

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

January 1974.

### Summary.

In a snow-free month dominated by strong winds from a westerly quarter, temperatures remained comparatively high throughout the period.

The unusual numbers of sea-birds in the form of Divers, Gannets, Skuas and Auks plus one sighting of a Manx Shearwater, were a feature and seemed to coincide not only with the strong winds but also with the appearance offshore of large numbers of Herring and Sprat.

The Surf Scoter continues to stay with us and other interesting wildfowl reports included 3-4 Smew, White Fronted Geese, Bean Goose (shot), and a sharp decline in the Brent Goose population. Of the birds of prey a Golden Eagle and three Hen Harriers are the most noteworthy whilst three Iceland and an immature Mediterranean were the most interesting of the Gull reports. The cream of the passerines were probably two Water Pipits, three Great Grey Shrikes, four Waxwings and a Hawfinch but there were many other interesting reports.

### CLASSIFIED LIST.

#### Black Throated Diver.

In a month that was noted for its large numbers of Divers, a total of 36 S. off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's between 3rd - 10th (MSH/JDP et.al). Singles also seen on 12th, 13th, 20th and 27th in same area (KW).

#### Great Northern Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 11 S. between 3rd -10th with 5 S. on 12th, 6 N. on 19th and 4 N. on 27th (KW). Elsewhere 2 off Cullernose on 3rd (JB) when 3-6 off Bambugh on 3rd/4th (RH). On 20th 3 in Druridge Bay (BG) and 1 off Bamburgh on 20th (ERM/BL).

#### Red Throated Diver and Diver (sp).

Coincident with large shoals of Herring and Sprat in the North Sea an unusual number of Divers were reported during the month. In 19 hrs. of watching off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's over 500 were counted, mainly S. between 3rd-10th (MSH/JDP et.al). Also 132, mainly S. on 12th/13th and 185 N. on 27th (KW). Offshore gatherings included 80 in Druridge Bay on 6th (MSH) and still 50-60 there on 27th (BG), and up to 15 off Ross most of month (ML et.al).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

An interesting gathering of 15-20 off Ross on 27th (ML). One at Hartburn on 17th (JEF).

#### Red Necked Grebe.

Singles off Holy Island and Budle after 19th (JDP/DLS et.al).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

Up to 25 off Ross during month (BRS et.al).

#### Black Necked Grebe.

1 off Bamburgh on 20th (BRS).

#### Little Grebe.

1-3 noted at Whittle Dene, Shild-on-the-Wall, Cresswell Pond, Ryal and Warkworth.

Manx Shearwater.

An unusual record of 1 S. off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's on 5th (JDP/KW).

Fulmar.

1 over Washington Pond on 12th (KR).

Gannet.

Unusually plentiful for the time of year, no doubt as a result of the abundance of Herring/Sprat offshore, with 350 N. and 65 S. on seven dates between 1st-26th with peaks on 12th and 26th. Most were adults (KW et.al).

Cormorant.

Only inland sightings were 8 at Wark/Tweed on 1st/2nd (MSH/EB et.al), 1 S. over Gosforth on 25th (LGM) and 2 at Seaton Burn on 13th (BG). No doubt the feeding was too good at the coast.

White Pelican.

Present at Warkworth throughout month (HP et.al).

Heron.

9 at Wark/Tweed on 27th (WAK). 1-2 noted at Holywell, Whittle Dene, Hallington. On 24th four pairs nest building in N. Tyne Valley (per BL).

Chilean Flamingo.

Present in Budle Bay all month.

Mallard.

Largest counts were 780 at Lindisfarne on 8th (DOC), 600 at Colt Crag on 13th (RG/WB/EL), 400 at each of Whittle Dene on 6th-13th (JSB) and Gosforth on 17th (AJM), 350 at Holywell on 1st (CED), 300 at Derwent on 17th (RG et.al) and 200 off St. Marys and Druridge most of month (BG/LU et.al).

Teal.

105 at Lindisfarne on 8th (DOC). Flocks of 40-70 noted at Grindon, Gosforth, Holywell, Blaydon, Holburn Moss, and Colt Crag.

Wigeon.

Largest gatherings were 3670 at Lindisfarne on 8th (DOC) with still 3500 by 27th (AJR), 300 at Derwent on 1st (M.& JN), 200 at Grindon on 14th (LJM et.al), 150 at Wark on Tweed on 27th (WAK), and 100 at each of Whittle Dene on 6th (JSB) and Holywell on 12th (MSH).

Pintail.

38 at Lindisfarne on 8th (DOC), 2 at Gosforth on 6th (LGM) and 4 at Holywell on 9th (MRS).

Shoveler.

1-4 at Holywell and Gosforth for most of month.

Scaup.

Between 4th-10th 108 S. and 25 N. off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's (MSH/JDP/KR/KW). 3 off Bamburgh on 3rd (RH).

Tufted Duck.

Largest counts were; 120 at Gosforth on 17th (AJM), 109 at Whittle Dene on 5th (J.&R.McC), 95 at Seaton Burn on 13th (BG) and 60 at Holywell on 1st (CED). Up to 50 noted on many other waters.

Pochard.

Only plentiful at Gosforth with a peak of 143 on 20th (LGM/AJM. et.al). 47 at Whittle Dene on 6th (JSB) with up to 35 on several other waters.



Goldeneye.

Well reported from the coast and on many inland waters. Largest counts were 46 at Lindisfarne on 8th (DOC); 23 at Wark/Tweed on 2nd (MSH), 25 at Whittle Dene on 5th (J.&R.Mc), 20 at Hallington on 1st (IK) and 31 at Broomlee on 30th (LGM).

Long Tailed Duck.

Max. count off Ross/Bamburgh was 209 on 19th/20th (BRS et.al). Elsewhere noted only at Cresswell Pond where four were present on 1st decreasing to 1 by 27th (HP et.al).

Velvet Scoter.

Present off Ross/Bamburgh all month with a max. of 50 on 20th (ERM et.al).

Surf Scoter.

The adult drake was present off Ross/Bamburgh all month.

Common Scoter.

Noted only off Ross/Bamburgh with a max. of 800 on 8th (DOC).

Eider.

Count of 1525 at Lindisfarne Reserve on 8th (DOC), 261 at Beadnell/Howick on 23rd (JB).

R.B. Merganser.

14 off Ross on 8th (DOC) was the max. for the month in that area. Only other record was 1 N. off Cresswell on 20th (BG).

Goosander.

Well reported from the usual waters/reservoirs well inland although up to 8 at Gosforth Park during the month is somewhat unusual (LGM/AJm et.al). Largest counts were 62 (mostly drakes) at Hallington on 13th (RG/WB/EL), 32 at Whittle Dene on 30th (HP), 16 at Colt Crag on 13th, 17 at Tunstall on 19th (THW), 15 at Wark/Tweed on 2nd (MB/MSH/JDP). Only regular group near coast was of up to 8 at Alnmouth during month (J.&R.McC et.al) although 4 were at Lindisfarne on 8th (DOC).

Smew.

4 records probably involving 3 individuals with 1 at Whittle Dene on 4th (WAK), 1 at Hartburn on 10th and 17th (JEF), 1 at Broomlee on 27th (MR) and 1 at Halleypike on 30th (LGM). All were 'redheads'.

Shelduck.

Max. at Lindisfarne was 521 on 8th (DOC). Restlessness was suggested by counts of up to 10 off Seaton Sluice on 7 dates after 5th mainly birds moving S. (KW et.al), 6 at Jarrow Slake on 13th (KR), whilst on 27th 21 rested briefly on Cresswell Pond with a further 3 N. (BG) and 1 was seen at Grindon Lough (MR).

Grey Lag Goose.

Largest counts were 250 in Budle Bay area on 27th (DN), 135 at Wark on Tweed on 1st (EB) and several hundred at Holborn Moss on 22nd (CMA), 50 near Ryal on 7th and up to 26 seen in Holywell area (CED et.al). 2-11 noted at Whittle Dene, Washington and Northumbrian Loughs.

White Fronted Goose.

11 of the Eurasian race at Grindon 13th-27th (MSH/LGM et.al) and still 8 present on 30th (HP).

Pink Footed Goose.

50 W. over Budle Bay on 13th (IK) and 13 W. over Gosforth on 20th (LGM).

Bean Goose.

1 Shot on 5th at Lindisfarne (DOC).

Brent Goose.

At least 1000 at Lindisfarne on 2nd reducing to 30 by 27th (PW/MR/DOC/WAK et.al).

Barnacle Goose.

3 at Lindisfarne on 6th (DOC).

Canada Goose.

Max. of 63 in Hallington/Colt Crag area on 27th (CMA/RG et.al). 1 at Whitley Quarry on 5th (J.D.McE) and possibly same at Holywell on 24th (HP).

Mute Swan.

24 at Amble on 12th (J.&R.McC), 14 at Washington on 26th (KR) and 10 at Cresswell on 27th (BG).

Whooper Swan.

70-85 at Grindon all month. 90 at Lindisfarne on 2nd (PW/JEF) reducing to about 30 by end of month (WAK). 73 at Wark on Tweed on 27th and up to 75 in Holywell area all month (CED/JEF/WAK et.al). Up to 34 at Cresswell on several dates and up to 15 at many other locations.

Bewick Swan.

6 in Holywell area until 13th with 2-4 until end of month (CED/JEF/MN et.al). Up to 5 near Cresswell until 13th and 3-6 in Budle Bay 8th-20th (per BL).

Golden Eagle.

An immature noted on N. Cheviots on several occasions during month (per BG).

Sparrow Hawk.

Widely reported as singles from 11 different locations including 2 in Newcastle suburbs.

Hen Harrier.

A male over Fenham Flats on 6th (TIM) and ring-tail at Holy Island on 20th (MR). Another ring-tail at Derwent on 12th (per BL).

Merlin.

Widely reported from inland and coast with 1-2 at 9 different locations. 1 seen to take a Skylark at Holy Island on 20th (MR).

Kestrel.

Pair displaying over Newcastle East End on 18th (BL).

Black Grouse.

Noted at Emblehope Moor (ERM).

Red Legged Partridge.

15 near Stannington on 7th (AHB).

Water Rail.

Up to 3 noted at Gosforth (AJm).

Moorhen.

60 at Holywell on 6th (M.&JN).

Coot.

315 at Seaton Burn on 12th (CMA), 146 at Wark on Tweed on 2nd (MB et.al) and up to 60 at Bolam.

Lapwing.

Largest reported flock was 450 at Holywell (M.&JN).

Golden Plover.

1000 in Embleton area during month (JB), up to 500 at Whittle Dene (JSB), up to 3000 on Holy Island (MR et.al) with 800 in Budle Bay on 13th (LGM). Max. at Jarrow Slake was 745 (KR). 2 groups of 6 and 30, noted at altitudes of 1000-1900 ft. in first few days (ERM/LGM).

Snipe.

Only count was 15 at Whittle Dene on 13th (JSB).

Woodcock.

Only noted at Eshott (MSH).

Green Sandpiper.

Although not noted at the traditional winter haunt at Whittle Dene, 1 was seen at nearby Colt Crag on 27th (CMA).

Redshank.

Max. of 900 at Jarrow Slake during month (KR). Small parties of up to 12 inland at Holywell and Blaydon.

Knot.

1300 at St. Mary's on 17th (HP) with 300 inland near Earsdon on 19th (WAK). 300 at Cresswell on 27th (BG) and 120 at Bamburgh on 22nd (AJR).

Purple Sandpiper.

110 at Bamburgh on 20th (ERM).

Dunlin.

Up to 900 at Jarrow Slake during month (KR) and 150 at Washington 7th-12th (THW/KR).

Sanderling.

127 at St. Mary's on 17th (HP).

Ruff.

1 at Monks House, Seahouses on 20th (BRS).

Arctic Skua.

Unusual numbers noted offshore during month coincident with S.W. gales and large numbers of Sprat and Herring in North Sea. Between 1st-26th 56 sightings were made off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's, majority of which were moving S. (MSH/JDP/KW/et.al).

Pomarine Skua.

In above movement of Arctics, 2 Pomarines were identified with 1 S. off Bamburgh on 20th (ERM) and 1 N. off Seaton Sluice on 26th (BG/KW).

Lesser Black Backed Gull.

1 off Seaton Sluice on 5th (KR).

Common Gull.

300/hr. S. off St. Mary's on 3rd (MSH). 400 at Preston Grange all month (M.&JN).

Glaucous Gull.

1 at Holywell on 6th (M.&JN), and 1 first year S. on 27th (KW) off Seaton Sluice.



Iceland Gull.

Single adults at Newcastle Quayside on 13th (NJP/EC) and at Amble on 24th (per BL). A first year bird in Newcastle centre between 15th - 25th (J.McC).

Little Gull.

Adult at Amble on 12th (J.&R.McC).

Mediterranean Gull.

An immature reported off Ross on 20th (MR).

Little Auk.

1 S. off St. Mary's on 3rd (MSH).

Auk (sp).

Heavy S. movement noted off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's between 3rd-12th when 1700 were counted in about 25 hrs. watching. (MSH/MRS/KW et.al). Although not a disaster year an unusual number of oiled and still alive Guillemots were found along the coast during month.

Stock Dove.

Up to 8 visiting a garden at Stamfordham during month (EB).

Woodpigeon.

Largest flock was 500 at Nafferton on 22nd (RH).

Collared Dove.

c.50 at Hartley on 9th-11th (MRS).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Corbridge, Blagdon, Thrunton, Alnwick, Kirkley.

Little Owl.

1 at Shiremoor on 22nd (JEF).

Long Eared Owl.

1 on Holy Island on 19th (per ERM).

Short Eared Owl.

1-3 noted in Lindisfarne area, Seahouses, Druridge, Holywell, Wallsend and Killingworth.

Kingfisher.

Singles noted at Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Gosforth Park and Morpeth.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Little Mill and at Ingram.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Nafferton, Stamfordham, near Bamburgh, Washington, Dipton, Hamsterley Mill.

Crows (sp).

Large roost of several thousand near Bamburgh on 27th (BRS) consisting mainly of Rooks and mixed flock Jackdaw/Rook 7-8000 near Powburn on 20th (JCD/DBC).

Hooded Crow.

1 at Druridge on 26th (JCD/AMB).

Magpie.

Noted at Longhorsley, Bothal, Druridge, Fenrother and Espley.

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Tarsset and Dipton.

Willow Tit.

Noted at Washington, Stamfordham, Bamburgh.

Long Tailed Tit.

4 well away from woodland on Emblehope Moor on 4th (ERM). Also noted at Holywell, Blaydon, Gosforth in flocks of up to 30.

Nuthatch.

During month 1 at Hamsterley Mill, up to 5 at Durham, 7 at Wallington and 2 at Bolam.

Fieldfare.

Largest flocks were 300 at each of Nafferton on 22nd (RH), and Stamfordham on 31st (EB).

Redwing.

150 at Nafferton on 22nd (RH).

Stonechat.

1-2 noted at Bamburgh and Cresswell and 1-2 at Washington all month.

Blackcap.

Singles at Jesmond on 15th (per BL) and at Stocksfield all month (J.&R.McC).

Water Pipit.

Still 2 at Blaydon Pond on 19th (BL).

Grey Wagtail.

Singles noted at Blaydon and near Jesmond Dene.

Waxwing.

2 at each of Gosforth on 3rd (per BL) and at Elwick on 20th (ERM/BL).

Great Grey Shrike.

1 at Blaydon all month (JMG/BG et.al). 1 at Wark on Tweed on 2nd (MSH/JDP) and 1 at Fourstones 1st-4th (per BL).

Starling.

Many thousands flying to roost to S.E. of Bedlington Station on 29th (LU).

Hawfinch.

1 at Whitley Chapel on 27th (per BL).

Greenfinch.

Flocks of 100 at Washington Reserve all month (AT/THW) and 60 at Stamfordham by 31st (EB).

Goldfinch.

Widespread reports of flocks of up to 30.

Siskin.

1 feeding at a Tit feeder in a Hexham garden on 21st (RG) - a comparatively new habit.

Linnet.

Flocks of 100 at Washington and 80 at Stamfordham.

Twite.

9 at Amble on 12th (J.&R.McC).

Redpoll.

30 at Wooperton on 27th (JCD/DBC).

Crossbill.

3 at Dipton on 6th (BL).

Brambling.

100 at Warkworth on 12th (per BL), 30 at Eshott on 19th (MSH), 20 near Wark on Tweed on 2nd (MSH/JDP).

Chaffinch.

300 at Eshott on 19th (MSH).

Snow Bunting.

100 at Newbiggin on 23rd (per BL), 200 at Whitburn most of month (PG et. al) and up to 40 at Ross, Bamburgh, Threestone Burn.

Tree Sparrow.

On 26th 150 at Druridge (JCD/AMB) and 100 at Shilbottle.

List of Contributors.

C.M. Adamson, A.M. Bankier, A.H. Banks, W. Brady, E. Bagshaw, J.S. Booth, M. Bell, J. Bacon, D.B. Charlton, E. Culwick, J.C. Day, C.E. Douglas, J.E. Ferguson, B. Galloway, P. Gill, J.M. Gibson, R. Grey, R. Higson, M.S. Hodgson, K. Hutton, A. James, W.A. Kelly, I. Kerr, M. Lawley, E. Lobley, B. Little, L.G. Macfarlane, E.R. Meek, J.&R. McCutcheon, J.D. McElwee, T.I. Mills, M. & J. Nattrass, D. North, D. O'Connor, J.D. Parrack, N.J. Phillips, H. Pattison, C. Robson, K. Robson, M. Richardson, A.J. Richards, M.R. Smith, D.L. Sowerbutts, A. Temple, J.T. Thompson, L. Ullock, K. Walton, T.H. Wall, C. Watson, P. Weighill, Bamburgh R.S.

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

Unusual Record Reporting Forms.

I would like to thank all contributors for their prompt co-operation in filling in these forms when they were requested to do so. It makes the job of the Records Committee that much easier when considering records/reports for the Annual Report with the information presented in this way. We will attempt to inform everyone of our decisions as soon as possible.

Bryan Galloway.

CLUB MEETING - THURSDAY, 14th MARCH.

Mr. Roy Dennis will be talking about his work as the R.S.P.B.'s Highland Officer. Mr. Dennis, a former Warden of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory, is an ornithologist of high standing.

FIELD TRIPS.

1). Weekend Trip to S.W. Scotland - 9-10th March.

This trip is now fully booked and the cost of £6. should be paid as soon as possible to the Field Secretary, Brian Etherington, as final numbers must be known for booking the hotel. Members are reminded that dinners are extra to the above amount and must be paid for separately. The coach will be leaving Front Street, Tynemouth, at 6.30.a.m. and the Hancock Museum, Newcastle at 7.00.a.m.



2). Ross to Beal Walk - Sunday, 21st April.

This walk of about 8 miles requires strong footwear. Transport will be by 29 seater coach at an approximate cost of 80p. The coach will leave Tynemouth at 8.00.a.m. and the Hancock Museum at 8.30.a.m. For further details please contact Brian Etherington, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay. Bookings must be accompanied by the appropriate payment.

'BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA'.

There are still copies of the Annual Report available at 60p. (plus 7p. postage), obtainable from B. Martin, 16 Whitelaw Place, Cramlington, NE23 6HX, cheques etc. should be made payable to "TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB".

2). Ross to Bear Walk - Sunday 21st April.

This walk of about 8 miles requires strong footwear. Transport will be by 29 seater coach at an approximate cost of 80p. The coach will leave Tynemouth at 8.00 a.m. and the Hancock Museum at 8.30 a.m. For further details please contact Brian Richardson, 10A Helena Avenue, Whitley Bay. Bookings must be accompanied by the appropriate payment.

#### BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA

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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB.

FEBRUARY 1974.

SUMMARY.

A mild month with winds predominating from a S.W. quarter.

Seabirds were conspicuous on 2nd/3rd with Gannets moving N, Fulmars and Auks S. and Divers in both directions. Arctic Skuas were also seen, no doubt remnants from the January 'influx', and Shelducks were apparently restless.

Apart from Great Crested Grebes returning to inland waters after 8th, the only other significant period in the month was 23rd/24th when Waders were noted moving inland. Out of season Waders involved 3 Green Sandpipers and a Ruff, whilst off Ross Links Long Tailed Ducks, Scoter (including the Surf) and Eiders remained in large numbers.

Other interesting wildfowl included 2 Smew and 2 parties of Bean Geese, one of which spent the second part of the month at the traditional site at Grindon Lough.

Of the many records of birds of prey, Golden Eagle, Goshawk and 5 Hen Harriers were the most interesting whilst Short Eared Owls were noted in good numbers.

The Holy Island Mediterranean Gull made a brief re-appearance whilst a small 'influx' of Waxwings was noted after 15th.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black Throated Diver.

1 off Bamburgh on 25th (BRS).

Great Northern Diver.

2-5 off Ross all month (BL/KW/et.al). Off Seaton Sluice 1 S. on each of 2nd/3rd (KW).

Red Throated Diver.

60-80 off Ross all month, most identifiable only as Diver (sp) (BL/KW/et.al), 10-15 off Cresswell on 23rd (BG/DLS). Off Seaton Sluice 75 S. on 2nd and 83 N. on 3rd (KW).

Great Crested Grebe.

An early return to Gosforth Park with 1 on 8th, 2 on 16th, and 3 by 24th (AG/LGM/ERM et.al). On 24th 2 at Hallington (EAS) and 3 at Brasside (ML). 1 on sea off Cresswell on 23rd (BG) when 2 off Ross (KW).

Red Necked Grebe.

1-3 in Holy Island - Bamburgh area all month with at least 5 on 10th (BG et.al).

Slavonian Grebe.

Up to 40 noted off Ross during month (BG/KW et.al).

Little Grebe.

1-2 noted on Rivers Till, Coquet (estuary), Tyne (Stocksfield), Wansbeck (Morpeth), and Wear (Washington), 6 at Brasside on 24th (ML) and 1-2 at Whittle Dene all month (JSB et.al).



Fulmar.

On 2nd 209 S. off Seaton Sluice (KW) and gatherings of 150 off Holy Island on 9th (AG) and 110 between Beadnell/Howick on 24th (JB).

Gannet.

Off Seaton Sluice 254 N. and 40 S. on 2nd, 10 N. on 3rd and 30 N. on 24th (KW).

Cormorant.

1 at Washington Reserve on 7th and 15 in Amble Harbour on 24th (THW/AT).

Heron.

1-2 at several scattered locations. 4 at Holywell on 24th, was largest gathering (M. & J.N).

White Pelican.

The Warkworth bird was still present in early March.

Chilean Flamingo.

In addition to the Budle Bay bird 1 was at Holywell from 23rd until 28th. The latter was probably the bird seen at Washington on 31st January, (AT/PW et.al).

Mallard.

Largest flocks were 450 at Colt Crag on 17th (RG/WB/EL), 250-300 at Gosforth and Holywell all month (CED/LGM), 200 in Budle Bay on 10th (BG), 150 at each of Whittle Dene on 9th (THW) and Derwent on 26th.

Teal.

Largest flock was 70 at Bothal on 1st (JEF), with 25-45 noted at Holywell, Gosforth and Washington during month.

Gadwall.

A female at Grindon on 3rd (AJR).

Wigeon.

7000 in Budle Bay on 23rd (KW). Elsewhere well reported in flocks of up to 50 with up to 230 at Grindon (ERM/LGM et.al), 150 at Derwent (RG/WB/EL), 244 near Sprouston (MN) and 80 between Beadnell/Howick (JB).

Pintail.

Only record was of 2 at Grindon on 23rd (CMA/LGM/ERM).

Shoveler.

During month 1-2 at Holywell and Washington and up to 4 at Gosforth.

Scaup.

Up to 20 off Ross all month with 1 in Seahouses Harbour on 10th, 2 N. off Annstead on 17th (BRS), and 1 on Cresswell Pond on 23rd (BG/DLS).

Tufted Duck.

Some very low counts, indicative of the mild weather with only Gosforth Park, with a max. of 103 on 16th regularly holding in excess of 50 (LGM et.al).

Pochard.

Like Tufted it was only at Gosforth Park where large counts were made with a max. of 156 on 16th. No more than 30 noted from 7 other waters.

Goldeneye.

Largest gatherings were on R. Tweed (max. 46 between Sprouston and Wark on 16th), Greenlee/Broomlee (41 on 17th), Whittle Dene (25 on 24th), Capheaton (22 on 9th) and Holywell (20 on 16th) with 10-20 on sea off Seaton Sluice, Howick and Bamburgh during month.

Long Tailed Duck.

Up to 233 counted off Ross during month with max. on 23rd (KW). Only other locations were Cresswell Pond, where 1 remained until 23rd (BG/DLS) and Seaton Sluice where 2 N. on 27th (MRS).

Velvet Scoter.

Up to 70 noted off Ross during month (BL et.al).

Surf Scoter.

The drake was noted off Bamburgh until at least 10th.

Common Scoter.

Up to 1000 off Bamburgh early in month (BL/BG).

Red Breasted Merganser.

Max. of 105 off Ross on 23rd (KW). An interesting and unusual fresh water record of 1 at Greenlee Lough on 16th (EC).

Goosander.

10-25 noted on the usual inland waters at Hallington, Greenlee, Colt Crag and Whittle Dene, with smaller numbers on Sweethope, Hartburn, Tunstall and R. Tyne. Gosforth Park continues to attract fluctuating numbers with 11 on 2nd increasing to 13 on 11th and still 4 on 24th.

Smew.

Single redheads noted at Hartburn 1st-17th (JEF/WAK) and Broomlee/Halley pike on 7th/17th (LGM).

Shelduck.

Max. 200 in Budle Bay on 10th (BG et.al) with 35 on Coquet Estuary on 2nd (M. & J.N) when 29 S. off Seaton Sluice followed by 9 N. next day (KW). 3 at Washington on 1st (AT) and 10 on Cresswell Pond on 23rd (BG).

Grey Goose (sp).

17 N. over Washington on 28th (AT).

Grey Lag Goose.

Max in Colt Crag/Hallington area was 250 W. over latter on 24th (EAS). In Budle Bay area 100-150 all month (BL/KW). 155 at Hoselaw on 16th (MN) and at Grindon Lough 8 on 3rd, increasing to 17-18 23rd-25th (AJR/LGM/ERM).

White Fronted Goose.

8 at Grindon on 7th (LGM).

Bean Goose.

At Grindon 8 on 12th (RG/WB/EL) increased to max. of 18 on 24th (LGM/ERM et.al). 3 with Grey Lags in Budle Bay on 23rd (KW).

Pink Footed Goose.

At Grindon 2 on 23rd (ERM).

Brent Goose.

195 on Fenham Flats on 2nd/3rd (BL).

Canada Goose.

Max. 63 at Colt Crag on 9th (LGM).

Mute Swan.

Up to 14 in Coquet Estuary and 13 at Washington on 5th/6th.

Whooper Swan.

Numbers remained high at Grindon, until 84 on 7th reduced to 13 by 17th with 9 there on 24th (LGM et.al). Up to 60 in Holywell area all month (MSH et.al) and at Wark-on-Tweed 71 on 16th (MN/CW). 36 near Ellington on 3rd (BL) whilst only 20 on Fenham Flats by 10th. Up to 10 noted at Whittle Dene, Sweethope, Blyth, Derwent, Capheaton and Wallsend Swallow.

Bewicks Swan.

6 in Budle Bay on 9th (WSC) and 1 at Holywell on 24th (JEF).

Golden Eagle.

An immature again seen in Cheviots on 3rd when 1 was over the Threestone Burn.

Buzzard.

1 near Longframlington on 17th (per BL) and 1 over Prestwick Carr on 25th (MRS).

Sparrowhawk.

Singles at 12 widely scattered locations including 1 that crashed into a window at Hamsterley Mill on 9th and broke its neck (EP).

Goshawk.

1 seen near Greenhead on 24th (EB/GC).

Hen Harrier.

A male and female noted on Lindisfarne Reserve throughout month (AG/BL/KW). Another male near Eglington on 24th (WAK) and single ring-tails at Holywell on 9th (JPD/EML) and in mid. Northumberland on 23rd (KH).

Peregrine.

1 in the Ross/Beal area on 23rd/24th (KW).

Merlin.

Singles at Holy Island on 10th, Bamburgh on 3rd and at Washington on 14th were the only records.

Kestrel.

Widely reported.

Red Legged Partridge.

19 near Stannington on 1st (AHB).

Water Rail.

Noted at Holywell (1 on 2nd) and at Gosforth Park (several all month).

Moorhen.

60 at Holywell on 9th, was the largest reported concentration.

Coot.

22 on Coquet Estuary on 2nd (MN/CW) and 67 on R. Tweed between Wark - Sprouston on 16th.

Oystercatcher.

500 roosting in Budle Bay on 10th (BG), 100 at St. Mary's on 23rd (MSH) and 88 between Beadnell and Howick on 24th (JB). Overland passage first noted on 20th when 14 at Bellingham. During next 7 days 20 W. over Powburn, up to 6 at Corbridge and 1 over Washington.

Lapwing.

Between 9th-16th, 400 at Holywell, 900 at Washington and 550 at Coldstream.



Ringed Plover.

27 in Beadnell area on 24th was largest reported count. Inland, 1 at Washington 12th and 14th and 2 near Earsdon on 27th.

Grey Plover.

Away from Lindisfarne, 1 at Amble on 2nd (M.&J.N) and 2 at Howick on 3rd (IK).

Golden Plover.

3000 at Budle on 23rd and 2000 at Beal on 24th (KW). 250 at Whittle Dene on 9th (THW) and 100 - 200 in Grindon area between 17th - 24th (ERM/LGM).

Turnstone.

200 Beadnell/Howick on 24th (JB).

Common Snipe.

20-25 at each of Washington and Holy Island on 10th/11th (BG/AG/AT).

Woodcock.

1 at Gosforth on 16th (MSH) - only record.

Curlew.

110 Beadnell/Howick on 24th (JB). Overland movement suggested by 7 at Grindon on 24th (LGM) and 1 at Derwent on 26th (RG/WB/EL).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

At least 500 roosting in Budle on 10th (BG). 5 at Amble on 2nd (M.&J.N).

Green Sandpiper.

Singles at Rowlands Gill on 2nd (RH/EC) and at Colt Crag on 9th (KH), 1 at Durham on January 13th (ML).

Redshank.

66 Beadnell/Howick on 24th (JB). Overland passage suggested by 2 at Grindon on 23rd (LGM) and 1 at Derwent on 26th (R.G. et al).

Knot.

About 2000 in Budle - Seahouses area on 10th (BRS/BG). 1500 at St. Mary's on 23rd (MSH).

Purple Sandpiper.

60 at Bamburgh all month (BRS). On 23rd/24th 72 Beadnell/Howick, 20 at Craster and 130 at St. Mary's (MSH/JB/THW).

Dunlin.

At Washington up to 200 until 19th (AT) and 70-100 at Amble and Beadnell/Howick most of month.

Sanderling.

120 at St. Mary's on 23rd (MSH).

Ruff.

1 at Monks House Pool on 2nd (WSC).

Common Gull.

400 at Budle Bay on 10th and on 24th 2000 at each of Whittle Dene (BG) and Beadnell/Howick (JB).

Glaucous Gull.

On 2nd/3rd immatures at Holy Island (1) and Seaton Sluice (2 S.). Another immature at Newton on 16th (WSC).

Little Gull.

1 at Holy Island on 9th (AG).

Mediterranean Gull.

An adult on Holy Island on 2nd-3rd (BL).

Black Headed Gull.

30 returned to Grindon colony on 23rd with 150 next day (IGM) when some were carrying nesting material.

Auk. (sp).

On 2nd/3rd 620 S. off Seaton Sluice (KW).

Guillemot/Razorbill.

Small numbers found covered in oil all along coast during month.

Arctic Skua.

On 2nd/3rd about 4 off Seaton Sluice including 1 Skua (sp). (KW).

Barn Owl.

Singles at Brunton and Shankhouse with 3 or 4 in Bamburgh area.

Long Eared Owl.

1 on Holy Island 1st-2nd (BL).

Short Eared Owl.

Well reported with up to 5 on Holy Island (7th-9th), 3 between Ross and Fenham Mill (23rd), up to 3 at Holywell (all month) and singles at Killingworth, Wallsend Swallow, Derwent and Cresswell.

Kingfisher.

1 at Whittle Dene on 9th (KH).

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Howick, Wingates and Fairley.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at 6 widely scattered locations.

Skylark.

150 at Cullernose on 3rd (JB).

Shore Lark.

3 at Ross on 23rd (KW).

Raven.

A pair nesting in Cheviots on 17th (ERM).

Hooded Crow.

Singles at Holy Island on 9th (AG), Ross on 23rd (KW), Hartley on 10th (MRS) and Derwent on 17th (per BL).

