

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JANUARY 1973.

SUMMARY.

In one of the mildest Januaries on record some interesting finch counts were made, particularly Brambling, and more than one of each of Blackcap and Chiffchaff were reported. An early Blackbird's nest was found and both Kestrel and Short Eared Owl remained plentiful in the Cheviots as the vole population continued to thrive in the mild weather.

'Out of season' waders included Greenshank and Ruff, whilst Bar Tailed Godwit and Dunlin remained plentiful at Lindisfarne.

The Skate Road provided some interesting gatherings of Slavonian Grebes and Long Tailed Ducks and despite the mild weather wildfowl counts remained high, particularly Shoveler and Tufted at Gosforth, and Goldeneye on The Tweed. Hallington attracted the largest gathering of Goosander whilst 2 Mergansers at Grindon were particularly unusual. Two flocks of Bean Goose, and single White Fronted and Snow Geese were noted whilst the characteristic decline in the Whooper Swan population was witnessed as the month progressed. Bewicks Swans were noted at four localities.

Altogether an interesting month.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black Throated Diver.

On 2nd 1 off Ross (LGM) and 1 off Seaton Sluice (HW). On 27th 3 off Alnmouth (RH/JP).

Great Northern Diver.

On 1st 1 off Alnmouth (ETN/JRN) and 1 off Seaton Sluice (HW). Between 2nd-4th 1-2 in Holy Island/Bamburgh area. On 23rd 1 in Budle Bay (IK) and on 27th 1 off Alnmouth (RH/JP).

Red Throated Diver.

15 off Alnmouth on 27th (RH/JP) and several records of mainly singles off other coastal points. 1 inland at Holywell on 21st was lightly oiled (MSH et.al).

Great Crested Grebe.

2-3 off Alnmouth all month (JC/ML et.al), and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 24th and 30th (PW).

Red Necked Grebe.

1 off Ross on 22nd (IK).

Slavonian Grebe.

Up to 22 off Ross during month (ERM/WGJ et.al).

Little Grebe.

Up to 5 on Coquet Estuary and 1-2 at Whittle Dene during month. 6 at Brasside on 17th and up to 4 on River Wear at Durham.

Fulmar.

Common offshore in N. of county during month.

Gannet.

20 N. off Amble on 27th (RH/JP).

Cormorant.

Up to 6 on The Tyne at Blaydon (AJR), up to 4 at each of Whittle Dene and Hallington, and 1 at each of Hexham and Holywell during the month. 3 W. over Shiremoor on 16th. An interesting gathering of 130 off Seahouses on 7th (IK).

Heron.

Up to 4 noted from 8 widely separated locations.

Mallard.

Largest concentrations were; 400 at Whittle Dene on 13th (MR) and at Gosforth Park on 17th/18th (SH/MRS), 375 on Northumbrian Loughs on 13th (LGM), 350 at Holywell on 28th (SH), 300 at Capheaton on 13th (CMA). An interesting count of at least 100 on The Tyne between Hexham - Prudhoe during a cold spell on 16th (AJR). Offshore flocking involved 150 off Bamburgh on 6th (MW), 250 off St. Mary's on 2nd (MSH) and 200 off Cresswell on 27th (BG).

Teal.

Max. at Gosforth Park was 180 on 18th (SH). Other gatherings in excess of 40 were at least 40 at Whittle Dene on 1st (JSB), 50 on sea off Cresswell on 27th (BG) and 52 at Holywell on 31st (SH).

Gadwall.

A drake at Grindon Lough for most of the month (LGM et.al).

Wigeon.

Still 9000 on Fenham Flats on 4th (ERM). Other large gatherings involved 300 on Holy Island Lough on 28th (MSH), max. of 265 on Northumbrian Loughs on 13th (LGM), 200 at Derwent on 2nd (RG et.al), 200 on sea off Cresswell on 27th (BG), and max. of 170 at Gosforth Park on 4th (SH).

Pintail.

1 at Gosforth on 2nd (ETN), 12 in Budle Bay on 4th (WGJ), 1 off Cresswell on 27th (BG) and 1 at Greenlee Lough on 31st (MS).

Shoveler.

Still plentiful in Gosforth Park with 82 on 4th reducing to 31 on 28th (SH). Only noted at two other waters; Seaton Burn (max. of 6 on 5th) and Holywell (4 on 27th). 2 on sea off Seaton Sluice on 31st (PW).

Scaup.

Single females at Broomlee on 25th (RH) and at Hallington on 27th (CMA). 20 off Ross on 22nd (IK).

Tufted Duck.

Largest numbers were noted at Gosforth (max. of 216 on 25th) Holywell (max. of 170 on 28th), Seaton Burn (95 on 28th), and Northumbrian Loughs (61 on 13th).

Pochard.

Largest numbers occurred at Gosforth Park (max. of 97 on 27th), Holywell (66 on 1st) and Capheaton (53 on 10th).

Goldeneye.

Tweedmouth as usual attracted the largest numbers with 300 there by 14th (K.W. et.al). Elsewhere 42 on Northumbrian Loughs on 13th reducing to 23 by 27th (LGM). Up to 12 at Whittle Dene, and on The Tyne at Hexham on 20th 17 were counted (MR) 15 at Capheaton on 13th (CMA). Up to 10 noted on many other waters.

Long Tailed Duck.

A good month with 150 on Skate Road, Ross on 4th (ERM/WGJ) and still plentiful on 22nd, Up to 3 off Seaton Sluice (PW/HW).

Common Scoter.

Up to 100 noted off Ross (ERM et.al).

Velvet Scoter.

A pair off Alnmouth on 27th (JC/ML) and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 30th (PW).

Red Breasted Merganser.

Up to 25 off Ross and 1-3 off Alnmouth/Amble during month. An unusual occurrence of 2 at Grindon Lough on 25th (RH).

Goosander.

Hallington attracted the largest numbers with a max. of 62 there on 14th (RG/IK et.al). Up to 18 at Greenlee, 17 at Whittle Dene, 13 on River Tyne at Hexham and 15 on River Tweed at Carham - Coldstream were respective maxima. A female was at Gosforth Park between 14th-27th (CR/GU).

Smew.

1-2 at Whittle Dene all month. 1 on The Tyne at Prudhoe on 27th and 31st (AJR) and 1 at Broomlee on 13th (LGM). All were 'red-heads' and probably involved a total of only 2 individuals.

Shelduck.

422 on Lindisfarne Reserve on 2nd (LGM).

Grey Lag Goose.

500 at Wark on Tweed on 7th (LGM), max. of 250 at Budle Bay on 27th (per ERM), max. of 34 at Grindon on 15th (BG) and 22 at Hallington on 20th - 27th (LGM/CMA).

White Fronted Goose.

1 feeding with Grey Lags at Budle Bay on 22nd (IK).

Bean Goose.

15 at Beal on 9th (per ERM) and 8 flew S.W. over Holywell on 16th (RH).

Pink Footed Goose.

18 near Grindon on 25th with 2 there on 30th (RH/JP). 1 on Tyne at Hexham on 20th (MR).

Snow Goose.

1 on Fenham Flats on 27th (per ERM).

Brent Goose.

Max. in Lindisfarne Res. area on 345 on 21st (per ERM).

Canada Goose.

Max. of 100 at Hallington on 27th (per ERM). 1 at Backworth on 3rd (J.D.McE).

Mute Swan.

Max. at Tweedmouth of 200 on 14th (KW).

Whooper Swan.

Max. of 115 at Grindon on 15th reducing to 50 by 30th. (RG/BG et.al).

Max. of 113 on Fenham Flats on 2nd (LGM). 161 at Wark on Tweed on

7th (LGM). 35 at Holywell/Backworth on 1st (J.D.McE) reducing to 16

in this area by 11th. 30 at Hartburn most of month, 23 at Cresswell on

27th, 21 at Capheaton on 13th and 20 at Sweethope on 27th/28th. Smaller

numbers elsewhere.

Bewick's Swan.

1 at Hartburn on 3rd (JSB), 1 on Holy Island on 7th (GU), 8 at Greenlee Lough on 13th (LGM) and 3 at Chevington on 26th (IK).

Buzzard.

1 over North Shields on 12th (JSS) and 1 at Dipton on 31st (RAS).

Sparrowhawk.

Noted at Budle, Alnmouth, Gosforth, Denton Burn, Stagshaw, Belsay, Grindon and Fairley.

Hen Harrier.

A female on the South Cheviots on 28th (LGM/WGJ).

Merlin.

Noted at Lindisfarne, Cheviot, Morpeth and Grindon.

Kestrel.

Common in Cheviots during last week of the month. (ERM).

Moorhen.

50 at Seaton Burn on 18th (AJ).

Coot.

At least 500 at Seaton Burn most of month (AJ). Max. 120 at Holywell on 13th (CED et.al). Total of 134 in Bolam/Belsay/Capheaton area on 13th (CMA), 131 at Brasside on 16th, 65 at Broomlee on 27th (LGM). On tidal water 30 at Berwick on 7th and 2 on Coquet Estuary on 23rd.

Black Grouse.

Noted at Grindon, Halleypike and near Alwinton.

Water Rail.

2 found dead at Beal/Ross about 21st and 2 at Holywell on same day (MSH).

Oystercatcher.

700 on high tide roost at Ross on 4th (ERM).

Lapwing.

Only flocks reported were 700 at Budle on 2nd (LGM), 800 at Seaton Burn 17th-28th (AJ) and 1000 at Washington on 27th (KR).

Grey Plover.

Only 13 located in Budle/Fenham Flats area on 2nd (LGM). 2 at Amble on 27th (BEP) and 4 at St. Marys on 30th (MW).

Golden Plover.

2000 at Jarrow Slake on 28th (KR) and 12 at a height of 2000 ft. in Cheviots on 28th (ERM/WGJ).

Turnstone.

Largest reported gathering was 62 at St. Marys on 20th (KR).

Common Snipe.

20 at Whittle Dene on 7th (BG).

Jack Snipe.

3 at Whittle Dene on 7th (BG), 1 at Alnmouth on 20th (RH), 1-2 at Wallsend Swallow on 21st (GU) and 1 at Holywell on 27th (MSH).

Curlew.

Largest concentration was at N. end of Ross Links with 130 on 4th (ERM).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

4000 on Fenham Flats during month (per ERM).

Redshank.

2000 at Jarrow Slake on 28th (KR).

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay until 6th (LGM/MW).

Greenshank.

Singles at Beal on 10th (JC/ML) and at Warkworth on 13th (per ERM).
3 at Cresswell Pond on 1st was most unusual (ETN/JRN).

Knot.

2000 on Fenham Flats on 29th (PK), 1600 at St. Mary's on 20th (KR),
400 at Bamburgh on 7th (GU), and 100 at each of Amble on 1st (ETN/JRN)
and Jarrow Slake on 28th (KR).

Purple Sandpiper.

40+ at Bamburgh on 7th (GU).

Dunlin.

3000 on Fenham Flats on 29th (PK), 800 on Coquet Estuary on 27th
(JC/ML), 350 at Tweedmouth on 14th (KW) and up to 60 at Seahouses and
Cresswell. 3 well inland at Hallington on 14th (RG/WB/EL).

Sanderling.

Up to 146 at St. Mary's reaching a peak on 31st (SH/MSH et.al). 31 at
Whitburn on 27th (PK).

Ruff.

1-2 at Washington after 23rd (PK/KR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

1 in Budle Bay on 4th (ERM) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 12th (PW).

Common Gull.

Of the 6000 gulls estimated at Backworth on 1st most were Common (JDMcE)
2000 at Hallington on 20th (ERM) and 300 at Whittle Dene on 30th (AOA)

Glaucous Gull.

A first year at Seaton Sluice on 21st (KW).

Black Headed Gull.

1 at North Shields on 20th/21st showed albinistic characteristics with
no black on wings at all and an all white body (JMB/JP).

Little Gull.

2 immatures S. at Seaton Sluice on 20th (KW).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Cramlington, Hartford, Morpeth, Durham, Corbridge, Grindon and
Fenham Mill.

Long Eared Owl.

1-3 at Gosforth Park during month with 1 in Cheviots on 21st.

Short Eared Owl.

1-3 noted at Holy Island, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, Killingworth and
Uswayford. 7-8 in the S. Cheviots on 21st (ERM/WGJ), lingering in an
area where voles are still plentiful during a very mild winter.

Kingfisher.

Noted at Whittle Dene, Blaydon, Durham and Brasside. A concussed bird
was 'nursed' for 2 days at Morpeth after flying into a window on 31st
(JNP). It was released on 2nd February.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.
Noted at Fairnley, Gosforth and Whickham.

Skylark.
50+ at Fenham-le-Moor on 1st was the largest reported flock (MH).

Shore Lark.
2 on Holy Island on 13th (per ERM).

Carrion Crow.
An albino at W. Woodburn all month (per ERM).

Hooded Crow.
Up to 6 at Cresswell during month (BG/MSH et.al). 1 at Bamburgh on 6th (WSC) and 2 at Seaton Burn on 18th (AJ).

Marsh Tit.
Noted at Felton.

Willow Tit.
Noted at Cresswell and Gosforth.

Long Tailed Tit.
20+ at each of Bolam and Hallington on 16th (MW).

Nuthatch.
Up to 3 at Durham and Wallington during month (JC/ML/IK).

Fieldfare.
Flocks of 500 at Glanton and 400 at Longhorsley on 28th (MW).

Redwing.
150 at Wallsend Swallow on 6th when 300 at Gosforth Park Roost (MSH), 250 at Belsay Roost on 27th (ERM/WGJ).

Blackbird.
A completed nest found at Prestwick on 29th (IK) but no eggs.

Stonechat.
Up to 4 noted in each of Bamburgh, Alnmouth, and Hauxley areas. A pair at an unusual location well inland at Alwinton on 21st (ERM/WGJ).

Blackcap.
1 at Lobley Hill 1st-9th (P.&I.D.), 1 at Ryton on 7th (KW) until 19th and 1 at Stannington on 28th (per ERM).

Chiffchaff.
1 at Ryton on 8th (KW) and 1 at Craster on 15th (WSC).

Grey Wagtail.
A gathering of 15 at Durham City Sewage Works on 7th (JC/ML). 1-2 at Berwick, Alnmouth, St. Mary's, Wallsend, Whitley Bay, Whittle Dene, Colt Crag and Newcastle.

Waxwing.
30 at Stocksfield on 16th (per ERM), 1 at Cramlington on 19th (ERM) and 7 at Ponteland on 21st (KH).

Hawfinch.
1 at Stocksfield on 7th (per ERM).

Greenfinch.
Largest flock was 300 near Dinnington on 14th (ERM/LGM et.al).

Goldfinch.

50 at Grindon on 30th (RH/JP) and 20 at Colt Crag on 20th (ERM) were largest reported flocks.

Siskin.

40 at Bolam on 7th (IK) and at Felton on 21st (BEP). 30 at Stocksfield on 15th and at Morpeth on 27th (per ERM). Smaller flocks noted at Belsay, Glanton, Etal, Ford and Durham.

Linnet.

Flocks of 250 at Holy Island on 7th (GU) and at Sharpeton on 21st (ERM).

Twite.

4 at Housteads on 25th (RH).

Redpoll.

Largest flocks were 40 at Durham on 20th (JC/ML) and 30 at Glanton on 28th (MW).

Crossbill.

1 at Hallington on 20th (JMB), 2 at Grindon on 22nd (JP) and 14 in Alwin Valley on 28th (ERM).

Brambling.

Well reported in flocks of up to 15. Larger flocks involved 90 near Whickham on 4th/5th (PD), 70 at Shaftoe on 7th (ERM), 20 at Haydon Bridge on 18th (per ERM) and 250 near Consett on 27th (JC).

Lapland Bunting.

2 at Ross on 10th (per ERM) where 5 had been seen on 11th December (ML).

Snow Bunting.

40 at Marsden on 27th and 30 at South Shields Pier on 28th (MS). 7 on Cheviot on 7th (MSH).

Tree Sparrow.

75 at Bamburgh on 7th (GU) and at Boldon on 27th (KR). 26 at Fenham le Moor on 29th (PK).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson.	M. Henry.	E.R. Meek.
A.O. Aitken.	K. Hutton.	E.T. & J.R. Norris.
W. Brady.	M.S. Hodgson.	B.E. Prater.
J.M. Bayldon.	S. Hingston.	K. Robson.
J.S. Booth.	A. James.	J. Phillips.
W.S. Craster.	I. Kerr.	R.A. Silk.
J. Cartwright.	P. Kelly.	M. Skilleter.
P. & I. Davidson.	C.J. Lowe.	M.R. Smith.
C.E. Douglas.	M. Lawley.	J.S. Spence.
J.P. Deacon.	E. Lobley.	K. Walton.
B. Galloway.	L.G. MacFarlane.	H. Wilson.
R. Grey.	J.D. McElwee.	M. Wishart.
		P. Weighill.

All February records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RD, by 9th March, 1973, please.

FIELD TRIPS.

1. COASTAL WALK - SUNDAY, APRIL 15th.

It is proposed to hold a coastal walk around the Lindisfarne Reserve from Beal to Ross, Transport will be by coach and approximate cost 75p. Coach will leave Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m. prompt.

N.B. This walk will be about 8 miles and strong footwear is essential.

2. LEIGHTON MOSS, LANCASHIRE - SUNDAY, 6th MAY.

Transport to this R.S.P.B. reserve will be by 29 seater coach, at approximate cost of £1.00. leaving Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m.

As with all Field Trips, money must be sent when booking and first money received will secure a seat.

Bookings, please, to B. Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH - Election of New Club Committee.

Nominations are requested for the nine man Committee and names, with proposer and seconder, should be sent to Chairman/Secretary, Ian Armstrong, 12 Valerian Avenue, Heddon-on-the-Wall, by 11th April, at the latest.

R.S.P.B. FILM SHOWS IN NORTHUMBERLAND - MARCH 1973.

Below are details of the five film shows which have been arranged throughout the County during the week commencing 12th March. The films are "Birds of a Border Estate" which shows the bird life in the grounds of The Hirsell at Coldstream; "Birds of Teesmouth", a film showing the great wealth of birds to be found among the industry of Teesmouth, and "Broadland Summer".

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| 12 March | BELLINGHAM, Town Hall. 7.30.p.m. Tickets 30p adult, 15p. child from Forestry Commission Office, Bellingham. |
| 13 March | ROTHBURY, Jubilee Hall, 7.30.p.m. Tickets 30p adult, 15p child from Mr. & Mrs. McGuinness, Jubilee Hall Flat, Rothbury. SAE please or personal callers after 6 pm and all day Wednesday. |
| 15 March | TYNEMOUTH, Preston Adult Education Centre, 7.30.p.m. Tickets 30p adult, 15p child from Minnikins, Front Street, Tynemouth. T. & G. Allen Ltd., Whitley Road, Whitley Bay. T. & G. Allen Ltd., Bedford Street, North Shields. |
| 16 March | MORPETH. Kind Edward VI Grammar School, Cottingwood Lane. Tickets 30p adult, 15p child from A.B. Staite (Photographer) Ltd., 51 Newgate Street, Morpeth. |
| 17 March | BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, Ballroom, Kings Arms Hotel, 7.30.p.m. Tickets 30p adult, 15p child from Geo. C. Grieves, 1 - 7 Church Street. |

When writing for tickets please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope with your order and state clearly which performance you require tickets for.

ROCK PIPIT ENQUIRY 1971 - 1972.

Few observers on the coast of either County Durham or Northumberland can have failed to encounter the Rock Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta*, or "Sea Mouse" as it is locally known, along the shore at all times of the year, and many if approached, would doubtless mention the bird's commonness along our beaches. George Bolam in his classic "The Birds of Northumberland and the Eastern Borders" (1912) described it as "a common resident on all the rocky portions of the coast" and George Temperley's corresponding work "The History of the Birds of Durham" (1951) considered the Rock Pipit as being "not uncommon". When the Club undertook its two year enquiry into the status of the breeding birds of Northumberland during 1967-1968, although reported from rocky stretches of coast only a single instance of confirmed breeding was noted (on the Emblestone at Newton-by-the-Sea), and even the first three years of the British Trust for Ornithology's Atlas project (1968-1970) produced confirmed breeding in only six Northumberland 10-Kilometre Ordnance Survey grid squares which included the offshore islands. Clearly a more detailed enquiry was called for and this was effected in 1971-1972 when observers walked the entire length of the coastline from the Scottish Border to Souter Point, near Whitburn searching for breeding Rock Pipits. Information was also obtained from the Farne Islands, Holy Island and Coquet Island. Most of the mainland was covered on at least two occasions during the project and it is probable that most, if not all, the Rock Pipits present in breeding areas were discovered.

The criteria for determining proof of breeding were the same as those adopted in the B.T.O. Atlas project. Single birds in territory have been treated for the purpose of this enquiry as constituting one pair and are shown as such in the Table at the end of this report.

Results of the Enquiry.

Between the Scottish border and Souter Point there are very few stretches of really rocky coast backed with cliffs of any significance. Examples of such habitat would be from Marshall's Meadows to Berwick-on-Tweed, Seaton Sluice to St. Mary's Island, and the Tynemouth and Marsden areas. Much of the coastline comprises a series of sandy bays (e.g. Druridge, Alnmouth, Beadnell and Budle Bays, Fenham Flats and Ross Back Sands) often backed by low lying duneland or linkland and terminating in rocky promontories and points (e.g. Cullernose Point, Longhoughton Steel) frequently of insignificant proportions. Consequently the records of Rock Pipit show a very discontinuous and fragmented distribution with birds being confined to the rocky points and cliffs mentioned above (and in a single case a man-made pier) and to the offshore islands where, especially on the Farnes, suitable habitat is more readily available and on Holy Island and Coquet Island where similar features to those attracting mainland birds can be found. The sandy bays, etc., were completely deserted. Not all of the apparently suitable places on the mainland were, however, occupied by Rock Pipits as can be illustrated by the almost total absence of birds between Alnmouth and Craster (only 3 pairs were discovered in almost 8 miles).

Altogether 77-80 breeding or probable breeding pairs of Rock Pipits were found. Of these 33-34 pairs, or about 42.5%, were represented on the islands of Holy Island, the Farne Islands and Coquet Island, but more particularly the Farnes which accounted for 18 breeding pairs (22.5%). Several of these islands are

exceedingly well suited for this species providing much ideal habitat.

The remaining 44-46 pairs were scattered along the entire length of the mainland and only in about five places could there be said to be any continuity from one pair to the next, viz., Marshalls Meadows to Berwick-on-Tweed (5+ pairs in about 4 miles), Seahouses (4 pairs in about 1 mile), Beadnell (4 pairs in 1 mile), Seaton Sluice to St. Mary's Island (3 pairs in about 1½ miles) and Trow Rocks, South Shields, to Souter Point (up to 5 pairs in about 4 miles). Almost all the other records refer to single isolated pairs.

The results of this enquiry indicate that the Rock Pipit is only a relatively scarce breeding species on the mainland between the Scottish border and Souter Point, being absent during the breeding season from areas and places where it could be expected to be found. Nearly half the breeding strength is confined to offshore islands with the Farne Islands being by far the most important single locality. These results should perhaps be compared with the opinions of earlier writers.

Discussion

If the statements of Bolam and Temperley referred to at the beginning of the report are to be wholly relied upon the results of this enquiry would suggest that a decline has occurred in the Rock Pipit's local status. Bolam (1912) also stated that there always used to be a nest or two on the Old Law, near Ross Back Sands, but this is one of the sandiest stretches of the Northumberland coast with the nearest breeding Rock Pipits today over the sound on Holy Island. The absence of Rock Pipits from similar habitats elsewhere on the coast has already been mentioned. Temperley (1951) noted a decline on parts of the County Durham coast owing to coastal industrialisation but with the exception of Whitburn Colliery and, in Northumberland, Lynemouth Colliery, such effects would not appear to be of much importance in the areas covered. More recently the Hauxley Ringing Station Annual Report for 1966 mentioned the species as being "common in small numbers" in the Hauxley area but as this survey showed only four pairs of nesting Rock Pipits were found between Alnmouth and Cresswell in 1971-1972.

The Rock Pipit is not a species frequently mentioned in local literature; it is neglected by most field observers unless encountered in numbers sufficiently large to attract attention unavoidably. Such gatherings frequently and regularly occur outside of the breeding season, from September onwards, and in localities not normally occupied by the bird at other times of the year. Flocks of 10-20 birds - many of them birds of the year - feeding on the tidewrock in Sandon Bay on Holy Island and on the salt march at Amble provide obvious examples. The effect on observers is for them to consider the species - and Rock Pipits are not peculiar in this respect - more abundant than is the case and this opinion is difficult to refute because of the absence of detailed records. Early writers may have been no different and may well have over-estimated the species' status in the two counties. The results of this enquiry, it is suggested, probably show the Rock Pipit's local status much as it was in Bolam's day.

If we look for additional, supporting evidence for this hypothesis we should perhaps begin by examining the Rock Pipit's distribution on the east coast. It is not present between Kent and South Yorkshire (PARSLOW 1967, B.O.U. 1971) and as such Northumberland and North Durham are relatively close to the areas where the species is absent; close enough for any marked decrease in numbers here to manifest itself

clearly where the species is only sparsely represented, at one of the limits of its range. PARSLow (1967), however, has shown that nationally the species' distribution and status are very much as they were at the turn of the century and of those local declines that have been noted, none refer to the east coast. It would appear therefore that the available evidence does not support the view that any decline has taken place.

Conclusion.

If the presence of breeding birds on the Old Law noted by Bolam is an indication that the species frequented similar but now deserted habitats elsewhere on the coast then there are grounds for suspecting a decline has occurred, but as such habitats are, by the bird's very nature unlikely to be occupied during the breeding season to any significant extent this is improbable. The results of the survey probably show the Rock Pipit's status very much as it was sixty or so years ago but previously there had been some exaggeration as explained above.

TABLE showing the records of breeding or probable breeding Rock Pipits, Anthus spinoletta, during 1971-1972.

<u>Section of coastline</u>	<u>Location of pairs where known.</u>	<u>Number of pairs.</u>
Marshall's Meadows - Berwick-on-Tweed.		5+
Berwick-on-Tweed - Cheswick.		3-4
Cheswick - Budle Point		NIL
Budle Point - Annstead G.C.	nr. Harkess Rocks	1
	Harkess Rocks	1
	Greenhill Rocks	1
	The Tumblers	1
	Seahouses	1
	Annstead G.C.	3
Annstead G.C. - Craster	Beadnell Haven	1
	Nacker Hole	1
	Little Rock/Harbour	2
	Football Hole	1
	Newton Point	1
	Emblestone	1
Craster - Alnmouth	Dunstanburgh	1-2
	Little Carr	1
	Cullernose Bay	1
Alnmouth - Amble	Longhoughton Steel	2
	Birling Carrs	1
	Amble N. Pier	1

<u>Section of coastline</u>	<u>Location of pairs where known</u>	<u>Number of pairs</u>
Amble - Cresswell	Link House	1
	Nr. Hauxley	1
Cresswell - Blyth	Newbiggin Point	1
	Spital Carrs	1
Blyth - Tynemouth	Hartley	1
	St. Mary's Island	1
	Brown's Bay	1
	Cullercoats Bay	1
	Tynemouth	1
South Shields - Souter Point		max. 5
		<hr/> 44 - 46 <hr/>

<u>Offshore Islands</u>	<u>Location of pairs where known</u>	<u>Number of pairs</u>
Holy Island	Heugh	2
	East shore	3
	North shore	1
Farne Islands		18
Coquet Island		9-10
		<hr/> 33-34 <hr/>

TOTAL 77-80 pairs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This enquiry could not have been undertaken without the generous support of the various people listed below. In particular, however, should be thanked Mr. P. Hawkey, Warden of the National Trust's Farne Islands sanctuary, for making available his 1971 Report on the birds of the Farne Islands from which so much valuable information has been extracted. Also the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for making available their warden's 1971 Report on the birds of Coquet Island and to Mr. F. Brady who kindly gave records for the last 25 years on the status of Rock Pipits between Marshall's Meadows and Cheswick.

R. Adams, J.C. Bacon, M. Bayldon, F. Brady, B. & M. Etherington, J.A. Ginnever, P. Hawkey, J.L. Hargrave, L.G. Macfarlane, R. Norman, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

FEBRUARY 1973 BULLETIN.

Summary.

As the mild weather continued the most significant movement of the month was of sea birds moving into a N. airstream between 24th - 26th. Unusual numbers of Gannets were noted together with a Manx Shearwater, a few Skuas and some Divers.

Some interesting counts of diving ducks were made particularly of Long Tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter whilst the Brent Geese had deserted Lindisfarne by mid month.

A Golden Eagle was again suspected of frequenting the Border Forest area whilst Kestrels remained common in the Cheviots.

Wader counts were also interesting and again 'out of season' species were noted particularly Ruff. 2 Grey Phalaropes appeared later in the month.

An unconfirmed report of a Snowy Owl was received as some interesting observations were made on Barn Owls. Early nesting of 'Thrushes' was again a feature whilst Finch flocks remained prominent.

CLASSIFIED LIST:

Black Throated Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice 1 N. on each of 24th and 25th (KW) and 1 S. on 26th (SJH).

Great Northern Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice 2 on 24th and 2 on 25th (HW) and 1 off Holy Island on 4th (ML).

Red Throated Diver. (or Diver sp.)

Many records of up to 6 with a contradictory movement on 25th when off Cresswell 75 N. in 50 min. (BEP et.al) and off Seaton Sluice 58 S. and only 13 N. in 1 hour (KW).

Great Crested Grebe.

1 in breeding plumage at Hallington on 10th and 24th (BG/LGM) and 1 at Alnmouth on 24th/25th (ERM).

Red Necked Grebe.

Up to 6 in the Skate Road early in month (BL et.al). 1 off Seaton Sluice on 4th (KW).

Slavonian Grebe.

At least 10 off Ross on 18th (BG) and 3 off Alnmouth on 25th (ERM/LGM).

Little Grebe.

Gatherings of up to 5 noted at Alnmouth, Amble, Whittle Dene, Holywell, Prudhoe, Hexham, Broomlee, Ford, Brasside and Durham.

Manx Shearwater.

A most unusual occurrence of 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 24th (KW et.al).

Gannet.

An unusually heavy movement noted all along coast on 24th-26th when 470 N, with a peak of 370 off Seaton Sluice on 24th (HW/KW et.al).

Cormorant.

Prominent inland with up to 8 on Tyne between Prudhoe - Blaydon, up to 7 at Hallington, up to 6 at Cresswell Pond, up to 4 at Wallsend Swallow and 1-2 at Whittle Dene. Estuary counts involved 12 at Alnmouth on 17th and 17 at Amble on same day (J. & R.McC).

Shag.

Largest gathering was 40+ on Emblestones on 18th (MSH).

Heron.

Up to 6 reported from widely scattered localities. A tired bird on rocks at St. Marys on 4th (SJH).

Mallard.

Flocks of up to 150 widely reported. Larger groups occurred at Whittle Dene (max. 250 on 4th), Skate Road (300 on 4th), Holywell (max. 290 on 11th), Gosforth (max 407 on 26th) and St. Marys (250 on 3rd).

Teal.

Many records of flocks of up to 50. 117 at Gosforth on 26th was by far the largest gathering (SJH).

Gadwall.

A drake at Grindon on 4th (BG).

Wigeon.

Well reported from many waters on flocks of up to 60. Larger gatherings occurred at Lindisfarne (4000 on 11th), Grindon (max. 250 on 10th), Derwent (max. 285 on 17th), Wark on Tweed (300 on 18th) and Whittle Dene (max 125 on 18th).

Pintail.

50 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (ETN/JRN) and 3 at Budle Bay on 25th (MSH).

Shoveler.

Up to 3 pairs at Gosforth early in month increasing to 24 individuals by 26th (SJH et.al) Holywell was only other locality with 3 there on 17th (AD).

Scaup.

Single females at Broomlee and Berwick on 4th (BG/ML) Hallington on 17th/18th (CMA/MH/KW), Amble on 25th (ERM/LGM/BEP), Cresswell on 3rd (BEP) and 3 N. off Seaton Sluice on 25th (KW et.al).

Tufted Duck.

Largest counts were 300 at Whittle Dene on 17th (EAS), 200 at Gosforth on 7th (MH), 160 at Holywell on 11th (SJH) and 73 at Bolam on 25th (J.&R.McC).

Pochard.

Largest counts were 128 at Gosforth Park on 26th (SJH), 120 at Holywell on 26th (SJH), 50 at Broomlee on 4th (BG) and 50 at Whittle Dene on 17th (EAS).

