th, 200 N. on 10th and 183 N. on 23rd (WBO).

Eider:

Mainland nesting confirmed at Foxton, Seaton Point, Boulmer, Howick, Dunstanburgh, Embleton and Ross (LGM/BG).

Red-breasted Merganser:

10 off Newton on 4th (IK/RO) and on 5th 14 N. and 8 S. off Whitburn (WBO). Up to 5 noted on 8 other dates during month, mainly off Whitburn.

Goosander:

The first flying young were noted on N. Tyne on 24th (ERM). 2 at Whitfield Lough on 4th were considered as being unusual (LGM/RN).

Shelduck:

Bred at Cresswell, Seaton Point, Budle Bay and Fenham Flats. 20 flew E. down Tyne Valley at Healey on 5th (BL). On 10th 2 S. off each of Whitburn and Seaton Sluice

(B & ME)

B & ME) and on 19th 3 N. off Whitburn (WBO).

Grey Lag Goose:

1 at Sweethope on 6th (CMA).

Canada Goose:

28 at Sweethope on 6th was largest count in that area (CMA et al).

Buzzard:

2 in Kielder Area on 7th (per ERM).

Sparrow Hawk:

Continues to increase as a breeding species as confirmed by a record of 4 pairs rearing young within a small area in S. Northumberland.

Osprey:

1 was seen at Fenham Flats on 18th by TGR who wrote "12.30.p.m. - high water - came S. below 5 Herons to Low Moor - back N. up to Granary Point harried by 2 Sandwich Terns - returned to Low Moor still being harried - took fish on 3rd drive, flying off inland to eat it." What a sight it must have been!

Hobby:

1 watched hunting and feeding in a S. Northumberland locality on 2nd (BL).

Merlin:

A final total of 23 occupied sites were located, 34 young being ringed from 17 nests. 2 nests yielded broods of 5 young (ERM).

Kestrel:

Records suggest that they have had a very successful nesting season.

Corncrake:

Singles noted at Catton (Allendale) and Whickhope (N. Tyne) during the Summer (BL).

Coot:

200 at Seaton Burn on 19th (LGM) and 160 at Holywell on 28th (ERM).

Oystercatcher:

Coastal flocking became more conspicuous as month progressed with up to 65 at Budle Pav. Hauxley, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's by 25th. An inland passage bird at Whittle Dene on 4th and 17th (IHA).

Sociable Plover:

1 at Ouston Airport between 6th - 12th was first record for Northumberland. It was first seen by Flt. Sgt. Mouncey at about 9.a.m. on Tuesday 6th and identification was confirmed by IHA and PY later that day. Although it was not seen on 8th and 9th it had returned by weekend, providing a few observers with excellent views. It was last seen on the afternoon of 12th.

Lapwing:

500 at Ouston Airport on 7th/8th (IHA/BG), 450 at Grindon on 6th (CMA) and 300+ at Bellingham on 24th (ERM) were largest flocks reported.

Ringed Plover:

Overland passage suggested by 1 at Grindon on 17th (LGM) and up to 4 at Washington between 24th - 28th (ERM/BU).

Little Ringed Plover:

A pair at a new site in N. Durham on 24th (RMP/PY). A pair still present on river nest site in S. Northumberland where they first reared young in 1970. (MR). 1 at Washington from 11th - 27th (RI/RAK/JEP).

Grey Plover:

30 at Holy Island on 31st (IK/RO).

Golden Plover:

150 at Ouston Airport on 7th, 8th and 20th (IHL/BEP). 100 at Grindon on 17th (LGM), 500 at Whittle Dene on 24th (JSB) and 200 on Fenham Flats by 31st (TGR).

Turnstone:

Seemed to increase after 23rd when St. Mary's provided a max. count of 84 by 27th (BG/GU). Up to 20 also noted at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Common Snipe:

20 at Washington on 24th (BU).

Curlew:

150 on the Coquet at Holystone on 4th (BG) and 90 in Budle Bay by 17th (CW).

Whimbrel:

1 S. off Whitburn on 6th and became regular over most coastal points after 15th. 12 at Fenham Flats on 17th was largest count but Whitburn regularly recorded up to 6. 1 was as far inland as Whittle Dene on 31st (JSB).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

100 - 150 in Lindisfarne Reserve between 17th - 30th (IK/RO/CW). 1 off Hauxley on 15th (GU).

Green Sandpiper:

2 at Whittle Dene after 7th (IHL et al) and 2 on Tyne at Corbridge on 10th and 17th could have been the same birds (BEP/MR). 1 at Washington from 5th - 26th (JEP/HW), 1 at Beal on 23rd (IK/RO) and 1 at Cresswell on 31st (HW).

Wood Sandpiper:

1 at Washington on 4th (JEP) and 26th (HW), 1 at Hauxley on 24th (HRS), 1 at Holywell on 23rd (HW).

Common Sandpiper:

An early passage bird at Holywell on 2nd (CED) and heard calling over Newcastle on 9th (BG). Plentiful on Tyne at Corbridge by 10th (MR) and thereafter small numbers on passage at many waters, mainly near coast. 7 at Whittle Dene on 24th (BEP) and 6 at Lynemouth on 25th (ERM) with up to 4 at several other localities suggested a peak about this time.

Redshank:

250 in Budle Bay on 17th (CW), 55 at Washington on 14th (JEP) and 40 - 50 at Cresswell on 25th - 28th (ERM/GU).

Spotted Redshank:

Only 1 record; 1 in Budle Bay on 17th (CW).

Greenshank:

1 at Holywell on 4th and 30th (CED), 1 - 2 at Washington from 12th - 31st (JEP et al), 4 in Budle Bay on 17th (CW) and 1 at Chevington on 30th (ERM).

Knot:

An apparent influx on 25th with 18 at Beal, 12 at Cresswell Pond, and 15 at St. Mary's (IK/ERM/BEP/BG). All were in breeding plumage.

Purple Sandpiper:

12 at St. Mary's on 23rd and 25th (BG/GU).

Little Stint:

A few unusually early records with 1 in Budle Bay on 17th (CW) and up to 4 at Washington between 24th - 27th (RA/RAK/JEP/HW).

Dunlin:

2 at Newton on 4th and 4 at Holywell on 9th with 25 at Cresswell nest day (IK/RO/GU). Thereafter up to 40 at typical localities near coast such as Lynemouth, Beal, Washington etc.

/Curlew Sandpiper

Curlew Sandpiper:

As Little Stint two unusually early records with 1 at Washington on 24th (JEP/HW) and 1 at Cresswell on 25th - 27th (ERM/HW/BEP).

Ruff:

An early bird at Holywell on 2nd (CED), and another at Washington on 3rd (HW). 1 at Cresswell on 20th/21st (ERM/BEP), and up to 6 at Washington between 24th - 30th (RA/RK/JEP et al).

Arctic Skua:

More plentiful offshore than they have been for some years. Whitburn provided the most comprehensive data where they were seen on almost every day. 25 S. there on 5th and 18 N. on 17th were largest counts but Cresswell Bay was no less fruitful with 20 there on 18th/19th. Up to 10 off most other coastal points.

Great Skua:

1 N. off Whitburn on 2nd and 2 N. on 13th (WBO). 4 were seen there on 17th but on 18th 7 were off Cresswell (JDMcE) and 1 off Seaton Sluice (BG) with 2 N. off Whitburn (RA). On 19th, 20th and 23rd singles were again seen off Whitburn, all moving N.

Pomarine Skua:

2 were off Cresswell on 18th (JEP).

Long-tailed Skua:

An adult was seen off Whitburn on 20th/21st (WBO).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

A pair were present at Whitfield Lough on 4th (LGM/RN).

Herring Gull:

A few pairs were apparently holding territory on the roof tops in Newcastle during month. (LGM).

Common Gull:

3 pairs present at Whitfield Lough on 4th at least 1 with a nest (LGM). Return passage was suggested by 300 off Crag Point on 7th and a few in N. Tyne Valley by 18th (ERM).

Little Gull:

1 at Washington on 21st (JEP) and an adult flew S. off Whitburn on 23rd (WBO).

Kittiwake:

The Newcastle Quayside Warehouse that has provided a nest site for several pairs during past few Summers was demolished early in the year. The colony established itself on the Gateshead side of the river however, and by end of month there were 15 occupied nests.

Common Tern:

Continues to be recorded with increasing regularity inland. Washington, of course, attracts the largest numbers with a max. of 200+. There on 24th (JEP et al), but 30 were at Stakeford on 25th (LGM), and up to 8 were often noted at Wallsend Swallow, Holywell, S. Linton, Ellington, Bothal and Whittle Dene.

Arctic Tern:

5 inland at Whitley Bay Quarry Pond on 28th were most unusual (JDMcE).

Little Tern:

1 at Holy Island on 26th (IK/RO). Passage birds noted at Whitburn (1 N. on 17th and 1 S. on 18th) and at St. Mary's (3 S. on 31st).

Sandwich Tern:

A heavy S. movement at Hauxley on 24th with up to 300 per hour (HRS).

Guillemot:

Steady N. Movement on 18th with flocks of up to 20 being noted off Hauxley (HRS et al).

/Black Guillemot

Black Guillemot:
1 N. off Whitburn on 22nd (WBO).

Cuckoo:

A juv. being fed by a cock Reed Bunting at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Short-eared Owl:

6 in Gilsland area on 10th (BU) confirms comments made on a good breeding season in June Bulletin.

Nightjar:

At least 1 pair in Dipton area this Summer (per ERM).

Swift:

Appears to have been particularly numerous this year.

Kingfisher:

Continues to increase slowly with pairs reported from Corbridge (1), N. Tyne (at least 2), Coquet (2), Wansbeck (1).

Green Woodpecker:

Noted at Wallington and Beamish.

Swallow:

The Chevington roost attracted well over 500 on 30th (ERM).

House Martin:

28 nests were counted on cliffs at Cullernose on 3rd (LGM).

Sand Martin:

50+ passage birds at Bothal on 25th (ERM).

Marsh Tit:

Noted at Beamish (RMP).

Nuthatch:

Again seen at Wallington (GU).

Blackbird:

An albino fledgling seen in Whitley Bay on 24th (B & ME).

Redstart:

An early coastal passage bird at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Reed Warbler:

3 birds singing in Gosforth Park on 7th and again on 30th (LGM et al).

Sedge Warbler:

Again Chevington Burn has attracted large numbers with at least 300 there on 30th (ERM).

Lesser Whitethroat:

An early passage bird at Hauxley on 25th (HRS). 1 near Cresswell on 29th may have been breeding and also noted at Redesmouth and Mounces on N. Tyne (ERM/JDP).

Willow Warbler:

15 in Hauxley area on 24th was first indication of return Autumn passage (HRS).

Pied Flycatcher:

160 pullus hatched by the 32 pairs in the Dipton Area (ERM).

Pied Wagtail:

A nest with 4 young found in fork of an elm tree on 24th - an unusual site (ERM).

/Goldfinch

Goldfinch:

Continues to increase, being very widespread and locally common this year.

Siskin:

A species that is also increasing, particularly in N. Tyne Valley (ERM).

Crossbill:

4 at Plashetts on 3rd (ERM).

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

FIELD OUTING TO LOW HAUXLEY RINGING STATION - 26TH SEPTEMBER 1971

The prime aim of this trip is to show the working of the Station. It is therefore ideal for beginners or for those who have never seen bird ringing. The Station is very small and it is intended to stagger the visits so that overcrowding does not occur. Those interested please contact John Ginnever, c/o Eric Meek, 5 Elm Road, Cheviot View, Ponteland, before 8th September stating approximate time when they could come. It is not intended to organise transport but a map will be supplied if required. A visitors fee of 10p per person will be charged and the visit should last about 1 hour.

BTO ATLAS PROJECT AND ROCK PIPIT SURVEY

Would all members who have not submitted records for these 2 projects please let me have them as soon as possible. Thank you.

(Sgd.) Geoff. Macfarlane
28 Fox and Hounds Road
Fenham
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Continued to increase, being very widespread and locally common this year.

Stackin:

A species that is also increasing, particularly in N. Tyne Valley (E.M.).

Crossbill:

A at Pilsbetta on 3rd (E.M.).

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FIELD OUTING TO LOW HUXLEY KINGING STATION - 26TH SEPTEMBER 1971

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(Sgt.) Geoff. McFarlane
28 Fox and Hounds Road
Fenham
Newcastle upon Tyne.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

AUGUST 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

August was undoubtedly a month for sea birds and waders particularly Shearwaters, Skuas and Ruff but at the beginning of the month Black Terns and Little Gulls were prominent as high pressure and light easterlies prevailed over Denmark and N. Germany.

Low pressure moving E. from S. of Ireland on 13th/14th brought strong E. winds and rain and sea birds were moving close inshore. Sooty Shearwaters were noted in unprecedented numbers moving N. together with Manx, Gannets, Fulmars and Common Scoter whilst Arctic Skuas were moving S. More Black Terns were seen and the first of the large flocks of Ruff appeared. On 18th a Frigate Bird (sp) was seen and on 20th a Barred Warbler, but as NE winds strengthened, with a low pressure centre over the S. North Sea on 21st, more Sooty Shearwaters were moving with 1 Great Shearwater. Ruff continued to arrive but by 24th with high pressure over Scandinavia, light easterlies prevailing and low cloud over the coast a light fall of migrants occurred. Red-backed Shrike, Wryneck and Pied Flycatchers were involved and even as the wind veered S. and then to SW on 26th/27th more Black Terns arrived and another Barred Warbler.

Westerlies prevailed during the last few days but a third Barred Warbler was trapped and a few Fieldfares arrived.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Diver (sp):-

Up to 4 unidentified Divers noted off Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn, mainly moving N. after 15th, although 1 S. off Whitburn on 4th.

Black-throated Diver:

1 N. off St. Mary's on 22nd (JDP).

Red-throated Diver:

Singles N. off Annstead on 15th, Whitburn on 22nd and St. Mary's on 22nd and 29th.

Great Crested Grebe:

Breeding birds were still present on all the waters mentioned in July until well into August. In addition 6 were at Derwent on 16th (CML) and 1 remained at Whittle Dene until at least 15th (MR et al). At coast 1 off Ross on 1st (JH/LGM) and 1 off Holy Island on 21st (J & RMcC). Also 2 at Hartburn in late August (JDP).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 off Seaton Sluice on 6th (HW).

Slavonian Grebe:

1 on sea off Whitburn on 30th/31st (WBO) was still in Summer plumage.

Little Grebe:

Many waters held up to 6 including Whittle Dene, for most of month but 11 were at Washington on 31st (BEP et al) and 20 at Hartburn on 15th (JEP).

Manx Shearwater:

Noted on 9 different days mainly moving N. with a pronounced N. passage between 13th and 15th. Annstead, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn all noted the movement with up to 40 per day, although Cresswell recorded 13 N. in only half-an-hour on 14th.

Great Shearwater:

Full noted submitted on 1 flying N. off St. Mary's at 300 yards range on 21st (JDP).

Sooty Shearwater:

Noted in unprecedented numbers moving N. all along coast after 13th. 4 N. off St. Mary's (JDP) on 13th heralded the first phase and next day 116 passed Hauxley in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours (/)HRS)

(HRS) and 15 passed Cresswell in only $\frac{1}{2}$ hour (BG/ERM). Annstead, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn also witnessed the movement. By 15th the rate had decreased to only 2 - 3 per hour but on 21st/22nd, 36 N. off Whitburn with smaller numbers off Annstead and St. Mary's. Only 2 birds were seen to fly S. during the above periods. Other records were 1 N. off Whitburn on 23rd and 3 N. there on 25th (WBO).

Fulmar:

Moving N. in numbers on 6 days between 12th and 22nd with a peak of 150 per hour on 14th. Hauxley, Whitburn and Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's all noted the movement.

Gannet:

Noted moving N. on many days with peaks on 13th - 15th and 20th - 22nd. Annstead noted the largest numbers with 500 per hour on 15th and 1700 in 2 hours on 22nd (BRS) but Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn also all provided some large counts. During the above periods less than 10 per day were noted flying S.

Frigate Bird (sp):

A full description has been submitted on what seems to have been a possible Magnificent Frigate Bird flying N. off Whitburn on 18th (WBO). 6 observers saw the bird.