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Bolam and Rowlands Gill.

Willow Tit.

Noted at Washington all month.

Long Tailed Tit.

Still well reported with flocks of up to 12 in widely scattered area including Crag Lough.

Nuthatch.

Singles at Bolam on 17th (WAK) and Hamsterley Mill all month (EP).

Tree Creeper.

A coastal record of 1 at Hauxley on 2nd and 18th (HRS).

Fieldfare.

Flocks of 40-80 at Druridge (2nd), Kirkheaton (16th) and Seaton Delaval (26th).

Redwing.

Up to 30 noted at Heaton, Blaydon and Hamsterley Mill during month. Between 23rd - 26th 100 at Ryal and 200 at Seaton Delaval.

Stonechat.

1-3 on coast at Budle, Howick, Newton, Warkworth and Cresswell. Interesting inland records of a pair at Akeld on 24th (BL/ERM) and a female at Corbridge on 26th (MR).

Meadow Pipit.

Small parties noted near Akeld on 24th (ERM/BL).

Grey Wagtail.

Singles noted at Whitley Quarry until 16th (J.D.McE), at Hamsterley Mill on 21st (EP) and at Seaton Delaval on 23rd (AT), 2 at Durham on 24th (ML).

Great Grey Shrike.

1 still at Blaydon on 17th (BG).

Waxwing.

A few records. 1-6 noted at Whitley Bay, Morpeth, Lynemouth and Westerhope between 15th - 25th (MDB/JKJ/IK).

Greenfinch.

300 at Gosforth Park on 16th (MSH), 250 at Washington all month (AT/THW), 150 at Pawston on 16th (MN/CW) and 60 at Durham on 24th (ML).

Goldfinch.

14 at Halleypike on 17th (LGM) and 13 at Grindon on 25th (ERM).

Linnet.

350 at Hoselaw on 16th (MN/CW) and 80 at Matfen on 23rd (KB).

Twite.

3 at Budle Bay on 23rd (KW).

Chaffinch.

150 on Hamsterley Forest on 27th (ERM).

Brambling.

Large flocks of 200 at Rowlands Gill on 2nd (RH/EC) and 300/400 at Ponteland on 16th (AJ).

Corn Bunting.

Roost of 100-150 at Bamburgh during month (BRS), with up to 100 roosting near Seaton Delaval especially early in month.

Reed Bunting.

Roost of 130 near Seaton Delaval during month.

/Snow Bunting.

### Snow Bunting.

Up to 15 noted at Threestone Burn in the Cheviots and Bamburgh with singles near Holywell and on Newcastle Town Moor.

### Tree Sparrow.

Flocks of 30 at Corbridge on 16th (MR), 70 at Durham on 24th (ML), and perhaps 100 near Ryal on 16th (CMA).

### List of Contributors.

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

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 11th.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:-

1. Secretary's Report.
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Proposed Constitution of Tyneside Bird Club.
4. Election of Committee.
5. A short film will be shown.
6. Declaration of Club Officers.

Nominations for the Committee are invited and the nominee must be agreeable to his or her name being submitted. Nominations should be forwarded to John Ginnever, 230 Ashington Drive, Stakeford, Choppington, Northumberland, by 10th April, at the latest.

### R.S.P.B. - Film Show.

On Saturday, 27th April, 1974, at 7.30.p.m. in the Curtis Auditorium, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, the R.S.P.B. is presenting an illustrated lecture by Robert Gillmor, entitled 'East African Wildlife Safari'. Mr. Gillmor, the internationally famous wildlife artist, is paying his first visit as a lecturer to Newcastle and this is a first class opportunity to hear such an excellent lecturer. Tickets are available from J.G. Windows, Central Arcade, Newcastle upon Tyne, or from the R.S.P.B. North England Office, 'A' Floor, Milburn House, Dean Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1LE, enclosing s.a.e. Prices: Adults 35p., Children 15p.



March 1974

Summary.

March was probably the coldest month of the year as winds prevailed mainly from an easterly quarter and with the exception of the last few days, there was very little sunshine to be seen.

A steady decline in wildfowl was noted as the month progressed and shore waders too gradually disappeared.

Some early Lesser Black-Backs were seen on 9th./10th. and a Chiffchaff appeared on 18th., but it was really the last twelve days of the month that brought the majority of interesting records as the traditional early summer visitors arrived during anticyclonic conditions. The first Wheatear was seen on 20th., Ring Ouzel on 22nd. and Sandwich Tern on 24th., and other species involved in arrivals or departures included Lesser Black-Backed Gulls, Fieldfares, Redwings, Blackbirds, Goldcrests, a Great Grey Shrike and 3 Black Redstarts.

By the end of the month, the moorland breeding waders were well established in territory whilst examples of early nesting involved Heron, Dipper, Long-Tailed Tit and Wren.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Red-Throated Diver.

40 off Alnmouth on 14th. (NJP) was the largest concentration and on four dates between 3rd. - 24th. inclusive, 12N and 17S off Seaton Sluice (KW). An unusual number were seen inland and most were showing patches of oil; 1 was at Holywell between 6th. - 10th. (EC/CED et al). 1 was at Cresswell Pond on 8th. (JEF/PW), 1 was at Washington on 14th./15th. (AT), 1 was at Tunstall Res. on 23rd. (THW).

Great Crested Grebe.

The return to inland waters continued with 2 at Hallington after 3rd. (IK/J&ETN), 2 at Gosforth all month, 1 at Seaton Burn 9th. and 16th. (CMA/AJm), 1 at Holywell and 2 at Catcleugh on 17th. (JCD/CED/M&JN), 1 - 2 at Whittle Dene after 23rd. (JSB), 1 at Washington on 28th. (AT/TW), 1 at Broomlee on 30th. (EAS) when 2 at Colt Crag (KB) and 2 at Brasside on 27th. (MJC). 1 off Bamburgh on 3rd. was the only offshore record (MW).

Red-Necked Grebe.

Up to 9 in Holy Island/Bamburgh area until 24th. (BRS et al).

Slavonian Grebe.

6 off Ross on 23rd. (JNP).

Little Grebe.

1 - 3 noted on Coquet Estuary, at Alnmouth, Capheaton, Monks House Pool, Whittle Dene, Wallington, Tunstall, Holywell, Washington, Halleypike, Grindon with three pairs at Broomlee. Most records after mid month.

Fulmar.

A blue phase bird S off Seaton Sluice on 3rd. (HW/KW). Several pairs on cliffs at Tynemouth Priory (TJR) and twenty-six pairs on Bamburgh Castle (MW).

Gannet.

Heaviest N passage noted on 3rd. when 115 counted off Seaton Sluice (KW).

Cormorant.

The only inland records were 1 at Blaydon on 20th. (AJR) and 1 over Washington on 19th. (AT/THW). An unusual sighting off Ross was of 3 "white headed birds" there on 3rd. (MR).



Heron.

Many records of 1 - 3 birds. 5 at Holywell on 17th. (MN) was largest "flock". As early as 10th. a nest with eggs was found in Northumberland (LGM).

Flamingo.

Reported from four locations involving at least 2 individuals. 1 at Holywell all month, 1 at Washington on 8th., 1 at Budle Bay until at least 2nd. and 1 at Bothal 26th.- 28th.

White Pelican.

The Warkworth bird remained all month.

Mallard.

Largest flocks reported were 60 at Gosforth on 10th. reducing to 20 by 24th. (THW et al). Also 50 at Holywell on 9th. (M&JN) when 50 at Whittle Dene (JSB).

Teal.

Largest counts were 53 at Grindon on 2nd. (LGM/AJR), 100 at Bothal on 8th. (PW) when 30 at Washington (AT) and 25 at Gosforth on 10th. (THW).

Wigeon.

Still plentiful in small flocks the largest of which was at Grindon/Broomlee Loughs where up to 250 were present all month (LGM/EAS et al). Up to 50 were at Whittle Dene, Holy Island, Budle Bay and Holburn Moss, particularly before 15th. Off Seaton Sluice 65N and 23S on 3rd. (KW).

Pintail.

An interesting series of widely scattered records, obviously involving birds on passage with 1 - 3 at Budle Bay, Holywell, Washington, Gosforth, Cresswell, Hallington and Broomlee between 1st. - 31st. with 5 at each of Holy Island on 8th. and Cresswell on 29th. Also 5 at Washington between 19th. - 31st. with 6 on 22nd.

Shoveler.

As with Pintail, many records of 1 - 3 throughout month involving returning breeding birds in addition to passage visitors. Most records were of drakes occurring at Grindon, Cresswell, Holywell, Gosforth, Washington (up to 5) and Gosforth (up to 7). Also 3N off Seaton Sluice on 3rd. (KW).

Scaup.

Pair at Cresswell on 3rd. (J&RMCC) with a drake there on 8th. (JEF), 2 off Bamburgh on 11th. (MW) and 4 off Seaton Sluice on 16th. (PW/KW).

Tufted Duck.

74 at Gosforth on 24th. was largest reported flock (LGM), although 30 - 40 were noted at Seaton Burn, Northumbrian Loughs, Washington, Bolam and Capheaton.

Pochard.

Largest flocks were 65 at Gosforth on 10th. (THW), 34 at Capheaton on 16th. (CMA) and 22 at Northumbrian Loughs on 2nd. (LGM).

Goldeneye.

Well reported in groups of up to 9. Double figure counts were made at Broomlee Lough (35 on 1st. with 22 on 17th. and 12 on 30th.), at Holywell (max. 18 on 10th.), Alnmouth (13 on 3rd.), Capheaton (15 on 16th.), R. Tyne near Corbridge (10 on 23rd.-26th.), Whittle Dene (13 on 16th.). Off Seaton Sluice 18N on 3rd. and 19N on 23rd./24th. with up to 10 on sea (KW).

Long Tailed Duck.

40 off Bamburgh/Ross early in month reducing to 10 by 15th. (BRS/NJP). 1 on Cresswell Pond on 3rd. and 29th. (J&RMCC/B&ME et al).

Velvet Scoter.

50 off Bamburgh/Ross early in month fell to 6 by close (BRS/MR/MW). 1N Seaton Sluice on 3rd. (KW).

Common Scoter.

Up to 300 off Ross/Bamburgh until 12th. (MW et al).

King Eider.

An immature female found dead on Fenham Flats on 11th. January has been accepted by British Birds (per BG).

Red-Breasted Merganser.

A few records of 1 - 8 off several points with the last being 1N Seaton Sluice on 16th.

Goosander.

Flocks of 11 - 14 at Hallington, Whittle Dene and R. Tyne, Corbridge during month with up to 8 further downstream in Heddon/Prudhoe area until at least 27th. At Gosforth Park 1 - 3 until 29th. and a pair displaying at Matfen between 17th. - 20th. A female at Cresswell on 6th. (KB).

Smew.

Noted only at Halleypike Lough with 1 there on 2nd. (LGM) and 2 together on 23rd. (PD). All were females.

Shelduck.

140 at Budle Bay on 3rd. when 30 on Coquet Estuary (CMA). Still 16 on Coquet Estuary on 30th. (J&RMCC). Up to 7 at Cresswell, Alnmouth, Monk's House, Washington and N off Seaton Sluice.

Greylag Goose.

Up to 250 in Budle Bay area all month (BRS/CR et al). At Grindon 17 on 2nd. and 22 from 22nd. - 31st (LGM/DLS/RG et al).

Pink-Footed Goose.

1 at Monk's House Pool from 28th. February until at least 29th. March.

Canada Goose.

1 at Whittle Dene on 19th. (EB) was only record.

Mute Swan.

Largest concentrations were 16 - 17 at Amble all month (J&RMCC) and 15 at Washington 25th. - 29th. (AT).

Whooper Swan.

Still well represented. At Holywell a max. of 58 on 20th. with smaller groups in immediate area until that date (DH/PW et al). Up to 12 in Northumbrian Loughs area until at least 22nd. (LGM/RG et al). 9 - 10 at Whittle Dene all month (EAS/AJR) and 14 near Belsay on 17th. (IK). Only 6 at Fenham Flats on 11th. (MW).

Bewick's Swan.

5 near Shankhouse 12th. - 15th. (BMn) and 1 at Broomlee on 17th. (LGM).

Buzzard.

3 over Linhope Spout on 22nd. (MRS).

Sparrowhawk.

Noted at Gosforth, Washington, Stonehaugh, Heaton and Alnmouth. 1 that flew through a window at Scots Gap in pursuit of a small bird fractured both wings and one leg (JNP).

Hen Harrier.

A male noted at Ross and Holy Island on 23rd. and 31st. respectively (JNP/JCD/DBC)

Peregrine.

Singles reported at Cresswell and Holy Island on 24th. (HT/BRS) and 1 watched for about ten minutes in Upper Coquetdale on 31st. (BVA)

Merlin.

Singles noted at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Felton, Washington and Grindon during month.

Red-Legged Partridge.

1 near Brenkley on 24th. (BG).

Water Rail.

1 observed feeding from pigfeed buckets at a farm near Cramlington on many occasions during the month (JNP).

Coot.

250 at Seaton Burn on 9th. reduced to 120 by 29th. (AJM et al). 81 at Wallsend on 19th. (KR).

Oystercatcher.

More inland records as the month progressed with 1 - 3 at Whittle Dene, Washington, Grindon, Whitfield Lough, Wark, Ridley Hall. By 24th., 14 at Corbridge (MR) and by 31st., several in Upper Coquetdale (BVA).

Lapwing.

Still 1000 at Washington on 5th. (AT) and 300 at Seaton Burn on 9th. (AJM) By 16th. several were displaying at Brenkley (CMA) and by 30th., exceptional numbers were in breeding territory in Allendale (BG).

Ringed Plover.

Inland passage birds were noted at Broomlee on 17th. (1) and Washington between 21st. - 29th. (1 - 2). 2 on a pool near Earsdon on 25th (TJR).

Grey Plover.

Singles noted at Seahouses, Beadnell and at Newton Pool between 2nd. - 10th.

Golden Plover.

200 at Grindon on 2nd. (LGM), 40 at Dilston on 4th. (MR). Prominent in breeding territory in Allendale on 30th. (BG).

Common Snipe.

Common in territory in breeding areas in Allendale on 30th. (BG).

Jack Snipe.

1 at Broomlee on 17th. (LGM).

Woodcock.

A passage bird at Wallsend Swallow on 19th. (KR). Between 24th. - 31st., small numbers in breeding territory at Holystone and near Edmondbyers (BG/DLS).

Curlew.

Passage flocks involved 38 at Corbridge on 9th. (MR) and 9 - 15 at Holywell between 23rd. - 31st. A pair in territory at Stamfordham on 21st. and common in Allendale by 30th. (EB/BG).

Green Sandpiper.

1 near Kirkley Hall on 15th. (AHB) and between 23rd. - 26th. singles near Hexham (MR), Lockhaugh sewage works (RH) and Seaton Burn (AJM).

Redshank.

A passage flock of 12 at Heddon on the R. Tyne on 24th. (EAS) and between then and 31st., many were noted in territory at Blanchland, Allendale and Northumbrian Loughs. 136 at Alnmouth/Ambles on 31st. (J&RMCC).

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay between 1st. - 8th. (JEF/PW).

Greenshank.

1 at Alnmouth between 14th. - 30th. (RH/NJP/J&RMCC).

Knot.

Between 1st. - 4th., 150 at Bamburgh (MW) and 52 at Ambles (J&RMCC). 90 at Seaton Sluice on 23rd. (M&JN).

Purple Sandpiper.

40 at Seaton Sluice on 23rd. (M&JN).

Dunlin.

Up to 100 at Washington during month (AT).

Sanderling.

Up to 80 at St. Mary's until 16th., then a peak of 250 on 26th. (AT). 50 at Whitburn most of month (TIM).

Arctic Skua.

Unusual reports off Seaton Sluice with 3N and 7S on 3rd. and 1S on 16th. (KW).

Lesser Black-Backed Gull.

Early records of 2 near Longframlington on 9th. (per BL) and 1 at Grindon on 10th. (LGM). From 23rd., 1 - 3 at Whitfield Lough, Biddlestone, Washington, Gosforth and College Valley and by 30th./31st., they were moving W through Cheviots in good numbers and 10 were in Budle Bay.

Herring Gull.

Between 27th. - 31st., a few examples of oiled birds were conspicuous at Washington and Holywell (TJR/THW).

Common Gull.

2000 were at Broomlee Lough on 1st. (RH) at the commencement of spring passage and by 23rd./24th., 400 - 600 were at each of Ogle and Kirkwhelpington (BG). A few oiled birds were at Washington at the end of the month.

Glaucous Gull.

1 at North Shields Fish Quay between 6th. - 20th. (EC/MGC et al) and possibly the same N off Seaton Sluice on 16th. (KW/PW). An adult N off the latter on 3rd. (KW) and on 26th., an immature at Alnmouth (RH).

Iceland Gull.

An adult at Holywell on 16th. (ERM).

Little Gull.

2 immatures N off Seaton Sluice on 26th. (KW) and 1 at Cambois on 28th. (PK).

Black-Headed Gull.

250 at each of Grindon and Broomlee on 30th. (EAS).

Sandwich Tern.

1N off Seaton Sluice on 24th. was the first and only record (KW).

Little Auk.

1 found dead at Ross on 12th. (MW).



Barn Owl.

Noted at Heddon, Hexham, Bamburgh and Jarrow.

Little Owl.

Noted only at Redesmouth.

Short-Eared Owl.

1 - 3 noted at Holywell, Tunstall, Allendale, Derwent, Wallsend Swallow and Lindisfarne.

Kingfisher.

Noted only in Holywell Dene with 1 on 23rd. and 26th. (KR/AT).

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Shaftoe, Threestone Burn, Hulne Park and Blaydon.

Raven.

Visits to 14 traditional nest sites produced only one occupied, which was the one reported in February. 2 birds seen in Upper Coquetdale on 31st. (BVA).

Hooded Crow.

1 at Seaton Sluice on 23rd. (KW) and 2 at Druridge on 30th. (KR).

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Bolam and at Holystohe.

Long-Tailed Tit.

Two pairs collecting nesting material in Corbridge area between 23rd. - 26th. (MR).

Nuthatch.

At least 2 at Hamsterley Mill all month (EP). 1 at Bolam on 23rd. (BG).

Wren.

1 nesting in a box at Kenton on 24th. (MRS).

Dipper.

A pair nest building at Haydon Bridge on 1st. (RH).

Fieldfare.

Some large gatherings as birds prepare to emigrate. On 16th./17th., 250 at Bellingham and 400 at Prestwick Carr (ERM/IK). Between 24th. - 31st., parties of up to 600 in Allendale, at Stamfordham, Heddon, Devil's Water, Biddlestone and Ingram.

Redwing.

On 23rd., a steady NE movement noted over Bolam (BG) and on 30th./31st., at least 200 at Sinderhope (BG) and many moving NE over Devil's Water (EAS).

Ring Ouzel.

An early bird at Warkworth on 22nd. (RH). On 28th., 3 at Sipton (Allendale) and on 31st., 1 in Upper Coquetdale (PG/BVA).

Blackbird.

Conspicuous in SE coastal areas on 9th. (KR). Between 13th. - 20th., large numbers in Howick area (JB) and on 31st., a suggestion of a movement through inland districts.

Wheatear.

Well reported, especially at the coast where the first was noted at Howick on 20th. (JB). 1 on Holy Island on 22nd. and next day, 2 at Bamburgh (BRS), 1 at Cramlington (BM) and 1 at Dunstanburgh (PG). Between 26th.-31st., 1 - 2 noted at eight other locations on the coast. Inland, the first was noted on



Simonsides on 21st. (per BL) and between 28th. - 30th., 1 - 2 noted in Allendale and in Coquetdale (RG/AJo).

Stonechat.

Noted only in Druridge Bay area with at least three pairs involved and at Lindisfarne where a single one was noted on 11th. (MW).

Black Redstart.

Between 26th. - 28th., 1 - 2 at Tynemouth (DT) and 1 at St. Mary's (AB et al). A most unusual occurrence of 1, a male singing, on Threestone Burn on 24th. (per BL).

Blackcap.

1 at Stocksfield on 28th. (J&RMCC).

Chiffchaff.

1 in a garden at Denton Burn between 18th. - 20th. and again on 29th. (BG). 1 singing in Hulne Park on 28th. (CR).

Goldcrest.

Good numbers in coastal areas on 30th./31st. particularly at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Whitlay Bay.

Meadow Pipit.

Present on moors in Redesdale on 1st. despite several inches of snow covering (ERM). Steady N movement over Alnmouth on 22nd. at 30 - 40/hr. for four hours. (RH).

Water Pipit.

1 at Annstead, with Rock Pipits, on 24th. (BRS).

White Wagtail.

1 on Holy Island on 23rd. (JNP).

Grey Wagtail.

Distinctive light coastal passage between 14th. - 17th. with 4 at Alnmouth (NJP), 3N at Seaton Sluice (TJR) and 4 over Bamburgh. Also 1 at Hauxley on 31st. (HRS). Return to inland sites by mid month.

Great Grey Shrike.

The Blaydon bird still present on 16th. (MN) and another at Lynemouth on 30th. (KR).

Hawfinch.

8 at Corbridge on 5th. (MR) and 1 killed itself as it crashed into a window at Gosforth on 24th. (per BL).

Goldfinch.

50 at Grindon on 1st. (RH) and 100 at Morpeth on 22nd. (per BL).

Siskin.

1 or 2 noted at Tit feeders in Hexham, Stocksfield and Stakeford during month (RG/J&RMCC/per TJR). 90 at Lilbarn on 10th. (per BL).

Twite.

1 at Cresswell on 8th. (JEF).

Chaffinch.

Flock of 100 in Coquetdale on 31st. (BVA) with 100 at Corbridge on 4th. (MR)

Brambling.

A few at Belsay on 3rd. (KB) and at Ravensworth on 17th. (TIM).

### Snow Bunting.

Up to 13 noted at Holy Island, Ross, Seaton Sluice and Sunderland with the last, 1, at Ross on 23rd.

### House Sparrow.

Melanistic at Threestone Burn on 23rd. (per BL).

### List of Contributors.

C.M.Adamson, B.V.Atkins, J.Bacon, E.Bagshaw, A.Belshaw, K.Barratt, J.S.Booth, W.Brady, A.H.Banks, M.G.Chadwick, D.B.Charlton, M.J.Cotton, E.Culwick, W.S.Craster, J.C.Day, P.Davidson, C.E.Douglas, B.&M.Etherington, J.E.Ferguson, B.Galloway, P.Gill, R.Grey, R.Higson, D.Howey, A.James, A.Jones, I.Kerr, W.A.Kelly, P.Kelly, E.Lobley, B.Little, L.G.Macfarlane, B.Martin, J.&R.McCutcheon, T.I.Mills, E.R.Meek, M.&J.Nattress, E.T.&J.R.Norris, J.N.Prescott, E.Priestley, A.J.Richards, M.Richardson, C.Robson, K.Robson, T.J.Rose, R.H.Silk, D.L.Sowerbutts, E.A.Stanley, H.Teguer, A.Temple, L.Ullock, T.H.Wall, K.Walton, R.Walton, P.Weighill, H.Wilson, M.Wray, Hauxley and Bamburgh RS

All April reports to Bryan Galloway, 115, Southway, S.W.Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RD by 12th. May, please.

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

April 1974

### Summary

A month that lacked any distinctive passerine arrivals at the coast was consequently rather disappointing and despite several periods of rather settled conditions migrants were slow in arriving. With the exception of the Willow Warblers there were comparatively few summer visitors in residence at the end of the month and some of the traditional April 'firsts' were conspicuous by their absence.

Sea bird movements were most apparent on 12th./13th., involving mainly Fulmars and Gannets with some Sandwich Terns, Manx Shearwaters and a Bonxie.

Winter wildfowl and waders continued to decline in numbers, to be replaced by Shoveler, a few Garganey (after 18th.) and Common Sandpipers (after 20th.). An Osprey was seen on a number of occasions after 17th. but the bird of the month was the Fieldfare with huge numbers reported, particularly in central parts of Northumberland, throughout the month.

The month terminated with a light influx of passerines, including 4 Wrynecks, during light SE winds and fog between 28th.-30th. when a Dotterel was seen on Holy Island.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Diver.

Most observations were made from Seaton Sluice with 26N and 6S on 12th./13th. and 8N on 27th./28th. (K.W.)

#### Great Crested Grebe.

Pairs were noted as follows: Catcleugh (at least one), Sweethope (one), Derwent (one), Whittle Dene (two), Seaton Burn (one), Gosforth Park (one), Holywell (one), Brasside (three).

A single bird was at Greenlee on 20th. (L.G.M.) and offshore 1 was at Cresswell on 16th. (L.G.M.)

#### Little Grebe.

Records of 1 - 5 birds from Blackaburn Lough, Radcliffe, Wallington, Whittle Dene, Bolam, Wallsend, Gosforth, Cresswell, Washington and Brasside.

#### Manx Shearwater.

3N off Seaton Sluice on 12th. (K.W.) was the only record.

#### Fulmar.

N passage noted off Seaton Sluice on 12th. (221N) and on 28th. (104N) (K.W.)

#### Gannet.

N passage noted on several occasions off Seaton Sluice, Boulmer and Hauxley with 60N on 12th./13th., 40N on 18th. and 97N on 27th./28th. (P.D./K.W.)

#### Cormorant.

Only inland record was of 1 in Washington area between 15th.-30th. (A.T./T.H.W.) The North Wamses colony on the Farnes was well populated by 8th. (E.R.M.)

#### Shag.

Many pairs on nests on Farnes by 8th. (E.R.M.) but no eggs seen.

#### Heron.

Many records of 1 - 3, with a maximum of 5 at Gosforth between 23rd.-30th. (A.Jm. et al.). The first nestlings, only a few days old, were noted on 20th.

#### White Pelican.

The 'Warkworth bird' has wandered N to Newton and S to Cresswell and was still present at the end of the month.

#### Flamingo.

2 Chilean birds at Holywell after 16th.

Mallard.

First broods were noted at Holywell on 20th. and at Seaton Burn on 23rd.

Teal.

Grindon Lough attracted the largest numbers with a peak of just over 100 between 9th.- 15th. (L.G.M.). Elsewhere only 40 at Washington on 15th. was worthy of note (A.T.).

Garganey.

A drake was at Washington on 18th./19th. (R.N./A.T./T.H.W.) with a pair at Holywell on 20th. (C.E.D./J.E.F.).

Wigeon.

Grindon Lough attracted the largest numbers with 125 on 6th. steadily declining to 94 by 20th. and 13 by 30th. (L.G.M. et al). Elsewhere no more than 11 reported.

Pintail.

Up to 3 at Washington and Cresswell most of the month. 3 on Budle Bay on 13th. (R.N.), a pair at Gosforth between 22nd.- 24th. (K.B./B.G./A.Jm.) and a pair at Whittle Dene on 27th. (J.S.B.).

Shoveler.

During the month up to 9 at Gosforth (A.Jm. et al), up to 6 at Holywell (M.&J.N. et al), up to 5 at Washington (A.T./T.H.W.) and 1 - 2 at Grindon, Cresswell and Seaton Burn; Bothal and Chevington.

Scaup.

2 at Cresswell on 17th. (W.A.K.), 1 at Gosforth on 19th. (L.G.M.) and 2 at Washington on 29th. (A.T./T.H.W.).

Tufted Duck.

70 - 80 on Northumbrian Loughs on 6th. and 20th. (L.G.M.) and 20 - 35 at each of Holywell, Gosforth and Seaton Burn on most dates.

Pochard.

Up to 11 at Gosforth and Holywell most of the month with singles at Seaton Burn and Washington and 4 on Leazes Park Lake, Newcastle on 14th. (E.C.).

Goldeneye.

Well reported and including many observations of birds in display. Largest number was 28 at Wark/Tweed on 10th. (C.M.A.) also 18 - 20 at Holywell until 18th. 14N off St. Mary's on 6th. when 1S on Northumbrian Loughs. The latest reports were of 4 in Whittle Dene on 27th. when 2 at Holywell and 1 at Gosforth.

Long-Tailed Duck.

Only record was of 1 at Cresswell on 19th. (P.W.).

Common Scoter.

Light N passage was suggested by 34N off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's on 12th./13th. and 53N there between 20th.- 28th. (P.D./K.W.).

Red-Breasted Merganser.

1 - 3 off Alnmouth, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice between 12th.- 27th.

Goosander.

Still present in non-breeding areas at the end of the month when 20 between Corbridge - Hexham on 22nd. (M.R.) and 1 at Gosforth on 30th. (M.S.). Well reported in N.Tyne breeding areas including two nests found on crags in Border Forest, whilst another nest in Allendale contained twelve eggs.

Shelduck.

Up to nine pairs at Cresswell and seven pairs at Warkworth during month. Away from breeding areas, 3 at Broomlee on 6th. (L.G.M.), 1 at Seaton Burn on 10th. (M.R.S.), 2 at Tynemouth on 19th. (D.T.) and 5N and 2S off Seaton Sluice on 27th./28th. (K.W.) 1 - 2 at South Linton and Washington most of the month may be breeding birds.

Greylag Goose.

22 at Grindon on 6th. reduced to 5 by 9th.-15th. (L.G.M.) 75 at Colt Crag on 7th. (B.&M.E./K.W.). Between 14th.-21st. 1 - 3 noted at Cresswell, Holywell and Sweethope.



Pink-Footed Goose.

The March Monk's House individual remained until at least 27th. (W.S.C. et al)

Canada Goose.

On 21st. 5 at Colt Crag and 13 at Sweethope (M.S. et al). Pair at Brasside on 25th. (D.L.S.)

Mute Swan.

21 at Wark/Tweed on 10th. (C.M.A.) and 18 on Coquet Estuary on 13th. (E.R.M.)

Whooper Swan.

7 at Grindon on 6th.- 9th. (L.G.M.) and 3 at Halleypike on 10th. (R.W.). No other reports.

Sparrowhawk.

Well reported as singles in widespread locations including breeding areas.

Hen Harrier.

1 near Elsdon on 5th. (per B.L.) and at Holy Island a male on 12th. (R.G.L.) and a female on 28th. (L.G.M./R.At.).

Osprey.

1 in Cragside area of Rothbury from 17th. until end of the month (per B.L.) whilst 1N over Washington on 29th. (A.T./T.H.W.).

Merlin.

1NW over Boldon on 20th. (R.Ad.) was the only record away from breeding areas.

Red Grouse.

Seemingly numerous in Rothbury area, at least this year. (E.R.M.).

Red-Legged Partridge.

1 at Slaley on 3rd. (C.J.) and singles at Blaydon on 13th. and 30th. (E.R.M.)

Water Rail.

1 at Craster on 22nd. (W.S.C.).

Moorhen.

Young noted at Ravensworth on 17th. (L.J.M.).

Coot.

140 at Seaton Burn on 17th. (A.Jm.) reducing to 75 by 30th.

Oystercatcher.

Away from breeding areas passage birds involved 2 at Grindon on 13th. with 1 there on 30th. (K.B./L.G.M.), and 2 at Colt Crag on 21st. (M.S.).

Golden Plover.

Up to 350 in Earsdon area between 15th.- 30th. (J.E.F./T.J.R./C.E.D. et al), 120 near Whitfield on 12th. and 200 at Dirt Pot on 13th. All showed character of the N race. First eggs found at 1500' near Slaggyford on 6th. (L.G.M.).

Dotterel.

1 seen on Holy Island on 28th. (D.O'C.)

Jack Snipe.

1 at Prestwick Carr on 9th. (E.R.M.) and 1 at Kirkley on 10th. (A.H.B.).

Woodcock.

Single migrants were noted at Washington on 8th. (A.T.), Gateshead on 11th. (P.D.) and Holywell and Whitley Bay on 20th. (C.E.D./J.D.McE.). Breeding records included freshly hatched young at both Kielder and Wark Forests on 19th./20th. (E.R.M./L.G.M.)

Curlew.

70 at Holystone on 14th. (B.G.) and 13 - 15 at Holywell on 7th./8th. (C.E.D./T.J.R.)

Whimbrel.

2 - 3 over each of Tynemouth and Seaton Sluice on 27th./28th. (K.W.)

Black-Tailed Godwit.

1 at Washington on 21st. (T.I.M./A.T.)

Bar-Tailed Godwit.

80 at Holy Island on 20th. (R.N.) and 1 at Hauxley on 27th. (H.R.S.)

Green Sandpiper.

2 at South Linton on 16th. when 1 at Alnmouth (L.G.M./R.N.)

Common Sandpiper.

First noted at Rothbury on 8th. (B.&M.E.). 1 at Hartford on 15th. (A.B.I.) but not established in breeding areas until after 20th. and then only in small numbers.

Redshank.