Goldeneye.

29 at Broomlee on 10th and 24th (LGM) and 30 at Wark on Tweed on 25th (BG) were largest gatherings. Other more significant counts involved max. 20 at Whittle Dene on 18th (J.&R.McC/JSB), 19 at Hallington on 18th (SJH) when 20 on Fenham Flats (BG) and 15 at Sweethope on 10th. 18 N. off Seaton Sluice on 25th (KW).

Long Tailed Duck.

300 in the Skate Road on 4th (BL) and still 200 there on 18th (BG). Up to 8 off Seaton Sluice during month (ERM/KW/HW et.al).

Velvet Scoter.

An unusually large flock of 50 on Skate Road on 4th (BL). Off Seaton Sluice 6 N. on 11th (SJH) and 7 N. on 25th (KW). 1 S. off St. Marys on 15th (NJP).

Common Scoter.

A max. of 400 off Ross on 18th (BG et.al). Up to 9 noted off Alnmouth, Seaton Sluice, St. Marys.

R.B. Merganser.

Max. of 30 off Ross on 18th (BG) and up to 5 off Alnmouth, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice. An unusual occurrence inland of 1 at Gosforth on 3rd (TRP/KW).

Goosander.

Largest counts were 48 at Hallington on 10th (BG), 31 at Whittle Dene on 1st (BM), 20 at each of Colt Crag on 24th and at Derwent on 3rd, and 15 at Greenlee on 4th. Many records of up to 6, although 2 at Gosforth on 10th (TRP) are worthy of note.

Smew.

A redhead noted at Whittle Dene all month and also 1 at Broomlee on 10th and 24th (LGM et.al).

Shelduck.

Max. at Lindisfarne of 327 on 11th (LGM). Elsewhere 25 at Amble on 17th and 25th (J.&R.McC), 2 at each of Alnmouth and Cresswell, 4 N. off Seaton Sluice on 12th (CR) and 3 at Grindon on 3rd (BL).

Grey Lag Goose.

60 at Wark on Tweed on 3rd (ERM) and 60 in Hallington area all month (BM et.al). 21 at Whittle Dene on 28th, 16 N. over Falstone on 4th (IK) and 4 W. over Gosforth on 3rd (TRP/KW).

Brent Goose.

Still 210 at Lindisfarne on 3rd but absent by mid. month (JMB/ML).

Canada Goose.

Up to 70 in Hallington area all month. 40 at Whittle Dene on 28th.

Mute Swan.

150-200 at Berwick on 4th (ML). Only up to 20 noted at Lindisfarne and up to 22 at Amble.

Whooper Swan.

Still plentiful. Largest gatherings were 120 at Wark on Tweed on 25th (BG), 105 at Northumbrian Loughs on 18th (ML), 100 on Lindisfarne on 4th (ML), 76 at Cornhill on 25th (PK), 53 at Backworth on 14th-23rd (J.D.McE/GU), 30 at Hartburn on 17th (CMA) and 24 at Sweethope on 4th (IK).

Bewick's Swan.

Max. of 8 in Budle Bay/Monks House area on 10th. Last noted there on 11th (WSC et.al), 2 at Backworth on 4th (GU).

Golden Eagle.

Suggestions of 1 in Kielder Forest during month (BL).

Buzzard.

1 over North Shields on 5th (JSS).

Sparrow Hawk.

Noted at 9 localities between Plankey Mill and Amble.

Merlin.

Singles returned to breeding areas in Kielder and U. Coquetdale after 4th. 1 at Tynemouth on 20th (KW).

Kestrel.

Still numerous in Cheviots (ERM) early in month.

Water Rail.

Up to 5 noted in Gosforth Park (MH et.al), 1 killed by cat in Ponteland on 14th (per BL).

Moorhen.

Largest count was 89 at Wallsend Swallow on 25th (KR).

Coot.

Largest counts were 530 at Seaton Burn until 15th (AJ), 240 at Holywell on 11th (SJH), 120 at Broomlee on 4th (BG), 170 at Wallsend Swallow on 11th (MSH), 117 at Gosforth on 26th (SJH) and 107 at Bolam on 25th (J.&R.McC), 100 at Brasside on 25th. Many records of up to 80. 7 on tidal water at Amble on 15th (LU).

Oystercatcher.

69 at Amble on 17th (J.&R.McC) and 70 at St. Marys on 21st (AJ). 8 inland at Wark on Tweed on 25th (PK).

Lapwing.

Some large flocks early in month included 1000 at Whittle Dene (ETN/JRN) and at Holywell on 4th (GU), and at Seaton Burn on 2nd (AJ). Light N.W. and N. movement was witnessed over Derwent and Grindon on 3rd/4th (BG) and off Bamburgh on 20th (MH).

Ringed Plover.

76 at St. Marys on 4th (SJH) and 50 at Newton on 18th (MSH), 20 at Whitburn on 23rd (TIM).

Grey Plover.

250 in Budle Bay on 18th (BG). 1-2 in Coquet Estuary and at Cresswell.

Golden Plover.

1000-3000 at Whittle Dene between 1st-4th (BM et.al). 1500 on Jarrow Slake on 4th (KR). In mid. month 250 at Weldon Bridge (WGJ) and 200 on Holy Island (BG). Up to 80 at several other locations.

Turnstone.

100 at St. Marys most of month (AJ.et.al).

Woodcock.

Noted at Holystone, Bardon Mill, Durham and Langleeford.

Curlew.

43 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (ETN/JRN), 22 at Jarrow Slake on 4th (KR) when 23 at Holystone (LGM). 20W over Slaley on 7th (BL).

Black Tailed Godwit.

1 at Ross on 18th (BG).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

1000+ on Fenham Flats and 1000 roosting on Budle Spit on 18th (BG).

Green Sandpiper.

1 at Whittle Dene until at least 18th.

Redshank.

Counts of 500 at Jarrow Slake on 4th (KR), 32 at Washington on 19th (TRP) 75 at St. Marys on 21st (AJ) and 44 at Alnmouth on 17th (J.&R.McC).

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay on 11th (LGM).

Greenshank.

1 in Budle Bay on 23rd (ML).

Knot.

5000 roosting on Budle Spit on 18th (BG). Up to 2000 in Seaton Sluice/St. Marys area. 250 at Cresswell on 10th.

Purple Sandpiper.

150 at Seaton Sluice on 4th (KW).

Dunlin.

5000 roosting on Budle Spit on 18th (BG). 500 at Jarrow Slake on 4th (KR). 520 at Amble on 17th when 158 at Alnmouth (J.&R.McC). 100-130 at St. Marys and Cresswell.

Sanderling.

Max. 200 at St. Marys on 21st (AJ). 50 at Whitburn on 23rd (TIM).

Ruff.

2 at Washington on 11th and 20th. (TRP/PK), 1 at St. Marys on 4th (SJH), 5 at Monks House on 20th (MH).

Grey Phalarope.

Two interesting reports of 1 at Hartley on 15th (NJP) and 1 in Budle Bay on 23rd (ML).

Arctic Skua.

An unusual number of records of Skuas between 17th-26th when 6 N. off Seaton Sluice (KW/HW/SJH) and 1 N. off Hauxley (LGM). Most were identified as Arctics.

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

1 at Amble on 25th (ERM/LGM) and 2 at Berwick on 28th (MW).

Glaucous Gull.

Singles at N. Shields on 11th (NJP) and N. off Seaton Sluice on 17th and 24th (KW/AD).

Little Gull.

An immature S. off Seaton Sluice on 4th (HW/KW).

Mediterranean Gull.

An adult, ringed on each leg, at Holy Island on 2nd (JMB).

Kittiwake.

1 at Holywell on 4th (SJH).

Little Auk.

2 N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (KW).

Guillemot.

6000+ on Farnes by 4th may have been the result of an abundance of sprats. (BL).

Woodpigeon.

1000 at Newton on 18th (MSH).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Housesteads, Cramlington, Wideopen and 2 found roosting on crags on S. Cheviots (ERM/WGJ et.al).

Snowy Owl.

A probable was seen at Bellingham on 18th (per BL).

Short Eared Owl.

Singles noted at Holywell, Hazelrigg and Prestwick Carr. Still common in Cheviots although 3 found long dead. (ERM/WGJ).

Kingfisher.

Singles at each of Wylam (10th) and Alnmouth (17th) with 1-2 at Whittle Dene all month.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Linhope, Langleeford, Akeld Burn and Holystone.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Dipton and Sunderland. 1 at Cresswell on 17th (BEP) may have been a migrant.

Shore Lark.

9 on Ross Links on 3rd (JMB).

Hooded Crow.

Up to 5 at Cresswell and singles at each of Belford, Bamburgh and Blaydon.

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Wallington and Dipton.

Long Tailed Tit.

Flock of 70+ at Ross on 11th (LGM).

Nuthatch.

4 at Wallington on 4th (BEP). 2 at Finchale Abbey on 25th, and 2 at Durham all month (TIM).

Mistle Thrush.

Pair with fledged young in a Wallsend Shipyard early in month (IHA). Another pair feeding large nestlings at South Shields on 28th (SJH). Well established in pairs on Cheviots by 26th.

Fieldfare.

110 at Fairley on 4th was largest flock (LGM).

Redwing.

250 at Stocksfield on 18th (BM) was by far the largest flock. Many reports of up to 25.

Blackbird.

On 19th nests with eggs at Rothbury and Glanton (BL).

Stonechat.

Noted at usual coastal localities of Bamburgh, Alnmouth, Amble, Craster and Cresswell. 1 inland at Muggleswick Common on 4th (JSB).

Meadow Pipit.

Small flocks noted back in Cheviot Valleys on 26th (ERM/WGJ/BG).

Grey Wagtail.

1-3 at Durham, Whittle Dene and Hallington.

Waxwing.

Up to 6 at Sunderland, Blaydon and West Denton most of month. 11 at Stocksfield on 12th.

Great Grey Shrike.

1 at Blaydon Ponds on 4th and 25th (AL & JMG).

Goldfinch.

Flocks of up to 30 noted at Grindon, Crag Lough, Wallington and Belsay.

Siskin.

50 at Linhope on 26th (ERM/WGJ). 30 at Bolam on 28th (IK), 15 at Durham on 18th (DLS) and 12 at Ford during month (CJL).

Twite.

1 on Holy Island on 4th (ML) and 3 at Amble on 25th (J.&R.McC).

Crossbill.

90 in Hamsterley Forest early in month (ML). Several pairs established at Slaley on 1st (BL). 1 at Falstone on 4th (IK).

Chaffinch.

500 at Eshott on 17th (MSH).

Brambling.

Continues to be well reported with 100 at Hallington on 18th (SJH/KW/HW) and up to 25 at Ryton, Wallington, Matfen and Killingworth.

Yellowhammer.

150 at Eshott on 17th (MSH).

Corn Bunting.

50 at Ryton on 9th (KW).

Reed Bunting.

60 at Ellington on 17th (BEP).

Snow Bunting.

Up to 25 at Ross, Hexham, Ryton, 50 at Bamburgh (IK) on 25th, and 80-100 on Hedgehope on 10th and 25th (per BL).

Tree Sparrow.

50 at Cresswell on 25th (LGM/ERM).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson.	I. Kerr.	N.J. Phillips.
I.H. Armstrong.	P. Kelly.	T.R. Palmer.
J.M. Bayldon.	C.J. Lowe.	A.J. Richards.
J.S. Booth.	M. Lawley.	C. Robson.
W. Brady.	E. Lobley.	K. Robson.
W.S. Craster.	B. Little.	R.A. Silk.
A. Donnison.	L.G. Macfarlane.	J.S. Spence.
B. Galloway.	J.D. McElwee.	D.L. Sowerbutts.
A.L. & J.M. Gibson.	J. & R. McCutcheon.	E.A. Stanley.
R. Grey.	B. Martin.	G. Upton.
M. Henry.	T.I. Mills.	L. Ullock.
M.S. Hodgson.	E.R. Meek.	K. Walton.
S.J. Hingston.	E.T. Norris.	P. Weighill.
W.G. Johnson.	J.R. Norris.	H. Wilson.
A. James.	B.E. Prater.	M. Wishart.

All March records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RO, by 9th April, 1973, please.

CLUB MEETING - 12th APRIL.

A reminder that this is the Annual General Meeting of the Club. After the formal business is completed an R.S.P.B. film 'Seabird Summer' will be shown. This is a film about the Seabird colonies off the Pembrokeshire coast.

SEATON SLUICE OBSERVATORY.

In the opinion of certain members regularly using the Tower, the effectiveness of the tower could be greatly improved by the use of a high powered pair of binoculars, e.g. 20 x 60. If any member has such binoculars which he no longer requires and would care to donate to the Observatory or knows of any cheap source, then please contact B. Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay, or see Brian at the next Club meeting.

B.T.O. ENQUIRY - BREEDING RINGED AND LITTLE RINGED PLOVERS, 1973.

The B.T.O. are this year conducting a national enquiry into the numbers of breeding Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers in the country. The Club has been invited to participate in the enquiry and offers of assistance in either Northumberland or County Durham are requested.

The enquiry is aimed at ascertaining actual numbers of breeding pairs of both species but in this area Ringed Plovers are obviously the most likely to be encountered (L.R.P's are not known to have nested in Northumberland since 1971 and were unsuccessful in North Durham in 1972). Inland, as well as coastal, sites require to be covered. Ringed Plovers breed in Northumberland along most of the principal rivers in suitable habitats (especially along the Coquet West of Rothbury), along much of the coast, at opencast coal sites, gravel workings, power stations, collieries and a multitude of other industrial and semi-industrial habitats and can be on eggs before April is out. Little Ringed Plovers, if present, occupy similar (but non-marine) sites.

The most valuable assistance can be given by Members offering to cover specific localities and stretches of river or coastline and I shall be pleased to hear from anyone interested in helping in this way. Record cards have been prepared and can be obtained from me upon request.

B.T.O. SURVEY OF ALL BLACK-HEADED GULL COLONIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Members are asked to count the numbers of pairs at all gulleries visited this year and send the details either direct to myself or to the Recorder at the end of each month in the usual way so that they can be forwarded to the B.T.O. A more elaborate record form can be obtained from me upon request should anyone wish to make special visits to any particular gulleries.

The enquiry is to extend to all inland records of breeding gulls and terns and any such occurrences should be submitted in the same way as gullery counts.

G. Macfarlane,
31 Wreay Walk,
Cramlington,
NE23 6LJ.

B.T.C. ENQUIRY - INLAND WINTERING OF GULLS IN ENGLAND AND WALES - JANUARY 1973.

The above enquiry was conducted during January of this year and with fair measure of success. It will be recalled that an earlier enquiry of this nature, in 1963, discovered only three inland gull roosts in the whole of Northumberland and Durham and those sites were all in the former county, at Whittle Dene (200 birds), Hallington (850 birds) and Colt Crag (22,000 birds). These three roosts were on inland reservoirs and Common Gulls were by far the dominant species of gull present.

The above three sites were again visited this year together with a further 12 known or suspected roosts in the two counties. Unfortunately no roost developed at Colt Crag possibly because of the low water level. In consequence more birds were at Hallington than in 1963 and a roost of comparable size was found on the Derwent Reservoir; in some cases large diurnal gatherings in likely roosting spots moved either onto the beach at nightfall (Opencast coal site at Widdrington and at Meggie's Burn) or towards the coast (Washington Ponds/area) and two roosts at disused colliery heaps had disappeared as a result of regrading and the leading of shale (Rising Sun and East Cramlington Collieries). Interesting confirmed roosting sites were on the flat roof of Geo. Angus' factory at Willington Square, on colliery heaps and slurry ponds at Ashington Colliery, on a hard pitch at Ashington Grammar School and on coal staithes at West Dunston, but a search of the rooftops in North Shields failed to find any roosting gulls.

The local results of the enquiry are set out below:-

	<u>Date(s) of count</u>	<u>Black- headed</u>	<u>Common</u>	<u>Herring</u>	<u>Lesser B - B.</u>	<u>Great B - B.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Northumberland.</u>							
Ashington Colliery	28th	-	-	c 3000	-	c 650	c 3650
Ashington Grammar School.	17th	-	-	1150	-	100	1250
Bondicarr O.C.C.S.	27th	-	-	300	-	125	425
Colt Crag.	20th	No roost.	-	-	-	-	-
East Cramlington Colliery.	Various.	No roost.	-	-	-	-	-
Hallington.	20th	400	2300	265	-	250	3215
Meggie's Burn.	?	No roost.	-	-	-	-	-
North Shields.	Various.	No roost.	-	-	-	-	-
Radar O.C.C.S.	Various.	No roost.	-	-	-	-	-

cont'd....

Northumberland cont'd....

	<u>Date(s) of count</u>	<u>Black- headed</u>	<u>Common</u>	<u>Herring</u>	<u>Lesser B - B.</u>	<u>Great B - B.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Rising Sun Colliery.	?	No roost.					-
Whittle Dene	13th	220	30	-	-	10	260
" "	20th	210	30	-	-	-	240
" "	27th	No roost.					-
Willington Square.	28th	46	25	93	1	52	217
<u>Co. Durham.</u>							
Derwent Reservoir.	20th	55	937	1622	-	475	3089
Washington Ponds/area.	Various	No roost.					-
West Dunston.	8th	No roost.					-
" "	31st	300	-	-	-	-	300

In the case of Whittle Dene and West Dunston where more than one visit was made, it is interesting to note the fluctuations in the number of gulls present.

CONTRIBUTORS.

I.H. Armstrong.
J.A. Ginnever.
M. Hodgson.
A. Jones.
P. Kelly.
J. & B. McCutcheon.
L.G. Macfarlane.
B. Martin.
E.R. Meek.
J.S. Spence.
H. Wilson.

L.G. Macfarlane.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB BULLETIN.

MARCH 1973.

SUMMARY.

March was another dry and mild month and toward the latter stages a flush of the traditional early summer migrants appeared including Garganey, Ring Ousel, Wheatear, Sand Martin, Common Sandpiper, Chiffchaff, an early Willow Warbler and White Wagtails. Lesser Black Backed Gulls had already been recorded earlier in the month but significant passage did commence after 23rd. 4 Sandwich Terns were also seen during the last week of the month.

By mid. month many waders were in nesting territory on the moors whilst coastal flocks fluctuated as a result of N. passage, particularly Redshank and Dunlin.

Fieldfares, and more unusually Redwings, accumulated in large flocks prior to emigration during the month whilst a hard weather movement, prior to the April snow, was witnessed on 31st.

Other interesting records included Mandarin, Spotted Redshank, Iceland Gull, Shore Lark, several inland Stonechats, Waxwings and Lapland Bunting.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Diver sp. (including Red Throated).

Largest gatherings were 10-11 off Ross and Cresswell on 11th and 18th respectively (BG/JNP et.al).

Great Northern Diver.

1 off Ross and on Fenham Flats on 10th/11th (JMB/JNP).

Black Throated Diver.

1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 3rd (KW), 1 off Cresswell on 4th (KBH) and 3 off Ross on 11th (JNP).

Great Crested Grebe.

The return to breeding sites continued with up to 6 at Hallington and Brasside, up to 3 at Gosforth Park (after 6th), 1 at Seaton Burn (after 12th), 2 at Catcleugh on 17th, 1 at Langley Dam on 22nd and 1 at each of Broomlee and Derwent on 24th. Also 2 at Holywell on 21st.

Red Necked Grebe.

2 off Ross on 11th and 3 off Bamburgh on 18th (JNP/JMB).

Slavonian Grebe.

Max. of 18 off Ross on 18th (JMB).

Black Necked Grebe.

3 on Fenham Flats on 10th (JMB).

Little Grebe.

Although a return to breeding sites was suggested during the month, 4-6 were still present at Amble and Alnmouth on 25th.

Fulmar.

Up to 25 in the St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice area during the month. On 24th 5 pairs at Dunstanburgh but virtually absent from both Bamburgh Castle and Marsden colonies (PY).

Cormorant.

3-6 at Hallington until at least 24th, 6 at Ryton on 11th, 1 at Whittle Dene on 6th and up to 4 on Cresswell Ponds during month.

Heron.

Parties of 1-4 were well reported from inland and at the coast whilst some nesting birds were incubating eggs by 17th.

Mallard.

250 at Holywell on 3rd was by far the largest gathering (GU). Still 50 in Druridge Bay on 28th (LU).

Teal.

A remarkable count of 200 at Grindon on 10th (SJH) but they were most prominent on a regular basis at Washington with 40-60 present all month. 60 at Grindon on 31st (LGM) was only other count worthy of note.

Garganey.

1 at Washington on 23rd remained until the end of the month (TRP) whilst 3 were at Gosforth on 24th (KW).

Gadwall.

A drake was at Grindon on 17th (LGM), a pair remained at Gosforth from 22nd - 31st (GU et.al) and 3 were at Seaton Burn on 26th (AJ).

Wigeon.

Still plentiful, particularly inland, with max. counts of 350 at Holy Island on 11th (BG), 200-300 at Grindon/Broomlee most of month (TRP/J.&R.McC, et.al), 180 at Derwent on 4th, 110 at Whittle Dene on 3rd and 40 at Capheaton on 18th (CMA). A steady decline was suggested towards the end of the month.

Pintail.

1 off Cresswell on 10th (JNP) and 2 on Holy Island on 11th. On 25th 2 S. off Alnmouth (BG).

Shoveler.

Pairing was in evidence at Gosforth during month where a max. of 7 pairs were reported. Elsewhere up to 15 individuals at Holywell (after 3rd), up to 6 at Seaton Burn (until 21st), 2 pairs at Grindon (after 20th), 1 off Seaton Sluice on 3rd (KW) and 2 pairs off Holy Island on 24th (CL).

Scaup.

1-3 at Cresswell between 4th-25th (JNP/BEP/KW et.al) and 1 at Whittle Dene from 17th-30th (JSB/RGL/J.&R.McC).

Tufted Duck.

Still plentiful with 60-75 at Gosforth all month (AJ/GU et.al), 60 at Northumbrian Loughs on 17th (LGM), 60 at Holywell on 23rd (MDR), 50 at Hartburn on 27th, 49 at Capheaton on 18th (CMA) and 41 at Bolam on 6th (KBH). 4 on the river at Ryton on 12th were considered unusual (AJR).

Pochard.

Max. of 75 at Gosforth on 6th and still 32 present by 22nd (GU). 22 at each of Holywell on 10th and at Capheaton on 18th were largest counts from 8 other waters (CMA et.al).

Goldeneye.

Well reported, particularly inland with double figure concentrations noted on Northumbrian Loughs (max. 33 on 17th) Hallington (20 on 10th), Ross (20 on 11th), Whittle Dene (max. 14 on 11th), Capheaton (11 on 18th), Alnmouth (11 on 10th) and River Tyne at Prudhoe (11 on 16th).

Long Tailed Duck.

Counts of 95 and 100 off Ross on 10th/11th (JNP/JMB) were max. in that area. 2 in Druridge Bay on 1st (LU).

Common Scoter.

Max. off Ross of 50 on 11th (JNP).

Velvet Scoter.

1 N. Seaton Sluice on 18th (KW).

Red Breasted Merganser.

Max. off Ross of 52 on 11th (JNP). Only small number noted further S.

Goosander.

Largest numbers occurred at Hallington (max. of 35/36 on 3rd/10th) with 10 still present at end of month and at Catcleugh (38 on 17th). Small parties noted at other localities including Darden Lough, Tarsset, Breanish Valley and Alwinton by mid. month.

Smew.

The red-head was still present at Whittle Dene all month.

Mandarin.

An interesting record of an adult drake at Monks House Pool on 24th/25th (IK/PY). No doubt an escape!

Shelduck.

Still 196 at Lindisfarne by 25th. Further S. pairing revealed 4 pairs at Alnmouth, 5 at Amble, 5-6 at Cresswell and 3 at the Long Nanny with 2 at Boulmer.

Grey Lag Goose.

170 in Budle Bay on 31st (WSC/GU), 78 at Hallington on 3rd and 10th (BG/J.&R.Mc) and 100-150 at Allerdean, Nr. Berwick, on 5th (CL).

Canada Goose.

Still at least 60 in Hallington/Colt Crag/Sweethope areas in mid. month with some pairing noted as well as a general decline after 27th. (CMA/RG et.al).

Mute Swan.

18 in Coquet Estuary, Amble on 10th (J.&R.McC).

Whooper Swan.

Well reported. Maxima were 77 at Grindon on 3rd, 72 at Wark on Tweed on 11th, 50-54 in Backworth/Holywell area until 16th and 31 at Hartburn on 30th. Smaller numbers elsewhere with a steady decline as the month progressed.

Bewicks Swan.

1 at Holywell on 10th and 16th, (CED/PW).

Sparrow Hawk.

Noted at Ford, Felton, Netherwitton and Gosforth.

Buzzard.

1 in College Valley on 29th (per CJL).

Hen Harrier.

1 at Grindon Lough on 10th (TRP/HK/KW et.al).

Peregrine.

1 at Alnmouth on 25th (BG).

Merlin.

Noted at Cresswell, Ryton, Gosforth Park, Seaton Sluice and Alnmouth.
All except the Cresswell bird occurred between 23rd - 29th.

Water Rail.

Present in Gosforth all month. Pair at Brasside on 16th (ML/RW).

Coot.

500 at Seaton Burn on 1st reduced to 270 by 26th (A.J. et.al). 77, at Capheaton on 18th, was largest count from many other locations.

Oystercatcher.

50 at St. Mary's on 2nd (AJ). At Grindon Lough, 1 on 3rd was on passage (J.&R.McC).

Lapwing.

Still 600 at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJ) and 100 S. over Bedlington on 28th (LU). Several pairs displaying on Rothbury moors by 3rd (WGJ et.al).

Ringed Plover.

60+ on Fenham Flats on 11th (JNP).

Grey Plover.

200 on Fenham Flats on 25th (LGM). 4 at Cresswell on 4th (KBH) and 2 at Amble on 10th (J.&R.McC).

Golden Plover.

By mid. month pairs were displaying on breeding territory in U. Coquetdale, (WGJ).

Common Snipe.

Passage suggested by 30-40 at Washington on 11th and 18th (KBH) and 60 at Whittle Dene on 22nd (LU).

Jack Snipe.

1 at Holywell on 3rd (KR) and 1 on the Otterburn moors at 1250 ft. on 18th (WGJ).

Woodcock.

2 roding at Ford on 10th and 1-2 at Colt Crag, Wark, Rothbury, Bolam, Edmondbyers and Widdrington were possibly all also in breeding territory.

Curlew.

Migration N. and W. was suggested by flocks of 45 W. over Derwent on 6th, (RG, et.al), 40 at Grindon on 10th (SJH), and 14 N. over Otterburn on 18th (WGJ). 23 at Jarrow Slake on 17th and 6 at Holywell on 23rd were possibly also migrants. Breeding birds were conspicuous in Allendale and on Otterburn Moors after 9th.

Common Sandpiper.

Early records on 2 at Bellingham on 21st and 1 at Hesleyside on 22nd. (BL).

Redshank.

Some interesting counts with 114 at Amble on 10th when 78 at Alnmouth, 150 at Cresswell on 18th, 60-75 at Washington between 13th-18th, 60 at Jarrow Slake on 17th and 31 on Greenlee/Broomlee on 24th. Present in moorland breeding areas after 22nd.

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay on 11th (JNP).

Greenshank.

1 at Alnmouth on 10th and 25th (J.&R.McC/BG).

Knot.

1500 at St. Mary's on 2nd reducing to 1000 by 17th (AJ/KW).

Purple Sandpiper.

250 at St. Mary's on 17th (KW), 20 at Bamburgh on 18th (BEP) and 35 at Hauxley on 24th (ERM).

Dunlin.

On 10th 248 at Amble and 215 at Alnmouth. The latter increased to 400 by 25th. 180 at Cresswell on 18th.

Sanderling.

150 at St. Mary's on 17th and 80 on Holy Island on 18th (KW). 16 at Hauxley on 18th (BEP).

Ruff.

1-3 at Washington all month (TRP et.al) and at Monks House 4 on 18th and 1 on 31st (JMB/IK/GU).

Skua (sp).

A large immature exhausted at Hauxley on 24th was probably Pomarine (ERM).

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

1 at Seahouses on 4th (IK), 1 at Budle Bay on 10th (JMB), 1 at Cramlington on 16th, and 1 at Grindon on 17th (LGM) but not generally reported until after 24th with 50 at Wooler on 21st when small parties were moving N.W. over the area.

Common Gull.

A gathering of 600 adults near Wooler on 31st were no doubt on migration (BG).

Glaucous Gull.

Noted off Seaton Sluice on 4th and 25th when single immatures were present (AB1/KW/HW). An immature following a plough at Cramlington on 14th.

Iceland Gull.

An adult at Newcastle Quayside from 19th-29th (and well into April) was probably the bird that has appeared there for several successive years recently (CR).

Kittiwake.

An unusual record on an adult well inland at Grindon Lough on 17th (LGM).

Sandwich Tern.

4 N. off Seaton Sluice on 25th (KW) were the first and only records of the year.

Puffin.

Very conspicuous flying around Coquet Island in large numbers on 25th (BG).

Barn Owl.

Noted in the S. Cheviots (4-5 birds), Throckley, Ford, Bog Houses, and Widdrington.

Long Eared Owl.

Noted at Washington and near Ponteland. 1 dead at Longhirst on 17th.

Short Eared Owl.

1-2 at Holywell on 3rd and 2 at Washington on 23rd.

Kingfisher.

Noted at Ryton, Winlaton Mill, Warden, at Mindrum (N.W. Cheviots) and Brasside.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Brasside, Ford, Etal and College Valley.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Gosforth, Wallington, Edmondbyers, Minsteracres, Bolam, Holystone and Denton Burn. All except the latter were in breeding territory, 2 were again seen in Backhouse Park, Sunderland all month.

Shore Lark.

9-10 on Ross Links until 10th (JMB/IK).

Sand Martin.

An early record of 1 at Crawcrook on 23rd (BL).

Hooded Crow.

Up to 4 at Cresswell until 10th, 1-2 at Seaton Burn until 21st, 1 at Ross on 24th and 1 N. over Wallsend on 29th.

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Durham (DLS).

Willow Tit.

Noted at Gosforth Park.

Long Tailed Tit.

Noted at Etal and Ford.

Nuthatch.

Noted in breeding area at Stocksfield on 9th (BL).

Fieldfare.

Some very large flocks noted during the annual pre-emigration build-up with 1000 at Hexham and Wark on 24th/25th, 150 at Thropton on 11th, 350 in Hexhamshire on 22nd, 150 at Linhope on 24th, and many reports of flocks of up to 80 from well inland. An unusual W. movement noted over Bellingham, Wark, Wooler and College Valley on 31st. (Heavy snowfall occurred overnight 31st March/1st April).

Redwing.

More plentiful than normal for this time of year. Many were moving W. with Fieldfare on 31st (see above). Also pre-emigration flocking involved 60 at Cresswell on 18th, 150 at Hexham on 24th, 200 near Meldon and 50 at Wark on 25th and many reports of flocks of up to 30 (inland and coastal). On night of 31st, calls were heard over Newcastle.

Ring Ousel.

An early individual on Holy Island on 18th (HW) and at least 5 in breeding areas in College Valley on 31st (CJL).

Wheatear.

First noted on 23rd when at Tynemouth (MDR) and 2 at Washington (TRP). Noted at Cresswell (3), Hauxley (1) and Seaton Sluice (2) on 25th and by 27th several were in the College Valley. By 31st further singles had been noted at Warkworth and Newton.

Stonechat.

Single pairs noted at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Cresswell. Further inland sightings involved 1 at Whittle Dene on 6th (KBH), 1 on Simonside on 10th (CMA), 1 at Humbleton Hill (JKJ) and 1 at Haydon Bridge on 18th (SJH) and a pair at Linhope on 24th (MSH).

Willow Warbler.
Noted singing in Holywell Dene on 26th (SJH).

Chiffchaff.

1 at Stocksfield on 23rd was the first of the spring (BL) followed by 1 on Holy Island on 25th and by 29th 1 was at Ford and another at Staward (CL/per BG). 1 at Brasside on 9th may have been a wintering bird (ML).

Goldcrest.

2 at Cresswell on 18th and 1 in Whitley Bay on 22nd were obvious migrants.

Meadow Pipit.

A distinct W. movement noted over Milbourne (Ponteland) and the Harthope Valley (Cheviots) on 30th/31st (MSH/WGJ).

Rock Pipit.

