

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

January 1975

### Summary

Yet another mild January with westerly winds associated with approaching depressions from the mid-Atlantic dominating the weather.

The highlight of the month was the unusual number of reports of Blackcaps, first mentioned in December, 1974. To date, they have been seen at seventeen different places this winter involving at least 35 individuals. Other out of season species involved Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Black Redstart whilst early nesting of both Mistle Thrush and Blackbird was observed. Some very large flocks of Lapwing and Golden Plover were noted early in the month when Greylag Geese appeared to be restless whilst the more unusual species involved Smew, Iceland Gull, Bearded Tit, Hawfinch and Little Bunting.

### Classified List

#### Black-throated Diver.

1N off Seaton Sluice on 1st.(KW) and 1 on R.Wansbeck estuary on 26th.(M&JN).

#### Great Northern Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice 2N on 5th., 1N on 11th. and 1S on 26th.(KW). Off Bamburgh 1S on 12th. and 1 on 21st.(BRS).

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

Off Seaton Sluice 11N on 4th. and 18N on 11th.(KW). At least 30 in Druridge Bay on 29th.(MSH) and 20 off Alnmouth on 2nd.(NJP). Inland at Whittle Dene 1 unidentified diver present on 18th.(per BL).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

2 off Ross on 12th.(BG et al). Inland 2 at Colt Crag on 19th.(LGM/BM), 1 at Gosforth on 19th. and 26th.(BG/CED) and 1 at Whittle Dene on 26th.(JSB).

#### Red-necked Grebe.

3 off Ross on 12th.(BG et al) and 1 off Holy Island same day (BL).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

3 off Ross on 12th.(BG et al).

#### Little Grebe.

1-2 noted at Whittle Dene, Hartburn, Durham, Grindon, Killingworth, Warkworth and Washington.

#### Fulmar.

Heavy S passage noted off Seaton Sluice on 12th.(124) and 25th.(142).

#### Gannet.

Unusual numbers for the time of year with 54N on 12th. off Seaton Sluice and 20S there on 25th.(KW). Off Ross at least 15S on 12th.(BG).

#### Cormorant.

Prominent offshore in St.Mary's area with 45 there on 3rd.(AJM et al). Inland up to 19 on R.Tyne between Prudhoe and Wylam (per BL), up to 12 in Washington Refuge area (WWR) and up to 4 at Hallington/Whittle Dene (MRS/AWJ/LGM/JSB).

#### Heron.

Up to 5 noted at several locations inland and coastal.

#### White Pelican.

The Warkworth bird still present on 6th.(WAK).

#### Flamingo.

1 at the Long Nanny on 24th.(JCB) and 1 at Beal on 12th.(BG et al). Obvious escapes!

#### Mallard.

A large gathering on the ice at Gosforth on 19th. of at least 800 (BG). Elsewhere counts of 200-400 at Whittle Dene, Budle Bay, Holywell, Colt Crag and Druridge Bay, especially during mid month.

#### Teal.

300 at Gosforth on 19th. and 200 in Budle Bay on 12th.(BG). Elsewhere only 25-50 reported from Broomlee, Grindon, Whittle Dene, Powburn, Holywell and Blaydon.

Wigeon.

Several thousands in Budle Bay on 12th.(BG et al). 200-250 at each of Derwent and Grindon (AWJ/MRS/LGM/RG) all month and 20-50 at Whittle Dene and Gosforth.

Pintail.

1 at Holywell on 4th.(M&JN) and 1 at Washington Refuge all month (WWR).

Shoveler.

20 at Gosforth on 15th.(EH) but more widely distributed than is normal with up to 8 at Capheaton, Colt Crag, Holywell and Washington.

Scaup.

The ratio of records of 4 on freshwater to 1 on the sea was unusual. Inland 1 at Greenlee on 4th.(LGM) was especially unusual with singles at Holywell on 5th. and 16th.(CED/AJm) and at Cresswell Pond on 29th.(MSH et al). 1N off Seaton Sluice on 4th.(KW).

Tufted Duck.

Largest flock was at Gosforth with 140 there on 7th.(AJm et al). Elsewhere largest counts were 80 on Northumbrian Loughs on 11th.(LGM), 60 at Colt Crag on 18th.(EH) and 52 at Capheaton with 48 at Sweethope both on 19th.(LGM).

Pochard.

60 at Gosforth on 7th.(AJm) was by far the largest count. Elsewhere up to 20 at Holywell, Hartburn, Rayburn Lake and Northumbrian Loughs (MN/LGM).

Goldeneye.

Largest counts were 30 on Northumbrian Loughs on 4th.(LGM), 34 at Capheaton on 19th.(LGM), 20 at Wark/Tweed on 12th.(MSH) and 33 at Whittle Dene on 21st.(NJP). Birds commuting between Holywell and Seaton Sluice resulted in regular counts of 20-24 at each locality (KW/MGC et al).

Long-tailed Duck.

20 off Ross on 12th.(BG) with 1-2 off Holy Island and Seahouses.

Common Scoter.

Flock of 200-300 off Ross all month and 45 off Alnmouth on 2nd. 30N off Seaton Sluice on 18th.(KW) and 1 found dead on R.Wansbeck at Morpeth on 2nd.(per BL).

Red-breasted Merganser.

20-30 off Ross most of the month with 8 off Alnmouth on 2nd. 1-2 noted at Holy Island and Seaton Sluice.

Goosander.

The largest numbers were noted in the Gosforth/Seaton Burn area with up to 15 present on each water. It is probable that because of their close proximity only 15 individuals were involved (AHB/ETN/JRN/GSR et al). Elsewhere 1-10 were noted at Carham, Greenlee, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Langley, Derwent, Riding Mill, Hartburn, Hallington and Washington (on R.Wear) with 6NE over Newcastle on 27th.(NJP).

Smew.

A female or immature at Whittle Dene on 18th.(EH).

Shelduck.

Total of 16N off Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's on three dates (MSH/KW). 150 in Budle Bay on 14th.(RNC) and 5 at each of Boulmer and Amble on 26th.(CMA/ERM). 1 at Greenlee on 11th.(LGM) suggested overland passage.

Greylag Goose.

Between 1st.-5th. six flocks varying in size from 5-40 noted moving in 'all directions' over Seaton Sluice and Blyth (EH/MN/KW). Between 10th.-19th. counts of 118 at Whittle Dene, 13 at Colt Crag, up to 47 at Grindon and 8 at Hallington.

White-fronted Goose.

8 at Grindon on 19th.(AJW/MRS).

Pink-footed Goose.

5 at Carham on Tweed on 6th.(ETN/JRN), 1 at Cresswell 4th-18th.(PD et al). 1 at Washington all the month with 3 present on 7th.(WWR).

Brent Goose.

100 on Fenham Flats on 12th.(BG).



Egyptian Goose.

1 at Hallington on 19th.(LGM/BM) and 1 at Washington all the month (WWR).

Canada Goose.

1 at Holywell on 1st. and probably the same bird at Gosforth on 12th. and 19th. (GSR/BG). Maximum 74 at Colt Crag on 19th.(LGM/BM/IK).

Mute Swan.

Maximum at Amble of 31 on 2nd.(NJP).

Whooper Swan.

With the exception of the Northumbrian Loughs where no more than 21 were seen, all other favourite areas still held large numbers with at least 130 at Holywell in mid month (per CED), 105 in the Ellington/Cresswell area on 11th.(per BL), 90 on Lindisfarne Reserve on 12th.(BG) and 50 on the Tweed at Carham on 6th. Up to 20 occurred at widely scattered locations such as Langley, Rayburn Lake, Hartburn, Whittle Dene and Middleton (near Bolam).

Bewick's Swan.

1 near Seaton Delaval on 2nd.(MSH) and 12 on Holy Island on 12th.(BL).

Buzzard.

1 at Washington on 14th.(WWR).

Sparrowhawk.

Continues to be well and widely reported. As early as 26th. a known breeding site was found to be re-occupied (BL).

Hen Harrier.

1 at Slaley on 23rd.(per BL).

Peregrine.

1 at Budle Bay on 2nd.(WAK).

Merlin.

Singles noted at Fenham Flats, Budle Bay and Callerton with 1-2 at Washington.

Water Rail.

About 8-10 birds calling from reeds at Gosforth on 19th.(BG).

Coot.

A decrease at Seaton Burn - the most attractive water in the area - to about 60-70 all the month (AJM). Also 78 at Brasside by the end of the month (DLS). On 28th./29th. 200 at Wallsend Swallow and 120 at Blaydon (NJP).

Oystercatcher.

St.Mary's attracted a maximum of 102 on 24th.(KGD).

Lapwing.

Some very large flocks in the coastal area to the S of Seahouses on 1st. totalling at least 12000 (JCB) with several thousands at Whittle Dene on the same day (BG). 1500 at Drurige on 29th.(MSH) and 500-1000 at Budle Bay, Seaton Burn, Stamfordham, Chollerford and Hexham. On 20th. a flock flew into a high voltage supply cable in the Cambo area and 8 were killed (per BL).

Ringed Plover.

51 between Howick/Beadnell on 26th.(JCB).

Grey Plover.

High tide roost attracted 400 at Budle on 12th.(BG).

Golden Plover.

A few thousands at Whittle Dene on 1st.(BG) and still 1000 there by 27th.(AJR/WAK et al). At Budle 2000 on 12th.(BG) and at least 1000 at Monks House on 4th.(WSC) with up to 350 at Grindon, Plenneller, Seghill, Stamfordham and Druridge. 10 in breeding territory at Otterburn on 26th.(JCD).

Turnstone.

A maximum at St.Mary's of 100 on 3rd.(AJM) and 98 Howick/Beadnell on 26th.(JCB).

Common Snipe.

Up to 35 at Newton, Washington and Blaydon during the month.

Curlew.

500 in Budle Bay on 12th.(BG et al), 113 Howick/Beadnell on 26th.(JCB), 70 at Monks House on 21st.(MSH) and a maximum at St.Mary's of 45 by the end of the month. 113

Bar-tailed Godwit.

A few thousands in Budle Bay on 12th.(BG).

Redshank.

200 at Washington on 25th.(JEP) and a maximum at St.Mary's of 142 on 31st.(KGD).

Spotted Redshank.

1 at Budle Bay on 12th.(BG).

Greenshank.

1 at Holy Island on 12th.(BL).

Knot.

The St.Mary's flock of 1200-1500 is now travelling about one mile inland to feed in stubble fields near Earsdon at high tide (CED/KGD/WAK/MSH/TW et al). A few thousands at Budle on 12th.(BG).

Purple Sandpiper.

Up to 100 noted in Bamburgh area, 71 Howick/Beadnell on 26th.(JCB) and up to 20 at Amble (ERM/IK/BRS).

Dunlin.

Several thousands at Budle high tide roost on 12th.(BG). At Washington a maximum of 450, and at St.Mary's no more than 150.

Sanderling.

70 at St.Mary's on 3rd. (AJm).

Ruff.

A winter bird at Washington on 3rd.(JEP).

Gulls.(sp.).

Several thousands at Druridge on 29th. consisting mainly of Herring and Common whilst a high tide roost at Budle on 12th. composed of Common and Black-headed (MSH/BG). N movement at Whitburn on 25th. involved 2000/hr.(NJP).

Great Black-backed Gull.

700 at Blaydon on 5th.(BG) and 100 near Blyth on 1st.(MSH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Singles at Seaton Sluice on 7th. and at Amble on 19th. were each judged to be of the Scandinavian race (JEP).

Glaucous Gull.

Many sightings in the SE corner of Northumberland probably involved birds from the group of 4 (including 1 adult) that frequented North Shields Fish Quay (MSH/KW/RH/EC et al). 2 at Cresswell on 12th.(JEP) and more unusual was the appearance of 1 inland at Seaton Burn on 19th.(IK).

Iceland Gull.

An immature noted in Tynemouth/Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's/North Shields area throughout the month (KGD/MSH/MGC).

Black-headed Gull.

The St.Mary's roost had attracted at least 2000 by 5th.(MSH).

Kittiwake.

200/hr.S at St.Mary's on 15th.(MSH) and 1000/hr.N at Whitburn on 25th.(NJP).

Little Auk.

1 found dead well inland at Stamfordham on 4th.(HT).

Wood Pigeon.

Large flocks again reported especially in coastal districts with 1000 near Embleton on 6th.(JCB), 2000 at each of Seghill and Washington on 2nd. and 7th. respectively (KGD/WWR) and 100S over Alnmouth on 2nd.(NJP).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Brunton, Lynemouth, West Monkseaton, Holywell Dene and Washington.

Little Owl.

Noted at Washington and Stamfordham.

Long-eared Owl.

Two roosts in the Backworth area throughout the month contained a total of at least 12 birds (CED/WAK/JEF/PW). A Finnish ringed bird was killed by car at Beadnell on 8th.

Short-eared Owl.

Up to 10 in the Alwin Valley, Upper Coquetdale during month (ERM) with 1-3 at Amble, Derwent, Brunton, Holywell, St. Mary's and Washington.

Kingfisher.

Noted at Mitford and Crawcrook.

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Devil's Water, Harthope Burn, Stocksfield.

Willow Tit.

Noted at Gosforth, Killingworth, Derwent and Gateshead.

Long-tailed Tit.

Flocks of up to 20 at Ryton, Gateshead, Blaydon and Gosforth.

Bearded Tit.

A male seen at Newton Pool on 8th. was thought to have been present during December 1974 (JCB).

Nuthatch.

Noted at Hamsterley Mill, Durham and Dipton Burn.

Dipper.

Noted in full song at Devil's Water on 19th. (ERM).

Mistle Thrush.

A pair feeding nestlings at Blaydon on 31st. (KW).

Fieldfare.

Flocks of up to 250 at Greenlee, Stamfordham, Pontburn, Bradford and Stannington.

Redwing.

Largest flock was of 200 at Kiln Pitt Hill on 19th. (WAK) with many parties of up to 50 in Hexhamshire 19th.-26th. (AJR).

Blackbird.

An early nest containing two eggs at Guide Post on 12th. (per BL).

Stonechat.

1-2 at Whitburn, Tynemouth, Seaton Sluice with up to 4 at Cresswell. Inland pairs at each of Cramlington and Havannah (near Dinnington).

Black Redstart.

1 at Whitburn on 18th. (PG).

Blackcap.

Continues to be well reported with 1-2 at Craster, Morpeth, Hepscott, W. Monkseaton, Whickham, Blaydon, Winlaton Mill, Stocksfield and Corbridge. 3 noted at Cresswell and up to 4 frequented a garden at Hartford. Since the beginning of December they have been noted in 17 different localities.

Grey Wagtail.

Urban records of singles at Newcastle Polytechnic most of month (RH) and 1 at West Denton on 20th. (IK).

Waxwing.

Some sizeable flocks still present with 60 at Morpeth on 9th. (BL), 42 at Gosforth on 6th. (RNC), 20-30 at Ashington, Westerhope and Stocksfield until mid month. Several reports of 1-10 birds.

Great Grey Shrike.

1 at Blaydon most of the month (RH/EC/KW et al) where it took two House Sparrows on two occasions. Singles near Backworth on 5th. (JEF), Washington on 3rd.-5th. (JEP), Holburn Moss on 1st. and at Hartburn on 11th. (per BL).



### Hawfinch.

Between 20th.-31st. 1 at Choppington, 2 at Stocksfield and up to 7 in the Wylam area (EB/NJP/ perBL).

### Siskin.

30 at Ryton on 6th. reduced to 3 on 28th.(KW). Up to 15 in Riding Mill/Stocksfield areas near the end of the month (ID/RH/NJP et al).

### Crossbill.

1 at Hamsterley Mill on 10th.(EP).

### Chaffinch.

Flock of at least 300 near Heddon on 19th.(MNC) and 150 near Hexham on 23rd.(RG/WB/EL)

### Brambling.

50 at Durham on 3rd.(DLS), 30 at Stocksfield on 18th.(per BL) and small numbers near Hexham, Crawcrook and Mitford.

### Yellowhammer.

Roost of 40 at Holywell Dene on 15th.(MSH).

### Corn Bunting.

Roost of 100 plus near Bamburgh on 20th.(BRS). Singles singing on 2nd. at Holywell and at Ross (WAK).

### Little Bunting.

The Washington bird first noted in September 1974 was still present on 2nd.(JEP et al).

### Lapland Bunting.

1 at St.Mary's on 1st.(KW).

### Snow Bunting.

Flocks of 30-60 at Whitburn, Seaton Sluice (moving S), Cresswell, Long Namny, Druridge and Washington. 1 on Cheviot on 19th.(PD).

### Tree Sparrow.

100 near Durham most of month (DLS) and up to 70 in Earsdon area early in month (WAK/PW).

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

C.M.Adamson	W.S.Craster	E.Hawdon	B.Little	J.D.Parrack
J.C.Bacon	J.C.Day	B.Hunter	B.Martin	E.Priestley
W.Brady	I.Davidson	M.S.Hodgson	L.G.Macfarlane	G.S.Rushbrooke
J.S.Booth	P.Davidson	R.Higson	J.D.McElwee	A.J.Richards
E.Bagshaw	J.P.Deacon	A.James	E.R.Meek	R.A.Silk
A.H.Banks	C.E.Douglas	J.K.Jefferey	B.Mecrow	D.L.Sowerbutts
M.G.Chadwick	K.G.Dures	A.W.Jones	L.J.Milton	M.R.Smith
E.Culwick	J.E.Fergusson	I.Kerr	M.&J.Nattrass	H.Tegner
D.B.Charlton	B.Galloway	W.A.Kelly	E.T.&J.R.Norris	K.Walton
R.N.Coates	P.Gill	E.Lobley	J.Park	P.Weighill
M.N.Coates	R.Grey	E.M.Lindsay	J.E.Perfitt	C.F.Watson
			Washington W.R.	Bamburgh R.S.

### CLUB NEWS & NOTES

Meeting, Thursday 13th.March will be 'Members' Night'. Several contributors from within the club will speak or show slides of their particular birdwatching activity. If any other members wish to take part, they should contact John Ginnever a.s.a.p.

### Field Trip, Sunday 30th.March.

Coach trip/Walk: Falstone to Kielder

Meet Baxter's Tynemouth 7.30am

" Hancock Museum 8.00am

Cost: £1.00

Bookings, queries or cheques to: Keith Walton, 51 Beachcroft Ave. Tynemouth.

Tel; N/S 70631

COMPETITION Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, the committee is organising an essay competition for young people in the 12-16 yrs. age group. All schools in the area are being contacted but club members will obtain further details in the next bulletin.

February 1975

### Summary

The mild weather continued and the month was dominated also by another unusual feature - fog. Wintering wildfowl and waders declined as the month progressed although passage was noted as some species returned to inland breeding sites.

Out of season species were well reported although some could have been early spring returns involving, for example, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Ring Ouzel, Chiffchaff and, of course, Blackcap.

Of the birds of prey, a Rough-legged Buzzard was most interesting while the Blaydon Great Grey Shrike continues to oblige observers with very close views.

Crossbills seemed plentiful and active in display and song in the Border Forests throughout the month.

Redwings were noted emigrating early in the month and gatherings of Fieldfare and Waxwings also could have been moving North and East.

### Classified List

#### Black-throated Diver.

1 off Seaton Sluice on 22nd. (KW).

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

Unusually, the only reports were up to 6 off Ross after 22nd. (JEF/BG) and 1 at Druridge on 22nd. (KB).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

A steady return to inland waters with 1-2 at Gosforth, Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene, Hallington, Colt Crag and Brasside mainly after mid month. Offshore 1 at Alnmouth on 8th. (ETN/JRN).

#### Red-necked Grebe.

1-2 off Ross/Bamburgh 8th.-23rd. (MGC/MH/BG). 1 off Howick on 23rd. (MN).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

1 off Holy Island on 19th.-21st. (MW).

#### Little Grebe.

1-3 noted at seven different waters as far inland as Whittle Dene.