Conspicuous moving through coastal areas, especially after 17th. when 130 at Washington (A.T./T.H.W.), flocks of 10 - 40 moving constantly N in Newton area (J.B.), 170 at Alnmouth on 20th. (E.C.) and 200N from Cresswell Pond on 25th. (L.U.) Inland, groups of 6 - 20 continued to pass through until at least 22nd.

Spotted Redshank.

1 in the Beal/Holy Island area on 20th./21st. (R.N./D.O'C) and 1 on the R. Tyne at Hexham on 22nd. (M.R.).

Greenshank.

1 at Washington on 15th./16th. and 30th. (A.T./T.H.W.), 1 at E. Boldon on 21st. (R.A.) and 1 in Holy Island area on 20th./21st. (R.N.). Also 1 at Holywell on 14th. (K.W.)

Purple Sandpiper.

3 at Ryhope on 18th. was the only record received (T.I.M.)

Dunlin.

100 at Washington on 29th. was by far the largest gathering reported (A.T./T.H.W.) First birds back in Allendale breeding territory on 13th. but not regular until after 23rd. (L.G.M.)

Sanderling.

20 on Holy Island on 20th. (R.N.)

Ruff.

At Washington 1 - 3 between 14th.-30th. (T.I.M./A.T. et al) and at Cresswell 4 on 13th. and 5 on 19th. (B.G./E.R.M./P.W.)

Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 1N on 12th. (K.W.) and 2N and 1S on 28th. (K.W.)

Common Gull.

Spring passage continued with 200 at Lowgate on 13th. (L.G.M.)

Glaucous Gull.

An immature N off Seaton Sluice on 12th. (K.W.)

Black-Headed Gull.

1000 plus at the Linshiels colony on 12th. (E.R.M.)

'Commic' Tern.

3N off Cresswell on 11th. (M.H.) and 1, identified as a Common, N off Seaton Sluice on 21st. (K.R.)

Little Tern.

2 at Holy Island on 28th. (J.C.D./D.B.C.)

Sandwich Tern.

First Birds noted on the Farnes on 7th., but it was not until after 12th. that N passage became conspicuous. By 27th. at least 200 were present on Coquet Island.

Auk (Sp.)

Steady N passage off Hauxley on 13th. (H.R.S.)

Stock Dove.

Three pairs breeding in nest boxes in Belsay area during month. (W.G.J.)

Collared Dove.

A freshly fledged juvenile at Craster on 11th. (W.S.C.)

### Cuckoo.

First noted at Washington on 20th.(T.I.M.), followed by 1 at Cresswell on 21st. (J.K.J.). Between 27th.-30th, singles noted at Bellingham, Grindon, Linhope, Belford and Rothbury.

### Barn Owl.

Singles noted at Corbridge and Alnwick (M.R./E.R.M.).

### Little Owl.

Singles noted at Widdrington, Shiremoor, Matfen and Ponteland.

### Long-Eared Owl.

1 - 2 at Ponteland, Gilsland and Falstone (E.R.M.) were probably in breeding territory, but 1 at Cresswell on 27th. was probably a migrant.(K.R.)

### Short-Eared Owl.

1 at Holywell until 16th.(C.E.D.et al), 2 at Wallsend Swallow on 13th.(J.E.F.) and 1 at Seaton Delaval on 21st. In breeding territory single pairs noted at Blanchland and on the Threestone Burn but seemingly absent from Kielder Forest during a thorough survey on 15th./16th.(E.R.M./C.J.)

### Kingfisher.

Singles noted at Brasside on 13th.(J.E.G.), Holywell Dene between 15th.-21st. (J.E.F./G.M.) and more unusually, at Hauxley on 13th.(H.R.S.)

### Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Hamsterley Mill, Heddon, Ovingham, Harbottle, Holystone, Haltwhistle, Harthope Burn and Rothley.

### Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Heddon, Jesmond Dene, Hamsterley Mill and Holystone.

### Wryneck.

A light 'influx' was suggested on 29th./30th. when singles were noted at E.Boldon, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay and Earsdon (R.A./K.G.D./K.W./J.E.F.)

### Swallow.

First noted on 10th. when 1 at Seaton Sluice (P.W.) followed by 1 at Washington on 11th.(T.H.W.). Between 13th.-15th. singles appeared at Slaley, Gilsland, Plashetts and St. Mary's, followed by a more widespread general arrival after 20th. Even at the end of the month however, they were not very plentiful.

### House Martin.

Only three reports. On 11th. 2 at Holywell (J.E.F.), on 24th. 2 at Blanchland (C.J.) and on 30th. a few at Seaton Burn (E.R.M.).

### Sand Martin.

First reported on 4th. when 1 at Seaton Burn on 7th.(I.K.) and a few at Kirkwhelpington on 8th. Became more regular after 15th. though by no means plentiful, even by the end of the month.

(Correction: First reported on 4th. when 1 at Corbridge (M.R.).)

### Raven.

Of the total of twentyfive known nest sites that were checked, only one was found to be occupied (reported last month) and it is believed that young fledged from the nest.

### Hooded Crow.

1 at Cresswell on 13th.(E.R.M.) and 1 at Swinhoe on 16th.(J.C.D./D.B.C.)

### Coal Tit.

Recognised as being exceptionally numerous in the Kielder Forest area on 15th./16th.(E.R.M.)

### Nuthatch.

Noted at Hamsterley Mill (2), Bolam (1), Wallington (threepairs) and West Dipton Burn (1 singing).

### Dipper.

Birds seen very close to sea level involved 1 at Alnmouth on 13th.(E.R.M./B.G.) and a pair feeding young in a nest at Warkworth on 20th.(K.B.)



### Fieldfare.

Very well reported in large flocks prior to emigration. Sightings of flocks of up to 500 were common and there were several examples of groups of 1000 or more. Most flocks appeared to be collecting in an area centred around Cambo where a huge N movement on the night of 26th. involved about 10,000 birds in just half an hour, whilst at the nearby Wannies a roost of at least 3000 was noted in fir trees on 12th. Examples of such large gatherings were noted at Great Bavington, Kirkwhelpington, Bolam, Belsay, Woodburn, Whittle Dene, Milbourne, Bardon Mill and Allendale. An exodus was suggested after 21st. when flocks were noted moving E over Heddon and E. Boldon, but even at the end of the month, large flocks were still to be seen in many areas.

### Redwing.

Less numerous than Fieldfare in pre-emigration flocks although 400 were at Bellingham on 7th. (E.R.M.), 200 at Milbourne on 10th. (W.G.J.), 200 at Prestwick Carr on 9th. when several flocks passed E and 100 near Ponteland on 12th. (A.Jo.). 100 near Blanchland on 13th. (J.&R.McC.) but scarce after mid month with the last records of singles at Heddon (singing) on 27th. (J.S.B.) and Washington on 30th. (A.T./T.H.W.)

### Ring Ouzel.

Noted in breeding territory at Blanchland, Sweethope and Simonsides. Passage birds at the coast involved 1 at Blyth on 11th., 2 at Whitley Bay and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 12th. and 2 at Washington on 29th. Also 1 on a boat eight miles off Sunderland on 4th. during period of poor visibility. (J.Bar.)

### Wheatear.

Became established, though only in small numbers, in breeding areas as month progressed. Coastal passage was only really conspicuous on 13th. (16 at Hauxley) and 24th. (several on Holy Island).

### Stonechat.

Breeding pairs noted at Newton, Longhoughton, Amble and Cresswell with single birds in territory inland at Ingram and at Redesmouth.

### Whinchat.

A very early bird at Blanchland on 4th. (C.J.) and 3 at Holywell on 30th. (K.W.) were the only records.

### Redstart.

1 at Slaley on 9th. (C.J.) and 1 at Langleeford on 20th. (B.G.) were the only records.

### Black Redstart.

Between 10th.-14th. 1 - 2 at Tynemouth (K.G.D./D.T.) and 1 at Seaton Sluice (K.W.)

### Grasshopper Warbler.

1 at Cresswell on 23rd./24th. (J.K.J.) and 1 at Tynemouth on 29th. (K.G.D.)

### Blackcap.

2 singing at Angerton on 17th. (K.B.), 1 at each of Dilston and Dipton on 25th., 1 at Durham and 1 at Tynemouth on 29th. (K.G.D.) and 1 at Howford on 30th. (R.G.etal)

### Willow Warbler.

1 - 2 at Washington on 10th./11th. were the first. The first 'wave' occurred on 13th.-15th. when a few were noted singing in widespread locations (e.g. Kielder, Ponteland, Holystone, Cresswell). The subsequent five days saw a steady increase in numbers and by 22nd. they were common and plentiful in most areas. On 30th. a very brown and white bird was in a garden at Denton Burn (B.G.).

### Chiffchaff.

Several singing at Acomb on 6th. (C.E.D.), 1 in Jesmond after 4th. (A.J.R. et al), whilst between 9th.-13th. singles noted at Heddon, Seaton Sluice, Riding Mill, Bardon Mill and Durham. By 15th. at least 6 at Hartford and by 26th. 'numerous' at Allenbanks (R.G.L.). J.Barker, fishing in a boat about eight miles off Sunderland on 2nd., noted 8 birds on board during light variable winds and poor visibility.



### Goldcrest.

Coastal passage birds included 12 at Hauxley on 6th./7th. and 13th.(H.R.S.), 2 on a boat off Sunderland on 2nd.(J.Bar.) and 1 on the Longstone, Farne Islands on 20th.(E.C.)

### Meadow Pipit.

Passage progressed throughout month with small flocks on boats off Sunderland during poor visibility between 2nd.-4th.(J.Bar.), 15 on the Farnes on 8th.(E.R.M.) 40 at Holywell on 7th.(M.&J.N.) and flocks of 50 near Housesteads on 13th.(E.R.M.)

### Tree Pipit.

1 at Kibblesworth on 14th.(L.J.M.), several at Langlee Ford on 20th.(B.G.), 1 at Hauxley on 27th.(H.R.S.) and 2 at Holywell on 30th.(K.W.)

### White Wagtail.

Singles on boats off Sunderland during poor visibility on 1st. and 4th.(J.Bar.), at Earsdon on 8th. and 30th.(J.E.F.) with 2 inland at Whitfield on 27th.(A.T.)

### Grey Wagtail.

Away from breeding haunts, 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 14th.(K.R.)

### Yellow Wagtail.

First note<sup>d</sup> at Whittle Dene where 1 on 13th. and 4 on 27th.(J.S.B.). On 14th. singles at Wallsend Swallow (K.R.) and at Washington (T.I.M.). Only other records were 4 at Holywell on 25th. and 1 at Seaton Burn on 30th.

### Waxwing.

A late bird at Tynemouth between 22nd.-24th.(K.G.D.)

### Great Grey Shrike.

1 at Throckley on 8th., 1 on Holy Island on 12th.(per B.L.), 1 at Washington 16th.-20th.(T.I.M./A.T.) and 1 at Holywell on 18th.(J.E.F.)

### Goldfinch.

Still a flock of 28 at Halleypike on 6th.(L.G.M.)

### Siskin.

A pair again at a bird table in Hexham on 12th./13th.(R.G.) when a pair in a garden at Craster (W.S.C.). 15 at Bellingham on 27th. (per B.L.) when a tired individual at Hauxley (H.R.S.). Noted in breeding territory at Tunstall, Dipton.

### Linnet.

Up to 500 at Washington during month included a dilute individual. Up to 300 noted in Holywell area, particularly at the end of the month.

### Twite.

Flock of 18 - 20 near Langlee Ford on 11th.(W.A.K.)

### Redpoll.

Noted in numbers in breeding territory after 7th.

### Crossbill.

2 at Wallsend Swallow on 14th.(K.R.) and noted in breeding haunts in Allendale, Falstone, Redesdale and Linnheads during month.

### Chaffinch.

Flock of 50 at Prestwick Carr on 9th.(E.R.M.) and many examples of birds displaying against parked car hub caps and wingmirrors at Langlee Ford on 20th.(BG)

### Brambling.

50 at Prestwick Carr on 9th.(E.R.M.), 25 at Kibblesworth on 13th.(L.J.M.), 50 at High Spenn on 14th.(A.L.&J.M.G.) and 1 - 6 at Washington, Dipton and Hauxley between 10th.-25th.

### Snow Bunting.

Singles at Wallsend on 2nd.(P.D.) and at Druridge Bay on 11th.(M.H.)

### Tree Sparrow.

30 - 40 at Heddon on 11th. was largest flock reported.(A.Jo.)

## List of Contributors

C.M. Adamson	B. & M. Etherington	L.G. Macfarlane	K. Walton
R. Atkinson	J.E. Fergusson	J. & R. McCutcheon	R. Walton
B.V. Atkins	B. Galloway	J.D. McElwee	P. Weighill
K. Barratt	A.L. & J.M. Gibson	G. Mackie	T.H. Wall
A. Blackett	J.E. Goode	R. Manning	Hauxley R.S.
J.S. Booth	R. Grey	E.R. Meek	
J. Bacon	M. Henry	T.I. Mills	
J. Barker	M.S. Hodgson	M. & J. Nattrass	
W. Brady	J.K. Jefferey	R. Norman	
D.B. Charlton	C. Jewitt	E. Priestley	
E. Culwick	W.G. Johnson	A.J. Richards	
D.O'Connor	A. James	M. Richardson	
W.S. Craster	A. Janes	K. Robson	
C.E. Douglas	A. Jones	M. Sauer	
J.C. Day	W.A. Kelly	M.R. Smith	
P. Davidson	I. Kerr	E.A. Stanley	
K.G. Dures	R.G. Lewis	D.L. Sowerbutts	
	E. Lobley	A. Temple	
	B. Little	D. Turner	
	M. Lawley	L. Ullock	

All May records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle NE 15 7RD by 12th. June at the latest, please.

## Field Trips

### Bass Rock - Sunday, 30th. June.

Coach departs Baxter's Cafe, Tynemouth 7.30am  
 " " Hancock Museum 8.00am  
 Cost inclusive of coach and boat £2.20

### Farne Islands - Sunday, 14th. July.

Coach departs Baxter's Cafe, Tynemouth 7.30am  
 " " Hancock Museum 8.00am  
 Cost inclusive of coach and boat and landing fees £2.42

Bookings and further information from Keith Walton. Applications for seats as soon as possible, please.

## REQUEST: SEATON SLUICE WATCH TOWER.

Please note that cars should not be parked on the grass. Space for parking is available adjacent to the King's Head Hotel or alongside the 'Cut' north of the tower.

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

May 1974

### Summary

May was rather unsettled with a wide variety of weather conditions prevailing. Between 1st.-7th. high pressure to the N and NE of Britain resulted in a period of winds from an easterly quarter, especially on 3rd. During this period emigrating thrushes were held up at the coast with a suggestion of some perishing during adverse weather conditions.

For ten days from 8th.-18th. winds were mainly light S or SE with generally high temperatures. 2 Marsh Harriers were seen during this period and on 16th. a remarkable influx of Black Terns was noted. Four separate parties of Dotterel were also reported and a Hoopoe appeared on 18th.

The period 19th.-24th. was accompanied by mainly westerly weather but a reversion to NE winds on 25th. brought Manx Shearwaters close inshore and a Bluethroat was seen.

The last week of the month was dominated by depressions to the W and NW resulting in mainly NW winds.

By the end of the month some summer visitors were still scarce, particularly Grasshopper Warbler, and both Chiffchaff and Sedge Warbler were well below their normal populations.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Black-Throated Diver.

1N off Seaton Sluice on 4th.(K.W.) and 1 off Holy Island on 11th.(B.L.)

#### Red-Throated Diver/Diver (sp.)

Still apparent on many dates with up to 7 (mainly N) off Seaton Sluice and singles elsewhere on coast, even as late as 31st.

An unusual occurrence of 1 on Derwent Res. on 28th. (J.&R.McC.)

#### Great Crested Grebe.

In addition to last month's records, a second pair was noted at Gosforth, one (perhaps two) pair(s) at Hallington, one pair at Colt Crag. Singles also on a pool near Wallsend Swallow on 4th. (W.A.K.) and at Holywell on 30th. (L.U.) As yet, only records of hatched young are at Gosforth and Brasside.

#### Little Grebe.

In addition to last month's breeding sites, up to 5 at Newton (Jc.B.) and 3 - 4 at Tunstall (T.H.W.).

#### Manx Shearwater.

Noted moving N on several dates between 4th.-29th. mainly off Seaton Sluice with 42 on 25th.(M.G.C./M.B.) and 10 on each of 24th. and 28th. Other sightings involved no more than 4 birds.

#### Gannet.

Moving N on 4th./5th. with a total of 227 counted off Seaton Sluice (K.W.et al). Also 36N there on 24th. (N.J.P.)

#### Cormorant.

Inland records involved 1 - 2 at Washington during 3rd.-16th.(A.T./T.H.W.), 1E over Melkridge on 18th.(L.G.M.) and 1 at Hallington on 21st.(R.G./W.B./E.L.)

#### Pelican.

The 'Warkworth' bird was still present on 13th. (P.W.)

#### Chilean Flamingo.

1 - 2 noted at Budle Bay, Cresswell and Holywell during the month.

#### Mallard.

Four Broods on coast in Craster area and two broods at Whittle Dene. 20 at Gosforth on 18th. was the largest collection of adults.

#### Garganey.

A pair at Blaydon on 5th. (J.& R.McC.)

Gadwall.

Pairs noted at Newton (one) on 4th./5th. (C.M.A./N.J.P.), Fenham Flats (one) on 18th.(B.L.) and Kirkley Hall (two) on 10th. (A.H.B.)

Wigeon.

10 at Grindon on 4th. (L.G.M.), 1 at Broomlee on 18th. and 1 at Gosforth on 7th. (E.C.)

Pintail.

1 at Newton during first week (J.C.B.) and 2 - 3 at Washington 1st.-5th.(A.T./T.H.W.) )

Shoveler.

Up to 6 at Gosforth (A.Jm.et al) and at Washington (A.T.) and 1 - 3 at Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene, Wallsend Swallow, Holywell Ponds and Grindon Lough.

Scaup.

6N Seaton Sluice on 6th. (K.W.)

Tufted Duck.

Up to 30 noted at Northumbrian Loughs, Whittle Dene, Gosforth Park, Seaton Burn and Holywell Ponds throughout month.

Pochard.

Up to 12 at Gosforth Park as late as 20th. (A.Jm.et al) and 1 at Holy Island on 11th. (B.L.)

Goldeneye.

1 at Alnmouth on 4th.(N.J.P.), 1 at Washington 1st.-6th.(A.T.), 1 at Broomlee on 18th.(L.G.M.), 1 at Gosforth until 20th.(M.R.S./ A.Jm.et al) and 1 at Newton Pool all month.(B.G.et al)

Long-Tailed Duck.

Two late records off Seaton Sluice where 1S on 11th.(K.W.) and 1N on 25th.(M.B.)

Velvet Scoter.

3 late birds off Howick on 4th. (N.J.P.)

Common Scoter.

On 19th. 2 off Holy Island and 8 off Alnmouth.(N.J.P.)

Ruddy Duck.

1 at Holywell Pond on 30th./31st. was no doubt an 'escapee'.(J.E.F.)

Red-Breasted Merganser.

2S Hauxley on 11th. (H.R.S.) and 1 on R.Tweed at Carham on 25th.(P.W.)

Goosander.

Flocks still in evidence with 17 in Corbridge area on 12th.(M.R.) and 32 at Carham on Tweed on 25th.(P.W.) First brood noted on R.Coquet near Hepple on 7th.(per B.L.)

Shelduck.

Max. of eleven pairs at Cresswell on 4th.(M.N.) Off Seaton Sluice 2N on 5th., 6N on 9th. and 1N on 19th.(K.W.) 2 inland at Seaton Burn on 19th.(E.R.M.)

Greylag Goose.

1 at Holywell on 6th.(P.W.), 7 at Carham on 25th. and 11 at Derwent on 28th.

Pink-Footed Goose.

The Monk's House straggler (or wounded bird) was still present on 13th.(W.S.C./P.W.) (J. & R.McC.)

Canada Goose.

At least 12 adults at Hallington on 21st. with broods of six, six and eight young. (R.G./W.B./E.L.) Pair at Brasside until 9th.(D.L.S.) and 1 at Washington 28th.-30th.(A.T./T.W.)

Mute Swan.

Six young hatched at Seaton Burn, three from Blaydon and seven at the Long Nanny (Beadnell).

Common Buzzard.

1W over Sweethope on 8th. (per B.L.)



Sparrowhawk.

Well reported, most birds being in breeding territory although 1 at Hauxley on 11th. may have been on passage. (H.R.S.)

Marsh Harrier.

1 was watched for forty minutes at Gosforth Park on 11th. (B.E./H.W.) and 1 on Holy Island on 12th. (B.L.)

Merlin.

Preliminary reports suggest that breeding birds are well represented this year.

Red Grouse.

Another good year on the moors.

Corncrake.

1 near Gunnerton on 7th. (per B.L.)

Moorhen.

Successful breeding noted on remote ponds at Paddaburn and Kielderhead in the Border Forests.

Coot.

115 adults at Seaton Burn on 29th. with 'many' juveniles reported on 27th. (L.G.M./A.Jm.)

Oystercatcher.

42 at St. Mary's on 23rd. (T.G.) 1 - 2 noted on Northumbrian Loughs between 4th. - 18th. were no doubt passage birds. (L.G.M.)

Ringed Plover.

Max. 21 at Washington on 20th. (A.T./T.H.W.) and 36 Beadnell/Howick on 29th. (J.C.B.)

Little Ringed Plover.

1 at Grindon 16th. - 18th. (L.G.M.) and 2 at Washington on 20th. (A.T./T.H.W.)

Grey Plover.

Still 200 at Holy Island on 11th. (B.L.) and 15 on Fenham Flats on 18th. (B.L.)

Golden Plover.

Still 51 at Earsdon on 6th. (P.W.)

Dotterel.

Passage in mid month was suggested by 5 on Holy Island on 12th., 4 near Redesmouth on 16th., 5 at Ingoe on 17th. and 3 on the Cheviot on 18th. (per B.L.)

Turnstone.

150 at Boulmer on 4th. (E.C.), 90 at Whitley Bay on 11th. (T.G.) and 15 in Beadnell/Howick area on 29th. (J.C.B.) 1 inland at Washington on 3rd. - 5th. (A.T.)

Whimbrel.

Several records of birds, mainly singles, N between 3rd. - 22nd. over coastal districts. The more interesting records involved a flock of 32N over Seaton Sluice on 19th. (K.W.) and inland records of 1N over Stocksfield on 25th. (J.&R.McC.) when 1E over Border Forests. (L.G.M.)

Black-Tailed Godwit.

1 at Washington 8th. - 19th. (J.C.D./A.T./T.W.)

Bar-Tailed Godwit.

6 at Boulmer on 4th. (N.J.P.), 5N Hauxley on 19th. (H.R.S.) and 30 at Fenham Flats on 18th. (B.L.) Inland records involved 1 at Holywell on 10th. (T.G.) and 1 at Grindon between 16th. - 18th. (L.G.M.)

Green Sandpiper.

1 at Holywell on 6th. (N.J.P.) and, more unusually, 1 at Hepple on the Coquet on 30th. (A.H.B.)

Wood Sandpiper.

1 at Washington on 17th. - 24th. (A.T./T.H.W.)

Common Sandpiper.

A few singles on passage at the coast until at least 18th.

Spotted Redshank.

2 in Budle Bay on 1st.(R.W.), 1 - 4 at Washington 12th.-14th.(J.C.D./A.T./T.W.), 1 at Cresswell on 19th.(N.J.P.)

Greenshank.

1 - 2 at Washington 1st.-8th. and 20th.(A.T./T.W.), 1 - 2 at Cresswell 4th./5th. (E.R.M./S.C.), 1 at Redesmouth 17th.(B.L.) and 1 at Melkridge on 18th.(L.G.M.)

Purple Sandpiper.

85 Alnmouth/Newton on 4th.(N.J.P.), 2 near Beadnell on 29th.(J.C.B.) and 1 at Hartley on 30th.(T.G.)

Little Stint.

1 - 2 at Washington on 17th. and 20th.(A.T./T.H.W.)

Dunlin.

150 at Washington until 24th. but only 6 remained on 30th.(A.T./T.W.) 100 at at Boulmer on 4th.(E.C.) when 40 at Cresswell.(E.R.M.) Two pairs noted on Cheviot on 18th.(B.L.) An unfortunate probable breeding bird was found as prey of a Merlin in Kielder Forest on 28th.(E.R.M.)

Curlew Sandpiper.

1 at St.Mary's on 7th.(J.E.F.) and 1 at Washington 27th.-30th.(A.T./T.W.)

Sanderling.

50 at St.Mary's on 11th.(T.G.) and 13 at Hauxley on 3rd.(H.R.S.) Still 7 at St. Mary's on 22nd. with 1 as late as 29th.(T.G.) 1 at Washington on 17th.(A.T./T.W.)

Ruff.

1 - 3 at Washington most of month with 9 there on 18th.(A.O.A.) 2 at Cresswell on 5th.(S.C.) and 19th./20th.(E.R.M./J.K.J.) 2 at Newton on 18th.(J.C.B.) and 1 near Kirkley Hall on 3rd.-10th.(A.H.B.)

Arctic Skua.

1 - 2N off Longhoughton, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth on 4th., 5th., 19th., 24th. and 25th. At Newton on 5th. 2E out to sea 'from inland'.(I.K.)

Glaucous Gull.

1 at Whitburn on 5th.(N.J.P.), 1 at Holy Island on 11th.(B.L.) and 1 at Holywell on 14th.(K.H.) All were immatures.

Iceland Gull.

A second year bird on Holy Island on 7th.(per B.L.)

Little Gull.

1 found dead at Boulmer on 4th.(N.J.P.), 1 - 3 at Washington 10th.-30th. including an adult on 12th.(J.C.D./A.T.), 1 on Holy Island on 11th.(B.L.), 2 at Grindon on 24th.(L.G.M.) and 1 at Newton on 26th.(J.C.B.)

Black Tern.

1 at Washington on 10th.(J.C.D.) followed by an influx on 16th. when 7 at Washington (J.C.D.) 6 at Holywell (M.N./J.E.F./W.A.K.), 12 at Seaton Burn (I.K./K.H.), at least 5 at Gosforth (J.D.McE.) and 5 at Blaydon (B.L.) All had moved on by 17th.

On 19th. 6S at Seaton Sluice (K.W.)

Common/Arctic Tern.

Became increasingly common after 11th.

Roseate Tern.

First noted on 19th. when 1N at Seaton Sluice.(K.W.)

Little Tern.

Up to 10 in vicinity of Holy Island causeway on 18th.(B.L. et al) 2 at Whitley Bay on 11th.(M.G.C.) and 2 at Tweedmouth on 12th.(S.C.)

Razorbill.

25 off Dunstanburgh on 29th.(J.C.B.)

Auk (sp).

Off Seaton Sluice 132N on 4th./5th. and 400N on 25th.(M.B./K.W.) Most were Guillemots of which 300 were off Dunstanburgh on 29th.(J.C.B.)

Turtle Dove.

1 at Beal on 18th.(B.L.), 2 in Holywell Dene on 19th.(K.W.) and 2 at Styford on 27th.(M.R.)

Cuckoo.

Well reported after about 11th.

Barn Owl.

Noted at Wallsend.

Little Owl.

Noted at Whittington, Widdrington and near Whittle Dene.

Long-Eared Owl.

In addition to last month's breeding birds a nest also found near Ponteland. (E.R.M.) 1 at Hauxley on 2nd.(H.R.S.)

Short-Eared Owl.

1 at Dunstanburgh on 4th.(N.J.P.), 1 at Cresswell on 2nd.(J.K.J.), 1 at Tunstall on 19th.(T.W.)

Noted at four localities in Border Forests and one at Wpp. Coquetdale.(E.R.M.)

Swift.

First noted at Cullercoats on 4th.(K.W.) but then none until a widespread arrival on 9th./10th. when small numbers were over most breeding areas. By 16th.-18th. flocks of 100/150 were noted over Gosforth, Seaton Burn and Bardon Mill suggesting continuing passage.

Hoopoe.

1 in a farmyard at Earsdon on 18th. feeding with Collared Doves.(per K.G.D.)

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Holystone, Harbottle, Hulne Park, Stocksfield, Kibblesworth and Hamsterley Mill.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Heddon, Stocksfield, Rothbury, Ravensworth and Hamsterley Mill.

Wryneck.

As part of the 'influx' of late April 1 at Tynemouth on 1st./2nd. roosted in a hole in a wooden strut (D.T.), 1 at Cresswell on 2nd.(J.K.J.) and 1 on Holy Island on 5th.(A.Johnson)

Hirundines.

A mixed flock of Swallows/Sand and House Martins totalling 200 at Seaton Burn on 17th. suggested passage at that time.(E.R.M.)

House Martin.

A colony on the wheelhouse of the dam at Catcleugh Res. on 25th.(M.S.)

Hooded Crow.

1 at Boulmer on 2nd.(P.W.)

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Rowlands Gill and near Blindburn near Wark/Tyne.

Long-Tailed Tit.

Records suggest that it has experienced another successful breeding season.

Nuthatch.

1 at Hamsterley Mill during month.(E.P.)

Fieldfare.

Still large flocks in the Cambo area on 5th. but between 1st.-8th. flocks of up to 500 were noted in fields close to the coast from W.Boldon in the S to Holy Island in the N confirmed emigration at that time. A count of 35 dead on the shore between Alnmouth and Newton on 4th. suggested that many may have come to grief in attempting a crossing of the North Sea. 10 on Holy Island on 18th. and still 4 there on 20th...(B.L./A.O.A.)

Redwing.

A few noted with Fieldfares on the coast between 1st.-8th. but no more than 10 together. A late group of 5 on Holy Island on 20th.(A.O.A.)



Ring Ouzel.

On 4th./5th. 6 on Holy Island, 2 at Dunstanburgh, 1 at Alnmouth, 4 at Hauxley, 1 at Cresswell and 2 at Holywell Dene. 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 16th. All were probable continental migrants.

Wheatear.

Numerous on the coast Beadnell/Howick on 1st. with at least 100 involved. (J.C.B.) On Holy Island 50 on 12th. (B.L.)

Stonechat.

Coastal breeding near Newton and at Cresswell. 1 inland near Alwinton 18th. (E.P.)

Whinchat.

10 on Holy Island on 12th. (B.L.) and 8 at Alnmouth on 19th. (N.J.P.) were largest concentrations on the coast. By the end of the month numbers well below normal in breeding areas.

Redstart.

A few records of 1 - 2 on coast between 3rd.-13th., mainly in Holy Island area. Still quite scarce in breeding areas by mid month.

Black Redstart.

1 at Tynemouth on 3rd. (M.N./D.T.) and 1 at Holy Island on 19th. (N.J.P.)

Bluethroat.

1 watched feeding in the open at Tynemouth on 25th./26th. (K.G.D.)

Robin.

Light influx noted at Hauxley and Newton on 3rd./4th. (J.C.B./H.R.S.)

Grasshopper Warbler.

Only records were of singles at Alnmouth (4th.), Fourstones (5th.), Seaton Burn (7th.), Newton (12th.) and Hauxley (19th.)  
Conspicuously absent from many traditional breeding areas.

Sedge Warbler.

First noted on 3rd. at Washington (N.J.P.) followed by 1 at Gosforth on 7th. (E.C.) and at Newton on 9th. A subsequent steady arrival was witnessed but by the end of the month breeding numbers were much reduced compared with previous years and in several areas they were absent.

Blackcap.

Well reported suggesting an average year.

Singles on coastal passage noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth on 4th., 8th. and 13th.

Garden Warbler.

First noted on 5th. at Staward and by mid month average numbers were present. At coast 1 - 2 at Holy Island, Newton, Hauxley and Tynemouth between 11th.-18th.

Whitethroat.

First noted on 1st. when singles were at Ryton and Killingworth. Became generally widespread after 11th. with numbers perhaps continuing to recover slowly.

Lesser Whitethroat.

First noted on 4th. when a few were on Holy Island where 15 were present on 11th. with still 2 there on 20th. (B.L./J.E.F./A.O.A. et al). Between 5th.-18th. singles on coast at Craster, Tynemouth and Hauxley. Inland 1 at Durham on 11th., 1 at Washington 8th.-15th. and 1 at Corbridge after 17th.

Willow Warbler.

Coastal passage was witnessed on 1st. when a few were at Newton (J.C.B.), 3rd.-4th. when 8 - 10 at Hauxley, 11th./12th. when 10 at Hauxley and 30 plus in Holywell Dene and 20th. when 25 on Holy Island.

Chiffchaff.

Like several other summer visitors numbers are much reduced compared with previous years.



Wood Warbler.  
First noted on 5th./6th. when 1 was at Hulne Park, 6 at Staward and 2 on Devil's Water. By the end of the month they were singing at Holystone, Grosslees Burn, Hexham, Callaly, Ford, Greenhaugh, Stocksfield.