Heron:

Many records of parties of up to 5 birds from all over the area. Fenham Flats/Budle Bay attracted 8 - 10 between 1st and 28th whilst Cresswell Ponds had a maximum of 12 on 18th (B & ME et al). A flock of 7 flying inland over Seaton Sluice on 29th suggested general immigration about that time (ABL/HW/KW).

Mallard:

100 at Capheaton on 21st, 130 at Whittle Dene on 28th (J & RMCC) and 214 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Teal:

300+ at Eshott on 30th (MH/JEO/KGD) was an unusually high count for time of year, although an influx was generally noted towards end of month with up to 60 at Fenham Flats, Budle Bay, Cresswell, Washington and Whittle Dene. During the N. movement of sea birds on 13th - 15th and 21st - 23rd up to 60 per day were noted flying N. off Whitburn, St. Mary's, Hauxley and Annstead.

Garganey:

2 at Washington on 26th (JEP) and 1 at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Wigeon:

1 at Wallsend Swallow on 7th (BG) and on 15th 21 at Hartburn (JEP) and 4 N. off Annstead (BRS). Between 21st - 31st small numbers moving N. off Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn with a max. of 52 passing Hauxley on 23rd. From 24th - 30th, 150 on Fenham Flats (BG/B & ME).

Pintail:

1 in Budle Bay on 1st (JH/LGM) and 3 there on 30th (BRS). 1 at Hauxley on 7th and 15 N. there on 14th (HRS). 3 at Newton on 22nd (IK/RO) and 1 at Whittle Dene on 27th (BG).

Shoveler:

Present at Washington all month with a max. of 35 on 8th (RA/RAK). Up to 7 at Grindon, Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene and Holywell whilst offshore 2 N. off Hauxley on 4th and 2 S. off Bamburgh on 26th.

Scaup:

1 at Cresswell on 6th/7th and 23rd (BG/ERM/GU). 4 N. off Annstead on 15th (BRS) and off Whitburn 1 N. on 15th and 4 N. on 17th (WBO).

Tufted Duck:

Breeding confirmed at Harbottle Lough (ERM). Whittle Dene attracted the largest numbers by far with at least 70 there all month and a max. of 90 on 21st (J & RMCC et al). 40 at Colt Crag on 8th and 25 at Sweethope on same day (B & ME).

/Pochard

* Pochard:
12 at Holywell on 15th (CED) and 27 at Derwent on 25th (CMA). Up to 6 noted at Capheaton, Whittle Dene and Seaton Burn.

Goldeneye:

An early record of 1 at Hallington on 8th (J & RMcC). Also 1 N. off Whitburn on 18th (WBO), 1 N. off St. Mary's on 22nd (JDP) and 1 near Ashington on 29th (BMn).

Long-tailed Duck:

An early record of 1 N. off Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Velvet Scoter:

Singles off Whitburn on 1st, 7th, 15th and 21st and 2 there on 14th (WBO). 2 off Seaton Sluice on 1st (ABl/HW) with 1 on 15th (ERM) and 1 on 22nd (JDP). Off Hauxley 1 on 13th, 3 on 14th and 1 on 15th (HRS). 3 off Cresswell on 15th (JEP) and 2 at Beal on 29th (IK/RO). Most were flying N.

Common Scoter:

Some large counts as flocks moved N. on many days. 13th - 15th saw a total of 524 N. off Whitburn (WBO) with smaller numbers off St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice, Hauxley and Annstead. Off these same points at least 603 passed N. between 18th - 24th (B & ME/JDP/GU et al).

Eider:

600 off Birling Carrs on 30th (LGM/RN) and 200 off Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:

Present off Ross all month with 50 there on 28th (JH/LGM). Whitburn noted 8 N. between 1st - 18th.

Goosander:

Still on the rivers until late in August although only a few noted. Off Hauxley 7 N. on 15th and 10 N. on 30th (HRS).

Shelduck:

23 on Lindisfarne Nature Reserve on 1st increased to 50+ by end of month (BG/LGM). Off-shore passage noted on 5 days with peaks of 12 N. off St. Mary's on 15th (JDP) and 16 N. off Whitburn on 21st (WBO). 12 N. over Wallsend Swallow on 25th (LGM) and 4 at Washington on 30th/31st (BU et al) suggested some overland passage.

Grey Geese (sp):

3 N. off Whitburn on 18th (WBO).

Snow Geese:

2 adults on Fenham Flats between 24th - 30th were no doubt escapes from captivity (B & ME/BG/LGM).

Canada Goose:

In addition to the Colt Crag/Hallington flock (38 on 8th), a flock of 19 passed S. over Seaton Sluice (ABl et al) and Tynemouth (JDMcE) on 29th.

Buzzard (sp):

1 in the Hexham area on 18th and 21st (AJR/per MRS) and 1 over North Shields on 24th and 27th (JSS).

Sparrow Hawk:

Breeding reported from Slaley, Northumberland Loughs, Aydon. Single birds noted on several occasions during month at Hauxley, Bamburgh, Beal, Fenham Flats, Pegswood and Prestwick Carr.

Osprey:

The N. Tyne Summer resident again noted on 22nd near Falstone (MRS/ELS).

/Hobby

Hobby:

Full notes submitted on 1 that was seen at Holywell Ponds on 10th and 15th (CHD/MN).

Peregrine:

1 seen at Holywell on 15th (B & ME).

Merlin:

In addition to the breeding records mentioned in July, a further pair reared young in the Border Forests (BL). Singles at Grindon on 1st (IHA) and at Redesmouth on 22nd (MRS/ELS) were probably locally bred. 1 - 2 on Holy Island between 21st - 29th (BG/J & RMCC/IK).

Kestrel:

A pair successfully reared young in Durham Cathedral (RN). Up to 5 at each of Holy Island, Coquet Estuary, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice suggested a general S. movement. In fact, 1 S. well out over sea off Whitburn on 31st.

Water Rail:

1 at Beal on 3rd (IK/RO).

Coot:

Max. counts were 310 at Seaton Burn on 26th (MRS), 130 at Holywell on 18th (GU), 186 at Broomlee on 21st (LGM) and 100 at Capheaton on 21st (BEP). Up to 35 at Whittle Dene included 5 breeding pairs (IHA et al).

Oystercatcher:

100 at Cresswell on 10th (CMA), 78 off Whitburn (all N.) on 15th (WBO). Overland passage was suggested by singles over Wallsend Swallow and Denton Burn on 7th (BG) and at Prestwick Carr on 14th (ERM).

Lapwing:

Some large flocks throughout month. Max. gatherings were at Ouston (1200 on 22nd), Pegswood (1000 on 15th), Blagdon (900 on 16th), Ponteland (800 on 2nd - 5th), Budle Bay (600 on 1st). Up to 500 at many other localities.

Ringed Plover:

42 at Ross on 1st (LGM/JH) and c40 at St. Mary's on 10th/11th (B & ME). Also during this period c35 in Hauxley area. Inland records involved up to 11 at Washington between 10th - 14th (BU) and up to 6 at Whittle Dene between 15th - 30th (MR et al).

Little Ringed Plover:

Still present at N.W. Durham site until 5th (RMP/PY). 2 seen at Seaton Burn on 6th (MRS), 1 at Washington on 8th (RA/RAK) with 3 there on 25th (JEP) and 1 there on 27th (RMP).

Grey Plover:

10 on Fenham Flats on 1st increasing to 31 by 28th (JH/LGM). Singles at Alnmouth on 12th (ERM) and Whitburn on 22nd (IN).

Golden Plover:

Largest flocks noted were 2000 at Chevington on 10th (HRS) and at Ouston on 27th (BG). 900 - 1000 were in the Fenham Flats area for most of month (BG/LGM). Up to 350 at suitable localities as far inland as Housesteads.

Turnstone:

No more than 80 seen together on any part of coast. 7 feeding around flood water inland near Hartley on 15th (KGD/MH).

Snipe:

A suggestion of an influx after 20th with up to 80 at Pegswood, 60 at Prestwick Carr and 35 at Whittle Dene. Smaller flocking noted elsewhere.

Curlew:

350+ in Budle Bay on 1st (JH/LGM), 100+ on Fenham Flats on 24th (BG) and 50+ on Jarrow Slake on 10th (MH).

/Whimbrel

Whimbrel:

Noted on most days mainly moving S. Largest numbers involved 17 on Fenham Flats and 20 S. over Holy Island on 7th (TGR) with 14 over Druridge same day (LGM). 20 S. over Cramlington on 4th (GU), whilst at Hauxley 13 S. on 12th, 34 N. on 23rd, 18 N. on 29th and 24 present on 30th (HRS).

Black-tailed Godwit:

Off Whitburn 2 N. on 3rd, 1 N. on 9th and 1 N. on 31st (WBO). 1 at Fenham Flats on 24th (BG), 1 on Holy Island on 29th (IK/RO) and 1 at Newsham on 30th (JDP). 1 at Grindon Lough on 10th (RG/EL) was of particular interest.

Bar-tailed Godwit:

At least 500 on Fenham Flats by 24th (BG). Small numbers moving N. off Whitburn, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley throughout month. 1 at Washington Ponds on 25th (JEP).

Green Sandpiper:

Up to 3 noted at 16 localities during month possibly involving a total of 25 individuals and seen as far inland as Colt Crag. 5 were seen together at Washington on 7th (HW).

Wood Sandpiper:

Noted at 9 localities between 4th - 28th involving about 16 individuals. 3 at Washington (the farthest inland) on 14th (BU) and 3 S. over Tynemouth on 23rd (JDP) were most seen together.

Common Sandpiper:

Most had left breeding areas by mid month but migration proceeded throughout month being noted at most waters. 12 at Alnmouth on 30th (LGM) and 9 (a max.) at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR) were largest gatherings.

Redshank:

600 in Budle Bay on 8th (JH/LGM), 300+ on Jarrow Slake on 10th (MH) and 100 at Alnmouth on 30th (LGM) were largest gatherings.

Spotted Redshank:

1 - 3 noted at 9 localities as far apart as Fenham Flats, Washington and Colt Crag probably involving a total of 17 birds. A suggestion of distinct influxes on 14th/15th and again after 26th.

Greenshank:

A very good month with parties of up to 5 noted at about 20 localities as widely spaced as Beal, Whitburn and Colt Crag. Max. numbers involved 9 - 11 on Fenham Flats between 5th - 30th (IK/B & ME/BG), 6 in Budle Bay on 15th (BRS), 10 at Washington on 21st (AB1/HW) and 12 at Prestwick Carr on 24th (MRS/ELS/J & RMcC).

Knot:

On 1st, 60 in Budle Bay (LGM/BRS), 25 at Anble (RN), and 30 off Whitburn (WBO). On 4th, 75 S at Whitburn and on 13th, 33 S. at Hauxley.

Purple Sandpiper:

An unusual record of 1 at Washington Ponds on 14th (BU). 2 at Hauxley on 15th (HLS).

Little Stint:

1 at Cresswell on 1st (RN), 3 at Washington on 3rd (R/RK/JEP), and 1 near Earsdon on 16th (JDP) and 17th (KW).

Dunlin:

400 - 600 in Budle Bay between 1st - 28th (LGM et al) and 500 on Fenham Flats on 30th (B & ME). Washington Ponds attracted a max. of 40 on 13th (BU). Smaller numbers at other inland localities.

Curlew Sandpiper:

On 1st, 1 at Cresswell (until 4th), and 1 at Alnmouth (RN/BEP). At Washington 2 - 5 between 3rd - 6th (HW et al). On 15th and 17th, 12 on flood water near Hartley (KW et al) and on 28th, 2 in Budle Bay (LGM).

/Sanderling

Sanderling:

25 at Ross on 1st and 28th (LGM), 30 - 60 at Hauxley between 4th - 9th and still 24 on 29th (HRS).

Ruff:

An incredible month with perhaps unprecedented numbers involved. Although a few had been noted beforehand, the influx seemed to occur after 14th and continued until 26th/27th. Flood water attracted most numbers with 35 at Bamburgh on 15th (BRS), 22 near Hartley by 17th (KW et al), 30 at Boldon Flats on 17th (LGG/RK/RC), 40+ at Prestwick Carr on 20th (MRS) increasing to a max. of 70 by 26th (BG) and a max. of 41 at Pegswood on 25th (BL/BEP). The permanent waters were not devoid however with 80 at Cresswell (BL) and 40 at S. Linton on 15th (EFM), 30 - 32 at Swallow on 24th - 26th (BEP/MN) and 28 at Washington by 30th (BU et al). Most birds had moved on however by 31st. Such sizeable flocks have not been seen in Northumberland/N. Durham since 1963.

Arctic Skua:

A very good Autumn for this species with many (including a very high percentage of adults) off shore. Movements were often obscured by parties operating 'to and fro' chasing Terns and Kittiwakes and it was not unusual to see at least 50 during the course of a day off Hauxley/Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's and Whitburn. A S. passage was obvious on 14th however, and Whitburn recorded 106 in 10 hours (WBO). The 22nd/23rd brought a preferential N. passage with 216 off Whitburn and 166 off St. Mary's (JDP) and on 29th, 127 passed S. off Seaton Sluice (AB1/KW/HW). Such numbers have not been reported since 1966.

Great Skua:

Noted on 11 days off 6 points between Holy Island and Whitburn. Most were moving N. and on 14th/15th, 25 N. off Annstead (BKS), 12 N. off Hauxley (HRS) and 8 N. off Seaton Sluice (MB/MH/JDP). On 21st/22nd 15 N. off Annstead, 15 N. off St. Mary's and 10 N. off Whitburn.

Pomarine Skua:

Off Annstead 2 N. on 14th and 1 S. on 26th (BRS). Off Newton 1 on 30th (B & ME), off Cresswell 1 on 15th (JEP), off St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice 5 N. on 20th, 6 N. on 22nd, 3 N. on 24th, 1 S. on 27th and 2 on 29th (AB1/JDP/HW et al). Off Whitburn 1 N. on 31st (WBO).

Long-tailed Skua:

An adult N. off Whitburn on 3rd (WBO) and an immature flew S. off St. Mary's on 24th (JDP).

Greater Black-backed Gull:

4000 in Chevington/Hadstone area on 6th (HRS) and 150 per hour N. off Whitburn on 15th (WBO).

Herring Gull:

2500 in Chevington area on 6th (HRS) and 1500 on 10th. Pair with newly fledged young near Grey's Monument, Newcastle on 4th (LGM) - see note in July Bulletin.

Little Gull:

At Holywell Ponds single juveniles present on 3rd - 6th (CED/BG/BEP) with 2 adults on 6th, 1 on 8th and 1 on 24th (BEP/KW). At Wallsend Swallow a sub adult on 3rd and 7th (BG/BEP). An adult at Boldon Flats on 17th (LGG) and off Whitburn 2 N. on 15th, 1 S. on 18th and 3 N. on 20th (WBO).

Kittiwake:

Some heavy movements noted particularly during the sea bird passage of 14th/15th when up to 2500 per hour N. off Hauxley and up to 1400 per hour N. off Whitburn. Also 2000 N. in two hours off Cresswell on 4th (GU). 2000 roosting in Coquet Estuary on 23rd (HRS).

Black Tern:

An unusual number of records. At Holywell 2 on 2nd, 1 from 10th - 17th and 1 on 25th (CED/BEP/MN). At Whittle Dene 2 on 5th and 2 on 25th (IHA/J & RMCC). On 14th/15th 1 N. Annstead (BRS), 1 at Hauxley, 1 at Cresswell (BL) and 1 at Whitburn. 2 N. off Annstead on 21st (BRS) and between 25th - 30th 3 in Bothal/S. Linton area (RN/BEP), 1 - 2 at Washington (BU/RMP et al), 1 - 2 at Killingworth (FC), 1 at Ellington (BEP) and 1 off Seaton Sluice (AB1/HW).

/Common Tern

Common Tern:

Inland records were very much a feature with up to 210 at Washington (RL/RLK/BU et al), 100 at Jarro Slake on 10th (MH) and up to 11 at Holywell, Swallow and S. Linton. On 21st 6 at Whittle Dene (IHA/J & RMcC) and on 26th 3 passed W. very high over Prestwick Carr at dusk (BG).

Arctic Tern:

Of 70 'Comms' feeding near Newcastle Swing Bridge on 19th, most were Arctics (BL). Most unusual sighting as Arctics rarely stray inland but possible a result of the wreck of sprats that occurred in August.

Roseate Tern:

25, mainly adults, calling excitedly as they fed around South Shields Pier on 30th (BG). Again the abundance of sprats or the presence of large numbers of Skuas may have been the cause.