Concentration of 15 in Amble Harbour on 14th (JNP).

White Wagtail.

3 at Blaydon on 29th (KW) and 15 in a flock of 20 'alba' wagtails at Slaley on 30th (per ERM).

Grey Wagtail.

1 at St. Mary's on 16th (J.D.McE), and 1 at Cramlington on 19th (LGM). Records from breeding sites included Sheepwash, Holywell Dene, Morpeth, Haydon Bridge and Langleeford.

Waxwing.

1 at Durham on 14th-16th (ML) and 17 in Newcastle City Centre on 26th (per BG) and 22 in Fenham on 27th (MH).

Great Grey Shrike.

1 near Wallsend Swallow on 17th (AG) and 1 at Stonehaugh on 31st (LGM). 1 at Bebside, Blyth, on February 10th, 'JDP).

Hawfinch.

Up to 5 noted at Ford (CL) and 1 at Hamsterley Mill on 25th (RAS). 1 found dead at Riding Mill on 16th (BL).

Goldfinch.

Records included flock of 40 at Grindon on 3rd and 17th (J.&R.McC) and 28 at Marsden on 23rd (SJH).

Siskin.

Well reported and widespread. At Ford they were noted as commoner than ever before in nesting territory. Flocks included 20 at each of Linhope, Langleeford and Redesdale between 10th-24th.

Twite.

4 at Amble on 10th (J.&R.McC).

Bullfinch.

Noted at Eglingham and Bothal.

Crossbill.

47 at Byrness in Redesdale on 24th, up to 12 at Ford between 15th-29th, and 8 at Prestwick Carr on 31st (GU).

Brambling.

24 at Kirkley nr. Belsay on 5th (JNP), 40 at Plankey Mill on 18th (SJH) and up to 6 noted from 4 other localities until 27th.

Lapland Bunting.

1 on Ross Links on 4th (IK).

/Snow Bunting.

Snow Bunting.

50 at Monks House on 4th (IK) and 4 on Fenham Flats on 10th (JMB).

Tree Sparrow.

20 near Wooler on 4th (LGM).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson, J.M. Bayldon, J.S. Booth, A. Blackett, R. Brady,
W.S. Craster, P. Davidson, C.E. Douglas, B. Galloway, R. Grey,
K.B. Honour, M.S. Hodgson, M. Henry, S.J. Hingston, E. Hauge,
W.G. Johnson, A. James, I. Kerr, R.G. Lewis, M. Lawley, E. Lobley,
C.J. Lowe, B. Little, L.G. Macfarlane, J. & R. McCutcheon, J.D. McElwee,
T.I. Mills, E.R. Meek, J.D. Parrack, B.E. Prater, J.N. Prescott,
T.R. Palmer, M.D. Riley, C. Robson, K. Robson, A.J. Richards,
D.L. Sowerbutts, R.A. Silk, L. Ullock, G. Upton, K. Walton, R. Walton,
H. Wilson, P. Weighill, P. Yeoman.

All April records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle,
NE15 7RD, by 14th May, please at the latest.

CLUB MEETING.

OWING TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE
WILL BE NO MEETING OF THE CLUB DURING THE CURRENT YEAR. THE NEXT
INDOOR MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1973.

NEW RECORD CARDS.

Each member should receive several of the new monthly reporting
cards with this bulletin. They are self-descriptive, keeping one
species to each card and don't forget your name. Numbers, movement,
behaviour, etc. can be included under 'Notes'. The new system will
take effect immediately. If you require more cards, please let me know
and they will be despatched with your bulletin or by stamped addressed
envelope if you require them in the intervening periods.

B. Galloway.

FIELD TRIPS.

Leighton Moss - Sunday, 6th May.

A reminder that for this trip, coach will be leaving Baxter's Cafe,
Tynemouth, at 8.00.a.m. and the Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m. The trip
is now fully booked.

Ravenglass, Cumberland. - Sunday, 3rd June.

For this the coach will leave Baxter's at 7.30.a.m. and the Hancock
at 8.00.a.m. The approximate cost will be £1.50. and this amount must
accompany a booking.

For further information about this trip, please contact
B. Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay, to whom cheques, etc.
should be made payable.

COMMITTEE.

Following the A.G.M. your Committee for 1973/74, will be:-

Chairman: Ian Armstrong, 12 Valerian Avenue;
Heddon-on-the-Wall,
NE15 0EA,
Tel. No: Wylam 2591.

Secretary: John Ginnever, 230 Ashington Drive,
Stakeford,
Choppington,
Northumberland.
Tel. No: Ashington 813400.

Treasurer: Brian Martin, 16 Whitelaw Place,
Cramlington,
NE23 6HX,
Northumberland.
Tel. No: Cramlington 4769.

Field Secretary:

Brian Etherington, 10a Helena Avenue,
Whitley Bay,
NE26 2BB,
Te. No: Whitley Bay 22162.

Recorder: Brian Galloway, 115 Southway,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE15 7RD.
Tel. No: Lemington 670216.

Committee Members:-

Eric Meek.
Keith Dures.
Keith Walton.
Geoff. Macfarlane.

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

APRIL 1973 BULLETIN

SUMMARY.

After a mild beginning to the year, April came as a disappointment, being dominated by winds from a Northerly quarter throughout the month. Such conditions delayed the arrivals of summer visitors to such an extent that by the end of the month only small numbers of most species were present and some had still to be recorded.

The first half of the month was generally quiet with only wildfowl, including Garganey, some waders and Fieldfares showing restlessness.

After 14th, a few summer visitors began to arrive, including Swallow, House and Sand Martins, Willow Warbler and Tree Pipit, but it was not really until 19th/20th that numbers were involved and a week later that a general influx occurred.

An interesting coastal arrival of Ring Ousels, Robins, Black Redstarts, Dunnocks, Goldcrests, Chiffchaffs and Great Grey Shrikes, occurred between 23rd - 28th as winds veered into the East. During the preceding 3-4 days, with the wind in the North-East, Fulmars, Gannets and a few Manx Shearwaters were moving North off-shore and a Great Skua was recorded.

Other interesting records included 1 or 2 Red Crested Pochard, Smew, some late Barnacle Geese, Golden Eagle, Goshawk, Avocet, Iceland and Mediterranean Gulls.

CLASSIFIED LIST:

Diver (sp):

At least 12 off Ross on 15th (BG et al) and 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (ERM).

Great Crested Grebe:

Pairs were observed at Catcleugh (3), Hallington (2), Whittle Dene (1), Greenlee (1), Broomlee (1), Gosforth Park (1) and Derwent (1).

In Durham 2 pairs were at Brasside.

Single birds were noted of Seaton Sluice on 14th (KR), at Holywell on 16th (CED) and N. off Hauxley on 19th. (HRS).

Slavonian Grebe:

At least 12 off Ross on 15th (BG et al).

Little Grebe:

Up to 10 noted at Broomlee, Grindon, Washington, Gosforth, Holywell, Wallington, Belsay, Capheaton, Whitley Bay Quarry, Wallsend Swallow.

8 pairs were counted at Brasside. River sightings involved 1 at Alnmouth on 7th and 3 at Riding Mill on 9th.

Manx Shearwater:

Spring passage commenced on 19th with 11 N. off Hauxley (HRS). Off Seaton Sluice 1 N. on 21st and 3 N. on 23rd (KR/TW).

Fulmar:

Substantial N. movement noted off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's on 21st and 23rd with 70/hr noted on former. (BG/JW).

/Gannet

Gannet.

73 N. off Seaton Sluice on 7th (PW) and 20/hr. N. off St. Mary's on 20th (BG). A remarkable record of an adult fishing at Catcleugh Reservoir on 20th/21st (MSH/M.&E.L.S).

Cormorant.

Up to 5 noted on Cresswell Pond (LU et.al).

Heron.

A few records of single birds from widely scattered locations.

Mallard.

Largest counts were 100 at Holywell on 1st-7th (CED) and 82 at Whittle Dene on 13th (PW). Well established in breeding areas.

Teal.

Largest flocks were 30-40 at Grindon 13th-20th (LGM/J.&R.McC) and 50-60 at Washington until 11th decreasing to 30 by 26th (TRP).

Garganey.

Regularly reported from Washington all month with a max. of 6 on 25th (TIM/TRP et.al). Only other record was of 1 on Holy Island on 8th (MNC/MSH).

Gadwall.

1-2 at Gosforth 11th-30th (MRS/MR/AJ et.al). A drake at Grindon all month (LGM).

Wigeon.

86 still at Grindon on 13th (J.&R.McC) reducing to 46 by 28th (LGM).

Pintail.

2 pairs at Holywell on 1st (CED) and between 22nd-28th single pairs noted at Cresswell (BEP), Wallsend Swallow (KR), Holy Island and Linton (RN).

Shoveler.

1-2 pairs at Holywell, up to 4 pairs at Grindon, 1-2 pairs at Washington and still up to 42 at Gosforth until late in the month.

Scaup.

Single drakes at Cresswell from 8th until 18th (CR/BEP/IK), where a pair had been present from 2nd-4th, at Whittle Dene on 7th (JSB) and off Ross on 15th (BG et.al). 13 on Fenham Flats on 15th (JAG).

Pochard.

Up to 4 at Capheaton, Holywell and Gosforth during month.

Red Crested Pochard.

On 16th a drake was seen near Ferryhill (AJR) and possibly the same or another appeared at Gosforth Park on 27th (SJH/AJ et.al). The latter was still present on May 17th. Escapes from captivity cannot be ruled out.

Tufted Duck.

Largest flocks were noted on Northumbrian Loughs (86 on 14th), Hartburn (70 on 15th), Holywell (70 on 27th) and Whittle Dene (46 on 20th).

Goldeneye.

Still well represented until late in the month with max. of 27 at Whittle Dene on 20th and 25th (JSB et.al), 31 on Northumbrian Loughs on 8th reducing to 6 by 28th (TRP/LGM) and 30 at Hallington on 17th (IK). On 29th singles at Rothley (CED) and at Longhoughton (BG).

Long Tailed Duck.

10 off Ross on 15th (BG et.al) and 4 N. off Seaton Sluice on 21st (KR).

Velvet Scoter.

2 drakes off Seaton Sluice on 15th (CR).

Common Scoter.

60 off Ross on 15th (BG et.al), 5 off Holy Island on 25th (RN) when 2 off Seaton Sluice (PW).

Red Breasted Merganser.

20 off Ross on 15th (BG et.al) and at the end of the month 2 on Fenham Flats (RN) and 2 at Cresswell (BEP).

Goosander.

Breeding birds noted on N. and S. Tynes, Coquetdale, Devils Water, Hulne Park and R. Rede, with sitting females observed as early as 1st.

Smew.

The Whittle Dene bird was last noted on 13th (PW).

Shelduck.

150 on Fenham Flats on 15th (BG et.al). On 7th 5 at Alnmouth and 19 at Amble (J.&R.McC). Up to 12 at Cresswell and at Washington 2 on 9th/11th (PK/TRP). 2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (ERM).

Geese (sp).

Party of 80 E. high over Belsay on 18th (JAG/ERM) and 23 E. over Greenlee on 14th were certainly 'Grey' (LGM).

Grey Lag Goose.

220 at Doddington, Wooler on 1st (PK), 54 at Hallington on 7th-14th (IK/LGM), 43 on Fenham Flats on 15th (BG). 2 rested briefly at Washington on 7th (KR).

Barnacle Goose.

9 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (ERM).

Canada Goose.

Up to 30 at Hallington during month and 4 pairs at Sweethope by 16th.

Mute Swan.

19 at Amble on 7th (J.&R.McC).

Whooper Swan.

A marked decline since March with up to 6 at Grindon, 4 remaining until 28th (LGM), 2 at Langley Dam on 8th (RG/EL) and 5 on Fenham Flats on 15th (BG/JAG et.al).

Golden Eagle.

An immature bird was seen near Redesdale on 1st (LGM/KH).

Buzzard.

1 at Durham on 20th March (RW).

Sparrow Hawk.

Numerous records from widely scattered locations and some observers feel that 7 may now be at least as common as Kestrel in the area. Singles at Hauxley on 9th and at Fenham le Moor on 15th and 25th may have been migrants.

Goshawk.

1 in the Border Forest early in the month, (per ERM). A former captive bird cannot be ruled out.

Merlin.

Noted in breeding areas in Coquetdale and in the Border Forests.

Kestrel.

Widely reported. Nest with eggs found on 23rd near Ponteland.

Black Grouse.

Small groups of males noted at Harwood, Catcleugh and Kielder.

Coot.

A steady decline as month progressed (e.g. 230 at Seaton Burn reduced to 160 by 18th). Other large counts were 150 at Broomlee on 8th and 82 at Capheaton on 19th.

Oystercatcher.

200 on Ross on 15th (BG et.al), and an interesting flock of 37 in the Tyne Valley at Melkridge on 7th (LGM). Other probable migrants were 4 at Grindon on 13th and 2 at Linton on 28th. Well established at inland breeding sites by mid. month.

Ringed Plover.

Established at inland sites by mid. month and 2 passage birds at Holywell on 28th (ERM et.al).

Grey Plover.

150 at Ross on 15th (BG et.al).

Golden Plover.

150 at Bellingham on 1st (ERM), 400 at Whittle Dene on 7th (JSB), 100 near Ponteland on 4th and 320 at Earsdon on 14th/15th. Most were identified as of the N. race 'altifrons'.

Turnstone.

70 at Ross on 15th (BG et.al). and 100 at St. Mary's on 18th (MRS/AJ).

Woodcock.

Noted roding at Widdrington and in Border Forests.

Whimbrel.

1 on Fenham Flats on 15th (BG.et.al).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

600 at Ross on 15th (BG et.al).

Green Sandpiper.

Singles noted at Corbridge on 4th (MR) and at Whittle Dene on 10th (RGL).

Common Sandpiper.

Singles in Upper Coquetdale (BG) and at Barrasford (BDG/EMG) on 14th but not regularly reported until after 26th.

Redshank.

250 at Washington on 4th/5th (TRP) and 270 at Alnmouth on 20th when 360 at Amble and 100 at Cresswell (RN).

Spotted Redshank.

1 noted at Beal on 24th (RN).

Greenshank.

2 at Holywell on 28th (ERM).

Knot.

A party of 600 rested briefly at Alnmouth on 20th before moving off N. high up (BG).

Purple Sandpiper.

100 at St. Mary's on 18th (MRS/BEP et.al) and 45 at Amble on 25th (HRS).
Still 30 at Seaton Sluice on 28th (ERM).

Dunlin.

3000 at Ross on 15th (BG et.al). Smaller parties noted at other coastal haunts. A few on the breeding grounds by 28th (LGM).

Sanderling.

80 at St. Mary's on 2nd (MSH), 45 at Ross on 15th (BG et.al) and 30 at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Ruff.

Present at Washington until at least 26th with a max. of 6 on 15th and 26th (TIM/RN et.al).

Avocet.

1 noted in Budle Bay on 21st where it remained until at least 25th (WSC/ALB/RN et.al).

Great Skua.

1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 23rd (KR/TW).

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

Small parties moving N. throughout the area all month with a flock of 30 at Cullercoats on 20th suggesting more concentrated passage about that time. 3 N. off Hauxley on 18th were of the Scandinavian Race (HRS).

Common Gull.

Migrating flocks prominent inland throughout the Area particularly after mid. month. A typical count involved a total of 1000 in fields alongside the A.1. between Morpeth and Beal on 15th.

Iceland Gull.

The Newcastle Quayside adult was still present on 20th (CR/TW et.al) and a first year bird was at Amble on 25th (JAG/ERM).

Little Gull.

1 in Budle Bay on 25th (ALB).

Mediterranean Gull.

An adult at Holywell on 1st (BG).

Black Headed Gull.

A roost at Grindon attracted a max. of 2000 on 8th (AJR). Moving N. off Hauxley at 200/hr. on 18th (HRS).

Kittiwake.

Between 19th-21st counts of up to 500/hr. N. off Hauxley and Seaton Sluice.

'Commic' Tern.

First noted on 15th when 1 was at Hauxley (HRS). Became more regular offshore after 18th (MRS/KR).

Little Tern.

2 N. at Cresswell on 28th (RN).

Sandwich Tern.

Became increasingly conspicuous offshore after 14th and on 28th counts of up to 180/hr. N. were made at Hauxley and Cresswell. (HRS/KR/RN).

Stock Dove.

One week old young were found in a nest box at Belsay on 18th (JAG et.al).

/Collared Dove.

Collared Dove.

Early breeding was confirmed by the finding of a nest with eggs at Benton on 1st March (FC).

Cuckoo.

First noted at Bolam on 23rd (per BL) followed by 1 at Alwinton on 25th. Further singles were noted at Ellington, Housesteads, Halleypike and Chillingham between 26th-29th.

Barn Owl.

Nest with eggs found at Kielder on 15th (ERM).

Little Owl.

Noted near Ponteland.

Tawny Owl.

4 pairs had taken to nest boxes in the Morpeth/Ponteland area during the month (WGJ).

Short Eared Owl.

2 at Alwinton on 7th (BEP) and on 13th/14th singles at Killingworth, Holywell and Derwent.

Kingfisher.

Noted at Morpeth and Piercebridge.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted nr. Edlingham and in the Breamish Valley.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Gosforth, Woollington, Holystone, Harbottle, Netherwiton, Falstone, Wallington. One in Preston Cem., North Shields on 13th (WHS), may have been a migrant whilst 1 found dead on 7th nr. Morpeth proved to have the measurements of the N. race (MSH).

Swallow.

First noted on 12th when 3 W. over New York (SJH). On 14th 1 at Black Heddon (BDG/EMG) and on 15th singles at Rochester, Wallsend and Fenham Flats. Became increasingly common after 17th but numbers still well below normal by the end of the month.

House Martin.

2 at Gosforth on 18th (SJH) were the first of the year. Not noted again until after 23rd when 1-2 were seen at Warden, Byrness, North Shields, Whittle Dene and Brasside. 20 were at Gosforth on 25th.

Sand Martin.

First noted on 7th when 1 was at Allendale (RMP) then absent until 15th/16th when singles were at Whittle Dene (MR) and Holywell (CED), and 2 were at Gosforth (SJH). Became more regular after 18th with flocks of up to 30 at Corbridge and Gosforth but numbers still well below normal by the end of the month.

Raven.

1 near Alwinton on 7th (BEP) and fledged young were seen in the Cheviots on 24th (per BL).

Carrion Crow.

Flock of 36 at Gosforth on 18th probably using the traditional roost there (LGM).

Hooded Crow.

1 at Seaton Burn until 12th (AJ) and 1 at Druridge on 7th (J.&R.McC).

Rook.

17 nests in the Haymarket colony, Newcastle during month (RMP).

Marsh Tit.

1 noted at Gosforth on 12th (BEP).

Nuthatch.

Pair at Bolam on 5th (WHS) and at least one pair at Wallington where they were watched nest building (MSH/BEP).

Dipper.

A fledged juvenile at Hulne Park by 28th (RGL).

Fieldfare.

Still conspicuous in moderate flocks at the end of the month as passage through the Area continued.

On 1st, following heavy overnight snow, 1800 N.W. over Falstone (ERM). Between 2nd - 7th flocks of up to 800 in Irthing Valley, at Hexham, Milbourne, Matfen and Harwood. After mid. month flocks rarely exceeded 200, although 400-500 were at Elsdon on 22nd and 28th, and were reported from widely scattered locations including Holy Island.

Redwing.

Unusually plentiful for the time of year. On 1st 800 flew N.W. over Falstone after overnight snow. Between 14th - 26th flocks of up to 50 noted at Muggleswick, Milbourne, Allendale, Ponteland, Elsdon and Holy Island.

Ring Ousel.

By mid. month a few singing males were noted in Upper Coquetdale and in Allendale (JAG/RG et.al). A remarkable number of passage birds were noted on Holy Island on 24th/25th with counts of up to 22. All had left by 26th (RN) but between 26th-30th 1 was at Tynemouth (per RMP).

Blackbird.

20 on Holy Island on 25th/26th (RN).

Wheatear.

Small numbers moving through coastal areas throughout the month. On 28th/29th a group of 15 at Hauxley and several on the shore at Newton were of the Greenland race 'O. o. leucorrhoa'. 5 at Wallsend Swallow at the same time were possibly also examples of such.

Well established in breeding areas after 20th after only small numbers had been noted by mid. month.

Stonechat.

Birds in breeding territory at Chevington, Cresswell and Dunstanburgh. Also a pair inland at Ingram on 23rd (ALB). An interesting observation of 3 on the Farnes on 25th (ALB).

Whinchat.

Only 3 records. 1 at Tynemouth on 27th (KGD) and on 29th 1 at Washington (TRP) and 1 at Hauxley (HRS).

Redstart.

First noted at Seaton Sluice on 25th (PW) and then 2 at Tarsset on 29th (ERM). No other records.

Black Redstart.

3 were noted during a small scale fall of migrants on 25th-28th when single females were at Farne Islands, (ALB), Cresswell (JW) and Tynemouth (KGD/MSH).

Robin.

A coastal influx was apparent between 23rd-26th with 30 on Holy Island (RN) 40 at Hauxley (HRS) and 20 at Tynemouth (KGD). Still 10 at Hauxley on 28th. Nest with young at Hexham by 29th (MR).

Grasshopper Warbler.

An early record on 1 singing at Gosforth on 18th (SJH). Only other record was of 1 at Mickley on 26th.

Sedge Warbler.

First noted on 22nd when 1 was at Tanfield (RMP). By 25th 3 were at Gosforth with an increase noted during the subsequent 3 days (SJH). No other records.

Blackcap.

First noted on 15th when 1 at Gosforth (SJH) where 1 was regularly reported until the end of the month. On 24th 1 was at Tynemouth (KGD) and on 29th/30th 1-2 were seen at Durham, Washington and Wallsend.

Whitethroat.

Noted only at Gosforth with 1-2 present after 25th (SJH).

Lesser Whitethroat.

Only record was of 2 at Tynemouth on 27th during the fall of migrants of 23rd - 28th.

Willow Warbler.

First noted on 15th when 1 was at Gosforth (SJH). By 18th they had occurred at Prestwick Carr, Belsay and Hauxley. They continued to appear in small numbers elsewhere until a larger influx was apparent after 25th.

Chiffchaff.

On 7th 1 in Allendale (RMP), on 15th 2 singing at Gosforth (SJH) and on 22nd 2 at Dipton and 10-15 in Hulne Park (ERM/BG). Coastal arrivals totalled at least 8 at Hauxley between 23rd - 28th (HRS).

Goldcrest.

A distinct coastal influx occurred between 23rd-28th with up to 40 on Holy Island (RN), 4 at Newton, up to 30 at Hauxley (HRS), up to 12 at Tynemouth (KGD) and 6 in North Shields (WHS).

Dunnoek.

An influx noted at Hauxley between 23rd-25th with up to 15 present. Those trapped showed measurement characteristics of the continental form (HRS).

Meadow Pipit.

Passage continued throughout the month with flocks of up to 80 at Whittle Dene, Hexham, Milbourne, Washington, Hauxley and Ross.

Tree Pipit.

10 at Hallington on 14th were the first of the year (IK). Noted in breeding areas after 26th but only in small numbers.

Pied Wagtail.

Passage apparent early in the month with 60 at Falstone on 1st (ERM), 20 at Newborough on 8th (AJR), 70 roosting at Holywell on 15th (MSH). By 14th they were very common in U. Coquetdale (BG).

White Wagtail.

1-2 noted at Paddaburn, Whickhope, Fontburn, Holywell and Holy Island between 7th-28th (CED/ERM/RN).

Grey Wagtail.

Well reported in the breeding areas in the upper valleys.

Yellow Wagtail.

First noted on 19th when 1 was at Holywell (CED). About 10 records of 1-4 throughout the Area between 23rd-29th but still quite scarce at the end of the month.

Waxwing.

7 in Newcastle on 4th (GCT).

Great Grey Shrike.

1 near Elwick on 15th (BG et.al), and between 25th - 29th, 1-2 on Holy Island (RN), 1 at Wallsend (KR), and 1 at Washington (TRP).

Hawfinch.

4-6 at Blaydon on 16th-18th (BL), 1 at Heddon on 20th (JSB) and 1 at Stocksfield on 24th (BL).

Goldfinch.

Flocks of up to 25 still together late in the month and continues to increase.

Siskin.

Flocks of up to 30 noted at Elsdon, Harbottle, Heddon, Hulne Park and Langley Park until late in the month. Noted also in breeding territory at Dipton and in the Border Forests.

Twite.

10 at Coquet Estuary on 7th (J.&R.McC) and 7 on the Farnes on 25th (ALB).

Lesser Redpoll.

A return to breeding areas noted after mid. month.

Crossbill.

Parties of up to 10 noted at Tarsset, Catcleugh, Halleypike, Harwood, Stocksfield and Langley Park.

Brambling.

Flocks of up to 20 at Hexham, Netherwitton, Hallington, Edlingham, Bardon Mill until 21st. A migrant at Tynemouth on 24th.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson, J.S. Booth, K. Barrett, W. Brady, A.L. Bidwell, F. Colley, M.N. Coates, W.S. Craster, C.E. Douglas, B. Galloway, A. Guthrie, B.D. Green, E.M. Green, J.A. Ginnever, R. Grey, K. Hutton, M.S. Hodgson, S.J. Hingston, A. James, A. Jones, W.G. Johnson, P. Kelly, B. Little, E. Lobley, R.G. Lewis, T.I. Mills, E.R. Meek, L.G. Macfarlane, J. & R. McCutcheon, J.D. McElwee, R. Norman, B.E. Prater, R.M. Palmer, T.R. Palmer, M. Richardson, C. Robson, K. Robson, A.J. Richards, T. Rose, D.L. Sowerbutts, M.R. & E.L. Smith, W.H. Sharp, B. & W. Tilbrook, G.C. Towers, L. Ullock, R. Walton, T. Winter, P. Weighill, M. Wishart, Hauxley Ringing Station.

All May records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle N.E.15 7RD, by 9th June, please at the latest.

FIELD TRIPS.

The Field Secretary has drawn up a list of proposed field trips for the forthcoming year, which are as follows:-

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH - HORNSEA MERE, YORKSHIRE.

Situated to the South of Flamborough Head, the 300 acres of mere and reed can be particularly interesting during passage periods. This will be an all day trip by 29 seater coach leaving the Hancock Museum at 8.0.a.m. Cost is expected to be £1.15. per person.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH - BROOMLEE AND GREENLEE LOUGHS.

This will also be an all day trip, by 20 seater bus, leaving the Hancock at 8.30.a.m. Cost is expected to be 60p.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 10TH - 11TH. - LOCH LEVEN, KINROSS.

Loch Leven is a National Nature Reserve of approximately 4000 acres, and is one of the most important inland areas for wildfowl in Britain.

This will be a WEEKEND trip and the approximate cost of £5. will be for bed and breakfast accommodation and transport. Other meals will be paid for separately.

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 16th - TEESMOUTH.

This is one of the most important areas in the North East for waders and wildfowl. This will be an all day trip by 29 seater coach leaving the Hancock at 8.30.a.m.

SUNDAY 13th JANUARY, 1974. - SEAFIELD & MUSSELBURGH (MID LoTHIAN).

The main attraction in this area is the large numbers of sea duck which gather off Leith, notably scaup and goldeneye. This will be an all day trip leaving the Hancock at 8.0.a.m.

SUNDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 1974. - BERWICK/TWEED VALLEY.

Again an all day trip to an area of the country which is generally excellent for wildfowl at this time of year. Transport will be by 20 seater bus leaving the Hancock at 8.0.a.m.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MARCH 16th-17th. - THE SOLWAY AND LOCH KEN.

This is planned to be a weekend trip with cost and arrangements as for Loch Leven. The area is an excellent one for wintering wildfowl (particularly geese) and birds of prey. Coach will leave Hancock at 8.0.a.m. on the Saturday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7th, 1974. - A WALK FROM BEAL - ROSS.

Transport will be by 20 seater coach leaving the Hancock at 8.30.a.m. Strong footwear is essential for this 8 mile walk.

Full details of these trips will be announced in future bulletins.

NEW RECORD CARDS.

Owing to the limitations imposed by postage, only a comparatively small number of cards can be included with the bulletin. If you require a greater number, then please send a stamped addressed envelope either to myself or Bryan Galloway. A 4p. stamp will ensure approximately 50 cards.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

MAY 1973 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

A mixed month for birds and weather. Between 2nd - 5th a High Pressure area over N. Europe and an approaching Low Pressure centre from the S.W. resulted in light S.E. winds accompanied by rain on 4th. Migrants were conspicuous at the coast and included Garganey, Hen Harrier, Avocet, Black Terns, Hirundines, Fieldfares, Wheatears, Black Redstart, a few each of 'Sylvia' and 'Phylloscopus' warblers, Goldcrests and Blue Headed Wagtail.

Then until 15th when a High centre crossed Britain from the W, the weather was mainly Westerly as depressions moved N.E. across Scotland. By 17th an approaching low over Biscay brought E.S.E. winds over much of the North Sea and by 22nd 2 parties of Dotterel, a sprinkling of other waders, Grey Headed Wagtail and Red Backed Shrike had all been reported; whilst sea birds were moving N. on 20th.

A settled anticyclonic spell between 22nd - 29th did not deter the arrival of more interesting species including Icterine Warbler, Red Breasted Flycatcher, Golden Oriole and Hobby.

Other interesting species noted during the month were White Pelican, Red Crested Pochard, Corncrake, 5 records of Little Ringed Plover, Grey Phalarope, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and inland breeding of Stonechats.

A more disappointing note was the disturbance to two Heronries and the nesting failure of Owls and some Kestrels.

June has brought a Red Footed Falcon to Lynemouth on 14th for a few days and a Pratincole spent a short time at Washington Ponds on 17th.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Red Throated Diver.

All records refer to 12th when 3 were at Cresswell (KR), 2 at Alnmouth (NJP) and 2 N. at Boulmer (KW).

Great Crested Grebe.

In addition to the April localities a pair was at Sweetthope, a new locality, for most of the month.

Little Grebe.

In addition to the April localities a single was on the River Wear at Shincliffe on 2nd and 26th (ML et.al).

Manx Shearwater.

13 N. off Alnmouth on 12th (NJP), 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 16th (KW) and 3 S. off Whitburn on 19th (CMA).

Fulmar.

Moving N. at 150/hr. off Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Cormorant.

Still 4 present at Hallington on 6th (CMA).

White Pelican.

1 appeared at Cresswell Ponds on 15th and was watched both in flight and at rest. It was still present on 21st (JNP/BG/LGM/BM et.al). It is assumed that it was an escape from captivity.

Heron.

Widely scattered records of 1-2 birds with a suggestion of some movement during the first 10 days. A concentration of 11 at Hallington on 10th (RG/WB). The site of the largest known colony (c.20 pairs) in Northumberland is being clear felled this year and at another, human disturbance resulted in only 1 young being reared from a colony of about 10 pairs.

Garganey.

A pair at Gosforth on 19th (KW/HW) were still present on 29th (AJ). A pair at Washington 26th-31st (PK/KR). A drake at Monks House, Seahouses on 6th (BL).

Gadwall.

Pair at Gosforth on 16th and then intermittently until 30th (AJ/LGM). A drake at Cresswell on 12th (BG).

Wigeon.

Small numbers remained until late in the month with 1-2 at Grindon until 27th, 2 at Chevington on 19th, 2 at Gosforth on 20th.

Shoveler.

Noted only at Gosforth (up to 6), Holywell (1-2 pairs) and Washington (1 pair).

Scaup.

A duck at Warkworth on 24th (BG).

Tufted Duck.

Present at Gosforth and Holywell all month and up to 6 pairs at Brasside.

Red Crested Pochard.

The Gosforth drake was last reported on 17th.

Goldeneye.

Singles noted at Broomlee on 6th, Howick on 12th, Holywell on 15th and Hadston on 21st.

Common Scoter.

4 N. off each of Alnmouth on 5th, Longhoughton on 12th and Hauxley on 20th.

Eider.

Newly hatched broods noted at Holy Island on 19th and at Howick on 28th. Adult drakes were noted escorting the broods at both localities in addition to the ducks.

Red Breasted Merganser.

1 S. off Amble on 5th (NJP) and 2 off Cresswell on 12th (KR).

Goosander.

Breeding success noted on the River Allen (SJH) in addition to the more usual localities.

Shelduck.

1 at Washington 1st - 4th, 1 at South Linton most of the month and 15 N. off Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Grey Lag Goose.