Spotted Flycatcher.  
A late year. First noted at Foxton on 8th.(1 found dead). On 13th.-15th. 1 - 2 at Tynemouth becoming more generally reported after 20th.

Pied Flycatcher.  
First noted on 2nd. when 1 at coast near Cresswell.(J.K.J.) Only other coastal records were singles on Holy Island on 8th.(E.R.M.) and 25th.(T.J.R.)  
Inland 5 at Dipton on 4th.(B.L.) but not generally widespread until after 12th.

Tree Pipit.  
3 passage birds at Hauxley on 3rd.(H.R.S.)

White Wagtail.  
1 at Boulmer on 4th.(N.J.P.)

Grey Wagtail.  
Singles on coast at Seahouses and Cresswell on 13th. were probably on passage.  
(P.W.)

Yellow Wagtail.  
Not generally widespread until after 11th.

Waxwing.  
A late party of 3 at Tynemouth on 8th.(Ben Dures)

Hawfinch.  
1 at Morpeth on 6th.(per B.L.), 1 - 2 at Ford 8th.-10th.(E.R.M.), 1 at Corbridge on 27th.(M.R.)

Goldfinch.  
Still flocks of 15 at Craster on 3rd.(W.S.C.) and 20 at Washington on 6th.(A.T./T.W.)

Siskin.  
Small numbers in Border Forests.(E.R.M.) and at least one pair at Tunstall on 19th.(T.H.W.)

Linnet.  
70 at Hauxley on 3rd.(H.R.S.) and 150 at Washington on 1st.(A.T./T.W.)

Twite.  
Flock of 18 - 20 at Langleeford on 11th.(W.A.K.)

Crossbill.  
Small parties in Kielder Forest 25th.-28th.(E.R.M.) and 3 juveniles at Byrness on 31st.(I.K.)

Brambling.  
Between 1st.-7th. several records of 1 - 12 from Alnmouth, Earsdon, Gosforth, Holywell, Tynemouth and Washington.

#### List of Contributors.

C.M.Adamson	K.G.Dures	J.K.Jefferey	N.J.Phillips	T.H.Wall
A.O.A.Aitkin	M.Detchon	W.A.Kelly	A.J.Richards	Hauxley
M.Bell	B.& M.Etherington	I.Kerr	M.Richardson	R.S.
W.Brady	J.E.Fergusson	E.Lobley	T.J.Rose	
J.S.Booth	B.Galloway	B.Little	M.Sauer	
J.C.Badon	J.E.Goode	M.Lawley	M.R.Smith	
A.H.Banks	B.D.Green	L.G.Macfarlane	D.L.Sowerbutts	
K.Barratt	R.Grey	J.&R.McCutcheon	A.Temple	
S.Barna	T.Goonan	J.D.McElwee	D.Turner	
E.Culwick	A.Guthrie	R.Manning	L.Ullock	
M.G.Chadwick	K.Hutton	E.T.Norris	K.Walton	
S.Chinnery	A.James	J.R.Norris	R.Walton	
W.S.Craster	A.Janes	M.Nattrass	H.Wilson	
J.C.Day	A.Johnson	E.Priestley	P.Weighill	

All June records to B.Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W.Denton, Newcastle  
NE 15 7RD by July 12th. please.

### Record Cards.

Anyone requiring a supply of record cards should please send a stamped addressed envelope (at least 6" x 3½") to B.Galloway. The use of cards reduces greatly the time required to compile the monthly bulletin.

Tree Pigeon.  
First noted on 2nd. when 1 at coast near Gresswell. (W.K.J.) Only other constant records were singles on Holy Island on 8th. (E.R.M.) and 25th. (T.J.R.)  
Inland 5 at Dilton on 4th. (E.R.) but not generally widespread until after 12th.

White Warbler.  
1 at Boulmer on 4th. (W.J.P.)  
3 passage birds at Huxley on 3rd. (H.R.S.)

Grey Warbler.  
Singles on coast at Seahouses and Gresswell on 13th. were probably on passage.  
(P.W.)

Yellow Warbler.  
Not generally widespread until after 11th.

Waxwing.  
A late party of 3 at Tynemouth on 8th. (Ben Dures)

Hawfinch.  
1 at Morpeth on 6th. (per B.L.), 1 - 2 at Ford 8th.-10th. (E.R.M.), 1 at Corbridge on 27th. (M.R.)

Goldfinch.  
Still flocks of 15 at Craster on 3rd. (W.S.G.) and 20 at Washington on 6th. (A.T.)  
(T.W.)

Starling.  
Small numbers in Border Forest. (E.R.M.) and at least one pair at Tynemouth on 19th. (T.H.W.)

Linnets.  
70 at Huxley on 3rd. (H.R.S.) and 150 at Washington on 1st. (A.T.) (T.W.)

Twite.  
Flock of 18 - 20 at Langleyford on 11th. (W.A.K.)

Grosbeak.  
Small parties in Kielder Forest 25th.-28th. (E.R.M.) and 3 juveniles at Fyres on 31st. (I.K.)

Brambling.  
Between 1st.-7th. several records of 1 - 12 from Alnmouth, Berdon, Gosforth, Holywell, Tynemouth and Washington.

### List of Contributors.

C.M. Adamson	R.G. Dures	J.K. Jefferey	W.J. Phillips	L.R. Whill
A.O.A. Atkin	M. Dutton	W.A. Kelly	A.J. Richards	Huxley
M. Bell	B.S. M. Etherington	I. Kerr	W. Richardson	R.S.
W. Brady	J.E. Ferguson	E. Lohley	T.J. Rose	
J.S. Booth	E. Galloway	B. Little	M. Sauer	
J.G. Brown	J.E. Goode	M. Lawley	M.R. Smith	
A.H. Banks	B.D. Green	L.G. Macfarlane	D.L. Sowerbutts	
K. Bennett	R. Grey	J.R. McCutcheon	A. Temple	
S. Barnes	T. Goonan	J.D. McRae	D. Turner	
E. Caldwell	A. Guthrie	R. Manning	I. Ufford	
M.G. Chadwick	E. Hutton	E.T. Morris	K. Walton	
S. Chinnery	A. James	J.R. Morris	R. Walton	
W.S. Craster	A. James	E. Matthews	H. Wilson	
J.C. Day	A. Johnson	E. Priestley	P. Weighill	

T Y N E S I D E   B I R D   C L U B .

JUNE 1974.

SUMMARY.

In a month during which warm, sunny spells were short-lived, there was still a distinct lack of rainfall resulting in another successful breeding year for ground-nesting birds, especially waders.

Falcons and Sparrow Hawks also had a successful season with brood sizes above average, particularly in Merlins.

Amongst the passerines, Willow Warblers did exceptionally well in the dry conditions but Pied Flycatchers met with mixed success, being most numerous in S.W. Northumberland.

Sea bird movements were interesting with Manx Shearwaters and Common Scoter passing N. in numbers on many dates, especially during a period of N.E. winds between 22nd - 27th.

There were several examples of out of season wild fowl and waders but the most unusual occurrences were Sooty Shearwater, Marsh Harrier, Temminck's Stint, Black Redstart and Red-backed Shrike.

In the June 1973 Bulletin a 'stop-press' item was the appearance of a Wilson's Phalarope at Washington on 20th July. Again I can report that, by some remarkable coincidence, a Wilson's Phalarope has appeared at Washington, this time on 18th July!

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black-throated Diver:

A late bird N. off Seaton Sluice on 8th (KW).

Red-throated Diver/Diver (sp):

Off Seaton Sluice singles N. on 8th and 15th with 3 N. on 9th and 2 N. on 22nd (KW). Off Ross 5 on sea on 27th (BG). An unusual number of records for June.

Great Crested Grebe:

With exception of 7 adults on Catcleugh on 30th no change in situation as reported in May, although it is possible that 2 young were hatched at Hallington.

Little Grebe:

1 on a nest at Colt Crag on 27th (RG et al).

Manx Shearwater:

The intensively watched Seaton Sluice provided the majority of records with a total of 983 N. and 13 S. in 16 days between 6th - 29th (KW/PW/TJR et al). Peaks were noted on 8th/9th (273), 11th (112), 15th (78) and 22nd - 25th (390).

Sooty Shearwater:

Unusual sightings for time of year included 2 N. off St. Mary's on 26th (TW) and 1 N. on 28th off Seaton Sluice (KW).

Fulmar:

Inland sightings of 1 W. over Wallsend Swallow on 8th (AJn) and 1 N.E. over Washington on 25th (AT/THW).

Gannet:

Off Seaton Sluice 70 N. on 9th and 210 N. on 23rd (TJR).

Cormorant:

Inland record of 1 at Washington on River Wear most of month (AT/THW).

Heron:

No more than 3 seen together from widely scattered locations.

Teal:

20 at Gosforth on 20th. Young hatched on Ard Moss and Threestone Burn (ERM).

Garganey:

A female at Holywell on 1st (MN).

Wigeon:

2 at Washington on 25th - 27th (AT).

Shoveler:

Brood hatched at Holywell (MN), with a pair at Wallsend Swallow (AJn) and up to 20 at Gosforth (BL).

Scaup:

A drake at Holywell on 11th/12th (WAK/MN) with singles N. off Seaton Sluice on 15th and 22nd (KW).

Tufted Duck:

Maximum of 33 at Whittle Dene on 30th (JSB/WAK). 3 broods at Holywell by 30th (MN). An unusual sighting of 5 N. off Seaton Sluice on 8th (KW).

Pochard:

4 young hatched at Gosforth where 10 adults were noted on 20th (BL). Up to 8 at Holywell (MN/PW) and 1 at Wallsend Swallow most of month (AJn).

Goldeneye:

1 at Whittle Dene on 30th (JSB).

Velvet Scoter:

2 N. off Seaton Sluice on 22nd (KW).

Common Scoter:

The intensively watched Seaton Sluice provided almost all of the records with



a total of 911 N. and 152 S. on 8 dates between 8th - 29th with peaks of 277 N. on 23rd and 308 N. on 29th (KW/TJR et al). Inland a female at Catcleugh on 22nd (KH) and a male at Tunstall on 23rd (THW).

Ruddy Duck:

The Holywell bird was present all month (JEF/WAK/PW).

Red-breasted Merganser:

Off Seaton Sluice 1 N. on 9th, 12 N. between 22nd - 24th and 1 N. on 29th (KW/PW).

Goosander:

Young noted on Threestone Burn and on N. Tyne. On reservoirs singles at Whittle Dene on 1st (JSB), at Font on 16th (WAK) and at Tunstall on 23rd - 30th (THW). All were drakes.

Sheld-Duck:

Off Seaton Sluice 4 S. on 8th and 5 S. on 22nd (KW).

Canada Goose:

2 young with a pair at Colt Crag on 27th (RG et al). Up to 50 in Colt Crag, Hallington, Sweethope area most of month. 4 S.W. over Craster on 6th (WSC) and at Washington 7 N. on 6th and 1 N.E. on 20th (JCD/AT/THW).

Whooper Swan:

3 on The Tweed at Berwick on 30th (JEF) were probably birds made flightless through injury.

Sparrow Hawk:

Indications are that they are experiencing a very successful nesting season.

Marsh Harrier:

A female or immature present at Holywell from 1st - 4th (MGC/JEF/MN/PW).

Peregrine:

1 inhabiting a crag in N. Northumberland was seen on several occasions.

Merlin:

Of the 27 nests found in Northumberland, 5 had failed by the end of the month but the indications are that brood sizes in the successful nests are high (ERM).

Kestrel:

As with other birds of prey, brood sizes in nests found seem to be large.

Corn-crake:

1 calling near Lambley on S. Tyne on 26th (per BL).

/Oystercatcher

Oystercatcher:

In an area on the S. Tyne near Haltwhistle, a large proportion were noted nesting in the fields away from the shingle (per BL). Up to 32 at Cresswell during month (LU et al).

Lapwing:

By 16th flocks of 20 - 25 in Border Forest and at Holywell, with 100 near Matfen by 30th (ERM/RW).

Ringed Plover:

Party of 6 at Cresswell Pond on 2nd were probably migrant 'northern' birds (LU).

Golden Plover:

Late nest with 4 eggs in Border Forest on 25th (ERM et al).

Woodcock:

Noted roding at Dipton (8), Plankey Mill (6), Warden (2) and near Hepple (2).

Curlew:

Restlessness noted at end of month with 63 N. off Seaton Sluice between 22nd - 24th (KW), 6 W. over Washington on 25th (AT/TW) and 9 at Holywell on 30th (MN).

Whimbrel:

Off Seaton Sluice 2 N. on 8th, 1 N. on 16th, 3 N. on 22nd, 1 N. on 24th (PW/KW). 2 N. off Beadnell on 23rd (WGJ) and 1 S. over Tynemouth on 28th (KW).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

2 N. off Newton on 22nd (IK).

Wood Sandpiper:

1 near Earsdon on 25th (JEF).

Spotted Redshank:

2 - 3 at Cresswell on 22nd (JPD/EML/JEF/WAK). 1 at Washington on 13th (JCD/PK).

Little Stint:

Singles at Washington on 3rd/4th (AT) and at Cresswell on 22nd (JPD/EML).

Greenshank:

Singles at Cresswell on 13th - 16th (NJP/JCD) and at Washington on 13th/14th and 29th (JCD/PK).

Temminck's Stint:

2 watched at close quarters at Cresswell on 6th (AOA).

/Dunlin

Dunlin: The latter 2 young. The other reared only 2 young. Kielder Forest 1 failed and the other reared only 2 young. 28 birds/pairs noted on breeding territory in Northumberland, 16 being present in areas not visited in 1973 (LGM/AJR).

Ruff:

2 at Cresswell on 6th (AOA) and between 23rd - 30th, 1 at Holywell (PW), 1 near Earsdon (JEF) and 2 at Washington (JCD).

Arctic Skua:

13 N. off Seaton Sluice on several days between 8th - 27th especially after 22nd (KW/PH et al) and 2 N. off Holy Island on 16th (JCD).

Great Skua:

Off Seaton Sluice singles noted on each of 8th, 19th and 27th (AOA/KW).

Glaucous Gull:

1 off Seaton Sluice on 15th and 22nd (KW) and 1 at Holywell on 24th (MN). The Seaton Sluice bird was an adult.

Little Gull:

Up to 4 immatures at each of Cresswell between 6th - 12th (AOA/MGC) and Wallsend Swallow between 23rd - 25th (BB/JEF/MN). 5 N. off Seaton Sluice on 26th (KW) included an adult, and single immatures at Washington on 12th and 26th (JCD/AT), at Grindon on 7th (LGM) and at Alwinton on the River Coquet on 16th (BG).

Common Tern:

2 at Broomlee on 4th were 'Commics' (LGM), up to 7 at Washington after 17th (AT/THW), and on 30th singles at Seaton Burn, Holywell and Wallsend Swallow.

Little Tern:

1 at Cresswell on 16th (MN).

Razorbill:

20 at Dunstanburgh on 15th (JSB).

Guillemot:

300 at Dunstanburgh on 15th (JSB).

Auk (sp):

Off Seaton Sluice 182 N. and 81 S. on 9th (TJR) and 305 N. and 81 S. on 23rd. Most were Guillemots.

Turtle Dove:

1 at Holywell on 2nd (JEF) whilst on 16th, 2 at Howick and 1 at Fenham Mill (JCD).

Barn Owl:

Noted at Wallsend, Arcot Hall, Kielder, Hartford. Of 2 nests found in

Kielder Forest 1 failed and the other reared only 2 young. The latter nest when visited on 2nd, contained 22 short-tailed voles, 4 common shrews and a half-fledged, live, starling (ERM et al).

Long-eared Owl:

11 young reared from 4 nests, 3 of which were in Wark Forest and 1 at Ponteland (ERM).

Short-eared Owl:

Noted in breeding territory in Hexhamshire, Allendale and Knarsdale (ERK/BG).

Nightjar:

A pair in breeding territory in S.W. Northumberland on 12th (CJ).

Swift:

150 over Holywell on 9th (MN) and 1 with white feathers in the rump at Washington on 11th (JCD).

Kingfisher:

Singles at Holywell on 12th/13th and at Morpeth on 20th.

Green Woodpecker:

Noted at Holystone, College Burn, Linhope, Heddon, Hamsterley and Dipton.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Successful nesting noted at Hartford, Gosforth, Holystone, Mitford, Wallington and near Hepple.

House Martin:

62 nests in viaduct at Knarsdale (LGM) and 20 nests in Colt Crag boat house (RG/WB).

Nuthatch:

Noted at Wallington and Hamsterley Mill.

Ring Ousel:

Noted as locally plentiful this year with, for example, 6 pairs on a burn in Hexhamshire on 7th (BL et al).

Stonechat:

Pair fledged young well inland near Catcleugh on 22nd (KH).

Black Redstart:

A most unusual occurrence of a male on Emblehope Moor on 29th (BL).

Grasshopper Warbler:

Continues to be exceptionally scarce with an absence in many of the traditional areas.



Lesser Whitethroat:

Noted in territory at Hartford (AB1) and at Craster (WSC).

Wood Warbler:

Noted in song at Belsay (1), Plankey Mill (2), Holystone (4), Dipton (6), Devils Water (2) and Tunstall (1)!

Willow Warbler:

An adder seen taking young from a nest near Elsdon on 17th (BG). Generally a very successful season was reported.

Pied Flycatcher:

55 pairs in nest boxes in S.W. Northumberland including 15 pairs in boxes sited as late as mid-April. A 25% reduction in numbers noted in boxes in Central Northumberland, whilst in Coquetdale there was a suggestion of an unusually high incidence of infertility (BL/WGJ/BG).

White Wagtail:

Singles noted at Hartford on 15th (AB1) and near Bellingham on 29th (WAK).

Red-backed Shrike:

An unusual and interesting occurrence of a male near Matfen on 30th remaining until the first week in July (BL/RW).

Twite:

2 flew over 'Cheviot' on 9th (WGJ).

Crossbill:

Flock of 20+ in Kielder on 16th (ERM).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

A. O. Aitken.	K. Hutton.	E. Priestley.
W. Brady.	A. Janes.	N. J. Phillips.
A. Blackett.	W. G. Johnson.	A. J. Richards.
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B. Bowman.	W. A. Kelly.	M. Sauer.
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W. S. Craster.	I. Kerr.	L. Ullock.
D. B. Charlton.	E. M. Lindsay.	K. Walton.
J. C. Day.	E. Lobley.	R. Walton.
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J. E. Fergusson.	L. G. Macfarlane.	T. H. Wall.
B. Galloway.	E. R. Meek.	T. Winter.
R. Grey.	M. Nattrass.	

All July records to B. Galloway, 115 Southway, S.W. Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, N.E.15 7RD by 8th August at latest please.



## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

July 1974

### Summary

A rather quiet month with winds prevailing from a westerly quarter for much of the period as depressions in the North Atlantic dominated the weather.

As usual a few sea birds were moving offshore, especially during NW weather, with Gannets and Manx Shearwaters being the most noted species.

With the exception of some interesting, out of season wildfowl sightings, including a most unusual appearance of a Long-tailed Duck, waders provided most of the interest as return migration progressed after mid month. The more unusual sightings involved Little Ringed Plover and Avocet, including a flock of 35, and, of course, the Wilson's Phalarope.

Of the passerines, two records of Red-backed Shrike were the most interesting.

To date there have been no real rarities reported in August, but there have been some good concentrations of waders at several localities.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Great Crested Grebe.

Up to 4 adults at each of Colt Crag, Hallington and Whittle Dene during month, with singles at each of Sweethope, Derwent and Tunstall. Breeding only confirmed at Hallington.

#### Little Grebe.

Successful breeding at Colt Crag, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, Belsay, Blaydon and Washington.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice a total of 166N on nine dates between 7th.-30th. with a peak of 84 in four hours on the early morning of 28th. (M.S.H./T.J.R./H.W.)

#### Gannet.

Moving N offshore on several dates with a peak of 218 in four hours on 28th.

#### Heron.

Early passage suggested by sight of party of 7 at mouth of Long Nanny Burn on 2nd. (I.K.) Also up to 4 noted at Whittle Dene, Cresswell and Cheswick later in the month. (M.R./M.S.H. et al)

#### Teal.

At Grindon 20 - 30 between 27th.-31st. (L.G.M./M.R.)

#### Garganey.

A drake at Whittle Dene from 25th.-31st. (M.R.)

#### Wigeon.

A small party at Holy Island during first week in the month (B.L.) and a single at Grindon on 27th. (L.G.M.)

#### Shoveler.

1 - 2 at Wallsend Swallow early in month and 4 at Whittle Dene on 31st. (M.R./A.J.)  
A duck with 8 - 9 young at Washington. (B.U.)

#### Scaup.

A drake at Lynemouth on 27th. (I.K.)

#### Tufted Duck.

Continues to increase as a breeding species with fifteen/sixteen broods hatched at Holywell, three at Whittle Dene and singles at Hallington, Halleypike, Sweethope and Slaley.

Concentrations of adults included up to 80 at Whittle Dene, 40 at Colt Crag, 35 at Sweethope and 29 at Hallington mainly after mid month.

#### Pochard.

On 10th. 1 at Wallsend Swallow and a pair at Capheaton. (C.M.A./A.J.)

Ruddy Duck.

The Holywell bird was last noted on 14th. (J.E.F./K.R.)

Long-tailed Duck.

A most unusual occurrence of 1 at Whittle Dene on 26th./27th. (J.S.B./T.W.)

Velvet Scoter.

2N off Seaton Sluice on 21st. (T.J.R.)

Common Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 80N on 7th. and 114N on 14th. with 55S off Tynemouth on 15th. (T.J.R.) Smaller numbers noted on other dates when rafts of 22 - 30 were noted off each of Bamburgh (W.A.K.) and Hauxley. (H.R.S.)

Red-breasted Merganser.

1 on the sea off Lynemouth on 27th. (I.K.)

Goosander.

A good breeding year was suggested with many broods on the N. Tyne and others on Carey Burn, R. Breamish and at Tunstall Res. where a drake was present on 14th., 23rd. and 30th.

Shelduck.

51 on Budle Bay on 29th. (C.M.A.) and at Cresswell a party of 11 arrived from the NE on 28th. (L.G.M.) At least one brood of 7 young hatched at Cresswell.

Canada Goose.

48 at Sweethope on 12th. (M.R.S./E.L.S.)

Buzzard.

An unusual number of records. On 3rd. 1 near Belsay (per B.L.); on 12th. 1 over the Carey Burn (J.E.F./P.W.); on 21st. 2 over North Kielder (I.K.) and on 27th. 1 over Wark Forest. (L.G.M.)

Hen Harrier.

A female near Slaggyford on 28th. (I.D.)

Merlin.

A sick bird on Holy Island early in the month (per B.L.) and several sightings of birds near breeding areas in the Border Forests.

Water Rail.

1 at Seaton Burn on 7th. (I.K.)

Corncrake.

1 at Catton on 13th. (per B.L.)

Coot.

At least 51 at Capheaton on 10th. (C.M.A.) and 300 at Seaton Burn on 25th. (A.J.)

Oystercatcher.

Inland flocks of 9 at Colt Crag on 21st.; 42 at Bardon Mill on 27th. and 5 at Grindon on 31st. (L.G.M./M.R.) suggested passage at this time.

Lapwing.

Examples of early flocking involved 400 at Felton on 9th. (B.L.); 400 at Ryal on 10th. (C.M.A.); 700 at Grindon on 27th. (L.G.M.) and 800 at Whittle Dene on 30th. (R.W.) Pair still attending newly hatched young in Allendale on 21st. (B.G.)

Ringed Plover.

1 young reared at Jarrow Slake. (K.R.)

Little Ringed Plover.

An immature at Washington Reserve on 31st. until 2nd. August. (W.W.R.)

Golden Plover.

Between 14th.-30th. early gatherings of 200 in Allendale (R.G./B.G.); 100 at Newton (J.C.B.) and 1000 at Whittle Dene. (R.W./J.S.B.) A pair still attending newly hatched young in Allendale on 21st. (B.G.)

Turnstone.

At least 50 on the Farnes on 14th. (B.G. et al) and 1 - 3 at Cresswell after 27th. (B.G./L.U.)



Curlew.

Off Seaton Sluice N passage continued with 90 on 7th.; 32 on 14th. and 11 on 18th. (T.J.R./E.R.M.) Flock of 40 at Tunstall on 14th.(T.H.W.)

Whimbrel.

After 14th. up to 3 noted over Seaton Sluice, Hauxley, Cresswell, Holy Island, Jarrow Slake and Washington.

Black-tailed Godwit.

1 at Washington on 23rd.(P.K./T.R.P.) and 1 at Monk's House on 27th.(W.S.C.)

Bar-tailed Godwit.

100 summered at Holy Island and, further south, 9N off Dunstanburgh on 20th. (J.S.B.) with 1 - 2 at Hauxley, Cresswell and St.Mary's after 15th. (H.W.)

Green Sandpiper.

1 - 2 in Washington area all month (J.C.D./W.W.R.); 1 at Kirkley Hall on 7th. (A.H.B.); 1 at Seaton Burn on 17th.(E.R.M.) and 4 at Wallsend Swallow on 27th. (H.W.)

Common Sandpiper.

Many records of 1 - 5 on passage after 3rd. with up to 12 present at Washington Reserve (W.W.R.) after 16th. and 18 on S.Tyne at Haltwhistle on 24th.(E.R.M.)

Redshank.

Passage apparent after 15th. with up to 90 at Jarrow Slake (K.R.) and 30 - 50 at Cresswell.(M.S.H./L.U.)

Spotted Redshank.

Singles at Cresswell on 10th.(P.D.) and on 22nd.(H.W.)

Greenshank.

1 at Washington from 5th.-15th.(J.C.D./P.K./T.H.W.) 1 near Earsdon on 28th. (J.E.F.)

Knot.

First noted on 23rd. when 1S at Hauxley.(H.R.S.) On 27th./28th. 6 at Cresswell (B.G.) and 22 at Seaton Sluice.(T.J.R.) By 31st. 30 in Amble area.(C.R.)

Purple Sandpiper.

At least 50 on Farne Islands on 14th.(B.G. et al) and 1 at Hauxley on 23rd. (H.R.S.)

Dunlin.

Distinctive passage after mid month with up to 100 at each of Cresswell and Lynemouth (B.G./I.K.); 50 at Hauxley; 35 at Washington and 1 - 7 at Wallsend Swallow, Arcot Hall and Whittle Dene.

Little Stint.

1 at Washington on 1st. and another on 15th.(B.U.)

Sanderling.

First noted on 21st. when 2 at Cresswell.(B.U.) On 23rd. 7 at Hauxley (H.R.S.) and on 27th. 2 at Lynemouth.(I.K.)

Ruff.

2 - 4 at Washington all month.(T.H.W./P.K.et al) After 23rd. 2 at Hauxley (H.R.S.) 5 at Monk's House (I.H.); 3 at Wallsend Swallow (L.G.M.) and 2 at Arcot Hall. (B.M.) An influx suggested on 31st. when 10 at Washington (P.K.) and 15 at Monk's House.(I.H.)

Avocet.

1 seen at Whittle Dene on 17th.(M.R.) and On 25th. a most unusual sight of a flock of 35N only thirty feet from the watch tower at Seaton Sluice.(H.W.)

Wilson's Phalarope.

As reported in the June summary 1 appeared at Washington on 17th. and remained until 22nd.(D.W./J.C.D./P.K./T.H.W./T.R.P.et al) The bird was an adult still in breeding plumage but there was some disagreement as to sex. Many observers felt that it could have been the same bird that appeared there in July, 1973.

Arctic Skua.

Well reported, especially off Seaton Sluice where 40N on 28th. and 19N on 30th. (H.W.et al) Smaller numbers noted off Cresswell and Hauxley.

Great Skua.

1N off Seaton Sluice on 7th.(A.B.I./P.D.) and 1N off Farnes on 14th.(B.G.et al)

Common Gull.

Small parties W over Northumbrian Loughs/Wark Forest all day on 27th.(L.G.M.)

Little Gull.

Single adults at Holywell on 2nd.(M.N.) and at Wallsend Swallow on 28th.(L.G.M.) with 2 immatures at Cresswell on 24th.(M.S.H.)

Black-headed Gull.

300 gathered at Washington by 22nd.(T.R.P.)

Kittiwake.

Nest sites on the R.Tyne included thirty-one nests on the Baltic Flour Mill and four nests on the Newcastle Quayside.(B.L.) On 15th./16th. 500/hr.S off Tynemouth(T.J.R.) and 160/hr.N off St.Mary's.(M.S.H.)

Common Tern.

Fresh water concentrations of 150 - 200 at Hauxley; 47 at Jarrow Slake and 60 at Washington after 23rd. Singles inland at Holywell on 4th. and 11th.; Seaton Burn on 7th. and Wallsend Swallow on 28th. High tide roost of 300 on Sunderland Docks on 27th./28th.(B.U.)

Arctic Tern.

1 inland at Wallsend Swallow on 3rd.(A.Jn.)

Little Tern.

Family party of 5 at Cresswell on 21st.(B.U.)

Barn Owl.

Noted at Seaton Burn, Gosforth and Ogle.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Apparently a good breeding year.

Kingfisher.

Noted on N.Tyne and in the Harthope Valley.

House Martin.

29 pairs breeding in Cramlington New Town (B.M.) with at least 100 feeding there on 31st.

Sand Martin.

60 resting on beach at Cheswick on 28th. may have been passage birds.(M.S.H.)

Raven.

Late in month 3 at each of Pawston and Hethpool in the N.Cheviots.

Carrion Crow.

Roost of 36 at Gosforth on 30th.(L.G.M.)

Nuthatch.

At least 3 young birds at Hamsterley Mill after 5th.(E.P.) 1 near Whitley Chapel on 30th. June.(L.G.M.)

Dipper.

Breeding confirmed at Whittle Dene Reservoirs.(M.R.)

Ring Ouzel.

Single pairs feeding young in Hexhamshire on 1st.(B.L.) and at Greenhaugh on 12th.  
(M.R.S./E.L.S.)

Wheatear.

3 passage birds at Whittle Dene on 31st.(M.R.)

Stonechat.

Pair with young at Cresswell on 31st.(E.R.M.et al)

Blackcap.

1 still singing at Blaydon on 27th.(B.L.) The usual early dispersant was trapped at Hauxley, on the coast, on 23rd.(H.R.S.)

Whitethroat.

1 - 3 at Hauxley, Chevington and Cresswell.

### Lesser Whitethroat.

One, possibly two pairs bred near Corbridge.(M.R.) 1 at Washington Reserve on 15th. (W.W.R.) and 1 at Hauxley on 23rd.(H.R.S.)

### Willow Warbler.

A suggestion of a 'fall' of migrants on 31st. when many were noted in a garden at Hamsterley Mill.(E.P.)

### Spotted Flycatcher.

Reports suggest a very successful breeding season.

### Pied Wagtail.

50 at Arcot Hall on 30th. (B.M.)

### Grey Wagtail.

A pair with 5 young in nest in Holywell Dene on 1st. (K.R.)

### Red-backed Shrike.

The male at Ingoe, near Matfen, remained until 13th.(R.W.) At Seaton Burn a female was watched at close range for five minutes as it fed from a fence on 25th. (A.Jm.)

### Rose-coloured Starling.

1 caught at Beal on 25th. had apparently been kept in captivity judging by condition of plumage. (E.R.M.)

### Goldfinch.

Now a very common bird and visiting suburban gardens in many areas throughout the month.

### Crossbill.

2 on Hexham Common on 30th.June and 2 in Wark Forest on 27th.July. (L.G.M.)

### Corn Bunting.

As the spread of breeding birds W continued 5 singing males near Matfen and one pair at Corbridge. (M.R./R.W.)

### List of Contributors

C.M.Adamson	J.E.Fergusson	E.Lobley	M.R.& E.L.Smith
A.Blackett	B.Galloway	B.Martin	A.Temple
J.S.Booth	R.Grey	L.G.Macfarlane	L.Ullock
W.Brady	I.Hall	E.R.Meek	B.Unwin
J.C.Bacon	M.S.Hodgson	M.Nattrass	R.Walton
K.Barratt	A.James	E.Priestley	H.Wilson
D.B.Charlton	A.Jones	T.R.Palmer	D.Warden
W.S.Craster	P.Kelly	T.J.Rose	T.H.Wall
J.C.Day	W.A.Kelly	M.Richardson	P.Weighill
P.Davidson	I.Kerr	C.Robson	T.Winter
I.Davidson	B.Little	K.Robson	Hauxley R.S.
			Washington W.R.

All August records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle upon Tyne NE157RD by 9th.September, please.