Little Tern:

6 off Cresswell on 1st (GU) and 3 S. off Hauxley on 2nd (HRS).

Cuckoo:

A late bird at Prestwick Carr on 24th (J & RMcC).

Barn Owl:

Further successful breeding reported from Burradon (FC). Singles noted at Ellington and Seaton Burn.

Short-eared Owl:

Between 5th - 29th, 9 single birds noted at localities as far apart as Beal, Killingworth, Holywell and Derwent.

Swift:

A general exodus of breeding birds noted between 25th - 29th.

Kingfisher:

Noted at Hexham, Moleston, Morpeth, Bellingham and Coquet Estuary.

Wryneck:

1 at Marsden on 24th following a light fall of Continental migrants (WBO).

Swallow:

1000+ at the Chevington Burn roost on 4th (HRS). Moving S. steadily on 24th (BG).

House Martin:

A small colony located under the old Coquet Road Bridge at Warkworth (LGM). A pure white bird seen near Morpeth on 5th (B & ME).

Great Tit/Blue Tit:

More than usual noted at Hauxley for August (HRS).

Coal Tit:

1 in an unusual locality at Denton Burn on 8th (BG) and 1 trapped at Hauxley - again unusual - on 30th (HRS).

Marsh Tit:

Noted at Bellingham and Prestwick Carr.

Willow Tit:

Noted at Prestwick Carr, Hauxley, Denton Burn and Washington.

Nuthatch:

Noted at Haggerston - a new locality (IK/RO) and near Hexham (AJR).

/Treecreeper

Treecreeper:

Singles noted at Hauxley on 1st and 11th (HRS) and at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Fieldfare:

Early records of 1 on Holy Island on 29th (JKJ/IK). 1 at West Denton on 30th (IK/RO) and 2 over Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Wheatear:

Up to 15 at several coastal points after 24th when 1 was seen to arrive at Seaton Sluice from far out to sea (GU et al).

Stonechat:

An unusual inland record of one, a juvenile, at Seaton Burn on 17th and 26th (MRS). Pair at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Whinchat:

A suggestion of a slight influx on 24th.

Redstart:

Still in breeding areas until late in month (ERM/GEC). Early migrants at Hauxley on 15th, 21st and 27th and at Budle Bay on 15th.

Blackcap:

Single passage birds at Bamburgh on 1st and 26th and at Hauxley on 8th, 15th, 27th and 30th.

Barred Warbler:

Singles juveniles trapped at Hauxley on 20th and 29th (HRS) and at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS).

Garden Warbler:

Passage birds at Hauxley (1 on 10th, 1 on 15th), Bamburgh (1 on 26th) and Tynemouth (3 on 23rd).

Lesser Whitethroat:

Singles at Hauxley on 2nd, 18th, 29th and 30th (HRS), at Holy Island on 21st (J & RMcC) at St. Mary's on 23rd (JKJ) and at Denton Burn on 15th (BG).

Willow Warbler:

20+ in Hauxley area on 8th - 10th was the heaviest fall reported but moving through most areas throughout month.

Goldcrest:

Up to 5 at Hauxley after 15th, up to 3 at Bamburgh after 26th and 6 on Holy Island on 29th (IK/RO).

Spotted Flycatcher:

A nest with young, inside a hanging lantern in a church lytchgate at Hexham on 2nd (AJR).

Pied Flycatcher:

Singles at Blaydon on 8th (BL), Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 14th/15th (CMA/HRS), Tynemouth on 18th (KGD/MH) and Holy Island on 19th (CED). After a light fall on 23rd/24th up to 4 noted at Berwick, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Holy Island, Whitley Bay, Tynemouth and Seaton Sluice, and 15 - 20 in Marsden area (WBO). On 27th, 1 at Killingworth - some 6 miles inland (JDMcE).

Meadow Pipit:

Steady passage after 12th noted at Cresswell and Hauxley.

Tree Pipit:

1 at Denton Burn on 15th (BG) and 2 at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Rock Pipit:

2 of what were thought to be 'Scandinavian' birds at St. Mary's on 18th (JDP).

/Pied Wagtail

Pied Wagtail:
An influx noted at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Grey Wagtail:
Records suggest a good breeding year.

Yellow Wagtail:
A steady S. passage noted throughout month with concentrations of 20 - 50 noted at Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, Grindon, Whittle Dene and Washington.

Red-backed Shrike:
An adult male seen near Colt Crag early in month (per BG) was particularly unusual and an immature bird at Marsden from 24th - 31st (WBO).

Hawfinch:
Singles noted at Morpeth (EB) and Felton (JEO/MH).

Goldfinch:
Flocks of up to 20 in many areas confirming that they are steadily increasing as a breeding species.

Siskin:
25+ near Tarsset on N. Tyne on 22nd (MRS/ELS).

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All September records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7RD by 8 October 1971 please.

R.S.P.B. FILM SHOWS

The following R.S.P.B. film shows will take place in Northumberland shortly:-
Wednesday, 6th October, City Hall, Newcastle at 7.30.p.m.
Thursday, 7th October, Northumberland Hall, Alnwick at 7.30.p.m.
Friday, 8th October, Morpeth Grammar School, Morpeth at 7.30.p.m.
Saturday, 9th October, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Hexham at 7.30.p.m. with the Tyne-side Bird Club
Monday, 11th October, Secondary Modern School, Bellingham at 7.30.p.m.

At all these shows the two new R.S.P.B. films "Kites are Flying" and "The Lonely Level" will be shown, and copies of our new book "Birds in Northumbria" will be on sale.

Admission prices for all shows will be adults 30p, children 20 p.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

SEPTEMBER 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

September was a very settled and dry month resulting in only 2 small falls of Continental migrants.

During the first week waders moved steadily through but in a short period of south easterly winds with increasing cloud cover between 8th - 12th Herons, a Hobby, a Wryneck, 2 Redwings, a White Spotted Bluethroat, an Icterine, Pied Flycatchers and a Red-backed Shrike all arrived. Ducks also became very numerous about this time.

It was not really until 20th, or even 25th/26th, that a second small scale arrival of migrants was noted with Mistle Thrush, Fieldfare, Redwing, Robin, Barred Warbler, Pied Flycatcher and Lapland Bunting being the most prominent species although Sooty Shearwaters were moving N. in large numbers and a large flock of Pochard was located.

Other unusual and interesting records included Flamingo, Long-tailed Skuas and possible Cory's Shearwaters.

Generally, a rather disappointing month.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Diver (sp):

Between 5th - 29th up to 5 noted off Boulmer, Hauxley, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn (HRS/WBO/KW).

Black-throated Diver:

1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 24th (KW).

Great Northern Diver:

2 N. off St. Mary's on 11th (JDP).

Red-throated Diver:

Between 11th - 24th up to 3 noted off Annstead, St. Mary's and Cresswell - all flying N. (BRS/JDP/KW).

Great Crested Grebe:

Breeding birds and juveniles still present at Hallington, Seaton Burn and Gosforth until at least mid-month. 2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 24th (KW).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 N. off Cresswell on 22nd (KW).

Slavonian Grebe:

1 still on the sea off Whitburn on 2nd (WBO).

Black-necked Grebe:

1, moulting into Winter plumage, at Grindon on 30th August (AJR).

Little Grebe:

A significant build up in numbers with max. of 27 at Holywell on 5th (MN et al) and at least 36 on Northumbrian Loughs on 11th (LGM). 13 at Washington on 16th and up to 10 at several other waters including 2 on the River Wansbeck at Sheepwash after 20th (LGM) and 3 on the River Tyne at Prudhoe on 30th (AJR).

Manx Shearwater:

Noted on 10 dates between 5th - 26th off several points between Bamburgh and Whitburn. 6 N. off Whitburn on 15th was most on any one day.

/Sooty Shearwater

Sooty Shearwater:

Between 11th - 15th up to 6 per day, mainly N. off Annstead (BRS), St. Mary's (BEP/JDP) and Whitburn (WBO). The latter also recorded 2 N. on 24th and 1 N. on 27th but on 26th yet another heavy movement was noted off Hauxley with 150 N. in 3 hours (HRS).

Shearwater (sp):

Large brown and white Shearwaters, possibly Cory's, were noted off St. Mary's on 10th (IS) and 11th (1.N and 1.S) (JDP) and off Annstead on 11th (1.N)(BRS).

Fulmar:

43N in 4 hours off St. Mary's on 11th (JDP) was the only movement reported.

Gannet:

Noted moving N. in numbers off Holy Island, Hauxley and St. Mary's between 6th - 27th and varying between 40/hr (27th) and 200/hr (8th).

Cormorant:

Quite prominent off much of coast during month and on 5th, 2 arrived from W. at Whittle Dene (CW).

Shag:

39N. in 2 hours off St. Mary's on 11th (JDP).

Chilean Flamingo:

1 N. at Annstead on 18th and probably same bird frequented Fenham Flats throughout September (BRS/per AB1).

Heron:

Up to 4 at many localities throughout month, even well inland. Immigration/passage was suggested at beginning of month with 6 at Cresswell and 8 at Alnmouth on 4th (LGM), 4 S.W. over each of Bedlington and Alnmouth on 11th (J & RMCC) when 1 was in Marsden Quarry (LGG/FGG), 13 in Budle Bay on 12th (CW) and 4 S.W. over St. Mary's on 17th (JDP). Still 7 at Cresswell on 26th (LGM).

Mallard:

Some large counts for September with up to 700 at Colt Crag after 12th (RG/EL et al), 600 at Gosforth Park on 19th (BG et al), 340 on Northumbrian Loughs after 5th (LGM) and 200+ at Capheaton on 5th (ERM et al).

Teal:

330 in Budle Bay by 12th (LGM/RN) and 100 in Gosforth Park on 19th/20th (BG/ERM). 90 at Grindon on 25th (AJR) and smaller numbers at many other waters. Coastal passage suggested between 4th - 7th and 24th - 26th with up to 70 per day N. off Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn.

Garganey:

2 or 3 at Gosforth Park on 11th (CW).

Gadwall:

4 (2 pairs) in Gosforth Park on 19th (BG) and a drake at Grindon on 25th (LGM).

Wigeon:

The usual September off shore N. passage was noted on 8 dates between 6th - 28th with peaks of 164 on 15th (Whitburn) and 124 on 28th (St. Mary's). 500 in Budle Bay by 21st (KW et al), 188 on Northumbrian Loughs on 11th (LGM) and 100+ in Gosforth Park by 30th (GU). 300+ on Holy Island Lough on 26th (MH).

Pintail:

1 in Gosforth Park on 19th with 3 there by 30th (BG/GU).

Shoveler:

Gosforth Park provided largest gathering with 120 on 11th and 19th/20th (BG/CW) and an interesting count of 33 at Grindon on 25th (AJR). Up to 9 at Washington during month and noted also at Capheaton (1), and Holy Island (3).

/Scaup

Scaup:

2 at Whittle Dene on 7th (MH).

Tufted Duck:

c200 at Colt Crag after 11th (AJR/RG et al) and c100 at Hartburn on 5th (B & ME et al).
43 at Whittle Dene on 4th/5th when 30 at Capheaton.

Pochard:

Some interesting high counts for time of year. 51 on Northumbrian Loughs on 11th and by 25th 109 on Greenlee (LGM), 45 at Capheaton on 5th (ERM) and after 11th, 30 - 40 at Gosforth Park (BG/GU/CW). 24 at Whittle Dene on 24th (AJR). Off Hauxley 1S. on 26th (HRS).

Goldeneye:

4 at Greenlee on 25th (LGM) and 1 at Cresswell on 26th (IK).

Long-tailed Duck:

2 N. off Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Velvet Scoter:

2 N. off Cresswell on 12th and 8 N. off Seaton Sluice on 24th (KW).

Common Scoter:

Noted, mainly moving N., on 17 days between 4th - 29th with a peak on 14th - 18th with 100 N. off Holy Island (AJR), 403 N. off Whitburn and 250 N. off Hauxley.

Eider:

420+ on Fenham Flats on 27th (MH) and 150 off Hauxley most of month (HRS).

Red-breasted Merganser:

3 N. off Whitburn on 14th and between 21st - 26th 1 - 2 noted off Budle, Cresswell, Alnmouth and Hauxley.

Shelduck:

Only 30 juveniles on Fenham Flats on 5th (BL). 4 at Washington on 1st (BU), and off Whitburn 8 S. on 7th and L. N on 26th (WBO).

Grey Lag Goose:

1 at Colt Crag on 24th and 30th (CAM/AJR).

Canada Goose:

A max. of 62 in Hallington Area on 12th (RG/EL et al). 1 at Cresswell on 5th (BEP/BL) and 7N. there on 22nd (KW).

Buzzard:

1 in Alwin Valley on 12th (BEP) and 1 near Belford on 13th (per ABL).

Sparrow Hawk:

Possible immigrants were noted at Hauxley (1 on 4th), Cresswell (1 on 4th) and St. Mary's (1 on 23rd). Noted inland at Alwinton, Belford, Bolam, Ashington, Broomhill and Gosforth.

Merlin:

A suggestion of an influx/passage early in month with 1 at Hauxley on 2nd, 1 at Cresswell on 4th (IK), 2 at Alnmouth on 11th (J & RMcG) when 1 at each of Amble and Whitburn, and 1 at Tynemouth on 12th (MH). 1 at Ashington on 24th (J.G).

Hobby:

A falcon, probably of this species, at Broomhill on 8th (JAG).

Kestrel:

Prominent at coast early in month with as many as 9 at Hauxley on 4th and 4 on Holy Island on 12th (ERM).

/Coot

Coot:

Max. counts were 200+ at Holywell on 5th (MH), 300 at Broomlee on 11th (LGM), and 350 at Seaton Burn on 29th (CMA).

Oystercatcher:

60 N. off Dunstanburgh on 25th (ERM) was largest flock reported.

Lapwing:

1000 at Holywell on 12th (GU), 500 at Whittle Dene on 5th (J & RMcC) and 500 at Washington on 9th - 16th (BU). Up to 300 at 4 other localities in first 5 days, including Derwenthaugh and Ryton, both in Tyne Valley.

Ringed Plover:

Largest flocks noted on 4th (96 at Hauxley) and 11th (79 at Alnmouth) with 26 at St. Mary's on 6th.

Grey Plover:

Between 11th - 26th, 1 - 6 at 5 coastal points between Boulmer and St. Mary's.

Golden Plover:

Largest gatherings were 500 at Hauxley on 4th, 500 at Whittle Dene on 5th (J & RMcC), 800 in Budle Bay on 10th/12th (LGM et al), 1000 at Boulmer on 19th and 1000 on Fenham Flats on 29th (CMA).

Turnstone:

54 roosting on Cresswell Pond on 14th (BEP) and 7 at Washington Pond on 9th (BU). Hauxley max. was 120 on 4th (HRS).

Snipe:

Largest flocks noted in first 10 days with 50 at Washington on 1st and 7th (BU) and also at Prestwick Carr on 8th (ERM). 40 at Whittle Dene on 5th (CW).

Jack Snipe:

1 near Hauxley on 24th (AJR).

Curlew:

200+ at Newton on 5th (IK).

Whimbrel:

Between 1st - 19th up to 7 per day noted off 7 coastal points between Budle Bay and Whitburn 1 N. over Hauxley on 26th was the last.

Black-tailed Godwit:

1 in Budle Bay on 5th and 12th (JH/LGM), 1 at Cresswell on 18th (LGM/GU) and 1 at Newton on 19th (IK).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

At least 1500 at Holy Island by 12th (per ERM). 20 S. off Whitburn on 2nd (WBO) and 1 - 3 at several points S. of Boulmer between 1st - 14th.

Green Sandpiper:

Between 1st - 13th singles noted at Bamburgh, Cresswell, Holywell, Earsdon and Whittle Dene with 2 at Derwenthaugh on 3rd (LJM et al).

Common Sandpiper:

Still prominent at coast during first week when 7 at Alnmouth on 4th was largest gathering. Still 1 at Whitburn on 26th (WBO).

Redshank:

On 4th, 100+ at Hauxley and 150 in Coquet Estuary (HRS) and on 11th/12th 100 at Cresswell, 198 at Amble, 135 at Alnmouth and 300 in Budle Bay (J & RMcC/CW).

/Spotted Redshank

Spotted Redshank:
1 at Cresswell on 4th with 2 on 7th (LGM/BEP), 1 at Washington on 1st - 11th with 2 on 18th (CMA/BU/KW), 1 at Chevington on 18th (HRS) and 1 in Budle Bay on 11th/12th with 2 on 21st (KW et al.).