#### Fulmar.

Prominent prospecting nest sites in NE of county all month with one pair inland near Holburn (MW).

#### Gannet.

25 noted off Holy Island on 8th. (MW).

#### Cormorant.

Up to 5 on Tyne at Heddon, 2 at Wallsend Sw. (EAS/JDMcE/AJR). Approx. 250 roosting on Marsdon Rock all month (THW)

#### Heron.

Several reports of up to 4 inland and at the coast with 15 on the R. Tweed at Yarrow Slake on 1st. (ETN/JRN).

#### White Pelican.

The Warkworth bird still present on 24th. (MSH/BH).

#### Chilean Flamingo.

1 inland at Wallsend Swallow 3rd.-28th. and 1 at Lindisfarne on 21st.

#### Mallard.

400 at Colt Crag on 2nd. was largest concentration (J&RMcC). 250 were at Whittle Dene on 15th. (JSB) with 100-135 noted at Northumbrian Loughs, Howick (on the sea) and Gosforth Park.

#### Teal.

90 at Prestwick Carr on 8th. (ERM), 150 at Budle Bay on 23rd. (BG) and up to 54 at Grindon during month (LGM). 51 at Blaydon.

Wigeon.

500 at Budle on 23rd.(BG), up to 250 at Grindon peaking on 27th.(RG/WB/LGM). On 15th. at least 200 at Derwent (CMA) with 100 on Holy Island on 19th. and 100 at Bradford (near Bamburgh) on 23rd.(MW). Up to 60 at Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Bolam and Walbottle.

Pintail.

5 at Holburn on 5th.(MW) with 1-2 at Bradford, Holywell and Colt Crag.

Shoveler.

Up to 6 noted at Gosforth, Holywell, Colt Crag, Grindon and Broomlee with 2 on the sea off Seaton Sluice on 15th.(KW).

Scaup.

Off Seaton Sluice 2N on 9th. and 2S on 15th.(KW). 1 off Ross on 22nd.(MGC) and 1 at Cresswell on 23rd.(J&RMCC/ERM).

Tufted Duck.

Largest flock was of 130 at Seaton Burn on 1st.(BH) with 80 at Gosforth on 24th. (AJM) and 88 on Northumbrian Loughs on 2nd. and 15th.(LGM). 50 at Capheaton on 9th. (M&JN) with up to 30 on several other waters.

Pochard.

Up to 25 noted on waters such as Seaton Burn, Gosforth, Holywell, Capheaton and Colt Crag with up to 39 at Grindon and 41 at Blaydon on 15th.(LJM). Off Seaton Sluice 4S on 15th.(KW).

Goldeneye.

About 200 on Tweed at Yarrow Slake on 1st.(ETN/JRN) with parties of up to 10 between Carham/Wark on same day. 34 at Broomlee on 2nd.(LGM) and 31 at Whittle Dene on 28th.(JEF). 30 off Seaton Sluice after 9th.(KW) and up to 15 on many other waters.

Long-tailed Duck.

Maximum of 20 off Ross on 22nd.(MGC).

Velvet Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 1N and 2S on 9th.(KW).

Common Scoter.

Up to 400 in Ross area during month (MW) with 22 off Seaton Sluice on 22nd.(KW).

Red-breasted Merganser.

At least 50 off Ross on 23rd.(BG) and 23 off Alnmouth same day (J&RMCC). 1-5 noted off Holy Island, Howick and Seaton Sluice.

Goosander.

Well reported but no large concentrations. 11 counted at Tunstall Res. on 3rd., 27 at Greenlee on 15th.(LGM), 23 on Tweed near Norham on 8th.(CMA) and up to 16 seen in the Gosforth/Seaton Burn area (AJM/TW). Up to 12 on many other waters.

Shelduck.

200-300 at Budle on 18th.-23rd.(RNC/BG). Off Seaton Sluice 8N on 9th. and 5N and 5S on 15th.(KW). 8 at Cresswell on 9th.(ERM). Singles inland at Heddon on Tyne on 8th.(EAS), at Seaton Burn on 13th.(AJM) and at Whittle Dene on 15th.(JSB) were probably migrating N or W.

Greylag Goose.

Well reported. 300-400 in Bradford area most of month (WSC/MW) and 300 at Carham on 1st. (ETN/JRN). At Grindon max. of 88 by end of month (RG/WB/LGM et al). 46 at Colt Crag on 2nd. (J&RMCC), 33 at Hallington on 16th.(ERM) and 24 at Prestwick Carr on 15th. were probably connected with the flock of 39 seen flying SE over Ponteland on 27th.(LSS/AJ).

White-fronted Goose.

2 over Holywell on 15th.(JEF) were probably the same birds as those at Cresswell on 22nd./23rd.(ERM). Latter were identified as belonging to the Eurasian race.

Pink-footed Goose.

5 at Grindon on 15th.(LGM) increased to 7 on 19th.(ERM). 1-2 at Middleton, Cresswell and Ross.

Brent Goose.

Up to 37 at Fenham Flats all month (MW et al).



Canada Goose.

Up to 46 in Hallington/Sweetthope/Colt Crag area.

Egyptian Goose.

1 with Canada Geese in Hallington/Colt Crag area.

Mute Swan.

18 at Beal on 19th.(MW) and 17 at Amble on 23rd.(J&RMcC).

Whooper Swan.

Declining. 125 in Wark/Norham area on 1st.(ETN/JRN), 100 at Fenham Flats on 8th. when 20 at Budle (MN). 80 at Holywell on 21st.(JEF), 44 nr.Middleton on 2nd.(ERM), 33 at Grindon on 15th.(LGM) and up to 25 at locations such as Prestwick Carr, Bywell and Bradford. 2 were killed at Burradon on 8th. when they flew into overhead cables (AG).

Rough-legged Buzzard.

1 at Wolsingham on 18th.(THW) and 1 in Kielder Forest on 25th. had been present for about two weeks (ERM).

Sparrowhawk.

1-2 noted at 11 different and varied localities.

Peregrine.

Singles noted at Ryton, Hepburn and Cheviot (KW/BL).

Merlin.

Up to 3 in Blaydon area during month (KW) with singles at Hallington, Kielder, Holy Island and Kenton.

Kestrel.

1 roosting on the floodlights at St.James'Park most of month (AJR).

Coot.

100 at Seaton Burn on 19th.(AJm) and 65 at Brasside on 23rd.(DLS).

Oystercatcher.

200 at Budle on 23rd.(BG). Passage/return to inland sites suggested by 3 at Carham on 7th., 2 at Whittle Dene on 15th., 2 at Hexham on 17th. and up to 20 at Grindon Lough, peaking on 28th.

Lapwing.

Some large flocks still apparent with 2000 at Whittle Dene on 1st.(EP), 1500 at Tranwell on 15th.(MSH), 1000 at Seaton Burn on 13th.(AJm) and 500-800 at Budle, Blyth, Holywell, Chollerford and Grindon. Light W movement over Northumbrian Loughs on 2nd.(LGM).

Ringed Plover.

35 at Newton on 4th.(MW) and display noted in Druridge Bay on 5th.(RW). 1 at Newton on 17th. was wearing a yellow colour ring (MW).

Grey Plover.

200 at Goswick on 15th.(per BL) and 50 at Budle on 23rd.(BG). 4 at Amble on 23rd. (J&RMcC).

Golden Plover.

Up to 800 at Monks House, Seahouses (MW). 100-300 at Holy Island, Tranwell, Hadston and Grindon. Noted at breeding territory at Redesdale on 25th.(ERM).

Common Snipe.

30 at Prestwick Carr on 8th.(ERM).

Jack Snipe.

1 at Blaydon on 15th.(LJM).

Curlew.

300 at Newton on 23rd.(IK), 200 at Budle on 23rd.(BG), up to 75 at Monks House (MW) and 40-50 at Amble and St. Mary's (J&RMcE/BG). A few had returned to moorland areas

Black-tailed Godwit.

1 at Budle Bay on 23rd.(BG).

Bar-tailed Godwit.

200 at Budle Bay on 23rd.(BG).

Green Sandpiper.

1 at Warkworth on 1st.(JPD/EML), 1 at Kirkley Hall on 5th.(AHB) and 3 at Seaton Burn on 24th.(AHB).

Common Sandpiper.

1 at Warkworth on 4th.(MW) and 8th.(JPD/EML) has possibly wintered in the area.

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay all month (BG/EH et al).

Greenshank.

1-2 at Warkworth/Amble/Alnmouth all month (J&RMCC/RW) probably included the single seen there on 19th. January (JEF). 2 at Goswick on 15th.(BL).

Knot.

500 at Seahouses on 11th.(MW).

Purple Sandpiper.

50 at Seahouses on 11th. and 200 at Bamburgh on 23rd.(BG/MW).

Dunlin.

At least 1000 in Budle on 23rd.(BG) and 250 at Boulmer on the same day.

Sanderling.

100 at Whitburn on 11th.(THW) reduced to 50 by 22nd.(DLS). 32 at Holy Island on 8th. (MW).

Ruff.

1 at Monks House on 6th.(MW) may have wintered.

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

1 at Prudhoe on 6th.(AJR), 2 at Annstead on 22nd. and 2 at Budle on 23rd.(BG).

Common Gull.

Large roosts of 8000 at Druridge during month (ERM/JAG) and 2000 at Budle on 23rd. (BG).

Glaucous Gull.

An immature in North Shields Fish Quay/St.Mary's/Seaton Sluice area 1st.-18th. An immature at Amble on 23rd.(J&RMCC).

Iceland Gull.

An immature at Seaton Sluice on 15th./16th.(EH/JP/KW).

Little Gull.

An immature S at Seaton Sluice on 9th.(KW).

Black-headed Gull.

Roost of at least 1000 at Budle on 23rd.(BG). 400 at Newton Pool on the same day.

Kittiwake.

1 at Blaydon Pond on 14th.(MH).

Wood Pigeon.

1000 at Seaton Burn on 13th., 1500 at Holywell on 19th.(AJM). Among large numbers at Gosforth Park on 23rd. there were 4 who, while still alive, appeared to be suffering from poisoning (BB).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Monks House, Tritlington, Wark, Cramlington and Horton Grange.

Little Owl.

Noted at Kirkley, Shiremoor and Heaton Park.

Long-eared Owl.

1 calling at Ulgham on 10th.(per BL) and 1 roosting near Backworth on 19th.(JEF).

Short-eared Owl.

5 at Fenham Flats on 10th. when 3 roosting at Bebside (per BL). 4 at Wallsend Swallow on 14th.(MH/AKI) and singles at Holywell, Killingworth and Monks House.

Kingfisher.

Singles at Gosforth, Ponteland and Warkworth.

Green Woodpecker.

2 at Stocksfield and also noted displaying at Hartford.

Sky Lark.

Flock of at least 200 at Hadston on 16th.(MSH).

Raven.

Of eight sites so far checked only one shows signs of being occupied.

Jackdaw.

Flock of 500 near Warenford on 23rd.(WAK).

Marsh Tit.

Noted in small numbers at Devils Water (EC), Bolam (WAK) and Howick (ERM).

Willow Tit.

Noted at Wark/Tyne (AG) and Holywell Dene (MSH).

Nuthatch.

1-2 at Bolam and Hamsterley Mill (WAK/EP). Indications of a spread downstream from Durham City (DLS).

Dipper.

Noted at Bothal Woods on 28th., only four miles from coast (JEF). Noted in song at Thropton on 7th.(MSH).

Fieldfare.

Suggestions of a commencement of pre-emigration flocking with 700 at Kirkley on 15th. (MSH), 500 on N.Tyne on 22nd.(AG), 350 at Walbottle on 15th.(AJn) and 250 at Rothby on 2nd.(ERM)

Redwing.

Noted moving E over Wylam at mid month suggesting emigration (per BG) with flocks of up to 100 at Hamsterley on 9th. and 19th., Kirkley and Allenbanks on 15th. and moving E over Heddon during last week (EAS et al).

Ring Ouzel.

A remarkably early (or wintering?) record of 1, possibly 2, near Chillingham on 23rd. (WAK).

Stonechat.

Prominent in coastal areas with at least 6 at Budle and 9 at Newton/Dunstanburgh on 23rd.(BG/MH). Also noted at Amble, Warkworth, Howick, Druridge and Whitburn and inland at Ashington, Morpeth, Cramlington, Blaydon and Seaton Burn.

Black Redstart.

1 still present at Whitburn on 22nd.(DLS).

Blackcap.

The incredible series of sightings continues with up to 7 in Blaydon/Ryton area (KW), a pair at West Monkseaton, 1 at Preston and 1-2 at Hexham, Corbridge, Stocksfield, Morpeth and Hepscott. Singing males were heard at two of the localities!

Chiffchaff.

Not to be outnumbered by the Blackcap, singles were at Wallington on 2nd.(BM), Morpeth on 7th.(per BL), Seaton Sluice on 9th.(KW) and at Linton, Bedlington and Denton Burn between 24th.-28th.(BG per BL).

Grey Wagtail.

Noted at Warkworth, Jesmond Dene, Bardon Mill, Holywell Dene and Blaydon.

Waxwing.

Flocks continued to be reported with 60-90 at Slaley 6th.-10th.(CJ), 70 at Hexham on 4th.(RG/WB) when 80 at Ryton (KW), 35 at Stocksfield on 25th.(J&RMCC) and 30 at Wallsend Swallow on 14th.(AKI). Up to 12 noted at Broomley, Morpeth, Acomb, Blaydon and Durham.

Great Grey Shrike.

The Blaydon bird that was seen all month was watched chasing a Blue Tit on 9th.(MH/JMG et al). 1 at Killingworth on 10th.(per BL).

Hawfinch.

2 at Hexham on 19th.(per BL).

Greenfinch.

Flock of 300 at Holywell Dene on 9th.(MSH).

Goldfinch.

Flock of 62 at Annitsford on 26th.(BM).

Siskin.

About twelve pairs at Horsley on 26th.(JEF), 8 at Ryton during month (KW) and 5 at Font Reservoir on 2nd. (ERM).

Linnet.

50 at Druridge on 23rd.(ERM)



### Redpoll.

150 at Tunstall on 18th.(THW).

### Crossbill.

5 at Halleypike on 2nd. 6 at Wark Forest on 15th. when song and display was observed (LGM). 50-60 at Kielder on 18th. where a female had been seen carrying nesting material early in month (per BL). 1 singing at Redesdale on 25th.(ERM) where they are "very common this year".

### Brambling.

20 at each of Slaley and Stocksfield on 2nd./3rd.(BL/TIM). 100 at Hesleyside on 22nd.(AG) and 1-2 at Bellingham and Mitford.

### Corn Bunting.

50-60 at Ryton most of month (KW).

### Reed Bunting.

c.300 roosting at Blaydon on 15th. (LJM).

### Lapland Bunting.

3N at Druridge on 23rd.(JAG/ERM).

### Snow Bunting.

80 at South Shields on 22nd. and 25-40 at Ross, Cheviot and Long Nanny. 1-10 at Seahouses, Boulmer, Cresswell, Kielderhead and Whitburn.

### Tree Sparrow.

100 at Durham most of month (DLS).

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	J.P.Deacon	B.Hunter	B.Martin	J.Park
A.H.Banks	J.E.Fergusson	E.Hawdon	T.I.Mills	A.J.Richards
K.Barratt	B.Galloway	A.K.Ironside	E.R.Meek	R.A.Silk
B.Bowman	J.A.Ginnever	A.James	L.G.MacFarlane	E.A.Stanley
W.Brady	A.Guthrie	A.Jones	J.D.McElwee	L.S.Stevens
J.S.Booth	J.M.Gibson	C.Jewett	J.&R. McCutcheon	T.H.Wall
M.G.Chadwick	B.D.Green	W.A.Kelly	L.J.Milton	K.Walton
R.N.Coates	R.Grey	I.Kerr	J.&M.Nattrass	R.Walton
W.S.Craster	M.S.Hodgson	B.Little	E.T.&J.R.Norris	T.Winter
E.Culwick	M.Henry	E.M.Lindsay	E.Priestley	M.Wray

All March records to Bryan Galloway, 115 Southway, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 7RD. These must be sent in BEFORE APRIL 9th. please, as he will no longer be at that address after that date. This also applies to members sending S.A.E. for supplies of record cards.

### CLUB NEWS & NOTES

As Spring migration gets under way among the birds and Bird Recorders, please note a local movement in the case of our chairman. His new address is nearer Prestwick Carr! J.A.GINNEVER, 32 THE CREST, DINNINGTON GREEN, DINNINGTON, NEWCASTLE/TYNE.

### CLUB MEETING, Thursday, 10th.April, 7.15pm

For the last meeting of the Spring we welcome ARTHUR GILPIN to speak on 'Birding from the Borders to Shetland'. As a nationally known illustrator and bird photographer (Leeds University made him an honorary M.Sc. for his photography); as a Council member of the R.S.P.B. and Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust, his many years' experience and slides should provide us with a memorable talk which you are urged not to miss. NOTE: 7.15pm START due to new University regulations.

### FIELD TRIP, Sunday, 13th.April

Coach trip/walk Penham Mill - Ross. 4 miles.

Meet Baxter's, Tynemouth 7.30am

" Hancock Museum 8.00am

Cost: £1.10

Leader: Bryan Galloway

### B.T.O. ROOKERY SURVEY 1975

It is encouraging to hear from Geoff. Macfarlane that, on paper at least, 100% coverage of Northumberland and Tyneside has been achieved. Assuming sickness or other mishaps do not prevent volunteer observers from getting out in the field, it

#### B.T.O. ROOKERY SURVEY continued

will be possible for the first time to determine accurately the total breeding population of the Rook in our area, together with much ancillary data. Previously, it hardly seemed possible to obtain such a coverage and Geoff and his team are to be congratulated. Perhaps we shall hear the results of this March/April effort at a future meeting.

#### FRIENDLY RELATIONS

The N.H.S. are engaged in a recruiting drive for members and we are pleased to assist them by enclosing details with this bulletin. i

The R.S.P.B. are bringing Dr. ERIC ENNION to Newcastle on 22nd. April. His talk: 'An Artist in Northumbria' will be in the University Refectory Ballroom at 7.30pm. Tickets (30p and 15p) from Windows. Dr. Ennion's work at Monks'House in the 1950s had a great influence on birdwatching in the county and much of the ringing now carried out can be traced back directly to this influence.

#### COLOUR RINGING

To assist Neil Duncan of Durham University in his study of Herring Gulls nesting in colonies in the North East, T.B.C. members are asked to keep a look out for colour ringed birds of that species. Details are required -

- a) Of ring colours and combinations, together with time and place of observation.
- b) Colour ringed birds actually in nesting colonies.
- c) Locations of any colonies containing Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

This information should be sent in the first instance to:

Eric Meek, 7 Shaftoe Way, Dinnington, Newcastle upon Tyne.

#### CLUB ESSAY COMPETITION

The competition is open to all young people in the area, in the 12-16yrs. age group. The essay should be on an ornithological subject and based preferably on personal research or observation (perhaps during the summer holidays). Closing date for entries is September 30th. 1975. Further information and entry forms should be obtained from:

Mr. J.A.Ginnever, Monkseaton High Sch., Seatonville Rd. Whitley Bay,

Although this notice is being circulated to all the schools in the area, we naturally hope to see a strong entry from our own junior members.





## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

March 1975

### SUMMARY

March was undoubtedly the coldest month of the winter as unfamiliar N winds, often gale force, dominated the weather, especially after mid month. Snow fell during the last week of the month although it only persisted inland on high ground. The much expected arrival of summer visitors in numbers was thus thwarted and, by the end of the month, only Garganey, Whimbrel, Sandwich Tern, 4 Wheatears, a Ring Ouzel and 2 White Wagtails had been reported.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were more conspicuous, however, at a time when other Gulls were also moving N, including Glaucous and Iceland. The strong N winds also brought migrating Gannets close inshore, especially after 28th., with Kittiwakes also moving in large numbers.