### Colour Ringed Waders

Waders colour ringed and/or dye marked this summer in N.E.Greenland by the Wader Study Group may turn up in our area during the autumn and winter. Species most likely to be involved are Turnstone, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Ringed Plover and Purple Sandpiper.

Keep your eyes open and send details of any sightings together with ring colours, &c., to Bryan Galloway.

A colour ringed Turnstone, already observed at St.Mary's Island, may be one of these N.E.Greenland birds.

## CLUB NEWS

(A new section of the bulletin through which we hope to keep members more in touch with club happenings. Anything of interest you feel should be mentioned can be sent to the Chairman for inclusion.)

### The Bulletin

Some recent editions of the bulletin have been rather late in appearing. The committee have discussed this matter and would like to make the following points:

- 1) Major delay is caused by the increasing complexity in compiling the bulletin as more observers are sending in records.
- 2) Records should be sent on CARDS, not in letters
- 3) Records should be sent in promptly.

It was also felt that the bulletin should be as complete as possible, rather than an incomplete 'rush job'.

Some duplication difficulties due to transfer to new facilities have now been resolved.

### Club Subscriptions

Following a committee meeting at which the whole of the Club's finances were discussed, it was decided, with regret, to raise the subscriptions as follows:-

Ordinary Membership.....	£2.50
Family Membership.....	£3.00
Junior Membership.....	£1.50

Very considerable increases in the cost of paper, printing and postage and also the cost of our visiting speakers have all contributed to the necessity of raising the subscriptions.

### 'Birds in Northumbria 1973'

All paid up members will receive a copy of our annual report with this bulletin. A limited number of additional copies has been printed but, as the plates have already been destroyed, it may become a collector's item! Anyone requiring additional copies may obtain them at our September meeting or direct from your Secretary at a cost of 75p plus postage.

### Club Badges

Enamelled lapel badges (neat but not gaudy!) will be available at our September meeting at a cost of 40p or by post from Keith Dures.

### Field Trips

29th.Sept.	HOLY ISLAND	Baxter's, Tynemouth.	8.00am
	Cost: £1.00	Hancock Museum	8.30am
9th.Nov.	SOLWAY	Baxter's, Tynemouth.	7.30am
	Cost: £1.30	Hancock Museum	8.00am

Places for both trips are limited to 29 so that early booking, together with cash, is indicated. Remittance please, to

Keith Walton, 51 Beachcroft Ave., Tynemouth.

### September Lecture

The season opens on Thursday, 12th.Sept. with Ian Newton, an ornithologist of truly international repute. His recently published book, 'Finches', in the New Naturalist series has been highly acclaimed. Ian, now one of the Nature Conservancy's 'boffins', is to speak on his work on Sparrowhawks (some of which was recently reviewed in 'Birds' magazine). He is an engaging speaker and his slides are superb.

### Personal

Congratulations to Mike Bell who, after ringing some thousands of birds, was finally ringed himself at the beginning of August. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Bell every happiness.



AUGUST 1974.

SUMMARY.

An interesting month that provided as usual a wide variety of species.

The weather was mainly westerly with short periods of strong N. winds from 9th - 12th and S.E. winds with mist and rain after 27th.

The former period brought an interesting movement of sea birds, especially Shearwaters, Fulmars and Gannets, and a Grey Phalarope appeared inland, whilst the latter period, although not 'classical', brought a small influx of continental migrants all along the coast involving Chats, Warblers (including Ictering, Barred and Greenish), Flycatchers, a Red-backed Shrike and Wrynecks.

Waders moved steadily through with good numbers of Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Greenshank and Ruff, whilst 2 Temminck's Stints were recorded.

Arctic Skuas were numerous all month with some interesting observation being made from the intensively watched Seaton Sluice.

There was a suggestion of a southerly movement of Canada Geese through the area and after 20th Merlins were noted in a number of locations near the coast.

The Long-tailed Duck was again seen on Whittle Dene (Hallington early in the month) whilst a pair of Red-crested Pochard made a brief stay at Holywell.

September has produced another Greenish Warbler, more Icterines and Wrynecks, an interesting 'fall' of Common Whitethroats and an unprecedented passage of Black Terns - details next month.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black-throated Diver:

5 in partial Summer plumage off Ross on 22nd (JNP).

Great Northern Diver:

5 in Winter plumage, off Ross on 4th (BG).

Red-throated Diver:

1 off Ross on 4th and 26th (BA/BG). 1 S. off Seaton Sluice on 9th (KW) where 8 N. on 14th (HP) and 2 off Beadnell/Newton on 25th - 27th (BG/IK). 2 Divers (sp.) off Ross on 24th (PK).

Great Crested Grebe:

Noted at Whittle Dene (up to 4 including 1 juvenile), at Hallington (up to 3 including 1 juvenile), at Seaton Burn (3 including 1 juvenile), Sweetthope (at least 1) and Catcleugh (2). 1 in Winter plumage off Holy Island on 16th (RN).

Slavonian Grebe:

An unusual occurrence of an adult in breeding plumage at Colt Crag Reservoir on 12th and 24th (JCD/DBC/RN).

Black Necked Grebe:

1 moulting out of breeding plumage at Holywell on 26th (KW).

### Little Grebe:

Noted at Bothal, Cresswell, Longhirst, Whittle Dene, Blagdon, Washington and Holywell though no more than 10 at any one location. 18 at Broomlee on 10th (LGM) whilst examples of late breeding involved a nest with 2 eggs at Wallington on 11th (LJM) and pair with 6 recently hatched young (RW) at Colt Crag on 24th.

### Manx Shearwater:

Most observations were made off Seaton Sluice where 120 N. and 9 S. were recorded on 11 days between 2nd and 27th with a peak of 70 N. on 10th/11th (KW et al).

### Sooty Shearwater:

All records involved birds off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's with 103 N. and 1 S. on a total of 9 dates with peaks of 26 on 5th, 14 on 9th and 41 on 10th (KW/HW et al).

### Fulmar:

Moving N. at 100 per hour off St. Mary's on 10th and at 60 per hour off Cresswell on 11th (BG). Inland 1 over Alnwick on 3rd (BL/ERM).

### Gannet:

N. movements noted off Seaton Sluice and Whitburn at 70 - 150 per hour on 4th, 10th and 30th (BG/TJR/BU). Off Holy Island 150 S. in 30 minutes on 16th (RN).

### Cormorant:-

60 gathered on beach at Ross on 4th (BG), 180 on Marsden Rock on 16th (BU) and inland 2 at Seaton Burn on 17th (AJ).

### White Pelican:

The Warkworth bird apparently wandered N. to the Farnes and Beadnell on 27th but had returned by 29th.

### Heron:

Well reported throughout Area in groups of up to 6 mainly around the reservoirs and at locations at or near the coast. 7 at Derwent on 13th (LGM) and Alnmouth on 20th (MS) suggested peak passage in mid-month.

### Mallard:

Largest flocks involved 150 at Capheaton on 26th and 200 at Colt Crag on 28th (LGM).

### Teal:

Passage proceeded throughout month with 25 - 35 at each of Grindon, Holywell and Arcot Hall and up to 65 at Washington. Offshore 89 N. off Seaton Sluice on 18th/19th.

### Garganey:

Up to 4 at Washington early in month, 1 remaining until 31st (CMA/TRP). At Whittle Dene 1 until 6th (MR).

Gadwall:

1 at Holywell 5th - 12th (WAK/KW), 6 at Cresswell on 24th (JPD/EML) and 1 at Washington on 31st (TRP).

Wigeon:

On 10th, 1 at each of Grindon/Broomlee (LGM), on 15th, 1 at Holywell (CED) and on 18th, 4 at Holburn Moss and 3 N. off Seaton Sluice. From 21st, 1 - 6 noted at Broomlee, Cresswell, Holywell and Blaydon, whilst off Seaton Sluice/Whitburn, 45 N. and 10 S.

Pintail:

1 in Northumberland Park, North Shields in late month (MNC), 1 at Blaydon on 22nd (BG) and 1 at Washington on 25th/26th (BU).

Shoveler:

1 - 12 noted at Holy Island, Newton, Holywell, Cresswell, Grindon and Arcot Hall. 40 at Seaton Burn on 8th (ERM), 25 at Blaydon on 14th (BG) and 23 at Wallsend on 27th (AC). Most sightings were made during first half of month.

Scaup:

Off Seaton Sluice 2 N. on 3rd and 1 N. on 20th (KW). 4 off Ross on 4th (BG).

Tufted Duck:

Max. at Whittle Dene was 122 (including 6 young) on 3rd (JSB et al) with 116 at Colt Crag on 10th (LGM), 66 at Holywell on 21st and 45 at Capheaton on 26th. 12 N. off Seaton Sluice on 3rd (KW).

Pochard:

1 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (JSB) and 15 at Gosforth on 28th (LGM).

Red-crested Pochard:

A pair at Holywell on 6th (JRP). It is probable, though not certain, that they were 'escapees'.

Long-tailed Duck:

The July Whittle Dene bird was still present on 3rd (JSB) and what was almost certainly the same bird was seen at Hallington on 10th (LGM).

Velvet Scoter:

9 N. off Seaton Sluice on 9th (KW).

Common Scoter:

The intensively watched Seaton Sluice provided the bulk of the records with 1075 N. and 70 S. between 1st - 19th (KW et al). Off Hauxley 80 on 30th (HRS). Up to 20 noted off several other points on coast.

Eider:

An estimate of 1800 off Holy Island on 16th (RN).

Red-breasted Merganser:

Off Ross 30 on 4th were all flightless (BG) whilst 70 were noted on 18th (LGM). Off Seaton Sluice 33 N. between 3rd - 11th (KW).

Goosander:

34 fully winged young at Bellingham on 18th and 4 at Falstone on 24th (per BL).

Shelduck:

Overland passage suggested by 2 in Earsdon/Holywell area 4th - 9th (CED/JEF), 1 at S. Linton on 28th (ERM) and 1 in Seaton Burn/Arcot Hall area on 28th/29th (AJm/BMn/ERM).

Canada Goose:

Probable return passage from the Beaulf Firth to Yorkshire involved 9 S. over North Shields on 3rd (HP) and 39 that called at both Holywell and Gosforth on 17th (Abl/LGM/WHs et al) presumably on the way S. 2 at Washington on 26th (BU).

Mute Swan:

Total of 356 at Berwick on 28th (TRP).

Whooper Swan:

2, presumably injured birds, with Mutes at Berwick on 28th (JCS).

Buzzard:

1 near Lintzford on 18th (EP).

Sparrow Hawk:

Reported from 6 different localities including 1 that crashed into a window at Embleton on 24th.

Hen Harrier:

A male at Bardon Mill on 11th (LGM).

Merlin:

Between 20th - 28th singles noted at Bamburgh, Beadnell, Holywell, Gosforth, Wallsend, Fenton, Falstone and Washington suggesting passage at that time.

Water Rail:

2 - 3 at Seaton Burn during month (AJm).

Coot:

160 at Broomlee on 10th increasing to 230 by 25th (LGM), up to 200 at Holywell especially early in month (LU) and 400 - 500 at Seaton Burn on 28th/29th (AJm/BMn).

Oystercatcher:

A suggestion of passage as month progressed with 550 at Ross on 18th (LGM), 100 on Coquet Estuary on 26th (BG), 80 at Cresswell by 17th, 40 - 60 at Hauxley most of month and 75 at St. Mary's on 20th. Inland 1 - 2 at Washington, Grindon and Colt Crag with 10 at Grindon on 11th.

Lapwing:

Large flocks noted throughout month both inland and at coast with up to 700 at locations such as Henshaw, Whittle Dene, Budle Bay, Seahouses, Ellington, Derwent, Washington and Durham.

/Ringed Plover



Ringed Plover:

Some interesting examples of flocks on passage with 30 - 60 at each of Berwick, Seahouses, Ross, Alnmouth, Lynemouth and St. Mary's with up to 210 at the Long Nanny (max. on 18th) especially during first half of month. Inland at Washington 6 on 5th increased to 40 - 50 by 25th and at Whittle Dene 4 - 10 present after 27th.

Little Ringed Plover:

1 - 2 in Washington area throughout month (TRP/BU/WWR).

Grey Plover:

20 - 30 in Ross - Fenham Flats area on 18th - 19th (PK/LGM). 1 N. Seaton Sluice on 9th (KW) and 1 inland at Washington on 25th (BU).

Golden Plover:

200 at Housesteads on 10th (LGM) and then some large flocks after mid-month with 1000 at each of Budle Bay, Long Nanny and Whittle Dene on 18th (BG/LGM/MR) and 1500 at Widdrington on 31st (JEF/WAK).

Turnstone:

Noted arriving high from the W. at Ross Links all day on 4th in flocks of up to 15, 30 at Cresswell on 11th, 200 at St. Mary's on 16th and 20th, and 100 at the Long Nanny on 18th (BG).

Common Snipe:

Concentrations of no more than 10 noted at several locations, mainly near coast. 20 at Washington on 26th was the exception (BU).

Curlew:

Flock of 250 at Newton by the Sea on 18th (BG) and 40 at Long Nanny on 25th.

Whimbrel:

Noted in small numbers on most days mainly at coast. Larger numbers at Marsden on 6th (55 S.), Seaton Sluice on 9th (32 S.), Long Nanny (20 N. on 27th) and Hauxley on 31st (30 N.).

Black-tailed Godwit:

1 - 2 at Washington 28th - 31st (TRP/BU) and 1 in Budle Bay on 23rd (BA).

Bar-tailed Godwit:

700 on Fenham Flats on 18th (LGM) and inland up to 6 at Washington 25th - 31st (BU/TRP).

Greensandpiper:

Well reported throughout month from 12 different localities as far inland as Capheaton involving a total of at least 18 individuals.

Wood Sandpiper:

Noted only between 5th - 12th and 22nd - 31st with singles at Arcot Hall, Wallsend, Backworth, Washington, Sunderland with 1 - 2 at Monks House. 5 arrived from E. at Seaton Sluice on 9th.

Common Sandpiper:

Noted throughout month with 1-5 at many locations.

Redshank:

100 at Alnmouth on 4th (LGM), 80 at Washington on 10th (BU) and at St. Mary's on 16th - 20th and 200 on Coquet Estuary on 26th (BG).

Spotted Redshank:

With exception of 1 at Fenham Mill on 4th and 2 S. off Seaton Sluice on 1st all sightings occurred after 12th with a total of at least 22 individuals at 12 separate locations mainly at or near coast. 5 at Cresswell on 27th was largest group.

Greenshank:

Very well reported throughout month from as far inland as Haltwhistle. Most sightings involved 1 - 4 birds but 7 S. off Seaton Sluice on 18th and up to 10 were noted at Washington (max. on 31st). At least 55 individuals were noted from 15 separate localities.

Knot:

2 at Cresswell on 16th (WAK) when 10 at St. Mary's where they increased to 20 by 20th (BG). 23 at Bamburgh on 23rd (PK). Inland 1 at Washington on 25th - 30th (BU).

Purple Sandpiper:

2 at St. Mary's on 20th (BG) and 2 on Farnes on 27th (BA).

Little Stint:

1 at Seaton Sluice on 9th (KW), 2 at Washington after 5th with 4 on 25th (TRP/BU), 1 at St. Mary's 19th - 21st (BG/JNP), 1 - 2 at Whittle Dene after 28th and 1 at Long Nanny on 30th (IK/MR).

Temminck's Stint:

1 at Washington on 12th (FGG) and 1 at Whittle Dene on 31st (MR).

Dunlin:

100 - 200 at each of St. Mary's and Long Nanny after 16th and 50 - 60 at Cresswell most of month (BG/MSH/ERM). Up to 60 noted at Washington with up to 10 at 5 other inland waters.

Curlew Sandpiper:

1 at Cresswell on 3rd (JPD/EML), 1 on breeding plumage at St. Mary's on 16th (BG) and 2 at Monks House, in winter plumage, on 22nd (BA).

Sanderling:

15 - 16 at Cresswell 1st - 7th (LU) with 10 there on 25th (MSH), 20 on Holy Island on 16th (RN), 30 - 50 at St. Mary's 16th - 31st (BG/WHM/JPD et al).

Ruff:

Well reported in good numbers, especially after 15th, as far inland as Whittle Dene. Max. numbers noted were 11 at Monks House on 25th (BA), 18 at

Long Nanny after 18th (BG/TRP/IK), 25 - 30 at Ellington after 24th (MSH/RW), 13 at Arcot 21st - 24th (BM), 10 at Backworth after 26th (CED) and 18 at Washington on 28th increasing to 52 by 31st (TRP/BU).

Grey Phalarope:

An unusual occurrence of 1 inland at Washington on 12th (BU).

Arctic Skua:

Conspicuous offshore throughout month. From the intensively watched Seaton Sluice Observatory totals of 391 N. and 614 S. on 23 days with peaks on 18th (99 S) and 24th - 26th (94 N. and 245 S. including flock of 39 S.). (KW/ABL et al). In addition, about 100 harrying large numbers of Kittiwakes/Terns on Blyth Bay on 24th (KW et al).

Great Skua:

Off Seaton Sluice 11 N. and 7 S. on 8 dates between 3rd - 25th (KW)(AJn). 2 N. off St. Mary's on 10th (BG), and on 25th - 29th up to 6 in Bamburgh/Budle area (WAK/TRP/BU).

Pomarine Skua:

Off Seaton Sluice 2 N. and 6 S. on 6 dates between 3rd - 26th (ABL/JPD/EML/KW).

Little Gull:

Off Seaton Sluice 2 N. on 4th (HP) and 1 N. on 10th (TJR), 1 at Wallsend on 6th (WAK) and 22nd (AC) and 1 at Holywell on 12th (WAK) and 17th (ABL).

Black-headed Gull:

400 near Washington on 18th (BU) and 400 - 500 at St. Mary's on 20th (BG).

Kittiwake:

An adult inland at Holywell on 4th (LCM).

Black Tern:

1 in Arcot Hall - Seaton Burn area on 11th - 18th (AJm/IK/LJM/BMn) and 1 - 2 at Washington 29th - 31st (TRP/JNP/BY).

'Commic' Tern:

Up to 150 inland at Washington with max. on 15th with up to 100 on Cresswell Pond (LU et al), 1 well inland at Hallington on 12th (RN) and single Arctics at Holywell 1st - 9th (WHS) and at Wallsend on 20th (AJn).

Little Tern:

An unusual occurrence inland of 3 at Holywell on 4th (CED). 3 at Blyth on 16th (AC).

Sandwich Terns:

Gatherings of up to 200 on Cresswell Pond in late month and 350 at Alnmouth on 26th (BG/MSH/BU).

Guillemot:

Only 2 remained on Farnes on 6th (EFM).

/Turtle Dove:

Turtle Dove:

1 at Holywell Dene on 25th (WAK).

Cuckoo:

Only 2 records: 1 at Denton Burn on 14th (BG) and 1 at Holburn Moss on 18th (LGM).

Barn Owl:

Successful nesting at Meldon and Wallsend (ERM/AC/PD).

Little Owl:

1 near Whittle Dene on 6th (MR).

Long-eared Owl:

1 on Holy Island on 31st (JEF/WAK).

Short-eared Owl:

Only noted in Allendale (2 on 20th - RG/WB/EL) and at Wallsend (1 on 13th and 16th - AC/AJn).

Swift:

Exodus from breeding areas noted from about 11th with last birds over Hexham on 13th and over West Newcastle on 22nd.

Kingfisher:

Noted at Washington Reserve, Bardon Mill, Blaydon, Bothal.

Wryneck:

Several on Farnes after 29th (PH), 1 at Marsden on 30th (per BU) and on 31st 1 on Holy Island (WAK/JEF), 1 at Bamburgh (MNC/MSH) and 2 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1 Priors Park (KD).

Swallow:

Steady S. passage over Seaton Sluice 17th - 21st (CMA), over Hauxley on 31st (HRS) and at Ross on 23rd (BA).

Carrion Crow:

37 roosting in Gosforth Park on 28th (LGM).

Nuthatch:

2 at Hamsterley Mill throughout month (EP).

Mistle Thrush:

Flocks of 30 at Chipchase, N. Tyne on 8th (RG/WB/EL) and 34 at Warren Mill on 30th (TRP).

Fieldfare:

Early records of 8 near Morpeth on 30th (HP) when 3 at Marsden (BU).



Song Thrush:

Late nest with 2 young at Whickham on 2nd (LJM).

Redwing:

An early record of 1 at Bamburgh on 30th (IK).

Wheatear:

An influx after 27th with 'many' on Farnes (PH) and small numbers all along the coast.

Stonechat:

Noted at Bamburgh, Budle, Hauxley, Newton and Cresswell on coast with 2 inland at Haltwhistle on 25th (LGM et al).

Whinchat:

An influx after 27th with 'many' on Farnes (PH) and up to 7 at many other points on coast.

Redstart:

1 - 4 at Bamburgh, Hauxley, Blyth, St. Mary's, Tynemouth and Marsden on 30th/31st.

Nightingale (sp):

1 seen on Farnes during last few days of month (PH).

Reed Warbler:

1 in breeding location at Gosforth on 17th (LGM) and 2 migrants at Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Sedge Warbler:

Several still at Newton Pool on 26th (BA).

Icterine Warbler:

1 - 2 on Farnes on 30th (PH), 2 at Hauxley on 31st (HRS) and 1 probable at Druridge on 31st (JKJ).

Blackcap:

Still a nest with 4 young at Ravensworth on 2nd (LJM), 1 at Holywell on 17th (WHS) and at Hauxley 2 on 5th and 2 on 31st (HRS).

Barred Warbler:

1 trapped at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Garden Warbler:

A few on Farnes 29th - 31st (PH) with 1 or more at Hauxley 30th/31st and at Blyth on 31st (ERM).

Whitethroat:

Only reported as singles from Gosforth, Hauxley, Bamburgh and North Shields.

Lesser Whitethroat:

3 near Washington on 11th (per BU) and 1 at Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Willow Warbler:

Steady passage all month in small numbers, especially on 14th and 30th/31st when they were conspicuous at coast.

Greenish Warbler:

1 trapped at Tynemouth on 30th is 4th record for Northumberland (KGD/MSH).

Goldcrest:

Several at Hauxley on 30th/31st were probably migrants (HRS).

Spotted Flycatcher:

Small influx at coast on 30th/31st with 2 at Hauxley, 12 at Earsdon and 10 at Tynemouth.

Pied Flycatcher:

A few in North Shields on 9th and 17th (WHS) and an influx on 30th/31st with up to 10 at Holy Island, Farnes, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Druridge and Earsdon with 20 at Tynemouth and 30 at Whitley Bay.

Red-breasted Flycatcher:

1 on Holy Island on 31st (JEF/WAK).

Tree Pipit:

1 at Hauxley on 5th and 1 on 31st (HRS) with 2 at Washington on 30th (per BU).

Pied Wagtail:

Roost at Blaydon building up to 100 by 28th (BG/LJM). 20 on shore at St. Mary's on 31st (JPD/EML).

Grey Wagtail:

1 well away from breeding area at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Yellow Wagtail:

Roost at Blaydon increased to 100 by 23rd - 28th (LJM/BG), 2 on rocks at St. Mary's on 17th and 4 in Blyth Cemetery on 31st (BG/ERM).

Red-backed Shrike:

A migrant on Farnes on about 29th/30th (PH).

Goldfinch:

Continues to be well reported with numbers breeding in urban areas.

Siskin:

Several at Hamsterley Mill 1st - 19th (EP).

/Linnet

Tinnet:

Flocks of up to 200 at Holywell, Hauxley, Washington.

Redpoll:

Numerous around Hamsterley Mill 20th - 22nd (EP).

Yellowhammer:

Late nest, hatching eggs on 18th at Blaydon (LJM).

Reed Bunting:

150 roosting at Blaydon by 23rd (LJM).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C. M. Adamson.	P. Hawkey.	J. N. Prescott.
B. Armitage.	M. S. Hodgson.	E. Priestley.
M. Bell.	A. James.	M. Richardson.
W. Brady.	A. James.	T. J. Rose.
J. S. Booth.	J. K. Jeffrey.	M. Sauer.
A. Blackett.	I. Kerr.	J. C. Soutar.
D. B. Charlton.	P. Kelly.	M. R. Smith.
W. S. Craster.	W. A. Kelly.	W. H. Sharp.
M. N. Coates.	B. Little.	L. Ullock.
A. Curry.	E. Lobley.	B. Unwin.
J. C. Day.	E. R. Meek.	T. H. Wall.
C. E. Douglas.	L. J. Milton.	R. Walton.
J. P. Deacon.	L. G. Macfarlane.	K. Walton.
P. Davidson.	B. Martin.	H. Wilson.
K. G. Dures.	R. Norman.	P. Weighill.
B. Galloway.	T. R. Palmer.	Hauxley R. S.
R. Grey.	J. R. Park.	Washington W. R.
F. G. Grey.	H. Pattison.	

All September records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle/Tyne,  
NE 15 7RD by 9th October please.

Contributors are reminded that record cards can be obtained at monthly meetings  
or by sending a stamped, addressed envelope (min. size 6" x 3½" please) to  
Bryan Galloway.

## CLUB NEWS.

It is said that no news is good news. -----

This has been a very good news month!

### Injured Birds.

The secretary, from time to time, is asked to recommend vets in the area, who have the knowledge and facilities for treating injured birds. It seems that such a vet is indeed a rara avis.

In an effort to compile a local register, of vets, societies, and private individuals, prepared to deal with bird casualties, members are asked to give any useful names and addresses to the secretary.

### Meeting, Thursday, October 10th.

Under our new constitution, the Club year has been re-aligned to coincide with the Club Financial year. This has necessitated the calling of a second General Meeting to elect a committee to serve for the next twelve months. (This is also in accordance with current National Political trends!). The club election will be held at our October meeting. Nominations for the committee should be submitted, in time to reach the chairman by Tuesday, 8th October. It is not anticipated that the whole evening will be taken up by the election and accordingly an excellent talk has been arranged.

### Speaker, Thursday, October 10th.

Edgar Gatenby will talk on "Bird Watching in the Central Pyrenees", illustrated by some brilliant slides. Edgar is well known as a top class field ornithologist, and to those birdwatchers who visit Teesmouth, "Edgar's seen it" is sufficient confirmation that the current visiting rarity has been positively identified. He has watched birds all over Europe, but we chose his Pyrenees talk to contrast with the region to be covered at our November meeting.

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### T.B.C. GENERAL MEETING 10TH OCTOBER, 1974.

#### NOMINATION CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

NAME .....

PROPOSED BY .....

SECONDED BY .....

HAS NOMINEE INDICATED HIS ACCEPTANCE? YES/NO

---

Please submit this form, before 8th October, 1974, to JOHN GINNEVER,  
230, ASHINGTON DRIVE, STAKEFORD, CHOPPINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND.



## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

September 1974

### Summary

A wet and windy month that was dominated by Westerly weather associated with depressions in the N. Atlantic.

On 1st./2nd. residual migrants from the influx in late August included Wrynecks, Barred Warbler, Greenish Warbler and Red-breasted Flycatchers, but with the wind now in the NW, the next few days brought a movement of Sooty Shearwaters and a heavy passage of waders especially Lapwings, Golden Plover and Dunlin.

A SSE gale with heavy rain on 7th. was probably responsible for the appearance on the coast of Wheatears, Whinchats, Whitethroats, Willow Warblers with Wryneck and Icterine Warbler during the subsequent 24 hours. 8th. also saw the commencement of a heavy S movement of Meadow Pipits over the Area.

Mid month brought another Icterine Warbler during W weather and both wildfowl and waders were appearing in numbers.

On 18th. a Little Bunting was located at Washington and 21st./22nd. saw the appearance of Marsh and Hen Harriers and 2 Red-backed Shrikes.

On 24th. a heavy passage of Gannets with some Sooty Shearwaters was reported and after 27th. the arrival of Redwings and Fieldfares was noted bringing with it 2 Barred Warblers, a Great Grey Shrike and another Red-backed Shrike. The same period also brought the first Whooper Swans and Geese. 162 Shovelers were counted at Gosforth Park.

Other interesting observations during the month included unusual numbers of Ruff and Black Terns, a steady passage of Little Stints, a Temminck's Stint, three sightings of Long-tailed Skuas and a late movement of Swifts.

To date, October has produced a Pallas' Warbler, 1 -2 Yellow-browed Warblers, a Paddyfield Warbler, 3 Red-breasted Flycatchers and 4 Bluethroats. More details next month.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Black-throated Diver.

1 N Seaton Sluice on 22nd. (KW).

#### Red-throated Diver./ Diver (sp.)

Between 7th.-29th. noted off Holy Island, Ross, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice but no more than 5 on any one day.

#### Great Crested Grebe.

2 -3 at Whittle Dene until 14th. then 1 until 28th. (EB/JSB/EAS). 4 -5 at Colt Crag on 14th./15th. (EH/RG et al), 1 immature at Hallington on 15th. and 2 at Brasside on 22nd. (DLS). Offshore 1 at Cresswell on 25th.-27th. (JKJ).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

1 inland at Linton on 3rd. (ETN/JRN).

#### Little Grebe.

Largest count: 23 on Northumbrian Loughs on 15th. with 23 on 29th. (LGM), 14 at Colt Crag on 21st. - 2 family parties - (MR) and 10 at Whittle Dene on 21st. (ERM/JSB). 12 at Washington early in September (BU) and up to 6 noted at six other waters.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice 29N and 3S on total of nine days (KW et al). Also noted off Tynemouth, Hauxley and Annstead but no more than 5 at each location.

#### Sooty Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice 136N and 1S on four dates with peaks of 36 on 3rd. and 78 on 24th. Also 7N Tynemouth on 1st. (KW), 1S Holy Island on 22nd. (RN) and 1N Whitburn on 29th. (DG).

#### Fulmar.

Last noted on 15th. during a steady N passage off Hauxley (HRS).

#### Gannet.

Conspicuous offshore all month with heavy N movement off Seaton Sluice on 24th. when 947N in about two hours before 1000 hrs. (KW).

/Cormorant

Cormorant.

Perhaps more numerous than is usual with 250 on Ross Links on 6th. when 16S off Seaton Sluice (BG/ERM). By 30th. 230 roosting on Marsden Rock (THW). Inland 2 at Whittle Dene on 21st.(JSB) and 1 at Washington on the R.Wear on 27th./28th. (WWR)

White Pelican.

Still at Warkworth end of month.

Heron.

1 - 3 at numerous location with up to 6 at Wallsend Swallow and up to 10 in Budle Bay (BG/AJn et al).

Bittern.

1 noted at Seaton Burn on 15th.(IK).

Mallard.

Largest counts were 100 at Whittle Dene on 4th./5th.(MR), 120 on Northumbrian Loughs on 15th.(LGM) when 460 at Colt Crag (RG/WB). 300 at Gosforth on 19th.(SJH) and 400 in Budle Bay on 28th.(WLR).

Teal.

Some interesting counts as return passage progressed. At Washington max.80 on 5th. (BU); at Grindon max.60 on 15th.(LGM); at Budle Bay 150 on 4th.(BG); at Holburn Moss 350 on 28th.(WLR); at Threestone Burn 70 on 15th.(per BL); at Gosforth 150 on 28th.(PD). Offshore 149N and 131S off Seaton Sluice during month (KW et al). Many records of flocks of up to 40 especially on waters near coast.

Gadwall.

2 at Seaton Burn on 4th.(AJm), 4 at Holywell on 15th.(SJH) when 1 at Grindon, 2 at Witton-le-Wear on 11th.(MR). (LGM/AJR)

Wigeon.

Steady passage as month progressed. Largest counts were 300 on Fenham Flats on 3rd.(BG), 72 on Northumbrian Loughs on 8th. increased to 164 by 29th.(LGM), 50 at Colt Crag on 15th.(RG/WB), 52 at Gosforth on 19th.(SJH). Offshore 350N and 40S off Seaton Sluice on total of four dates after 3rd.(KW).

Pintail.

'Several' at Brasside on 9th.(DLS), 2 at Grindon on 15th.(LGM/AJR), 2 at Cresswell on 20th.(JNP) and 22 at Holburn Moss on 28th.(WLR).

Shoveler.

Gosforth Park as usual attracted by far the largest numbers with max. of 162 there by 26th.(SJH/KR/LGM). Elsewhere up to 14 at Holywell, up to 11 at Grindon and, more unusually, 1 on sea off Seaton Sluice on 9th.

Scaup.

2S Seaton Sluice on 7th.(KW), 1 at Holywell on 21st.(PW) and 2S Hauxley on 22nd. (HRS)

Tufted Duck.

A decline at Whittle Dene from 84 on 1st. to 8 on 28th.(JSB/EAS). 80 at Colt Crag on 8th.(LGM) and 3S off Seaton Sluice on 28th.(KW).

Pochard.