Greenshank:

Between 1st - 19th, 1 - 3 at many localities mainly coastal but 8 at Washington on 4th (HMP et al). Still 4 in Budle Bay on 21st (KW) and 2 at Alnmouth on 26th (LGM et al.).

Knot:

69 at Hauxley on 26th was largest flock.

Purple Sandpiper:

Only 2 records; 3 - 5 at Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's on 5th/6th (KW) and 5 at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Little Stint:

1 at St. Mary's on 8th (MH) and 1 at Hartley on 11th (P & ID).

Dunlin:

71 at Alnmouth on 11th (J & RMCC) was largest count. Up to 4 at Whittle Dene until 7th.

Curlew Sandpiper:

4 on Holy Island on 27th (MH).

Sanderling:

Only reported from Hauxley with a max. of 83 on 4th (HRS).

Ruff:

Continued to be prominent and widespread until 18th with a max. of 29 at Washington on 1st (BU/RMP et al), 15 at Alnmouth on 4th (LGM/RN) and 12 at St. Mary's on 6th. Up to 8 at many other localities as far inland as Whittle Dene. 4 on a traffic island at Newcastle Airport on 3rd was most unusual (LJM).

Arctic Skua:

Still plentiful with largest counts noted off Seaton Sluice (80 on 5th), St. Mary's (53 N. on 11th) and Cresswell (23 on 22nd).

Great Skua:

Between 1st - 25th, 1 - 3 off Annstead, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice/Tynemouth and Whitburn mainly flying N.

Pomarine Skua:

On 1st, 1 N. Whitburn (WBO), on 7th, 1 S. St. Mary's (JDP), on 11th, 1 N. Annstead and 1 S. Amble (BRS/J & RMCC), on 13th, 3 S. Alnmouth and on 14th, 1 N. Holy Island (AJR).

Long-tailed Skua:

1 N. off Tynemouth on 1st at range of only 30' (KW) and 1 N. off Whitburn on 26th (WBO).

Greater Black-backed Gull:

500+ near Blyth on 15th (MH) and 100 at Hauxley on 18th (HRS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

Still 1 well inland near Sharperton (R. Coquet) on 12th (BEP) and 1 at Warkworth on 26th (HRS).

Glaucous Gull:

a third year at Hauxley on 6th/7th (HRS) and a first year at Annstead on 11th with a third year there on 18th (BRS).

Little Gull:

On 11th, 1 at Cresswell (J & RMCC) and 2 N. at Annstead (BRS).

/Kittiwake

Kittiwake:

On 25th, 1000/hr. N. off Dunstanburgh (ERM) and Hauxley (HRS). 1600 roosting on Coquet Estuary on 11th (J & RMCC).

Black Tern:

1 - 2 at Washington between 1st - 9th (BU et al), 3 at Seaton Sluice on 5th (KW), 2 at Bethal on 7th (BEP) and 1 N. off Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Commie Tern:

Up to 40 at Newcastle Quayside on 3rd/4th (MH/BL), 110+ at Washington on 4th (RMP) and between 20th - 23rd flocks of up to 30 heading off inland from St. Mary's in a S.W. direction on 4 consecutive evenings (JDP).

Little Tern:

5 off Seaton Sluice on 5th and 2 off St. Mary's on 6th (KW).

Sandwich Tern:

A sudden decrease after 18th/19th and still 5 off Whitburn on 29th (WBO).

Auks (sp):

On 26th up to 300/hr moving N. off Hauxley (HRS).

Cuckoo:

A late bird at Druridge on 11th (J & RMCC).

Little Owl:

Noted in Kibblesworth on 18th (LJM).

Long-eared Owl:

1 near Ambleton 18th (HRS).

Short-eared Owl:

1 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS) and 1 at Stanhope on 6th (J & RMCC).

Nightjar:

Known to have bred in Kyloe Woods this Summer (per ERM).

Swift:

Still a few present during first week but late birds noted at Bamburgh (18th), Holy Island (19th), St. Mary's (23rd) and Stannington (25th).

Kingfisher:

A pair on Betton Burn near Wooler (per JDP) and 1 at Alnmouth on 19th (CMA).

Wryneck:

1 on Holy Island on 12th (BMN/ERM/MN et al).

Swallow:

A heavy S. movement noted at Hauxley and Druridge on 4th (HRS/LGM). Still a few present on 25th/26th.

House Martin:

Moving S. with Swallows on 4th and next day a gathering of c400 at Ryton (J & RMCC et al).

Jay:

Noted at Gosforth, Bolam and Cresswell.

Great Tit:

1 at Holy Island on 28th and small passage noted at Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Blue Tit:

Up to 35 per day at Bamburgh and up to 22 per day at Hauxley during month suggesting some movement.

/Coal Tit

Coast Tit:
1 - 3 at Hauxley between 18th - 26th (HRS).

Marsh Tit:
Noted at Washington and Beamish (RMP).

Willow Tit:
Noted at Washington and Gosforth (BU/BG).

Long-tailed Tit:
Noted in Harthope Valley, Wooler (PK).

Nuthatch:
Noted at Wallington (ME).

Tree Creeper:
2 at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS) and 1 at Hauxley on 26th (HRS) suggesting passage.

Mistle Thrush:
An unusually large flock of 50 at Kibblesworth on 11th (LJM) and on 25th, 15 at Cresswell (CW) and 9 at Hauxley (HRS) with 10 in Whitley Bay on 26th (FC).

Fieldfare:
On 20th, 10 in Cheviots (RMP) on 24th, 2 at Colt Crag (AJR) on 27th, 2 on Holy Island (MH) and on 29th, 1 at Gateshead (RMP).

Song Thrush:
An arrival of 150 at Holy Island on 14th (AJR) and on 25th/26th, 20 at Cresswell (CW), 15 at Hauxley (HRS) and 80 on Holy Island (MH).

Redwing:
An early record of 2 at Tynemouth on 11th (KGD). On 24th, 4 over Cramlington (BMn), on 26th, 40 on Holy Island (MH) and on 30th, 3 over Stanley (RMP).

Blackbird:
An early arrival on 14th/15th with 80 on Holy Island (AJR) and 80 in Marsden Area and on 26th, with 100+ on Holy Island (MH).

Wheatear:
17 on Holy Island on 12th was largest concentration (LGM). 3 at Bamburgh on 18th all belonged to Greenland Race (BRS).

Stonechat:
On 21st/22nd 1 at Bamburgh and 1 at Cresswell (KW).

Whinchat:
Prominent at coast on 10th/11th with 22 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 15 at South Shields (CMA).

Redstart:
A few arrived on coast between 9th - 12th but no more than 4 at any one locality. On 18th, 1 at Bamburgh and 2 at Hauxley and on 27th, 4 on Holy Island (MH).

Blue Throat:
An adult male of white spotted form seen very close at Marsden Quarry on 11th (CMA/FGG).

Robin:
A distinct arrival on 25th/26th with 10 at Cresswell (CW) and 20 in Whitley Cemetery area (FC).

Sedge Warbler:
Last noted on 8th with 2 in Gosforth Park (MRS).

/Icterine Warbler

Icterine Warbler:

1 trapped at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS).

Blackcap:

Coastal passage evident between 1st - 21st with 1 - 2 almost daily at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley and Whitley Bay.

Barred Warbler:

At Hauxley singles trapped on 3rd and 19th (HRS). 1 at Marsden Quarry on 11th (LGG/FGG) and 1 on Holy Island on 26th (MS).

Garden Warbler:

1 - 4 at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Marsden/Whitburn on 11th, 18th/19th and 28th.

Whitethroat:

Between 3rd - 11th, 1 - 2 at each of Bamburgh, Hauxley and Tynemouth. Still 1 at Hauxley on 18th.

Lesser Whitethroat:

1 at Fenham-le-Moor on 5th (BL).

Willow Warbler:

No records after 18th and only light passage noted.

Chiffchaff:

On 18th/19th 1 at Hauxley and 1 at Denton Burn (BG). On 27th/28th possibly 6 on Holy Island (MH).

Goldcrest:

Coastal passage suggested by 6 at Bamburgh on 10th and 20th, up to 12 at Hauxley throughout month and 4 at South Shields on 15th (LGG et al).

Spotted Flycatcher:

Very light passage noted (1 - 4) noted all along coast until 23rd.

Pied Flycatcher:

Distinctive arrivals noted between 9th - 12th with up to 8 at localities all along coast between Holy Island and Marsden and again on 26th/27th when Holy Island attracted the most with 10+ (MH et al) with 5 at Hauxley (HRS).

Meadow Pipit:

On 8th, 100 at Hauxley and 150 at St. Mary's (MH). On 26th/27th distinctive influxes noted at Holy Island and Hauxley. On 18th, 80 at Wallsend Swallow (GU).

Tree Pipit:

9 on Holy Island on 14th (AJR).

Pied Wagtail:

A roost of 150 at Derwenthaugh on 3rd (LJM).

Grey Wagtail:

Away from breeding areas singles noted at Bamburgh (12th - 20th) and Seaton Sluice (5th).

Yellow Wagtail:

Last noted on 19th when 1 at Hauxley (HRS).

Red-backed Shrike:

An immature in Tynemouth on 3rd/4th and an adult female on 8th/9th (KGD/MH).

Goldfinch:

Some large flocks in Allendale area in mid-month with as many as 60 - 80 together (JAG).

/Siskin

Siskin:

2 at Denton Burn on 16th (BG) and 7 at Halleypike on 25th (LGM).

Linnet:

300 on Holy Island on 26th - 29th and 400 at Hauxley by end of month (HRS). Still fledglings in a late nest at Kibblesworth on 11th (LJM).

Brambling:

3 early birds at Holy Island on 27th (MH).

Lapland Bunting:

An early record of 1 on Holy Island on 27th (MH).

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

CLUB MEETING, THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 1971:

Guest speaker will be Mr. I. Willey on 'Antarctica' after spending 2 years there recently. His colour slides are really excellent. 7.30.p.m. prompt. Newcastle University Medical School (opposite RVI main entrance).

S at Denton Farm on 10th (10) and 7 at Halleyville on 25th (10).

300 on Holy Island on 20th - 29th and 400 at Haulway by end of month (10). Still fledglings in a late nest at Kibblesworth on 11th (10).

3 early birds at Holy Island on 27th (10).

An early record of 1 on Holy Island on 27th (10).

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All October records to Ryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S. 1, Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, N.E. 7 RD by 8 November please.

CLUB MEETING, THURSDAY 11th NOVEMBER 1971:

Guest speaker will be Mr. I. Willey on 'Intuition', after spending 2 years there recently. His colour slides are really excellent. 7.30 p.m. prompt. Newcastle University Library School (opposite W1 main entrance).

OCTOBER 1971 BULLETIN

SUMMARY

The two most significant periods of the month were 15th/16th and 23rd/28th.

On both occasions large scale arrivals of Continental Thrushes (sp) were recorded and coincided with High Air Pressure becoming established over S. Scandinavia.

Unfortunately arrivals of small migrants were virtually absent and the month was rather disappointing in this respect, although the last week in the month saw the appearance of wintering Shore Larks and Twite, and 2 Water Pipits were seen on Holy Island.

Seabirds were also moving on 25th/28th particularly Divers, Goldeneye and Mergansers and the first Brent Geese were recorded moving off-shore at that time. Short-eared Owls seemed to suddenly increase after 23rd and an unusually large roose was located at Wallase Swallow.

During the first few days of the month Mallard, Teal and Wigeon were unusually plentiful and by end of month Wigeon numbers seem to have reached last years record max. for Fenham Flats.

Other interesting records included a few Gadwall, 3 records of Phalaropes, a possible Yellow Breasted Bunting and 3 'exotics', Snow Goose, Mandarin and Flamingo.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Diver (sp)

Unidentified divers were regularly reported throughout month particularly from well watched Hauxley and Whitburn. Between 25th - 28th, when they appeared to be most restless 35 N and 10 S off Whitburn (WBO et al).

Great Northern Diver:

On 24th, 1 on sea off Seaton Sluice (BG/KW/H/) and off Whitburn 1 N. each day on 26th and 28th (WBO).

Red-throated Diver:

13 off Alnmouth on 24th (LGM/MN) and on 31st, 25 off Cresswell (GU). Between 24th - 31st, 1 on Cresswell Pond (MH/BEP/ERM). Up to 6 also noted off St. Mary's, mainly N. between 4th - 16th (JDP).

Great Crested Grebe:

On 9th and again on 27th/28th 1 at Holy Island (KW/HW/TH). On 10th, 1 off Birling Carrs (LGM/RN). On 25th, 1 off Seaton Sluice (JKJ) and on 27th, 1 off Whitburn (WBO). Inland: 1 at Gosforth from 10th - 18th (BG/GU), 1 at Hallington on 23rd (LGM/RN) and 2 at Colt Crag on 17th - 23rd (RG/EL/WB).

Red-necked Grebe:

1 at Holy Island on 9th (HW/KW) and again on 28th (TH) with 2 on 31st (LGM/RN). 1 at Bamburgh on 17th (LGM/RN).

Slavonian Grebe:

Between 23rd - 31st, 1 or 2 seen regularly off Holy Island (TH/GU et al). On 30th, 2 off St. Mary's (JP/GU) and on 31st, 1 off Bamburgh (ERM).

Little Grebe:

At least 15 at Holywell on 13th (CED) and 14 at Broomlee on 16th. Up to 6 at the large reservoirs at Derwent and Colt Crag between 20th - 27th suggested overland passage (LGM/IN). Still on many waters at end of month.

Manx Shearwater:

1 N. off Hauxley on 12th (HRS) and 2 N. off St. Mary's on 16th (GU).

/Sooty Shearwater

Sooty Shearwater:

3 N. off Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Fulmar:

1 off Farnes on 31st (ERM) was only record.

Gannet:

A few moving N. off Seaton Sluice on 10th and 23 off Bamburgh on 30th (AB1/HW).

Cormorant:

On 23rd when 20 flew S. off Hauxley (HRS), 1 arrived at Whittle Dene (Paul ID et al).

Heron:

Up to 4 noted from many localities but immigration was suggested by 3 W over Seaton Sluice on 17th (B & ME/ AB1 et al) with 5 there on 31st (KW) and 9 on Farnes on same day (ERM). 7 near Bothal on 8th (LGM) were also unusual.

Flamingo:

1 flying NE over Red Row on 3rd was probably the bird seen last month in the N. of Northumberland (BG).

Mallard:

Some large concentrations for so early in Winter, coinciding with early arrival of Wigeon on Fenham Flats. Between 11th - 25th, 300 - 650 in Gosforth Park (BG/GU et al), on 16th 530 on the Northumbrian Loughs (LGM), on 9th and 20th, 420 on Derwent (RN), on 16th, 300 at Capheaton (CMA) and on 23rd, 430 at Colt Crag (LGM). 100 - 200 at Whittle Dene most of month (J & RMCC et al). Offshore, 200 off Seaton Sluice on 24th (AB1 et al) and 350 off Bamburgh on 31st (JMB/CL).

Teal:

Again numbers were unusually high for October. On 3rd, 400 at Holborn Moss (CW) and 300 i Budle Bay (LGM/JH), between 10th - 17th, 120 - 180 at Holywell Ponds (CED), between 10th - 24th, 250 - 300 at Gosforth (BG et al) and on 9th, 166 at Derwent (RN). On 31st, 50 off Farnes (ERM).

Gadwall:

Up to 4 (2 pairs) at Gosforth from 10th - 31st (BG/MH/GU et al). A female on Holy Island from 13th - 31st (JMB/B & TH et al). 1 at Holywell on 16th (JP).

Wigeon:

At least 10,000 at Fenham Flats on 3rd had increased to 20,000 by 31st (BG/LGM/ERM et al). Unusually early for such large numbers! Elsewhere 400 - 450 at Broomlee Lough on 16th - 30th (LGM), 115 at Derwent on 9th (RN) and 50 - 70 at Gosforth from 2nd - 31st (KW et al). A few moving N. on several days with 100 N. off Whitburn on 26th being largest count.

Pintail:

82 at Holburn Moss on 17th (LGM/MN/CW) shows that this species is continuing to increase as a Winter visitor to the N. of Northumberland. Also up to 30 noted on Fenham Flats after 3rd (BG/ERM) and 20 in Budle Bay by 31st (ERM). 6 at Gosforth on 10th increased to 12 - 14 by 25th (BG/MH/GU et al). 1 at Derwent on 27th (RN).