The traditional pre-emigration build up of Fieldfares was witnessed from 23rd. when Redwings were also in evidence and an interesting return passage of Waxwings was also apparent.

Blackcaps, which have been a feature of the winter, seemed to decline during the month, especially after 17th. - coincident with the onset of wintry conditions.

April has brought 2 reports of Osprey followed by a flush of migrants, especially at the coast, during heavy rain but higher temperatures on 19th. More details next month.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Black-throated Diver.

1 at Cresswell Pond on 23rd. (per BL).

#### Great Northern Diver.

off Seaton Sluice 1S on 2nd., 1N on 23rd. and 1N and 1S on 30th. (KW).

#### Red-throated Diver.

More reports than in February with: off Seaton Sluice 23N and 15S on 22nd./23rd. (KR) and 25S from 28th. - 31st. (KW). 1-4 noted off Ross, Alnmouth, Seahouses and Holy Island.

#### Great Crested Grebe.

1-2 noted at Gosforth, Seaton Burn, Catcleugh, Sweethope, Colt Crag, Greenlee and Brasside with 3 at Hallington and up to 4 at Whittle Dene.

#### Red-necked Grebe.

1-2 in Bamburgh, and Ross area on 8th. but, more unusually, 2 off Alnmouth on 30th. (EC/RH)

#### Slavonian Grebe.

At least 20 off Ross on 8th. (EC/RH).

#### Little Grebe.

1-2 noted at eleven waters with 7 at Broomlee Lough on 15th. (LGM et al). Off Holy Island 1 on 31st. (LGM).

#### Manx Shearwater.

A very early bird off Seaton Sluice on 22nd. (KW).

#### Gannet.

A few moving N after 16th. with heavy passage occurring 29th.-31st. when 326N off Seaton Sluice. Also smaller numbers noted off Hauxley, Dunstanburgh, Alnmouth, Seahouses and Bamburgh.

Cormorant.

Up to 250 roosting on Marsden Rock (THW). Inland up to 30 on R.Wear at Washington (WWR) peaking on 16th., up to 4 at Wallsend Swallow (AC) and 1 at Hallington (LGM).

Shag.

A gathering of 77 off Holy Island on 31st.(LGM/AJR).

Heron.

1-2 noted at Wallsend, Killingworth and Mitford, also Holywell and further inland at Colt Crag, near Tarsdet and at Edmondbyers.

Chilean Flamingo.

Singles at each of Budle Bay and Wallsend Swallow all month.

White Pelican.

The Warkworth bird was present all month.

Mallard.

300 at Holywell on 4th.(AJm) decreasing to 100 by 24th. Up to 200 noted at Whittle Dene, especially before 15th., including 2 albino birds (JSB/ERM) 120 at Hallington on 9th.(ERM) but much smaller numbers elsewhere.

Teal.

Up to 93 at Grindon during month peaking on 28th.(LGM). 40-50 at each of Holy Island (on 31st.) and Washington (all month). Up to 25 at Gosforth, Whittle Dene and near Earsdon.

Garganey.

A pair near Seaton Burn on 31st. were the first of the spring (BL).

Wigeon.

Max. at Grindon Lough of 240 on 23rd.(LGM/EAS/ERM) but only 100 left in Budle Bay on 7th.(RNC). Up to 40 noted at Whittle Dene, Gosforth, Linton and Cresswell.

Pintail.

1 at Holywell 1st.-4th.(AJm/PW); 1 on Holy Island on 31st.(AJR) when 2 were at Washington, 1 having been present all the month.

Shoveler.

Passage suggested with 12 (all drakes) at Holywell on 12th.(MGC/JEF) and 2-6 at Gosforth, Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene, Wallsend, Grindon, Broomlee and Pallinsburn between 15th.-29th. Most reports were of drakes only.

Scaup.

A pair at Cresswell Pond 26th.-31st.(MSH/J&RMCC/RN). 2N off Seaton Sluice on 31st. (KR/KW)

Tufted Duck.

Largest counts were 80-90 on Northumbrian Loughs all month (LGM); 60-70 at Seaton Burn on 2nd.(BH); 45-50 at Gosforth 13th.-24th.(AJm) with up to 40 at Hazlerigg, Holywell, Whittle Dene, Blaydon, Cresswell, Washington, Lilburn and Holy Island.

Pochard.

Most numerous at Gosforth where a max. of 60 was noted on 13th.(AJm) and still 35 on 24th. 32 at Grindon on 1st.(LGM) and 12 at Cresswell on 31st.(MSH). Off Seaton Sluice 1S on 8th.(KW) was unusual.

Goldeneye.

Some large gatherings as passage progressed with max. counts of 39 at Holywell on 2nd.(M&JN); 43 at Northumbrian Loughs on 1st.(LGM) though still 41 on 15th.; 31-33 at Whittle Dene 1st.-15th.(JSB); 37 on the R.Tyne at Heddon after 16th.(BG/JSB/EAS) and 10-20 at Hallington, Capheaton, Sweetthope and off Seaton Sluice. Many pairs were watched in courtship display.

Long-tailed Duck.

Only reports from Holy Island area were 2 on 23rd.(WAK) and 8 on 28th.(JDMcE).  
2N Seaton Sluice on 31st.(KW).

Common Scoter.

78 off Bamburgh on 28th.(JDMcE) and up to 35 off Seaton Sluice and Alnmouth.  
Movements off Seaton Sluice involved 15N on 9th. and 22N and 35S on 23rd.

Red-breasted Merganser.

10 off Bamburgh on 28th. and off Seaton Sluice 1-2N on each of 25th., 30th., 31st.

Goosander.

A further increase in the Seaton Burn/Gosforth flock to 21 by 22nd.(RMD/JD/AJM et al) with 12 still present on 31st. At least 20 at Colt Crag on 2nd.(EH); 10-11 on Greenlee Lough 1st.-15th.(LGM) and 12 at Whittle Dene on 9th.(ERM). Well reported in small groups on R.Tyne below Corbridge and 1-4 noted off Alnmouth and Seaton Sluice with 2NW over Newcastle on 10th.(BL). A return to breeding sites was apparent from 16th. with 1-6 pairs at Bellingham, Ford, Hepple, Featherstone Castle and Linhope.

Smew.

A female at Whittle Dene 9th.-23th.(JSB/ERM).

Shelduck.

Max.of 170 reported at Budle Bay on 7th.(RNC) with 15 at Amble and 5 pairs at Cresswell on 29th.(RN). Off Seaton Sluice 11N on 22nd. and 8N on 31st. with 1-2 on four other dates. 3 at Washington 1st.-9th., then 1 until 14th.(AT).

Greylag Goose.

Up to 500 at each of Lowick and Budle Bay 29th.-31st.(RH/WLR). Maxima of 180 at Hallington on 16th.(WB/RG) and 90 at Grindon on 9th.(ERM) though still 80 at the latter on 29th.(ETN/JRN). 80 at Broomlee on 15th. were probably the Grindon birds (LGM). Up to 12 noted at Cresswell and 6 at Sweethope (JCD/DBC).

White-fronted Goose.

2 at Hallington on 9th.(ERM).

Pink-footed Goose.

Singles at Washington all month (WWR), Hallington on 9th.(ERM) and Cresswell on 15th.(perBL).

Brent Goose.

Still 7 on Fenham Flats on 31st.(LGM/AJR).

Canada Goose.

65 in Colt Crag/Hallington/Sweethope area on 2nd.(EH/JP).

Mute Swan.

25 at Ellington on 28th. was unusual though only 8 at Amble on the same day suggests that they were probably from that area (JDMcE/RN). 6 at Wallsend Swallow increased to 14 from 12th.(AC).

Whooper Swan.

Still well reported. About 120 at Holywell on 2nd.(M&JN) reduced to 23 by 30th. (ETN/JRN/JEF et al). Up to 32 at Grindon at a peak between 15th.-28th.(LGM et al). As the return and passage progressed, flocks of 11-17 were noted grazing near Lucker, Shaftoe, Bywell and Bradford with 2 near Chatton. The 2 flightless birds still reside at Wallsend Swallow.

Rough-legged Buzzard.

1 was seen at Blagdon on 16th.(per BL).

Sparrowhawk.

Widespread reports received.



Goshawk.

1 present at a locality in the SW pf Northumberland on 9th.

Hen Harrier.

A female near Slaggyford on 30th.(LGM) and 1 near Belford on 31st.(WAK).

Gyr Falcon.

1 at Howden on 13th./14th. was wearing a 'jess' on one leg (KW).

Merlin.

1 at Washington on 5th.(WWR) and 1N at Seaton Sluice on 23rd.(KW). Well inland singles noted at Halleypike, Slaggyford, Catton and Dargues.

Kestrel.

Widespread reports included a pair at a crag nest site as early as 2nd.(ERM et al).

Black Grouse.

Up to 12 cocks noted at Threestone Burn (per BL).

Red-legged Partridge.

Noted in Blagdon area as usual.

Coot.

100 at Seaton Burn most of month (AJm).

Oystercatcher.

60 at St.Mary's on 24th.(KR) and inland up to 44 noted in Bardon Mill area as passage progressed (LGM/EAS). Also up to 9 at Grindon Lough with some pairs in residence at inland breeding sites after mid month.

Lapwing.

Largest flocks were 400 at Stannington on 2nd.(MSH) and 300 near Hartley on 5th.  
(CMA).

Grey Plover.

150-180 at Budle Bay on 9th.(RW) with 1-4 at Seahouses, Alnmouth and Amble (EC/RH/  
J&RM.C)

Golden Plover.

Some interesting flocks as passage progressed with between 22nd.-30th. 2000 at Longframlington, 800 at Stannington, 530 at Linton and 300 near Ilderton. Earlier in the month flocks of 30-60 had been seen at Blanchland and Sweetthope (JCD/ERM/RN/  
EAS).

Turnstone.

Max. of 100 at St.Mary's on 8th.(BG).

Common Snipe.

Largest gathering was of 30 at Gosforth on 28th.(ETN/JRN).

Jack Snipe.

1 at Holywell on 9th. (M&JN); 1 at Seaton Burn on 16th.(IK) and up to 2, possibly 3 at Alnmouth 30th./31st.(EC/RH).

Woodcock.

An interesting series of records between 22nd.-30th. probably involved both birds returning to breeding areas and passage birds as 1-3 were noted at Gosforth, Earsdon, Blaydon, Stannington, Allendale, Slaggyford and Edmondbyers.

Curlew.

Maxima of 48 at St.Mary's on 8th.(BG) and 30 at Holywell on 28th.(RN). 60 at Grindon on 9th.(ERM) and 18 at Hallington on 16th.(WB/RG). Well established in breeding territory near Bardon Mill on 23rd.(EAS).

Whimbrel.

Some unusually early reports, all of birds N at Seaton Sluice, with 4 on 8th., 1 on 22nd., 7 on 23rd. and 12 on 30th.(KR/JP/KW/HW).

Bar-tailed Godwit.

Still at least 250 at Holy Island on 31st.(AJR). 1N at Seaton Sluice on 22nd.(KR).

Redshank.

80 at Washington on 28th.(WWR) and an unusual flock of 50 at Seaton Burn on 19th.(AJm) was obviously on passage. Present in breeding areas near Brenkley on 13th.(CMA).

Spotted Redshank.

The Budle Bay bird was present until at least 9th.(RW).

Greenshank.

1 at Alnmouth on 29th.(RN).

Knot.

Only report was of 40 in Budle Bay on 7th.(RNC).

Purple Sandpiper.

Max. in Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's area was 180 on 8th.(BG).

Sanderling.

120-161 at St.Mary's 7th.-24th. with a peak on 24th.(KR/PW/BG/TPMW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Singles at Colt Crag on 1st. and Blaydon on 2nd.(EC/RH/MH). 2 at each of Seaton Burn on 13th. and 16th. and Grindon on 18th.(IK/WB/RG/AJm). Many reports 22nd.-31st. as N passage progressed, even from as far inland as Allendale. Largest flock was of 30 near Ulgham on 29th.(KR). Birds with very dark mantles were noted at Gosforth (6 on 29th.) and on Alnwick Moor (4 on 31st.)(JEF/AJR).

Glaucous Gull.

During the strong N winds in the last week of the month a light passage was suggested with possibly as many as 11 individuals being seen from Seaton Burn between 22nd.-30th. On 29th. 5 were together at the sewage outlet and another 2N. During the same period 1-3 were noted at nearby North Shields, Blyth and Holywell and farther afield at Amble (KW/KR/JEF/ERM et al). Earlier in the month singles were at Seahouses on 2nd.(IK) and at North Shields on 8th.(AJR). All were immatures.

Iceland Gull.

1 in the Seaton Sluice area all month until it was joined by another on 28th.(JEF/JP/EH/KR et al). On 29th. 4, all immatures, were feeding together with 5 Glaucous Gulls at the sewage outlet and providing a truly amazing, if not unprecedented, spectacle. However, only 1 remained on 30th.(KW). Inland at Blaydon an adult was seen on 23rd. and an immature appeared there on 26th.(MH).

Kittiwake.

A heavy N movement off Seaton Sluice involved birds passing at up to 800/hr.(ERM/MSH/KW). Inland records involved singles at Washington and Blaydon on 14th. and 23rd. respectively.

Sandwich Tern.

The first and only sighting was of 1N off Seaton Sluice on 31st.(KW).

Stock Dove.

Noted at Holywell and Ross.

Barn Owl.

Noted at Brunton, Shankhouse and Ravensworth with 1 dead (cause unknown) at Stonehaugh.

Long-eared Owl.

Still roosting near Backworth on 19th.(JEF). 1 found dead on road near Alnwick on 14th.(EC). Pair returned to a nest site near Slaley by 9th.(perBL).

Short-eared Owl.

3 at Hartley on 1st. were possibly the same group seen in the Holywell area 4th.-19th.(EH/AJm/MN/EC). 1 at Budle on 22nd.(WSC) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 23rd.(KR/KW). 1 at Brunton on 30th.(AHB).

Kingfisher.

The only record was of 1 near Wylam on 30th.(BG).

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Langleeford, Swinhoe, Breamish Valley and Warkworth.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Powburn, Wooler, Harbottle, Ridley Mill, Stannington, Healey, Whitley Bay and Hamsterley Mill.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

A bird heard drumming at Hamsterley Mill on February 24th. was seen on March 5th. (EP). Singles were noted visiting birdtables at Redesmouth and Barrasford during month (perBL).

Skylark.

Still flock of at least 100 near Hallington on 9th.(ERM) when others had paired in breeding areas.

Raven.

Of the twenty-eight nest sites checked none was occupied although 2 were displaying in the Cheviots on 16th.(WLR/ERM).

Hooded Crow.

Singles at Washington on 13th.(AT), Morpeth 23rd. and 29th.(KR) and Amble on 26th, (J&RMcc)

Rook.

Flock of 100 feeding amongst heather high on the moors on Hexham Common on 2nd. (LGM).

Magpie.

A tired bird on open moorland on the R.Irthing on 23rd.(LGM) Flock of 17 at Hallington on 15th.(AKI).

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Bolam.

Willow Tit.

Noted at Gosforth, Bolam and Broomley.

Long-tailed Tit.

Small flocks still apparent early in month but by the end only pairs were reported.

Nuthatch.

1-2 noted at Bolam, Wallington and Hamsterley Mill.

Fieldfare.

Some large flocks involved in pre-emigration gatherings inland, especially from 23rd. with 1500 in Hexhamshire; 1000 at Stocksfield; 800 at Edlingham; 500 at Bellingham and Falstone and up to 300 at Stannington, Knowesgate, Wooler, Felton, Throckley, Otterburn and Alwinton. Earlier in the month 150 were at Lilburn on 2nd. when 300 were at Kirkwhelpington (WLR/ERM).

Song Thrush.

By 31st. 4 young had fledged from a nest at Whickham (LJM).

Redwing.

Steady passage through Hamsterley Mill all month (EP) but numbers much less than for Fieldfare. Largest flocks were 50-100 at Stocksfield, Cambo, Benton, Edlingham, Stannington and Newbrough, especially after 22nd.



Ring Ouzel.

An early coastal migrant at St.Mary's on 16th.(KR).

Blackbird.

Passage suggested by 40 near Slaley on 4th.(CJ) and 15 at Hauxley on 9th.(HRS).  
An early nest in a pile of scaffolding at Gosforth on 13th.(RWM).

Wheatear.

First report was of 3 at Seaton Sluice on 23rd.(KW). Only other report was of 1 near Redesmouth on 27th.(per BL).

Stonechat.

Singles noted inland at Wallsend Swallow, Elsdon and Washington with up to 4 at Holywell .

Blackcap.

1-2 reported at Morpeth, Wallington, Hexham, Wylam, Ryton and Corbridge until 17th. Only subsequent record was of 1 at Ryton on 25th. A pair at Hamsterley Mill from a birdtable on chicken and cheese.

Chiffchaff.

At Cramlington, 1 on 9th. fed on aphids on rose bushes. It was present on many subsequent dates (BM). Singles at Washington on 17th.(THW); Denton Burn on 22nd. (BG) and Hauxley on 31st.(HRS).

Meadow Pipit.

Passage suggested by a large flock at Hamsterley Mill on 23rd.(EP) and a light N movement over Hauxley on 31st.(HRS).

White Wagtail.

2 with 6 Pied Wagtails at Boulmer on 28th.(IK).

Grey Wagtail.

Noted on breeding territory at Hamsterley Mill, Matfen, Hallington and Whittle Dene. 1 still in urban habitat in Newcastle City Centre on 29th.(BG).

Waxwing.

Reports from 20 different localities suggested return passage throughout the month. The largest flocks were of 25-30 at each of Stannington, Thropton, Hexham, Ponteland, Slaley and Ilderton and birds were noted as far inland as Upper Coquetdale and Simonburn.

Great Grey Shrike.

The Blaydon bird was present until at least 25th.(MH et al). Other singles noted at Hepple on 14th.(per BL); Boldon on 29th. (JCD) and Ponteland on 31st.

Hawfinch.

Up to 14 noted at Washington Refuge and Coxgreen during month (DLS/WWR). 1 near Ladypark on 30th.(RH).

Greenfinch.

Roost of 500 at Ravensworth on 2nd.(LJM).

Goldfinch.

Largest flock was of 18 at Lowick on 30th.(WLR).

Siskin.

A few at each of Hamsterley Mill (EP), Jesmond Dene (ERH) and Edlingham (BG) after 23rd.

Crossbill.

1 at Greenlee on 15th.(LGM) and 2 near Halleypike on 28th.

### Brambling.

Noted only at Rothbury (1) and Haydon Bridge (\*) (WAK/LGM).

### Yellowhammer.

70 roosting at Kibblesworth on 9th. (LJM).

### Lapland Bunting.

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

### Snow Bunting.

Only reports were of 20 on Middlehope Moor, Weardale on 2nd. (WAK) and 4 near Blyth on 9th. (M&JN).

### Tree Sparrow.

Flocks of 15 at Whitley Bay (JDMcE) and at Hazlerigg (RMD/JD).

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M. Adamson	J.C. Day	B. Hunter	J. & R. McCutcheon	K. Robson
A.H. Banks	R.M. Day	E.R. Harbottle	E.R. Meek	W.L. Rimmer
A. Blackett	J. Day	A.K. Ironside	L.J. Milton	L.S. Stevens
J.S. Booth	P. Davidson	C. Jewett	R.W. Myatt	D.L. Sowerbutts
W. Brady	J.E. Fergusson	A. James	R. Norman	E.A. Stanley
E. Culwick	B. Galloway	I. Kerr	M. & J. Nattrass	A. Temple
M.G. Chadwick	R. Grey	W.A. Kelly	E.T. & J.R. Norris	T.H. Wall
D.B. Charlton	M. Henry	B. Little	J. Park	K. Walton
A. Curry	M.S. Hodgson	B. Martin	E. Priestley	R. Walton
R.N. Coates	R. Higson	L.G. Macfarlane	A.J. Richards	H. Wilson
W.S. Craster	E. Hawdon	J.D. McElwee	C. Robson	P. Weighill
Hauxley R.S.	Washington W.W.R.			T.P.M. Watson

### RECORDER - CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please send all April reports to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Court, Chapel Park, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne by May 9th. please.