2 at Brasside on 6th and 3 at Sweethope on 12th.

Canada Goose.

11-12 in Hallington/Sweethope area.

On 27th 7 at Grindon (LU) and 20 at Whittle Dene (MNC).

Mute Swan.

Young hatched at Gosforth, Seaton Burn and Bolam. Up to 16 noted at Warkworth until 16th.

Whooper Swan.

2 late birds on Fenham Flats on 5th (BL). The flightless 'pair' still reside at Wallsend Swallow Ponds.

Buzzard.

1 in Allendale on 12th (KW) and 1 over Bellingham on 26th (KA).

Sparrowhawk.

Still well reported.

Hen Harrier.

A female near Alnmouth on 5th (RH/NJP).

Hobby.

1 on Holy Island on 29th (J.&R.McC), was seen to take a pipit.

Merlin.

11 nests found from a total of 15 pairs located in Northumberland. Single migrants noted at Holy Island on 6th (BG) and at Alnmouth on 12th (KW).

Kestrel.

Breeding pairs at their normal healthy level in the Border Forests but numbers much reduced in the Cheviots. In East Newcastle a pair were nesting in the jib of an old crane in a shipyard.

Water Rail.

1 heard at Greenlee Lough on 27th (LGM).

Corncrake.

Noted at about 3-4 different localities in S.W. Northumberland after 27th (SJH).

Coot.

Largest counts were 95 -105 at Seaton Burn after 16th (AJ), 110 at Grindon on 27th (LU) and 50 at Brasside on 5th (ML).

Oystercatcher.

30 at Cresswell on 15th (LU) and 40 at Longhoughton at the end of the month (BG).

Lapwing.

Young hatched near Hartley by 8th (CMA).

Ringed Plover.

Late migrants, probably Northern birds, noted at Blaydon (1 on 8th), Washington (3 - 13 between 17th - 19th), Whittle Dene (19 on 19th) and Ellington (6 on 24th).

Little Ringed Plover.

Single migrants noted at Alnmouth on 12th and 26th (NJP) and at Whittle Dene on 23rd (IK). At the N.W. Durham site 1 was noted after 27th (RMP). A pair spent a short time at Newton Pool on about 19th/20th (per BG).

Grey Plover.

Singles at Amble on 5th, at Cresswell on 18th/19th and at Washington on 14th. Still 200 on Fenham Flats on about 19th.

Dotterel.

A small party rested on Holy Island on 19th/20th with numbers fluctuating between 5 and 9 (D.O'C/BL et.al). On 22nd/23rd 3 were found on the cliff tops at Marsden and allowed very close approach (RA/ERM et.al). This 'fall' was noted at other locations on the E. Coast of Britain.

Turnstone.

Still some large flocks present with 300 at each of Boulmer (12th) and at Beadnell (4th). The former count seemed to coincide with conspicuous numbers at Alnmouth/Amble (66), Cresswell (78) and Seaton Sluice (45), on the same day.

Whimbrel.

1 S. at Hauxley on 1st (HRS), 1 at Alnmouth on 12th (NJP) and 1 at Seahouses on 13th (IK).

Black Tailed Godwit.

1-2 at Washington 5th-19th (TRP et.al), 2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 4th (KW), 1 at Grindon Lough on 6th (BE et.al). Up to 7 on Fenham Flats until 19th and 4 at S. Linton on 12th (BG).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

1 at Hauxley on 1st (HRS) and 20 at Fenham Flats on 19th (BL).

Green Sandpiper.

2 at Washington on 17th/18th (TRP) and 2 at Holywell on 19th (KR).

Wood Sandpiper.

1 at Ellington on 18th (BM) and 1-2 at Washington between 18th-22nd (TRP/PK et.al).

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay on 5th (BL), 1 at Amble on 12th (J.&R.McC), 1 at Newton Pool on 13th (IK), 1 at Whittle Dene on 19th (MH) and 1 at Washington on 26th (KR).

Greenshank.

1-5 at Washington between 5th-19th (CMA/JCD/PK et.al), 2 in Budle Bay on 6th (BL), 1 at Alnmouth on 5th (NJP), 1 at Whittle Dene on 18th/19th (MH/J.&R.McC), 2 in the Irthing Valley on 19th (ERM), 1 at Cresswell on 30th (MSH).

Knot.

Late singles at Cresswell Pond on 19th (BG) and at Washington on 30th/31st (RMP/PK).

Purple Sandpiper.

20 at Amble on 5th (NJP) and 25 at Seaton Sluice on 12th (PW).

Little Stint.

1-2 at Washington on 19th (PK) and 1 on Holy Island on 22nd (BU).

Dunlin.

Still 350 at Boulmer on 12th (KW) with small flocks still on passage until late in the month noted mainly at Cresswell. A pair located at a breeding site in N.W. Durham (RMP).

Curlew Sandpiper.

4 on the Lindisfarne Reserve on 5th (BL), 1 at Boulmer on 12th (HW/KW), 1 at Cresswell on 24th (BG/JAG) and 2 inland on the River Bowmont near Yetholm on 27th (PK).

Sanderling.

29 at St. Mary's on 1st and 40 at Druridge on 13th (BEP).

Ruff.

8-10 at Washington between 17th-19th with 1-2 still present at the end of the month (TRP/PK et.al).

Avocet.

2 flew N.W. over Alnmouth on 5th (RH/NJP).

Grey Phalarope.

1 seen by fishermen off Holy Island on 1st was still in winter plumage.

Glaucous Gull.

One at Seahouses for most of the month (BL/BU et.al) and another at Seaton Sluice on 20th (KW). One on Holy Island on 5th (BL) and one at Holywell on 10th (RH/NJP). All were immatures.

Common/Black Headed Gull.

Moving steadily N. off Hauxley on 1st. (HRS). A new small colony at Greenlee Lough (TRP).

Iceland Gull.

A first year bird noted at Holywell on 19th (KR).

Little Gull.

1 at the Farnes on 11th (per BL), 2 at Grindon on 12th (LGM/JAG), 3 off Seaton Sluice on 16th (KW) and 1 there on 20th. Only the last sighting was an adult.

Kittiwake.

Moving N. at 400/hr. off Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Black Tern.

1 off the Farnes on 4th (per BL) and at Washington 1 on 5th (JCD/TRP) and 1 on 21st (PK). 3 at Blaydon on 28th (per BL).

Commic Tern.

Fairly common offshore by 6th. On 18th flock of 20 flew S. over West Newcastle (IK).

Little Tern.

Up to 6 noted in Holy Island Area after 5th (CED/BG/BU et.al). 1 at Whitley Bay on 10th and 2 at Alnmouth on 12th (RH/NJP). 2 S. off Whitburn on 19th (CMA).

Sandwich Tern.

Moving steadily N. between 1st - 12th.

Black Guillemot.

1 on the Farnes on 16th (per BL).

Arctic Skua.

1 N. off Hauxley on 1st (HRS), 1 N. off Boulmer on 12th (NJP) and 3 N. off Seaton Sluice on 20th (KW).

Turtle Dove.

1 at Durham on 6th/7th (ML), 1 at Corbridge Fell after 15th (WB), 3 at Gosforth on 16th (AJ), and 1 at Ravensworth on 25th (LJM).

Collared Dove.

1 in Kielder Forest on 13th (ERM/BL) - a new locality.

Cuckoo.

Well reported, particularly in coastal areas after 5th.

Barn Owl.

Nesting at Hartford (ABI).

Little Owl.

Noted at Hauxley, Brunton and W. Boldon.

Tawny Owl.

There are several examples of suggestions of adults having eaten their own young this year. This combined with other mysterious events has resulted in a very poor year (ERM et.al).

Long Eared Owl.

As with Tawny Owl breeding success has been very poor indeed. At a traditional locality near Ponteland only 1 pair out of 4 has managed to raise young but it is not known whether even they reached the flying stage. A nest in the Cheviots containing 2 eggs was taken over by Kestrels, the hen of which laid four eggs and incubated all 6! Results are not yet known (ERM/WGJ et.al). One seen near Hexham on 7th (BL).

Short Eared Owl.

Singles noted near Prestwick Carr, Sweethope Lough, Border Forests and the S. Cheviots. A very poor breeding year, (ERM/MH/AJ et.al).

Swift.

Several in Gosforth Park on 1st followed by sightings of small groups at Holywell, Durham, Alnmouth and Morpeth during the next few days. Not really conspicuous in the breeding areas until after 12th.

Kingfisher.

Noted at Lanchester, Hepple, Bardon Mill and Haydon Bridge. All involved birds in breeding situations.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted in the Cheviot Valleys and also at Alnmouth.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Holystone (2 pairs), Hamsterley Mill, Hartford and Stamfordham. 1 in Northumberland Park, Tynemouth on 24th April, could have been a migrant.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

A most unusual sighting of one on the Farnes on 1st (per BL).

Wryneck.

1 found dead on Holy Island on 19th (per BL).

Shore Lark.

2 on the Farnes on about 1st (per BL).

Swallow/House Martin/Sand Martin.

Distinct passage noted at Holy Island, Boulmer, Alnmouth, Bothal and South Linton on 5th and 12th.

House Martin.

19 pairs nesting at Bonnyrigg Hall, Greenlee Lough by 24th (TRP).

Golden Oriole.

A male was watched at Gosforth Park for 10 minutes on 29th (HW).

Raven.

1 seen near Calton on 30th (SJH).

Carriion Crow.

Still a roost of 23 at Gosforth on 30th (LGM).

Hooded Crow.

1 N. off Amble on 5th (NJP/RH), 1 at Craster on 12th (KW) and 1 near Durham, on 14th (JW).

Nuthatch.

A pair carrying food at Bolam on 12th (WHS) and about 5 pairs in Durham area (ML).

Wren.

Noticeably plentiful and widespread this year.

Fieldfare.

Between 1st-6th flocks of up to 150 at Holy Island, Woodburn, Hulme Park, Durham. Kibblesworth and Washington. On 12th/13th singles at Akeld and at Hauxley and further singles at Rothley (18th), Shaftoe (27th) and Holy Island (19th).

Redwing.

Late records of 2 at Kirkley on 7th (WGJ) and 1 at Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Ring Ousel.

Breeding in average numbers in Cheviots and in Allendale. Late single migrants noted at Hauxley (2nd and 20th), Holy Island (5th), Kibblesworth (6th) and Marsden (24th).

Wheatear.

Passage noted on 5th (50 on Holy Island) 14th/15th and 20th - 24th involving some examples of the Greenland Race. In the breeding areas they were reported as numerous on the Carey Burn, Wooler, but as scarce in the Border Forests and in Allendale.

Stonechat.

Single pairs feeding fledged young at Warkworth, near Hauxley, Cresswell and inland at Ingram. A pair also located at Sweethope Lough. 2 on Holy Island on 29th.

Whinchat.

By 6th they were numerous in the breeding areas in the Cheviots. 10 on Holy Island on 5th (BL) when 16 between Alnmouth and Warkworth (NJP/RH).

Redstart.

1-5 on coastal passage at Holy Island and Hauxley on 2nd-5th and 20th - 24th. Not conspicuous in breeding areas until the second week of the month.

Black Redstart.

1 in Priors Park, Tynemouth on 6th (KGD).

Grasshopper Warbler.

Widely reported 1st-7th, mainly at the coast e.g. Alnmouth, Hauxley, Chevington, Craster but also inland at Hulme Park, Gosforth Park and Durham.

Reed Warbler.

One singing in Gosforth Park on 7th (BG) and 2-3 there on 16th.

Sedge Warbler.

A light influx noted on 19th when 20-30 (at Chevington (BG)).

Icterine Warbler.

One trapped and ringed at Tynemouth on 22nd is only the second spring record for Northumberland (MSH).

Blackcap.

Well reported at locations such as Hulne Park, Allendale/Allenbanks, Holywell, Gosforth and Morpeth. Between 5th/6th up to 6 at Hauxley and Holy Island, and singles at the former on 19th/20th and at the latter on 22nd.

Garden Warbler.

Noted at Hulne Park, Gosforth, and Howick Dene after 5th. Coastal passage conspicuous between 19th - 26th when 1-3 were at Hauxley and Holy Island. By end of the month they were common in Allendale.

Whitethroat.

Between 5th - 7th, 1-2 occurred at Holy Island, Hulne Park, Alnmouth, Cresswell and Brasside. Small numbers continued to move through the area until late in the month but they were still scarce by the month's close.

Lesser Whitethroat.

Coastal passage was apparent between 2nd - 7th with up to 6 on Holy Island, 1 at Hauxley, 1 at Holywell and 2 at Tynemouth. Noted in probable breeding areas at Craster, Howick, Gosforth, Blaydon, Durham and Staward. 1 on Holy Island on 19th.

Willow Warbler.

Between 2nd - 6th, 10 at Hauxley and 50 on Holy Island with further smaller scale passage suggested on 12th and 20th.

Chiffchaff.

A few involved in the passerine arrival of 2nd-7th, particularly on Holy Island. Well established in breeding territory at Hulne Park (13 singing), Allenbanks (12 singing), Hartford (3 pairs) and Durham (4 pairs). Torrential rain of 20th destroyed a nest at Hartford (ABI). 2 late migrants at Tynemouth on 23rd (MSH).

Wood Warbler.

The Allenbanks area remains a stronghold where 20+ were singing by the end of the month after first being heard there on the early date of 22nd April, (BG/SJH et.al). Also noted at Harbottle and Durham.

Goldcrest.

Late migrants noted at Holy Island on 5th/6th (10) and at Hauxley on 20th (1).

Spotted Flycatcher.

First noted on 5th when 1 on Holy Island (BL) followed 1 near Durham on 10th (DLS). Widely distributed after 13th and apparently numerous in some areas by the end of the month. Characteristic late passage brought 8 to Holy Island on 22nd.

Pied Flycatcher.

First noted on 4th when 1 was at Dipton followed by singles at Morpeth and Gosforth Park on 8th/9th. Established in other breeding areas such as Allendale, Holystone and Wark by 13th. Coastal passage brought 1 to Holy Island on 19th with 5 there by 22nd (BL/BU).

Red Breasted Flycatcher.

Yet another spring record with 1 appearing at Tynemouth on 23rd and remaining until next day (MSH/MNC). This is the 5th spring record since 1968.

Tree Pipit.

Coastal passage noted at Holy Island (5 on 6th and 1 on 22nd) and at Alnmouth (1 on 5th).

White Wagtail.

Between 6th - 13th singles were at Chevington, Alwinton and Durham with 3 at Boulmer and 8 at Seahouses.

Blue Headed Wagtail.

A male at Cresswell on 5th (ID).

Grey Headed Wagtail.

A male on Holy Island on 18th (per BL).

Great Grey Shrike.

Late individuals on Holy Island on 2nd (per BL), at Washington on 5th (TRP) and at Norham on 13th (per ERM).

Red Backed Shrike.

2 came to drink at a garden pool at North Shields on 19th (JSS).

Hawfinch.

1 at Stocksfield on 14th (per BL) and 1 near Howick on 26th (NJP).

Greenfinch.

Still a communal roost of 200 at Ravensworth on 25th (LJM).

Goldfinch.

Still well reported as it continues to increase.

Siskin.

Noted in Redesdale (common), Allendale (a few) and at Langleeford (a few). A migrant at Tynemouth on 5th (MSH).

Linnet.

Flock of 80 at Hauxley on 12th (HRS).

Redpoll.

N. passage witnessed over Border Forest area on 26th (ERM/BL).

Crossbill.

2 flocks totalling 90 in Dipton area on 13th when 6 at Staward (B. & M.E. et.al). 1 at Colt Crag on 1st (RH/NJP), 10 at Cragside on 6th (B.&H.T), a few including a juvenile in Kielder on 27th/28th (ERM) and 6 at Rock on 28th (MNC).

Brambling.

Late individuals noted at Harthope Valley on 13th (ML), Holy Island on 19th (BL) and North Shields on 22nd (WHS).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

D.L. Allan.	E. Hauge.	N.J. Phillips.
C.M. Adamson.	R. Higson.	B.E. Prater.
R. Adams.	A. Jobling.	J.N. Prescott.
K. Angus.	W.G. Johnson.	K. Robson.
W. Brady.	P. Kelly.	G. Robson.
A. Blackett.	R. Kennedy.	J.S. Spence.
M.N. Coates.	I. Kerr.	D.L. Sowerbutts.
C.E. Douglas.	B. Little.	W.H. Sharp.
J.C. Day.	M. Lawley.	B. & W. Tilbrook.
I. Davidson.	B. Martin.	B. Unwin.
B. & M. Etherington.	L.G. Macfarlane.	L. Ullock.
B. Galloway.	J. & R. McCutcheon.	P. Weighill.
J.A. Ginnever.	E.R. Meek.	M. Wishart.
R. Grey.	L.J. Milton.	H. Wilson.
T. Goonan.	T.I. Mills.	K. Walton.
M. Henry.	D. O'Connor.	J. Whittam.
M.S. Hodgson.	R.M. Palmer.	C. Watson.
S.J. Hingston.	J.R. Palmer.	Hauxley Ringing Staion.

All June records to B. Galloway by 9th July, please.

Anyone requiring record cards, please send a stamped addressed envelope to B. Galloway or B. Martin.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

June 1973, Bulletin.

Summary.

During a generally settled month with long dry spells, the highlights were the appearances of a Red Footed Falcon at Lynemouth on 14th, remaining until mid. July, and a Pratincole at Washington on 17th. Both records eclipsed such unusual sightings as Goshawk, Hobby, Little Ringed Plover, a small group of Little Gulls, Wryneck and Reed Warbler.

Breeding success was mixed with birds of prey, particularly owls, having a poor year, waders being extremely successful and most of the summer visiting passerines experiencing moderate success following a very slow start to the season.

Washington ponds have continued to remain in the limelight in July when a Wilsons Phalarope appeared on 20th and remained until at least the evening of 21st.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Great Crested Grebe.

2 pairs at Whittle Dene on 2nd reducing to 1 bird on 23rd (JSB), 1 pair with 3 young at Hallington on 19th (RG et.al). Pair with 1 young at Gosforth all month and a single at Sweethope most of month (B.&M.E/LGM).

Little Grebe.

Noted at Linnheads, Capheaton, Woodhorn and Wallington.

Manx Shearwater.

Between 11th-30th, 2-5 N. off each of Boulmer, Lynemouth, Whitley Bay and Whitburn.

Fulmar.

1 well inland at Thrunton Crag on 9th (LGM/RA).

White Pelican.

The Cresswell bird moved onto the River Coquet at Amble early in the month and remained there until late in July at least.

Heron.

A late nest with young in Central Northumberland in mid. month (ERM).

Mallard.

A nest on Harbottle Crag early in month (JAG). 3 broods at Whittle Dene (JSB), 4 at Wallsend Swallow (AJ), 1 at Sweethope (B.&ME). 100 at Gosforth on 17th (LGM) was largest flock reported.

Garganey.

Pair at Washington from 1st - 3rd (PK/DLS).

Gadwall.

Pair at Seaton Burn on 26th (AJ).

Wigeon.

5 at Cresswell on 15th (CMA), 1 at Gosforth on 17th and 2 at Grindon on 23rd (LGM).

Pintail.

1 at Washington on 15th (TRP).

Shoveler.

2-4 noted at Cresswell, Holywell, Gosforth and Grindon with breeding confirmed at Holywell and Cresswell (LGM/MN/TJR).

Scaup.

A drake at Wallington on 30th (ERM).

Tufted Duck.

Up to 23 at Whittle Dene (JSB), 20 at Sweethope on 16th (B.&ME), 15 at Brasside on 9th (ML) and 7-8 at Cresswell, Washington, and Capheaton.

Pochard.

1-4 noted at Whittle Dene, Woodhorn, Holywell and Brasside, 8 at Gosforth on 5th and a brood of 6 young noted there on 21st, (AJ).

Common Scoter.

2 N. off Hauxley on 18th and 19 off Cresswell on 27th (CMA).

Red Breasted Merganser.

Up to 17 noted in the Ross/Bamburgh/Farnes area during the month (JA/IK/ML), and 5 S. off Whitburn on 23rd.

Goosander.

Broods noted at Holystone (WHS), Powburn, Devils Water, Redesmouth, Haltwhistle. 12 ducks on Harbottle Lough on 25th (WGJ).

Shelduck.

2 broods noted at Cresswell. A pair inland at S. Linton on 15th (BG/ERM).

Canada Goose.

Between 2nd - 10th, 5 at Gosforth, 2 W. over Seahouses, 7 W. over Felling and 6 N. over Byrness, (JRP/LGM). The Sweethope flock peaked at 63 and 5 young on 16th (B.&ME et.al).

Mute Swan.

Broods noted at Broomlee and Gosforth.

Sparrowhawk.

Mixed success reported from 18 nests in South Northumberland, and 6 nests in Central and North Northumberland. At least 3 broods of 5 were reared. The species can be very stubborn, resisting disturbance by tree felling only 15 yards from one nest and fire at the base of another (ERM/BL et.al).

Goshawk.

In Central Northumberland a bird was seen to stoop at Fulmar in late May. At another locality a pair made an unsuccessful attempt at nesting.

Hobby.

1 flew W. over Broomhill on 16th (JAG).

Peregrine.

A pair in the Cheviots most of the summer and 1 stooped at Lapwings near Catton on 10th (BG).

Red Footed Falcon.

The immature male that appeared at Lynemouth on 14th remained in the area until early July at least (July dates would be welcomed) and afforded very close views for many observers. This is the sixth record for Northumberland.

Merlin.

18 nests located but many infertile eggs have been laid. Only 21 young have been hatched from 16 nests examined.

Kestrel.

Generally small broods only being reared but in some 'pockets' where voles are still apparently plentiful broods of 4-5 and one of six have been found. Because of food shortage in other areas, some birds are feeding on shrews and there are suggestions that some nestlings are eating others. The East Newcastle Shipyard nest was molested by 'apprentices' who climbed the 80 ft. jib and took the young.

Coot.

Largest counts were 112 at Seaton Burn on 18th (AJ), 88 at Capheaton on 14th (CMA) and 62 at Broomlee on 16th (TRP).

Lapwing.

Breeding success noticeably high in the Allendales. During the last two weeks flocks were noted at Grindon (300), Woodhorn (130), Whittle Dene (200) and Hauxley and Cresswell (40-50).

Ringed Plover.

Up to 11 passage birds noted at Washington throughout the month (PK). Still 70 at Ross on 3rd (TRP).

Little Ringed Plover.

3 young hatched at a N.W. Durham site late in the month (RMP).

Grey Plover.

20-30 in Lindisfarne are on 3rd (TRP).

Golden Plover.

Breeding on Simonsides, Paddaburn, Durham Moors and in Allendales. Very common on Allendale Moors with apparent high breeding success.

Common Snipe.

Common in breeding areas on the Allendale Moors (BG).

Whimbrel.

1 at Cresswell on 5th (BEP) but 31 N. over Whitley Bay on 27th (PK) was particularly unusual. 1 W. over Alwinton on May 28th, (JAG).

Black Tailed Godwit.

1 at Monks House Pool on 3rd (IK) and 1 at Newton Pool on 9th - 11th (WSC/JA).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

280 at Ross on 3rd (TRP).

Green Sandpiper.

1 at Washington on 1st (PK).

Redshank.

Breeding commonly in Allendales and in Coquetdale (BG).

Spotted Redshank.

2 at Cresswell on 16th (JNP).

Dunlin.

60 at Ross on 3rd (TRP). Up to 20 at Cresswell late in the month.
2 pairs, 1 with small young, on Cheviot on 2nd (BL).

Sanderling.

8 at Ross on 3rd (TRP).

Ruff.

1-3 at Washington all month (PK/TIM et.al). 1 at Monks House on 3rd (IK).

Pratincole.

Seven observers watched one feeding at Washington for 10 minutes on 17th before it headed off West. Notes are not as yet available. (TIM et.al).

Great Skua.

1 in Budle Bay on 3rd (TRP).

Herring Gull.

1 pair hatched young on rooftops in Newcastle by 23rd. Possibly 5 other pairs with nests/young, (IK).

Glaucous Gull.

An immature at Seahouses on 3rd (TRP).

Little Gull.

At Newton Pool up to 6 immatures and 1 adult during the month (WSC/IK). Other single immatures at Seahouses on 3rd (IK) and Holy Island on 17th (BG).

Black Headed Gull.

The Greenlee colony was deserted by 9th (TRP). Small colony on N.W. Durham moors (35 pairs) and on Allendale Moors (15 pairs) (RMP/BG).

Kittiwake.

Off Whitburn in 2 hrs on 23rd, 416 N. and 110 S. (ML).

Turtle Dove.

Present on Corbridge Fell all month but breeding not proven (WB).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Holywell and near Ponteland. In Border Forests only small broods being reared.

Little Owl.

Noted at Halton Shields (LGM).

Long Eared Owl.

The Ponteland pair referred to in the May bulletin successfully reared young. The nest that was taken over by Kestrels in The Cheviots 'lost' 4 eggs and only 2 Kestrels were reared (ERM).

Short Eared Owl.

Pair feeding young in Hexhamshire on 1st and at Blanchland a keeper reared 3 young from a nest after the adults had been accidentally killed! (BL).

Swift.

A small colony located in a kiln near Alwinton. They were nesting in the gaps between facing bricks above the 'archway' (BG).

Kingfisher.

In addition to the May breeding sites a further pair was located at Kielder.

Green Woodpecker.

Breeding success noted at Dipton (3 pairs) and in the Cheviots.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Breeding success noted at Dipton (3 pairs), Belsay, Gosforth, Durham (2 pairs), Hartford and Holystone.

Wryneck.

A bird heard singing in a woodland area in South Northumberland on a number of occasions.

House Martin.

67 nests at Knarsdale, 36 at Colt Crag and c.20 at Greenlee Lough.

Great/Blue Tit.

Moderate breeding success from nest boxes in the Border Forests.

Long Tailed Tit.

Generally a good breeding season at locations such as Dipton and the Border Forests (ERM).

Nuthatch.

Breeding success noted at Eastgate, Hexham (CW).

Wheatear.

Generally a rather poor breeding season with comparatively few pairs nesting.

Stonechat.

At least 2 pairs fledged young in Druridge Bay (BEP/JAG et.al).

Whinchat.

In better numbers in breeding areas than in 1972. Noticeably common in Cheviot Valleys.

Redstart.

Moderate success noted from nest boxes in Border Forests (ERM et.al).

Grasshopper Warbler.

In addition to the May locations birds were heard singing at Falstone, Ponteland, Widdrington and Alwin Valley. A better year than in 1972.

Reed Warbler.

An unusual occurrence at Hauxley where 1 was trapped on 18th (HRS).

Blackcap/Garden Warbler.

Locally common - a good year for both species. A Blackcap trapped at Hauxley on 16th was unusual for the time of year.

Whitethroat.

Still quite scarce. Noted at Widdrington, Stannington, Hexham, Hauxley, Bellingham and in the Beamish Valley in small numbers only.

Lesser Whitethroat.

Birds singing at Slaley, Widdrington, Craster and Durham. A pair feeding fledged young near Ellington on 15th (BG/JAG/ERM et.al).

Wood Warbler.

2 pairs at Swallowship near Hexham (CW), 7 pairs at Dipton (BL) and 1 at Greenhaugh (ERM).

Spotted Flycatcher.

Reports suggest that they are in greater numbers than in 1972.

Pied Flycatcher.

Nest boxes attracted a total of 66 pairs in 4 separate areas. This compares with 74 pairs in 1972. Brood sizes were also less than in 1972 (BL/ERM/WGJ).

Siskin.

A few noted in Allendale and locally common in North Tyne Valley (BG/ERM).

Crossbill.

A family party of 7/8 at Sinderhope in Allendale on 15th with the adults still feeding the juveniles (BG).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson.	A. James.	R.M. Palmer.
R. Adams.	W.G. Johnson.	T.R. Palmer.
J. Armstrong.	I. Kerr.	C. Robson.
W. Brady.	P. Kelly.	T.J. Rose.
J.S. Booth.	E. Lobley.	B.G. Stacey.
A. Blackett.	B. Little.	D.L. Sowerbutts.
W.S. Craster.	M. Lawley.	W.H. Sharp.
B. & M. Etherington.	E.R. Meek.	Y. Templer.
B. Galloway.	L.G. McFarlane.	K. Walton.
J.A. Ginnever.	T.I. Mills.	C. Watson.
R. Grey.	M. & J. Nattrass.	Hauxley Ringing Station.
B.D. & E.M. Green.	J.N. Prescott.	

All July records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RD, by 8th August, please.

MERLINS - A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

For several years the Northumbrian Ringing Group has been carrying out a survey of Merlins breeding in Northumberland. The survey is now being directed by Dr. Ian Newton of the Nature Conservancy and analyses are being performed on all infertile eggs. Information on breeding success, together with the results of the analyses, is being used in an attempt to discover to what extent pesticides are still playing a part in failed breeding.

In 1973 a total of 21 nests have been found by the group, 18 with contents. In addition birds were present in 9 other localities. In order to obtain an even more realistic picture of the total breeding population in the county would anyone who has any record of a Merlin inland in Northumberland between April and August please write to Eric Meek, 7 Shaftoe Way, Dinnington, Northumberland, as soon as possible.

Result of T.B.C. Breeding Survey 1967/1968.

After very considerable delays, the reproduction of distribution maps has now been completed and the results of the Club's 1967/1968 Breeding Survey are now available to Members. To cover the cost of photocopying a charge of 25p. per copy will have to be made. Although written in 1969, this report contains much information still relevant today and should be invaluable to new Members not familiar with the distribution of the County's breeding birds. Initially 100 copies have been prepared but further supplies may be obtained should demand exceed this number. Copies will be on sale at the next Club meeting or can be obtained through Committee Members.

BLACK HEADED GULLERY CENSUS. RINGED PLOVER CENSUS.

As the above species will, by the time this Bulletin is published, have almost concluded breeding, it would be appreciated if any records for these B.T.O. Enquiries could be submitted either direct to myself or with monthly record cards, at the earliest opportunity.

G. Macfarlane,
31 Wreay Walk,
Cramlington.
NE23 6LJ.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

JULY 1973.

SUMMARY.

Although cool and wet on many days, particularly after the first week, some interesting records were received.

Sea-bird movements were conspicuous during periods of Northerly winds, particularly between 25th - 28th, when Manx Shearwaters and Common Scoters were passing close inshore in large numbers.

The month also saw the commencement of return autumn passage of waders and by mid-month most of the regular species had been recorded including some interesting counts of Whimbrel. The 20th brought a Wilsons Phalarope to Washington where it remained until 22nd.

The Red Footed Falcon was seen in the Lynemouth/Cresswell area until at least 18th, whilst the same or possibly a second was watched near Hartley on 15th whilst an Osprey was watched at Hexham on 24th.

Further observations on high breeding success involved Red Grouse, Golden Plover, Swift, Goldcrest and Goldfinch whilst Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck, Goosander, 'inland' Kittiwakes and Lesser Whitethroat continue to improve their breeding status.

August has brought 2 Pectoral Sandpipers to Monks House Pool on 8th with 1 remaining until at least 12th. Details will be included in the August bulletin.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Diver (sp).

1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 25th (TJR).

Great Crested Grebe.

The Gosforth Park pair had hatched a second brood of 3 young by 14th (LGM), 2 pairs at Hallington most of the month one of which was escorting 4 young on 12th but only 1 young bird could be seen on 31st (EAS/RG et.al). 2 young are believed to have been hatched by the Sweethope Lough pair whilst up to 3 adults were at each of Whittle Dene and Catcleugh.

Little Grebe.

3 pairs successful at each of Wallsend Swallow and Blaydon (AG/LJM).

Manx Shearwater.

Moving N. on many dates most records coming from Seaton Sluice where 259 were counted on 7th, 45 on 15th, 69 on 22nd and 171 between 25th - 28th. Up to 30 noted there and off Cresswell, St. Mary's and Whitburn on many other days. (TJR/HW/KW et.al).

Sooty Shearwater.

Between 15th-28th, 12 N. off Seaton Sluice (HW/KW).

Gannet.

Conspicuous offshore on 14th and 22nd.

White Pelican.

Present at Amble/Warkworth all month.

Heron.

Up to 3 at many locations near the coast during the month and remaining plentiful inland. Large young still in a nest near Hexham on 13th (BL et.al).

Garganey.

2 at Bothal on 15th (M.&JN).

Wigeon.

A drake at Shield-on-the-Wall on 7th (LGM).

Shoveler.

Up to 5 noted at Gosforth, Seaton Burn, Grindon, Washington, Cresswell and Budle Bay.