Shoveler:

Up to 80 at Gosforth Park during month decreasing to 23 by 27th (MRS/BG et al). 10 at Seaton Burn on 10th (CW), 7 at Grindon on 30th (AJK), 4 at Holywell on 31st (J & RMCC), 2 at Holy Island on 2nd, 1 at Ryal on 16th (CMA) and 1 N. off Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Mandarin:

A drake at Holburn Moss on 17th (LGM/RN).

Scaup:

10 N. over Fenham Flats on 3rd (BG/ERM) and 20 off Alnmouth on 26th (ERM) when 3 N. off Whitburn (WBO). Singles noted in Amble on 2nd (HRS), off Hauxley on 10th/12th, at Washington on 16th (RN), at Derwent on 20th (RN) and at Alnmouth on 24th (LGM/MN).

/Tufted Duck

Tufted Duck:

89 on the Northumbrian Loughs on 16th (LGM) was largest count but 69 at Hallington on 23rd and 45 at Holywell on 17th and 30th (CED). Up to 40 on 5 other waters.

Pochard:

94 in Northumbrian Loughs Area on 16th/17th (LGM/LJM). Up to 50 at Gosforth for most of month (BG/MH/GU et al) and Holywell showed a max. of 60 on 16th (GU/CED). 37 at Capheaton on 23rd (LGM), 30 at Whittle Dene on 17th (LJM), and 40 at Derwent on 9th and 14th (RN/RG et al). 20 S at St. Mary's on 16th (DP).

Goldeneye:

On 3rd, 10 at Fenham Flats (LGM/JH), on 10th, 2 at Holywell increasing to 5 on 13th (CED), on 13th, 22 N. at Hauxley (HRS) with 8 at Chevington next day (RT/TRB). By 16th they appeared quite widespread and during subsequent week up to 9 were noted on many waters with 25 at Derwent on 23rd (MH). Between 25th - 28th a total of 155 N. off Hauxley and Whitburn whilst 75 were on sea off Alnmouth on 26th (EJM/HRS/WBO).

Long-tailed Duck:

On 12th, 1 S off Hauxley (HRS), on 16th, 1 at Amble (J & RMcC), on 25th, 18 S off Holy Island and 6 there next day (B & TH). Also 4 N. off Whitburn on 25th (WBO) and 3 S off Bamburgh on 31st (LGM).

Velvet Scoter:

Off St. Mary's 3 N. on 4th, 2 N. on 13th and 2 N. on 16th (JDP). Off Whitburn 2 N. on 16th (JDP). Off Whitburn 2 N. on 25th, and 7 N. and 1 S. on 26th (WBO).

Common Scoter:

76 N. off Whitburn on 25th and 110 there on 26th (WBO). 20 off Chevington on 14th (TRB/RT) and up to 10 off 3 other points. An unusual inland record of a female at Derwent on 27th (RN).

Eider:

A count of 207 at Amble on 16th (J & RMcC).

Red-breasted Merganser:

On 3rd and again on 24th, 60 - 70 off Ross. On the latter occasion all were in one flock and only 4 adult drakes were apparent (LGM/PK). Up to 10 were regularly seen in this area throughout month whilst further S they were only numerous in a movement on 25th/26th when a total of 31 N. off Hauxley/Whitburn.

Gosander:

A quiet month for this species. 2 at Wark on 5th, 3 at Whittle Dene on 23rd (P & ID/HW) when 8 at Derwent (BL/MH), 1 N at Hauxley on 24th (HRS), 1 at Etal on 29th (CL) and 10 at Greenlee on 30th (LGM).

Shelduck:

Only 12 on Fenham Flats on 3rd had increased to 106 by 29th (BG/ERM). The Budle Bay flock increased from 15 on 3rd to 91 by 17th and 140 by 31st (LGM). Up to 5 per day noted moving offshore, mainly N. off Hauxley, St. Mary's Whitburn on 16th, 25th, 28th and 30th.

Grey Geese (sp):

45 W. over Wooler on 3rd (JKJ) when 35 S over Hexham (EL) and 100 S over Woddhorn on 11th (per BL).

Grey Lag Goose:

On 3rd, 1 on Fenham Flats (BG/ERM) and 1 S off Seaton Sluice (B & ME). On 17th, 60 - 70 at Holburn Moss/Fenham Flats (LGM/PK) when 57 at Hallington (RG/W/EL). On 25th, 40 at Millfield (CL) and on 26th, 114 at Fontburn and at least 300 at Holburn Moss (CMA).

Pink-footed Goose:

1 in Budle Bay on 17th (LGM/RN). /Snow Goose

Snow Goose:

1 still at Fenham Flats on 3rd and 17th (LGM/JH).

Brent Goose:

Off Whitburn 7 N. on 25th and 35 N on 26th (WBO). 5 on Fenham Flats on 28th were all 'pale breasted' (TH) and 1 at Seahouses on 31st (BL).

Barnacle Goose:

An interesting correlation was noted on 10th when 14 passed S. off Newton, Amble and Seaton Sluice only to return N and land on Cresswell Pond. Later on same day 1 was on Holy Island and a further 24 came in over Seaton Sluice. 1 was still on Cresswell Pond on 11th and on 16th, 28 S at Seaton Sluice. On 23rd, 1 at Whittle Dene.

Canada Goose:

A max. of 52 at Hallington on 23rd (LGM/RG et al).

Whooper Swan:

First noted on 2nd when 1 at Washington (KV). By 9th, 15 at Holy Island (KV) and 11 at Broomlee (ERM). On 12th, 76 at Holy Island (CW), where they increased to 200 by 25th (TH et al), and 5 S over Ryton (J & RMCC). The Holywell birds were first noted on 13th when 11 were seen (CED) and by 31st, 46 were present (J & RMCC et al). On 14th, 2 at Derwent (RG et al) and by 16th, 52 were at Broomlee Lough with as many as 88 there by 30th (LGM). After 17th small flocks were widespread throughout area.

Bewick's Swan:

On 23rd, 2 at Wingates (LGM/RN/CW) and 3 at Derwent (MH).

Mute Swan:

Gatherings of up to 13 at Killingworth (FC) and 9 at Broomlee.

Buzzard:

1 in Allendale on 1st and 5th (RG/EL). On 2nd, 4 in Kylloe Hills (CL) and 1 at Watergate (ID). On 8th, 1 in Plessey Woods (LGM) and during first week 1 at Alwinton (BL).

Sparrow Hawk:

Reported from 12 widely scattered localities. Singles at Lamburgh on 3rd, 27th and 30th (BHS) and at Craster on 9th (KW) may have been on passage.

Peregrine:

1 at Killingworth on 27th (JDMcE) and remains of Partridge were found close to a perch. Single falcons S off Seaton Sluice on 3rd (B & ME/HW) and off Whitburn on 4th may have been Peregrines.

Merlin:

1 at Whitburn on 4th (WBO), 1 at Holy Island on 12th (CW) 1 at Seaton Sluice on 20th (HW) and 1 at Holywell on 23rd (CED).

Kestrel:

Considered by a number of observers to be very common throughout area in October (LGM/MN/LJM et al).

Water Rail:

1 found dead at Hauxley on 17th (HRS), 2 - 3 calling in Gosforth Park on 24th and 31st (BG) and 1 at Fenham Mill on 29th (ERM).

Coot:

430 at Seaton Burn on 10th (CW) increasing to 550 by 24th (GU). 540 at Broomlee on 16th increased to 610 by 30th (LGM). On 23rd, 76 at Hartburn and 84 at Sweethope while 70 were at Holywell for most of month (LGM/CED).

Oystercatcher:

Counts of 750 on Black Law, Holy Island on 3rd, (LGM/JH) 100 at Cresswell on 4th (LJM) and max. 200 at St. Mary's on 23rd (B & ME).

/Lapwing:

Lapwing:

Only 2 counts received; 1000+ in Budle Bay on 3rd (LGM/JH) and 610 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (RN).

Ringed Plover:

78 at Ross on 3rd (LGM/JH).

Grey Plover:

70 on Fenham Flats on 3rd (LGM/JH). On 7th, 2 N. at St. Mary's (JDP), on 10th, 1 on Coquet Estuary (HKS) and on 14th, 1 at Chevington (TRB/RT).

Golden Plover:

Max. counts were 2000 in Budle Bay on 9th (KW et al). 1000 at Whittle Dene all month (JSB et al), 700 at Druridge on 17th (BEP), 400 on Fenham Flats on 31st (LGM/JH), 350 in Allendale on 19th (RG et al) and 240 on Holy Island on 31st (JMB).

Turnstones:

Gatherings of up to 75 from all along coast.

Common Snipe:

94 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (JSB), 80 at Cresswell on 9th (ERM) and 62 at Derwenthaugh on River Tyne on 17th (LJM). That many of these are immigrants is suggested by singles arriving from the E. at Hauxley, St. Mary's and Farnes between 12th - 31st.

Jack Snipe:

1 at Warkworth on 10th (LGM/TH), 1 at Alnmouth on 24th (ERM) and 1 at Amstead on 27th (BRS).

Woodcock:

Singles in Wallsend on 13th and 27th (JSB), on Holy Island on 26th/27th/30th (B & TH), and at Bamburgh on 27th (BRS).

Curlew:

250 in Budle Bay on 3rd was by far largest count (LGM/JH).

Black-tailed Godwit:

1 in Budle Bay on 6th and 10th (LJM/CL) and 3 there on 31st (B & ME).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

300+ on Fenham Flats on 31st (LGM).

Green Sandpiper:

At least 1 at Whittle Dene all month but 4 there on 26th (WGJ et al). A late, or winter-ing bird, at Alnmouth on 25th (ERM).

Redshank:

600+ on Fenham Flats on 3rd (ERM/BG) and next day 80 at Cresswell (LJM). On 16th, 154 at Amble and 130 at Alnmouth (J & RMCC). 76 at St. Mary's on 24th (JDMcE).

Spotted Redshank:

1 on Fenham Flats on 3rd (BG/ERM/LGM) and 3 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Greenshank:

Several rather late records. 9 on Fenham Flats on 3rd with 1 there on 17th and 31st (LGM/ERM). 6 on Holy Island on 3rd (GU) could have been different birds. 4 on Budle Bay on 30th (AB1/LS), 1 at Bothal on 2nd (BEP) and 1 at Alnmouth on 17th and 24th (LGM/JH).

Knot:

500+ on Fenham Flats on 23rd (GU) and 250 at St. Mary's on 31st (BG).

Purple Sandpiper:

On 31st, 50 at Bamburgh (LGM/RN/CW) and 60 at St. Mary's (BG).

/Dunlin

Dunlin:

1000+ on Fenham Flats on 3rd (BG) and 31st (B & ME). Up to 100 at Amble and Alnmouth (J & RMcC). 3 at Whittle Dene on 23rd and 1 at Grindon on 30th (LGM).

Sanderling:

74 at St. Mary's by end of month (B & ME et al). Elsewhere no more than 30.

Ruff:

On 2nd, 1 on Holy Island with 3 there on 3rd and 1 remaining until 31st (J & RMcC/TH/CW et al) while 6 were in Budle Bay, 1 remaining until 30th. Also on 2nd, 5 at Washington (KW) and next day 1 at Hauxley (HRS). On 16th, 5 on Coquet Estuary (J & RMcC), on 23rd, 1 at Whittle Dene (KW) and on 30th, 1 at Washington (KW).

Grey Phalarope:

1 in Amble Harbour on 21st (HRS). One on sea 5 miles off Holy Island on 6th was probably a Grey whilst 3, resting briefly on sea off Seaton Sluice on 24th (KW) were also not specifically identified.

Arctic Skua:

Up to 6 noted almost daily off many points throughout month.

Great Skua:

On 3rd, 1 N. off Dunstanburgh (IK) and 1 S off Seaton Sluice (AB1/HW). On 9th, 3 S. off St. Mary's (JDP). On 16th, 1 S. off Seaton Sluice (KW). On 24th, 1 at Tynemouth (JP) and at Whitburn 4 on 25th and 1 N. on 28th (WBO).

Pomarine Skua:

1 S. off St. Mary's on 16th (ERM) and 1 N. off Whitburn on 24th (BU).

Great Black-backed Gull:

An interesting observation of 1 being pulled under water off Seaton Sluice during month (HW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

A few scattered records with last being 1 at Greenlee Lough on 30th and 2 in Budle Bay on 31st (LGM et al).

Herring Gull:

A gathering of 1000 adults near Embleton on 17th (LGM/RN).

Common Gull:

Concentrations of 300 - 500 at Alnmouth between 16th - 26th (ERM) and 1000 at Whittle Dene on 23rd (LGM).

Glaucous Gull:

On 17th, 1 off Seaton Sluice (AB1 et al), on 18th, 2 N. off St. Mary's with 1 N. there on 21st (JDP), on 24th 1 S. at Birling Carrs and on 31st, 1 at Annstead (BRS). A most unusual record of 1 at Whittle Dene on 23rd (KW). All but that on 17th were immatures.

Little Gull:

1 at Holywell on 16th (JP), 1 N. off Holy Island on 28th (B & TH) and 2 S at Seaton Sluice on 30th (JP).

Kittiwake:

120/hr N. off Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

'Commic' Tern:

A few stragglers reported throughout month and still 1 off Whitburn on 31st.

Roseate Tern:

2 very late birds off Whitley Bay on 30th (JP).

Sandwich Tern:

9 records for October with 1 off Cresswell on 31st being last (BEP et al).

Little Tern:

Late records of 2 off Tynemouth on 2nd (MR & ELS) and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 17th (KW).

Auks (sp):

Southerly movements noted on 17th off Seaton Sluice (c40) and off Holy Island on 28th (48 S. in 5 minutes).

Little Auk:

Singles off Seaton Sluice on 16th, 17th and 31st (KW).

Stock Dove:

Flock of 40 near Bardon Mill on 30th (LGM).

Collared Dove:

A young bird still in a nest at Benton on 31st (FC) and flocks of 150 at Holywell on 27th (per BL).

Barn Owl:

Noted at Radcliffe, Hauxley, North Shields and Walkergate. 1 on Holy Island on 31st (CL) invites speculation as to its origin. As late as 14th, 3 young and 2 eggs were in a nest in Sunderland. Only 1 young remained on 28th but because of excessive disturbance by builders it was removed and is now being cared for (BU).

Little Owl:

Noted at Killingworth (JDMcE).

Short-eared Owl:

Except for 2 at St. Mary's on 9th (JDP) and 5 at Wallsend Swallow on 16th (BEP) all records occurred after 23rd with singles at Holy Island, Fenham Mill, Amble, Hauxley, Cresswell, Holywell, Killingworth and Marsden. Most were probably immigrants. Unconfirmed reports have been received of a roost of 16 at Wallsend Swallow late in month.

Swift:

Single late birds at Seaton Sluice on 9th (JP) and 1 at Hauxley on 12th (HRS).

Kingfisher:

Singles noted at Whittle Dene on 23rd (P & ID/HW) and at Hallington at end of month (per BG).

Green Woodpecker:

Noted at Kyoee and in College Valley (CL).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Noted at Ford and Akeld (CL) and at Wallington (IK).

Skylark:

Coastal passage noted on several days but particularly noticeable after 25th when up to 100 on Holy Island (TH), several hundred S at Hauxley (HRS) and a few hundred N. off Whitburn (WBO).

Shore Lark:

On 24th, 1 at Seaton Sluice (JKJ) and 3 at Whitburn where 9 were present by 31st (RN/JP).

Swallow:

Still sidespread until about 23rd with a steady S. passage on 17th. Still 2 at Rothbury on 28th, 2 on Holy Island on 29th (CL) and 1 S at Fenham Flats on 31st (B & ME) when 1 at Marsden (JP).

House Martin:

Still 1 at Whitburn on 31st (JP).

Hooded Crow:

1 - 2 on Holy Island on 28th - 31st (ERM/TH).

/Great Tit

Great Tit:
1 - 2 on Holy Island from 17th - 31st (LGM et al).

Blue Tit:
Prominent in unusual coastal localities all month with up to 12 on Holy Island (B & TH/JMB) up to 35 at Bamburgh (BRS), up to 30 at Hauxley (HRS) and 3 in from E at Whitburn on 25th (WBO).