### CLUB NEWS & NOTES

#### Summer Recess.

Our next club meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 11th. at 7.15pm.

#### Field Trip, Sunday, May 18th.

By car to Hulne Park nr. Alnwick. This will be led by Mike Hodgson, but members wishing to go should contact Keith Dures at N/S 75928 for details of arrangements. Offers of spare seats in cars will be most welcome.

#### B.T.O. ROOKERY SURVEY \* 1975

It is probable that most members will have completed their field work by the end of April. Completed record cards should be sent to the local organiser as soon as possible. Any 10km. squares not covered completely should be indicated as these may form the basis for a 'mini-survey' in 1976.

#### B.T.O. GREAT CRESTED GREBE CENSUS 1975

The main census is to take place on 31st. May/1st. June, covering all waters where there is a possibility of the birds breeding. The club's area has 40 potential sites including the Border lochs, so that as many volunteers as possible are required, together with offers to collect more detailed breeding data. Again, the local organiser is Geoff. Macfarlane, 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington NE23 6LJ.

#### PLACE NAMES

It would assist both the recorder and readers of less familiar place names could be followed by an associated and familiar town, village or area when sending in your reports. (e.g. 'Bradford nr. Bamburgh')

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

April 1975

### SUMMARY

The weather was generally unfavourable for assisting the arrival of summer visitors and, except for the last quarter, the month was cool and wet.

Heavy rain accompanied by strong E. winds on 18th./19th. as a depression moved rapidly E. across Britain was the turning point in the month, during and after which summer migrants became more conspicuous, although there had been some indication of passage of some of the early passerines on 13th. Waders and gulls were also moving about this time, especially Redshanks and Common Gulls. However, even by the end of the month some species had still not appeared and others were still in relatively small numbers.

A random selection of the more interesting observations included a Diver movement on 3rd. - 6th.; Smew present until 20th.; an exodus of Grey-lag Geese on about 13th.; a Marsh Harrier on 25th.; 4 Ospreys and a continued passage of Waxwings.

May has produced some interesting observations including Pine Grosbeak on Holy Island, Bluethroats, Wrynecks, Red-backed Shrike and Ortolan Buntings, but more details next month.

### CLASSIFIED LIST.

#### Black-throated Diver.

1 off Alnmouth on 13th.(RH).

#### Red-throated Diver.

A distinct N movement on 3rd.-6th. with a total of 54 counted off Hauxley/Seaton Sluice (HRS/KW/PW). Up to 4 off Ross, Holy Island and Alnmouth until at least 18th. (BG/RH).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

Present at all those inland localities mentioned in March and a further single bird was at Blaydon on 4th.(LJM). At Gosforth a pair was watched with 4 young from 21st. (AJM/PW et al) and another adult was there also on 21st. Offshore 3-4 off Alnmouth on 13th.(RH).

#### Red-necked Grebe.

Only report was of 1 off Holy Island on 13th.(JAG).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

At least 7 off Ross on 13th.(BG et al) and at Washington Pond 1 was present from 22nd. until well into May (RGL/RH/DLS).

#### Little Grebe.

Up to 3 noted at eleven different waters as far inland as Grindon.

#### Fulmar.

A total of 18 pairs on three different inland sites near Belford on 20th.(WAK) 274 between Beadnell/Howick on 24th.(JB).

#### Cormorant.

Inland records involved up to 13 on the R.Wear (WWR) and 1-2 at Hallington, Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow. At Wylam on the R.Tyne 3 were watched perched on trees on 13th. At Marsden Rock 130 present on 7th. (THW).



Heron.

Records near the coast involved 1-5 at Cresswell, Howick, Seaton Burn, Gosforth, Holywell, Linton and Arcot Hall. In Upper Coquetdale three nests were located(JAG).

Flamingo.

Singles noted at Budle Bay, Newsham and Wallsend Swallow during month.

Mallard.

20 at Holywell on 30th. was largest flock reported.(CMA).

Teal.

54 at Grindon on 8th. increased to 92 next day following a hard frost (LGM). Still 41 present on 20th. Elsewhere 35 at Blaydon on 12th.(LJM), 50 at Linton on 13th. (MSH).

Gadwall.

A pair at Holywell 15th.-27th.(CED/IK/JEF).

Wigeon.

The largest numbers were noted at Grindon, fluctuating between 35 and 300 between 5th.-13th.(RGL/LGM/RN). Still a drake present on 27th.(LGM). Other counts included 140 at Derwent on 6th.(BL) and 25-30 in Cresswell area on 13th.(MSH). As well as the Grindon record, a few also lingered at Gosforth where 2-4 were present on 24th./25th. and at Whittle Dene 1 was still present on 26th.(JSB).

Pintail.

1 at Cresswell on 20th.(IK/ETN/JRN) and between 25th.-27th. 1-2 on Holy Island and 4 on Fenham Flats (KR/KW/TRP).

Shoveler.

Spring passage continued with small numbers on many waters where a few, no doubt, remain to breed. 12 drakes and 3 ducks at Holywell on 15th. was the largest concentration (JEF), but up to 8 were noted at Cresswell, Gosforth, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow, Washington, Arcot Hall, Grindon, Capheaton, Monks House Pool and Bradford (near Bamburgh), especially after mid month. Offshore records are unusual but off Seaton Sluice 4N on 19th. and 1N on 26th.(KW).

Ruddy Duck.

The Gosforth Park bird re-appeared on 13th. and remained until at least 21st.(JEF/AJm/BMe).

Scaup.

Throughout the month 1-2 at Cresswell and 1 at Holywell. Off Seaton Sluice 2N on 6th.

Tufted Duck.

70 at Seaton Burn on 21st.(AJm) and 40-60 at Gosforth, Holywell, Northumbrian Loughs as late as 26th. 20-30 at Cresswell, Whittle Dene, Arcot Hall and Blaydon.

Goldeneye.

Largest gatherings were of 26 at Whittle Dene on 12th.(JSB); 28 at Northumbrian Loughs on 11th.(LGM) and 13 at Caistron(near Thropton) on 2nd.(THW). Towards the end of the month still 1-4 at Whittle Dene, Hexham, Seaton Burn and Holy Island after 24th.

Long-tailed Duck.

2N Seaton Sluice on 6th.(KW); up to 14 off Ross on 13th.(BG et al) and a pair off Holy Island on 24th./25th.(KB).

Velvet Scoter.

About 10 off Berwick on 7th.(MRS) and 1 off Alnmouth on 13th.(RH).

Common Scoter.

20-30 off Ross and Alnmouth most of month. 25N off Seaton Sluice on 5th./6th.

Eider.

126 between Beadnell/Howick on 24th.(JB).

Red-breasted Merganser.

15 off Berwick on 7th.(MRS); 20 off Ross on 13th.(BG et al) and 8N off Newton on 20th.(BG). 6 off Alnmouth on 10th.(LGM) and 1-2 off Seaton Sluice until 22nd.

Goosander.

Up to 10 in the Gosforth/Seaton Burn area until 18th. and still 1 at the latter on 25th.(AJM/ERM et al). Still 20 at Hallington on 10th.(MRS) and 5 at Greenlee on 11th.(LGM). 4 at Budle Bay on 12th.(WGJ). At the end of the month 6 pairs were on the R.Tyne as far downstream as Prudhoe - Blaydon (per BL), whilst in more traditional areas breeding pairs were seen in Upper Coquetdale and on the Carey Burn.

Smew.

The Whittle Dene female was last seen on 20th.(JSB) whilst a female, presumably the same bird, was noted at Hallington on 11th.(JEF).

Shelduck.

200-300 on Lindisfarne Reserve on 13th.(BG et al). At Cresswell 28 on 20th. obviously included passage birds (ETN/JRN). Off Seaton Sluice 1-3N and S on 5th., 6th. and 19th.(KW). 1 at Arcot Hall on 26th.(BMN) and a pair at Washington 28th.-30th.(WWR).

Greylag Goose.

On 13th. 183 at Colt Crag (JCD); 50 at Grindon (LGM); 30 on Fenham Flats and 350-400 in Budle Bay (BG et al). On 2nd./3rd. 1W over Rothbury (ERM) and 12 at Cresswell. No reports after 13th. when the Budle Bay birds were noted as being particularly restless.

Brent Goose.

3 dark-bellied birds N off Alnmouth on 6th.(RH).

Canada Goose.

Largest count in Colt Crag area was 20-25 on 11th. 1-2 in Cresswell/Ellington/South Linton area most of month. 2 at Capheaton on 1st.(THW) and 2 at Brasside 19th.-30th.(DLS).

Mute Swan.

An unusual concentration of 35 near Ellington on 9th.(JEF) with 26-28 on nearby waters until 13th.(LGM/MSH/MN). 14 at Wallsend Swallow on 1st.(PW).

Whooper Swan.

Only reports were of 10-11 at Grindon 5th.-13th.(LGM/RGL/RN) but only 1 by 27th.(LGM). 9 in a field near Shaftoe Crags on 1st./2nd.(ERM/THW).

Sparrowhawk.

Well reported from inland. Singles at Ross on 13th. and at Alnmouth and Amble on 18th. may have been on passage.

Hen Harrier.

A female in Wark Forest on 13th.(ERM) and a female at Cresswell on 26th. was probably of this species.

Marsh Harrier.

An adult male watched hunting over the reeds at Gosforth Park on 25th.(AHB) later flew off SE.

Osprey.

An interesting series of observations involved 1 at Washington on 12th.(WWR); 1 at Holywell from 14th.-20th.(JEF/CED et al); 1 at Broomlee Lough on 27th.(DLSc.) and an unconfirmed report of 1 at Bolam in mid month.

Peregrine.

1 stooping at pigeons at Cresswell on one day (JKJ) - date not given.

Merlin.

Away from breeding territory - more details in a future bulletin - 1 in Holy Island area 10th.-13th.(MH/JAG).

Kestrel.

An unusual sighting of 5 hunting with 5 Short-eared Owls near Carter Bar on 27th. (ERM).

Red Grouse.

Plentiful on Simonsides and on Allendale Moors.

Red-legged Partridge.

1 near Kirkley on 2nd.

Coot.

120 at Seaton Burn on 10th. (AJm) declined to 60 by 29th. (ERM/PW et al). 57 in S. Linton area on 13th. (MSH) probably indicative of passage at that time. 2 diluted specimens in residence on a pond near Wylam (CR/BG).

Oystercatcher.

100 at Ross on 13th. (BG) and 30 at Bardon Mill (well inland) on 8th. (LGM). 1-3 passage birds at Washington and Whittle Dene after 23rd. Also 71 on the shore Beadnell/Howick on 24th. (JB).

Grey Plover.

60 at Goswick on 10th. (MH) and at least 20 at Ross on 13th. (BG).

Golden Plover.

Between 8th.-20th. flocks of 100-400 noted in Allendale, near Falstone, Longframlington and Backworth were probably all birds of the northern race. On 27th. many pairs were incubating eggs on the moors in Allendale (LGM).

Turnstone.

150 at St. Mary's on 23rd. (MGC) and 123 Beadnell-Howick on 24th. (JB).

Common Snipe.

25 at Holywell on 4th. (MN) was largest flock reported.

Jack Snipe.

A late bird at Holywell from 24th.-29th. (CED/JEF/MN).

Woodcock.

1 at Gosforth on 21st. (AJm) and 2-4 roding at Plessey on 27th. (KR et al).

Curlew.

About 325 on Lindisfarne Reserve on 13th. (BG et al) with 120 well inland at Holystone on the R. Coquet on 10th. (JAG/ERM). 27 at Holywell on 4th. (MN) and eggs found in Allendale at 1750 feet on 26th. (LGM).

Whimbrel.

Off Seaton Sluice birds passing N involved 2 on 19th. 3 on 23rd., 5 on 26th. (KW) and 1 on 29th. (ERM).

Black-tailed Godwit.

1S at Seaton Sluice on 16th. (EH), a party of 7 at Newton Pool on 22nd. (WSC) when 1 was near Earsdon (PW) and 2 at Washington on 30th. (RGL).

Bar-tailed Godwit.

50 at Ross on 13th. (BG et al).

Green Sandpiper.

1 at Prudhoe Sewage Works on 3rd. (DMT).

Common Sandpiper.

First noted on 19th. when 1 was at Seaton Sluice (KW). Next day 5 at Bardon Mill (LGM) and 1-2 at Hallington and on N. Tyne. Noted in a few more localities on 22nd./23rd. but not really conspicuous in breeding areas until after 26th.



### Redshank.

An interesting correlation of records indicating heavy passage 18th.-20th. when about 500N off Seaton Sluice (KW), 174 at Alnmouth (RH), 60 at Newton Pool (BG) and 138 at Monks House Pool (WGJ). On 13th. flock of 30 at S.Linton was also unusual (MSH). Pairs in breeding display in Arcot Hall area on 26th.(BM).

### Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay 13th.-16th.(JAG/RW); 1 at Cresswell 20th.-26th.(IK/ETN/JRN/JKJ) and 1 at Washington on 30th.(RGL).

### Greenshank.

1 at Elwick on 13th.(ABI/BG); 3 at Cresswell on 23rd.(JKJ) and 1 at Prestwick Carr on 24th. (ERM/JAG).

### Knot.

Only record was of 20 at Hauxley on 19th.(HRS).

### Purple Sandpiper.

Only records were of 140 at St.Mary's on 23rd.(MGC) and 31 Beadnell/Howick on 24th. (JB).

### Dunlin.

Up to 105 at Cresswell (Max.on 13th.) and up to 210 at Washington (Max.on 26th.) Eggs located on Allendale Moors at 1625 feet on 26th.(LGM).

### Sanderling.

30 at Ross on 13th. (BG et al) and 70 at St.Mary's on 23rd.(MGC).

### Ruff.

a party of 14 at Monks House Pool on 13th.(JAG) and 4 at Brenkley(near Blagdon) on 20th.(MSH).

### Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Passage progressed as the month continued, being most noticeable on 20th. when a flock of 80 in Budle Bay with a further 50 in a nearby field and several W over the area during the day.(BG).

### Herring Gull.

Steady N passage off Hauxley on 4th. when 80 were counted in thirty minutes (HRS).

### Common Gull.

Passage was noted on a small scale off Hauxley on 4th. when several N. Continued movement was suggested when on 12th./13th. 300 on Newcastle Town Moor, 500 near Seahouses and a total of 700-800 counted in roadside fields on N. journey from Newcastle - Belford (BG/HRS).

### Glaucous Gull.

Between 16th.-30th. an adult and an immature note<sup>3</sup> in N.Shields/Seaton Sluice area (WAK et al). On 19th. an immature at Cresswell (JCD).

### Iceland Gull.

An adult frequented Newcastle Quayside 7th.-12th.(RGL/JAG/CR) where it has been observed at about this time during the last three/four years. Off Seaton Sluice an immature on 5th./6th.(KR/KW); another at Alnmouth on 13th.(RH) and a third at Holy Island on 22nd.(KB).

### Black-headed Gull.

A few on N passage off Hauxley on 4th.(HRS) and at the Linshiels colony in Upper Coquetdale about 4000 present on 28th.(JAG).

### Sandwich Tern.

2N off Seaton Sluice on 5th./6th.(KW); 30-40, mainly N, off Ross on 13th.(BG et al) and regular off most coastal points moving steadily N after 18th.

Black Guillemot.

1 seen off Holy Island on 20th.(KB).

Kittiwake.

Heavy N movement on 3rd. when 600/hr.counted off Seaton Sluice (PW).

Cuckoo.

First noted near Stocksfield as early as 14th.(perBL) then none until 24th. when 1 at Cresswell. By 29th./30th. they were noted at Hauxley, Chillingham and Holystone.

Barn Owl.

Noted near Whittle Dene and at Westerhope (MR/RGL).

Little Owl.

Noted near Stamfordham (EB).

Long-eared Owl.

Nest with five eggs near Greenlee Lough on 26th.(LGM).

Short-eared Owl.

Well reported. Away from the recognised breeding areas singles noted at six localities, mainly coastal, all month. 2 on Blanchland Moor on 12th.(PD) and in Border Forests five breeding sites located as well as a party of 5 hunting with Kestrels near Carter Bar on 27th.(ERM et al).

Swallow.

A very early report of 1N off Seaton Sluice on 5th.(KR/KW) then none until a single over Gosforth Park on 16th.(BG). The main arrival commenced on 18th. and during the next four days many reports involved mainly 1-2 moving steadily N throughout area. By the end of the month concentrations of up to 30 were not unusual over several waters as birds paused to feed and drink on their journey N.

House Martin.

The first was at Cramlington on 17th.(BM). Between 21st.-30th. a steady N movement with Swallows was noted as birds were seen at Monkseaton, Seaton Burn, Morpeth, Hartley, Budle Bay, Seahouses and Holy Island.

Sand Martin.

First noted on 15th. when 2 at Corbridge (MR). Between 18th.-22nd. a steady passage was apparent with Swallows with the largest flock of 22 being noted at Smales on the N.Tyne on 20th. Became increasingly common towards the end of the month.

Swift.

Only reports were of 15 over West Denton on 25th.(IK) and 1 at Gosforth on 30th. (per BL).

Kingfisher.

Noted at Haltwhistle, Wylam, Wallington and Blaydon (LGM/RGL/LJM).

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Bywell, Hamsterley Mill, Dipton, Bolam and Howick, but more unusually at Gosforth Park on 24th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Well reported from widespread localities.

Carrion Crow.

A suggestion of a light N movement at St. Mary's on 18th.(JDP). Still 18 roosting at Gosforth on 23rd.(LGM) and by 27th. several pairs incubating eggs in Langleaford area.

Jay.

Noted at Gosforth, Cresswell, Harwood Forest and Bolam.

March Tit.

Noted at Dipton, Dalton and Howick.

Willow Tit.

Noted at Washington and Prestwick Carr.

Nuthatch.

Noted at Bolam, Hamsterley Mill, Beamish, Ryton and Muggleswick.

Dipper.

Pair with fledged young at Carey Burn on 27th.(MSH).

Fieldfare.

Well reported as return passage progressed. Characteristic large gatherings : included 1000 at Forestburngate on 2nd.(ERM); 500-700 at each of Alnwick, Belford, and Whittle Dene on 20th; 40 in N.Tyne valley on 10th. and 100-150 at Holywell, Hauxley, Eals, Kibblesworth and Whitley Chapel until about 20th. Small numbers still apparent at the end of the month.

Redwing.

Heavy emigration to the E heard over Cullercoats 15th.-17th.(MSH). With exception of 200 at Dipton on 7th.(per BL), only other reports were of up to 15 at scattered locations until the last at Tynemouth on 21st.

Ring Ouzel.

Singles at Seaton Sluice, St. Mary's, Holywell, Hauxley and Alnmouth during the coastal 'fall' 18th.-20th. and another on Holy Island on 24th. Conspicuous in territory at inland haunts after 20th. and a nest found at Langleeford on 27th.

(MSH et al).

Blackbird.

Emigration noted at Slaley on 1st./2nd. when 40 left overnight and on 19th. at Tynemouth when 10 made off high to the NE. 30-40 passage birds grounded by adverse weather near Alwinton on 10th.(ERM/JAG) and 20-30 at Hauxley on 19th. and 23rd.(HRS).

Wheatear.

Not really apparent until after 10th. as small numbers returned to moorland haunts and passage birds moved through coastal districts. Adverse weather on 18th./19th. grounded many on coast and 20-30 were noted in St.Mary's -Blyth areas. By the end of the month they were plentiful in the N.Cheviots, but apparently much scarcer in Border Forests. At least 20 on Holy Island on 27th. indicated continued passage of Northern birds.