Tufted Duck.

5 broods hatched at Holywell (CED), 2 at Seaton Burn (AJ), 2 at Pawston (CMA) and 1 at Whittle Dene (JSB). Concentrations of 59 on the Northumbrian Loughs on 21st (LGM) and up to 76 at Whittle Dene (JSB et.al), 3 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (KW).

Pochard.

Up to 12 at each of Whittle Dene, Gosforth, Broomlee and Blaydon, particularly after mid-month.

Velvet Scoter.

On 7 dates between 7th and 29th a total of 35 N. off Seaton Sluice (HW/KW/TJR) and 6 off Holy Island on 30th (TRP).

Common Scoter.

Heavy N. passage noted off Seaton Sluice with 145 on 7th, 105 on 26th, 542 on 28th and 188 on 29th. Up to 70 noted on many other days. (TJR/HW/KW).

Red Breasted Merganser.

7 at Ross on 7th (TRP) and 5 N. off St. Mary's on 17th (MSH).

Goosander.

Excluding the Tweed Basin it is estimated that at least 40 pairs bred on the Northumberland rivers this year with many examples of late broods (ERM/KW).

Shelduck.

46 S. off Seaton Sluice on 22nd (KW) and 40 E. over Blaydon on 26th (BL) were no doubt on moult migration.

Buzzard.

1 in the S. Cheviots on 1st (KH).

Osprey.

1 seen flying N.W. over Hexham on 24th (per MRS).

Merlin.

An adult and immature at Colt Crag on 29th (KH).

Red Footed Falcon.

The Lynemouth bird first reported in June was seen in the area until 18th whilst what could have been another, also a young male, was seen near Hartley on 15th (MB).

I would be grateful if anyone could let me know if they saw the Lynemouth/Cresswell bird on or about 15th.

Red Grouse.

Apparently a good breeding year.

Water Rail.

2-3 at Prestwick Carr on 28th (IK).

Coot.

Largest counts occurred late in the month with 120 at Holywell on 15th (CR), 115 at Broomlee on 21st (TRP) and 220 at Seaton Burn on 27th/31st (AJ).

Oystercatcher.

An interesting record of 11-16 at Holywell between 19th - 23rd (CED/MN).

Lapwing.

Concentrations of 800 at Whittle Dene after 8th (JSB/ERM) and 400 at Seaton Burn on 20th (AJ).

Ringed Plover.

Unusual inland breeding sites were Font Reservoir (2 pairs) and Earsdon - Fenwick Pit - (1 pair). (CED/JEF).

Little Ringed Plover.

2 young were reared at a N.W. Durham site (RMP/ERM) and a pair reared young at Derwent Reservoir (per LGM).

Golden Plover.

Flocks of 100 - 200 at Whittle Dene, Chevington after 22nd (JSB/ERM) and as early as 6th 5 at Holywell (PW). A common breeding bird at Knarsdale, S. Tyne (ERM).

Turnstone.

1 inland at Holywell on 23rd (CED).

Woodcock.

Noted at Gosforth on 23rd (AJ).

Curlew.

14 near Earsdon on 21st (MSH) and 20 E. over Cramlington on 2nd (LGM).

Whimbrel.

92 noted off Seaton Sluice either N. or S. on 6 dates between 1st - 28th (HW/KW/TJR) with up to 6 noted off Hauxley, Alnmouth, Chevington and Cresswell mainly after 13th. 1 inland over Slaley on 20th (BL).

Black Tailed Godwit.

1 off Ross on 7th (TRP).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

1 N. off Cresswell on 21st and 2 N. off Tynemouth on 28th (BG).

Green Sandpiper.

1-3 noted at Lowick, Bothal, Whittle Dene, Prestwick Carr, Wallsend Swallow, and Washington after 13th.

Wood Sandpiper.

2-4 at Washington on 19th/20th (BG/PK et.al).

Common Sandpiper.

1-3 passage birds noted at Whittle Dene, Chevington, Seaton Burn, Holywell, Blaydon and Washington mainly after 11th.

Redshank.

Breeding confirmed at Holywell and Ryal (JEF/EAS). On 15th 200 in Budle Bay (BG/IK) and 55 at Newton Pool.

Spotted Redshank.

Singles at Hauxley on 6th and Newton Pool on 7th (HRS/MSH).

Greenshank.

2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (TJR) and singles on N. Tyne on 1st and at Holywell, Cresswell and Hexham between 13th-22nd.

Knot.

4 on Holy Island on 30th (TRP).

Purple Sandpiper.

4 at St. Mary's on 11th (BEP) and 1 on Tynemouth Pier on 28th (BG).

Little Stint.

1 at Monks House Pool on 2nd and 2 there on 8th (IK).

Dunlin.

65 pairs located in breeding territory in West Northumberland in May/June/July (LGM).

Curlew Sandpiper.

3 adults and 2 juveniles at Monks House Pool on 29th (IK).

Sanderling.

40 on Holy Island on 29th (TRP).

Ruff.

1-2 noted at many locations after 15th. Present at Washington all month with an influx of 24 on 31st (PK et.al). Also 5 at Whittle Dene on 29th (JSB).

Wilson's Phalarope.

A bird in breeding plumage frequented Washington Pond between 20th - 22nd (BA/JCD/PK et.al) although P.K. thought he might have seen the same in fading light on the evening of 19th.

Arctic Skua.

Prominent offshore after 7th, particularly after 26th when up to 36 were noted daily off each of Holy Island and Seaton Sluice.

Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 10 N. between 23rd - 28th (HW/KW) and 3 S. off Newton on 22nd (BG).

Greater Black Backed Gull.

132 adults at St. Mary's on 11th (MSH) were indicative of the commencement of S. passage of this species.

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

Conspicuous N. movement off Cresswell on 26th (IK).

Common Gull.

400 near Cambo on 27th were no doubt on return passage S. (LGM/KH).

Little Gull.

Between 7th - 22nd up to 6 sub adults at Newton Pool (BG/MSH/IK).
1 at Wallsend Swallow on 24th - 30th (AG/MN/HW) and 1 at Washington on 22nd (MSH).

Kittiwake.

Inland colonies on the River Tyne consisted of 2 nests on Newcastle Quayside, 29 at Gateshead and 32 at Dunston (RMP). 250/hr. N. off St. Mary's on 16th (MSH).

Common Tern.

Inland records involved 5 at Whitley Quarry on 13th, 7 at Holywell on 22nd, 1 at Newcastle Quayside on 17th and 2 at Whittle Dene on 29th.

Little Tern.

Away from breeding areas 1 at Cresswell on 3rd (WAK).

Sandwich Tern.

400/hr. N. off St. Mary's on 16th (MSH).

Turtle Dove.

Breeding strongly suspected at Corbridge Fell (RG/WB/EL), and 1 at Holywell Dene on 21st (MSH).

Barn Owl.

Out of 6 pairs located in Kielder only 2 pairs managed to rear a total of 5 young. Breeding also confirmed at Ellington and Earsdon. Also noted at Holywell and Coanwood.

Little Owl.

Noted at Wallington and Swallow.

Short Eared Owl.

1 at Slaggyford on 8th, 1 at Derwent on 17th and 1 at Dinnington on 30th.

Swift.

Noted breeding in ruins on Paddaburn Moor. Generally a good breeding year with up to 500 feeding over the Blaydon Ponds on some evenings.

Kingfisher.

Breeding confirmed on the S. Tyne (BL) and also noted at Blaydon Pond and at Colt Crag.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted near Rothbury and at Prestwick Carr.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

1 entered a conservatory at Heddon early in the month, was captured and released (per IHA).

Swallow.

3-400 roosting at Chevington on 26th (ERM).

House Martin.

A gathering of 200 near Seaton Delaval on 28th (MSH).

Raven.

1 near Alwinton on 28th (LGM).

Mistle Thrush.

Characteristic early flocking was noted at Longwiton on 21st when 20 were seen (KH).

Grasshopper Warbler.

Noted at Holywell and Seaton Burn - breeding confirmed at the latter (AJ).

Blackcap.

Coastal movement was suggested by 1 at Hauxley on 13th and 2 there on 31st (HRS).

Whitethroat.

In yet another poor year breeding confirmed at Hepscott and Holywell.

Lesser Whitethroat.

Continues to increase and in addition to May/June haunts they were also noted at Blaydon Pond, Holywell Dene and Killingworth.

Goldcrest.

A good breeding year was noted by several observers.

Pied Flycatcher.

A late brood in a nest box near Elsdon on 4th (ERM).

Tree Pipit.

An unusual observation of 1 singing at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Goldfinch.

Continues to increase at a healthy rate in a good breeding season. Many reports of up to 20 birds in Urban habitat.

Twite.

An unusual sighting of 2 on Ross Links on 2nd (KH).

All August records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5, by 9th September, 1973, please.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

B. Armstrong.	K. Hutton.	T.R. Palmer.
I.H. Armstrong.	M.S. Hodgson.	B.E. Prater.
C.M. Adamson.	A. James.	C. Robson.
M. Bell.	P. Kelly.	T.J. Rose.
J.M. Bayldon.	W.A. Kelly.	B.G. Stacey.
J.S. Booth.	I. Kerr.	E.A. Stanley.
W. Brady.	E. Lobley.	M.R. & E.L. Smith.
J.C. Day.	B. Little.	D.L. Sowerbutts.
C.E. Douglas.	L.J. Milton.	P. Weighill.
J.E. Ferguson.	L.G. Mcfarlane.	K. Walton.
B. Galloway.	E.R. Meek.	H. Wilson.
A. Guthrie.	M. & J. Nattrass.	C. Watson.
R. Grey.	R.M. Palmer.	Hauxley Ringing Station.

FIELD TRIPS.

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 16th - NORTHUMBERLAND COASTAL TRIP.

A 29 seater coach will leave from Baxter's, Tynemouth at 8.00.a.m. and the Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m. The coach will drive to Holy Island from where stops will be made at several well known birdwatching localities along the Northumberland coast.

The cost is expected to be £1.00. each.

WEEKEND TRIP TO LOCH LEVEN - DATE TO BE FIXED.

It was mentioned earlier in the year that a weekend trip to Loch Leven was planned. Numbers will obviously be limited but would those interested please contact Brian Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay, by 20th September, at the latest, stating any preference you may have for a particular weekend in OCTOBER. The cost is expected to be in the region of £5. for bed and breakfast. Other meals will have to be paid for seperately.

N.B. One must remind members that bookings for Field Trips can only be accepted when accompanied by the appropriate fee. Cheques, etc. should be made payable to Brian Etherington and NOT Tyneside Bird Club.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

AUGUST 1973 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

An interesting month with some good movements of sea birds on 11th, between 20th - 22nd and on 25th/26th involving mainly Fulmars and Gannets, Common Scoters, Arctic Skuas and some Terns. During the latter period of S.E. weather 10 Little Gulls appeared at Holywell where they had been observed on most days during the month, Kestrels were conspicuous and a few Pied Flycatchers arrived.

It was a good month for waders with moderate counts of most species with perhaps Whimbrel being in larger numbers than is usual. 1-2 Pectoral Sandpipers were at Monks House Pool following strong westerlies at the beginning of the month.

Passerine migration proceeded unhindered as a result of fine and relatively settled weather during the latter part of the month. Hence the scarcity of large numbers.

Of the more interesting species 3 records of adult Long Tailed Skuas were the highlight.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Divers

Single Red Throated N. off Cresswell on 11th and 18th and 2 N. off Hauxley on 19th when 1 Black Throated was also seen N. (BEP/KW). Unidentified birds were noted N. off Hauxley on 22nd (1) and off St. Mary's on 26th (2). (HRS/MRS).

Great Crested Grebe.

Pair with 2 young still at Gosforth on 27th (IGM/MRS). Pair with 1 young at Hallington until 25th (WB/RG/KB). Pair at Little Swinburne on 25th (KB) and a juvenile at Seaton Burn on 3rd and 17th (AJ/MRS).

Little Grebe.

Up to 8 noted at Woodhorn, S. Linton, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, Broomlee, Grindon and Gosforth.

Manx Shearwater.

No heavy passage reported. Up to 5 noted daily on 8 dates between 5th and 21st, mainly off Seaton Sluice.

Sooty Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice 2 S. on 2nd (HW), and 2 N. on 18th (BE/TJR). 1 N. on 21st off Hauxley (HRS).

Fulmar.

Heavy N. movement on 20th/21st observed off Hauxley with rates varying between 75/hr. and 250/hr. (HRS).

Gannet.

Moving N. off Hauxley between 20th - 22nd reaching a peak of 300/hr. on early morning of 21st (HRS). Also 250/hr. N. but only during the early morning of 18th off Seaton Sluice (TJR). Off Holy Island 150/hr. S. on the afternoon of 26th (BG).

Cormorant/Shag.

Gathering of 85 on the Black Law on 26th (LGM). 44 Cormorants S. in a flock off Seaton Sluice on 29th (TJR). 3 Shags nests at Dunstanburgh on 6th (ERM) and 40 S. in 1 hour off Holy Island on 26th (BG).

White Pelican.

Still present at Warkworth on the R. Coquet all month.

Heron.

Well reported with birds obviously on migration with up to 4 at locations such as Beal, Hauxley, Holywell, Gosforth and Blaydon. 7 together at Cresswell on 5th (BM et.al).

Mallard.

Largest counts were 104 at Shield-on-the-Wall on 24th (B.&M.E) and 53 at Whittle Dene on 18th (JSB). 2 birds still sitting on eggs near Seaton Delaval on 4th (MSH).

Teal.

Offshore passage became apparent after 21st with up to 27 noted off Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 4 dates until 26th (ERM). 30 at Holywell on 17th increased to 50 by 28th (CED/M&JN). Up to 13 at Bothal, S. Linton and Swallow by the end of the month.

Garganey.

1 at Holywell on 15th (M&JN).

Wigeon.

126 at Fenham Mill on 25th (CMA) and 1-6 at S. Linton, Alnmouth, Warkworth, Wallsend Swallow, Holywell and Gosforth between 18th-28th, 10 N. off Seaton Sluice on 26th (ERM).

Shoveler.

Well reported being particularly plentiful at Gosforth where a max. of 40 was present on 12th (LGM) although 40 were at nearby Seaton Burn on 8th (AJ). Elsewhere up to 11 were noted at Holywell, Washington and S. Linton.

Scaup.

5 near Ashington on 16th (AJR) and between 16th-23rd a female was present at S. Linton (GU/JNP). 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 19th (KW).

Tufted Duck.

Max. of 76 at Whittle Dene on 17th (BM et.al). 3 S. off Hauxley on 25th (HRS), 34 at Holywell on 26th (LGM).

Pochard.

11 at Blaydon on 11th (LJM), 17 at Greenlee on 18th (LGM), 9 at Shield-on-the-Wall on 24th (B&ME) and 1 at the unusual location of Newcastle Exhibition Park on 31st (AJ).

Goldeneye.

A female at S. Linton on 5th and 18th (ERM/AJR).

Common Scoter.

Noted offshore on many dates with heavy movements observed off Seaton Sluice on 11th when 410 N. and 77 S. and again on 26th when 203 N. (HW/KW). Up to 70 N. off there and other coastal points on 6 other dates.

Red Breasted Merganser.

2 off Hauxley on 11th and 25th (HRS). 18 S. off Seahouses on 23rd (MB), and 73 off Ross on 26th (LGM).

Goosander.

A very young brood located on the S. Tyne on 1st (BL) 3 at Holywell - an unusual location on 18th (ABI/M.&J.N).

Shelduck.

2 broods totalling 13 at Cresswell on 5th (ERM), 10 small young at the Long Nanny on 5th (IK) and c.50 juveniles at Lindisfarne by end of the month (LGM/CMA).

Offshore passage involved sightings at Seaton Sluice of 21 N. on 11th, 7 N. on 17th and 8 N. and 4 S. on 28th (PW/HW).

Mute Swan.

Young reared at Seaton Burn (2) and Holywell (6).

Canada Goose.

A sick bird in Budle Bay on 26th (LGM).

Sparrowhawk.

Singles noted at Hauxley (several dates), Woodhorn, Corbridge and Hallington.

Merlin.

Well reported with singles at Budle - Ross on 4th/5th, Ottercops on 14th, Wallsend Swallow on 15th and 29th, Cramlington on 20th, Beal on 27th and Washington on 29th.

Kestrel.

'Concentrations' of 6 near Hauxley on 5th (ERM), 12 near Alwinton and 4 at Cresswell on 18th (BEP/DLS) and up to 10 on Holy Island between 25th-30th (BG/IK).

Red Grouse.

Further confirmation from the N. Durham moors that it has been a good breeding season and a protracted season was also suggested when small young were found at Broomlee Lough on 18th (LGM).

Coot.

Over 300 at Seaton Burn on 3rd decreasing to 187 by 17th (AJ/MRS) 175 at Holywell on 25th (ERM) and 123 adults at Broomlee on 4th (LGM).

Oystercatcher.

500 - 600 in Ross Links area most of month (LGM/TRP). S. passage was observed off Seaton Sluice on several dates with 505 between 4th - 6th, 128 on 16th and 91 on 29th. During the same periods 40S. off Dunstanburgh, small groups S. off Hauxley, 150 gathered at Cresswell. 2 were seen at Broomlee and 1 visited Wallsend Swallow.

Lapwing.

3000 at Blyth on 22nd (CR) and 1500-2000 at Whittle Dene 16th - 25th (B.&M.E/BM/MR). Flocks of up to 300 noted at Earsdon (3rd), Seaton Burn (8th and 17th), Allendale (7th), Linton (12th), Grindon (20th).

Ringed Plover.

Some interesting counts indicating steady passage. No distinct peak was apparent - Max. counts were 86 in Alnmouth/Amble area (J.&R.McC) and 62 in Budle area on 26th (LGM), 30 at Newton on 6th (ERM), 20 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS), 30 at St. Mary's on 11th (BG), 25 at Washington on 9th (ERM) and 24 at Whittle Dene on 18th (JSB et.al). Up to 8 were noted at Holywell and Wallsend Swallow.

Little Ringed Plover.

2 immatures were at Washington on 6th (TRP).

Grey Plover.

Max. count was 53 in Budle Bay on 26th (LGM/KH). Other records were 2 S. at Seaton Sluice on 18th (TJR) and 6 S. Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Golden Plover.

The Whittle Dene flock increased from 400 on 17th to about 1500 by 21st (BM/AJR et.al). 1500 at Blyth on 22nd (CR), 500 in Budle Bay on 26th (LGM/KH), 350 in Allendale on 7th (RG/EL) and 400 at Jarrow Slake, by the end of the month (KR).

Turnstone.

200 at St. Mary's on 11th and 27th (BG). Max. 62 at Cresswell on 25th (LGM) and 50 at Alnmouth on 12th (MSH). Inland records involved 1-3 at Washington most of month (PK/TRP et.al) and 1-2 at Whittle Dene 12th - 18th (JSB).

Snipe.

Largest count was 20 - 30 at Blaydon on 11th (LJM).

Curlew.

Immigration witnessed on 18th when 25 W. over Seghill and 20 W. over St. Mary's (BG) and on 22nd when 6 W. over Hauxley (HRS). On 26th 200 in Budle Bay, 70 at Ross and 200 on Holy Island (LGM/BG/KH). Also noted W. over Ryton on 25th (J.&R.McC).

Whimbrel.

Well reported in a good year for this species. At Seaton Sluice the monthly total was 25 N. and 97 S. with peaks of 18 S. on 5th and 35 S. on 25th (KW/TJR et.al). On latter date 27 S. at Hauxley (HRS) whilst on 18th 2 flocks totalling 53 arrived from the E. at Cresswell (JPD/EML), Up to 8 noted at many other locations as far inland as Ryton.

Black Tailed Godwit.

1 at Cresswell on 25th (JPD/EML) and 1 at South Linton on 27th (LGM).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

350 at Ross on 3rd (TRP). Elsewhere on coast a few records of mainly single birds. 8 at Holywell on 17th was unusual (CED).

Green Sandpiper.

Well reported from 13 localities in parties of 1-3 from between Hauxley in the N., Washington in the S. and Colt Crag in the W. with perhaps a concentration between 11th - 21st. About 22 individuals were involved.

Wood Sandpiper.

Also well reported but from only 8 locations ranging from Monks House in the N., Washington in the S. and only as far inland as Seaton Burn. No more than 2 were seen together with perhaps a total of 12 individuals being reported, mainly after 15th.

Common Sandpiper.

1-3 passage birds noted at several locations mainly coastal during month with 8 at Alnmouth on 12th (ERM/BG et.al).

Redshank.

Largest gatherings occurred towards the end of the month with 200 at Ross (LGM/KH) and 391 at Alnmouth/Amble on 26th (J.&R.McC). 47 at Washington on 6th (TRP).

Spotted Redshank.

Singles noted at Cresswell, Alnmouth, Ross, St. Mary's, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow and Washington all after 14th. 3 at South Linton on 27th (JNP) and 6 at Beal after 25th (J&RMCC/IK).

Greenshank.

Many records of groups of 1-4 particularly after 20th. 6 at Whittle Dene on 25th (MR), was the largest count.

Knot.

156 on Holy Island on 3rd (TRP), 55 on Coquet Estuary on 12th (BG/ERM) and 30 at St. Mary's on 21st (GU). 1-4 noted at other coastal points after 5th with inland records of 1 at Whittle Dene on 21st (AJR) and 1 at S. Linton on 30th (JNP).

Purple Sandpiper.

1 at Seaton Sluice on 25th (ERM). Only record.

Little Stint.

At Cresswell where 5 were present on 22nd July (WGJ) 1 was found on 11th (GU) and 1-2 were present 23rd - 27th (BEP et.al). 2 were at Washington on 9th (TRP).

Pectoral Sandpiper.

Full notes were obtained on 2 that were present at Monks House, Seahouses on 8th. 1 remained from 9th until at least 12th (JHL/AJR/BG/ERM).

Dunlin.

Away from Lindisfarne largest counts were 456 at Alnmouth/Amble on 26th (J.&R.McC) and 90 at Newton Pool on 6th (ERM). Parties of 1 - 10 were frequently noted at Wallsend Swallow, Holywell, Whittle Dene and S. Linton. 50 at Washington on 29th.

Curlew Sandpiper.

1 at Whittle Dene on 14th (J.&R.McC), 1 at Cresswell on 26th/27th (ERM/BEP) and 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 29th (BE/KW).

Sanderling.

80 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS) and 15 at Ross on 26th (IGM/KH), 1-5 at several other coastal points. An unusual record of 1 at Whittle Dene on 26th/27th (MR).

Ruff.

Some interesting gatherings. Washington recorded max. of 33 on 3rd (PK et.al) with 17 at Monks House on 11th (WGJ) when max. 15 at Wallsend Swallow (GU et.al). Max. 13 at Whittle Dene on 17th (AJR et.al) and 25 at Long Nanny Burn, Beadnell on 30th (IK). 1 - 4 at many other locations at or near the coast.

Arctic Skua.

Well reported. Largest counts were at Seaton Sluice with 22 S. on 5th, 60 S. on 11th, 73 S. on 20th (MB/KW et.al) and at Hauxley 20 + on 21st/22nd. Up to 10 noted offshore at many other coastal points.

Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 2 N. on 4th, 6 N. on 20th and 2 on 26th (MB/MRS/KW). 1 off Holy Island on 14th (J&RMCC) and 1 N. Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Pomarine Skua.

1 off Hauxley on 9th (HRS), 1 off Cresswell on 25th (JPD/EML) and 1 off Beadnell on 26th (per BL).

Long Tailed Skua.

1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 11th and 1 S. there on 17th (HW/KW). 1 off Holy Island on 2nd (TRP). All were adults.

Greater Black Backed Gull.

A gathering of 2000 adults at Broomhill on 25th (BG).

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

Steady S. passage off Seaton Sluice on 27th (TJR).

Glaucous Gull.

1 at Cresswell on 5th (MS) and 1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 25th (ABl et.al).

Iceland Gull.

1 at Seaton Sluice on 12th and 1 at South Shields on 30th (ABl).

Little Gull.

Steady passage noted through Holywell with 5 individuals by 24th, then 10 (incl. 3 adults) together on 25th (CED/MN et.al). 1 at Wallsend Swallow all month. 2 S. off Seaton Sluice on 26th (ABl/ERM).

Kittiwake.

500 in Coquet Estuary on 25th (LGM). 300-400 nests at Dunstanburgh (ERM).

Black Tern.

1 at Holywell on 13th (KH) and on 26th 1 on Fenham Flats (LGM/KH) and 1 S. off Holy Island (BG).

Commic Tern.

Max. inland gatherings were 110 at Jarrow Slake on 25th (KR), 110 at Washington on 14th (TRP/PK) with up to 10 at Wallsend Swallow (AJ et.al) and 1 S. at Dinnington in darkness on 30th (ERM).

Little Tern.

Up to 3 notes at Fenham Flats, Bamburgh, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice.

Sandwich Tern.

Steady S. movement of 30/hr. noted at Holy Island on 26th (IK) and St. Mary's next day (BG). 3 at Jarrow Slake on 25th (KR).

Cuckoo.

1 still on the Ottercops on 24th (ERM).

Barn Owl.

4 pairs reared young successfully from 6 nests found in S.E. Northumberland (MSH/JEF et.al). 2 young reared at Ravensworth (LJM).

Long Eared Owl.

1 trapped at Hauxley where it remained from 21st - 25th (HRS). An unusual location for time of year.

Little Owl.

Noted at Hauxley and Killingworth.

Short Eared Owl.

1-2 at Wallsend Swallow after 20th. 1 at Holywell on 15th, 1 at Holy Island on 27th and 1 at Derwent on 28th.

Swift.

An exodus from the breeding areas took place between 10th - 17th. Only a few records by end of the month although 12 were still at Blaydon on 26th (LJM et.al).

Kingfisher.

Noted at Beal (2) and at Mitford (2) (JEF/IK).

Swallow.

Roosts involved 300 at Chevington on 3rd (BL), up to 3000 at Blaydon between 26th - 30th (BG/LJM) and 250 at Holywell most of month (MN). A study area count suggested that 1973 was as good a breeding year as 1972.

House Martin.

40-50 at Colt Crag on 21st (WB/RG) and 50 at Seaton Sluice on 25th (TJR). Both are popular breeding areas.

Sand Martin.

A few at the Blaydon roost on 30th (BG).

Raven.

Pair in Cheviots on 18th (RGL).

Willow Tit.

Noted at Hauxley and Gosforth Park.

Mistle Thrush.

Early autumn 'flocks' involved 19 at Housesteads on 4th (LGM) and 6 at Ross on 5th (MSH).

Blackbird.

A pair feeding recently fledged young in Kenton on 18th. Perhaps a 4th brood (MRS).

Stonechat.

Two broods reared by a pair in Jarrow - a new locality (KR). Noted in usual coastal areas of Hauxley, Chevington and Cresswell in small numbers.

Redstart.

2 passage birds at Jarrow between 19th - 24th (KR).

Sedge Warbler.

Suggested departure of the bulk of the population by 11th from at least the Hauxley area.

Blackcap.

A female still feeding a juvenile at Gosforth on 14th (MRS). Single passage birds at Hauxley on 12th and 20th - 25th and at Priors Park on 14th.

Garden Warbler.

1 at Hauxley on 9th - 12th and 1-2 there and at Priors Park 22nd - 26th.

Whitethroat.

Only records were 1 at Chevington 3rd, 1 at Hauxley 25th, and 2 at Barnburgh 29th.

Lesser Whitethroat.

1 on Holy Island on 26th (BG) and 1 in Gosforth Park on 27th (LGM). Different individuals trapped at Blaydon on 11th and 26th (LJM).

Willow Warbler.

Only suggestion of heavy passage was on 8th when 40-50 were in an orchard at Hexham (EL). Hauxley and Priors Park recorded small influxes on several dates 11th - 26th.

Spotted Flycatcher.

At least 9 pairs bred in Jarrow area (KR). 1 on Holy Island on 26th (BG).

Pied Flycatcher.

Only a few noted on passage. 1 at Earsdon on 10th and 1-2 there 12th - 20th (JEF). Up to 3 noted at Priors Park, Jarrow, St. Mary's, Whitley Bay, Hauxley and Holy Island after 15th with a conspicuous influx on 25th/26th.

Meadow Pipit.

Flock of 300 near Hedgehope, Cheviots on 18th (RGL).

Pied Wagtail.

Flock of 40 E. over Hexham on 20th (MR). 40 roosting at Blaydon on 30th (BG) and an albino (except for grey feathers in wing and dark eye) at Cresswell on 26th/27th (BEP/JNP).

Grey Wagtail.

Singles away from breeding areas at Seaton Delaval on 4th (MSH), at Hauxley 21st (HRS), and at Cullercoats on 15th (B & ME).

Yellow Wagtail.

Still 20 - 30 roosting at Blaydon on 30th (BG).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson, M. Bell, A. Blackett, J.S. Booth, W. Brady, K. Barratt, J.P. Deacon, C.E. Douglas, B. & M. Etherington, J.E. Ferguson, B. Galloway, R. Grey, K. Hutton, M.S. Hodgson, A. James, A. Janes, W.G. Johnson, P. Kelly, B. Little, E.M. Lindsay, R.G. Lewis, J.H. Lawson, L.J. Milton, L.G. Macfarlane, J. & R. McCutcheon, J.D. McElwee, E.R. Meek, B. Martin, M. & J. Nattrass, T.R. Palmer, J.N. Prescott, B.E. Prater, A.J. Richards, C. Robson, K. Robson, T.J. Rose, M.R. Smith, D.L. Sowerbutts, M. Sauer, P. Weighill, K. Walton, H. Wilson, G. Upton, Hauxley Ringing Station.

FIELD TRIPS.

For those members who are going to Loch Leven, a reminder that they should meet the bus at the bottom of Claremont Road (alongside the Hancock Museum) at 6.30.a.m. on Saturday, 20th October. This trip is now fully booked.

A field trip is planned to Greenlee, Broomlee and Hallington on Sunday, NOVEMBER 18th at an approximate cost of 75p. The bus will leave Baxter's Cafe, Tynemouth at 7.30.a.m. and the Hancock Museum at 8.00.a.m.

For further details please contact Brian Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay.

CLUB MEETING - Thursday, 11th October, 1973.

The speaker will be Alan Walker whose subject will be 'The Moulting Migration of Canada Geese.'

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Subscriptions are due on 1st October, and remain at £1.50. for adults, £1.00 for Juniors (16 years and under) and with a special rate of £2.50. for family membership. Cheques, P.O.'s, etc. should be made payable to 'Tyneside Bird Club'.

For those members who were not at the last club meeting, I would like to draw to your attention the fact that the annual subscription may well have to be reviewed during the coming year. Steadily rising costs, particularly of paper and more recently, postage, will add considerably to our expenditure while V.A.T. has already added to the production cost of the Annual Report. The overall situation will, however, be watched closely and will be raised again at the A.G.M.

B. Martin,
Hon. Treasurer,
16, Whitelaw Place,
Cramlington,
NE23 6HX.

R.S.P.B. FILM SHOWS.

This year's films are:-

"Welcome in the Mud", "Flying Birds" and Shetland": "Isles of the Simmer Dim".

They will be shown at the following places.

- (a) WEDNESDAY, 10th October: Newcastle City.
Introduced by James Alder.
- (b) THURSDAY, 11th October: Duchess School, Alnwick.
- (c) FRIDAY, 12th October: King Edward VI Grammar School,
Morpeth.
- (d) SATURDAY, 13th October: Berwick Grammar School.

The shows will commence at 7.30.p.m. and all but the first will be introduced by Ian Armstrong. Tickets at 40p. for adults and 30p. for children and O.A.P.'s can be obtained at the door or from sources displayed locally,

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Subscriptions are due on 1st October, and remain at £1.50. for adults, £1.00 for Juniors (16 years and under) and with a special rate of £2.50. for family membership. Cheques, P.O.s, etc. should be made payable to 'Tyne-side Bird Club'.

For those members who were not at the last club meeting, I would like to draw to your attention the fact that the annual subscription may well have to be reviewed during the coming year. Steadily rising costs, particularly of paper and more recently, postage, will add considerably to our expenditure while V.A.T. has already added to the production cost of the Annual Report. The overall situation will, however, be watched closely and will be raised again at the A.G.M.

B. Martin,
Hon. Treasurer,
16, Whitelaw Place,
Grimston,
NE23 6HX.

R.S.B.R. FILM SHOWS.

This year's films are:-

"Welcome to the Mud", "Tying Birds and Shetland": "Isles of the Summer Day".