Coal Tit:
Up to 2 at Hauxley until 17th (HRS), 6 at Bamburgh on 24th (BRS) and 1 at Denton Burn on 2nd (BG) were in unusual localities.

Long-tailed Tit:
7 at Bamburgh on 30th were unusual (BRS).

Nuthatch:
Noted at Wallington (B & ME/BEP) near Acomb (BG), and near Whickham (P & ID).

Wren:
Considered to be unusually abundant on Holy Island after 13th (B & TH/CLO).

Mistle Thrush:
1 - 2 on Holy Island on 23rd - 27th (per JDP).

Fieldfare/Redwing:
The heaviest arrivals were noted on 15th/16th at Holy Island and Holywell (CW/BG) (mainly Redwings) and on 16th large numbers of Fieldfares moving S. in Allendale (AJR); and on 23rd when thousands (mainly Fieldfares) were arriving all along coastline between Berwick and Whitburn, Fieldfares were also noted moving S. in large numbers over central Northumberland between 23rd - 26th (LGM/BG/MH et al).

Ring Ouzel:
3 on Holy Island on 15th (CW) and 2 there between 23rd - 25th (per JDP).

Song Thrush:
Very common in Holywell Dene on 16th (BG).

Blackbird:
Arrivals were most conspicuous on 3rd (150 in Whitley Cemetery) on 13th (400 on Holy Island), on 23rd (several hundred all along coast), and between 27th - 29th (prominent on Holy Island, at Hauxley and at Gosforth Park).

Wheatear:
Still a few present early in month even as far inland as Housesteads (7th). Singles still at Hauxley on 23rd and 29th and on Holy Island on 23rd.

Stonechat:
1 - 2 noted at Bamburgh, Beadnell, Lynemouth and Hauxley.

Redstart:
Late bird at Whitley Cemetery on 24th (JDP).

Black Redstart:
A male on Holy Island on 29th (ERM/CL/TH).

Robin:
Suggestions of small scale arrivals at Craster and Hauxley on 2nd/3rd and on Holy Island on 13th (IK/CW et al).

Blackcap:
Up to 3 noted at typical coastal points between Holy Island and Tynemouth between 2nd - 12th and 23rd - 30th. Total of 5 different birds trapped near Ponteland on 12th, 20th and 29th/30th provided an interesting correlation with coastal movements (WGJ).

/Garden Warbler

Garden Warbler:

Late birds at Hauxley on 2nd and on Holy Island on 12th (CW).

Lesser Whitethroat:

On 13th, 1 at Hauxley and 1 on Holy Island (HRS/CW).

Willow/Chiff:

Unidentified birds noted at Watergate on 2nd (P & ID), at Whitley Cemetery on 4th (ERM) and on Holy Island on 23rd, 25th and 29th (B & TH/CL).

Chiffchaff:

Singles at Blaydon on 9th, at Hauxley on 12th, at Morpeth on 24th and at Bellingham on 25th (BL/HKS). 1 on Farnes on 31st was thought to belong to one of the N or E races (ERM/JHD).

Goldcrest:

A distinct influx noted at Holy Island (B & TH), at Hauxley (HKS) and at Bamburgh (BRS) on 26th/27th with 30 - 40 at each locality.

Pied Flycatcher:

A late bird on Holy Island on 27th (per JDP).

Dunnock:

An influx of 20 on Holy Island on 13th (CW).

Water Pipit:

2 watched feeding with other pipits on Holy Island on 26th (B & TH).

Pied Wagtail:

Flock of 40 in Blyth Cemetery on 17th (BG).

Grey Wagtail:

Widespread with singles noted as far apart as Holy Island (3rd), Wallsend Park (all month), Newcastle City Centre (15th and 26th) and near Stanley (all month).

Starling:

A few arriving from E at St. Mary's on 16th (BG/ERM) and at Holy Island on 31st (LGM). Roost of 30,000 near Seahouses on 26th (CMA).

Goldfinch:

Widespread, with 30 near Cambo on 17th (BEP) being largest flock.

Twite:

Promises to be another good Winter with 24 on Ross Links on 24th (AJR), 9 at Alnmouth on 25th (ERM), 4 at Bamburgh and 12 in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS) and 20 on Holy Island 29th - 31st (JMB/CL/per JDP).

Brambling:

First noted on 13th with singles on Holy Island (MH) and at Hauxley (HRS). On 15th, 1 at Killingworth (JDMcE) and thereafter up to 3 at widely scattered localities between Holy Island, Wallington and Lynemouth. 20 on Holy Island on 23rd (TH) was largest reported influx.

Yellow-breasted Bunting:

What might have been a bird of this species was seen at Whitburn on 3rd (MS).

Snow Bunting:

1 at Whitburn on 3rd (MS) and after 16th up to 5 noted at Ross, Bamburgh, Alnmouth, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice. By 31st, 25 at Seahouses (JHD). 2 well inland at Wingates on 23rd (LGM).

/House Sparrow

House Sparrow:

Coasting S. at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Tree Sparrow:

At least 40 at Killingworth on 15th (JDMcE) and quite common at Hauxley on 25th - 27th (HRS).

All November records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S W Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7RD by 8th December 1971 please.

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CLUB MEETING, THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER 1971:

Mr Brian Little will be guest speaker and will present an illustrated lecture on some of the bird life in Austria and Turkey. 7.30.p.m. prompt. Newcastle University Medical School (opposite RVI main entrance).

SOLWAY TRIP:

It has been decided to postpone this trip until late February or early March because of increasing difficulty in being able to see Barnacle Geese on Caerlaverock Reserve. Also hours of day light will be longer and Pink Feet will be in large numbers in late February. Details will appear in the December Bulletin.

MEMBERSHIP:

All annual subscriptions (£1.50p) are now overdue. Any outstanding, should be sent to J. Orton, 25 Lindale Avenue, Whickham, Newcastle upon tyne otherwise this will be the last bulletin sent to non-paid up members.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

NOVEMBER 1971 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

November was a month of predominantly W, NW, or N winds as a series of depressions tracked E. across the N. Atlantic, and in a few cases N. England. It was during the latter conditions, between 6th - 13th that movements were most apparent with sea birds, mainly Goldeneye moving offshore, Jack Snipe and Woodcock arriving with a few Thrushes and the first of the Waxwings.

The remainder of the month was rather indifferent but very stormy conditions on 21st made accurate counting of waterfowl, during The Club outing, almost impossible. The results have not as yet been fully analysed but the tabulated data will be published with the December Bulletin.

Records of special interest during the month included Black Necked Grebe, Storm Petrel, large concentration of Grey Lags, an inland Brent Goose, large numbers of Whooper Swans, an inland Grey Plover, three Phalaropes, an Iceland Gull, Little Auks, Short Eared Owls, Waxwings and Twite.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Diver (sp):

A distinct movement N. on 13th/14th when a total of 29 were noted off Seaton Sluice (HW/KW).

Black Throated Diver:

On 13th/14th 3 N. off Seaton Sluice (KW).

Great Northern Diver:

On 6th 1 N. off St. Mary's (JDP), on 13th 1 N. of Annstead (BRS), on 20th 1 off Bamburgh (HW/KW) and on 21st 2 off Holy Island (BG/AJR et. al).

Red Throated Diver:

Most significant movement outside 13th/14th occurred on 6th/7th when 12 N. off St. Mary's (JDP).

Great Crested Grebe:

2 at Colt Crag on 14th (RG/WB/EL) and 21st.

Red Necked Grebe:

2 N. off St. Mary's on 10th (JDP) and 1 off Holy Island on 21st (BG/AJR).

Slavonian Grebe:

1 off Holy Island on 7th (RCT/TRB) and 3 in the Skate Road off Ross on 27th (GU).

Black Necked Grebe:

1 on the Tyne at Tynemouth on 28th (NJP).

Little Grebe:

A decrease since October being noted on only 5 lakes/ponds and 2 rivers. 5 on the Tyne between Corbridge - Hexham was largest concentration. At the coast 1 off Holy Island on 21st (BG/AJR et. al) and 1 in Amble Harbour on 28th (MLH).

Storm Petrel:

On 14th (approx.) 1 brought in alive on board a ship at North Shields but died 2 days later. (per MH).

Manx Shearwater:

A rather late bird N. off Seaton Sluice on 21st (KW).

Sooty Shearwater:

Another late record with 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 14th (HW).

Gannet:

Only 1 record; an immature off Bamburgh on 14th flying S. (MLH).

Cormorant:

Seems to be occurring with increasing regularity inland with 1 at Holywell on 12th (BEP) and 4 there on 28th (CED), and 1 at Sweetthope on 21st (IHA). Also noted on the Tweed as far upstream as Kelso and on the Tyne as far up as Corbridge. Also 1 flew over Gosforth Park on 14th (ERM). 84 passed N. off Whitburn on the evening of 6th making for the roost on Marsden Rock (BU).

Shag:

92 N. off Bamburgh on 27th (GU) and an unusual record of 1 over Holywell Ponds on 14th (CED).

Heron:

Still widespread in small numbers. Derwent, 12 on 10th (RN). Greenlee, 12 on 21st (RA/LGM) and Coquet Estuary, 6 on 27th (MN) attracted the largest numbers.

Mallard:

Max. counts in excess of 200 were as follows; at Swinhoe 300 on 14th (MH), at Holywell 250 on 12th and 20th (BMN/MN), at Gosforth 650 on 24th (ERM), at Colt Crag 800 on 14th (RG/WB/EL) at Capheaton 400 on 13th (CMA) at Whittle Dene 450 on 21st (IHA et. al) and at Derwent 500 on 18th (RG/WB/EL). Roosting flocks on the sea were noted off Budle (300 at end of month) and Seaburn (160 on 17th).

Teal:

400 at Gosforth on 1st and still 300 there on 15th was by far the largest gathering (GU) although 200+ were at Holburn Moss on 28th (LGM/RN). 145 were on Holy Island on 28th (LGM/RN), 100+ at Colt Crag on 13th (GU) and 70-80 were noted at Washington on 6th (RN) and at Holywell on 20th and 27th (CED).

Gadwall:

Still 4 at Gosforth Park until 8th (LGM/GU) although 1 female had been replaced by a male. On 21st 1 at Broomlee (LGM) and 2 at Cresswell (per BU) whilst on 26th 1 on Holy Island (JMB).

Wigeon:

Estimates of up to 9000 (on 14th) received from Fenham Flats area (MLH/BG/GU). Up to 443 at Broomlee Lough on 13th and 21st (LGM) whilst Derwent had attracted 228 by 10th (RN). Max. at Gosforth was 100 on 1st (GU) and 56 at Hallington on 14th (RG/WB/EL). Up to 40 noted at several other waters. Off Seaton Sluice 113 N. on 13th with another 80 on the sea (KW).

Pintail:

14 on Budle Bay on 13th (BRS) and c.30 at Holburn Moss on 28th (LGM/RN). Present at Gosforth Park all month with a max. of 8 on 14th (ERM et. al). At Washington 1 on 2nd (PK), at Druridge 1 on 14th (RN) and at Swinhoe 1 on 14th (MLH).

/Shoveler.

Shoveler:

Max. of 50 at Gosforth on 14th (ERM) and still 24 on 27th. On 13th 1 at Hoselaw, just over N.W. Border, on 21st (MN/CW). On 13th 1 at Capheaton (CMA) and 1 at Derwent (J. & R. McC), on 14th 6 on the sea off St. Mary's (BG) and on 28th 2 at Shield on the Wall.

Scaup:

Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's, 36 N. on 6th, 14 N. on 7th, 1 N. on 13th and 2 N. on 21st (JDP/LGM/KW). In addition 4 N. off Whitburn on 9th (WBO).

Tufted Duck:

Only 4 counts in excess of 50; 65 at Holywell on 20th (CED), 61 at Sweethope on 21st when 137 at Whittle Dene (IHA) and 75 at Gosforth on 27th (LGM).

Pochard:

Counts in excess of 25 were noted on 13th with 50 at Capheaton (GU) and 36 at Derwent - also on 10th - (RN/J. & R. McC), 26 at Holywell on 20th was max. there for November (CED).

Goldeneye:

Most conspicuous during offshore passage, when on 6 days between 6th-13th a total of 627 counted N. off Alnmouth/Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's/Whitburn, with a peak of 222 on 10th (JDP/LGM/KW/WBO et. al). Also 40 N. on 21st (GU/KW). Most significant inland concentrations also occurred during this same period with 12 at Gosforth on 7th (LGM), 24 at Derwent on 10th (RN), 13 at Whittle Dene on 11th (BMn) and on 13th, 10-20 at each of Hartburn, Capheaton, Hallington and Colt Crag (GU). Also 35 over Belsay on 28th (ERM).

Long Tailed Duck:

Prominent during offshore passage between 6th-10th when 26 N. off St. Mary's/Whitburn (JDP/WBO). On 7th 1 off Alnmouth (BG/ERM) and by 13th 40 off Bamburgh (BRS) with 12 off Holy Island on 21st (BG/AJR). On 21st 3 N. off Seaton Sluice (GU/KW/HW). A very interesting inland record of 2 on the R. Till near Etal on 6th/7th (per CJL).

Velvet Scoter:

On 7th up to 5, mainly N., off St. Mary's, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn. On 21st 5 N. off Seaton Sluice (GU/KW) and on 27th 2 off Ross (GU).

Common Scoter:

Only reported off Cresswell (10 on 28th) and off St. Mary's (11 on 7th).

Eider:

Max. concentration was 300 on Black Law, Holy Island on 21st (BG/AJR et. al).

Red Breasted Merganser:

30 off Holy Island on 21st (BG/AJR et. al) whilst 7 N. off Seaton Sluice on 21st (KW) was largest count S. of Bamburgh. A rare inland occurrence was that of a female at Gosforth Park between 8th-27th being joined by a male on 17th (GU/MW et. al).

Goosander:

44 at Greenlee on 21st (LGM) was largest flock but 40 noted at Birgham, R. Tweed on same day (ERM) when 18 at Derwent (RN). Outside this period 14 at Colt Crag on 13th (GU), 17 at Hexham on 14th (LGM) and 19 on R. Till near Ford on 19th (CJL). A female at Gosforth on 7th (LGM/MN) was unusual whilst a male was on Cresswell Pond on 21st (per BU).

/Shelduck.

Shelduck:

300+ on the Lindisfarne Reserve after 21st (BG/IK/GU et. al). Return passage after moult was suggested by 1 at Derwent 2nd - 21st (RG/RN et. al), 5 N. off Cresswell on 6th and 6 N. off Seaton Sluice on 13th (KW), 3 at Whittle Dene on 11th (BMn), and 1 at Whittle Dene on 21st (IHA et. al).

Grey Lag Goose:

Two large counts, 1100 at Sprouston on 21st, and 1240 at Holburn Moss on 28th may have involved the same birds (CW/LGM/MN/RN et. al). Largest counts away from this area were 100 at Hartburn on 13th and 28th (per ERM) and 88 at Colt Crag on 13th/14th (RG/GU et. al). Up to 25 at many other widely scattered localities.

White Fronted Goose:

1 at Holywell Ponds on 13th (NJP).

Pink Footed Goose:

On 14th 3 N. over Bamburgh (BRS) and 6 S. over Ellington (RN).

Brent Goose:

8 N. off St. Mary's on 10th (JDP) and by 14th 60 on Fenham Flats where they increased to 250 by 21st (MLH/BG). Still 250 there on 28th (LGM). A dark breasted bird at Holywell Ponds from 20th until end of month (CED/CST/MN et. al).

Canada Goose:

50+ at Colt Crag on 13th/14th (RG/WB/EL et. al).

Mute Swan:

185+ in Berwick Harbour on 21st (ERM).

Whooper Swan:

190 at Holy Island on 6th (RA/RAK) increased to 225 by 28th (CJL/LGM/GU et. al). At Holywell 44 on 6th, 80 on 14th and 100 by 28th (CED/MN/BMn et. al). At Broomlee Lough 91-99 between 7th - 21st (LGM et. al). On the R. Tweed on 21st, 48 at Wark and 88 at Sprouston (ERM/MN). 23 at Bolam on 19th but many record of smaller parties throughout area.

Bewicks Swan:

5 at Derwent on 13th (J.&R.McC) and 1 at Holywell on 28th (CED/BMn/MN).

Buzzard:

Singles at Holburn on 14th and 21st (CJL) North Shields on 14th and 17th (JSS), 2 near Rowlands Gill on 18th (per BU) and 1 on Newcastle Town Moor on 26th (per G.U)..