Stonechat.

Birds in probable breeding sites were noted at Ingram (2 pairs), Longframlington, Simonsides, Hexhamshire, Haltwhistle, Alnmouth-Amble (3 pairs) and Bamburgh (several pairs).

Whinchat.

First noted at St.Mary's on 19th. when 2 present (PD). On 20th. 1 at Chatton (WAK), then between 25th.-27th. noted at Holywell, Warkworth, Elsdon, Otterburn and Carter Bar.

Redstart.

2 at St.Mary's on 19th.(PD) and between 24th.-30th. 1-2 noted at Hartley, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Cresswell and inland at Holystone.

Black Redstart.

A few arrived at the coast during the 'fall' of migrants in mid month with 1 at Seaton Sluice on 16th.-19th.(EH); 1-2 at St.Mary's 18th.-20th.(JDP/PD et al) and singles at Blyth, Cresswell and Beadnell all on 19th.(CED/JKJ/WGJ). 1 on Holy Island on 21st.

Robin.

Small numbers noted on coast during the passerine fall of 18th.-19th.

Grasshopper Warbler.

Between 26th.-30th. 1-2 heard at Ponteland, Blagdon and Alnmouth.

Sedge Warbler.

Only record was of 1 at Alnmouth 27th. and 30th.(RH).

/Blackcap



Blackcap.

1 at Stocksfield on 9th.(J&RMCC); 1 at Kenton on 13th.(MRS) and singles at Wallington, Belsay and Holywell 20th.-25th. 1 in a garden at Hamsterley Mill all month (EP).

Willow Warbler.

Well reported. A steady arrival was witnessed from 18th. following the first report of 1 at Kielder on 13th.(ERM) as small numbers were grounded at the coast during adverse weather. The main arrival in breeding areas took place on 21st./22nd. and by 24th. they were 'amazingly common' at Prestwick Carr. Passage continued until the end of the month.

Chiffchaff.

Well reported though in only small numbers. 1 in sub-song at Denton on 14th. was probably the same bird that was first seen in February (BG). The first migrants were seen on Holy Island where 2 were noted on 13th.(JAG). 1-2 at Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, Hauxley during adverse weather on 18th./19th. and by 27th. small numbers had returned to breeding areas. 2 passage birds on Holy Island 23rd.-25th. (KB).

Wood Warbler.

Between 26th.-28th. 1-2 in breeding areas at Staward, Wallington and Consett (JDP/RGL/THW).

Goldcrest.

A tired migrant on Ross Links on 13th.(BG et al) and coastal falls on 19th. and 26th. involved 10-20 at each of Tynemouth, Hauxley, Blyth, Whitley Bay and Holy Island.

Pied Flycatcher.

First reported from Washington on 24th.(RGL) then another at Bolam on 27th.(JCD). No other reports.

Meadow Pipit.

Passage apparent throughout the month with flocks on Simonsides on 2nd.(ERM); 50 at Corbridge on 11th. and 70 at Whittle Dene on 17th.(MR). On 13th. a heavy coasting movement was witnessed from Ross where up to 300 per hour were passing N. (BG et al).

Tree Pipit.

2 at St. Mary's on 18th.(JDP) and 2 at Bolam on 27th.(JCD).

Water Pipit.

1 in company of Wheatears at St. Mary's on 18th.(KR).

Pied Wagtail.

Roost of 100 at Blaydon on 12th.(LJM) and a few moving N with Pipits at Ross on 13th.(BG et al). 20, probable passage birds, feeding in ploughed fields with finches at Whickham on 30th.(LJM).

White Wagtail.

15 at Blaydon on 24th.(per BL) and 1-2 at Colt Crag, Holywell, S.Linton, Cresswell, Alnmouth and Holy Island, especially after 20th.

Yellow Wagtail.

First noted on 19th./20th. when 4 at Holywell (KW et al) and 2 at Birtley (RH). On 23rd. 1-3 at Tunstall and Barmston and between 24th.-30th. many reports of 1-4, mainly in coastal districts, with 15 at Blaydon where a small roost had formed with Pied Wagtails on 24th.

Waxwing.

Return passage continued as many reports were received from throughout the area. The largest flock was of 50 at Morpeth on 20th.(per BL), with 30 at Winlaton on 6th. and 17 at Whittle Dene on 19th.(MR). Most records involved parties of up to 10 and birds were not uncommon in urban areas. A few still present at the end of the month when 1 had fallen prey to a Sparrowhawk at Holystone on 30th.

Great Grey Shrike.

1 at Kielder on 1st.(ERM) and 1 at Hauxley on 6th.(HRS). Between 16th.-20th. singles at Hartley (EH/KW), Warenford (RW) and Blyth (JEF).

### Hawfinch.

A most unusual sighting of 3 at St. Mary's Island on 19th. during the 'fall' of passerines in adverse weather conditions. All were apparently very tired. During the same period singles were in unusual locations: at Brenkley on 14th.(ERM) and at Linhope on 20th.(JAG).

### Greenfinch.

A roost of 100 at Ponteland on 5th.(AKJ).

### Siskin.

50 at Thrunton on 11th.(JAG/WAJ).

### Linnet.

110N over Alnmouth on 18th.(RH) and 70-80 on Holy Island on 21st.(KB). 80S over Alnmouth on 30th.(EC).

### Lesser Redpoll.

50 at Thrunton on 11th.(JAG/WGJ). and 50 at Ilderton on 20th.(JAG). 20 at Tunstall on 23rd.(THW).

### Crossbill.

Small numbers at Slaley, Allendale and Border Forests during month.

### Chaffinch.

Flock of 60 at Ilderton on 20th.(JAG).

### Brambling.

Several reports of up to 12 at locations such as Corbridge, Ilderton, Kielder, Holywell and Morpeth until 23rd.

### Reed Bunting.

Up to 400 roosting at Blaydon during month (LJM) was particularly unusual for the time of year.

### Snow Bunting.

Singles at Seaton Sluice on 6th.(KW) and at Amble on 10th.(LGM).

### Tree Sparrow.

100 at Kibblesworth on 10th. and 60 at Holywell on 20th.(LJM/MSH).

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	J.C.Day	A.James	L.J.Milton	D.L.Sowerbutts
A.H.Banks	P.Davidson	W.G.Johnson	E.R.Meek	D.L.Schofield
A.Blackett	C.E.Douglas	J.K.Jefferey	M.& J. Nattrass	M.R.Smith
J.S.Booth	C.Enderby	I.Kerr	E.T.& J.R.Norris	A.Temple
J.Bacon	J.E.Fergusson	W.A.Kelly	R.Norman	D.M.Turner
K.Barratt	B.Galloway	R.G.Lewis	J.Park	K.Walton
E.Bagshaw	J.A.Ginnever	P.Little	J.D.Parrack	R.Walton
E.Culwick	M.Henry	B.Martin	E.Priestley	T.H.Wall
M.G.Chadwick	R.Higson	L.G.MacFarlane	T.R.Palmer	M.Wishart
D.B.Charlton	M.S.Hodgson	J.D.McElwee	M.Richardson	P.Weighill
R.N.Coates	E.Hawdon	J.& R.McCutcheon	K.Robson	Hauxley R.S.
W.S.Craster	A.K.Ironside	B.Mecrow	C.Robson	Washington W.R.

All May records to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Court, Chapel Park, Westerhope, Newcastle/Tyne 5. by 12th. June, please. Telephone number is still Lemington 670216.

### Record Cards.

One species to one card, please - some members are entering several species on the one card. For a supply of cards, please send a S.A.E. to Bryan Galloway.

March Bulletin Erratum. Many of you will have noticed that this was dated '1974' in error. Please alter the date on your copy to '1975'.

April Bulletin. This is rather later than usual because of the work being done to complete the Annual County Bird Report.

'Birds in Northumbria 1974' is now virtually ready for the printers. An enormous volume of records has been sifted by the editors and this edition promises to be the most complete yet published.

Your committee has been working behind the scenes to ensure publication in a time of very difficult economic conditions. Production costs have risen yet again, but if all copies are sold, and this will depend on members' efforts, we will break even again.

Finances. A Ways and Means sub-committee has been formed to investigate the possibility of raising money to supplement our subscription income. Any suggestions or ideas will be welcomed from members who should contact the secretary.

Seaton Sluice Watchtower. Interesting reports continue to flow in from the Sluice. The roof of the tower has now been repaired; a new staircase and ceiling have been installed and paint for the interior has been donated. New members who would like to learn about seabird identification should visit the tower which usually has some of our experts in residence, especially over the weekends. Keys are available at 25p. plus postage from Keith Dures, 5 Bath Terrace, Tynemouth.

STOP PRESS

An application to North Tyneside Leisure and Amenities Committee for financial aid in the form of a guarantee has been approved. This, however, does in no way absolve us from making every effort to pay our own way.



## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

May 1975

### SUMMARY

A cold and wet month that was highlighted by 2 periods.

Between 8th.-11th a depression moved rapidly W. to E. across Britain bringing low cloud, rain and E to N.E winds. The result was the grounding of many continental migrants, especially Willow Warblers, Wheatears and Whinchats but inevitably including rarities such as Pine Grosbeak, Bluethroats, Wrynecks, Ortolan Bunting, Grey Headed Wagtails and Icterine Warbler. The more unusual passerines continued to appear, the month progressed as further Bluethroats and Red Backed Shrikes and a Nightingale appeared whilst a Crane was seen on 16th.

Garganey were very much a feature of the month and some interesting wader observations were made but the heavy rain of mid month adversely affected breeding Black Headed Gulls and Coots.

The second interesting period occurred from about 22nd until the month's end when strong NNE winds and low cloud at the coast resulted in some heavy movements of seabirds close to the shore. Manx Shearwaters, Fulmars, Gannets, Kittiwakes and Auks were all seen in large numbers and a large scale passage of Sandwich Terns was also witnessed.

Some interesting observations were made on Common Terns migrating overland but as the month closed there were still many summer visitors that were in too few numbers.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Great Northern Diver.

2 in breeding plumage off Chevington Burn on 17th.(BG).

#### Red Throated Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice 1N. on 3rd and 7N. and 1S. on 5 dates between 23rd-31st (KW)  
Elsewhere 3N.off Holy Island on 11th(ERM) and 2 off Druridge on 17th(BG).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

Noted at Derwent,, Broomlee, Sweethope, Gosforth, Greenlee, Washington and Brasside.  
Only at Gosforth, however, have they been noted to hatch young.

#### Slavonian Grebe.

1 at Washington between 1st-15th(EH/THW et al).

#### Little Grebe.

Noted at Washington, Killingworth, Wallsend Swallow and Newton Pool.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Noted moving N. on several dates, especially between 21st-31st, when off Seaton Sluice 893 were counted with 743 on 24th/25th. Also noted in smaller numbers off Coquet Island, Hauxley, Dunstanburgh and St.Marys.

#### Fulmar.

Moving N. with Shearwaters on many dates especially on 8th, 14th, 22nd-25th with a peak of 120/hr on 24th. Most counts were made from Coquet Island(RG) and Seaton Sluice(KW et.al). 1 was well inland flying E. over Whickhope in N.Tyne valley on 25th(ERM).

#### Gannet.

Moving N. on several dates, but especially conspicuous off Seaton Sluice on 24th/25th when 552 counted and again on 31st when 167 were noted(KW et.al).

#### Cormorant.

At least 170 on Marsden Rock on 11th(THW) and inland at Wallsend Swallow singles present on 17th and 23rd(AC).

#### Heron.

Residing in parties of up to 5 alongside waters in S.E.Northumberland throughout the month.e.g. at Cresswell, Holywell, Wallsend, Killingworth and Gosforth.

White Pelican.

Still at Warkworth on 7th(MW).

Flamingo.

Still 1 on Fenham Flats on 13th(MW) and on 17th 3 flew in from the E. at Seahouses (JDM).

Mallard.

10 pairs nesting at Wallsend Swallow(AC).

Garganey.

Well reported. Between 9th-11th 2 at Washington(AT/THW), 1 at Cresswell(BG) and 4 on Holy Island(JAG/ERM et.al). Between 13th-15th still 4 on Holy Island, with 3 remaining on 18th(MW/BL/RW), and 2 at Washington Refuge(WWR). From 16th-18th 2-4 near Earsdon, 3 at Wallsend Swallow(AC/MN/JEF/MSH) and 1 in Washington area. On 20th 1 at Newton Pool(JDM) and 4 at Holywell where 4 were still present on 31st (MGC).

Gadwall.

A pair at Gosforth 1st-23rd(JEF/AC/AJm et.al) 2 at Holywell on 5th(MN) and 2 on Holy Island on 11th(ERM et.al).

Wigeon.

1 at Cresswell on 3rd(ERM/JAG), 2N off Seaton Sluice on 24th(KW) and 3 near Holywell on 30th(WAK).

Shoveler.

Up to 6 at Holy Island, Seaton Burn, Gosforth Park, Wallsend Swallow, Washington, Newton, Broomlee and Grindon. Also noted as singles N. off Hauxley(18th) and at Prestwick Carr, Cresswell and Brasside.

Scaup.

An unusual number of reports for the time of year. At Cresswell 1-2 3rd-18th, at Holywell 1-3 most of month, a drake at Holy Island on 17th, 6N. off Hauxley on 3rd, 3N. off Coquet on 18th and off Seaton Sluice 1N. on 14th and 2N. on 31st.

Tufted Duck.

Largest counts were 20-30 at Northumbrian Loughs, Whittle Dene and Radcliffe (near Amble) between 10th-24th. Smaller numbers at Seaton Burn, Gosforth, Wallsend and more surprisingly off Coquet Island where 1 on 4th, 2 on 6th, 10 on 17th and 2 on 20th. No definite reports of breeding.

Pochard.

Only record was of 2 at Radcliffe on 17th(HRS).

Ruddy Duck.

Noted at Gosforth Park all month.

Goldeneye.

More reports than is usual for the time of year. On 3rd and 5th singles off Seaton Sluice and at Holywell respectively. On 10th 3 at Broomlee and 3N. off Hauxley. On 21st 1 at Seahouses and between 26th-30th singles at Washington and at Cresswell (only on 30th).

Long Tailed Duck.

2N. off Hauxley on 3rd(HRS). A pair off Holy Island on 13th and 18th(BU et.al). 2N. off Seaton Sluice on 25th(KW).

Velvet Scoter.

3N. off St.Marys on 16th(JDP).

Common Scoter.

Small numbers moving offshore on many dates with peaks of 38 off Coquet on 13th(RG) and 33 off Seaton Sluice on 31st(KW).

Red Breasted Merganser.

Off Seaton Sluice/St.Marys 1N. on 3rd, and 13N and 1S between 20th-26th. 4 off Holy Island on 10th and 3 off Coquet on 20th.

Goosander.

With the exception of 4N. off Holy Island on 11th(BL) all reports were of bird in breeding areas at Derwent, Staward and Border Forests. 2 nests in the Border Forests were on open crags.

Shelduck.

Pair in Washington area all month. Off Seaton Sluice 1N. on 3rd, 7S. on 25th and 1 1N. on 31st. Still 80 in Budle Bay on 18th(BU).

Grey Lag Goose.

1 on Holy Island on 11th(ERM) and 5 near Earsdon 17th/18th(JEF/AC/WAK/MSH).

Mute Swan.

40 at Holy Island on 17th(BL).

Whooper Swan.

A late individual at Grindon on 3rd/4th(LGM/KW).

Buzzard.

Singles at Dipton an 1st, Devil's Water on 19th and Breamish Valley on 25th(CJ/MSH).

Sparrowhawk.

Away from known breeding haunts singles at Lady Park, Gatehead on 11th(EC/RH) and at Hauxley on 15th(HRS).

Marsh Harrier.

A female at Holywell on 10th(JEF/WAK).

Osprey.

One being mobbed by a Kestrel at Hulne Park on 21st(JEF).

Merlin.

At least 1 pair with eggs at a breeding site on 4th. One at Hauxley on 9th was probably on passage(HRS).

Kestrel.

At least 1 pair incubating eggs on 3rd.

Red Legged Partridge.

Again noted in the Stannington area(WAK).

Common Crane.

1 flew S. low over Monkseaton on 16th(JAG).

Coot.

30-40 at each of Grindon and Seaton Burn during month with young at the latter by 16th(AJm). Heavy rain in mid-month washed out all of the nests at Grindon(LGM).

Oystercatcher.

Continued passage was reflected in the numbers roosting on Coquet Island where 129 on 7th increased to a peak of 190 on 11th, then declining to 52 by 31st(BG). Single passage birds inland at Derwent, Washington and Grindon until mid month.

Grey Plover.

Still c.50 at Lindisfarne Reserve on 11th(MW).

Golden Plover.

Still 59 on Holy Island on 10th(JAG).

Turnstone.

100 at Seahouses on 9th(MW) and 108 at St.Marys on 14th(JDP)



Whimbrel.

Well reported especially moving N. over coastal areas until about mid month. Off Coquet Island 20N. between 3rd-15th(RG) and 25N. over Holy Island on 11th(JAG/ERM et.al). Smaller numbers noted at other coastal locations with a suggestion of a peak between 10th-15th. Further inland 2N. over Dinnington on 15th(ERM), 1W. over Greenlee on 19th(LGM) and 1 at Seaton Burn on 22nd(JAG).

Black Tailed Godwit.

1 at Washington 1st-16th(AT). On 10th singles at Holy Island(BL), St Marys(WAK) and Holywell(MN). On 17th 2 at Holy Island(BL), 2 at Newton(WSC) and on 18th 1 at Monks House Pool(JDM).

Bar Tailed Godwit.

Between 10th-18th, 2N. off Hauxley and 2 at Cresswell(HRS/BG).

Green Sandpiper.

1 at Gosforth on 15th(LGM).

Wood Sandpiper.

Between 9th-11th 1 at Tynemouth(MSH), 1 at Blyth(JEF) and 1-3 on Holy Island (ERM et.al). Still 2 on Holy Island on 16th(RW).

Common Sandpiper.

Small numbers in coastal areas as passage progressed until about mid month.

Spotted Redshank.

1 at Cresswell on 5th(RW) and singles at Washington 9th-11th and on 23rd(AT/THW).

Greenshank.

Only report was of 1 at Washington 26th-30th(AT/THW).

Purple Sandpiper.

Some interesting gatherings on Coquet Island as passage progressed. 200-236 until 15th decreased to 97 by 20th and to 24 by 30th(RG), 120 on Holy Island on 10th(BL) and 25 at Seahouses on 9th(MW).

Little Stint.

2 at Washington 30th-31st(AT/THW).

Dunlin.

Still large numbers on passage until about mid month with up to 60 on Coquet and at Cresswell and up to 250 at Washington where 30 were still present on 30th.

Sanderling.

100 on Holy Island on 11th(LGM) decreasing to 10 by 13th(MW). Elsewhere 10 at Hauxley on 8th, 21 on Coquet Island on 11th and 12 at Cresswell on 17th.

Ruff.

1 at Monk's House on 4th(IK), 1 at E.Boldon on 11th(THW), 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 16th(MGC) and 1 at Washington on 22nd/23rd(AT).

Arctic Skua.

Between 22nd-25th 6N. off Seaton Sluice(KW et.al), 4N. off St.Marys(JDP) and 2N. off Coquet Island(RG).

Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice/St.Marys 2N. on 10th(EH et.al), 2N. on 14th(JDP) and 14N. between 24th-31st(KW et.al). Off Coquet singles N. on 8th and 26th(RG).

Greater Black Backed Gull.

Roost of up to 120, mainly immatures, on Coquet during month(RG).

Common Gull.

Continued passage indicated by roost of 140 off Coquet on 3rd but no more than 4 thereafter(RG).

Glaucous Gull.

1-2 in North Shields/Earsdon/Seaton Sluice area until 26th(MGC/MN/MSH/KW). 1 in Hauxley/Coquet area until at least 22nd(HRS/RG). 1 Holy Island on 10th(JAG). All were immatures.