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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

September 1973 Bulletin.

SUMMARY.

A brief spell of light E. winds and low cloud between 15th - 17th brought the only reasonable influx of continental passerines of the month although only a few Fieldfares, Wheatears, Whinchats, Redstarts, Willow/Chiffs and Pied Flycatchers were involved with 3 Black Redstarts and 2 Barred Warblers.

Waders were the feature of a rather settled month with Ringed Plover and Little Stint providing the more interesting records.

Sea birds were particularly prominent during spells of N-N.E. winds and heavy seas on 23rd and 30th with some good counts of Gannets, Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, a few duck and skuas.

The same period brought the first Geese followed by Brambling, Redwing, more Fieldfares and both Lapland and Snow Buntings.

The highlight of the month, however, was the re-appearance of the Red Footed Falcon at Lynemouth.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black Throated Diver.

1 N. off Holy Island on 30th (BL).

Diver (sp).

Regular in small numbers at the coast throughout month mainly moving N. or S. offshore. Particularly prominent on 23rd when 15 N. and 3 S. off Seaton Sluice/Hauxley and on 30th when 20 S. off Bamburgh. About 30% were identified as Red Throated.

Great Crested Grebe.

Inland records involved up to 5 at Hallington, 3 at Gosforth Park, 3+ at Brasside and, 1 at Colt Crag (LGM/MSH/DLS et.al). One at Cresswell on 9th was the only coastal record.

Red Necked Grebe.

1 off Seaton Sluice on 3rd (KR) and 1 N. there on 23rd (KW). 1 at Holy Island on 12th (JDC) and 1 at Tynemouth on 16th (KW).

Black Necked Grebe.

3 at Washington on 30th (MS).

Little Grebe.

14-15 on Northumbrian Loughs on 15th and 29th (LGM). Up to 10 noted at Holywell, Blaydon, Woodhorn, Belsay, Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene and Hallington.

Manx Shearwater.

Noted N. all along the coast on 23rd with Seaton Sluice recording 68 in a day long watch (KW et.al). Also 1-4 noted N. on 2nd, 28th and 30th.

Sooty Shearwater.

For the fourth successive year a heavy N. passage was observed, being witnessed at Whitburn, Seaton Sluice, Hauxley, Bamburgh and Holy Island. It commenced on 22nd when 14 N. in 30 mins off Holy Island (R.N). On 23rd a day long watch revealed a total of 159 N. with well over half passing before 0930 hrs. (BRS/HRS/KW et.al). Further sightings involved up to 5 N. off Tynemouth, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 9th, 11th, 15th, 16th and 28th with 16 N. on 30th (BG/JAD/KW/HW et.al).

Fulmar.

60/hr N. off Hauxley on 10th but only 7 N. on 23rd (HRS). 1 S. Whitburn on 30th (DLS).

Gannet.

Plentiful off Holy Island all month with 220 N. in 30 mins on 22nd (RN). Next day heavy early morning passage off Hauxley/Seaton Sluice/Bamburgh peaking at about 1200 per hour (HRS/KW/BRS et.al). Other heavy counts off Bamburgh involved 700/hr. N. on 15th and 300/hr. N. on 29th (BRS).

Shag.

Conspicuous moving N. and S. off Hauxley on 9th.

Heron.

Well reported in groups of 1-4. Suggested passage between 13th - 15th when 10 at Derwent Reservoir (MR), 9 N. over Newcastle, 6 N. at Hauxley (HRS) and 5 at Alnmouth (J. & R.McC).

White Pelican.

The Coquet bird has began to wander occurring at Warkworth, Hauxley, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds. It had returned to Warkworth by 30th.

Mallard.

Steadily increasing as month progressed. Largest counts were 175 at Whittle Dene on 8th (JSB), 300 at Capheaton on 17th (CMA), 125 at Shield-on-Wall on 15th (LGM), 400 at Gosforth on 26th, 154 in Budle Bay on 25th, whilst on 30th, 200 at Derwent (J.&R.McC), 250 at Colt Crag (MSH) and 300 at Holywell (CED/LGM).

Teal.

Offshore N. passage apparent throughout the month but in only small numbers. Max. counts were 42 on 14th, 48 on 23rd and 34 on 30th mainly off Seaton Sluice and Hauxley. Largest inland concentrations were at Holywell, 85-100 after 16th (CED) and Gosforth Park, 200 on 26th (LGM).

Gadwall.

On 10th 6 at Seaton Burn (AJ) and 6 at Blyth (JPD/EML). 2 still at former on 15th (AJ) and 1 at Grindon on 29th (LGM).

Wigeon.

The autumn build-up progressed as small flocks passed N. offshore throughout the month, with peaks of 275 N. off Hauxley on 10th (HRS) and 280 N. off Hauxley/Seaton Sluice on 23rd. By 15th 122 at Broomlee and 245 on the Loughs on 29th (LGM). On 17th 60 at Belsay (WGJ) and between 23rd-30th, 70-85 at Derwent (J.&R.McC). 5000 on Fenham Flats by end of month (per BL).

Pintail.

Between 10th - 30th singles at Holywell, Cresswell, Colt Crag, Broomlee and Greenlee. On 14th 9 N. off Seaton Sluice (ERM), on 15th 12 near Cresswell (JPD/EML), on 26th 5 at Gosforth (LGM) and on 30th 3 at Colt Crag (MSH).

Shoveler.

Up to 65 at Gosforth Park throughout month (LGM/MR et.al) with up to 18 at Seaton Burn (AJ). 17 at Blaydon (JMG/J.&R.McC) on 30th and up to 9 at Washington, Wallsend Swallow, Northumbrian Loughs, Hartburn, Capheaton.

Scaup.

Freshwater sightings involved 1 at Blaydon on 16th (ALG), 2 at Cresswell on 24th (JNP), 1 at Hallington on 28th (CMA) and 2 at Washington on 30th (MS). Offshore passage involved 6 N. off Seaton Sluice on 23rd and 10 N. there on 30th (BG/KW et.al), and 3 N. off Holy Island on 30th (BL).

Tufted Duck.

Counts in excess of 30 were 70-90 at Colt Crag all month (LGM et.al), max 69 at Whittle Dene on 11th (AJ), 37 at Holywell on 10th, 33 on Northumbrian Loughs on 15th, 32 at Bolam on 17th, 47 at Gosforth on 26th and 44 at Sweethope on 28th (CMA).

Pochard.

28 at Wingates on 2nd, 110 on Northumbrian Loughs on 15th at 35 at Gosforth on 26th (LGM). Only 45 on Loughs by 29th.

Goldeneye.

Only record was 1 at Holywell on 30th (CED).

Long Tailed Duck.

1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 30th (BG/ABI/KW et.al).

Velvet Scoter.

Singles N. Seaton Sluice/Hauxley on 13th, 14th and 28th (HRS/JPD/EML). 4 N. off Annstead on 4th (BRS).

Common Scoter.

40 at Holy Island on 23rd (RN). Small numbers moving offshore all month with 73 N. off Seaton Sluice on 14th (ERM) being by far the largest count.

Eider.

300 off Hauxley most of month.

Red Breasted Merganser.

Mainly singles N. on several dates but 12 N. and 4 S. off Seaton Sluice on 2nd. 13 off Holy Island on 23rd.

Goosander.

An unusual gathering of 53 on Tunstall Reservoir on 26th (CMA). Up to 9 noted still in breeding areas at Bardon Mill, Bellingham and N. Tyne until at least 18th.

Shelduck.

Only record of interest was 1 at Holywell on 26th (M. & J.N).

Grey Geese (sp.).

Unidentified flocks of 250 W. over South Shields on 14th (AT), 14 S. at Tynemouth on 20th (KW) and 100 S. over Cheviots on 30th (per BL).

Grey Lag Goose.

3 at Hallington 22nd - 28th (CMA/LGM) and 60 N. at Hauxley on 30th (IK).

Pink Footed Goose.

1 made a brief visit to Holywell on 15th (JEF/BG), 1 N.E. over Grindon on 30th (MR) when 5 N. off Seaton Sluice (KW/BG/AB1).

Barnacle Goose.

2 S. at Seaton Sluice on 18th (AJ).

Canada Goose.

38 at Hallington on 22nd (LGM) increasing to 63 by 28th (CMA).

Mute Swan.

7 large young with pair at Belsay but at Bolam only 2 reared after vandals had killed 5 cygnets and possibly 1 adult (CMA).

Whooper Swan.

A very early record of 2 S. over Tynemouth on 10th (KW).

Buzzard.

Singles at Linhope on 2nd (BL), at Blaydon on 2nd and 9th (LJM/BL), at Corbridge on 10th (BL) and 2 at Slaggyford on 23rd (J.&R.McC).

Sparrowhawk.

18 records of single birds both inland and at the coast with 1 taking a Dunlin on the beach at Hauxley on 14th being the most interesting. 3 at Slaggyford on 23rd (J.&R.McC) 3 coastal birds on 15th-16th may have been on passage.

Hobby.

1 at Cresswell on 3rd (MSH).

Peregrine.

1 at Slaley on 17th (per BL) and possibly the same over Derwent on 23rd (J.&R.McC).

Merlin.

Singles noted at Budle Bay, Togston, Cresswell, Dinnington, Burradon, East Newcastle and Washington all but two of which were after 20th.

Kestrel.

Up to 5 both on Holy Island and in the Cresswell/Druridge area during the month (ERM/LGM/HK), On 3rd a bird on Holy Island was flushed from its prey which proved to be a Water Shrew (ERM).

Red Footed Falcon.

A remarkable re-appearance of the Lynemouth bird as it was watched for some time hunting over the fields between Lynemouth and Cresswell on 21st (TW). Previously it had not been reported since late July.

Red Legged Partridge.

2 at Stannington on 28th (JNP). Successful breeding was reported by keepers in this area where a further 20 have been released this 'season'.

Water Rail.

2 heard in Gosforth on 26th (LGM).

Coot.

350-420 at Seaton Burn most of month (ERM/AJ). Max. elsewhere were 200 at Holywell on 10th (AJ et.al). 303 at Broomlee on 29th (LGM), 300 at Grindon on 30th (LGM) when at least 300 at Sweethope (MSH). Other large counts involved 78 at Capheaton on 17th (CMA) and 91 at Wingates on 22nd (LGM).

Oystercatcher.

40-50 at St. Mary's after 12th, 55 at Cresswell on 14th and 170 between Beadnell and Howick on 30th (JB).

Lapwing.

1000 near Seaton Sluice on 10th (JPD/EML), 1500 at Whittle Dene on 11th (AJ), 400 at Holywell on 12th (CED), 1000 at Seaton Burn on 21st (AJ) and 500 at Dudley on 23rd (BG).

Ringed Plover.

Largest coastal counts were made on 14th-16th when 91 near Beadnell, 96 at Alnmouth/Amble, and 50 at Hauxley. Passage was also apparent on 9th/10th when 21 came in high from the N.W. at Hauxley and 20 were well inland at Whittle Dene (MR). By 30th still 79 between Beadnell and Howick (JB).

Grey Plover.

1-6 at Hauxley, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice, St. Mary's and more unusually Washington Ponds all month. 11 N. at Hauxley on 23rd.

Golden Plover.

2000 at Whittle Dene on 10th/11th (BG/AJ), 600 at Jarrow Slake on 2nd and 4th (KR/MSH) and 150 on Holy Island on 23rd (RN). A few records of flocks of up to 40 as far inland as Housesteads.

Turnstone.

327 between Beadnell-Howick on 30th (JB) and inland records of 1 at Washington on 3rd (PW), and 1 at Whittle Dene on 8th (JSB).

Common Snipe.

50-60 at Whittle Dene after 8th (JSB), 30-40 at Blaydon most of month (LJM) and 40 at Washington on 7th (MSH).

Jack Snipe.

An early record of 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 23rd (M.&J.N).

Curlew.

60 at Newton on 9th (BG).

Whimbrel.

Between 1st - 20th small parties moving mainly S. over coast with 11 S. over Seaton Sluice on 8th being largest daily count.

Bar Tailed Godwit.

Away from Lindisfarne largest gatherings were 20 at Hauxley on 14th and 10 at St. Mary's on 16th. At Holywell Ponds 2 were present on 1st and 1 on 10th.

Green Sandpiper.

1-2 at Milbourne, Bothal, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow, Whittle Dene, Washington and Boldon, mainly before 13th.

Wood Sandpiper.

1-2 at Wallsend Swallow, Holywell and Washington between 1st - 8th. 4 together at Milbourne on 10th (WGJ). A late bird at Washington on 29th (MSH).

Common Sandpiper.

1-7 at several locations until late in the month. Still 1 at Haltwhistle on 29th (LGM et.al).

Redshank.

On 14th/15th 191 at Alnmouth/Amble, 65 at Hauxley and 65 at Cresswell. On 30th, 108 between Beadnell and Howick. 150 at Jarrow Slake most of month.

Spotted Redshank.

Well reported though not in large numbers. Holywell Ponds was the most attractive area where they were present from 1st - 16th with a max. of 5 on 8th (CED et.al), 1-3 also noted at Lindisfarne, Boulmer, Alnmouth, Cresswell, Chevington, Amble, Seaton Sluice, and Wallsend Swallow. One at Broomlee Lough on 15th (LGM) was particularly unusual.

Greenshank.

Well reported particularly early in the month when 1-2 were at the usual locations at or near the coast. 5 were at Wallsend Swallow on 1st (KR), 6 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (ERM) and 8 at Alnmouth on 19th (LGM). The only record after 19th was of 1 at Haltwhistle on 29th (LGM).

Knot.

250 at St. Mary's on 12th (AJ) though only 55 there by end of month. 30 at Hauxley on 9th (HRS) and 35 at Cresswell on 14th (BG). Inland sightings involved singles at each of S. Linton and Wallsend Swallow on 2nd (JNP/CED/AJ) and 2 at Washington on 7th (MSH).

Purple Sandpiper.

1 at Cresswell on 1st (BEP), 7 at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS) and 10 at St. Mary's on 15th (BG).

Little Stint.

Many records from Cresswell (up to 5 almost daily), St. Mary's (1-2, 10th - 15th) Wallsend Swallow (1-2, 17th - 30th) and Washington (1-5 until 29th/30th when at least 16 present). Also noted at Hauxley (2 on 10th), Long Nanny (8 on 16th, Holywell (1 on 18th, 4 on 25th) and Whittle Dene (3 on 14th).

Dunlin.

Coastal counts away from Lindisfarne involved interesting concentrations of 200 at Alnmouth on 2nd, 400 at Hauxley on 14th and 100 at St. Mary's on 15th. Inland Whittle Dene attracted at max. of 48 on 14th, Wallsend Swallow 34 on 10th, Holywell 30 on 10th, Hallington 50 on 28th and Washington 100 on 30th. Also noted at Derwent, Grindon and Broomlee.

Curlew Sandpiper.

Up to 10 at Washington 1st-4th (PK/MSH), 1 at S. Linton on 2nd (LGM), 1 at Cresswell on 4th and 19th (JNP), 4 on Fenham Flats on 10th (PK), 3 at Long Nanny on 16th (LGM) and 1 near Beadnell on 30th (JB).

Sanderling.

60 at Holy Island on 23rd (RN), up to 45 at Hauxley 8th-14th (BEP/HRS) and 44 at St. Mary's on 21st (JPD/EML).

Ruff.

Most plentiful at Washington with max. 20 on 4th (MSH) and still 11 there on 25th (PK), 11 at Alnmouth on 19th (LGM/KH), 10 at Holywell on 25th (AT). 6 at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJ). 1-2 at Cresswell and Wallsend Swallow until about 23rd with 6 at former on 2nd/3rd (BEP et.al), 1-4 also noted at Fenham Flats, S. Linton, Whittle Dene, Grindon (16th) and St. Mary's.

Arctic Skua.

Common offshore all month with heavy S. passage on 9th when 96 passed Seaton Sluice with a further 29 S. there on 30th. N. passage was more apparent on 15th and 23rd when about 20 N. off Bamburgh, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice.

Pomarine Skua.

Singles off St. Mary's on 4th (JPD), off Holy Island on 13th (JDC), Hauxley on 15th (HRS) and Seaton Sluice on 30th (AB1/BG/KW).

Great Skua.

Between 2nd-30th 1-2, mainly N. off Annstead, Holy Island, Hauxley, Lynemouth and Seaton Sluice. 5 S. off Dunstanburgh on 16th.

Long Tailed Skua.

An adult N. over Bamburgh on 14th (BRS) and an unconfirmed report of 1 over Whitley Bay on 4th (per AB1).

Great Black Backed Gull.

Daytime roost of 6-7000 adults near Blyth on 23rd and steady N. movement off Seaton Sluice on 30th (BG).

Glaucous Gull.

1 off Holy Island on 29th (BL).

Little Gull.

1 at Holywell on 1st (ANI) and 13th (BEP). 1 at Wallsend Swallow until 5th (AJ/ERM et.al). At Hauxley 1 on 8th, 1 N. on 10th and 3 N. on 22nd (HRS). 2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 30th (BG/AB1/KW et.al).

Black Tern.

An interesting record of 1 at Swethope Lough on 28th (CMA).

Commic Tern.

Still a few offshore at end of the month but not so plentiful as in previous years. Inland records of 20 at Washington on 3rd (PW) and 1 at Killingworth 26th-30th (JDMcE).

Little Tern.

Singles off Seaton Sluice on 22nd/23rd (KW).

Sandwich Tern.

S. passage apparent all month with 250/hr. off Cresswell on 6th (KR), up to 220/hr. off Hauxley on 11th (HRS) and still passing in good numbers on 16th. A few S. at St. Marys/Seaton Sluice on 22nd/23rd.

Auk (sp).

Heavy N. passage during morning of 23rd with 450 in 2 hrs. off Hauxley and up to 100/hr. off Seaton Sluice. Only a few moving in the afternoon.

Barn Owl.

A pair made an unsuccessful attempt at hatching a second clutch of 5 eggs at North Shields early in the month. The eggs were eventually deserted. A most unusual occurrence.

Little Owl.

Noted at Holy Island (9th-16th), Hauxley and Shiremoor.

Short Eared Owl.

1-3 at Holy Island, Dunstanburgh, Cresswell, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow and Seghill between 1st-25th.

Swift.

6 at Blaydon on 2nd (LJM), 1 at Morpeth on 3rd (BL), 1 at Cressell on 8th (BEP) and 1 over West Denton on 19th (IK).

Kingfisher.

Singles noted at Bothal and Mitford (JEF).

Swallow.

Still 2-3000 roosting at Blaydon on 15th reducing to 300 by 23rd (LJM/BG), 300 at Woodhorn on 25th (CMA). The comment in the August bulletin should have stated that 1973 was not as good a breeding year as 1972, based on comparative counts in a study area.

House Martin.

Gathering of 100 at Bellingham on 23rd (BL).

Sand Martin.

A few roosting at Blaydon on 5th (BG) and a very late bird near Seahouses on 21st (BL).

Raven.

1 over Slaley on 17th (per BL).

Carrion Crow.

Roost of 35 at Gosforth on 26th (LGM).

Blue Tit.

Prominent at Hauxley all month suggesting coastal movement with max. of 20 on 25th (HRS).

Willow Tit.

Noted at Cresswell on 15th (JPD) and at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Long Tailed Tit.

Flocks of 10-30 noted at Dipton, Bolam, Gosforth and Craster.

Nuthatch.

Up to 6 at Wallington during month (M&JN).

Treecreeper.

A passage bird at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Wren.

Light passage noted at Hauxley and Tynemouth all month.

Mistle Thrush.

Flocks of 10-30 noted in North Shields (2nd - 7th), Wark Forest (8th), Otterburn (15th) and Threestone Burn (30th).

Fieldfare.

First noted on 15th/16th when 2 on Holy Island, 1 at Bamburgh and 1 at Hauxley. 25 at Sweethope on 26th and 25 at Threestone Burn on 30th.

Redwing.

Light immigration on 29th/30th with small parties arriving at Holy Island, moving W. over Cramlington and Denton Burn and a gathering of 200 near Wooler.

Ring Ousel.

1 still at Bellingham on 23rd (per BL) and an immigrant at Hauxley on 16th (HRS).

Blackbird.

A suggested small scale arrival on 28th/29th when influxes were recorded at Slaley and Holy Island.

Wheatear.

Only suggestion of arrivals were 15 at Cresswell on 9th (IK) and 25 on Holy Island on 16th (KW).

Stonechat.

Regular in Druridge Bay all month and also noted at Dunstanburgh, Inland 1 at Swinhoe on 29th (KW) and 3 at Wallsend Swallow on 25th (JDMcE).

Whinchat.

A light influx on 16th with 13 on Holy Island, 7 at Tynemouth and 10 at Hauxley. Singles still at Holy Island on 29th and at Whitburn on 30th.

Redstart.

A light influx along the coast on 15th/16th with up to 20 on Holy Island, 6 near Beadnell, 16 at Hauxley, 7 at Priors Park and 1-3 at many other localities.

Black Redstart.

2 on Holy Island on 16th (ABI/LGM et.al).

Robin.

Steady light passage through Hauxley and Tynemouth on many dates between 8th-25th.

Reed Warbler.

An unstreaked 'acrocephalus' warbler at Priors Park on 13th was of the reed/marsh type (MSH).

Icterine Warbler.

1 on Holy Island on 16th (JDC).

Sedge Warbler.

A late bird at Blaydon on 15th (LJM).

Blackcap.

Steady passage through Hauxley and Tynemouth all month with at least 10 involved at both locations. At Holy Island 4 on 16th and 1 on 29th.

Barred Warbler.

1 trapped at Tynemouth on 3rd (MSH/KGD) and 2 at Hauxley on 16th/17th (HRS).

Garden Warbler.

Steady passage in small numbers through Hauxley and Tynemouth until 19th with no more than 3 present on any one day. 1 trapped at Tynemouth on 15th was carrying a Belgian ring. 1-2 also noted on Holy Island (9th) and Blyth (19th).

Whitethroat.

Only 4 records. Singles at Killingworth on 7th, at Hauxley and at Denton on 9th and at Widdrington on 14th.

Lesser Whitethroat.

1 at Hauxley on 9th (HRS).

Willow/Chiff.

10 at Tynemouth on 3rd and a further influx there and at Hauxley on 8th (no more than 10). A light fall on 16th with 3-4 at many coastal locations and a Willow Warbler in sub song at Denton on same day.

Chiffchaff.

1 at Hauxley on 14th.

Goldcrest.

Coastal influxes apparent at Holy Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth on 9th/10th (10-12), 12th/13th (up to 15) and 16th-25th (up to 12). Also 12 at Craster on 30th (IK).

Spotted Flycatcher.

A light arrival on 15th/16th with singles at Holy Island, Hauxley, Blyth, Whitley Bay and Tynemouth. 2 still at Tynemouth by the end of the month.

Pied Flycatcher.

Light coastal passage most of the month particularly apparent at Tynemouth though no more than 2 on any day. Small influxes all down the coast on 15th-17th when 4 at each of Holy Island, Hauxley and Druridge.

Yellow Wagtail.

200 roosting at Blaydon on 2nd (LJM). Last record was 1 at South Linton on 9th (IGM).

Meadow Pipit.

Steady S. passage at Hauxley on 15th (HRS).

Tree Pipit.

1-2 at Blaydon on 9th (BL), at Holy Island on 13th (JDC) and at Hauxley on 11th and 16th (HRS).

Pied Wagtail.

300 roosting at Blaydon on 23rd (LJM) and 40 at Durham Sewage Farm on 30th (DLS)

White Wagtail.

2 at St. Mary's on 3rd (KR) and 1 at Whitley Bay on 23rd (ABI).

Grey Wagtail.

1 at Hauxley on 17th (HRS).

Goldfinch.

Flocks of 10-20 noted at Wingates, Holywell and Birtley.

Siskin.

A flock at Bellingham reached a max. of 200 on 22nd (per BL).

Linnet.

100-150 at Hauxley between 11th - 23rd (HRS).

Redpoll.

Flock of 125 at Langleeford on 8th (IGM).

Brambling.

Party of 5 at Craster on 30th (IK).

Corn Bunting.

Roost of 60 at Bamburgh on 16th (IGM).

Lapland Bunting.

1 on Holy Island on 30th (BL).

Snow Bunting.

1 at Hauxley on 16th (HRS), 1 at Holy Island on 29th/30th (BL/PK) and 1 at Dunstanburgh on 30th (IK).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson, J.S. Booth, M. Bell, A. Blackett, J. Bacon, J.D. Craggs, J.P. Deacon, C.E. Douglas, K.G. Dures, J.E. Ferguson, B. Galloway, A.L. Gibson, J.M. Gibson, K. Hutton, M.S. Hodgson, A. Janes, A. James, W.G. Johnson, I. Kerr, P. Kelly, B. Little, E.M. Lindsay, E.R. Meek, L.G. Macfarlane, J.D. McElwee, L.J. Milton, J. & R. McCutcheon, R. Norman, M. & J. Nattrass, J.N. Prescott, B.E. Prater, A.J. Richards, M. Richardson, K. Robson, M. Skilleter, D.L. Sowerbutts, A. Temple, H. Wilson, K. Walton, P. Weighill.

All October records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, NE15 7RD. by November 9th, please.

A Club Constitution.

Although the Club has developed and increased its membership considerably during the last few years it still lacks a formal Constitution or any rules regulating procedures. During the summer the Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss this very problem as it is felt that whilst we are still an informal organisation it is desirable that in the interests of both the Members and the Committee some form of laid down procedures should exist for conducting Club business. The enclosed document is a proposed draft Constitution prepared by your Committee for your observations and criticisms. It is not an unduly formal document and is intended to be a set of rules for the guidance of Members and Committee alike and covers such matters as aims of the Club, holding of meetings, election and duties of Officers, etc.

The Committee propose that this draft form the basis of a Club Constitution and wish to receive not later than the end of December your observations, suggestions and criticisms of this working document in writing. The Committee undertakes to consider all letters received and will amend the draft to include all worthwhile suggestions; it is felt that to debate the draft at a Club meeting would not necessarily result in those suggestions of greatest merit being considered sufficiently.

Early next year it is then proposed to circulate the amended proposed Constitution to all Members and to vote on whether this document is acceptable as a Club Constitution by a show of hands at the Annual General Meeting in 1974.

There is no laid down procedure for presenting the Club with a proposal such as this and the Committee feel that the method outlined above is fair in that it gives everyone an opportunity of suggesting improvements to the draft and of ultimately showing their approval/disapproval of the final document by a straight vote at the A.G.M. One of the proposals in the draft Constitution is in fact that after April 1974 all future A.G.M's be held in October to coincide with the beginning of the Club's Financial Year.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A reminder that subs. became due on 1st October. Rates are £1.50. for adults, £1.00 for Juniors (16 years and under) and £2.80. for family membership.

B. Martin, Hon. Treasurer,
16 Whitelaw Place,
Cramlington,
NE23 6HX.

this situation as quickly as possible.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

October 1973, Bulletin.

Summary.

The month began with the appearance of a Yellow Browed Warbler, in Westerly weather, on 1st but an intensifying High Pressure area moving steadily S. over the continent between 3rd - 7th resulted in the heaviest fall of passerines of the autumn. Redwings, Robins, Goldcrests and Bramblings were the most plentiful but 'unusuals' and rarities included an Osprey, Ring Ousels, Black Redstarts, 1 Bluethroat, 3 Yellow Browed Warblers, 4 Firecrests, 3 Red Breasted Flycatchers, 5 Great Grey Shrikes, Scarlet Grosbeak, 3 Reed Warblers, and a Bittern whilst Wigeon were moving N. in large numbers.

Strong N - N.E. winds after 8th brought a heavy passage of Skuas, including several Pomarine, but a reversion to S.E. winds and low cloud on 13th/14th brought another fall of passerines this time including a Hoopoe, a Bluethroat, an Icterine, many Blackcaps, 3 Black Redstarts, 3 Barred Warblers, 2 Great Grey Shrikes and 2 Lapland Buntings. Whooper Swans began to increase about this time and a few Long Tailed Ducks began to appear inland. The last 10 days of the month brought more Westerly conditions and the only passerine influx of note was an arrival of Thrushes after 28th but wildfowl did become more numerous and a Surf Scotar appeared off Bamburgh on 25th with a large group of Common Scoter. A Mediterranean Gull on 27th terminated a very interesting month when over 160 different species were reported by over 60 observers.

Classified List.

Great Northern Diver.

1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 10th (HW) and 1 on the sea there on 27th (RGL).

Red Throated Diver.

Many records of Diver (sp) most of which were presumed to be Red Throated. 12 in Alnmouth Bay on 6th (NJP et.al), 12 N. off Hauxley on 4th (HRS). Between 13th - 17th 40 seen off Holy Island (NRG), 15 off Druridge (MSH), and 65 N. off Seaton Sluice (HW). Several other records of up to 5 off other coastal points.

Great Crested Grebe.

Inland still 4 at Hallington on 14th (RG et.al). At coast 1-2 off Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG), 2 in Budle Bay on 20th (PK) and 1 off Bamburgh on 25th (MH).

Red Necked Grebe.

1-2 in Holy Island/Bamburgh area between 14th - 29th (NRG et.al).

Slavonian Grebe.

3 off Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG et.al).

Little Grebe.

Most numerous on Northumbrian Loughs with max. of 12 on 15th (LGM). 1-4 noted at Alnmouth, Wallsend Swallow, Holywell, Washington, Durham, Capheaton and Belsay.

Manx Shearwater.

1 N. off St. Mary's on 21st (AC).

Sooty Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice 2 S. on 9th, 1 N. on 13th and 18 S. on 10th (HW/KW).

Fulmar.

On 13th 1 N. off Seaton Sluice (KW) and a dark phase bird N. off Foxton (NJP et.al). 1 off Holy Island on 14th (NRG) and a few N. off Bamburgh on 28th (KW).

Gannet.

Both adults and immatures still prominent off N.E. Northumberland on 28th.

Cormorant.

Inland records involved up to 5 on the Tyne at Blaydon after 16th (AJR), 1 at Hallington on 21st (LGM) and 2 at Colt Crag on 27th (MR).

Shag.

An interesting count of 42 between Beadnell and Howick on 24th (JB).

White Pelican.

Still present at Warkworth at the end of the month.

Heron.

Well reported, mainly as singles but up to 5 at each of Gosforth, Holywell, and Coquet Estuary, up to 7 in Holy Island area and 7 at Derwent Reservoir.

Bittern.

1 being mobbed by gulls on the riverbank at Berwick on 7th (per IHA) and on 19th 1 flying over Fenham Flats was seen to take cover in the Spartina grass (EP).

Flamingo.

1 at Whittle Dene on 31st (MR).

Mallard.

Some interesting gatherings as the month progressed. Largest was 700 at Colt Crag on 27th (MR), with 400 at Capheaton on 21st (LGM), 350 at Holywell on 20th (CED), 300 at Gosforth on 31st (AJM), 300 at Belsay on 17th (WGJ) and 150-200 at Hallington, Northumbrian Loughs and Fontburn after 21st (LGM/CMA).

Teal.

540 at Holburn Moss on 25th (CMA) was by far the largest gathering. 40-50 noted at locations as far apart as Grindon, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Gosforth and Holywell mainly after mid-month.

Gadwall.

A pair at Grindon on 27th (AJR).

Wigeon.

Heavy N. passage noted off Hauxley, Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's between 4th-8th with a peak on 4th/5th when a total of 1675 were counted. 111 N. off latter on 13th (HW/HRS/BG). By end of the month at least 7000 on Lindisfarne Reserve whilst inland concentrations in excess of 50 involved 200-300 on Northumbrian Loughs after 15th (LGM) and 200 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (RG et.al).

Pintail.

Between 9th - 14th 3 at Gosforth (BEP/KW), a drake at Holywell after 14th was joined by a female on 23rd (CED/BEP et.al), a pair at Holy Island on 14th (NRG), 2 at Northumbrian Loughs on 15th and 27th, 3 at Capheaton on 21st and 6 at Holburn Moss on 28th (LGM et.al).

Shoveler.

25 at Wallsend Swallow on 24th (AC/AJn) with 48 at Seaton Burn on 31st when 120 at Gosforth (AJm/KW). 1-6 noted at Grindon, Holywell and Hallington and an interesting gathering of 184 at Hoselaw (just over the N.W. Border) on 28th (LGM et.al).

Scaup.

N. passage noted off Hauxley on 4th (9) and on 28th (30), off Seaton Sluice on 13th (102) and off Holy Island on 28th (42). Inland records of single females all occurred on 27th, at Hallington, Colt Crag and Holywell.