Sparrow Hawk:

13 records of singles from widely scattered localities.

Hen Harrier:

A female or immature near Thropton on 13th (per BU).

Peregrine:

Singles at North Shields on 7th (JSS) and near Earsdon on 14th (JDP) could have been same bird.

Merlin:

1 at Beal on 6th (RA/RAK) whilst on 21st 1 in Budle Bay (BG) and 1 at Washington (MS).

Water Rail:

On 13th 1 at Bamburgh (BRS) and next day 1 near Lowick (CJL). On 20th 1 at Holywell (CED) and on 24th-29th 1 at Gosforth Park (ERM/GU).

Coot:

Largest counts were; 600 at Broomlee Lough on 13th and 21st (LGM), 460 at Seaton Burn on 11th (BMn), 100 at Wallsend Swallow on 14th (ERM), 100 at Sweethope on 21st (IHA) and 75 at Holywell on 20th (CED). In Berwick Harbour, 15 on 21st (ERM).

Lapwing:

On 1st 300 at Holywell (MN), on 5th 2000 at Whittle Dene and common all along Tyne Valley from Heddon to Bardon Mill (BG) and on 14th 700 at St. Mary's.

Grey Plover:

Only 1 record away from Fenham Flats and that being a very interesting single bird at Whittle Dene on 14th (IHA/JSB).

Golden Plover:

On 7th 500 at Hauxley (HRS) and 400 at Redesmouth (per BU). On 13th 300 at Settlingstones (LGM) and on 5th 1000 at Whittle Dene (BG).

Snipe:

No concentrations in excess of 30.

Jack Snipe:

1 at Alnmouth on 7th (BG/ERM) when 1 was shot at Coldwell (per RA), 1 at Whittle Dene on 14th (JSB), 1 on Coquet Estuary on 27th (MN/CW) and on 28th 1 on Holy Island (LGM) and 2 at Seaton Delaval (MH).

Woodcock:

An apparent influx on 7th when singles were at Hauxley, Druridge and Tynemouth whilst further singles at Wallsend, Cullercoats and Tynemouth between 11th-19th suggested continued arrival. After this period several records from well inland.

Bar Tailed Godwit:

At least 1000 passed N. over Holy Island causeway to roost as the tide came in on 21st (BG/AJR et. al).

Green Sandpiper:

1 at Whittle Dene all month (IHA et. al) and 1 near Ford on 16th (CJL).

Redshank:

An interesting count of 90 at Washington on 13th (RN).

Spotted Redshank:

1 at Budds Bay on 13th/14th and probably same bird at Monks House on 26th (BRS).

Greenshank:

1 on Coquet Estuary on 21st and 28th (J.&R.McC/JAG).

Knot:

1000 at St. Mary's by 14th (BG).

Purple Sandpiper:

Largest individual gathering was 100 at St. Mary's on 14th (BG). A most unusual inland record of 1 at Holywell during a N.E. gale on 21st (CED).

Dunlin:

Away from Lindisfarne max. count was 400 on Coquet Estuary on 27th (MN/CW).

Sanderling:

97 at St. Mary's on 10th (JDP) when 55 at Cullercoats (MH/MNC) and 150+ in Budle Bay on 14th (MH).

Ruff:

A late bird at Whittle Dene on 14th (LGM).

Grey Phalarope:

1 at Amble on 14th (JAG) may have been an adult. A phalarope reported as Red Necked (MNC) on the Tyne at Tynemouth on 19th is being considered by the Rarities Committee. Also a phalarope (sp.) N. at Seaton Sluice on 13th (NJP).

Arctic Skua:

On 6th 1 S. off Cresswell (KW) and 2 S. off St. Mary's (JDP). Also 5 off Seaton Sluice on 13th (KW).

Lesser Black Backed Gull:

Only 1 record; 1 at Whitburn on 17th (BU).

Glaucous Gull:

3 immatures N. at St. Mary's on 9th (JDP), 1 adult at Hauxley on 21st (BEP) and 3 immatures at North Shields Fish Quay on 28th (NJP).

Iceland Gull:

A 2nd year bird at North Shields Fish Quay on 27th (RN).

Little Gull:

2 juvs. at St. Mary's on 9th (JDP).

'Commic' Tern:

1 off Tynemouth on 5th (NJP) and next day 1 off Alnmouth (GU).

Auks (sp):

Moving N. at 200/hr off St. Mary's on 6th (JDP). Most were Guillemots but some Puffins were noted.

Little Auk:

Off St. Mary's 16 N. on 6th, 2 N. on 8th, and 27 N. on 10th (JDP). Also 1 N. off Whitburn on 6th (BU).

Collared Dove:

The pullus reported last month in a nest at Benton fledged on 11th (FC). 65 in Holywell Dene on 12th (BEP/BMn).

Short Eared Owl:

The roost at Swallow Ponds, Wallsend, contained 18 birds on 23rd but as many as 20+ could have been present on one occasion (JDMcE/CST et. al). Up to 4 on Coquet Estuary between 14th - 28th (JAG) and 1 - 2 at Bamburgh, Killingworth and Derwent during month.

Little Owl:

Noted at Gosforth on 19th (IK).

Kingfisher:

1 at Whittle Dene on 14th and 28th (JSB et. al), 1 on the Wansbeck at Bothal on 14th (per JAG), 1 at Corbridge on 14th (LGM) and 1 near Acomb on 28th (J.&R,McC).

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Noted near Fenton and in College Valley (CJL).

Skylark:

A suggestion of coastal passage at Holy Island and Hauxley on 6th (RA/HRS).

Swallow:

A very late bird at Cullercoats on 16th (MNC).

Hooded Crow:

On 13th 1 at Bamburgh (BRS), on 26th 1 at Craster (JMB) and on 28th 2 at Beal (CJL).

Great Tit/Blue Tit:

Several mixed parties along the shore of Fenham Flats at Beal on 6th and a Great Tit on Holy Island on 26th (RA/JMB).

Mash Tit:

Up to 4 at Belsay during month (ERM).

Long Tailed Tit:

12 on S. side of Budle Bay on 27th (IK) may have been part of a coastal movement.

Fieldfare:

Flocks of 100-500 at Washington, Linton, Budle Bay, Holy Island and Wooler between 6th-27th.

Redwing:

Some large flocks in the Tyne Valley on 5th (BG) and 7th (per BU).

Blackbird:

Light immigration noted at Holy Island (100) and Hauxley (flocks of up to 25 passing W.) on 6th/7th.

Wheatear:

A late bird at St. Mary's on 13th (NJP).

Stonechat:

A very interesting record of 3 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (RN).

Blackcap:

On 1st 1 near Ponteland (WGJ), on 15th and 25th 1 at Corbridge, on 20th 1 at Budle Bay (HW/KV) and on 28th 2 at Morpeth (per BL).

Willow Warbler:

A very late record of 1 at Whittle Dene on 14th (IHA/JSB).

Chiffchaff:

1 on Holy Island on 26th and 28th (JMB/CJL).

Grey Wagtail:

Of the many records of mainly single birds 1 near Newcastle Civic Centre on 9th was the most interesting (LGM et. al).

Waxwing:

A small scale invasion was heralded by 1 at Benton (FC) and 20 at Kielder on 12th (per BU). On 13th 19 were at Bamburgh (BRS) and 9 at Capheaton (GU) whilst by 16th 18 were at Milbourn (WGJ). On 20th 150 flew over Stakeford and during next few days up to 30 were regularly noted in that area (per JAG). On 21st 20 were at Ford (CJL) and by 28th 40 were seen in Ponteland (per BG). Up to 10 noted at several widely scattered areas.

Great Grey Shrike:

1 on Budle Bay on 20th (HW/KW) and next day 1 at Longhoughton (JMB).

Starling:

Small parties arriving from the E. on 6th at Holy Island (RA) and only 5000 roosting in Newcastle City centre on 7th.

Siskin:

12 in Gosforth Park on 27th (LGM) and a few at each of Ford and Belsay during month.

Linnet:

400 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Twite:

45 on Coquet Estuary on 14th (RN) increased to 97 by 28th (JAG/MN).
18 on Holy Island on 26th (JMB), 5 at each of Whittle Dene on 21st (IHA) and St. Mary's on 14th (BG) and singles at Bamburgh and Budle Bay on 14th and 20th respectively.

Crossbill:

9 in Budle Bay on 14th (BRS).

Brambling:

7 near Stocksfield on 17th was largest flock.

Lapland Bunting:

1 N. at Whitburn on 14th (BU).

Snow Bunting:

50 at Holywell on 14th (MN/GU), 35 at Ross on 27th (GU) and 21 at South Shields on 24th (RN) were largest flocks. Up to 10 at several other points on coast between Holy Island and Tynemouth.

Tree Sparrow:

50 at Alnmouth on 7th (BG) and 60 at Fenham Le Moor on 27th (GU).

List of Contributors:

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All December records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RD, by 8th January, 1972, at the latest please.

Field Meetings.

The following outings are proposed:-

Tweed Valley

Derwent Floods, Yorkshire.

Wildfowl Count.

S.W. Scotland.

16th January.

6th February.

20th February.

5th March.

Anyone interested should please contact; John Ginnever, 230 Ashington Drive, Stakeford, Choppington, Northumberland, by 8th January.

ANNUAL DINNER:

It is proposed to hold the Dinner at the 'Three Mile Inn', Gosforth, on 24th February. All applications to John Ginnever as soon as possible.

CONDUCT BY MEMBERS AT WHITTLE DENE:

Complaints have been received from Water Board officials that some T.B.C. members have been creating excessive disturbance at Whittle Dene. All members are reminded that the privilege of being allowed access to all Water Board Property, in fact any Private Property, must be respected at all times and disturbance completely avoided.

Anyone interested should please contact: John Ginner, 230 Ashington
Drive, Stokely, Chipping, Northumberland, by 8th January.

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It is proposed to hold the Dinner at the 'Three Mile Inn', Gosforth,
on 25th February. All applications to John Ginner as soon as
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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

DECEMBER 1971 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

December was quite a mild month and with the exception of a N. movement of Divers on 12th, an apparent peak in Lapwing numbers between 4th-19th and a light northerly passage of seabirds between 27th-30th during N.E. winds with a High Pressure centre to the N. of Britain, little of interest appeared to be on the move. Shelducks were the most interesting species involved during the latter period but 2 species of Shearwater and 2 species of Skua were also noted.

In fact it was very much a month of out of season records with 5 species of Wader involved, a Chiffchaff and a lingering of moderate numbers of Shoveler. Sea birds were also conspicuous inland, particularly Cormorants, with Slavonian Grebe, Red Throated Diver, Long Tailed Duck and Brent Goose also involved.

The large herds of Whooper Swans remained throughout the month although there was a suggestion of a fall off in numbers during the latter half.

2 Mediterranean Gulls were the pride of the rarities but other unusual records included Black Necked Grebe, more Waxwings, Great Grey Shrikes and Crossbills.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black Throated Diver:

2 off Ross on 5th (per BL) and 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 12th (KW).

Great Northern Diver:

3 off Ross on 5th (per BL) and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 11th (MH).

Red Throated Diver:

A heavy movement N. off Seaton Sluice on 12th involved 51 in 4½ hrs. (HW/KW). Also noted to a lesser extent off Whitburn. 14 off Cresswell on 18th (HW) and 5 N. and 12 S. off Seaton Sluice on 27th (KW). Up to 8 per day noted on 9 other days at several points between Bamburgh and Whitburn. Although many were reported as Diver (Sp.) most were probably of this species. A slightly oiled bird on the R. Tyne at Newburn between 25th-30th (ERM/J.&R.McC/IHA).

Red Necked Grebe:

2 off Holy Island on 5th (ERM) and 1 off Ross on 19th (LGM).

Slavonian Grebe:

7 off Ross on 5th (per BL) and an oiled bird inland on the R. Wear at Durham between 8th-29th (RN/BU).

Black Necked Grebe:

1 off Ross on 5th (per BL).

Little Grebe:

1-2 noted at Whittle Dene, Holywell and Ryton whilst there were 6 records of 1-2 on the Rivers Coquet (Thropton), Long Nanny Burn (Beadnell), Wansbeck (Sheepwash), Tyne (Ryton and Ovingham) and Wear (Chester-le-Street).

Manx Shearwater:

Very late records of 1 S. off St. Marys on 27th (per MH) and 2 N. there on 30th (MH).

Sooty Shearwater:

Again a late record of 2 N. off Hauxley on 31st (ERM).

Fulmar:

1 off St. Marys on 2nd (MRW), a few off Bamburgh on 4th (CJL), 3 at Marsden on 14th (MRW) and off Seaton Sluice 2 S. on 19th and 1 S. on 26th (KW).

Gannet:

Off Bamburgh 1 N. on 19th (IK), off Seaton Sluice 7 on 19th and 5 on 20th (KW) and off Whitburn 3 N. on 29th and 2 N. on 30th (WBO).

Cormorant:

A month when perhaps more were recorded inland than ever before. The R. Tyne at Blaydon regularly attracted 15-16 and birds were seen flying to and from this area at several places along the course of the River, and 4 were as far upstream as Wylam on 13th (AJR et.al). Hallington attracted a max. of 6 on 4th (LGM et.al) with still 2 there on 27th. On 12th 1 at each of Colt Crag (BG) and Holywell, where 1 was also present on 26th (CED), 2-3 at Swallow Ponds most of month (ERM/GU et.al), 1 at Whittle Dene on 27th (MR) and 1 E. over Washington on 30th (RN).

Heron:

Derwent Res. attracted a max. of 11 on 4th (KW) and 9 were in Harwood Forest on 12th (LGM). Up to 4 from widely scattered localities throughout month.

Mallard:

Some large gatherings with max. counts as follows:-

500 Gosforth (4th), 560 Colt Crag (12th), 520 Hoselaw (19th), 500 (Holburn Moss (27th), 500 Sweethope (29th), 4-500 Capheaton (11th), 537 Derwent (5th), 300 Hallington (12th), 300 Whittle Dene (12th), and roosting flocks offshore contained up to 250 off Cresswell, up to 400 off St. Marys and 150 off Sunderland during month. Up to 200 at many other waters.

Teal:

Largest flocks were noted at Gosforth, max. 200 on 4th (GU); Holburn Moss, 300 on 27th (LGM); Derwent, 65 on 5th (J.&R.McC); and Grindon, 60 on 11th (LGM). Up to 50 noted at 7 other waters.

Wigeon.

3200 on 28th was max. count received from Fenham Flats area (AJR). With exception of 80 off Hartley on 19th (GU) all other records were from inland where counts in excess of 50 were max. 250 on Northumbrian Loughs on 11th (LGM), 248 at Derwent on 5th (J.&R.McC), 120 at Hoselaw on 19th (MN), 82 at Hallington on 12th (RG/WB/EL) and 60 at Holywell on 5th (MN).

Pintail:

2-5 at Gosforth for most of month with a max. of 5 on 11th (ABI et.al). 4 at Holburn Moss on 27th (LGM/RN).

Shoveler:

Still 70 at Gosforth on 11th (HW) - a remarkable count for time of year. 40 at Hoselaw on 19th (MN) and 17-28 at Seaton Burn between 15th-25th (LJM/LGM/IK). 1 roosting on sea off St. Marys with Mallard between 11th-19th (GEC/MH/GU et.al).

Scaup:

17 N. off Whitburn on 9th (RN) and 5 N. there on 27th (WBO). 3 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (BG). On 5th 1 on Newton Pond (IK) and on 17th 2 at Holywell (M.He).

Tufted Duck:

Few ponds held in excess of 30. Max. counts were 64 at Hartburn on 12th (J. & R.McC), 60 at Holywell on 5th (MN) and 44 at Seaton Burn on 25th (LGM).

Pochard:

The unusual situation existed whereby numbers almost equalled those of Tufted. Counts in excess of 20 were 41 at Grindon on 4th (AJR), max. 32 at Hallington on 27th (BG), max. 32 at Holywell on 23rd (GU. et.al), and 31 at Derwent on 5th (J. & R.McC).

Goldeneye:

Double figures were noted at the following; max. 12 Hartburn on 4th (LGM/RN), 11 at Capheaton on 11th (CMA), max. 19 at Whittle Dene on 12th (ERM et.al), max. 32 on Northumbrian Loughs on 24th (LGM) and 17 at Derwent on 28th (AJR). 20 N. off Whitburn on 9th (RN).