Iceland Gull.

An immature at Seahouses on 17th(JAG).

Little Gull.

One N. off Seaton Sluice on 22nd(KW) and an adult at Seaton Burn on 28th(BG).

Black Headed Gull.

Noted nesting at Monks House Pool - a new locality? Many of the moorland colonies suffered from the torrential rain of mid month and many nests were destroyed by flooding, especially at Grindon.

Kittiwake.

Steady N. passage off Hauxley on 3rd but heavier N. movements occurred between 21st-31st when up to 1000/hr (peaks on 23rd/24th) were noted off Seaton Sluice/St.Marys(KW/KR et.al). On Coquet Island the roost of non breeding birds increased from 80 on 11th to 1000 after 19th(RG).

Common Tern.

2N. Seaton Sluice on 3rd(KW) then slowly increasing offshore until 150 at Hauxley by 25th(HRS et.al). Some interesting inland observations included up to 4 on the Wear at Washington 9th-23rd(AT), 1N. during heavy rain at Cowgate on 14th, 1 at Killingworth on 15th(BG/JMcE) and between 28th-20th 3E. over Wark Forest, 22N. low over heather at Kielder(ERM/BL) and singles at Seaton Burn and Washington(BG/THW).

Arctic Tern.

Only report was of 1N.Seaton Sluice on 3rd(KW).

Roseate Tern.

4 at Embleton on 31st(JSB).

Little Tern.

Off Seaton Sluice singles N. on 3rd and 30th(KW) with up to 9 in Holy Island area after 10th(JAG/ERM et.al).

Sandwich Tern.

A heavy N. movement was recorded off Seaton Sluice between 22nd-31st(KW et.al).

Auk (sp.).

Heavy N. passage off Seaton Sluice involved almost 5000 on 24th/25th, 617 on 26th and 599 on 31st(KW/KR et.al).

Stock Dove.

2, presumable passage birds, on Holy Island on 11th(ERM et.al).

Cuckoo.

Widespread reports though not apparently in very large numbers.

Barn Owl.

A nest with 4 young in Wark Forest on 4th contained 20 Short tailed voles, 10 Shrews and a wood mouse.(ERM/JAG).

Little Owl.

Breeding at Kirkley Hall and near Heddou on the Wall. Also a pair near Ponteland.

Tawny Owl.

A nest found in Kielder Forest was on the ground in a Dutch Barn(ERM/JAG/BL).

Long Eared Owl.

Of 3 nests found in Ponteland area only 1 successfully hatched young(ERM).

### Short Eared Owl.

Noted in 6 localities in the Border Forests and also in Hexhamshire, Plennmeller Common, Slaggyford, Allenheads and Sinderhope. Nearer the coast singles on Holy Island on 11th and in Wallsend Swallow area most of month.

### Swift.

A few reports during the first few days but a return to the colonies was not apparent until after 13th. By 28th 100 were feeding near Seaton Burn and on 31st 70 were at Holywell.

### Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Prestwick Carr, Rothley, Linhope, Belsay, Holystone.

### Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Happy Valley, Gosforth and Holystone.

### Wryneck.

1 at Matfen 5th-8th(RW) whilst during a period of E. winds, cloud and rain between 8th-11th singles were on Coquet and Holy Islands with 5 in the Hauxley area(HRS/RG/ERM et.al). On 14th 3 were on Holy Island(per BL).

### Swallow.

50 at Holywell on 7th(MN) indicated passage whilst on 10th/11th a steady N.movement was witnessed at Hauxley and Cresswell(HRS/BG). On 28th at least 150 were at Seaton Burn with several roosting in the reeds(BG).

### House Martin.

Steady build up in numbers as the month progressed with heavy passage suggested during the last few days when 200-300 at Holywell and smaller numbers at Seaton Burn and further inland at Beltingham.

### Sand Martin.

Largest feeding flocks reported were in Seaton Burn area with 45 on 14th and 40 on 28th(BG/ERM)

### Raven.

6 near Alston on 3rd(LGM).

### Carrion Crow.

Flock of 26 at Greenlee on 10th was unusual for the time of year(LGM).

### Magpie.

A rare bird in Border Forests but found at 2 localities during late May(ERM).

### Jay.

Continues to increase rapidly in Border Forests(ERM).

### Nuthatch.

Pair in Hamsterley Mill area all month with a young bird visiting a 'fat basket' on 31st(EP). A pair breeding in a nest box at Gallowhill(per BL).

### Fieldfare.

20 near Wooler on 4th(EP) and 15 on Holy Island on 10th(JAG). Still 1 on Coquet Island on 14th(RG) and 1 on Holy Island on 18th(BU). Late in the month 1 singing in the Cheviots(JAG) and a pair in the N.Tyne valley(ERM).

### Redwing.

Late individuals on Coquet on 9th(RG) and at Whitley Bay on 18th (JEF).

### Ring Ousel.

Noted at the coast during the period 8th-15th (especially 10th/11th) when up to 20 on Holy Island (including a flock of 11), 5 in Hauxley area, and 1-2 at Cresswell, Coquet, Tynemouth and Gateshead. Notably absent from many inland breeding sites.



Wheatear.

Most plentiful on Holy Island during the 'fall' of 8th-11th when about 200 were estimated. Elsewhere 20 on Coquet, 15 at Hauxley and St. Marys, and 10 at Cresswell. Up to 10 at many other points on the coast. Some of the Holy Island birds were probably of the Greenland Race as was 1 at Seaton Sluice on 20th.

Stonechat.

Away from the coast 6 pairs located on Kielderhead Moor(ERM) with others at Edmondbyers(ALG) and Ingram(JAG).

Whinchat.

Noted in Langleeford Valley on 4th(EP) but not really plentiful until after the 'coastal fall' of 9th-11th when 75 were on Holy Island(JAG) and 40 were in Hauxley area(HRS).

Redstart.

Over 50 on Holy Island during the 'fall' of 9th-10th(JAG) with up to 7 at other points on the coast. Still singles on Coquet, at Hauxley and at Blyth 15th-17th. Noted at several different inland breeding sites on 4th but not really plentiful even at the end of the month.

Black Redstart.

Between 9th-11th 4 on Holy Island(ERM et.al) and 1 at Whitley Bay(JEF).

Nightingale.

1 on Inner Farne on 17th(per ERM).

Bluethroat.

During the 'fall' of 9th-11th 6 were on Holy Island(ERM et.al) and another was at Hauxley(HRS). On 17th 1 was at Cresswell (ID) and on 29th 1 was on Coquet Island (RG). The majority were males of the Red Spotted form.

Robin.

During the 'fall' of 9th-11th, 20-30 were on Holy Island(ERM) and up to 10 were at Tynemouth, Hauxley, Coquet, Blyth and Whitley Bay(HRS/MSH/RG). All were distinctly 'grey' birds suggesting a continental origin.

Grasshopper Warbler.

Noted at 9 different localities as far apart as Alnmouth, Haltwhistle, Seahouses, Riding Mill and Kielder Forest. 1 on Holy Island on 11th may have been part of the 'fall' of continental migrants.

Reed Warbler.

1 singing at Gosforth Park on 11th and 15th(BG/LGM) and 1 at Seaton Burn on 22nd (JAG).

Sedge Warbler.

Not really conspicuous until mid month but numbers well down below normal, especially at Gosforth Park.

Icterine Warbler.

A bird almost certainly of this species on Holy Island on 10th(JAG).

Blackcap.

Well reported from a total of 15 different localities although some sightings were of birds involved in fall of 9th-11th when 1-3 were on Holy Island, Hauxley, Coquet and Tynemouth. Reports suggest that breeding numbers are normal (eg. in Heddon and Hexham areas).

Garden Warbler.

Only reports were of several singing at Acomb on 16th, Kirkley Hall on 18th and 1 on Coquet Island on 29th.

Whitethroat.

Observations suggest that the numbers of breeding birds may at last be approaching normal all over the area with the main arrival occurring about mid month.

Lesser Whitethroat.

Well reported after the first at Washington on 2nd. 1-2 were in probable breeding areas in Holywell Dene, Brasside, Cresswell, Wallsend, South Linton, Milbourne and Rothbury. During the 'fall' of 9th-11th, 1-3 were on Holy Island and at Hauxley with 1 still at the former on 17th/18th.

Willow Warbler.

During the 'fall' of continental migrants on 9th-11th at least 200 were on Holy Island with 35 at Hauxley and 12 on Coquet Island. Up to 7 were noted on Coquet between 13th-20th(RG/HRS/JAG et.al).

Chiffchaff.

4 at Hauxley during the 'fall' of 9th-11th(HRS). Noted in song at Beamish, Belsay and Derwent.

Wood Warbler.

Noted in song at Dipton, Rothbury, Gosforth Park, Tunstall and Holystone, being particularly conspicuous in the Tunstall area.

Goldcrest.

Single late passage bird on Coquet on 8th(RG).

Firecrest.

1 on Coquet Island on 17th/18th of April(RG).

Spotted Flycatcher.

Only a few reports. 1 at Hauxley on 10th(HRS), 1 at Gosforth Park on 11th(RGL/EH) and another in Gosforth on 14th(BH). 1 at Kielder on 17th(EH) and 1 at Milbourne on 20th(ERM). Also noted at Heddon(JSB) and N.Tyne Valley(ERM).

Pied Flycatcher.

7 singing males at Dipton on 3rd(BL) and 3 in Derwent Valley on 5th(THW). 1 at Harbottle on 11th(WAK). During the 'fall' of continental migrants of 8th-11th, 25 on Holy Island(JAG), 5 at Hauxley(HRS) and 1-3 at Blyth, Tynemouth and North Shields. Still 1 on Holy Island on 13th(MW) and 2 at Earsdon on 15th(JEF).

Tree Pipit.

In breeding territory 3 at Dipton on 3rd, 1 at Tarsset on 4th and 1 at Gosforth on 11th(BL/ERM/AC). At the coast 50 on Holy Island on 10th(JAG) with 1-2 at Coquet, Hauxley, Druridge, Newton and Chevington Burn between 9th-17th.

White Wagtail.

Between 3rd -11th singles at Cresswell, Holywell, Holy Island and St.Marys.

Yellow Wagtail.

Largest concentration was 30 at Cresswell on 3rd(ERM). Reports suggest that numbers in breeding areas are well below normal.

Blue Headed Wagtail.

1 at Holywell on 20th(JEF/WAK).

Grey Headed Wagtail.

On 10th 2 on Holy Island(JAG/BL) and on 11th 1 made a brief stop at Cresswell Pond before continuing N.(BG).

Waxwing.

2 at West Woodburn on 4th(NFL), 2 at Newcastle on 6th(MGC) and 1 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS).

Red Backed Shrike.

Single Males at Tynemouth on 15th(MN), Byrness (Redesdale) on 11th(WAK) and on Coquet Island on 29th(RG). Also on Coquet a female was present 26th-30th(RG).

Hawfinch.

1-4 at Washington Refuge 4th-16th(WWR). 2 at Hartford on 4th(RB), and 1-2 at Ladypark, Gateshead 11th-18th(RH).

### Siskin.

Noted in breeding territory at Tunstall Reservoir, Slaley, Allendale and Border Forests(ERM/BG/THW).

### Linnet.

Steady N. movement over sea and dunes at Cresswell on 11th(BG).

### Pine Grosbeak.

A male on Holy Island on 11th/12th was very tame and afforded many observers with very close views(R.Crabb, R.Adams, R.Atkinson. L.G.MacFarlane, E.R.Meek, B.Little et.al).

### Crossbill.

Noted at Slaley, Border Forests and Rothbury. Parties included young of the year.

### Brambling.

1 on Coquet on 8th(RG) and 2 on Holy Island on 10th/11th(BL/ERM).

### Ortolan Bunting.

On Holy Island a male and female on 11th and 2 males an 12th(BL/ERM et.al).

### Lapland Bunting.

1 on Holy Island on 11th(LGM/BL).

### Reed Bunting.

Very conspicuous during 'fall' of continental migrants of 8th-11th with 50 on Holy Island(ERM), 40 in Hauxley area(HRS), many at Cresswell(BG) and smaller numbers at Coquet, Blyth and Tynemouth.

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	B.Galloway	I.Kerr	K.Robson
R R.Binks	R.Grey	B.Little	D.L.Sowerbutts
W.Brady	A.L.Gibson	R.G.Lewis	M.R.&E.L.Smith
J.S.Booth	R.Gomes	N.F.Lake	A.Temple
M.G.Chadwick	J.A.Ginnever	E.R.Meek	B.Unwin
F.Colley	E.Hawdon	L.G.Macfarlane	K.Walton
M.N.Coates	B.Hunter	J.D.Magee	R.Walton
A.Curry	R.Higson	J.D.McElwee	T.H.Wall
W.S.Craster	C.Jewitt	M.Nattrass	M.Wray
E.Culwick	A.James	E.Priestley	P.Weighill
I.Davidson	W.G.Johnson	J.D.Parrack	Hauxley R.S.
J.E.Fergusson	W.A.Kelly	J.Park	Washington W.R.

### June Records/Record Cards.

All June reports to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Court, Newcastle/Tyne NE5 1RX by 15th July please. S.A.E. for record cards please.

### CLUB NEWS & NOTES

#### Change of Treasurer.

After years of sterling service, Brian Martin regrets that he has to relinquish the post of treasurer. This is due to multiplying domestic responsibilities. We thank Brian and Ros. for all the work they have done, particularly in connection with the bulletin, and wish them well with their current project.

John Day has offered to take over as treasurer, so that in future, members are asked to address all moneys to him.

JOHN C. DAY, 2 STATION COTTAGES, STANNINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND. Tel:Stan.445

#### Field Surveys.

Geoff.Macfarlane reports that the Rookery Survey has produced c.24000 nests within the county so far. Any census forms still outstanding should be returned to him as soon as possible.



### Field Surveys cont.

Before the network of observers is 'dismantled', we have been asked by the University of Aberdeen if we are willing to assist them with a continuing survey of the breeding success of the Rook, with a record of its seasonal distribution in summer, autumn and winter.

This would only involve observers travelling a set route of 20-30 miles, and counting the birds en route. This would be repeated during each of the three seasons. Volunteers should apply to Geoff. for fuller information and for the standard forms on which the returns are to be made.

### Wildfowl Counts.

The Wildfowl Trust's counts within Northumberland have been hitherto coordinated by Mike Bell. For domestic reasons (vide notes on treasurer) he is unable to continue. The club in the shape of Geoff. Macfarlane has now taken over the responsibility for this work. Again, any members who are interested should obtain details from Geoff.

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

K. Robson	I. Kemp	B. Galloway	C. M. Macfarlane
D. E. Sowerbutts	S. H. H. H.	R. Grey	R. R. Binks
M. R. E. L. Smith	R. G. Lewis	A. L. Gibbons	W. Gray
A. Temple	N. F. Lake	R. Jones	J. R. G. G. G.
B. D. D.	E. R. Mack	J. A. G. G. G.	M. C. G. G. G.
K. D. D.	L. G. Macfarlane	R. D. D.	R. G. G. G.
R. D. D.	J. G. G. G.	B. D. D.	M. H. G. G.
T. H. Wall	J. D. D. D.	R. D. D.	A. D. D.
M. W. W.	M. D. D. D.	R. D. D.	W. D. D. D.
R. W. D. D.	R. D. D. D.	R. D. D.	E. D. D. D.
H. D. D. D.	J. D. D. D.	R. D. D.	I. D. D. D.
W. D. D. D.	J. D. D. D.	R. D. D.	J. T. D. D. D.

### CLUB NEWS & NOTES

#### Change of Treasurer.

After years of sterling service, Brian Martin reports that he has to relinquish the post of treasurer. This is due to multiplying domestic responsibilities. We thank Brian and Ros. for all the work they have done, particularly in connection with the Bulletin, and wish them well with their new project.

John Day has offered to take over as treasurer, so that in future, members are asked to address all money to him.

JANE C. DAY, 2 STATION COTTAGES, STANNINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND. TEL: 314443

#### Field Surveys

Geoff. Macfarlane reports that the Rookery Survey has reached c. 2400 nests within the county so far. Any census forms still outstanding should be returned to him as soon as possible.

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

June 1975

### SUMMARY

Perhaps the most significant feature of the month was the weather. Blizzards and N. gales during the first few days confused some late migrants, especially Swallows, but a period of about three weeks of anticyclonic weather immediately after the wintry conditions probably resulted in high breeding success in some ground nesting birds, especially Oystercatchers and Common Sandpipers.

Throughout the month seabird movements were a feature and involved mainly Manx Shearwaters, Gannets and Common Scoter, especially on 28th/29th when the first Curlew were observed moving offshore with an increase in the number of Arctic Skuas.

Again, valuable information was collected on the breeding status of some birds of prey, especially Merlin, and nest box studies of breeding Pied Flycatchers continued.

Unusuals for the month included Sooty Shearwater, Goldeneye, Brent Goose, 2 Ospreys, Purple Gallinule, Jack Snipe, Golden Oriole, Hooded Crow, Redwing and Red-backed Shrike.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Black-throated Diver.

1N off Seaton Sluice on 22nd(KW).

#### Red-throated Diver.

On five dates between 1st-28th a total of 8N off Seaton Sluice(KW).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

2-3 at Whittle Dene all month(JSB et al.), probably 2 pairs at Brasside(DLS) and single pairs at Catcleugh, Colt Crag and Sweethope. A single bird at Washington 1st-8th. Only the Catcleugh birds were seen accompanying young(3).

#### Little Grebe.

Noted at Holywell, Washington, Wallsend, Killingworth and Newton Pool.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Steady N passage recorded off Seaton Sluice on many dates, especially after 10th with a total of 1435 counted on seventeen days(only 42S). Peaks were noted on 15th (302) and 28th(256) with 100-150 on 1st, 22nd and 26th(KW/RGL et al.).

#### Sooty Shearwater.

An early record of 1N on 28th(KW) during a heavy passage of Manx.

#### Fulmar.

3 inland records between 3rd-8th when singles were at Burnhope Reservoir, over Washington and over Hulne Park.

#### Gannet.

Moving N on several dates, being most noticeable on 28th/29th when 449 counted off Seaton Sluice(KW) with 50 in one hour off Beadnell(ID).

#### Cormorant.

At least 42 nests (probably 50) on Marsden Rock(THW). 1 at Washington Refuge all month(WWR).

#### Mallard.

Largest flock was of 23 at Washington on 18th(PW). Up to 3 off Seaton Sluice and Coquet Island on several dates(KW/RG).

#### Teal.

Noted in breeding areas at Smiddyshaw, Wolsingham and Upper Coquetdale. Between 1st-6th up to 6 off Seaton Sluice and Coquet Island.

Garganey.

Between 6th-9th 3 males and at least 1 female near Holywell. A pair at Holy Island on 8th(JEF/WAK).

Wigeon.

An unusual number of records. Between 1st-24th single drakes at both Cresswell and Gosforth with a pair at Cresswell on 1st(AC/ERM/LGM). Off Seaton Sluice singles N on 22nd and 28th(KW) and 6 off Coquet Island on 30th(RG).

Shoveler.

Noted at Gosforth(up to 5), Seaton Burn(2), Dinnington(1), near Earsdon(2), Grindon(2), Greenlee(2) and Brasside(1). More unusual was the occurrence of 2 off Coquet Island on 24th(RG).

Scaup.

A drake at Cresswell on 3rd(LGM) and it or another at Holywell between 3rd-30th (JEF). Off Seaton Sluice 5N on 22nd with 4N on each of 28th and 29th(KW).

Tufted Duck.

28 at Holywell on 10th(CMA) and by 28th an increase to 33 at Whittle Dene(JSB). 3 off Coquet Island on 22nd(RG). Pair with 4 young at Linshiels on 15th(ERM/JAG). Birds also noted at Gosforth, Grindon, Killingworth, Capheaton and Seaton Burn.