The usual September influx was witnessed with 62 at Gosforth by 19th.(SJH/AJm) and 77 on Northumbrian Loughs on 15th.(LGM). Small numbers noted at Hallington/Colt Crag but a decline was noted by end of month.

Goldeneye.

2N off Seaton Sluice on 28th.(KW).

Long-tailed Duck.

The Whittle Dene bird was again seen between 9th.-11th.(MR) whilst 1N Seaton Sluice on 24th.(KW).

Velvet Scoter.

2 off St.Mary's on 1st.(JDMcE), 1S whitburn on 23rd.(BU) and 2 off Bamburgh on 28th.(WLR)

Common Scoter.

Largest counts were 261N Seaton Sluice during month(KW) and 100 off Holy Island on 21st.(RN).

Eider.

Largest reported gathering was 620 off Holy Island on 18th. (per ERM).

Ruddy Duck.

The 'Holywell' bird seems to have moved to Gosforth where it was noted on 26th. (ABI/SJH)

Red-breasted Merganser.

Flock of 8S off Ross Links on 6th. (BG). 1 - 2N off Seaton Sluice/Whitburn on a few occasions.

Goosander.

An unusually large gathering of 65 at Tunstall Reservoir on 24th. (THW). Elsewhere 5 - 6 at Whitfield Lough and Derwent (LGM/MR) and, at the coast, 5 in Budle Bay on 22nd. (SJH) and 1 on Holy Island on 28th. (BL).

Shelduck.

Only 20 on Fenham Flats on 3rd. (BG) with 4 at Cresswell on 4th. (LU). Off Seaton Sluice 6S on 3rd. and 2N on 8th. (KW).

Geese (sp.)

21S over Cresswell on 4th. (JKJ) and 30W over Hauxley on 29th. (HRS).

Greylag Goose.

95 at Holburn Moss on 28th. (WLR).

Pink-footed Goose.

1W over Holy Island on 29th. (KW).

Brent Goose.

12 - 13 off Holy Island on 29th. (ABI/SJH et al).

Canada Goose.

27 at Colt Crag on 1st. (MR) increasing to 90 by 15th. (RG/WB). At Washington 2 until 10th. then 2 after 21st. (BU/THW et al).

Whooper Swan.

Flock of 38 appeared Holy Island on 26th. increasing to about 50 by 29th. (RN/SJH et al). 1N St. Mary's Island on 26th. (PD) and 6 at Northumbrian Loughs on 29th. (LGM). Unusual numbers for so early in 'winter'.

Kite (sp.)

Single bird flying S over Tynemouth on 15th. (MSH/KGD).

Sparrowhawk.

Numerous with many reports of 1-2. More interesting locations included Holy Island (1-2), Bamburgh (2), Hauxley (1) and St. Mary's where a tired male arrived from the E on 21st.

Marsh Harrier.

A female or immature at Wallsend Swallow on 21st. may have been present for some eight days previous (KR). Possibly same bird was observed near Backworth on several days in mid month (per MSH).

Hen Harrier.

During August 1 at Fenham Mill on 20th. (WLR) and 1 at Holywell on 24th. (KR). In September 1 - 2 on Holy Island on 22nd. and 29th. (KW) and 1 at Havannah Pond on 26th. (AHB).

Peregrine.

1 at Holy Island on 28th. (per BL).

Merlin.

1 - 2 at Holy Island, Budle Bay, Hauxley, Whitley Bay, Washington and Whittle Dene.

Kestrel.

Passage suggested with 5 at Warkworth on 8th. (HRS), 3 - 4 at Wallsend Swallow on 11th./12th. and 3 off the sea at Seaton Sluice on 14th. (KW).

Partridge.

Covey of 47 at Wallsend Swallow on 21st. (KR).

Water Rail.

1 on Holy Island on 12th. and 1 - 2 at Gosforth on 25th./26th. (ABI/SJH).



### Coot.

550 at Seaton Burn by 27th.(ERM) after only 200 on 9th.(AJM). 280 at Broomlee on 8th. decreased to 200 by 29th.(LGM). 150 at Holywell on 21st.(PW) and 140 at Sweethope on 29th.(LGM). A late three day old chick at Whittle Dene on 14th.(BL).

### Oystercatcher.

The high tide roost on Ross Links reached 1700 on 6th.(BG). Elsewhere 50 - 100 at each of Cresswell/St.Mary's (AJ/LU).

### Lapwing.

Flocks of up to 500 noted at several locations whilst in Budle Bay area 5000 were present between 2nd.-6th.(BG). At Seaton Burn 800 on 9th.(AJM).

### Ringed Plover.

120 at Ross on 6th.(BG). At Washington 50 on 1st. decreased to 10 by 4th.(BU). 85 in Hauxley area on 1st. and 15th. and 50 on Coquet Estuary on 8th.(HRS). 35 at Whitburn on 21st.(WLR). Present inland at Whittle Dene all month with max. 20 on 14th.(EAS et al). 3 - 5 noted also at Derwent and Arcot Hall before 12th.

### Little Ringed Plover.

1 at Cresswell on 28th.(per BL).

### Grey Plover.

25 - 30 in Budle Bay on 6th.(BG). Further S on coast 1 - 5 noted as far S as Jarrow Slake, especially after mid month. An unusual number of inland records involved 2 at Washington on 11th.(THW), 1 at Whittle Dene 14th. - 25th.(BL/MR/JSB/EAS) and 1 near Earsdon 20th. - 22nd.(DT/TW).

### Golden Plover.

Some large flocks. 3000 in Budle area on 1st. increased to 5000 by 5th.(BG). 500 at Druridge on 1st.(WAK) increased to 2000 by 14th.(KA). 1250 at Whittle Dene on 3rd. (AJR). 600 - 900 on Jarrow Slake after 15th.(KR) and up to 400 at each of Holy Island, Newton, Annitsford and Housesteads after 8th.

### Turnstone.

50 at St.Mary's on 21st. was only sizeable gathering reported.

### Common Snipe.

Only gatherings were 50 at Washington on 21st.(PW) when a peak of 22 was noted at Whittle Dene (JSB).

### Curlew.

250 at Ross on 5th.(BG). 20 noted at each of Cresswell, St.Mary's, Jarrow Slake and Derwent during month.

### Whimbrel.

Off Seaton Sluice/Tynemouth flocks of 65, 38 and 21S between 1st.-3rd.(KW). 1 - 4 noted at five other points at or near coast, mainly S, until the last at Holy Island on 29th.(RN et al).

### Black-tailed Godwit.

1 - 4 on the Lough at Holy Island between 12th.-29th.(ABI/RGL/BL et al). 1 at Washington until 9th.(JEF/AJN).

### Bar-tailed Godwit.

200 in Budle Bay on 6th. with 1 - 10 at Coquet Estuary, Hauxley, St.Mary's and Jarrow Slake after 8th. Inland 1 at Washington until 5th.(BU) and 5 at Whittle Dene on 11th./12th.(RW et al).

### Green Sandpiper.

Until the last on 22nd., all records involved 1 - 3 at Holy Island, Holywell, Earsdon, Washington, Seaton Burn and Whittle Dene.

### Wood Sandpiper.

Only records were 1 at Washington until 11th.(AJN/BU) and 1 on Holy Island on 14th. (RGL)

### Common Sandpiper.

Many records of 1 - 6 as far inland as Haltwhistle. Still 1 at Warden on 30th.(MR) Distinct passage suggested between 13th.-15th.

### Redshank.

400 in Budle Bay on 4th.(BG), 100 on Coquet Estuary on 8th.(HRS), 70 at each of Cresswell and Hauxley on 4th.7th.resp.(JU/HRS) 356 on Jarrow Slake 15th.-30th.(KR)



Spotted Redshank.

Well reported. Up to 4 from waters at or near the coast with a peak of 1 at passage on about 15th.-17th. when 22 in Budle Bay (WLR) and 10 at Washington (AJN et al). No records from further inland than Whittle Dene.

Greenshank.

Also well reported as far inland as Greenlee and Grindon with up to 5 at many locations. Larger Gatherings involved max. of 13 at Washington (BU/EH/TW et al) on 8th. Max. 7 at Whittle Dene on 21st. (ERM/MR et al).

Knot.

40 at Bamburgh on 28th. (WLR) was largest flock. Up to 10 noted at Holy Island, Coquet Estuary, St. Mary's and Jarrow Slake after 9th.

Purple Sandpiper.

50 at Bamburgh on 3rd. (BG) and 6 at Seaton Sluice on 22nd.

Little Stint.

Passage noted throughout the month with up to 4 at many points on coast and at several waters as far inland as Whittle Dene. 5 at Washington on 2nd. (BU et al) and at least 10 in Budle Bay on 4th. (BG).

Temminck's Stint.

The bird noted at Whittle Dene in August remained until 14th. (EB/BL/MR et al).

Dunlin.

1900 in Budle Bay on 4th.-6th. (BG) with 500 at Jarrow Slake on 15th. (KR) and 400 at St. Mary's on 21st. (BG). 200 at Whitburn on 21st. (WLR). Small parties at several inland waters as far as Broomlee whilst at Whittle Dene a build up to a max. of 62 on 26th. was noted by several observers. The peak at Washington occurred early with a max. of 60 on 1st. (BU et al).

Curlew Sandpiper.

1 at Cresswell on 4th. (JKJ), 2 at Blyth on 15th. (LU). 1 at Longhoughton Steel on 20th. (AMT) and 1 - 2 at St. Mary's on 21st. (KW et al).

Sanderling.

10 - 20 in Hauxley area 8th.-21st. (HRS) and 60 at St. Mary's on 22nd. (BG).

Ruff.

'Heavy' passage through the Area continued even as late as 26th. with birds as far inland as Grindon. Largest flocks involved max. of 50 at Monk's House on 14th. (BG/WSC), max. of 36 at Arcot Hall on 24th. (BM), max. of 16 at Holywell on 26th. (JEF), max. of 19 at Whittle Dene on 4th. (MR et al). At Washington 52 on 1st. increased to 100 by 4th. followed by a steady decline to 10 on 11th. (BU/AJN et al). Many records of up to 15 birds together.

Arctic Skua.

The intensively watched Seaton Sluice provided most of the records with 415N and 492S on a total of ten days. Peaks of 69N on 2nd., 339S on 3rd. and 231N on 7th. (KW et al). A few still present at the end of the month.

Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 18N and 6S on six dates until 28th. (ABI/KW) et al). Elsewhere 1 - 2 mainly N off Annstead, Hauxley and Cresswell between 1st.-29th.

Pomarine Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 12N and 12S on total of five dates between 3rd.-28th. (ABI/KW et al)

Long-tailed Skua.

An adult off Seaton Sluice on 2nd. and 8th. (KR/KW) and another off St. Mary's on 27th. (TW).

Great Black-backed Gull.

115 at Chevington Burn mouth on 14th. (CMA)

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Steady S passage off Seaton Sluice on 23rd. including 1 of the Scandinavian Race

Glaucous Gull.

1 off Bamburgh on 15th. (CMA). At Holy Island 1 immature on 22nd. (RN) and an adult on 28th. (BL). A first year bird at Seaton Burn on 29th. (IK) and another on 21st. at Sunderland (BU).

Iceland Gull.

1 at Holywell on 14th. and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 19th. (ABI/WAK) may have been same individual. The latter was reported as an adult.

Little Gull.

Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 3S on 7th., 1S on 21st. and 1S on 24th. (KW et al).  
1 at Holywell on 14th. (WAK).

Black Tern.

Noted in perhaps unprecedented numbers. Most were moving S offshore with total of 78 off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's on eleven dates between 3rd.-28th. with peaks of 45 and 10 on 8th. and 24th. respectively. Elsewhere on coast several noted moving S with 11 off Hauxley on 21st. (HRS). Inland up to 4 at Washington until 19th., 5 at Hallington on 14th. (EH/BU/AJn et al). Singles noted at Grindon, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn and Holywell until 9th.

'Commic' Tern.

150S off Hauxley on 7th. and 60S on 21st. (HRS). Still a few offshore at end of month. Inland 1 at Whittle Dene on 3rd. (EB), 1 at Broomlee on 8th. (LGM) and up to 10 at Washington until 19th. (BU).

Sandwich Tern.

500 gathered on Ross Links on 4th.-6th. (BG). Steady S passage noted off Hauxley on 8th., 15th. with distinct decrease by 21st./22nd. (HRS).

Turtle Dove.

1 at Hauxley on 8th. (HRS).

Barn Owl.

Noted near Ashington on 7th. (LU) and near Hexham on 3rd. and 19th. (MR). Pair with half grown young still in nest near Earsdon (MSH).

Little Owl.

Noted near Knowesgate on 15th.

Long-eared Owl.

1 - 2 on Holy Island all month (JEF/WAK/BL/RN).

Short-eared Owl.

On 8th. 1 at Warkworth and 1 at Seaton Sluice. Between 16th.-26th. 1 - 3 at Wallsend Swallow. On 29th. 1 on Holy Island.

Swift.

Unusually late passage witnessed with up to 10 at many locations at or near the coast until 19th. including 65S over Whitley Bay area on 8th. (KW et al). On 21st./22nd. 1 - 2s over Bamburgh/Hauxley/st. Mary's/Gosforth. A late bird over Havannah Pond on 27th. (AHB).

Kingfisher.

1 - 2 at Haltwhistle, Washington, Holywell, Plessey and Whittle Dene.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted near Havannah and at Plessey.

Wryneck.

On 1st. 1 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1 at Cresswell (JKJ). On 7th./8th. singles at Hauxley and Whitley Bay and also well inland at both Haltwhistle and Eals (LGM/KW/HRS).

Skylark.

On 29th. steady SW passage noted over Holy Island and Hauxley.

Swallow.

300 at Waren Mill on 4th. (BG) and heavy S movement over Budle Bay on 6th. Between 15th.-20th. flocks of 100 - 250 at Ulgham, Dinnington and Prestwick Carr. On 30th. an adult still feeding 3 fledged juveniles at Whittle Dene (TW)

House Martin.

A few still present at end of the month.

Sand Martin.

Late passage witnessed until 8th. with up to 20 at each of Budle Bay, Hauxley, Holywell and Arcot Hall.

Great Tit.

A few on coastal passage at end of month with several at Bamburgh after 21st. and 5 at Hauxley on 28th./29th.

Blue Tit.

Coastal passage in evidence after 15th. with up to 30 at each of Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Nuthatch.

Up to 3 at Hamsterley Mill and 1 at Holywell Pond on 30th. (EP/WHS).

Mistle Thrush.

Passage noted at Hauxley on 7th. (4) and 29th. (at least 20) all of which arrived from the E. 35 at Derwent on 6th. (RG/WB/EL) and 50 at Colt Crag on 21st. (MR).

Fieldfare.

37 near Morpeth on 5th. (HDP), 1 at St. Mary's on 12th. (JEF) and on 14th. 20 at Colt Crag (EH) and 1 at Harwood (LGM). On 28th./29th. a few arrived on Holy Island (RN/BL).

Redwing.

Between 27th.-29th. up to 25 noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Washington.

Ring Ouzel.

1 in breeding area at Riddlees Burn on 14th. (LGM) and an early migrant at Hauxley on 21st. (HRS).

Wheatear.

A distinctive arrival at the coast on 8th. with many in Whitley Bay area (KW), at least 30 at Cresswell (BG/IK) and 11 at Hauxley (HRS). Still a few in evidence at coast at end of month.

Stonechat.

The usual coastal residents noted at Budle, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Druridge, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice. Inland 2 - 4 at Wallsend Swallow on 21st.-26th. with 1 at Washington on 28th.

Whinchat.

A few arrived with Wheatears on 8th. with 12-15 at each of Hauxley and Druridge. On 6th. an unusual count of 32 at Wallsend Swallow (AJN). Up to 6 noted at or near the coast until mid month with 1 - 2 at Washington, St. Mary's and Bamburgh on 28th./29th.

Redstart.

Only five records. Between 1st.-6th. singles at Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn. On 15th. 1 at Hauxley and on 28th. 3 on Holy Island.

Robin.

Steady passage in small numbers noted at Hauxley during month with a suggestion of a peak on 15th. (HRS)

Icterine Warbler.

On the 7th. singles at each of Hauxley and St. Mary's (HRS/JNP) and on 15th. 1 trapped at Bamburgh (BRS).

Sedge Warbler.

Noted only at Hauxley with the last, a single, on 15th.

Blackcap.

Coastal passage at Hauxley reached a peak of 5 on 15th. (HRS)

Barred Warbler.

Singles noted at Hauxley on 1st. and 28th. (HRS) and on Holy Island on 28th./29th. (BL/KW)

Garden Warbler.

1 - 2 at Hauxley on four occasions between 1st.-15th. (HRS).

Whitethroat.

An interesting coastal arrival was witnessed at Hauxley on 7th./8th. with about 20 present in the area (HRS). A few were also noted at Cresswell and Whitley Bay. Probably the largest autumn 'influx' for many years.



Lesser Whitethroat.

At Hauxley 1 on 1st. and 7th. and 2 on 8th.(HRS) when 1 at Bamburgh (BRS).

Willow Warbler.

Coastal influx on 7th./8th. when at least 25 at Hauxley, many birds being located in the sand dunes during the strong W winds. A few records of singles at Hauxley, Whitley Bay, Gosforth and Washington 22nd.-28th. 1 in sub-song at Spindlestone on 6th.(BG)

Greenish Warbler.

Following the Tynemouth bird in August, the fifth Northumberland specimen was trapped at Hauxley on 1st.(HRS).

Chiffchaff.

2 at Hauxley on 8th.(HRS) whilst singing individuals were at Sunderland on 13th./14th.(BU) and at Heddon on 28th.(JSB).

Goldcrest.

Coastal passage witnessed at Hauxley with 10 - 15 On 15th. and 28th./29th.(HRS) and on Holy Island with 15 on 28th.(BL) 1 in an unusual location at Kenton Bar on 17th.(BG).

Spotted Flycatcher.

1 - 2 on coastal passage until 14th.(HRS/JKJ). Still 7 at Corbridge on 15th.(MR) and 2 at Lobley Hill on 20th.(PD).

Pied Flycatcher.

On 1st. 1 - 6 at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley and Cresswell. 2 at Hauxley on each of 7th. and 15th. 6 at Holy Island on 28th. when 1 at Druridge.

Red-breasted Flycatcher.

1 on Holy Island on 1st.(RGL/KW) and 1 at Marsden Hall on 2nd.(KR).

Duncock.

Coastal passage suggested at Hauxley on 29th. when 5 'new' birds trapped (HRS).

Meadow Pipit.

Very heavy S movement noted over Hauxley after 6th., especially on 8th. when up to 500/hr. moving S over land and the sea in flocks of up to 100. At Whitley Bay over 1500 estimated S on 8th.(KW). Passage continued until 18th. being witnessed over Hauxley, Newcastle and Whitley Bay though at a much reduced rate. On 29th. a few parties S over Hauxley (HRS/BG/KW et al).

Tree Pipit.

On 8th. 4 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1 at Washington (WWR). On 14th. 1SW over Denton(BG).

Rock Pipit.

30 at Whitburn on 21st. when 20 at St.Mary's.

Pied Wagtail.

200 - 300 roosting at Blaydon all month (LJM). A few S with pipits over Hauxley on 15th. (HRS).

White Wagtail.

2 at Bamburgh on 14th.(BRS).

Grey Wagtail.

Away from breeding areas 1 - 3 at Washington 7th.-28th.(WWR) and 2S Hauxley on 29th.(HRS).

Yellow Wagtail.

Late singles at St.Mary's on 17th.(EP), at Whitley Bay on 21st. and in Holywell Dene on 29th.(JDMcE).

Great Grey Shrike.

An early bird on Holy Island on 29th.(KW).

Red-backed Shrike.

1 on Holy Island on 21st. until 2 present on 29th.(JEF/RN/KW/SJH et al). 1 at Hauxley on 22nd.(HRS) and inland 1 at Killingworth on 11th.(JDMcE). All were females or immatures.

Starling.

A few arriving from the E at Hauxley on 29th.(HRS).



Hawfinch.

2 at Stocksfield on 6th. and 2 at Morpeth on 27th.(per BL).

Goldfinch.

Especially conspicuous at Holywell (many), Whitley Bay (28), Denton (35) and Marsden (about 100).

Siskin.

20 at Harwood on 14th.(LGM), 2S at St.Mary's on 21st.(BG) and 1 at Tunstall on 24th.(THW).

Linnet.

60 at Hauxley on 1st.(HRS), 300 at Morpeth on 5th.(HDP), 200 at Marsden on 12th. (BU) and 200 at Washington all month (WWR).

Twite.

2 at Whittle Dene on 17th.(TW) and 3 at Cresswell on 28th.(per BL).

Redpoll.

50 at Halleypike on 15th.(LGM).

Crossbill.

2 at Wark Forest on 15th.(LGM).

Little Bunting.

1 seen at Washington on 18th. was still present at the end of the month (ABI/SJH/  
DM et al)

Reed Bunting.

Roost of 200 at Blaydon on 6th. and 10th.(LJM).

Snow Bunting.

1 at Warkworth on 17th.(FYB) and 2 at Hauxley on 29th.(HRS).

Tree Sparrow.

Flock of 20 pursued by Sparrowhawk at Cresswell on 8th.(IK).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	E.Hawdon	L.G.Macfarlane	E.A.Stanley
K.Angus	S.J.Hingston	J.D.McElwee	A.M.Taylor
J.Armstrong	M.S.Hodgson	E.T.Norris	D.Turner
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A.Blackett	A.Janes	R.Norman	L.Ullock
W.Brady	J.K.Jeffery	H.D.Pattison	T.H.Wall
J.S.Booth	W.A.Kelly	J.N.Prescott	P.Weighill
F.Y.Bodger	I.Kerr	E.Priestley	T.Winter
E.Bagshaw	B.Little	M.Richardson	K.Walton
W.S.Craster	E.Lobley	K.Robson	R.Walton
P.Davidson	R.G.Lewis	A.J.Richards	Washington Wildfowl
K.G.Dures	B.Martin	W.L.Rimmer	Refuge
B.Galloway	E.R.Meek	W.H.Sharp	Bamburgh & Hauxley
R.Grey	D.Middleton	J.S.Spence	R.S.
D.Graves	L.J.Milton	D.L.Sowerbutts	

All October records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle/Tyne, NE157RD by  
November 9th. please.

## CLUB NEWS

### A.G.M.

At the September General Meeting, our chairman disclosed the new subscription rates as follows:-

Ordinary Membership.....	£2.50
Family Membership.....	£3.00
Junior Membership.....	£1.50

These subscriptions are now overdue and it is hoped that a large number are still outstanding only because members were awaiting publication of the new rates. Brian Martin will be pleased to receive cheques or P.O.s made payable to Tyneside Bird Club.

The treasurer's report showed how necessary this increase had become, due solely to rises in cost of paper, printing and postage. The report was accepted with very little dissent by the members present at the meeting.

### COMMITTEE 1974/75

As only eight nominations were received by the chairman, these nominees were automatically elected to the committee and, in accordance with the constitution, a ninth member was co-opted. Your committee until October 1975 will be:-

Chairman: John Ginnever,  
230 Ashington Drive,  
Stakeford,  
Choppington, N/land.  
Tel: Ashington 813400

Secretary: K.G. Dures  
5 Bath Terrace,  
Tynemouth,  
N.Shields,  
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Treasurer: Brian Martin,  
16 Whitelaw Place  
Cramlington NE236HX  
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Field Sec.: Keith Walton  
51 Beachcroft Av.,  
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115 Southway  
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Committee Members: Geoff Macfarlane  
Mike Hodgson  
Tom Palmer  
John Day

### MEETING Thursday, Nov.14th.

Last month we were birdwatching in the Pyrenees. This month our speaker takes us to Northern Scandinavia. Alan Potts is a farmer/naturalist/photographer from Backworth, whose illustrated talks are much in demand in the North East. His technique with slides and tape will be of special interest to those photographers amongst us, whilst the birds themselves, better known to us as migrants, are shown in their breeding quarters. Alan tells me that although the major part of his show is concerned with 'The Land of the Midnight Sun', he is also including a section photographed in our own county.

### SHOP

The following will be on sale at the November meeting:-

Birds in Northumbria 1971	(2 only)
"	1972
"	1973
Club Lapel Badges	
County Breeding Survey with maps	

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

October 1974

### SUMMARY

It is inevitable that in every year October should produce some form of new record and October 1974 was no exception. A record number of cards was submitted by a record number of 80 individual contributors and, of the rarities, a Paddyfield Warbler which was trapped on the 12th. was the first for Northumberland. However, Passerines were in disappointingly low numbers with Thrush records being fewer than ever, possibly because of the virtual absence of winds from an Easterly quarter. 'Unusuals' did appear however and included 2 'Asiatic' Stonechats, 4 Bluethroats, a Pallas' Warbler, some Eastern forms of Chiffchaff and Lesser Whitethroat, 3 Barred and 2 Yellow-browed Warblers, 3 Red-breasted Flycatchers, 2 species of Shrike, Waxwings (the beginnings of an irruption), Ortolan, Little and Lapland Buntings plus a Northern Bullfinch.

The period 12th.-14th. was the most fruitful with uncharacteristic winds blowing around the top of a depression situated in S. Scandinavia, but it was really seabirds that provided the quantities during periods of strong N/NW winds between 2nd.-4th., 21st.-23rd. and 28th.-30th., especially Gannets, Wigeon and Scoter. Geese and Swans were well reported with some large Whooper counts and interesting observations correlating a S passage of Barnacles from three separate points on the coast on 7th.

November has produced more Waxwing flocks, some late summer visitors and another 'Asiatic' Stonechat - more details next month.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Great Northern Diver.

Between 8th.-30th. a total of 9N and 1S off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's mainly as singles (B&ME/SJH/JDP/KW). 3N off Whitburn on 2nd.(BU).

#### Red-throated Diver/ Diver (sp.).

Most were noted moving offshore in Seaton Sluice/Whitley Bay area. Between 4th.-26th. 80N and 13S on a total of nine dates with peaks on 9th. and 26th. Elsewhere 10N and 2S off Hauxley on four dates and 12 off Holy Island on 12th./13th. 16N off Whitburn between 4th.-23rd.

#### Great Crested Grebe.

Noted only inland with up to 7 at Colt Crag (WB/EH), 4-5 at Sweethope (JCD/DBC), 4 at Brasside (THW), 3 at Gosforth (AJM) and 1 at Seaton Burn (AJM). Most were still present at the end of the month.

#### Red-necked Grebe.

1 off Holy Island on 26th.(MW).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

1 off Holy Island 12th.-14th. (MR/NRG).

#### Little Grebe.

Largest numbers were in Northumbrian Loughs area with 12 there on 20th.(AJR/LGM). Noted in smaller numbers on many other waters.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Noted moving N offshore on eleven days. Peaks occurred on 8th. when 16N and on 29th. when 17N. Most observations were made from Seaton Sluice (BG/SJH/KW et al).

#### Sooty Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 19N on seven dates between 2nd.-23rd., 13 being noted on 21st.-23rd.(SJH/JDP/KW).

#### Fulmar.

1 off Whitburn on 8th., 4 at Marsden on 22nd.(BU) and 1 off Seaton Sluice on 26th. (KW) were the only records.

#### Gannet.

N passage conspicuous throughout the month with peaks on 2nd./3rd. when up to 1800/hr. off Annstead. Also noted off Seaton Sluice, Holy Island and Whitburn.



Cormorant.

200 roosting on Marsden Rock on 22nd.(THW). Up to 5 inland on R.Wear at Washington during the month (WWR) and on 12th. flock of 57 passed E over Sunderland (BU).

Shag.

40 gathered off Hauxley on 5th.(HRS). More prominent than is usual off Whitburn (BU).

Heron.

Many reports from inland and at the coast with up to 4 regularly feeding from the rocks at St.Mary's - an indication as to how confiding the species is becoming. 6 at Holy Island on 14th. was the largest gathering.

Mallard.

Largest counts reported were 400 at Colt Crag on 13th.(WB), 320 at Gosforth on 30th.(AJM), 200 at Whittle Dene on 26th.(JSB) and 150 at Hartburn on 25th.(ERM). Offshore passage was never heavy but total of 274N off Seaton Sluice during month (KW).

Teal.

Some large counts with 300 at Holburn Moss on 27th.(LGM), 120 at Holywell on 12th.(CED), 105 at Whittle Dene on 26th.(JSB et al) and 63 at Blaydon on 26th.(LJM). Offshore passage, all N, involved 214 off Seaton Sluice on 3rd./4th.(KR/KW), 161 off Whitburn 2nd.-4th.(BU) and 50 off Hauxley on 5th.(HRS).

Gadwall.

1 at Seaton Burn on 4th. and 13th.(IK/AJM).

Wigeon.

N passage noted throughout the month with over 1600 counted off Seaton Sluice on a total of fifteen days with peak of 759 on 3rd./4th.(SJH/KW/KR et al). Whitburn noted 780 between 2nd.-4th.(BU/WLR) and passage was still conspicuous at Hauxley on 5th./6th.(HRS). By 12th./13th. 8-10,000 on Fenham Flats (NRG) and 270-320 on Northumbrian Loughs after 11th.(LGM/AJR et al). Up to 70 noted on several other waters.

Pintail.

Up to 3 noted at Holywell, Northumbrian Loughs, Colt Crag and Seaton Sluice with 6 at Holburn Moss on 27th.(LGM) and 10 at Gosforth on 30th.(AJM).

Shoveler.

Noted on only five waters with maxima of 18 at Grindon on 26th.(LGM), 4 at Capheaton on 24th.(EB), 5 at Broomlee on 20th.(AJR), 15 at Seaton Burn on 15th.(AJM/MRS) and 154 at Gosforth on 1st.(SJH) and still 100 there on 24th.(AJM).

Ruddy Duck.

A drake at Gosforth all month.

Scaup.

40N off Seaton Sluice during month with peak of 25N into a N gale on 29th.(SJH/B&ME et al). Inland 2 at Whittle Dene on 1st.(EB) and 1 at Holywell on 12th.-15th.(CED/AJM).

Tufted Duck.

70 at Colt Crag on 13th.(WB) was largest flock reported with 51 on Northumbrian Loughs on 20th.(LGM) and up to 30 on several other waters.

Pochard.

Largest flocks were max. of 74 at Gosforth on 1st. and still 40 there on 24th.(SJH/AJM), 35 at Broomlee on 12th.(MR) and 28 at Killingworth on 3rd.(JDMcE). Offshore 11N off Annstead on 2nd.(BRS).

Goldeneye.

9N and 8S off Seaton Sluice on 3rd. and by end of month total count was 734N and 18S with peak of 464N on 26th.(KW/SJH et al). Smaller numbers noted off Whitburn and Hauxley. Inland 1 was at Whittle Dene on 6th.(JSB) with 16 at Broomlee on 11th.(LGM) and 2 at Holywell on 12th.(CED/JEF). Many reports of up to 9 on other waters as month progressed.

Long-tailed Duck.

Between 2nd.-5th. 21N Hauxley (HRS), 5N Seaton Sluice and 5N Whitburn(SJH/KW/BU). Became more conspicuous after 11th., mainly N offshore, reaching a peak on 23rd. when 47N in an hour off Hauxley and smaller numbers off St.Mary's(JDP). A further 18N off Seaton Sluice on 26th.(KW) and 9N on 29th.(BG/SJH et al). During passage peak 1 at Monks Hse.Pool on 24th.(IH/MW).



Velvet Scoter.

More records than is usual as birds moved N offshore from 3rd. onwards. Seaton Sluice recorded 160N during month with peaks of 17 on 3rd., 79 on 4th., 17 on 11th. and 28 on 29th. with 17 on the sea on 30th. (SJH/B&ME/KW et al). Elsewhere up to 20 per day noted off Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley, St. Mary's and Whitburn.

Common Scoter.

Most noticeable during the N gales of early and late in the month. A total of 1879N were counted off Seaton Sluice with a peak of 532N on 29th. with 596 on the sea next day (BG/SJH/B&ME et al). Up to 200 also noted off Holy Island, Bamburgh and Whitburn.

Red-breasted Merganser.

More than is usual moving offshore with off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 29N on 8th./9th., 19N on 13th. 23N on 21st.-23rd. and 24N on 29th. (SJH/KW/JDP et al). Smaller numbers off Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Goosander.

As in September the largest gathering was at Tunstall with a peak of 27 on 10th. (THW). No more than 80 on any other water. More unusual locations involved 2N Seaton Sluice on 12th. (KW), 2N St. Mary's on 22nd. (JDP), 1 at Cresswell Pond on 29th./30th. (JEF/WAK) and 1 at Gosforth on 30th. (AJM).

Shelduck.

Only records were 28 in Budle Bay/Fenham Flats on 23rd. increasing to 80 by 31st. (CMA/BG) and 3N off Whitburn on 22nd. (BU).