Long Tailed Duck:

Max. in Holy Island/Ross area was 60 on 5th (per BL). 1 S. off Whitburn on each of 11th and 12th (WBO). A female or immature inland at Colt Crag on 5th and 12th (B. & HT/BG).

Velvet Scoter:

1 at Newton by the Sea on 27th (WAK) and off Whitburn 4 N. on 29th and 2 N. on 2 N. on 31st (WBO).

Common Scoter:

Only records were 20 off Alnmouth on 5th (LGM/JH), and 41 N. off Whitburn between 23rd-31st (WBO).

Red Breasted Merganser:

An unusual inland record of a male at Hallington on 14th November (RG/WB/EL). 9 off Holy Island on 27th was largest December concentration by far although 5N. off Whitburn on 29th (LGM/WBO).

Goosander:

Double figures occurred; on the Tweed at Cornhill (14 on 19th), max. 16 at Colt Crag on 12th (RG/WB/EL), 15 at Hallington between 4th-27th (LGM/BG et.al), 14 at Greenlee on 11th (LGM), 12 on Tyne at Prudhoe on 14th (AJR), 20 at Derwent on 5th (J.&R.McC), and 10 at Fontburn on 4th (LGM/RN). The more unusual records consisted of 1 at Holywell on 18th (ID), 1 at Holburn Moss on 27th (LGM) and 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (BG).

Shelduck:

A distinct N. movement between 27th-30th when a total of at least 73 were noted off Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn (HRS/HW/KW/WBO). Only 8 S. Evidence of overland passage was confirmed by 2 on Northumbrian Loughs on 24th and 2 at Whittle Dene on 27th (LGM/MR). Max. in Budle Bay was 162 on 19th (LGM et.al).

Grey Lag Goose:

450 at Sprouston on 19th (MN/CW) and 500 in the Buckton/Belford area most of month (per ABI). 78 at Hallington on 12th and 2 still there on 27th (BG/J.&R.McC) and 6 at Whittle Dene on 12th. On 6th 42 N. over Ashington (JAG).

Pink Footed Goose:

2 on Holy Island on 27th (per BL).

Brent Goose:

Still c.250 on Fenham Flats all month and 60 in Budle Bay on 27th (AJR et.al). The single dark breasted bird was last seen at Holywell on 18th (CED et.al).

Canada Goose:

c.60 in Colt Crag/Hallington area all month (BG/RG et.al).

Mute Swan:

160+ in Berwick Harbour on 13th and 20 in Amble Harbour on 18th (CJL/J.&R.McC).

Whooper Swan:

Numbers still high early in the month but a rapid fall off commenced just before Christmas. 200 on Fenham Flats on 19th (ERM) had fallen to only 36 by 28th (AJR). The Holywell flock still contained 90-99 birds until 18th (incl. 22 juvs.) but had decreased to 44 by 28th (MH/CED/MN et.al). The numbers in the Northumbrian Loughs area were quite static with 101 there on 11th (LGM) and still 92 there (Grindon) on 30th (RG/EL). Elsewhere 66 at Cornhill on 19th (MN/CW), 27 in Bolam/Capheaton area until at least 11th (CMA et.al) and 13 at Wingates on 4th (LGM/RN) and 6th, 13 at Catcleugh on 19th (WAK). Up to 10 at 4 other localities including 7 W. over Harwood Forest on 12th (LGM).

Bewicks Swan:

2 at each of Holywell on 18th (P.&ID), Cresswell on 27th (GU) and Derwent on 29th (P.&ID).

Buzzard:

1 over Prestwick Carr on 11th (ERM/CJL).

Sparrow Hawk:

Singles birds noted at 11 widely scattered localities.

Hen Harrier:

A female or immature bird near Alnwick on 27th (MS).

Peregrine:

On 12th singles noted at each of Togston (per BL) and Holywell Dene (MN/RN).

Merlin:

Singles noted at Belford, Bamburgh, Budle Bay, Warkworth, Seaton Sluice, Wallsend Swallow and Gosforth with 1-2 in Fenham Flats area.

Black Grouse:

Noted at Harwood Forest, Haltwhistle, Rothbury and Sweetthope.

Red Legged Partridge:

1 shot near Backworth on 26th (per MH).

Water Rail:

Present in Gosforth Park all month (GU et.al). 1 killed by dog near Ford on 9th, 1 at Bamburgh on 11th (CJL) and 1 at Alnmouth on 30th (ERM).

Coot:

Most significant counts were c.500 at Seaton Burn 11th-25th (LJM/LGM et.al), c.230 at Broomlee on 11th and 24th (LGM), 85 at Wallsend Swallow on 13th (ERM), 70 at Holywell most of month (CED/GU) and 50 at Sweetthope on 12th (J.&R.McC).

Lapwing:

The largest flocks were noted between 4th-19th. 1000 at Washington on 4th (PK) and at Borwick Hill on 11th (ERM). At least 700 at Holywell on 12th (CED/MN), at Bothal on 11th (RN) and at Seaton Burn on 15th (LJM). 500 at Whittle Dene on 5th (JSB) 400 at Ford on 6th (CJL) and 500 at Newcastle Airport on 17th (LJM) 400 at Causey Park on 19th (LGM).

Ringed Plover:

51 at Alnmouth on 5th (LGM/JH).

Grey Plover:

3 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS) and 12 at Ross on 19th (LGM).

Golden Plover:

1000 at Druridge on 18th (BEP), 250 at Whittle Dene on 5th (JSB), 200 at Grindon on 24th (LGM), 150 at Swallow on 13th (ERM) and near Hepple on 19th (WAK), 100 near Haltwhistle on 18th (LGM).

Turnstone:

Over 300 at St. Marys on 18th (MH) and 29th (BG).

Common Snipe:

30 at Hallington on 4th (LGM) and at Derwenthaugh on 18th were largest reported gatherings (LJM).

Jack Snipe:

1 at Cresswell on 12th (MH) and at Alnmouth on 30th (ERM).

Woodcock:

Up to 5 noted at Melkridge, Gosforth Park, Prestwick Carr and Ravensworth.

Curlew:

100 at Fenham Flats on 5th (ERM), 68 at Holystone, R. Coquet on 5th (BEP) with 100 near Hepple on 31st (LGM) may have been from same concentration.

Black Tailed Godwit:

Again a winter bird at Fenham Flats on 5th and 27th (ERM/MS).

Bar Tailed Godwit:

1 trapped on Holy Island in November had been ringed in Norway (per BL).

Green Sandpiper:

1 at Whittle Dene all month (IHA/JSB et.al).

Redshank:

53 at Washington on 12th (BU).

Spotted Redshank:

1 at Monks House Pool, Seahouses on 5th (per BL).

Greenshank:

1 at Alnmouth on 5th (MRW) and 1 on Fenham Flats on 19th (MRW).

Knot:

At least 5000 on Fenham Flats on 28th (AJR) and the Seaton Sluice/St. Marys flock contained at least 1000 birds during month (KW et.al) 700 in Budle Bay on 19th (LGM).

Purple Sandpiper:

Up to 20 noted at South Shields, Amble and St. Marys.

Dunlin:

c.1200 on Fenham Flats on 28th (AJR), 265 in Amble Harbour on 18th (J.&R.McC) and 180 on Cresswell Pond on 12th (ERM).

Sanderling:

Only 1 record - 30 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Ruff:

4 at Monks House Pool, Seahouses on 4th (CJL) and still 1 there on 12th (MHe).

Arctic Skua:

Very late records of 1-2 off Seaton Sluice between 27th-30th (HW/KW).

Great Skua:

Single late birds N. off Seaton Sluice on 27th (KW) and off Whitburn on 30th (WBO).

Great Black Backed Gull:

Moving N. at 200/hr. off St. Marys on 28th (MH).

Common Gull:

Moving N. at 250/hr. off St. Marys on 28th (MH).

Glaucous Gull:

1-2 at North Shields between 5th-13th (NJP et. al) and 1 at Wallsend on 20th (HW). 1 N. off Annstead on 4th (CJL) and 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (BG).

Little Gull:

1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 19th KW).

Mediterranean Gull:

Records received, without notes, of an adult at North Shields on 5th (NJP) and 2 following a plough with Black Headed Gulls near Belford on 30th (WO).

Black Headed Gull:

A roost on the sea at St. Marys increased from 3500 on 4th (BG/MH) to 5000 by 11th.

Kittiwake:

100 roosting in Amble Harbour on 5th (HRS).

Little Auk:

Off Whitburn 1 N. on 11th, 10 N. on 12th, 1 S. on 30th and 1 N. on 31st (WBO). Off Seaton Sluice 1 S. on 19th, 3 N. on 28th, 2 N. on 29th, 2 N. on 30th (HW/KW).

Auks (sp).

250 N. in only $\frac{1}{2}$ hour off Whitburn on 9th (RN).

Guillemot:

1 on the Tyne at North Shields on 31st (PK).

Wood Pigeon:

Flocks of at least 1000 near Stamfordham on 16th (MH) and at Kibblesworth on 19th (LJM).

Barn Owl:

Noted at Kibblesworth, Killingworth and Hauxley.

Little Owl:

Noted at Callerton (IK/RO).

Long Eared Owl:

1 on Holy Island on 5th (per BL) and 1 at Marsden on 12th (WBO) both of which may have been late immigrants. Singles at the traditional roosts at Prestwick Carr and Gosforth Park on 11th and 13th respectively (ERM).

Short Eared Owl:
Many records, with 9 at Killingworth on 10th (J.D.McE) and 5 at Amble (on 12th (GU) being largest concentrations. Only 3-4 noted at Wallsend Swallow throughout month and up to 3 noted at many other widely scattered localities including Harwood Forest (KH et.al).

Kingfisher:
Continues to occur in unusual localities confirming a good breeding season in 1971. 1 at Gosforth Park on 4th and 6th (GU) and 1 at Tynemouth during month (per BG).

Green Woodpecker:
Noted at Ford.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:
Noted in Bowmont Valley, Ford, Hallington, Melkridge, Bardon Mill, Haydon Bridge and U. Coquetdale.

Shore Lark:
1 at Whitburn on 11th (WBO).

Hooded Crow:
2 at Beal on 18th (CJL) and 1 at Buckton on 29th (WO).

Titmice (sp).
Flocks consisting of Great, Blue, Coal and Long Tailed continue to be prominent with 2 Coal Tits even appearing in the centre of Sunderland on 24th/25th (BU et.al).

Nuthatch:
1 at Wallington on 26th (IK/RO).

Treecreeper:
Conspicuous in the large flocks of Titmice during the month.

Fieldfare:
Flocks up to 200 noted at Harwood Forest, Belford, Bellingham, Bolam, Netherwitton and Colt Crag.

Redwing:
Only report was of 30+ at Washington on 9th (RN).

Stonechat:
1-2 noted at the usual coastal localities of Bamburgh (4th), Alnmouth (5th), Hauxley (30th), Lynemouth (15th).

Chiffchaff:
A wintering bird at Fenham Mill on 5th (ERM).

Meadow Pipit:
Notification has just been received of a bird recovered in Italy after having been ringed at St. Marys Island in September 1971. Almost identical to a recovery of this species in 1970 ringed also at St. Marys.

Rock Pipit:
Noticeably common at St. Marys all month with at least 40 there on 18th (MH/MRW et.al).

Grey Wagtail:
Widespread records of single birds with 1 at Seaton Sluice on 5th being the most unusual.

Waxwing:

Continues to be well reported, particularly until about 20th. Up to 90 in the Buckton area most of month (WO et.al) with closeby flocks of 50 at Beal on 18th (CJL) and 20 at Fenham Le Moor on 1st (per BU). Up to 47 were seen in the Stocksfield area while as many as 100 were at Heddon on 10th (per BL) 35 at Belsay on 5th (per BL) and 20 at Cramlington on 12th and 14th (GU) were other flocks in excess of 14.

Great Grey Shrike:

1 at Plashetts on 18th (JMB) and 1 at Corbridge on 23rd (MR).

Starling:

A huge roost of perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ million in grounds of Lambton Castle (LJM).

Greenfinch:

A large flock of at least 1000 at Norham on 18th (MRW).

Goldfinch:

30 in Gosforth Park on 11th (KW) and 20 at Plashetts on 29th (ERM) were largest reported flocks.

Siskin:

A few at Ford most of month (CJL) and 5 S. at Whitburn on 12th (BU).

Twite:

The Coquet Estuary flock fell from 80 on 5th to 43 on 30th (LGM/ERM/GU).

Redpoll:

Flocks of 60 at Falstone on 29th (ERM) and 20 at Gosforth on 25th (LGM).

Crossbill:

15 in Harwood Forest early in month increased to 52 by 12th (RA/LGM/KH).

Chaffinch:

Flock of at least 150 at Brenkly on 12th (MH)

Brambling:

100 at Stannington on 6th (per BL) and 50+ near Whickham between 22nd-31st (ID). Small flocks also noted at Buckton and Sharperton. (WO/BEP).

Yellowhammer:

Roost of at least 100 near Wallsend Swallow on 12th (MH).

Lapland Bunting:

1 on Holy Island on 5th (per BL).

Snow Bunting:

60 at Cresswell on 12th (MH) was largest flock but 20 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS), 25 at Bamburgh on 4th (CJL) and 15 at Whitburn most of month (WBO).

List of Contributors:

C.M. Adamson, I.H. Armstrong, R. Adams, W. Brady, J.S. Booth, W. Brady, J.M. Bayldon, A. Blackett, G.E. Clayton, P. & I. Davidson, C.E. Douglas, B. Galloway, R. Grey, G.A. Ginnever, M. Hodgson, J. Hargrave, K. Hutton, M. Henry, P. Kelly, W.A. Kelly, I. Kerr, E. Lobley, C.J. Lowe, B. Little, E.R. Meek, L.G. McFarlane, J. & R. McCutcheon, J.D. Elwee, L.J. Milton, M. Nattrass, R. Norman, W. Ord, R. Osborne, B.E. Prater, N.J. Phillips, A.J. Richards, M. Richardson, M. Skilleter, J.S. Spence, B. & W. Tilbrook, B. Unwin, G. Upton, K. Walton, C. Ward, H. Wilson, M.R. Wishart, Hauxley Ringing Station and Whitburn Bird Observatory.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

Wildfowl Count - 21st November, 1971.

This was the fourth wildfowl count organised by the Club since February 1970. Unfortunately the elements were far from ideal on the count date with gale force northerly winds bringing blizzards and storms. Virtually all inland waters were frozen to a greater or lesser degree. Those wildfowl present were difficult to count due to the adverse weather conditions, especially at Lindisfarne Reserve and elsewhere along the coast, and results should be considered with caution as undoubtedly birds will have been missed.

Nevertheless it has been possible to prepare a comprehensive table showing the results of the count and it is satisfying to note that virtually all the important waters were covered. Kimmer Lough, Hisehope Reservoir, Linn Heads, Little Swinburn, Waskerley Reservoir and Burnhope Reservoir were not covered but as most of these localities are in high, open areas it is probably that the weather made them untenable to all but a few birds. Regretably only the short length of the River Tweed between Sprouston and Wark could be covered and it would be helpful if in future counts someone could undertake to cover the remaining stretch from Wark to Berwick and also count Holburn Moss and Swinhoe Lakes, which were likewise uncovered. Cowey Sike and Smiddyshaw Reservoirs each drew a blank.

Not mentioned in the table due to lack of space are the following species and localities:-

Diver (Spp)	-	1 off Hauxley.
Great N. Diver	-	2 at Lindisfarne Reserve.
Red N. Grebe	-	1 " " "
Great C. Grebe	-	2 at Colt Crag.
Tweed Estuary	-	185 + Mute Swans.
Pawston Lake	-	18 Mallard
Capheaton	-	15+ Mallard.
Havannah	-	c30 Mallard. 2 Teal.
Killingworth	-	10 Mute Swans.
Bardon Mill (river)	-	4 Mallard. 2 Goosander.
Hexham (river)	-	11 Mallard. 8 Goldeneye.
Tunstall Reservoir	-	1 Goldeneye. 2 Goosander.
Washington Ponds	-	5 Mallard. 12 Teal.

Purely as a matter of interest the total of each species shown in the table for the November 1970 count is indicated in brackets at the end of each line, although a comparison is not really meaningful.

The Field Secretary and recorder would like to thank all members who took part, especially in view of the atrocious weather conditions on the count day.

[illegible]