Tufted Duck.

87, at Hallington on 21st, was the largest gathering but 50-60 noted at Northumbrian Loughs on 15th, Whittle Dene on 14th and Holywell Ponds on 27th.

Pochard.

Up to 30 noted at Derwent, Langley, Northumbrian Loughs, Bolam, Holywell and Killingworth. 50 at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR) and 105 at Gosforth on 31st (AJm), 4 N. over St. Mary's on 4th (BG).

Goldeneye.

10 on Northumbrian Loughs on 15th (LGM) and 30 N. off St. Mary's on 17th (NJP) but not well reported until 20th/24th when up to 10 at Derwent/Whittle Dene, up to 13 at Holywell, 86 on 5 waters between Rayburn Lake and Colt Crag, 20 off Alnmouth and 40 N. off Seaton Sluice. On 31st 25 N. off Tynemouth.

Long Tailed Duck.

2 N. off Cresswell and 6 N. off Whitburn on 11th (NJP) with several off Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG). 52 off Ross by 28th (KW) with up to 4 off Hauxley/Seaton Sluice after 20th.

An unusual number of inland records involved 1 at S. Linton 11th - 16th (JNP/MSH) 1 on Cresswell Pond 11th-31st with 2 there on 23rd (BEP/ALG/JMG et.al), 1 at Killingworth 24th-26th (J.D.McE) and 1 at Colt Crag on 27th (MR).

Velvet Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 2 N. on 10th (BG) 9 N. on 12th (HW), 3 N. on 21st (AC) and 1 there on 24th (BEP). 3 in Druridge Bay on 15th (MSH), 1 N. off Hauxley on 20th (HRS). Off Holy Island/Bamburgh, 1 on 14th (NRG), 7 on 21st (ML) and up to 10 after 25th (MH et.al).

Surf Scoter.

An adult drake located in a flock of Common Scoter off Bamburgh on 25th was still present on November 11th, (MH/AJPG et.al). This is the second record for Northumberland, the first being seen off Cheswick in 1945.

Common Scoter.

Most numerous off Bamburgh/Ross with about 800 present after 27th (BG/ERM et.al). N. passage noted on 9 dates off many points with peaks of 136 on 5th, 80 on 11th and 70 on 24th. Small numbers on the sea off Alnmouth, Cresswell, St. Mary's most of month.

Eider.

At least 1000 off Ross most of month (BG/AJo et.al). One found dead there had two crabs legs stuck in its throat (AJo).

Red Breasted Merganser.

Noted on most days. 40 in Holy Island/Ross area mainly after 13th and up to 10, mainly N., off other points so far S. as Tynemouth.

Goosander.

Inland 2 at Durham on 17th (ML), 17 at Derwent on 20th (RG/WB/EL), 23 at Colt Crag on 21st (LGM) and 5-8 on R. Tyne at Hexham - Corbridge on 28th - 30th (MR). Offshore 6 at Holy Island on 13th/14th and 1 N. at Hauxley on 24th.

Shelduck.

Inland records of 1 at Holywell on 7th (CED), 1 at Derwent on 28th (MR) and 2 at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJm). 40 on Fenham Flats on 13th with a further 31 N. (NRG).

Grey Lag Goose.

40 N. over Washington on 7th (MS), 8 at Nafferton on 8th (RH), and at Hallington 7 on 14th increasing to 65 by 21st (RG/AJn et.al). 63 at nearby Colt Crag also on 27th (MR). 3000 at Cornhill on 28th when 200 at Holburn Moss (LGM).

White Fronted Goose.

1 appeared with the Holywell Whoopers on 20th and remained until at least 31st (AC/PW et.al).

Bean Goose.

An interesting record of 1 on Fenham Flats on 25th (ALG/JMG).

Pink Footed Goose.

150 in Holy Island area on about 7th (per BL). 1 at Cornhill on 28th (LGM).

Brent Goose.

6 off Holy Island on 12th but only 2 present on 13th/14th (NRG).

Barnacle Goose.

About 150 in Holy Island area on about 7th (per BL) and on 9th 22 N. over Fenham Flats (MW). 3 at Derwent 13th-31st (Per BL).

Canada Goose.

Away from Sweethope/Colt Crag/Hallington area where a max. of 72 was noted on 14th (RG et.al). There were 2 at Cresswell on 11th (JEF) and 12 at Alnmouth on 12th (per BG).

Whooper Swan.

On 1st 5 at Cresswell (BG) and 12 at Holywell (JEF/MDR) where the numbers steadily increased to 58 by 30th (BEP/PW et.al). On 4th 3 W. over Milbourne and 7 W. over Hexham next day (WGJ/RG). By 14th 32 at Lindisfarne, where they increased to 65 by 29th (IHA) NRG et.al), and on 15th 27 on Northumbrian Loughs where they increased to 64 by 27th (LGM/AJR/MR). On 21st 21 at Rayburn Lake (CMA/LGM) and by 27th/28th 26 at Sweethope (AJn), 17 at Carham and 35 at Cornhill (LGM). Up to 7 at Havannah, Belsay and Colt Crag after 14th.

Bewicks Swan.

4 at Halleypike on 27th (LGM) was only record.

Golden Eagle.

An immature seen near Wooler on 21st being mobbed by Rooks (PK).

Buzzard.

1 in College Valley on 7th (per BL).

Sparrowhawk.

1-2 birds reported from 13 different locations inland and coastal.

Hen Harrier.

A 'ringtail' at Wark Forest on 15th (LGM) and another at Slaley on 18th (per BL). On 27th a male flew out to sea over Budle Point being mobbed by Crows (BG/ERM/BRS).

Osprey.

1 made a prolonged visit to Holywell Ponds on 7th where it was watched fishing spending much of its time perched on a fence post (CED).

Peregrine.

1 at Nafferton on 8th (RH) and 1 at Slaley on 18th (per BL).

Merlin.

1-2 noted from some 15 locations, mainly coastal although singles were noted at Nafferton, Felton, Cornhill with 2 over urban estates at Kenton and Fenham.

Kestrel.

Well reported from widespread locations.

Black Grouse.

1 shot at Slaley on 18th - a new area (per BL).

Water Rail.

Singles at Wallsend Swallow (all month), Seaton Burn (25th) and Gosforth Park (31st). 1 on the coast near Foxton on 13th (NJP).

Coot.

500 at Seaton Burn most of month (AJm) with 250 at Sweethope on 8th/9th (ERM/CED), 300-360 on Northumbrian Loughs 15th-27th (LGM) and up to 100 at Holywell, Capheaton, Bolam, Rayburn and Carham (R. Tweed).

Oystercatcher.

100 at Cresswell on 1st and 105 at St. Mary's on 7th (BG). 50 at Alnmouth on 24th (ERM) when 146 between Howick - Beadnell (JB).

Lapwing.

S. passage noted over Holy Island on 7th (100) and on 14th (200). Between 7th - 27th flocks of 500 at Druridge, Corbridge, Holywell, Seaton Burn and Cramlington. On 13th 3000 near Felton (BG/ERM) and on 19th 1300 at Nafferton (RH).

Ringed Plover.

Flock of 100 on Holy Island on 14th (NRG) and on 24th 81 between Howick and Beadnell (JB) with 80 at Alnmouth (ERM).

Grey Plover.

70 at Holy Island on 13th (NRG), 10 at Hauxley on 28th and up to 6 at Alnmouth, Amble, Cresswell and St. Mary's most of month.

Golden Plover.

Well reported. A peak of 5000 in Druridge Bay area on 16th (MSH et.al), 2200 at Nafferton on 19th (RH) and up to 500 at Holy Island, Stannington, Otterburn, Gunnerton, Beadnell and Burradon on many dates.

Turnstone.

170 at St. Mary's on 7th (BG) and 215 between Howick-Beadnell on 24th (JB).

Common Snipe.

An interesting concentration at Whittle Dene peaking at 143 on 14th with still 101 on 20th (JSB). 36 at Cresswell on 6th (LGM) and 30 on Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG).

Jack Snipe.

Singles at Whittle Dene on 14th and 28th (JSB), at Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG) and at Wallsend Swallow on 22nd-27th (AC/AJn).

Woodcock.

Singles at Holy Island on 13th/14th and at Hauxley on 19th/20th and 24th.

Curlew.

200 at Holy Island on 8th (MW) and 70 at Seahouses on 17th. 65 between Beadnell and Howick on 24th (JB).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

Up to 2000 at Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG).

Green Sandpiper.

All records were from rivers/streams. 1 near Kirkley Hall on 5th, (AHB) 1 at Milbourn on 10th and 16th (WGJ), 1 at Durham on 17th and 31st (ML) and 1-2 in Corbridge/Hexham area after 16th (MR).

Common Sandpiper.

A late bird on Holy Island on 8th (MW).

Redshank.

115 at Alnmouth on 6th (NJP) and 103 between Howick-Beadnell on 24th (JB).

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay on 7th (JNP/BRS).

Greenshank.

On 7th 3 in Budle Bay (MW) and 3 at St. Mary's (BG/AC). On 13th 3 on Holy Island (NRG) and 1 at Alnmouth (NJP) with 1 at Washington on 14th (ML) 1 at Amble on 27th (J.&R.McC).

Little Stint.

Singles at Wallsend Swallow from 12th-25th (AC/AJ/BG), at Cresswell on 10th (BEP) and at St. Mary's on 7th (BG), 6 at Washington on 1st (PK).

Purple Sandpiper.

80 at St. Mary's on 7th (BG), 20 at Holy Island on 14th (NRG), 56 Beadnell - Howick on 24th (JB) and 70 at Bamburgh on 27th (BG).

Dunlin.

A few thousand at Lindisfarne on 13th/14th. Inland up to 20 at Holywell, Wallsend Swallow and Hallington.

Curlew Sandpiper.

1 on Holy Island on 14th (NRG).

Sanderling.

130 at St. Mary's on 7th and 16th (BG/MSH), 20 on Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG).

Ruff.

3 at Whittle Dene on 6th (JSB), 3 in Budle Bay on 7th (JNP) and 1 on Holy Island on 7th and 13th/14th (LGM et.al).

Arctic Skua.

Up to 10 off several points until 27th but on 10th 126 skuas (sp) N. off Seaton Sluice most of which were too far out for specific identification (BG/HW).

Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 3 N. on 10th and 3 S. on 15th (BG/HW).

Pomarine Skua.

2 N. Hauxley on 4th (HRS), at least 13 N. off Seaton Sluice during the heavy skua movement on 10th (BG/HW), 1 N. Whitburn on 11th (NJP) and 4 off Holy Island on 14th (NRG).

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

1 at Cowey Sike on 15th and 2 at Broomlee on 27th (LGM).

Greater Black Backed Gull.

1000 at Newton on 7th (MW) and 2600 between Beadnell-Howick on 24th (JB).

Glaucous Gull.

Single immatures at Wallsend Swallow on 5th, Hauxley on 7th, Seaton Sluice on 10th. An adult S. at Cresswell on 20th (BEP) and another S. at Boulmer on 27th (NJP).

Common Gull.

1700 at Nafferton on 15th (RH) and 700 at Broomlee on 27th (LGM).

Mediterranean Gull.

a 2nd year bird at Cullernose Point on 27th feeding with Kittiwakes and Black Headed Gulls (NJP).

Little Gull.

1 N. at Foxton on 13th (NJP).

Black Headed Gull.

2000 at Nafferton on 5th (RH).

Kittiwake.

Steady N. passage off Hauxley on 11th and 21st.

Black Tern.

1 at Holywell Ponds on 5th (JEF)

Common Tern.

1-2 at St. Mary's (BG), Alnmouth (NJP), North Shields (KME), Wallsend Swallow (AC) and Killingworth (J.D.McE) until 13th.

Little Tern.

A late bird at North Shields on 20th (KME).

Sandwich Tern.

A few still S. until 7th then 2 off Seaton Sluice on 21st (NJP) and 1 off Cresswell on 28th (BEP).

Auk (sp).

Off Seaton Sluice moving N. at 40-50/hr. on 10th (BG) with 30 N. on 21st and off Holy Island up to 300/hr. N. on 14th (NRG).

Black Guillemot.

1 assuming winter plumage off Hauxley on 11th (JNP).

Barn Owl.

A second brood of 4 fledged from a nest at Wallsend early in the month (AC/AJn). Singles noted at Horton Grange, Callerton, Dinnington, Monkseaton and Corbridge.

Little Owl.
Noted at Corbridge and Holywell.

Long Eared Owl.
A very tired bird on the cliffs at Whitburn on 13th (PG).

Short Eared Owl.
1-2 at Ross, Warkworth, Hauxley, Hadston, Wallsend, Killingworth and Derwent. Max. of 4 at Holy Island on 13th/14th and 5 at Holywell on 21st.

Kingfisher.
Noted at Plashetts, Whittle Dene, Hexham, Gosforth Park, Stannington, Morpeth, R. Font and Bedlington.

Hoopoe.
Close views of 1 in the Annstead - Beadnell area on 13th (IHA/WSC).

Green Woodpecker.
Noted at Bamburgh and Washington.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.
Noted at Nafferton.

Skylark.
S. passage noted at Hauxley on 7th and 14th in flocks of 10-20, and at Holy Island on 13th/14th in flocks of up to 300. Flock of 112 at Nafferton on 19th (RH).

Shore Lark.
1 on Ross Links on 28th (KW).

Swallow.
Small parties still around until 22nd then 1 at Acomb (DG) and 1 at Hauxley on 28th (HRS) and 1 at Seahouses on 29th. Two broods fledged at Milbourne on 4th/5th the second of which was a third brood.

House Martin.
Still conspicuous early in the month but a late bird at Dinnington on 27th (ERM).

Raven.
1 over Slaley on 18th (per BL).

Hooded Crow.
1 near Warkworth on 6th (NJP).

Blue Tit.
Coastal passage confirmed by up to 15 on Holy Island 7th - 14th, up to 30 at Hauxley almost daily and 20 at Tynemouth on 1st.

Marsh Tit.
Several at Greenhaugh on 18th (ERM).

Willow Tit.
Noted at Nafferton.

Long Tailed Tit.
Well reported, in flocks of up to 30, from all over the area, with up to 50 at Hauxley between 20th-24th. Clearly a reflection of a very successful breeding season.

Nuthatch.

Noted at Belsay on 11th (WGJ).

Treecreeper.

Coastal observations involved 1 on Holy Island on 13th (NRG), 1-2 at Hauxley 1st-21st (HRS), 1 at Druridge on 6th (BEP).

Wren.

Conspicuous at Hauxley most of month with 17 trapped and plentiful on Holy Island on 13th/14th.

Mistle Thrush.

Only suggestions of passage were 7 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS), 10 arriving from E. at Whitley Bay on 7th (BG) and 2 on Holy Island on 14th (NRG).

Fieldfare.

Only small numbers reported until a large scale arrival that commenced on 18th continuing until 22nd followed by a second influx on 31st. During first period flocks of up to 300 were noted arriving at the coast and moving W. well inland and by 22nd a flock of 1000 had gathered at Killingworth. On 31st large flocks were moving W. over Farnes and Tynemouth with Redwings/Blackbirds.

Song Thrush.

Between 4th-7th up to 40 at Hauxley and Whitley Bay and conspicuous at Alnmouth. Up to 20 on Holy Island on 13th/14th and 50 at Tynemouth on 20th.

Redwing.

Moving W. on almost every day or night of the month with peaks between 4th-7th when large flocks were seen passing over as far inland as Allendale and then again between 28th-31st as immigrants were arriving over Druridge and Tynemouth.

Ring Ousel.

A small arrival at the coast between 5th-7th with 4 on Holy Island, 3 at Bamburgh, 2 at Alnmouth, 3 at Hauxley, 1 at Whitley Bay. 1 on Holy Island on 13th.

Blackbird.

A few small scale arrivals witnessed along the coast on 4th-7th, 13th/14th, and 20th/21st. A heavier influx noted on 28th and 31st when 100 on Holy Island, 53 ringed at Hauxley and flocks moving W. over Farnes and Tynemouth.

Wheatear.

A light influx between 4th-7th with up to 20 on Holy Island and 1-3 at other points to the S. No records after 14th when 4 on Holy Island.

Stonechat.

Noted in the usual locations at Bamburgh/Seahouses (4), Newton (1), Alnmouth (3), Hauxley (8), Druridge (8). More unusually 1 on Holy Island on 14th (NRG) and inland 1 at Nafferton on 8th/15th (RH), 1 at Holywell 21st-23rd (AC/NJP), 1 at Washington 14th-24th (ML/ALG/JMG) and on 24th 2 at Seaton Burn (AHB) and 2 at Derwent Reservoir (PW).

Whinchat.

Noted in the passerine arrival on 4th-7th with 2 on Holy Island, 2 at Ross, 2 at Bamburgh, 1 at Blyth and 2 at Tynemouth. 1 on Holy Island on 13th.

Redstart.

Between 4th-7th up to 15 on Holy Island, up to 10 at Hauxley and Tynemouth with 1-3 at many other locations on the coast. 1 at Tynemouth 10th-12th, 3 on Holy Island 13th/14th and 1 at Holywell on 21st (NJP).

Black Redstart.

2 on Holy Island on 7th (LPH/KW) and 3 there on 14th (NRG).

Bluethroat.

1 trapped at Tynemouth on 6th (KGD) and 1 on Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG).

Robin.

A moderate arrival on 3rd-7th with up to 30 at many coastal locations, and 150 at Bamburgh, 70 at Hauxley and 80 at Tynemouth. Still 20/30 on Holy Island on 13th/14th.

Reed Warbler.

2 trapped at Hauxley on 4th (HRS) and an unstreaked acrocephalus, probably Reed, at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 7th (BG).

Icterine Warbler.

1 at Alnmouth on 13th (NJP).

Blackcap.

Very conspicuous on coastal passage all month with up to 6 at Bamburgh, Craster, Alnmouth, Druridge, Blyth, Whitley Bay and Tynemouth. At Hauxley where 27 were ringed by 21st, 22 were present on 6th with 10 on 13th/14th and 12 on 19th. On Holy Island about 60 were present on 13th but an overnight departure left only 3 next day (NRG).

Barred Warbler.

1 at Hauxley on 6th/7th (HRS/BEP) and on 13th 2 at Foxton (NJP) and 1 on Holy Island (AC/AJn).

Garden Warbler.

Between 4th-7th 1 on Holy Island, 2 at Bamburgh, 2 on St. Mary's, 1 at Whitley Bay and 1 at Tynemouth with up to 4 at Hauxley. On 13th 1 on Holy Island and 1 at Foxton. A very late bird at Whitley Quarry on 21st. (J.D.McE).

Lesser Whitethroat.

Singles at Hauxley on 1st and 4th (HRS) and 1 on Holy Island on 13th (NRG).

Willow Warbler.

Late birds at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and at Tynemouth on 5th (3) and 8th (1) (KGD/MSH). Several Willow/Chiffs were noted at Holy Island and Tynemouth during the same period.

Chiffchaff.

1-2 noted at Holy Island, Alnmouth, Hauxley, Whitley Quarry and Marsden on several dates between 4th - 28th.

Yellow Browed Warbler.

A small 'influx' with 1 at Hauxley on 1st (HRS), 1 at Tynemouth 4th-7th (MSH et.al) and 1 at each of Holy Island (RN/JNP et.al) and Bamburgh (BRS) on 6th/7th.

Goldcrest.

An arrival on 4th-7th brought up to 20 on Holy Island, up to 80 at Hauxley, up to 70 at Tynemouth and 20-40 at each of Blyth, Whitley Bay and Briardene. On 13th/14th a second influx brought 50 to Holy Island and 15 at Alnmouth.

Firecrest.

Singles at Hauxley on 5th (HRS), St. Mary's on 6th (JNP) and at Druridge (BEP) and Whitley Cemetery on 7th (BG).

Spotted Flycatcher.

A few between 4th-8th with 1-2 at Holy Island, Hauxley, Druridge, St. Mary's, Whitley Cemetery and Tynemouth.

Pied Flycatcher.

Between 4th-9th 1-2 at Hauxley (HRS), 2 at Whitley Cemetery (BG), 2 at Whitley Quarry (J.D.McE). 1 at Bamburgh on 15th (BRS).

Red Breasted Flycatcher.

At Holy Island 1 on 7th (LGM et.al) and another (or same) there on 12th (per BL). 1 at Hauxley on 6th/7th (HRS) and 1 at Whitley Cemetery on 7th-9th (BG/JNP et.al).

Duncock.

3 trapped at Hauxley on 6th showed characters of the continental race (HRS).

Meadow Pipit.

Despite S. passage over Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and at Holy Island on 13th/14th (NRG) flocks were still apparent on the Fells in mid. month. (LGM).

Rock Pipit.

40 at St. Mary's on 2nd (BG) and 15 on Holy Island on 14th (NRG).

Grey Wagtail.

More than usual moving S. over coastal areas though only singly or in pairs, being noted over Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay and Tynemouth on many dates.

Great Grey Shrike.

On 5th 2 at Hauxley (HRS) when 1 at Seaton Delaval. On 6th/7th 2 on Holy Island where 2 were again seen on 13th/14th (RN/JNP/LGM et.al). On 27th 1 at Wark Forest (LGM) and on 29th 1 at Bamburgh (BRS).

Starling.

S. passage noted at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and on Holy Island on 13th/14th.

Greenfinch.

Small numbers moving through Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Goldfinch.

Several records of flocks of up to 20.

Siskin.

Up to 10 noted at Holy Island, Hauxley, Blyth and Tynemouth between 4th-7th. At Blaydon 10 on 10th and 30 on 20th (BL).

Linnet.

Up to 100 on Holy Island on 13th/14th with up to 70 at Hauxley and Seaton Delaval mainly after 21st.

Redpoll.

Flock of 150 at Greenhaugh on 8th (ERM) and a Mealy at Alnmouth on 27th (NJP/RH).

Scarlet Grosbeak.

A female was trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 6th (MB/MSH).

Crossbill.

1 at Greenhaugh on 15th (ERM).

Chaffinch.

Light passage noted at Hauxley and Blyth on 4th-6th though no more than 10 at each location.

Brambling.

Noted arriving on many dates, particularly between 4th-7th, when up to 70 on Holy Island, up to 100 per day at Hauxley and up to 20 at other coastal points. Inland 30 at Durham after 14th (DN), 56 at Mafferton on 15th (NJP/RH) and 50 at Blaydon on 20th (BL).

Reed Bunting.

Small numbers involved in passerine arrivals on 4th-7th and 13th/14th. Roost of 50 at Bamburgh on 28th (BU).

Lapland Bunting.

2 on Holy Island on 13th (NRG).

Snow Bunting.

Singles on Holy Island on 7th and 13th/14th (NRG), 7 at Whitburn on 11th (NJP), 8 at Ross on 17th (MW), 1 S. at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

All November records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle, NE15 7RD by 9th December, 1973, please.

List of Contributors.

C.M. Adamson, I.H. Armstrong, K. Angus, J. Bacon, K. Barratt, M. Bell, A.H. Banks, W. Brady, J.S. Booth, A. Curry, W.S. Craster, C.E. Douglas, K.G. Dures, K.M. Eaton, J.E. Ferguson, B. Galloway, A.L. Gibson, J.M. Gibson, R. Grey, P. Gill, D. Green, A. Gloth, M.S. Hodgson, M. Henry, L.P. Hird, R. Higson, A. Janes, A. James, A. Jobling, W.G. Johnson, P. Kelly, W.A. Kelly, B. Little, B. Lawley, E. Lobley, R.C. Lewis, E.R. Meek, L.G. Macfarlane, J.D. McElwee, J. & R. McCutcheon, R. Norman, D. North, N.J. Phillips, J.N. Prescott, B.E. Prater, E. Pthers, A.J. Richards, M. Richardson, C. Robson, M.D. Riley, M. Sauer, D.L. Sowerbutts, B. Unwin, L. Ullock, P. Weighill, W. Wray, H. Wilson, K. Walton, Bamburgh Ringing Station, Hauxley Ringing Station, Northumbria Ringing Group.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

A final reminder that subscriptions were due on 1st October. For those members who do not renew their subscription within the next month, this is the last bulletin they will receive. Rates remain at £1.50, for adults, £1. for Juniors (16 yrs. and under) and £2.50. for family membership (NOT £2.80 as indicated in the September bulletin).

Brian Martin,
16 Whitelaw Place,
Cramlington,
NE23 6HX.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

NOVEMBER 1973 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

The period 1st-4th, when winds were light S.S.E. and conditions overcast, was probably the most interesting of the month with 2 Hen Harriers, large numbers of Scoter offshore - including the Surf, 15 Jack Snipe together, an Iceland Gull, 2 flocks of Shore Larks, immigrating Turdidae, a Wheatear, 2 Great Grey Shrikes, a flock of Lapland Buntings, Blackcap and 3 Chiffchaffs all being reported.

On 10th/11th during strong N.N.W. winds and heavy seas Goldeneye were moving offshore with a few Skuas and Long Tailed Ducks again were apparent on fresh water. In gale force conditions on 13th an Albatross flew N. close inshore at Seaton Sluice and on 15th/16th a Swallow and House Martins were seen.

Whooper Swans continued to build up as the month progressed and by 25th over 100 were at each of Holywell and Grindon with almost 200 at Lindisfarne Reserve. Also on 25th a Smew was located whilst a large gull roost was firmly established at Hallington Reservoir.

During the cold wintry conditions of the last two days of the month Lapwings and Golden Plover were noted moving S.W. over the area.

Other interesting records during the month included Pelican, Flamingo, some 'wintering' summer waders and a few Waxwings.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black Throated Diver.

1 off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 10th (PK/RGL).

Great Northern Diver.

Singles off Farnes on 4th (BL) and off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 11th (BRS).

Red Throated Diver/Diver (sp).

Up to 6 together off Bamburgh, Alnmouth, Druridge and St. Mary's during the month.

Great Crested Grebe.

Only noted inland with singles at Brasside on 10th (DLS) and at Hallington on 18th and 25th (LGM/MR).

Red Necked Grebe.

1 off Bamburgh on 1st/2nd (RH).

Slavonian Grebe.

1 at Monks House, Seahouses on 8th (AJR) and 4 off Bamburgh on 10th (PK).

Little Grebe.

Only records from lakes/reservoirs were 5 at Broomlee on 10th (LGM) 1 at Gosforth on 21st (BG) and 1 at Hartburn until 25th (MSH). Conspicuous on rivers with 5 on the Tyne between Hexham - Prudhoe on 6th, then 6 at Ovington on 30th (AJR). On 11th 4 on each of River Coquet at Warkworth and River Aln at Alnmouth (BG).

Albatross.

Notes received on what was probably a Black Browed flying N. off Seaton Sluice on 13th (BER/MRS/DG). They are currently under consideration by the Records Committee.

Fulmar.

30 around Bamburgh Castle on 3rd (BL) and by 23rd 170 at Cullernose Point (EAS).

Gannet.

1-2 noted off Bamburgh, Hauxley and St. Mary's until 15th.

Cormorant.

Some interesting inland gatherings with up to 11 on the Tyne at Blaydon and 1 as far upstream as Stocksfield (AJR) and up to 6 on the Wear at Washington Reserve (AT/THW). On reservoirs 1 at Colt Crag/Hallington 19th-25th and 2 at Whittle Dene on 30th (LGM/WAK/MR).

Shag.

At least 500 on The Farnes on 4th (BL) and a typical flock of 35 off Bamburgh on 3rd (BEP).

Heron.

Widespread reports of 1-2 birds from inland and at the coast, including The Farnes (1 on 4th). Up to 5 noted on Fenham Flats, Sweethope Lough and Holywell with 7 at Catcleugh.

White Pelican.

Still present on the River Coquet at Warkworth on 11th (BG).

Flamingo.

Single bird at Budle Bay until at least 22nd and presumably another N. over Nafferton on 5th. It is suggested that both are escapees from Lambton, Chester-le-Street.

Mallard.

Continued to increase as month progressed with 600 at Gosforth by 17th (LGM/BG), 470 at Holywell on 17th/18th (CED/MN), 500 in Budle Bay on 5th (LGM), 350 at Capheaton on 10th (MR), 300 at Hallington after 18th (IK/MR), 300 at Whittle Dene by 25th (MR), 240 at Colt Crag on 18th (LGM), 200 at Rayburn Lake on 25th (MSH) and 200 off Cresswell on same day (BG). Numerous reports of up to 200 birds on many waters.

Teal.

40-60 noted at Grindon, Colt Crag, Derwent, Whittle Dene, Holywell and Blaydon between 17th-22nd. 150 at Hallington on 8th (RG/WB/EL), 140 in Budle Bay on 5th (LGM), 160 at Gosforth 17th-21st (BG/LGM).

Gadwall.

Singles at Washington on 9th (AT), Halleypike on 10th and Grindon on 18th (LGM).

Wigeon.

At least 10,000 at Lindisarne during month. On Northumbrian Loughs 200-240 noted on many dates (LGM/AJR/HDP). 20-60 noted at Whittle Dene, Gosforth, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, St. Mary's and Alnmouth.

Pintail.

31 in Budle Bay on 5th (LGM), singles at Holywell on 14th-18th (AC), and at Grindon on 21st (HDP) when 4 at Gosforth (BG). 10 N. off St. Mary's on 29th (NJP).

Shoveler.

Decrease noted at Gosforth from 79 on 3rd to 22 on 17th (LGM). Elsewhere up to 9 at Grindon, Broomlee, Colt Crag and Capheaton until 29th (LGM/AJR/MR).

Scaup.

Off Seaton Sluice 9 S. on 4th (BG) and 20 N. on 11th (KW). Off Bamburgh 7 on 10th (BEP), 14 N. on 11th (BRS) and 5 on 30th (NJP/RH).

Tufted Duck.

Largest numbers were 70 at Holywell on 10th (CED), 100 at Gosforth on 13th (AJM) with 30-50 at Whittle Dene, Rayburn, Hallington and Northumbrian Loughs on many dates.

Pochard.

80-90 at Gosforth between 13th-21st (BG/AJM). Up to 20 noted at Whittle Dene, Rayburn and Holywell. An unusual occurrence of 1 on the sea off Ross on 4th (BL).

Goldeneye.

Distinct offshore passage on 11th with 133 N. off Seaton Sluice (KW), 50 off Cresswell and 100 off Alnmouth (BG). 30 off Bamburgh on 30th (NJP). Inland, 16 at Hartburn on 1st (JEF) and still 17 on 25th, 20 at Whittle Dene on 4th (EAS), 15 on the Northumbrian Loughs on 10th increasing to 29 by 18th (LGM) and 25 at Hallington also on 18th (LGM/RG). Up to 7 noted on many other waters, particularly after 11th.

Long Tailed Duck.

Continues to be reported on fresh water with up to 6 on Cresswell Pond (BEP/BG et.al), 1 at Holywell on 10th/11th (JEF), 1 at Greenlee on 10th (LGM) and 1 in the Coquet Estuary on 17th (BEP).

More usually, up to 30 off Ross (BL/BRS) and 1-5 noted off Seahouses, Hauxley, and Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's, mainly N. on various dates.

Velvet Scoter.

An interesting and unusually large gathering of up to 100 off Ross on various dates after 4th (BL/LGM/BRS). Off St. Mary's 10 flew N. on 30th (AHB).

Surf Scoter.

The drake, first reported in October, was present off Bamburgh all month.

Common Scoter.

Up to 600 noted off Ross during month.

Red Breasted Merganser.

Probably as many as 80 off Ross during early part of month (LGN et.al). Further S. 1 in Coquet Estuary on 11th-17th (BG/BEP), 2 N. St. Mary's on 30th (AHB).

Goosander.

Some large counts for the time of year with 50 at Derwent on 25th (per BL), 42 at Sweethope on 10th (JDP) and up to 44 in Colt Crag/Hallington area after 18th (LGM/MR/IK). Other usual locations produced groups of up to 9 birds e.g. River Tyne between Hexham - Prudhoe, Whittle Dene, Tunstall. More unusually 2 at Holywell on 10th (AC/CED) and up to 4 on the Wear at Washington Reserve after 19th (AT/THW).

Smew.

A female or immature at Colt Crag then Hallington on 25th (MR).

Shelduck.

73 in Budle Bay on 5th (LGM) and off St. Mary's 7 N. on 15th (NJP) and 3 N. on 30th (AHB).

Grey Lag Goose.