Geese (sp.)

Unidentified flocks involved 13N Seaton Sluice on 9th. (B&ME) and 350S Shield on the Wall on 20th. (LGM)

Greylag Goose.

Well reported. Between 1st.-9th. 1-9 at Holywell, Corbridge and Capheaton with 60 at Colt Crag and 20N at Seaton Sluice. By 27th. they were more widespread with 400-500 at Holburn Moss, 800 at Pressen (LGM/MW) and 58 at Hallington (CMA) with more small flocks off Seaton Sluice.

White-fronted Goose.

On 10th.-12th. 1 at Monks House (NA/AG/JNP) and 2 at Hauxley (HRS). 27, probably of this species, arrived on Coquet Estuary on 26th. (HRS).

Pink-footed Goose.

Only one record: 60NW over Allendale on 7th. (MR).

Bean Goose.

1 at Hallington on 6th. (KW et al).

Brent Goose.

39N Seaton Sluice on 2nd. (SJH/ABI) and 1 on Fenham Flats on 12th./13th. (NRG).

Barnacle Goose.

8 passage witnessed on 2nd. when 26 noted off Annstead (BRS) on 7th. when six flocks totalling over 300 passed S over Holy Island (TH). Similar numbers were seen from Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's Island (PW/TW) and all these within a period of one and a half hours in the afternoon. on 13th. 33S off Seaton Sluice (KW) whilst 3 at Jarrow Slake 9th.-18th. (KR), 2 at Cresswell 26th.-28th. (KA/JNP) and 1 near Pressen on 27th. (LGM/KH).

Canada Goose.

40-50 at Hallington all month (CMA/WB). 2 at Washington on 13th. (THW).

Mute Swan.

c.100 at Berwick on 17th. and 30 at Fenham Flats on 28th. (MW).

Whooper Swan.

Early suspicions of unusual numbers were confirmed. 13 at Grindon on 6th. increased to 58 by 29th. but included only 6 juveniles. Also on 6th. 5 at Stakeford and 15 at Colt Crag where they increased to 21 by 26th. 43 at Lindisfarne on 4th. increased to 132 by 31st. and included 30 juveniles. 7 in Holywell area on 8th. increased to over 70 by 31st. with at least 15 juveniles. Records suggest an influx after 24th. with a further 45 in S. Linton/Ellington area on 27th./28th., 24 at Catcleugh on 27th. and 25 at Whittle Dene on 27th. Also 10 at Sweethope on 20th.

Bewick's Swan.

1N off Seaton Sluice on 12th.(HW/KW).

Buzzard.

1 arrived from the E at South Shields on 7th.(WLR).

Sparrowhawk.

/migrants

Of the many records 3 chasing freshly arrived well inland at Slaley on 6th. was the most interesting (CJ).

Hen Harrier.

2 reported from the Grindon/Broomlee area after 11th. included a sighting of 1 being attacked by a Peregrine (per BL/LGM/AJR), 1 in Holy Island area on 6th.-12th. 1 at Holywell on 17th.(TW) and 1 at Gibbs Hill on 20th.(LGM).

Peregrine.

1 on Holy Island on 10th. wearing jesses (JNP) but 2 different birds there between 17th. and 26th.(TH) with 1 in Budle Bay on 25th.(IH). 1 stooped at Hen Harrier at Grindon on 11th.(per BL). 1 at Washington on 10th.(per BU).

Merlin.

Singles noted at Washington on 6th., Holy Island on 12th./13th., Seaton Burn on 13th., Hauxley on 26th. and Cresswell on 30th.

Kestrel.

3 together near Earsdon on 8th.(MRS) and 4 on Holy Island on 12th./13th.(NRG). Many recording 1-2 birds.

Red-legged Partridge.

7 at Kirkley Hall on 9th.(AHB).

Corncrake.

A very late record of 1 on a barn at Fenham-le-Moor on 2nd.(DO'C).

Water Rail.

1 at Holywell on 23rd.(TIM).

Moorhen.

90 at Blaydon on 13th.(LJM).

Coot.

500-560 at Seaton Burn all month (CMA/MRS/AJm), 238 at Broomlee on 11th. reduced to 192 by 26th.(LGM) and 80 at Blaydon on 13th.(LJM).

Oystercatcher.

400 at Holy Island on 12th./13th.(NRG).

Lapwing.

Flocks of 300-800 noted at Cornhall, Blyth, Budle Bay, Seaton Burn, Grindon and Washington.

Ringed Plover.

Largest concentrations were 36 at Hauxley on 15th.(HRS) and 30 at Berwick on 24th. (WLR).

Grey Plover.

Up to 30 in Holy Island area all month. Up to 7 noted at Berwick, Hauxley and Jarrow Slake. Inland 1 at Whittle Dene on 1st.(RW) and 2 there on 6th.(JSB).

Golden Plover.

500 on Holy Island on 8th. increased to 1000 by 31st.(BG). 1000 also at Budle Bay on 2nd.(BRS) and at Druridge after 20th.(MRS/WAK) with 1200 at Whittle Dene on 1st. (EB) and at Jarrow Slake by end of month (KR). 100-400 at four other locations.

Common Snipe.

30-40 at Grindon, Washington, Blaydon and Whittle Dene.

Jack Snipe.

11 at Blaydon on 1st. and still 4 there on 30th.(LJM). 1 at Holywell on 19th. and 27th.(CED/KR) and 1 at Monks House on 24th.(IH).

Curlew.

50 at Budle on 26th.(MW) and 30 at Jarrow Slake on 13th.(WLR).

Whimbrel.

4 late birds on Holy Island on 13th.(NRG).

Black-tailed Godwit.

1-2 at Holy Island Lough between 1st.-13th.

Bar-tailed Godwit.

c.1000 in Holy Island area 12th.-31st.(NRG/BG). Only 1-2 noted elsewhere.

Green Sandpiper.

2 at Kirkley Hall on 9th.(AHB) and 1-2 at Washington after 16th.(WWR).

Common Sandpiper.

1 at Hexham on 8th.(MR) and 1-3 at Washington 5th.-31st.(WWR).

Redshank.

400 in Jarrow Slake by end of month (KR).

Spotted Redshank.

2 in Washington area until 20th.(BU/BEP/THW) and 4 on Holy Island on 12th./13th.

Greenshank.

Late records of 2 on Holy Island on 12th/13th.(NRG) and 1 at Washington on 13th. and 17th.(THW).

Knot.

Only one record: 58 at St.Mary's on 22nd. (CMA).

Purple Sandpiper.

Between 12th.-29th. up to 30 at Bamburgh - Seahouses (MW), 40-50 at Blyth (BG), 60 at St.Mary's (KR) and 27 at Whitburn (BU).

Little Stint.

1 at Whittle Dene on 1st.(MR/RW) and 1 at St.Mary's on 2nd.(WAK).

Dunlin.

Away from large numbers at Lindisfarne, inland records were most interesting with up to 65 at Whittle Dene (EB/JSB/MR/EAS et al) and 150 at Jarrow Slake (KR).

Sanderling.

70 on Holy Island on 12th./13th.(NRG et al), 35 at Seahouses on 27th.(MW), 30 at Hauxley on 5th.(HRS) and 16 at Whitburn on 29th.(BU).

Ruff.

At Whittle Dene 11 on 1st. reduced to 1 by 9th.(EB/JSB/MR/RW et al), at Hallington 4 on 6th.(KW), 3 over Jarrow on 13th.(KR) and 1-3 at Washington until 17th.(BU/THW).

Arctic Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 50N and 21S during month with peaks on 3rd./4th. and 8th.(SJH/B&ME/KW). Smaller numbers noted off Holy Island, Hauxley, St.Mary's and Whitburn.

Great Skua.

During month, off Seaton Sluice 26N and 3S (SJH/KW et al) and off Whitburn 19N on six days. No more than 7 on any one day. 1-4 also noted off Hauxley, Cresswell and St.Mary's.

Pomarine Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 36N and 6S during month with peaks of 19N on 4th. and 11N on 11th. including a flock of 9 (SJH/B&ME/KW).

Great Black-backed Gull.

400 near Blyth on 5th.(MSH) and 500 at Blaydon Pond on 30th.(LJM). Most were

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

1 in Seahouses Harbour on 22nd.-31st.(BG/MW).

Glaucous Gull.

1-2 on Holy Island 6th.-13th.(BRS/NRG) and off Seaton Sluice 5N between 12th.-30th.(SJH/B&ME/KW/EH/HW).

Little Gull.

1N off Whitburn on 4th.(BU) and flocks of 5 and 8N off Seaton Sluice on 13th.

Kittiwake.

Offshore passage noted to the N on 22nd. with up to 2000/hr. off Hauxley and Whitburn and to the S between 28th.-30th. with up to 2000/hr. off Seaton Sluice and Whitburn. 150/hr noted N off Annsteadon 2nd. and 300/hr. N off Whitburn on 4th.



Commic Tern.

Still a few until mid month with 2 late birds off Cresswell on 27th.(BG et al).

Sandwich Tern.

1-3 off several coastal points until 13th., then 1S Hauxley on 19th.(HRS) and 1N Seaton Sluice on 26th.(KW).

Little Auk.

8N off St.Mary's in two and a half hours on 23rd.(JDP).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Millfield, Earsdon, Belford and Shankhouse.

Tawny Owl.

1 seen on Holy Island on 5th./6th.(IK/J&RMCC/BRS).

Long-eared Owl.

1 on Holy Island until at least 14th.(LPH/NRG) and 1 at Hauxley on 12th.(HRS).

Short-eared Owl.

Records included up to 3 on Holy Island by 13th.; 2 arriving from the E at Marsden on 3rd.(per BU); 1 on the rocks at Tynemouth on 24th.(KGD) with 1-2 at Craster, Cramlington, Wallsend, Holywell, Warkworth and Gosforth.

Swift.

2 very late birds s over Tynemouth on 26th.(MSH).

Kingfisher.

Singles noted regularly at Gosforth and at Dilston.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

1 on Holy Island 5th.-13th.(IK/NRG); 1 near Preston Cemetery, North Shields on 15th (JSS) and 2 arrived with 'Thrushes' at Slaley on 6th.(CJ). All were probably immigrants.

Skylark.

Between 6th.-19th. up to 100/day moving mainly S or W over Hauxley, Holy Island and Slaley.

Shore Lark.

11 on Holy Island on 31st.(BG).

Swallow.

Regular reports on small numbers until 19th., then 1-2 at Monks House, Stamfordham, Wylam and Sunderland on 24th./25th.(MRS/MW/BU et al). No subsequent reports.

House Martin.

Regular until mid month, then 2 at Whitley Quarry on 20th.(JDMcE); 1 at Craster on 27th.(WSC) and 1 at Stannington on 28th.(JNP). Some young still in nests on 11th.

Hooded Crow.

1 at Gosforth on 1st.(SJN); 3S off Seaton Sluice on 13th.(KW) and 1 in Seahouses Harbour on 19th.(MW).

Magpie.

Roost of 35 at Brasside on 8th.(THW).

Great Tit.

2-6 at Hauxley between 5th.-18th. suggested passage (HRS and 3 at Marsden on 14th. (BU).

Blue Tit.

Coastal passage noted at Bamburgh and Hauxley between 5th.-19th. with up to 40 per day and some flocks arriving from the NE.

Coal Tit.

1 in an unusual location at Kenton 1st.-7th.(MRS) and 3 on coast at Hauxley on 19th. (HRS).

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Hexham, Roddan Hall and Fowberry Main.

Nuthatch.

2 at Hamsterley Mill all month (EP) and 2 at Wallington Hall on 13th.(JSB).

Wren.

Coastal passage suggested by unusual numbers at Holy Island, Ross, Hauxley and Monkseaton between 6th.-31st.



Mistle-Thrush.

Coastal passage most conspicuous between 5th.-15th. with up to 20 at Hauxley, Whitley Bay, Tynemouth (HRS/MSH) and Marsden(BU).

Fieldfare.

Light W passage noted between 2nd.-6th. at Craster, Otterburn, Sweethope, Cleadon, Slaley and Colt Crag. Again 8th.-14th. over Holy Island, Stanley and Cramlington. By 17th. many were arriving from the E between Berwick/Seahouses and by 25th./26th. many at Wooler and flocks of 300 at Wingates and Colt Crag. Generally numbers far fewer than usual, however.

Song Thrush.

Light influxes noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Monkseaton on 12th./13th., 26th. and 30th.

Redwing.

Despite a steady arrival from the E between 2nd.-6th. with over 5000 in the Slaley area and again on 17th., numbers were well below normal and only very small flocks were noted throughout the area after 18th.

Ring Ouzel.

2-3 at Marsden on 2nd. and 1 on 6th./7th.(BU).

Blackbird.

Noted arriving from the E on 5th./6th., 10th., 12th./13th. and on many dates after 15th. The largest numbers were at Whitley Bay (150 on 17th.) and at Sunderland (200 on 12th.). Again numbers were below normal.

Wheatear.

Only 1 record: 1 at Bamburgh on 6th.(BRS).

Stonechat.

The usual small numbers were noted in coastal districts but 2 on Holy Island on 12th./13th. showed characteristics of one of the Asiatic races (NRG et al). Inland sightings continue to increase with 2 at Holywell, 2 at Jarrow, 1 at Wallsend Swallow, up to 5 at Washington, 1 at Kyloe and 1 at Wingates.

Whinchat.

A late bird on Holy Island on 12th./13th.(NRG).

Redstart.

1 on Holy Island on 5th./6th.(WLR/WAK) and between 9th.-13th. 2 near Seaton Sluice (MGC); 3 on Holy Island (AG et al) and 1 at Whitley Bay (B&ME).

Black Redstart.

1 at Tynemouth on 17th.(KGD) and between 17th.-19th. 1 on Holy Island (TH).

Bluethroat.

Up to 4 on Holy Island between 12th.-14th.(NRG et al).

Robin.

Largest influx occurred between 11th.-13th. when 20 on Holy Island and 40 at Tynemouth (NRG/MSH).

Paddyfield Warbler.

1 trapped at Hauxley on 12th. was the first Northumberland record and probably only the fourth for Britain (HRS).

Blackcap.

Steady passage noted at the coast with 1-5 at Holy Island, Hauxley, Blyth, Holywell, Whitley Bay, Tynemouth, Marsden and Sunderland between 7th.-22nd.

Barred Warbler.

1 at Fenham Mill on 12th.(perBL) and 1-2 on Holy Island between 13th.-17th.(NRG et al)

Garden Warbler.

Singles at Hauxley on 5th., 15th. and 23rd. and at Holy Island on 6th. and Blyth on 17th.

Lesser Whitethroat.

1 on Holy Island 4th.-8th.(TH) with 3 there 12th.-14th.(NRG). 1 at Hauxley on 12th. (HRS) and at Tynemouth singles on 11th., 17th. and 25th.(MGC/KGD)

Willow Warbler.

2 on Holy Island on 6th.(WLR) with 2 there on 12th./13th.(NRG).

Chiffchaff.

On Holy Island 1 on 6th., a few on 12th. increasing to about 30 by 13th. Most were very pale specimens and a few showed slight 'wing bars' (NRG). Only 1 was seen on 14th. (MR). At Hauxley 2-4 on seven dates between 12th.-26th. (HRS) with singles at Bamburgh on 6th. and 13th., Blyth on 11th., Tynemouth on 11th. and at North Shields between 22nd.-31st. 1 was singing in Holywell Dene on 13th. (KH) and 1 of 2 was singing at Gosforth on 19th. (ID).

Yellow-browed Warbler.

1 in Tynemouth Park on 10th./11th. (MNC/KW) and 1 on Holy Island on 13th. (NRG).

Pallas' Warbler.

1 on Holy Island on 4th. was watched at very close range for long periods (TH/BH). It is the second Northumberland record.

Goldcrest.

Birds noted at coast all month but no more than 30 noted at any one location. An influx as far inland as Slaley on 5th. suggested a peak at about that time.

Pied Flycatcher.

Between 2nd.-6th. singles at Bamburgh and Holy Island with a late bird at Whitley Quarry on 15th. (JDMcE/WLR/IK/BRS).

Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Between 10th.-13th. singles at Blyth Cemetery, Tynemouth Park and Priors Park, Tynemouth. (ERM/MSH/KGD/KW).

Dunnock.

Very conspicuous on Holy Island on 12th./13th. (NRG).

Meadow Pipit.

Coastal passage in evidence on 5th./6th., 12th./13th., 19th. and 24th. though only small numbers involved.

Water Pipit.

1 noted at Blaydon Pond on 13th. (LJM) where they were first seen in December 1973.

Pied Wagtail.

Roost of 150-300 at Blaydon all month. (LJM).

Grey Wagtail.

Away from breeding areas 1-2 at Hauxley (on 3 occasions), Holy Island, Whitley Quarry, Washington, Sunderland and Blaydon.

Yellow Wagtail.

A late bird at Washington on 5th. (WWR).

Waxwing.

An irruption was heralded by 5 at Tynemouth on 3rd. (KW) and 2 in Morpeth on 12th. (per BL). Then none until 20th. when 1 at Craster (WSC). By 31st. 2-4 at Holy Island (BG/IH), Colt Crag (EH), Craster and Tynemouth with 25 in South Shields on 26th. (BU); 23 in Sunderland on 29th. (MS) and 50 in Monkseaton on 30th. (MW). Much larger flocks were widespread in November.

Great Grey Shrike.

Between 2nd.-4th. 1 on Holy Island (IK), 1 at Marsden (BU), 2 at Chester-le-Street and on Eglington Moor 1 landed on the wing mirror of a Land Rover (AM). On 8th./9th. another on Holy Island (LPH/TH) with 1 at Blaydon on 15th.-20th. (B.Gills); 1 at Ellington on 19th. (MN) and 1 at Wark Forest on 20th. (LGM).

Red-backed Shrike.

1 on Holy Island on 12th. (NA/AG).

Starling.

A few arriving at Hauxley on 5th. (HRS) and at Holy Island on 12th./13th. (HRS)

Hawfinch.

1-2 at Morpeth and Washington during month. (BL/WWR).

Goldfinch.

Largest flocks were 100 at Marsden early in month (BU); 120 at Ingram on 20th. (WLR) and 40 at Whitburn on 8th. (TIM).

## Siskin.

1 at Tunstall on 10th.(THW); 2 at Whitley Cemetery on 23rd.(JDP).

## Linnet.

Up to 500 on Holy Island during month with 50-100 at Hauxley, Hartley and Washington.

## Redpoll.

A few moving S at coast between 5th.-19th.(HRS/NRS).

## Bullfinch.

A male trapped at Hauxley on 23rd. was an example of the Northern race (P.p.pyrrhula)

A female present, not trapped, was not subspecified.(HRS).

## Crossbill.

Up to 6 in Wark Forest after 20th.(LGM).

## Chaffinch.

Passage in small numbers witnessed at Hauxley after 20th.(HRSO).

## Brambling.

Only small numbers reported with up to 10 at a few locations inland and at the coast after 8th. 30 at Derwent Reservoir on 29th.(KB).

## Ortolan Bunting.

A first year bird noted near Hartley on the old Blyth Railway on 22nd.(JDP).

## Little Bunting.

2 on Ross Links on 14th.(MR) was the second record for the Area this autumn.

## Reed Punting.

A few roted on coastal passage throughout month at Holy Island and Hauxley.

## Lapland Bunting.

1 at Hauxley on 20th.(HRS).

## Snow Bunting.

Up to 7 noted on Holy Island, Bamburgh, Newton, Hauxley and Washington after 13th. with 20W over Holy Island on 26th.

## Tree Sparrow.

Largest flock was 50 at Budle on 17th.(MW) with small numbers S over Hauxley on 19th./20th.(HRS).

NOVEMBER RECORDS. Please send to B.Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle NE15 7RD by 9th. December, please.

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	R.Grey	J.D.McElwee	M.R.Smith
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K.G.Dures	W.A.Kelly	A.J.Richards	M.Wray
B.& M.Etherington	E.Lobley	K.Robson	Hauxley & Bamburgh R.S.
J.E.Fergusson	B.Little	C.Robson	Washington Wildfowl
B.Galloway	L.G.Macfarlane	W.L.Rimmer	Refuge
B.Gill	E.R.Meek	G.S.Rushbrooke	Northumbria Ringing Group



## CLUB NEWS & NOTES

The next bulletin will only be issued to fully paid up members. Subscriptions are now two months overdue!

### Club Meeting- December 12th.

Our chairman is holding his pre-Xmas Quiz. This can be compared with the second part of 'Mastermind'. Magnus Ginnever will be demonstrating his opinion of our intelligence by the questions he sets. On past performance this is not too high for a thoroughly enjoyable evening to be had by all.

### FIELD TRIPS.

January - probably 12th. An unusual trip by boat is planned in the SKATE ROAD. Final date and time depend upon weather conditions, but if you would like to share the experience with ducks and divers etc., please contact Keith Walton as soon as possible. (North Shields 70631).

### Sunday, December 15th.

In keeping with our declared policy of helping the younger and less experienced members, a walk is planned for the ST.MARY'S - HOLYWELL area. Brian Martin and Keith Dures will accompany the party and, weather permitting, another member will be ringing at some point along the route. This may be an opportunity of learning something of mistnetting mystique. All are welcome but we would like you to 'phone Keith or Brian so that we can get some idea of numbers. (Bring sandwiches.)

MEET AT ST.MARY'S CAR PARK 10.00am.

### Future Trips.

Plans are in hand for visits to:-

- 1) Seafield
- 2) Falstone/Kielder area
- 3) Fenham Mill/Ross Links
- 4) Hornsea Mere

### N.H.S. Trip.

A one-day visit to NAARDERMEER, Holland is planned for May or June 1975.

Interested members of the T.B.C. should contact:

Mr. I.D.MOORHOUSE, 12 RAVENSWOOD CLOSE, FOREST HALL, NEWCASTLE 12

enclosing S.A.E.

### REQUESTS

We have been asked by a Study Centre in S.E.Derbyshire if any members can obtain owl andraptor pellets for them. Those of the Short-eared Owl would be particularly welcome. Volunteers please contact Keith Dures.

### SHOP

Badges, Birds in Northumbria, Breeding Surveys and Seaton Sluice Watchtower keys will be on sale at our December meeting.

Note: Members who purchased the Breeding Survey last month are owed maps. These also will be available.

The chairman and committee extend Christmas greetings to you all and look forward to even better birdwatching in 1975.

R. Walton  
K. Walton  
H. Wilson  
T. Winter  
M. Whitely  
P. Whitely  
M. Wray

B. E. Trotter  
J. M. Prescott  
J. Park  
J. D. Parker  
J. P. Pritchard  
J. P. Pritchard  
A. J. Richards

T. Hallam  
I. Hall  
C. Jewett  
A. James  
A. Jones  
I. Kerr  
W. A. Kelly

W. S. Grater  
D. B. Grafton  
M. N. Goates  
W. G. Chadwick  
J. C. Key  
A. Donohue  
K. G. Dures  
B. E. M. Richardson

J. E. Ferguson  
B. Calloway  
B. Gill



## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

November 1974

### Summary.

Undoubtedly the month was dominated by the Waxwing invasion as flocks of up to 150 appeared throughout the area, especially in the City Parks. On a smaller scale it could be said that Snow Buntings have been affected in the same way and it will be interesting to see if birds continue to arrive as the winter progresses.

Some late 'summer visitors' were in evidence during the first two weeks, especially so the Swift and, remaining with passerines, the appearance of another Eastern Stonechat stimulated interest.

Wildfowl as usual increased progressively in numbers, especially after 23rd. but there was a puzzling decline in Whooper Swans on the Northumbrian Loughs where numbers usually remain high until well into the New Year.

A rather quiet month that was lacking in Northerly or Easterly weather.

### Classified List.

#### Great Northern Diver.

Between 3rd.-7th. singles noted off Seaton Sluice/Cresswell (B&ME/KW) and 1 off Ross on 26th.(IK).

#### Red-throated Diver/Diver (sp).

12 off Ross on 26th.(IK) and up to 4 noted off Seaton Sluice (KW/EH et al).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

An unusual sight of 6 noted arriving at Holywell on 23rd.(EG). Singles at Gosforth, Whittle Dene and Hallington most of month with up to 2 at Derwent and Brasside. Off Seaton Sluice 2 on sea on 2nd.(KW).

#### Red-necked Grebe.

1 off Seaton Sluice on 3rd.(KW).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

1 off Seaton Sluice on 3rd.(KW).

#### Little Grebe.

1-3 at Holywell, Seaton Burn, Coquet Estuary, Hexham, Whittle Dene and Shield-on-the Wall.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Late records of 1N Seaton Sluice on 21st. (EH/JP) and 3S on 23rd.(KW)

#### Fulmar.

3 back on nest site at Bamburgh Castle on 4th.(MW).

#### Cormorant.

Roost of 190 at Marsden on 12th.(THW). Inland, up to 17 on R.Wear at Washington (WWR), 11 at Whittle Dene (ERM), 5 in Blaydon/Stocksfield area with 3 at Hexham, 3 at Hallington and 1 on Holywell. Most numerous near end of month.

#### Heron.

A further example of its appearance in uncharacteristic surroundings was of 1 at Paddy Freeman's (adjacent to Jesmond Dene) on 18th.(DEC).

#### Pelican.

The Warkworth bird still present on 30th.(J&RMCC).

#### Flamingo.

3 on Fenham Flats on 2nd. later seen flying S off Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's on 3rd. Also 1S over Blaydon on 28th.

#### Mallard.

Some traditionally high counts for the time of year with maxima of 650 at Holywell on 9th.(CED), 500 at Hallington on 23rd.(AJR). 400 at each of Gosforth, Hallington and Whittle Dene on 24th.(LGM/ERM) and 300 at Colt Crag on 17th.(RG/WB/EL). Offshore, 150 on sea off Howick on 28th.(IK) whilst passage off Seaton Sluice involved only 112N and 23S all month with a distinct peak on 23rd. coincident with simultaneous peaks inland.

Mallard continued. The Mallard/Pintail hybrid that was recognised at Gosforth in winter 1973 was again seen on 24th.(LGM).

Teal.

Largest counts were 150 at Holywell on 2nd. declining thereafter (CED), 150 at Gosforth on 24th.(LGM) and an increase again to 180 at Holywell (WAK). Up to 50 noted at Grindon, Whittle Dene and Washington with a few N off Seaton Sluice.

Gadwall.

1 at Gosforth on 2nd.(SJH) and 6 at Seaton Burn on 6th.(AJm)

Wigeon.

6000 on Budle Bay on 2nd.(EH) and 7000 at Fenham Mill on 17th.(BG). Inland, maxima of 300 at Northumbrian Loughs on 24th.(ERM), 150 at Derwent on 17th.(BU) and up to 60 at Whittle Dene, Gosforth and Holywell. Offshore passage involved 278N off Seaton Sluice during the month with peak of 132 on 23rd.(KW/EH/JP).

Pintail.

1-4 noted at Bradford, Fenham Mill, Holywell, Seaton Sluice, Gosforth, Prestwick Carr and Washington during month.

Shoveler.

Still large numbers at Gosforth with 142 on 2nd. reducing to 71 by 18th. but only 14 by 27th.(SJH/BG/AJm). Up to 12 noted on Northumbrian Loughs between 2nd.-16th. (LGM). No other reports.

Scaup.

Offshore at Seaton Sluice on 3rd. 16N and 3S and on 23rd. 11N and 13S (KW) and off Amble 3N on 30th.(HRS). Inland, 1 at Holywell on 27th.(NJP).

Tufted Duck.

130 at Colt Crag on 17th. was by far the largest flock (RG/WB) with 50-60 frequent on Northumbrian Loughs, Gosforth and Seaton Burn.

Pochard.

Most numerous at Gosforth where 96 on 2nd. reduced to 46 by 30th.(SJH/LGM). Maxima elsewhere were 34 at Holywell (6th.) and 18 at Broomlee (16th.) Offshore, 2 off Seaton Sluice on 23rd.(KW).

Goldeneye.

Offshore passage was heaviest on 23rd. when 102N off Seaton Sluice (KW). Inland concentrations involved maximum of 43 at Colt Crag on 10th.(JDP), whilst on 23rd./24th. 29 on Northumbrian Loughs (LGM), 20 at Colt Crag/Whittle Dene (AJR/ERM) and 12/13 at Hallington/Sweethope (JCD/DBC/AJR). Off Seaton Sluice 16 on sea with Scoter on 24th.(BG/KW).

Long-tailed Duck.

Off Seaton Sluice 5 on 16th. and 3 on 17th.(KW) with 1 on Monks House Pool on 30th. (WSC). 2 off Whitley Bay on 11th.(NJP).

Velvet Scoter.

Noted only off Seaton Sluice with 22N and 10S during month, also 7N and 3S on 23rd. (KW).

Common Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 550 on 2nd./3rd. reduced to 85 by 23rd. Passage birds involved 734N and 224S during month with peaks on 2nd., 10th. and 23rd.(KW/B&ME et al). 300 at Cresswell on 7th.(B&ME).

Red-breasted Merganser.

10 off Amble on 30th.(HRS) whilst off Seaton Sluice 14N and 6S on three dates. An unusual occurrence of 1 on Cresswell Pond on 29th.(NJP).

Goosander.

Up to 8 at Greenlee, Hallington and Tunstall with 10 at Colt Crag (23rd.) and 16 at Derwent (17th.). Present at Gosforth, where they are becoming regular, all month with maximum of 6 on 24th.(LGM/AJm et al). Also 1-2 at Seaton Burn. 3N Seaton Sluice on 16th.(BG).

Snaw.

Single female/immature. off Seahouses on 7th.(MW) and at Holywell on 24th/25th. (EC/IK).

Ruddy Duck.

The drake at Gosforth returned to Holywell sometime between 18th.-23rd. (It is worth mentioning that to inexperienced watchers this bird can give the impression of a female Smew).

Shelduck.

80 in Budle Bay on 17th. (ERM) when they were absent from Fenham Flats. Between 23rd.-30th. 5N Hauxley and 16N Seaton Sluice. 1 well inland at Broomlee on 2nd. (LGM).

Grey Geese.

Between 24th.-29th. small parties off Seaton Sluice, over Cramlington and Washington - mainly S.

Greylag Goose.

Largest numbers seen after mid month with 400 at Holburn (29th.), 250-300 in Hallington area (17th.-23rd.) and up to 120 in Budle Bay (17th.-23rd.). A distinct S passage on 16th./17th. involved flocks of up to 30 over Fenham Mill, Longhorsley and Greenlee.

Pink-footed Goose.

5W Budle Bay on 17th., 8N Dinnington on 26th. (ERM) and 1 at Washington on 28th. (WWR).

Brent Goose.

9N Seaton Sluice on 10th. (KW), 1W up the R. Blyth near Blyth on 21st. (JDP) and 40 on Fenham Flats on 29th. (NJP).

Canada Goose.

Maximum 76 in Sweethope/Hallington area during month (RG/WB/EL et al).

Egyptian Goose.

2 at Hallington on 1st. with 1 after 17th. (WAK et al).

Mute Swan.

20 at Fenham Mill on 17th. (ERM/BG) with 33 in Amble Harbour on 30th. (J&MMcC).

Whooper Swan.

Largest Counts involved 180 on Fenham Flats on 17th. (BG), 92 in Holywell area on 3rd. increasing to 130 by 29th. (JEF et al), 62 on Northumbrian Loughs on 2nd. surprisingly decreased to only 7th. by 24th. (LGM et al). Up to 49 in Cresswell/S. Linton area (J&RMc et al): a seemingly established flock of 48 at Colt Crag (RG et al) and 15-23 at Whittle Dene, Sweethope, Stamfordham and Catcleugh.

Bewick's Swan.

1-3 on Fenham Flats 4th-29th. (PC/BG/NJP), 2 at Colt Crag on 10th. (JDP) and 1 near Holywell on stubble on 27th. (PW)

Buzzard(sp).

1 near Meldon on 16th. may have been a Rough-legged (KH).

Common Buzzard.

1E high over Ovingham on 16th. (BG)

Sparrowhawk.

Well and widely reported mainly as singles but, unusually, 4 together at Belsay on 23rd.

Peregrine.

1 at Holywell on 23rd. (ID/EH) and 1 at Fenham Mill on 30th. (WSC).

Merlin.

Well reported as singles at Holywell, Washington, Bebside, Denton, Fenham, Ross, Holy Island, Halleypike, Derwent, Sweethope and Hallington.

Kestrel.

'Concentrations' involved 6 at Wallsend Swallow on 3rd. and 7 at Earsdon-Holywell most of month.

Water Rail.

1 at Washington on 21st. (WWR).

Moorhen.

75 at Blaydon on 2nd. (LJM).

Coot.

Maxima 620 at Seaton Burn on 20th. (AJm) and 140 at Wallsend Swallow on 19th. (PW).