Pochard.

Noted only at Hartburn when 3 were seen on 28th(CMA).

Ruddy Duck.

The 'area commuter' was noted at Holywell on several occasions between 3rd-30th (JEF).

Goldeneye.

Late records of 2 at Whittle Dene on 1st(LGM) and 1 at Washington 1st-4th(AT).

Velvet Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice singles N on 1st, 22nd and 28th with 6N on 24th(KW).

Common Scoter.

Steady N passage all month with total of 843N(only 85S) on six dates with peaks of 211 on 21st and 238 on 28th(KW/RGL et al.). Off Coquet Island 145N on 22nd(RG).

Red-breasted Merganser.

Off Seaton Sluice 3N on 21st, 14N on 22nd, 12N on 28th and 3N on 29th(KW).

Goosander.

The only report of successful breeding was of a brood of 10 young at Bardon Mill on 28th(BH). 6 at Whitfield Lough on 29th(LGM) and single females at Burnhope and Wolsingham early in the month.

Shelduck.

After 20th juveniles noted at Boulmer(25), Coquet Estuary(12) and Cresswell(11). 1-4 off Coquet Island after 15th and 1S off Seaton Sluice on 24th.

Brent Goose.

A very late bird on the sea and later flying S near Berwick on 7th(MRS/ELS).

Canada Goose.

36-54 at Sweetthope(LGM/CMA) most of month and 1 at Washington 4th-9th(WWR). Migrating flocks involved 12NW over Heddon on 5th(JSB), 8 at Cresswell on 3rd(LGM) and 10, almost certainly this species, at Whitfield Lough on 29th(per LGM).

Mute Swan.

20 at Amble on 1st(ERM) and 75 at Berwick on 7th(MRS/ELS). Young noted at Radcliffe (7) and Bolam(2).

Common Buzzard.

1 at Slaley on 6th, 1 found dying at Alnmouth on 20th(per BL) and 1 in Rothbury area on 22nd and 25th(WAK/JEF)



Sparrowhawk.

Well reported from widespread locations including 1 at Hauxley, on the coast, on 12th.

Osprey.

1N over Holywell on 21st(JEF) and 1 in the Bywell area from 25th until early July (per BL).

Merlin.

Another intensive breeding study revealed that 29 pairs bred of which 23 were successful in fledging young. 70 young were ringed from 21 nests giving an average of 3.3 young per successful nest or 2.4 for all nests. Most nests were in the Border Forests, in the SW Northumberland and in the Cheviots(ERM/BL/LGM/JAG et al)

Kestrel.

Also the subject of continued breeding studies but the information will be summarised next month.

Red-legged Partridge.

1 at Blagdon on 10th(ERM).

Water Rail.

Noted at Seaton Burn and Gosforth Park.

Purple Gallinule.

1 of the European form was watched for fifteen minutes at Washington on 7th(AT). It may not be possible to establish whether it was an escapee from captivity or a genuine vagrant, although it is more likely to be the former.

Coot.

Up to 100 at Seaton Burn, especially after mid month, with 30-50 at Capheaton, Grindon and Holywell.

Oystercatcher.

Roost of up to 41 at Coquet Island until 16th(RG). A good breeding season was reported in N.Tyne area(BL) and by 28th 25 had gathered at Bardon Mill on S.Tyne (BH).

Lapwing.

Early post breeding flocking produced 100 at Prestwick Carr on 11th(ERM), 140 at Whittle Dene on 30th(RW) and 20-50 in Allendales, Bardon Mill and S.Cheviots after about 20th.

Little Ringed Plover.

2 at Washington on 11th then 1 until end of the month(WWR).

Golden Plover.

Continues to be well reported in breeding areas in SW Northumberland with a bird still incubating 4 eggs at Windy Gyle on 22nd(LGM/BG/RGL).

Turnstone.

On Coquet Island all month with 20 on 1st decreasing to 8 by 12th then 21 on 16th and fluctuating between 6 and 23 until end of month(RG). 2 at Boulmer on 21st(JSB).

Jack Snipe.

A most unusual report of 2 near Holystone on 8th(JAG).

Woodcock.

Reported roding at Hamsterley Mill(EP).

Curlew.

Movements observed at the end of the month when off Seaton Sluice 193N on 28th/29th(KW), with 31 on Coquet Island on 22nd(RG) and 18 near Belsay on 26th(PW).

Whimbrel.

On 28th/29th 7N and 3S over Seaton Sluice/Tynemouth areas(RGL/KW).

Black-tailed Godwit.

1 at Washington on 10th(AT).

Green Sandpiper.

1 near Kirkley on 20th(ERM) and 1 at Washington on 27th(WWR).

Common Sandpiper.

A good breeding season reported in N.Tyne Valley(BL). In more coastal situations 4 pairs possibly bred at Washington Refuge(WWR) and another pair noted near Earsdon (JEF).

Spotted Redshank.

1 at Wallsend Swallow on 11th(AC), 1 at Cresswell on 12th(JEF), 1 at Washington on 25th(AT) and 1N off Seaton Sluice on 28th(KW).

Greenshank.

1NW over Holywell on 18th(MGC).

Knot.

On Coquet Island 3 on 9th and 1 on 21st(RG). 1 on Longstone, Farne Islands on 21st (JEF).

Purple Sandpiper.

8 on Coquet Island on 4th(RG).

Little Stint.

2 at Washington on 2nd/3rd(AT).

Dunlin.

Found as Merlin prey in Wark Forest(ERM/BL).

Sanderling.

3 on Coquet Island on 1st(RG).

Ruff.

A pair at Wallsend Swallow on 1st(AC) and 1 at Washington on 10th/11th(AT).

Arctic Skua.

1-2N off Seaton Sluice on seven dates with 21N on 28th(KW et al.) and 5N on 29th.

Great Skua.

Singles N off Seaton Sluice on 15th, 22nd, 26th, 28th with 3N on 29th(KW et al.).

Great Black-backed Gull.

200 on Coquet by the end of the month(RG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

2 pairs nesting at Marsden(THW). 460 gathered on Coquet by 28th(RG). 100 immatures at Fourstones on 14th when small numbers W through S.Tyne Valley all morning(LGM). A few adults and immatures on several moorland locations throughout the month.

Glaucous Gull.

An immature near Earsdon on 5th(MGC) and an adult N off Seaton Sluice on 28th(KW).

Little Gull.

Single immatures at Seaton Burn on 16th(AJm) and at Caistron, near Thropton on 22nd (LGM).

Black-headed Gull.

A colony of 40 nests near Lanehead in Weardale may be a new site(THW). First fledged young noted in Alwinton area on 25th(ERM et al.).

Kittiwake.

On Coquet Island roosts of 1350 on 22nd and 1500 on 28th(RG).

Black Tern.

2 near Morpeth on 9th(BL).

Common Tern.

Inland report of 1 at Holywell on 21st and 24th(PW/WAK).

Razorbill.

Up to 30 off Coquet on twelve dates(RG).

Guillemot.

Up to 75 off Coquet on several dates(RG).

Auk (sp.).

Heavy movements noted off Seaton Sluice on 1st(812N and 70S) and on 28th(272N and 180S).

Little Owl.

4 young on nest at Mitford(per ERM) and prey at a nest near Ponteland included a House Martin!(ERM).

Tawny Owl.

Successful nesting noted at Holystone and Earsdon.

Long-eared Owl.

Nest with 4 eggs in S.Cheviots on 15th(ERM/JAG). There were strong indications that this may have been a second brood.

Short-eared Owl.

About 20 pairs noted in Border Forests(BL et al.).

Swift.

A part albino noted at Blaydon on 28th(PD) with most of the body plumage being mottled with white.

Kingfisher.

1 carrying food to probable nest on R.Blyth near Ponteland on 8th(MRS) - only report of breeding.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Hulne Park, Harthope Burn, Beamish Valley, Fourstones and Hamsterley Mill.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Female bringing 1 young to bird table at Hamsterley Mill on 30th(EP). Nests noted at Dyke Neuk, Angerton and Holystone.

Swallow.

Pair with newly hatched young at Eshott on 1st(per BL) when large numbers were still migrating. For example, during the wintry conditions of 2nd/3rd confused flocks were noted at Capheaton(400), Hartburn(100) and Sweethope(100)(LGM).

House Martin.

44 nests at Knarsdale viaduct, 23 at Bonnyrigg Hall(LGM) and 10 at Cowhill, Weardale(THW).

Golden Oriole.

A male at Smalesmouth, in the N.Tyne Valley, on 5th(per BL).

Raven.

1 at Chew Green on 4th(LGM), 2 near Slaggyford on 6th and 4 at Windy Gyle on 21st.

Hooded Crow.

An unusual occurrence of 1 at Seahouses on 20th(FW/AA).

Nuthatch.

During first half of month up to 2, including a juvenile, visiting a bird table at Hamsterley Mill.

Fieldfare.

1 at Earsdon on 1st(JEF), 1 near Castleside on 16th(THW) and 1 found as Martin prey near Rothbury on 29th(ERM).

Redwing.

A late bird at Earsdon on 8th(JEF).



### Stonechat.

Inland reports included a pair with fledged young at Aid Crag on 29th with further breeding pairs at Dipton and in N.Hexhamshire. Single males near Blaxter Quarry and near Linshiels Lake.

### Black Redstart.

Unusual reports of singles at Seaton Sluice on 16th(EH) and on Coquet on 30th(RG).

### Grasshopper Warbler.

More reports received than in 1974 suggesting an improvement in the breeding status, though still absent from some traditional sites.

### Reed Warbler.

1 singing at Gosforth Park on 3rd and 21st(LGM/PD).

### Sedge Warbler.

a late migrant on Coquet on 12th(RG).

### Blackcap.

A late migrant on Coquet on 7th(RG). Considered to be more plentiful than ever in N.Tyne Valley(BL).

### Whitethroat.

Further evidence confirms that a significant recovery in status has been achieved with, for example, at least 8 pairs in Prestwick Carr area.

### Lesser Whitethroat.

1 carrying food at Brasside on 1st(DLS) and 1 singing on eight days at Washington (WWR).

### Chiffchaff.

Noted at Hamsterley Mill, Bedlington and Belsay.

### Wood Warbler.

Noted at Mitford, Dipton, Bedlington, Belsay, Rothley, Tarsset, Belling and, more unusually, in Gosforth Park where 3 were singing on 8th, with at least 1 on most other days. A very good year!

### Spotted Flycatcher.

Late single migrants on Coquet on 7th and 12th(RG).

### Pied Flycatcher.

First young hatched in Dipton area on 2nd. Away from this breeding stronghold, 3 pairs at Mitford and 1 near Hartburn. None noted at Belsay or Holystone both of which are recognised sites.

### Red-backed Shrike.

A male at Holywell on 5th(JPD/EML) when another was noted on the Farne Islands(per BG).

### Siskin.

Noted as commoner than ever in N.Tyne Valley and as plentiful in Allendale(BL/BG).

### Crossbill.

4 at Slaley on 9th and many family parties in Border Forests during month(BL).

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	F.Colley	J.A.Ginnever	B.Little	A.Temple
A.Armstrong	J.P.Deacon	E.Hawdon	L.G.Macfarlane	T.H.Wall
J.S.Booth	I.Davidson	B.Hunter	E.R.Meek	P.Weighill
B.Bowman	P.Davidson	A.James	E.Priestley	K.Walton
G.Bowman	J.E.Fergusson	W.A.Kelly	E.L.Smith	F.Wake
M.G.Chadwick	B.Galloway	E.M.Lindsay	M.R.Smith	Hauxley R.S.
A.Curry	R.Gomes	R.G.Lewis	D.L.Sowerbutts	Washington W.R.

All July records to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Ct., Westerhope, Newcastle NE5 1RX by 9th August please.

## GREAT CRESTED GREBE SURVEY 1975

Extensive coverage was obtained for B.T.O's survey of Great Crested Grebes. As the census was of adult grebes and not just those at breeding stations, an attempt was made to cover all waters in the district where birds could have conceivably been present, even if they were only transient individuals. In this we were largely successful with visits being made to a total of 38 waters including Hoselaw and Yetholm Lochs just over the border in Roxburghshire, the Hirsell in Berwickshire and Blaydon and Washington Ponds in the former county of Durham.

Tables I and II show the results of the survey. A total of 15 grebes were counted (with an estimated total of 18 birds which takes into account birds not visible at the time of the count) at seven sites, all in Northumberland.\* Of these, successful breeding is known to have occurred at Gosforth Park (1 pair) and Colt Crag (2 pairs), but low water levels at Hallington, Catcleugh and Derwent Reservoirs appear to have prevented birds from breeding there this year. The numbers recorded compare very favourably with the 1974 population in the area.

TABLE I

Waters where birds were recorded in 1975

	Total no. of Adults	Estimated no. of Adults
Catcleugh Reservoir	2	4
Colt Crag Reservoir	4	4
Derwent Reservoir	2	2
Font Reservoir	1	1
Gosforth Park	2	2
Sweetheope Lough	1	2
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	3	3

TABLE II

Other waters covered in 1975

Blaydon Pond (Durham)	Hallington Reservoirs
Broomlee Lough	Hartburn Reservoir
Bolam Lake	Hirsell (Berwickshire)
Byerhope Reservoir	Holywell Pond
Caistron Gravel Pits	Hoselaw Loch (Roxburgh)
Capheaton Lake	Kimmer Lough
Coatenhill Reservoir	Langley Dam
Cresswell Moss	Linshiels Lough
Crag Lough	Newton Pool
Dodd Reservoir	Pawston Lake
Doxford Hall Lake	Rayburn Lake (or Wingates)
Greenlee Lough	Seaton Burn (or Big Waters)
Grindon Lough	Swallow Pond
Haggerston Lake	Unthank Lake
Halleypike Lough	Washington Ponds (Durham)
	Yetholm Loch (Roxburgh)

The first instance of confirmed breeding in Northumberland was at Hallington Reservoirs in 1911 when Abel Chapman discovered a pair with a single young. This appears to have been an isolated occurrence and breeding was not recorded subsequently until 1929 when a pair reared young at Capheaton. From then forward attempted breeding became more frequent if not regular and interspersed with years when, apparently owing to low water levels during the summer, nesting was not attempted or proved unsuccessful (e.g. 1945 - 1950). Since 1967 the number of breeding pairs has increased significantly from the one or two pairs that had typified the previous two decades with additional birds summering. Several new waters have apparently been occupied recently (e.g. Gosforth Park, Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Derwent Reservoir); but it is very difficult to identify previously occupied sites from old and not so old Ornithological Reports owing to the

\*Unless specifically stated county names refer to pre-April 1974 boundaries

continued/

reluctance of successive Recorders to name waters where breeding occurred.

It is interesting to remark on the fact that the last B.T.O. census of Great Crested Grebes in 1965 recorded 'none' in Northumberland, but the Ornithological Report for that year stated that three pairs bred!

The following table illustrates the breeding status of this species in the county over the last 30 years according to Annual Reports.

- 1945 - 1 pair summered.
- 1946 - No records of breeding.
- 1947 - " "
- 1948 - " "
- 1949 - 1 pair summered at Hallington
- 1950 - Single pairs recorded at Catcleugh and Hallington but no proof of breeding.
- 1951 - 1 pair bred.
- 1952 - 1 pair bred (probably Hallington).
- 1953 - 1 pair bred and another present (probably) at Hallington.  
1 pair bred (probably) at Colt Crag.
- 1954 - 1 pair attempted to breed at Hallington. 2 pairs present at Colt Crag. 1 pair bred at Catcleugh.
- 1955 - 1 pair bred (probably) at Catcleugh.
- 1956 - No records of breeding 'though adult pairs were seen occasionally'.
- 1957 - 1 pair attempted to breed.
- 1958 - 1 pair bred.
- 1959 - 1 pair bred.
- 1960 - 2 pairs summered.
- 1961 - 1 pair bred. Inconclusive evidence of breeding at second site.
- 1962 - 1 pair bred, second pair unsuccessful.
- 1963 - 2 pairs bred.
- 1964 - 1 pair bred.
- 1965 - 1 pair bred at Seaton Burn, 2 other pairs bred elsewhere.
- 1966 - 2 pairs bred.
- 1967 - 4 pairs bred and at least 3 pairs summered.
- 1968 - 3 pairs bred at two sites; birds present at another six sites (including 7 birds at Catcleugh).
- 1969 - Birds bred at two sites. Up to 7 birds at Catcleugh.
- 1970 - 1 pair bred at Catcleugh (10 adults present at this site in June).
- 1971 - Birds bred at Hallington (1 pair), Gosforth Park (1 pair) and Seaton Burn (1 pair). Suspected at Catcleugh (5 pairs), Colt Crag and Whittle Dene.
- 1972 - 6 pairs bred at four sites (Catcleugh-3, Seaton Burn-1, Gosforth Park-1) and breeding suspected at four others (including Broomlee Lough, Colt Crag, Derwent Reservoir).
- 1973 - Birds bred at three sites (Hallington 1-2 pairs, Sweethope Lough-1 pair, Gosforth Park-1 pair). 1-2 pairs present at four other localities and 3 pairs at Catcleugh.
- 1974 - Single pairs bred at Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn, Hallington, Gosforth Park and 7 birds at Catcleugh.

#### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Bacon, J.C.	Galloway, B.	Macfarlane, G.
Brady, F.	Ginnever, J.A.	Milton, L.
Brown, D.	Hill, W.	Morgan, E.
Coates, M.N.	Hodgson, M.	Perkins, D.
Day, J.C.	Lock, J.	Rimmer, L.
Douglas, C.E.	McCutcheon, J. & B.	Stewart, R.J.
		Watson, I.A.

#### Addendum

1970 - There was possible breeding at three other sites.



## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

July 1975

### SUMMARY

An anticyclone dominated the weather during the first half of the month and conditions were fine and warm. The second half was more unsettled, though still warm with some thunderstorms occurring.

Most breeding species continued to enjoy a successful season but seabird movements, involving Manx Shearwaters, Common Scoter and some terns, and the commencement of the return of many of the northern waders were the main features.

Of the passerines there were some interesting observations on Great Tit/Blue Tit and Pied Flycatcher nests. Reed Warblers were noted in two areas and successful nesting of Wryneck was suggested.

The more unusual species noted were Temminck's Stint, Sabine's Gull and Mediterranean Gull.

August so far has produced another Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Red-throated Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice singles N on 5th, 23rd and 26th(PD/KR/KW).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

3 pairs with broods of 2, 2 and 3 young respectively at Colt Crag on 1st(RG/WB).  
2 pairs at Whittle Dene all month with 2 juveniles present from 19th(JSB). 2 adults at Catcleugh on 27th(LGM).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

1 at Washington on 28th(EH/JP).

#### Little Grebe.

Successful nesting noted at Seaton Burn, Radcliffe and Havannah(BG/ERM).

#### Manx Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice total of 504N and 52S during month with 361N on 4th(KW/KR) when a flock was noted feeding offshore.

#### Sooty Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice 16N during month with 11N on 4th(KW).

#### Gannet.

Off Seaton Sluice 115N on 4th and 105N on 26th(KW).

#### Heron.

Up to 5 noted at Gosforth, Killingworth, Wallsend Swallow, Catcleugh and Hamsterley Mill. Immigration was suggested during latter half of month with 2S off Cresswell on 21st(BU), 5 arriving from the E at both Seaton Sluice and Whitley Bay on 26th(KW et al.) and 1S off Coquet on 30th(RGo).

#### Cormorant.

About 160 on Marsden Rock on 7th(THW). 1 at Washington Refuge on 4th and 31st(WWR).

#### Mallard.

Flocks of 40-60 at Whittle Dene, Gosforth and Seaton Burn after 18th(JSB/AJ).

#### Teal.

3 broods noted in Holystone area early in month(BG/RGL). 21 at Grindon on 13th(LGM) and offshore 12N and 1S off Seaton Sluice on 5th where 10S on 22nd(KW/KR).