Up to 80 in Budle Bay area by 17th (PK) and next day 155 at Hallington (LGM/RG et.al). On 29th 60 W. over Sewingshields (LGM). Elsewhere, on several dates after 10th, up to 20 moving N. or W. over Holywell, Hartburn, Rayburn and Greenlee.

White Fronted Goose.

The October Holywell bird was last seen on 1st (ERM) - European race, whilst 2 were in Budle Bay on 11th (BRS).

Brent Goose.

7 N. off Bamburgh on 30th (NJP/RH).

Canada Goose.

91 on Sweethope Lough on 4th (per BL) and still 63 in that area on 25th (MR).

Mute Swan.

80 at Wark on Tweed on 3rd (KW) and 14 on Halleypike Lough on 10th (LGM)

Whooper Swan

58 in the Holywell area on 1st steadily increased to 110 by 25th (CED/JEF et.al). 76 at Grindon Lough on 7th increased to 96 by 10th and then to 106 by 27th (MR/BG/LGM et.al). At Fenham Flats 163 on 10th (RGL) and at Wark on Tweed 45 on 3rd (KW), 22 at Rayburn Lake on 18th (MSH) and up to 7 noted at about 6 other locations.

Bewick's Swan.

2 in the Holywell area on 1st and 4th (ERM/JEF) and 5 at Grindon on 21st (HDP).

Sparrowhawk.

1-3 noted in 13 widespread localities.

Hen Harrier.

More records than is usual with a male at Beal on 3rd, a ring tail at Holywell 4th-17th (LGM/JEF et.al) and a male there on 11th (AD), a ring tail at Haltwhistle on 11th (LGM) and another at Slaley on 29th (per BL).

Peregrine.

1 at Ross on 5th (LGM).

Merlin.

1-2 noted in 13 widespread localities including 3 in the 'suburbs', 2 were watched in ariel combat over Alnmouth on 11th (BG).

Kestrel.

Many records.

Black Grouse.

6-9 at Haltwhistle, Harwood and Wark.

Water Rail.

Up to 4 in Gosforth Park (BG/LGM) during the month. 2 at Fenham Mill on 10th (JcD) - 1 perched on a window ledge for 1 minute - 1 at each of Holywell and Wallsend Swallow on 25th (CED/AC).

Moorhen.

70 at Blaydon on 25th (LJM).

Coot.

550 at Seaton Burn on 19th (AJM), 263 at Northumbrian Loughs on 10th (LGM) and 120 at Bolam on 10th (MR).

Oystercatcher.

122 between Howick - Beadnell on 24th (JB).

Lapwing.

On 4th 600 at Holywell (LGM), on 9th 200 on rocks at St. Mary's (MSH) on 11th several flocks totalling 5000 in the Druridge area (BG) and next day 2150 at Nafferton (NJP). On 29th a W. movement witnessed over Newcastle and Northumbrian Loughs/S. Tyne area with up to 100/hr. involved especially during morning (NJP/LGM).

Golden Plover.

2725 at Nafferton on 8th (NJP/RH) and 1000+ at Druridge on 10th (WAK). Up to 500 noted at Beadnell, Grindon, Berwick Hill, Whittle Dene and Shitlington. Small numbers W. with Lapwing on 29th (NJP).

Turnstone.

258 between Howick and Beadnell on 24th (JB).

Common Snipe.

Up to 60 at Blaydon, 20 at Grindon, and at St. Mary's 10 arrived from the E. on 15th (NJP).

Jack Snipe.

A flock of 15 arrived at Blaydon Pond on 3rd (LJM). Singles at Wallsend Swallow on 14th (AJN) and at Warkworth on 17th (BEP).

Woodcock.

Single probable immigrants noted at coast on 2nd (Bamburgh), 5th (St. Mary's), 10th (Holywell Dene, 11th (Hauxley), 30th (Bamburgh). 1-3 noted inland at Gosforth, Washington, Denton, Plashetts, Ingram.

Curlew.

100 in Budle Bay on 5th (LGM).

Green Sandpiper.

On 2nd 2 near Kirkley Hall (AHB) and 1 at Washington Reserve (AT/THW). On 9th 1 at Brasside (NJP) and on 25th 1 near Durham (DLS).

Redshank.

135 between Beadnell/Howick on 24th (JB) and 52 at St. Mary's on 9th (MSH).

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay on 5th (LGM).

Greenshank.

1 at Alnmouth on 11th (BG).

Knot.

300 at St. Mary's on 5th (AJM).

Purple Sandpiper.

220 at Seaton Sluice on 4th (BG) and 110 between Howick/Beadnell on 24th (JB), 10-20 noted at Monks House, Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Dunlin.

About 10,000 on Fenham Flats on 26th (EAS). Inland up to 17 at Holywell, and 1-6 at Hallington, Whittle Dene, Grindon and Broomlee until 20th and up to 130 at Washington.

Sanderling.
Max. 150 at St. Mary's on 11th (AC/AJm et.al).

Ruff.
A late bird at Holywell on 4th (MN).

Arctic Skua.
2 S. off Bamburgh on 1st (NJP) and 2 S. off Seaton Sluice on 24th (KW)
where 3 unidentified Skuas S. on 11th/12th (KW).

Pomarine Skua.
1 S. off Bamburgh on 3rd (BEP) and 3 S. off Seaton Sluice on 11th (KW).

Greater Black Backed Gull.
500 at Budle on 4th (BRS) and 300 roosting at Hallington on 18th (LGM).

Lesser Black Backed Gull.
1 in Coquet Estuary on 3rd and 11th (BG/BEP). 1 at Grindon on 10th (LGM).

Common Gull.
15,000 roosting at Hallington on 18th (LGM).

Glaucous Gull.
An adult at Bamburgh on 1st, 17th and 22nd (RH/JNP). 3 roosting on a playing field near Wallsend Swallow on 14th (per BL) and an immature off Ross on 17th (PK).

Iceland Gull.
An immature at Holywell Pond on 4th (LGM).

Black Headed Gull.
Roosts of up to 5000 at St. Mary's by 25th (MSH) and 1-2000 at Hallington on 18th (LGM).

Woodpigeon.
3500 at Nafferton on 26th (RH).

Stock Dove.
50 at Nafferton on 26th (RH).

Barn Owl.
Noted at Wallsend, Cramlington and West Monkseaton.

Short Eared Owl.
1-3 noted at Holywell and Wallsend Swallow mainly after 17th. Singles noted at Cresswell, Ellington, Amble, Derwent and Ingram.

Kingfisher.
Singles at Whittle Dene, Jesmond Dene, and Nafferton.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.
1-2 noted at Bamburgh, Nafferton, Riding Mill, Bolam, Gosforth and Hamsterly Mill.

Skylark.
Concentrations of 50 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS), 300 at Nafferton on 26th (NJP) and small parties S.W. over Newcastle and Bamburgh on 29th/30th.

Shorelark.
On 3rd 6 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 6 at Amble (JCD/LGM et.al).

Swallow.
A late bird at Tynemouth on 15th (TG).

House Martin.
1-2 stragglers at Tynemouth on 13th/14th and in Northumberland Park on 16th (TG).

Carrion Crow.
Roost of 35 at Gosforth Park on 3rd (LGM).

Hooded Crow.
1 in Druridge Bay on 17th (BEP).

Jay.
Reported from Mounces, Kielder and Bolam.

Blue Tit.
Still up to 20 at Hauxley early in month (HRS).

Willow Tit.
Noted at Nafferton, Riding Mill and Washington.

Long Tailed Tit.
Still 3 at Hauxley on 4th (HRS) and flocks of up to 30 at Rothbury, Weldon Bridge, Bolam, Holywell, Hamsterly Mill, Hallington, Alnham and Gosforth.

Nuthatch.
Noted at Durham all month, at Dipton (1 on 11th) and at Haughton Castle (1 on 17th).

Wren.
Still plentiful in coastal area early in month.

Fieldfare.
Heavy immigration on 31st October continued on 1st/2nd over Seahouses (per BL). On 10th 800 N. over Ray at dusk (ERM/BL) when 100+ N. over Grindon (BG). 70 at Rayburn Lake on 18th (MSH).

Redwing.
Some arriving with Fieldfare on 1st/2nd and 100 at Rayburn Lake on 18th (MSH).

Ring Ousel.
1 in Budle Bay on 3rd (BRS).

Blackbird.
Light immigration noted at Whitley Bay and Hauxley 1st-4th (BG/HRS). 4 part albino birds in Northumberland Park by mid. month.

Wheatear.
A late bird at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Stonechat.
About 10 in Budle - Seahouses area and perhaps 20 between Hauxley - Cresswell early in the month. Also noted at Newton, Tynemouth and Blanchland.

Blackcap.
1 at Hauxley on 3rd/4th (HRS), and 1 at Holywell Dene on 10th (TJR).

Chiffchaff.
1 in Whitley Cemetery on 1st (BG), 1-2 at Hauxley on 3rd/4th including 1 of the 'abietinus' race (HRS). 1 at Hexham on 21st (per BL).

Dunnock.

Numerous in Eshott area on 17th. 3 trapped showed characters of the 'continental' form.

Pied Wagtail.

Roost of 70 at Blaydon on 3rd (LJM).

Grey Wagtail.

Singles W. over Hauxley on 25th (HRS) and at Hallington, Tynemouth, Washington and Whittle Dene.

Waxwing.

3 at Stocksfield on 8th, 3 at Chatton on 12th, a few at Alnwick on 18th and 1 at Blaydon on 27th/28th (ALG/JNG/BL).

Great Grey Shrike.

1 at Bamburgh until 5th (BRS et.al), 1 at Warenford on 11th (MB/HRS) and 1 at Blaydon on 3rd (LJM). The latter returning for its 3rd successive winter - it has been seen in early December.

Starling.

Roost of many 'tens of thousands' at Hallington on 8th (RG/WB/EL). 5000 at Nafferton on 24th (RH).

Goldfinch.

Flocks of up to 30 noted at Tynemouth, Holywell Dene, Hallington, Grindon, Colt Crag and Hauxley.

Siskin.

3 at each of Bamburgh and Hauxley on 1st-3rd (RH/HRS). Inland up to 20 at Allenbanks, Hallington and Whittle Dene and 65 at Pawston Lake.

Redpoll.

6 at Bamburgh on 1st were identified as 'Mealys' (RH). 30 at Riding Mill on 18th (NJP).

Bullfinch.

Noted at Knowesgate, Bolam, Holywell Dene, Morpeth.

Crossbill.

1 at Nafferton on 12th (RH).

Chaffinch.

200 at Holywell Dene on 10th (MSH) and 100 at Eshott on 17th.

Brambling.

20 at Allenbanks on 10th (LGM), 100 at Middleton on 18th (per BL) and 127 at Nafferton on 26th (NJP).

Reed Bunting.

Roost of 100 at Blaydon on 25th (LJM).

Lapland Bunting.

Up to 15 at Beal on 3rd/4th (BL). 1 at Nafferton, with Skylarks on 21st/22nd (RH/NJP).

Snow Bunting.

Up to 40 in Ross/Bamburgh area all month. Many reports of 1-10 at Chillingham, Alnmouth, Druridge, Whittle Dene, Wallsend Swallow and Threestone Burn.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

M. Bell, E. Bagshaw, J. Bacon, J.S. Booth, A.H. Banks, W. Brady, A. Curry, J.C. Day, A. Donnison, C.E. Douglas, J.E. Ferguson, B. Galloway, Green, R. Grey, A.L. Gibson, J.M. Gibson, D. Green, T. Goonan, M. Henry, M.S. Hodgson, R. Higson, A. James, A. Janes, I. Kerr, P. Kelly, W.A. Kelly, R.G. Lewis, B. Little, E. Lobley, E.R. Meek, L.G. Macfarlane, L.J. Milton, N. Nattrass, J.D. Parrack, J.N. Prescott, H.D. Pattison, C. Priestley, N.J. Phillips, B.E. Prater, T.J. Rose, A.J. Richards, M. Richardson, E.A. Stanley, D.L. Sowerbutts, M.R. Smith, A. Temple, K. Walton, T.H. Wall, P. Weighill, Hauxley and Bamburgh Ringing Stations.

All December records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RD by 9th January, please.

FIELD TRIPS.

ABERLADY BAY & SEAFIELD, EDINBURGH - SUNDAY, JANUARY 13th.

This trip, which, in the past, has proved to be one of the most successful, demands an early start, the coach leaving Baxter's Cafe, Tynemouth, at 7.30.a.m. and the Hancock Museum at 8.00.a.m. The cost is expected to be £1. and this amount should accompany your booking to Bryan Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay.

MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Members will be sorry to hear that Miss Joan Dees who has done such an excellent job in typing the bulletin over the past two years, is leaving the area at the end of March 1974.

If any member knows of a reliable, efficient typist willing to undertake the task of typing the bulletin would you please contact me or any other Committee Member, as soon as possible. The work involves typing a minimum of ten stencils each month, (in 2 or 3 days), together with the results of surveys, etc. in which the Club participates from time to time. A small remuneration will be paid.

Brian Martin,
16 Whitelaw Place,
Cramlington,
NE23 6HX.

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

DECEMBER 1973 BULLETIN.

SUMMARY.

The period 1st - 4th was accompanied by some heavy snow falls and low temperatures as a result of a strong N.W. airstream. This brought a sharp rise in the Brent Goose population at Lindisfarne where a wildfowl count also produced interesting numbers of Mallard, Teal, Scoter and Grey Lag Geese whilst 2000 of the latter were noted at Carham on the Tweed. 9 Bean Geese were also found and 300 Tufted Duck accumulated at Whittle Dene.

The other significant period in the month was the last 10 days or so as deep depressions to the W. of Iceland produced prolonged gales in the Atlantic. At this time Divers became particularly restless and some interesting counts were made. Also noted at this time were several Arctic Skuas.

Other interesting records during the month included Long Tailed Ducks on 4 'inland' waters, a Smew, 2 parties of Bewick Swans, a significant reduction in the Whooper Swan population, 3 Hen Harriers, 3 Greenshanks, a Grey Phalarope, 2 Water Pipits, 3 Lapland Buntings, and of course the Chilean Falmingo and the White Pelican, both of which appear to be coping with the winter.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black Throated Diver.

Singles off Budle on 2nd and off Bamburgh on 23rd may be same individual (MSH). 1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 28th (KW).

Great Northern Diver.

1 on Cresswell Pond 9th-24th (BG/ML/RN et.al). On 15th 2 off Holy Island (ERM) and on 30th 1 in Druridge Bay (MSH) and 1 off Seaton Sluice (HW).

Red Throated Diver/Diver (sp).

Conspicuous offshore all month particularly so during the last 10 days. On 9th 25 in Druridge Bay (BG) increasing to 37 by 24th (RN). On 23rd 50 off Alnmouth (RN) and 69 N. off Seaton Sluice (HW/KW) including a flock of 49. Also off the latter 142 S. on 28th and up to 20 N. and S. on each of the last 3 days. On 31st at least 20 off Ross (BG).

RED NECKED Great Crested Grebe.

1 off Ross on 9th (ERM) and 1 off Holy Island on 15th and 27th (ERM/MS), 1 off Marsdon on 26th (RN).

Slavonian Grebe.

15-20 off Ross on 31st (BG).

Little Grebe.

1-2 noted at Crag Lough, Hallington, Whittle Dene, Holywell and Washington.

On the Rivers, 3 on the Tweed on 1st, when 9 on the Tyne at Hexham, and 3 on Coquet Estuary on 16th.

Fulmar.

135 Beadnell - Howick on 31st (JB).

Gannet.

Off Seaton Sluice 2 N. on 23rd and 9 N. on 30th (KW).

Cormorant.

A gathering of 77 in Marsden area on 26th (RN). Inland; on the River Tyne max. of 10 on 2nd at Heddon (EAS), on the River Tweed 6 at Carham on 1st (ERM), on the River Wear up to 5 near Washington most of month (AT/THW), up to 5 at Whittle Dene and 1 at Hallington on several dates.

Heron.

1-3 at many locations, with 7 at Holywell on 24th (RN) and 6 at Cornhill on 27th (MS).

White Pelican.

Still present on the River Coquet at Warkworth on 31st (WAK/THW et al).

Chilean Flamingo.

Still present in Budle Bay on 31st (JEF et.al).

Mallard.

Max. counts were 780 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c), 700 at Derwent on 28th (J.&R.McC), 550 at Whittle Dene between 6th-9th (JSB/HDP/MR et.al), 420 at Gosforth Park on 23rd (BG), 350-400 at Holywell all month (CED et.al), 400 at Colt Crag on 31st (LGM), 300 at Hallington on 8th (BG) with up to 200 at many other waters all month. An apparent Mallard/Pintail hybrid was again seen at Gosforth 30th - it has been in the area since October, first being noted at Holywell.

Teal.

Max. counts were 350 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c), 120 at Gosforth Park on 13th (LGM), 70 at Holywell on 9th (MSH) with up to 50 at many other locations.

Gadwall.

A drake at Gosforth Park on 23rd (BG).

Wigeon.

14,790 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c). Max. counts elsewhere were 200 at Derwent on 28th (J.&R.McC), 150 at Northumbrian Loughs on 29th (LGM), 100 at Cresswell on 22nd (WAK), 150-175 at Whittle Dene all month (JSB et.al). Up to 80 at many other locations.

Pintail.

At Lindisfarne 21 on 3rd (D.O'c) and 10 on 31st (BG). 1 at Holywell on 9th (MSH) and 3 at Gosforth Park on 24th (LGM).

Scaup.

Up to 30 off Ross most of month (IK/BRS et.al), Off Seaton Sluice, 1 on 2nd (BG) when 15 N. off St. Mary's (ERM) and 4 N. on 29th/30th (KW). 1 at Jarrow Slake on 5th (KR).

Tufted Duck.

Max. counts were 300 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR) with 270 still there on 15th (JSB). Up to 55 on the River Tyne at Ryton (max. on 3rd) were no doubt part of Whittle Dene population (AJR/EAS et.al). 125 at Gosforth on 13th (LGM), up to 60 at Holywell with 40 or less at other waters.

Pochard.

Largest counts were made at Whittle Dene, Gosforth Park and Killingworth with 80 on 16th (MSH), 91 on 30th (LGM) and 41 on 31st (JDMcE) being the respective maxima.

8 on the sea off Bamburgh on 2nd were unusual (ML).

Goldeneye.

Largest gatherings were 50 on Tweed near Carham on 1st (ERM), 49 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c), 25 at Capheaton on 28th (BG), 20 at Broomlee on 29th (LGM) and 15-20 at Hallington, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, River Tyne at Ryton and Howick Haven (EAS/MN et.al).

Long Tailed Duck.

Up to 70 off Ross, mainly early in the month (D.O'c/ERM). Off Seaton Sluice 13 S. on 23rd (HW/KW et.al).

More freshwater records, involved up to 3 on Cresswell Pond all month (BEP/RN/LU et.al), 1 at Jarrow Slake on 5th (KR), 1 at Gosforth Park on 9th (CR) and 1 at Holywell on 30th (CED/BG).

Velvet Scoter.

Only noted off Bamburgh/Ross area with a max. of 48 on 3rd (D.O'c).

Surf Scoter.

The adult drake was still present off Bamburgh/Ross at the end of the month.

Common Scoter.

Most significant off Bamburgh/Ross with a peak count of 780 on 3rd (D.O'c). Up to 20 off Alnmouth, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice.

Eider.

1010 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c) and 600 off Budle Point on 2nd (BRS).

Red Breasted Merganser.

A significant reduction in the Lindisfarne area, with 18 on 27th (LGM) being the largest count of the month. Only 2 other records - 2 off Cresswell on 30th (MSH) and 2 off Seaton Sluice on 31st (KW).

Goosander.

40 near Carham-on-Tweed on 1st (ERM) and at Hallington a flock present most of the month peaked at 53 on 31st and included about 80% of adult drakes (LGM/BG/ERM et.al). 15 at Sweethope on 31st included 12 drakes whilst up to 10 occurred in the usual locations e.g. River Tyne (Prudhoe - Hexham), Whittle Dene, Colt Crag, Langley Dam, River Aln at Alnmouth. More unusually 4-6 at Gosforth Park on 23rd/24th (BG/LGM/CR).

Smew.

A female or immature at Gosforth Park on 21st (JEF/PW).

Shelduck.

305 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c) was largest count reported. 1 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (per BL).

Grey Lag Goose.

1500-2000 at Carham on 1st (ERM), 400 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c) with 100 still present on 27th (LGM). 340 at Holburn Moss on 27th (LGM). Up to 12 noted at Holywell, Capheaton, Hallington, Whittle Dene, Hexham. 14 unidentified Grey Geese W. over Cramlington on 26th (BM).

White Fronted Goose.

1 in the Monks House, Seahouses area 23rd - 27th (GSR/MS/BRS).

Bean Goose.

9 at Lindisfarne on 3rd (D.O'c) and 2 at Grindon Lough 6th-9th (LGM/HDP).

Pink Footed Goose.

23 near Chollerford on 6th (HDP).

Brent Goose.

The cold spell in late November - early December resulted in an increase to 1500 on 3rd, 21 of which were of the dark breasted form (D.O'c). Still 1000+ present on 15th (ERM/BL).

Canada Goose.

65 at Colt Crag on 31st (LGM/RN).

Mute Swan.

Max. 29 in Coquet Estuary on 23rd (RN/LU et.al).

Whooper Swan.

At Lindisfarne 266 on 3rd decreasing to 110 on 31st (BG), at Carham/Tweed 150 on 1st (ERM), at Holywell - and surrounding area - 106 on 3rd decreasing to 60 by 31st (JEF et.al), at Grindon Lough 44 on 9th increased to 67 by 28th (MS et.al). Elsewhere, 24 at Cresswell on 8th (LGM), an unusual herd of 80 at South Linton on 27th (BG) and up to 10 on a few other waters including 6-9 at Whittle Dene on 23rd - 31st.

Bewick's Swan.

2-6 adults at Holywell Ponds, and the immediate area, between 8th - 31st (JEF et.al) and 6, including an immature, on the River Tyne at Prudhoe on 17th (AJR).

Buzzard.

1 at Whittle Dene on 9th (per BL).

Sparrow Hawk.

1-2 noted at 12 different localities.

Hen Harrier.

The Holywell ring-tail remained until at least 11th (BEP/CED et.al). A ring-tail at Goswick on 22nd (MS) and an adult male at Grindon Lough on 27th (KW).

Peregrine.

1 in the St. Mary's area on 1st (JDP).

Merlin.

Singles noted at Seahouses, Bolam, Earsdon, Holywell and Washington.

Kestrel.

Well represented.

Partridge.

35 in one field near Cramlington on 2nd (BM).

Water Rail.

Singles a Bellingham on 1st (feeding on snowberries), Gosforth on 19th, Bolam on 24th and Seaton Burn on 29th (LGM/IK/per BL).

Moorhen.

At least 100 at Blaydon Ponds on 26th (BG).

Coot.

200+ on the Tweed near Coldstream on 1st (ERM), an interesting count of 53 at Lindisfarne Reserve on 3rd (D.O'c) and 150 at Wallsend Swallow on 23rd (BG).

Oystercatcher.

Counts received were 170 at Budle on 2nd, 120 at St. Mary's on 20th (AJm) and on 23rd 60 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 65 at Cresswell (LU). Also 95 Beadnell-Howick on 31st (JB).

Lapwing.

At the end of the month 800 at Chevington on 24th (RN), 1300 at Holywell on 21st (HDP), and 500 at Morpeth on 28th (BG). An interesting movement into a N. gale was noted at Bamburgh on 27th when 60 were counted in 20 mins. (LGM).

Grey Plover.

100+ at Lindisfarne on 31st (BG).

Golden Plover.

600 at St. Mary's on 1st (AC), 2000 at Druridge on 24th (RN), 270 on Holy Island on 27th (LGM), and on 30th/31st 400 at Fenham le Moor, only 100 at Whittle Dene and 800 at Jarrow Slake (BG/JSB/KR).

Turnstone.

100 at St. Mary's on 20th (A.Jm) and 167 Beadnell - Howick on 31st (JB).

Common Snipe.

4 N. over sea off Seaton Sluice on 2nd (BG) and 80 at Washington on 28th (AT).

Jack Snipe.

On 9th 1 at Wallsend Swallow (AC) and 1 at Whittle Dene (MR). 2 at Holy Island on 27th (MS).

Woodcock.

Singles at Bamburgh and Budle during cold weather on 2nd when 1 found dead at Seahouses. Also noted at Northumberland Park (North Shields) Holywell, Cramlington, Gosforth and Harthope Valley.

Bar Tailed Godwit.

A few thousand at Lindisfarne on 31st (BG). No more than 8 noted at any other location.

~~Red~~

Green Shank.

Counts received were 1200 at Jarrow Slake all month (KR), 65 at St. Mary's on 20th (21st (A.Jm/HDP) and at Beadnell - Howick on 31st (JB).

Knot.

Largest counts were 2000 in St. Mary's area on 20th (A.Jm et.al), 150 at Druridge on 30th (MSH) and 4000+ on Fenham Flats on 31st (BG).

Purple Sandpiper.

Up to 200 in St. Mary's/Seaton Sluice area with a max. on 23rd (BG/TG et.al), 18 Beadnell - Howick on 31st (JB).

Dunlin.

A few thousand at Lindisfarne on 31st (BG). 100 at Jarrow Slake all month (KR), 70 at St. Mary's on 20th (AJm). Inland up to 110 at Washington (AT et.al) and 2 at Whittle Dene on 9th (BL).

Sanderling.

Up to 130 in Cullercoats - St. Mary's area all month. (MNC/JDMcE et.al).

Grey Phalarope.

1 at St. Mary's on 1st (JDP) and possibly the same on the sea off Seaton Sluice on 7th (HW).

Arctic Skua.

During the gales in the last week of the month 1-2 were noted off Seaton Sluice on 23rd, 28th and 30th (HK/KW).

Greater Black Backed Gull.

Up to 400 roosting at Hallington all month and 500 (20% immatures) at Blaydon on 26th (LGM/BG).

Common Gull.

Up to 3000+ roosting at Hallington during month (LGM/BG).

Black Headed Gull.

1000 roosting at Hallington on 31st (LGM). One observed at Washington reserve on 4th with a small tin hanging from its leg (THW)

Woodpigeon.

Moving W. over Denton Burn and Cramlington on several mornings during last week of month (LGM/BG).

Collared Dove.

60 at Hartley on 11th (BEP).

Barn Owl.

Singles noted at Kirkley, West Monkseaton, Styford, Bellingham, Ogle with 2 at Corbridge. 4 of the records involved birds hunting by daylight.

Little Owl.

Singles noted at Berwick Hill, and Shiremoor.

Short Eared Owl.

Singles noted at Cresswell and Alnmouth, 2 at Killingworth, 3 near Cramlington and up to 4 at Holywell and Wallsend Swallow.

Kingfisher.

Singles noted at Ponteland (LSS), Holywell Dene (JEF), at Washington (AT), and Whittle Dene.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Hexham and Washington.

Skylark.

Flock of up to 325 at Nafferton Farm (RH).

Carriion Crow.

Up to 120 roosting in Gosforth Park (peak on 19th - LGM).

Hooded Crow.

Singles at Backworth on 2nd (BVA) and at Prestwick Carr on 7th (ERM).

Jackdaw.

Gathering of 1000 at Prestwick Carr on 7th (ERM).

Blue Tit.

Flock of 50 at Holywell for Most of month (CED).

Marsh Tit.

4 at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (IK).

Willow Tit.

A few singles all month at Nafferton Farm (RH).

Long Tailed Tit.

Still plentiful with up to 20 at Eshott, Bolam, Gosforth, Prestwick Carr, Heddon, Devil's Water, Blaydon and Hamsterley Mill.

Nuthatch.

1-2 at Hamsterley Mill and Bolam (EP/JEF/IK) and 4 at Wallington (LGM).

Fieldfare.

310 at Nafferton Farm on 18th (RH) and 100 at Rothley on 31st (LGM).

Stonechat.

Up to 6 at Cresswell (BG/LU et.al) and 1 at Birling Carrs (LGM).

Blackcap.

Single males at Darras Hall on 10th (LSS) and at Stocksfield on 29th (J.&R.McC).

Water Pipit.

2 at Blaydon Ponds on 26th (BG) and 1 still present on 29th (ERM/BL).

Pied Wagtail.

A seemingly melanistic bird in Byker, Newcastle on 29th (BVA).

Grey Wagtail.

Singles at Jarrow, Blaydon, Holywell and Cramlington.

Waxwing.

Singles at Whitley Bay and Stocksfield on 24th (per BL/J&RMcC).

Great Grey Shrike.

The Blaydon bird was seen on a number of occasions during the month (ALG/JMG et.al).

Starling.

Huge roost in Hallington area (LGM).

Greenfinch.

Flock of 200+ near Seaton Delaval on 9th (MSH).

Goldfinch.

Up to 30 at Hallington, Stamfordham and North Shields.

Siskin.

Total of c. 60 in Harthope Valley on 29th (BC/JCD).

Linnet.

Flock of 70 near Seaton Delaval on 9th (MSH).

Twite.

Up to 11 noted in Coquet Estuary (LGM/RN) and 4 at Nafferton Farm on 18th (RH).

Bullfinch.

Noted at Gosforth, W. Monkseaton and Mitford.

Chaffinch.

Very large flock of 500+ at Eshott on 1st (MSH).

Brambling.

Up to 20 noted at Stamfordham, Berwick Hill, Prestwick Carr, and Druridge. 130 at Middleton near Wooler, on 9th (per BL) and 300 at Holywell on 23rd (BG) being pursued by a Sparrowhawk.

Corn Bunting.

20 near Earsdon on 8th (MSH).

Lapland Bunting.

Singles at Seahouses on 2nd (ML) and Nafferton on 3rd (RH) and at Ross on 12th (IK).

Snow Bunting.

Up to 60 in the Ross/Bamburgh area (ERM/IK/BRS). 45 at Cresswell on 9th when 6 at Newbiggin (BG) and 7 at Hedgehope in Cheviots (per BL). 36 at Threestone Burn on 23rd (BL). 9 S. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (HW/KW), 25 on Cheviot on 28th (LGM) and up to 40 in South Shields area most of month (MS).

Tree Sparrow.

80 at Stamfordham on 1st (EB), 20-30 at Prestwick Carr 2nd-7th (IK/ERM) and a few at Whittle Dene (RGL).

All January records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RD by 9th February, please.

Anyone requiring record cards please send a stamped addressed envelope (min. size 5½" x 3½") to B. Galloway.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M. Adamson, B.V. Atkins, A.H. Banks, J. Bacon, E. Bagshaw, J.S. Booth, B. Charlton, A. Curry, M.N. Coates, J.C. Day, C.E. Douglas, J.E. Ferguson, B. Galloway, T. Goonan, M.S. Hodgson, R. Higson, W.A. Kelly, I. Kerr, D.H. King, M. Lawley, B. Little, R.G. Lewis, E.R. Meek, L.G. Macfarlane, J. & R. McCutcheon, J.D. McElwee, B. Martin, M. & J. Nattrass, R. Norman, D. O'Connor, J.D. Parrack, B.E. Prater, E. Priestley, H.D. Pattison, M. Richardson, A.J. Richards, C. Robson, K. Robson, G.S. Rushbrooke, M. Skilleter, M.R. & E.L. Smith, E.A. Stanley, L.S. Stevens, A. Temple, L. Ullock, C. Ward, K. Walton, H. Wilson, P. Weighill, T.H. Wall, Bamburgh Ringing Station.

SURVEY OF BREEDING BIRDS IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

A small number of this Report together with distribution maps is still available and can be obtained from Geoff. Macfarlane, 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington, NE23 6CJ, at a cost of 25p. per copy plus 7p. postage.

FIELD TRIP.

SATURDAY - February 16th - ALL DAY TRIP TO S.W. SCOTLAND.

The coach will be leaving Tynemouth (Front Street) at 7.00.am. and the Hancock Museum at 7.30.a.m. There are about 12 seats left at an approximate cost of £1.00. Bookings, with money, should be sent to Brian Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay, as soon as possible.

CLUB MEETING. - Thursday, February 14th.

Continuing the pattern of the last Club Meeting, a number of Club Members, including Mike Hodgson, Eric Meek and John Ginnever will be giving short talks on areas of bird study in which they are currently involved. Mr. Tony Taylor of the Oiled Seabird Research Unit has also been invited to talk briefly about his work.

If any Club Member has a topic which he or she feels would be of interest to other Club Members and would like to talk about it at this Meeting would you please contact John Ginnever, 230 Ashington Drive, Stakeford, Tel. No: Ashington 813400.