Lapwing.  
2000 at Seaton Burn on 1st.(BG) with 1500 in Budle Bay on 3rd. (MSH) and 1500 at Prestwick Carr on 23rd./24th.(ERM).

Ringed Plover.  
92 at Alnmouth on 30th.(J&RMCC).

Golden Plover.  
1100 at Stamfordham on 26th.(EB) and 800 at Monks House on 7th.(MW). Many reports of flocks of up to 250.

Turnstone.  
150 at St.Mary's on 10th.(BG).

Snipe.  
91 at Whittle Dene on 3rd.(JSB) with 20-30 at Blaydon 2nd.-16th.(LJM).

Jack Snipe.  
On 2nd./3rd., 1 at Amble (HRS), 1 at Holywell (SJH) and a gathering of 7 at Whittle Dene (JSB) where a 'large' flock occurred in 1972.

Woodcock.  
Between 3rd.-24th. records of 1-2 at five locations at or near the coast probably involved immigrants.

Curlew.  
300 at Fenham Mill on 17th.(BG).

Bar-tailed Godwit.  
1000-2000 on Fenham Flats on 17th.(BG) and 11N Hauxley on 3rd.(HRS).

Black-tailed Godwit.  
1 on Holy Island on 4th.(PC).

Green Sandpiper.  
2 at Washington on 1st.(WWR) and 1 on Ouse Burn, near Brunton, on 3rd.-24th.(AHB).

Common Sandpiper.  
A late bird at Washington 1st.-3rd.(WWR).

Spotted Redshank.  
1 at Washington on 3rd.(WWR) and 1 at Budle Bay on 17th.(ERM).

Greenshank.  
1 on Budle Bay on 2nd.(ID) and 1 on Holy Island on 4th.(PC). 1 at Amble on 30th.

Purple Sandpiper.  
68 at Seaton Sluice on 13th.(SJH).

Sanderling.  
39 at Whitburn on 7th.(BU).

Knot.  
1000 at St.Mary's on 24th.(BG).

Ruff.  
1-5 in Bamburgh area until 3rd.(BRS).

Arctic Skua.  
1N Seaton Sluice on 21st. (EH/JP).

Great Skua.  
Off Seaton Sluice 1N on 10th. and 1N and 2S on 23rd.(KW).

Pomarine Skua.  
4S Seaton Sluice on 10th.(KW).

Great Black-backed Gull.  
700 adults at Blaydon on 24th.(BG/LJM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.  
2 at Gosforth on 9th.(AHB) and 1 at Prestwick Carr on 30th.(IK).

Common Gull.  
Roost of 800 at Broomlee on 2nd. and 16th.(LGM).

/Glaucous Gull



Glaucous Gull.

During month singles noted at Holy Island, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice, St. Mary's, Holywell and Felling. More unusually, 1 at Seaton Burn on 27th. Only the Holy Island bird was an adult.

Black-headed Gull.

A few hundred at Prestwick Carr which were attracted to temporary floodwater on 23rd./24th.(ERM). 500 at Washington on 10th.

Wood Pigeon.

Late nest with 2 young at Stocksfield on 10th.(per BL).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Monkseaton, New York, Hartley and Westerhope.

Little Owl.

Noted at Shiremoor and Wallsend Swallow.

Long-eared Owl.

1 at Holywell on 27th.(JEF).

Short-eared Owl.

Up to 6 seen regularly in Holywell/Earsdon area during month with up to 7 at Wallsend Swallow. Also up to 4 noted on Coquet Estuary. Peak counts all occurred on 3rd. At the end of the month 1 at Ross, 1 at Holy Island and 2 arrived from E at Seaton Sluice.

Swift.

A very late bird over Whitley Bay on 6th.(SC).

Kingfisher.

1-2 at Holywell Dene, Throckley Pond and Morpeth.

Swallow.

On 9th./10th. singles at Hartley, St. Mary's, Whitley Bay and Earsdon (ID/BE/SJH).

House Martin.

Between 7th.-15th., 1-4 in Whitley Bay area (BE/MSH et al). 1 at Gateshead on 10th.(AD) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 19th.(EH/JP).

Hooded Crow.

Singles noted at Budle, Seahouses, Warenford, Dinnington and Alnmouth.

Marsh Tit.

1-3 at Gosforth on several dates (ETN/JRN).

Long-tailed Tit.

Several reports of up to 20 widespread.

Nuthatch.

1-2 at Hamsterley Mill, Finchale and Bolam (EP/THW/B&ME).

Fieldfare.

Light immigration noted at Hauxley on 3rd. Largest inland flocks were 500 at Elsdon on 10th.(WAK), 1000 at Prestwick Carr on 14th.(ERM) and 500 at Slaley on 24th.(BL)

Redwing.

'Considerable' influx noted at Craster on 1st. and 4th.(WSC). Suggestion of light arrival on 17th. at Bamburgh (ERM). No large gatherings reported.

Blackbird.

Arriving from the E at Howick and Hauxley on 2nd.-4th. but most moving on SW. Smaller arrivals suggested on 17th. and 23rd.

Wheatear.

A late bird on Longframlington Moor on 17th.(M.Wishart).

Stonechat.

Noted in usual coastal haunts. 1 at Prior's Park, Tynemouth 7th.-15th. showed the characters of a pale E race and resembling the 2 seen on Holy Island in October (KGD/MSH/ERM et al). Inland sightings involved 1-2 at Holywell, Heddon, Rowlands Gill, Wallsend Swallow, Whittle Dene and Washington.

### Blackcap.

On 3rd./4th. 3 at Hauxley, 1 at Tynemouth and 1 on Holy Island. Between 9th.-19th. singles at Holywell, Earsdon and Tynemouth and from 23rd.-29th., 1-2 at Ryton, Gosforth, Killingworth and Earsdon.

### Garden Warbler.

3 late birds at Hauxley on 3rd./4th.

### Chiffchaff.

2 at Hauxley 2nd.-4th. included 1 of the E race 'tristis'. 2 in Holywell Dene on 12th.(B&ME/SJH), 1 at Gosforth on 18th.(SJH/B&ME) and 1 at Boulmer on 28th.(IK).

### Goldcrest.

Up to 12 at Hauxley 3rd.-10th.

### Pied Wagtail.

250 roosting at Blaydon on 16th.(LJM).

### Grey Wagtail.

Away from breeding areas, singles at South Gosforth, Hauxley, Coquet Estuary, Brimton and Washington.

### Waxwing.

The invasion continued all month with 150 in Heaton Park area, 100 at Monkseaton, 100 at Felling and Jarrow. Up to 70 in three central Newcastle parks, 75 at Elswick, 50 at Ashington and Low Fell with many reports of small parties from almost everywhere, including the sighting of 1 beside the Longstone lighthouse on the Farnes on 3rd.

### Great Grey Shrike.

Singles at Hartburn on 2nd.(AC/EP), Elsdon on 10th.(DBC/JCD), Holywell Pond/Dene 12th./13th. and 28th.(SJH/RH) and at Blaydon all month (BG/LJM et al).

### Twite.

35 in Coquet Estuary on 3rd.-10th.(HRS) and 2 on Holy Island on 17th.(BG).

### Redpoll.

70 at Rochester on 24th.(DBC/JCD).

### Brambling.

Only three reports, each of 6: at Holywell on 10th.(BG), at Chesterwood on 23rd.(NJP) and at Whittle Dene on 30th.(RNC).

### Lapland Bunting.

2 at Longbenton on 2nd.(ERM), 1 at St.Mary's 3rd.-24th.(BG), 1 at Holywell on 3rd.(BG) and 2 at Seaton Sluice on 10th.(KW).

### Snow Bunting.

More than is usual with parties arriving from the NE all month. Largest flocks were 35 at Washington on 2nd.(WWR), 34 on Coquet Estuary on 10th., 80W over Lindisfarne on 17th.(BG/ERM) and 100 at Ryal on 21st.(per BL). Between 28th.-30th. 20 at Howick (IK), 50 at Bamburgh, 45 on Newcastle Town Moor (NJP) and 100 at Hauxley (HRS).

### List of Contributors.

A. Blackett  
E. Bagshaw  
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A.H. Banks  
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M.N. Coates  
A. Curry  
E. Culwick  
W.S. Craster  
M.G. Chadwick  
S. Clegg  
D.B. Charlton

B. Galloway  
E. Guy  
R. Grey  
B.D. Green  
E. Hawdon  
S.J. Hingston  
M.S. Hodgson  
R. Higson  
M. Henry  
K. Hutton  
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L.J. Milton  
B. Martin  
M. Nattrass  
E.T. & J.R. Norris  
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List of Contributors continued.

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C.E.Douglas	B.Little	K.Walton
K.G.Dures	L.G.Macfarlane	P.Weighill
B. & M.Etherington	E.R.Meek	M.Wishart
J.E.Fergusson	J.D.McElwee	M.Wray

Hauxley & Bamburgh R.S.

All December reports to B.Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle/Tyne NE15 7RD by 9th. January, please.

Record Cards For a supply please send a S.A.E. to Brian Galloway

CLUB NEWS & NOTES

Apologies for the lateness of this bulletin. The secretary takes full responsibility, but Christmas, New Year or something led to the delay.

Club Meeting, Thursday 9th. January.

Bryan Galloway is to talk on 'SOME BIRDS OF NORTHUMBERLAND'. He has chosen a cross section of species which should appeal to beginners and experts alike. His illustrations will include slides of such Northumbrian rarities as Paddyfield Warbler, King Eider and Ivory Gull, as well as commoner birds.

Field Trips.

January 12th. Boat trip into the Skate Road. Cost: £1.00. This is fully booked. Meet at Seahouses 10am. Leader: Bryan Galloway.

February 16th. Coach trip to Seafield and Aberlady Bay. Cost £1.40.

Meet Baxter's, Tynemouth 7.30am.  
" Hancock Museum 8.00am. Leader: John Ginnever.

Bookings or queries on Field Trips to Keith Walton (Tel. N.Shields 70631).

PERSONAL

Congratulations to ERIC MEEK on becoming a member of the B.T.O. Ringing & Migration Committee. Whilst this is a recognition of the tremendous amount of work Eric has done in the past, may we of the T.B.C. bask a little in his reflected glory.

In resigning from the Club, Dr.M.J.Cotton tells us that his is to take charge of a specially built Field Study Centre near Bodmin, Cornwall.

This is the first centre of its type in Britain catering for persons of all handicaps. It has its own small reserve and specially equipped vehicles for visits to other reserves and bird watching sites. If any of our members want further information, this can be obtained from the Club Secretary.

B.T.O. NATIONAL ROOKERY SURVEY 1975

As many members will know already, the B.T.O. have arranged a national rookery survey in 1975. The last complete survey of this species was in 1945 and since then various local surveys have shown a dramatic decrease in numbers in some parts of the country. The present exercise is to determine the full extent of these population changes and so far as we are concerned, with particular reference to Northumberland and north Durham.

Based on the 10Km. Grid Squares of the Ordnance Survey (the same basis as was adopted in the B.T.O. Atlas Project in which many members assisted), the intention is to locate all the rookeries in each square, count the nests and supply details of altitude (from the O.S. map) and grid reference; this information to be put on proper record cards that will be issued. Obviously, the number of rookeries likely to be found in any particular 10Km. Square will vary markedly according to the part of the county one is in, but in the more favoured areas of east and mid Northumberland it would probably be unreasonable to expect any one observer to cover more than one square, hence the need for as many volunteers as possible. However, I have records of more than 300 rookery sites in Northumberland together with grid references, collected during the last few years, and it therefore should be possible to give interested members details of at least some of the rookeries in any particular 10Km. Square before they even set foot in the area.

Any members interested in participating in this Enquiry are invited to contact me at the address below or at any Club meeting and I will arrange for record cards to be sent to them. Casual counts of individual rookeries would also be appreciated as these can be used to supplement the information for unfinished squares.

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



# TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

December 1974

## Summary

December was dominated by westerly weather throughout often accompanied by strong-gale force winds and unusually high temperatures.

Bird movements were minimal although at sea some interesting observations were made on 14th./15th. involving, especially, Shelducks, Little Auks and Great Skuas. Some large flocks of Lapwing and Golden Plover were reported and a flock of 21 Ruff was unusual for the time of year.

Two 'new' Long-eared Owl roosts were located during the month perhaps suggesting that unusual numbers were present in the Area, but the most interesting feature was the lingering of summer visiting passerines during the unusually mild conditions. House Martin, Ring Ouzel, Black Redstart, Blackcap (in eight different localities) and Chiffchaff were all reported.

## Classified List

### Black-throated Diver.

1 off Ross on 1st. and 1N Seaton Sluice on 15th. (BU/KW)

### Great Northern Diver.

Singles N Seaton Sluice on 7th., 8th. and 26th. (KW) and 1 in Druridge Bay on 29th. (MSH)

### Red-throated Diver.

Regular off Seaton Sluice with peaks of 37N on 15th. and 47N on 27th. (KW). Between 26th.-31st. up to 12 off Druridge, Alnmouth and Ross (MSH/LGM/TIM).

### Great Crested Grebe.

Between 8th.-26th. singles inland at Sweetthope, Whittle Dene, Colt Crag and Holywell. Offshore 1 at Holy Island on 30th.

### Red-necked Grebe.

1 off Holy Island on 30th. (RN).

### Slavonian Grebe.

Up to 3 off Ross all month (TIM/BU)

### Little Grebe.

1-3 at Whittle Dene, Shield-on-the-Wall, Broomlee, Hallington, Colt Crag and at Norham on the Tweed.

### Fulmar.

50 at Marsden on 5th. increased to 100 by 14th. (BU). 1 off Bamburgh on 28th. (PD)

### Gannet.

1-3 on several dates between 15th.-29th. off Seaton Sluice and Whitburn.

### Cormorant.

Up to 220 roosting on Marsden Rock during month. Inland up to 10 on the Wear near Washington and 1-3 at Colt Crag, Hallington, Prudhoe on Tyne and Wallsend Swallow.

### Heron.

A diurnal roost of up to 8 in a stubble field near Holywell all month (KGD/LGM/BM et al) 1-2 at several other localities.

### Flamingo.

1 at Cresswell on 29th. (MNC/BG).

### Pelican.

The Warkworth bird still present on 29th. (MNC).

### Mallard.

Largest counts were 400 at Holywell on 6th. (AJM), 400 at Whittle Dene on 15th. (JSB), 375 at Colt Crag on 22nd. (LGM), 240 at Hallington on 15th. (WB), 230 on Northumbrian Loughs on 7th. (LGM) and 160 at Capheaton on 22nd. Up to 100 on many other waters. Offshore 270 on the sea off Bamburgh on 30th. (RN) and a total of 135N off Seaton Sluice during month (KW).

Teal.

Flocks of 50-65 at Whittle Dene, Colt Crag, Grindon and Blaydon during month. Smaller numbers elsewhere.

Wigeon.

5000 in Budle Bay on 28th.(PD). Maxima elsewhere were 310 on Northumbrian Loughs, on 7th.(LGM), 120 at Whittle Dene on 22nd.(JSB). Off Seaton Sluice 133N during month with only 17S (KW).

Pintail.

1 at Washington all month (WWR) and between 22nd.-30th. 1-2 at Bamburgh, Capheaton and Holywell (BVA/PD/LGM/RN).

Shoveler.

2 at Gosforth on 19th. was the only record (AJM).

Scaup.

55N off Seaton Sluice during month with peak of 29N on 14th.(KW). 8 in Druridge Bay on 29th.(MSH).

Tufted Duck.

160 at Seaton Burn on 29th. after westerly gale (IK). Elsewhere largest flocks were of 40-60 at Northumbrian Loughs, Sweethope, Holywell (LGM et al). Off Seaton Sluice 1N on 14th.(KW).

Pochard.

20 on Northumbrian Loughs on 7th.(LGM) was largest flock reported. Off Seaton Sluice 2N on 14th. and 4N on 28th.(KW).

Goldeneye.

Largest flocks were 34 at Capheaton on 22nd.(LGM), 22 at each of Broomlee (LGM) and Whittle Dene (WAK/EAS) after 14th.; several flocks of up to 18 on the Tweed between Norham - Kelso on 8th.(CMA); 19 at Seaton Sluice on 11th.(MGC) and 12 at Holywell on 29th.(BVA). Off Seaton Sluice 185N and 128S during month with peak of 65N and 8S on 28th.(KW). An unusual sighting of 1 on the Seaton Burn in Holywell Dene on 15th.(KGD). 1-2 noted on R.Tyne in Heddon/Ovingham area.

Long-tailed duck.

Up to 20 off Ross/Bamburgh during month (PD/TIM/WLR/EAS). Off Seaton Sluice 1 on sea 14th./15th.(BG/PW) with 2N on 14th.(KW).

Velvet Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 1N and 1S on 14th. and 29th. respectively (KW). 1 off Alnmouth on 26th.(LGM/RN).

Common Scoter.

Up to 130 in Ross/Holy Island/Bamburgh area during month with 90 off Druridge on 8th. and 18 at Alnmouth on 26th.(LGM/MSH/RN). Off Seaton Sluice total of 347N and 66S during month (KW).

Red-breasted Merganser.

1-5 noted off Seaton Sluice, Tynemouth and Holy Island (MS/DMT/PW/KW).

Goosander.

Well reported. Largest group was of 16 at Norham on Tweed on 8th.(CMA). Up to 9 noted at Northumbrian Loughs, Langley, Hallington, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Tunstall, Heddon (on Tyne) and Upper Coquetdale. In Gosforth Park/Seaton Burn area the now established flock peaked at 12 on 19th.(AJM). Off Seaton Sluice 2N on each of 8th. and 14th.(KW).

Smew.

A drake at Derwent Reservoir on 1st.(per BL).

Shelduck.

130 on Budle Bay on 29th.(LGM) and a N movement on 14th. was witnessed off Marsden and Seaton Sluice and totalled 149.(BU/PW/KW).

Egyptian Goose.

1 still present in Hallington/Colt Crag area on 15th. and 1 in Washington area after 14th.

Greylag Goose.

2500 near Lowick on 7th.(CMA). and 300 near Kelso on same day. In Budle Bay maximum of 300 by 29th.(LGM). 150 at Hallington on 30th.(RN) and 72 at Whittle Dene on same day (JSB). 56 near Rudchester on 27th.(LGM) and 40W over Denton on 27th.(IK). Up to 25 noted at five other localities included some unidentified 'Grey Geese'.

White-fronted Goose.

1 at Pressen with Greylags on 1st.(LGM).

Pink-footed Goose.

During month 1-5 at Colt Crag, Pressen, Grindon, Cresswell area, Holburn and Washington.

Brent Goose.

170 on Fenham Flats on 30th.(RN).

Canada Goose.

Maximum in Colt Crag area was 94 on 15th. 8 arrived from NE in Earsdon area on 5th.(KGD) after 1S Seaton Sluice on 4th.(JW). After 15th. singles at Holywell and Washington with another N off Seaton Sluice.

Mute Swan.

25 at Amble on 26th.(LGM) and 12 at Wingates on 22nd.

Whooper Swan.

Well reported. On Fenham Flats 196 on 30th.(RN). Maximum of 130 in Holywell area on 3rd. and still 108 on 29th.(MW/JW/PD et al). Maximum of 79 in Longhirst/Cresswell area on 22nd.(RN) and 136 in Kelso/Cornhill area on 8th.(CMA). Elsewhere flocks included maxima of 24 at Whittle Dene on 26th.(WAK), 27 at Sweethope on 15th.(WLR), 26 at Colt Crag on 14th.(NJP) and 24 on Northumbrian Loughs on 2nd.(THW).

Bewick's Swan.

1 at Holywell 7th.-23rd.(ABI/JEF/LGM) and on 8th. 1 at South Linton and 4 at Whittle Dene (JSB).

Buzzard.

1 at Blagdon on 15th.(per BL).

Sparrowhawk.

1-2 at Budle Bay, Holburn, Derwent, Cleadon, Washington and Gosforth.

Hen Harrier.

1 at Greenlee Lough on 14th.(LGM) and 1 on Holy Island on 26th.(MS).

Merlin.

Well reported. Singles at Budle, Bamburgh, Druridge, Seaton Sluice, St.Mary's, Washington, Backworth (2), Harthope and Kyloe. In urban habitat singles at Denton, Lemington and Gosforth with 4 at Winlaton.

Kestrel.

Several reports of 1-3 birds.

Red-legged partridge.

1 near Preston Cemetery all month (JSS).

Water Rail.

Singles at Washington and Gosforth whilst another, when surrounded by five observers in thick undergrowth at Belsay on 8th., escaped when Eric Meek 'dropped his first Rail of the season'. It ran into his knee and was deflected into an open field!

Coot.

520 at Seaton Burn most of month (AJM). 150 at Swallow Pond on 7th.(PW) whilst up to 21 were noted on R.Tweed near Wark on 1st. and 8th.(CMA/LGM).

Lapwing.

Some large flocks. 2000 at Seaton Burn on 6th.(AJM) and 800 in that area until 21st.(ERM). 1000 at Hadston on 24th.(WAK) and also at East Boldon on 27th.(WLR). 800 at Newton/Sea on 8th.(WAK) and also at Druridge on 29th.(MSH). 400 at Blyth most of month (M&JN).



Golden Plover.

1500-2000 in Druridge area all month (MSH/RN). 1000 on the Emblestone rocks at Newton/Sea on 8th.(WAK) and also at Fenham Flats on 28th.(PD) and at Bamburgh on 31st.(TIM). Up to 300 at Whittle Dene and Dudley.

Ringed Plover.

40 at Newton/Sea on 8th. and 28 at Hauxley on 24th.(WAK).

Grey Plover.

At least 400 at Ross on 1st.(BU). 6 at Boulmer on 1st.(RW) and 1 at Amble on 22nd.

Curlew.

370 on Holy Island on 30th.(EAS/RN). (MH)

Redshank.

Maximum at East Boldon of 250 on floodwater on 27th.(WLR).

Greenshank.

1 at Amble on 26th.(LGM).

Knot.

800 at S. Mary's on 26th.(MSH).

Dunlin.

1500 at Ross on 31st.(TIM) with 100 on floodwater at East Boldon on 27th.(WLR).

Ruff.

An unusual occurrence of a flock of 21 (possibly 26) in Budle Bay on 15th.(RW).

Great Skua.

Some late records with 14N and 2S off Seaton Sluice during month with 8N on 15th. (KW)

Great Black-backed Gull.

300-400 at each of Newsham, East Boldon and Blaydon between 7th.-15th. 90 at Colwell, near Hallington, on 15th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

1 at Stannington on 2nd.(per BL).

Glaucous Gull.

Singles in the Seaton Sluice and Marsden areas after 11th. were probably from the group of up to 3 immatures that were often seen at North Shields Fish Quay (NJP/MGC/THW et al). In addition 1 adult N Seaton Sluice on 27th.(KW).

Iceland Gull.

An immature at North Shields Fish Quay on 24th.(RN) and possibly the same bird off Seaton Sluice on 27th. and at Washington on 31st.(KW/AT).

Black-headed Gull.

2500 at East Boldon most of month (WLR) and a mixed flock of 1000 with Common Gulls at Newsham on 7th.(MSH).

Common Gull.

In a flock of 200 at Hartley on 20th. many showed signs of oiling (MSH).

Little Auk.

Off Seaton Sluice 6N on 14th. and 1N on 29th.(PW/KW).

Wood Pigeon.

Large scale S movement over Craster on 8th. and 26th.(WSC). This involved a few thousand, especially on the latter date. On 27th. flock of 300S over Sunderland.

Collared Dove.

200 at Horton Grange on 6th.(per BL). (BU)

Barn Owl.

Noted at Lesbury, Ellington, Whitley Bay Quarry and Earsdon. Also singles found dead on road at Earsdon on 7th.(JCD) and at Horton Grange on 13th.(ERM).

Little Owl.

Noted only near Stamfordham (EB).

Tawny Owl.

Noted at Earsdon and Preston.



Long-eared Owl.

A roost in hawthorn bushes in open country near Earsdon contained 3 birds on 3rd. increasing to a maximum of 6 on 13th. Still 5 on 21st. (JEF/PW). 2 at Cleadon 1st.-15th. and up to 12 in a roost at Sunderland (BU).

Short-eared Owl.

1-4 noted at Holywell, Earsdon, St. Mary's, Wallsend Swallow, East Cramlington, Amble, Bamburgh, Holy Island and Washington.

Kingfisher.

Noted at Gosforth on the Ouseburn, on the Pont at Darras Hall (LSS et al) and in Holywell Dene (JEF).

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Alnmouth (21st.), in Holywell Dene and in gardens at Hamsterley Mill and Ponteland.

House Martin.

A very late bird at Cloe House, Heddon on 7th. (per BL).

Hooded Crow.

2 at Blagdon on 14th. (per BL) and 1 at Cresswell on 22nd. (MNC).

Rook/Jackdaw.

Mixed flock of 3000 in Browney Valley, Durham during month.

Marsh Tit.

A few at Hexham and at Belsay during month.

Willow Tit.

Noted at Gosforth Park, Prestwick Carr, Ogle and Washington.

Long-tailed Tit.

120 in Ryton area on 11th. (KW) with up to 20 at Redesmouth, Throckley, Washington, Holywell Dene, Bywell, Stocksfield and Mitford.

Nuthatch.

2 at each of Bolam, Wallington and Hamsterley Mill during month.

Dipper.

1 singing at Hallington on 15th. (WLR).

Mistle Thrush.

1 singing at Dipton on 22nd. (BL).

Fieldfare.

Most conspicuous in Wooller area after 24th. with several flocks of up to 350 (JCD/WLR). 150W over Cramlington on 15th. (BM) was the only other large flock reported.

Redwing.

500 plus in Wooller area on 31st. (WLR).

Ring Ouzel.

A late bird on the Carey Burn in the Cheviots on 1st. (WAK).

Stonechat.

1-3 noted in usual coastal locations at Bamburgh, Alnmouth, Amble, Low Newton, Seaton Sluice and Whitburn. Now becoming regular inland with 1-2 at East Cramlington, Bebside, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, Seaton Burn, Hazlerigg, Brunswick Village, Heddon, Whittle Dene and Washington.

Black Redstart.

1 at Whitburn on 23rd. (BU). Still there on 18th. January.

Blackcap.

Perhaps an unprecedented number of December birds with singles at Hauxley, Gosforth, Killingworth, Ravensworth and Lobley Hill. 2 at Earsdon and 4 at each of Hartford woods and Prudhoe.

Chiffchaff.

1 in Cleadon area on 4th. was still present on 1st. January (WLR et al).

Meadow Pipit.

Flock of 50 in Cheviots on 29th. (M&JN).

Grey Wagtail.

'Urban' sightings involved singles at Gosforth and Whitley Bay.

Waxwing.

A decline since November. 100 near Wrekenton on 3rd.-6th. was by far the largest flock (KGD/BM) with 40 in Gosforth on 30th.(IK), 35 at Newburn on 5th.(per BL) and 30-40 at Durham early in the month (DLS). Up to 20 noted in many, mainly built-up, areas e.g. Elswick, Throckley, Lemington, Westerhope and Cramlington.

Great Grey Shrike.

Singles at Blaydon on 1st.(BG), East Cramlington on 22nd.(BM), Holburn on 27th.(JCD) and Rothbury on 29th.(M&JN).

Siskin.

220 at Ryton on 9th. decreasing to 30 by 23rd.(KW). 12 at Slaley on 15th.(BL).

Bullfinch.

Small parties noted in several forest areas.

Brambling.

Up to 12 at Stocksfield, Bardon Mill and Bywell with 30 at Wallington (15th.) and 50 at Durham late in the month.

Yellowhammer.

Small flocks of 25-30 at Dinnington, Fenham Mill and Fenham-le-Moor.

Corn Bunting.

4 in full song at East Boldon on 8th.(WLR).

Snow Bunting.

Continues to be well reported in a good year. 100 at Broomhill on 15th.(per BL), 70 at Seaton Burn on 8th.(BG), 60 at Bamburgh after 24th.(MNC/WAK), 50 at Hadston and Whitburn, 20-35 at Ross, Cambois and Threestone Burn with up to 15 at several other locations as far inland as Ilderton and Elsdon. 33N at Seaton Sluice on 15th.(KW).

Tree Sparrow.

Flocks of up to 50 noted at Stamfordham, Capheaton, Kirkharle, Throckley and Whitley Bay.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	P.Gill	E.Priestley
B.V.Atkins	R.Grey	N.J.Phillips
A.H.Banks	M.Henry	W.L.Rimmer
R.Binks	P.G.Hunt	A.J.Richards
W.Brady	M.S.Hodgson	J.S.Spence
J.S.Booth	A.James	L.S.Stevens
E.Bagshaw	W.A.Kelly	E.A.Stanley
A.Blackett	I.Kerr	D.L.Sowerbutts
W.S.Craster	E.Lobley	M.Skilleter
M.N.Coates	B.Little	D.M.Turner
R.N.Coates	L.G.Macfarlane	A.Temple
M.G.Chadwick	J.D.McElwee	B.Unwin
D.B.Charlton	B.Martin	K.Walton
J.C.Day	L.J.Milton	R.Walton
P.Davidson	E.R.Meek	J.Webb
K.G.Dures	T.I.Mills	P.Weighill
J.E.Fergusson	M. & J.Nattrass	M.Wishart
B.Galloway	R.Norman	T.H.Wall

All January records to Bryan Galloway, 115, Southway, Newcastle NE15 7RD by 9th.February, please.

Record cards Please send S.A.E. to Bryan Galloway.

## CLUB NEWS & NOTES

Club Meeting. Thursday, 13th. February. Two R.S.P.B. films: 'Adventure has Wings', a short film particularly for our younger members, and 'The Lonely Level', filmed on the Ouse Washes which some of our members are visiting on 1st./2nd.Feb.

### Field Trips.

February 16th. Coach trip to Seafield/Aberlady Bay  
Meet Baxter's, Tynemouth 7.30am  
" Hancock Museum 8.00am Cost £1.40  
Leader: John Ginnever

March 30th. Coach trip/walk Falstone to Kielder  
Meet Baxter's, Tynemouth 7.30am  
" Hancock Museum 8.00am Cost £1.00  
Leader: Geoff. Macfarlane

Field trip bookings, queries or cheques to:

Keith Walton, 51 Beachcroft Ave, Tynemouth. Tel: N/S 70631

### TRESPASS.

Membership of the T.B.C. does not confer the right for individuals to stray from public footpaths and rights of way in pursuit of their hobby.

This particularly applies to the Holywell/Earsdon area, where it is only due to the intensive wardening and gamekeeping of recent years that we are now able to enjoy the wealth and diversity of birdlife.

The Club secretary has received complaints of trespass by members in this area. An assurance has been given that this will not occur again and an appeal is made to you to respect this assurance.

A map is being obtained from the Tyne & Wear Authority shewing public footpaths in S.E. Northumberland. If you are in any doubt, please contact Keith Dures who, hopefully, will have the map at our February meeting.

### B.T.O. NATIONAL ROOKERY SURVEY 1975

At the time of writing (mid-January) the exceptionally mild weather has encouraged many species into early song and apparent breeding activity. Should this persist, rookeries will be active even earlier than usual and final coverage for the survey must be known before the end of February.

So far 49 of the 70 ten kilometre squares in the Club's area have been allocated, wherever possible to observer's home squares, so that local knowledge can be enlisted and expense (petrol!) kept to a minimum. A large area, however, particularly in north and mid Northumberland, remains uncovered and volunteers are urgently required to fill the gaps represented by the following squares.

NT 60	Wauchope Forest	NY 74	Nenthead	NU 03	Lowick
NT 82	Yetholm	NY 99	Yetholm	NU 04	Scremerston
NT 83	Coldstream	NZ 05	Consett	NU 05	Berwick
NT 84	Swinton	NZ 19	Longhorsley	NU 10	Longframlington
NT 93	Ford	NU 00	Rothbury	NU 11	Alnwick
NT 95	Berwick-on-Tweed	NU 01	Whittingham	NU 14	Holy Island
NY 64	Alston	NU 02	Chatton	NU 20	Amble

Any member able to take one or more of these squares should contact Geoff. Macfarlane either at the February meeting or by letter to: 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington NE23 6LJ.

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Leader: John Ginnerver

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NT 84	Swinton	NE 19	Longhorsley	NU 10	Longbarrington
NT 93	Ford	NU 00	Rothbury	NU 11	Alnwick
NT 95	Berwick-on-Tweed	NU 01	Whittingham	NU 14	Holy Island
NY 64	Alston	NU 02	Ghatton	NU 20	Amble

Any member able to take one or more of these squares should contact Geoff Macfarlane either at the February meeting or by letter to: 31 Wray Walk, Crumlington NE23 6LL.