#### Wigeon.

Unusual reports of 1 at Gosforth on 5th(LGM), 5 at Newton Pool on 12th(IK) and 1 at Washington Refuge on 10th-15th(WWR).

#### Pintail.

6 off Coquet on 30th(RGo).

#### Shoveler.

1-7 at Washington, Seaton Burn and Holywell most of month with 35 at Holywell on 23rd(MN et al.). Offshore 2 at Coquet on 5th(RGo).

### Scaup.

At Cresswell Pond 1 on 2nd with 3 there 19th/20th(WAK/LGM/PD). 1 at Holywell on 31st(CED) and 1S Seaton Sluice on 22nd(KW).

### Tufted Duck.

Early concentrations involved at least 100 at Colt Crag on 1st(RG/WB) with 40 still there on 12th(LGM). Also on 12th 58 at each of Whittle Dene and Sweethope(LGM) and by 19th 75 at Whittle Dene(JSB). 35 at Seaton Burn on 29th(AJ) and 6 off Coquet on 5th(RGo). 8-9 broods hatched at Holywell and 1 at each of Whittle Dene and Derwent.

### Ruddy Duck.

Noted at Holywell on 1st(JEF).

### Pochard.

During month 1-8 at Holywell, Washington, Radcliffe and Whittle Dene. 10 at Gosforth on 20th/21st and 16 at Seaton Burn on 20th(AJ/IK).

### Goldeneye.

Surprising reports of 6 at Colt Crag on 12th(LGM) and 1 at Washington on 18th(WWR).

### Velvet Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 2N on 10th, 9N on 12th, 4S on 14th and 3N on 16th(KW).

### Common Scoter.

Heavy passage off Seaton Sluice during month involved a total of 2192N and 122S. Peaks of 291N on 5th, 284N on 20th and 139N on 26th(KW/KR et al.). Smaller numbers moving N off Coquet on six dates(RGo).

### Eider.

400 off Hauxley on 22nd(HRS).

### Red-breasted Merganser.

Off Seaton Sluice 34N and 7S during month with 19N on 5th(KR/KW). Also 1 off Coquet on 27th(RGo).

### Goosander.

Broods noted at Derwent Reservoir and S.Tyne at Melkridge. A female caught at the latter on 12th had been ringed at nearby Bardon Mill in 1974(ERM).

### Shelduck.

The commencement of moult migration was indicated by a count of 58S off Seaton Sluice during month(RGL/KW) with 38 noted on 20th. Broods noted at Cresswell, Monks House and Fenham Flats.

### Greylag Goose.

5NE over Cresswell and 2nd(WAK), 3S off Coquet on 3rd(RGo) and 5 at Sweethope on 12th(LGM).

### Canada Goose.

6 plus 4 young at Colt Crag on 12th when 58 at Sweethope(LGM).

### Mute Swan.

A pair that hatched 7 young at Radcliffe walked them over one mile to Amble Harbour as the pond dried up(HRS). 1 at Coquet most of month(RGo) 110 at Berwick on 23rd (FC).

### Sparrowhawk.

9 out of 11 pairs in a new study area reared a total of 25 young(ERM/JAG/WGJ). A pair probably reared 3 young at Gosforth(BG/ABl) but 3 nests failed completely in the Holystone area.

### Kestrel.

Young reared at Hartford and Gosforth. A tired bird arrived from the E at Cresswell on 21st(BU).

### Black Grouse.

Several noted on Otterburn ranges on 11th(CED).

### Corncrake.

1 calling at Otterburn on 5th(perBG -G.A.Pyman) and another calling at Hexham on 19th(per WB).

### Coot.

200-280 at Seaton Burn after 18th(AJ). 97 at Broomlee on 19th and 123 at Holywell on 20th(LGM).

### Oystercatcher.

Up to 80 roosting at Hauxley during month(HRS).

### Lapwing.

Flocks increased as the month progressed. 500 at Whittle Dene on 12th increased to 1050 by 26th(JSB). 700 at Grindon on 12th and 500 at Melkridge on 26th(ERM/LGM). 100-300 at Broomlee, Greenlee, Shaftoe, Bellingham, Hallington, Cambo, Seaton Burn and Washington.

### Ringed Plover.

Inland reports away from breeding strongholds involved up to 8 at Backworth and 3 at Washington.

### Little Ringed Plover.

An immature at Washington 12th-17th and 22nd(WWR).

### Grey Plover.

1 on Coquet on 20th(RGo).

### Golden Plover.

Early flocking involved 50 at Fenham Flats on 6th(RGL), 20 at Whittle Dene after 19th(JSB), 200 in Allendale on 24th(RG/WB) and 38 at Cresswell on 26th(JPD/EML).

### Turnstone.

Up to 43 on Coquet until 23rd when 100 were counted. By 26th 226 were present reducing to 144 by 30th(RGo). Small numbers at Seaton Sluice after 13th(KW). Well inland at Whittle Dene, 1 on 30th(JSB).

### Curlew.

Off Seaton Sluice 146N and 48S during month with peaks of 46N on 5th and 40N on 25th/26th(KW). Off Coquet Island 44N on 19th(RGo) and 100 at Holy Island on 27th (BM).

### Whimbrel.

Steady passage noted all month with total of 101N and 55S off Seaton Sluice(KW et al.). Highest daily counts were 24N on 5th and 25N on 16th. Smaller numbers noted all along the coast. The only inland reports were of 2S over Meldon on 8th (ERM) and 1 at Heddon on 9th(JSB).

### Black-tailed Godwit.

7 at Fenham Mill on 6th(RGL) and 8N off Seaton Sluice on 14th(KW).

### Bar-tailed Godwit.

1 inland at Washington on 9th(AT). From 12th, 1-5N off Seaton Sluice on five dates (KR/KW), 1-2 at Coquet and 8 at Holy Island.(RW).

### Green Sandpiper.

1-2 at Washington from 4th(WWR), 1 at Gosforth on 13th(ABl) and on 20th, 2 at Bothal and 2 at S.Linton(MN).

### Wood Sandpiper.

A suggestion of some passage late in the month when, between 20th-23rd, 1-2 at Holywell, 1 over Whitley Bay and 1 near Backworth(CED).

### Common Sandpiper.

More reports confirm that it has been a very successful breeding season. Many records of birds on return passage with up to 4 at locations such as Washington, Cresswell, Arcot Hall and Wallsend Swallow after 12th and as early as 4th a party of 16 had gathered at Holystone in Coquetdale. On 22nd 24 were counted in Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's area.

### Redshank.

Fluctuations on Coquet Island as month progressed were indicative of passage with peaks of 75 on 20th and 42 on 30th(RGo). Inland 12 at Arcot Hall on 31st(BM).

### Spotted Redshank.

Singles S off Seaton Sluice on 14th and 26th(KW). 1 at Washington on 28th(EH/JP).

### Greenshank.

Well reported with at least 24 individuals from nine different locations. Largest gatherings were at Washington(up to 6, especially from 28th), at Bothal(4 on 20th) and Seaton Sluice(4S on 14th).

### Knot.

Distinct passage noted from 12th with up to 44 per day, mainly S, at Seaton Sluice and up to 60 on Coquet Island with a peak between 20th-24th(RGo/KR/KW). Elsewhere 6 at Cresswell on 19th(EH) and 22 at Holy Island on 28th(RW).



Purple Sandpiper.

Noted almost daily on Coquet Island from 5th increasing from 3 to 17 by 9th, then to 50 by 26th(RGo). Up to 12 at Seaton Sluice from 12th(KR/KW).

Little Stint.

1 near Earsdon between 24th-28th(JEF) and 2 on Coquet on 30th(RGo).

Temminck's Stint.

1 near Earsdon on 31st remained there until well into August. It was an adult bird in partial moult(JEF et al.).

Dunlin.

Steady return passage in small numbers noted throughout the month at the coast and as far inland as the Irthing Valley. Only on Coquet(max.36 On 28th) and at Cresswell(max.26 on 26th) did numbers reach double figures.

Sanderling.

A few noted moving S at Seaton Sluice after 13th. On Coquet 1 on 17th, 15 on 28th and 2 on 30th. At Cresswell 6S on 21st(KW/RGo/BU).

Ruff.

Up to 5 at Washington during month(AT et al.). At Radcliffe, near Amble, 4 on 5th increased to 10 by 10th(HRS). 1-2 noted at Seaton Sluice, Arcot Hall, Whittle Dene, Coquet, Monks House, Cresswell and Hauxley between 6th-31st.

Arctic Skua.

Numbers much lower than in recent years. At the intensively watched Seaton Sluice only 24N and 13S during month(KW et al.). Only other reports were of singles at Embleton(BU) and Coquet(RGo).

Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 9N and 2S during month(KW et al.) 1N off Cresswell on 19th(PD).

Great Black-backed Gull.

150 at Seaton Sluice on 31st(CMA).

Herring Gull.

600 at Seaton Sluice on 31st(CMA) and a part albino there on 19th(KR et al.).

Common Gull.

2 pairs hatched and probably reared young in NW Durham(AHB). Distinct passage noted from 19th when they were moving W through Tyne Valley. A similar observation was made on 26th(LGM), and on 27th/28th 400 near Rothley(ERM), 350 at Seaton Sluice(CMA) and 50 at Sweethope(RGL). During this same period individuals became apparent returning to scavenge over several residential areas in W Newcastle.

Glaucous Gull.

On Coquet Island an immature on 6th/7th was found dead later in the month(RGo). Another N off Seaton Sluice on 20th(KW).

Little Gull.

Off Seaton Sluice 11N on 21st, 2N on 22nd and 1S on 24th(KW). On 31st 1 at Holywell(CED). All were adults.

Sabine's Gull.

An immature bird was reported in the Seaton Sluice/Tynemouth area on a number of occasions between 7th-30th(KR/KW/HTW et al.).

Mediterranean Gull.

An adult on Holy Island on 5th(BH).

Black Tern.

2N Seaton Sluice on 17th(KW).

'Commic' Tern.

Roosts of 200 on a pool at Hauxley on 5th(HRS) and up to 64 in Washington area during month. Strong S movement off Seaton Sluice on 14th with 65 in thirty minutes - mainly Common(ERM). 3 mobbing a Kestrel over Earsdon on 12th(KW) and 10 high over R.Tyne at Elswick on 3rd(BL).

Roseate Tern.

Off Seaton Sluice singles S on 14th and 15th and 3S on 25th(EH/ERM/KR).

Little Tern.

3S Seaton Sluice on 19th(KR).

Sandwich Tern.

Heavy S passage off Seaton Sluice on 14th. 396 were counted in thirty minutes moving into thunderstorms(ERM). 40 roosting on Hauxley pool on 6th(HRS).

Guillemot.

Up to 14 off Coquet during month(RGo).

Razorbill.

Up to 14 off Coquet during month (RGo).

Cuckoo.

Only report was of a juvenile at Holywell on 23rd(MN).

Barn Owl.

Young fledged from nests at Kirkley and Meldon. A young bird killed by a car at Slaley on 22nd. Adults noted at Holywell and Chevington.

Little Owl.

2 young fledged from nest near Corbridge(BL).

Short-eared Owl.

Only report was of 1 at Cresswell on 26th(JPD/EML).

Swift.

Southerly passage noted on a number of occasions, especially 11th/12th and 20th-27th at Craster(WSC), Seaton Sluice(KR), Team Valley and Cramlington(LGM).

Kingfisher.

1-2 noted at Gosforth Park, Hartford, Backworth, Washington, Prudhoe, Wooler and Melkridge.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Linhope, Middleton(near Wooler) and Hartford.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

2 juveniles visiting bird tables at Hamsterley Mill during first week(EP).

Wryneck.

A young bird found on a window-sill at Matfen on 15th suggested successful breeding had occurred in the area(RW). 1 heard calling at Gosforth Park on 26th

Swallow.

Roost of 50 at Chevington Burn on 25th(ERM).

House Martin.

37 nests noted in the Cramlington area(BM), 22 in the pumphouse at Catcleugh(LGM) and 10 in the boathouse at Colt Crag(RG/WB). At the last site most nests were destroyed by human interference.

Sand Martin.

215 pairs in a colony at Melkridge and a 'large' colony at Corbridge(ERM/BL). Early return passage was suggested by a gathering of up to 300 at Seaton Burn 18th-20th

Raven.

2 in N.Cheviots on 18th(ERM).

Great Tit/Blue Tit.

In Dipton/Stocksfield area there were 3 examples of each laying in the same nest:-

- i) 3 Great Tits reared, Blue Tit's eggs did not hatch.
- ii) 1 Great Tit, 1 Blue Tit hatched but the Great Tit was deformed and had to be destroyed.
- iii) 6 Great Tit, 3 Blue Tit successfully reared. (BL)

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Ponteland(AKI).

Wheatear.

A juvenile well away from any known breeding area in West Newcastle on 4th(AKI).

Blue Tit/Pied Flycatcher.

A nest at Dipton began with 5 P.F. eggs. Then B.T. built nest on top and laid 9 eggs with P.F. laying 1 egg. 7 B.T. and 1 P.F. hatched and reared by Blue Tits(BL).

Stonechat.

Pair with at least 1 juvenile at Wingates on 5th(JSB). Pair at Cresswell Pond after 19th.

Grasshopper Warbler.

'Reeling' at Whittle Dene and Ponteland.

Reed Warbler.

Adult at Chevington Burn on 25th in a likely breeding site. A second bird seen there on 1st August(ERM/WGJ/BG). A family party at Gosforth Park on 13th(ABL).

Blackcap.

More reports of birds in good numbers, especially at Dipton and in Happy Valley, near Middleton(BL/AKI). 1 in an area of young conifers, an unusual habitat preference, at Wark Forest in mid month(ERM). Pair at Hauxley on 31st(HRS).

Garden Warbler.

An early wanderer at Hauxley on 31st(HRS).

Whitethroat.

Further evidence of an increase in population at Killingworth area(JDMcE).

Lesser Whitethroat.

1 singing at Washington Refuge 3rd-8th(WWR).

Willow Warbler.

Early passage birds on Coquet Island on 15th, 28th and 29th(RGo).

Chiffchaff.

1 in a Gateshead suburban garden singing between 10th-12th(PD).

White Wagtail.

1 at Washington 2nd/3rd(AT).

Grey Wagtail.

1 at Washington Refuge 25th-27th was unusual for the time of year(WWR).

Siskin.

Frequent in N.Tyne and in Allendale. Singles at Linhope on 2nd(ERM) and at Tunstall Reservoir on 1st(THW).

Linnet.

Flock of at least 60 at Seaton Burn on 24th(BM).

Redpoll.

More breeding in Holywell area than in any previous year(CED).

Crossbill.

9 at Linhope on 2nd(ERM) and 2 pairs in Slaley area in mid month(BL).

Corn Bunting.

1 singing well inland at Gunnerton, near Barrasford, on 29th(RG/WB).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	B. & M. Etherington	W.G. Johnson	M. Natrass
A.H.Banks	J.E.Fergusson	W.A.Kelly	J.Park
W.Brady	B.Galloway	I.Kerr	E.Priestley
A.Blackett	R.Gomes	E.M.Lindsay	K.Robson
J.S.Booth	R.Grey	B.Little	A.Temple
W.S.Craster	J.A.Ginnever	R.G.Lewis	B.Unwin
F.Colley	E.Hawdon	B.Martin	H.T.Ward
P.Davidson	B.Harding	L.G.Macfarlane	K.Walton
C.E.Douglas	A.K.Ironside	E.R.Meek	R.Walton
J.P.Deacon	A.James	J.D.McElwee	T.H.Wall
		Hauxley R.S.	Washington W.R.

All August reports to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Court, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 1RX by 9th September, please.

Please send S.A.E. for supply of record cards to Bryan Galloway.



## CLUB NEWS & NOTES

All 1975/76 subscriptions should be sent to JOHN DAY, 3 Station House, Stannington, Northumberland. These remain unchanged -

Ordinary	£2.50
Family	£3.00
Junior	£1.50

Although the club has been in recess for the last three months, committee work has continued unabated. We feel that our time has been well spent, and club members should derive additional benefits from our deliberations.

'Birds in Northumbria 1974', delivered with the bulletin, is of a quality which reflects credit on all concerned with its production. The standard of text and illustrations is probably the highest since the report was introduced in its present form.

Appearance of the monthly bulletin has been, unfortunately, rather erratic owing to holiday commitments of various members of the production chain. For this, please accept our apologies. Receipt of this bulletin on time shows that we are now back on schedule.

Hand delivery by our gallant band of helpers has shown considerable saving in postage, for which we are grateful. Owing to a change in work, Mr. Wilson has had to give up Gateshead deliveries. A replacement to take over this area is urgently required. Volunteers please contact the secretary.

Membership has continued to increase, and we welcome all old and new members to our first meeting of the new season.

### CLUB MEETING - Thursday, September 11th at 7.15pm

Illustrated film talk by George Wall entitled 'Wings of the Wild'. George, just back from five weeks in the Galapagos Islands, is one of that breed of farmer/naturalists who escapes the depressing agricultural climate in S.W. Durham by filming birds. I don't know anything of his farming record, but as a film maker he is excellent. His expertise is such that the National Trust commissioned him to produce their Farne Islands film. You may also recall his appearances on B.B.C.'s 'Looks Natural'.

### FIELD OUTING - Sunday, October 5th

Coach trip to HOLY ISLAND.	Leader Tom Palmer.
Meet Baxter's Tynemouth.	8.30am
" Hancock Museum.	8.00am
Cost: £1.30 approx.	

Bookings and cash to MIKE HODGSON, 30 Closefield Grove, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay.  
Tel. Whitley Bay 20511

Note Mike has taken over the duties of field secretary on a temporary basis from Keith Walton pending election of the new committee in October.  
Thanks Keith - Welcome Mike.

### A.G.M. - Thursday, October 9th.

Nominations for the committee should be sent to the chairman, using the attached form (A) to arrive at least 24 hours before the A.G.M.

## WAYS & MEANS

A film show held in conjunction with the Whitley Bay Festival Committee netted £3.25. The poor support for this event, arranged at short notice, was mainly owing to lack of advance publicity, and the venue, Whitley Bay High School, which proved to be somewhat 'on the fringe'.

Reference has already been made to the high quality of the illustrations in 'Birds in Northumbria'. With the generous cooperation of Jim Deacon, we are publishing prints, suitable for framing, of 1) Merlin, 2) Long-eared Owl and 3) Garganey. (The last especially drawn for the purpose.)

Each print, in a strictly limited edition, will be signed and numbered by the artist. The cost is £1 per print, and in order to give club members the first opportunity



of obtaining an example of Jim Deacon's work order form (B) is enclosed. In view of the limited number available, orders will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Earlier this year our approach to the North Tyneside Leisure and Amenities Committee resulted in a financial guarantee of £250 against possible loss on publication of the annual report.

With a little luck, and especially if club members make an effort to sell additional copies, 'Birds in Northumbria' promises to be self supporting again for this year at least. In any event, we are most grateful to North Tyneside for providing the 'cushion' which enables us to undertake publication.

#### WASHINGTON WILDFOWL REFUGE

By arrangement with the Wildfowl Trust, T.B.C. members may now become limited members of the Trust with access to Washington only for the reduced sum of £1.50.

As the daily entrance fee is 40p., four visits per annum will recoup your outlay. The Refuge wildfowl collection includes virtually all those species to be seen wild in Britain and is thus especially useful to our new or more inexperienced members.

The so-called 'wild area' of the refuge should prove of greater general interest. Reports this year suggest that the three man-made ponds beside the Wear are attracting as many wader species as the now defunct shallow pond at Barmston did in the past.

Apart from the excellent hide facilities, the Lodge building and shop provide a sheltered forum for birdwatchers in dispute over 'peep' identification!

In order to simplify administration, T.B.C. members wishing to take advantage of this offer should complete form (C) so that the club can apply on your behalf for block membership to coincide with our own financial year.

FINALLY The recorder says that 1975 appears to have been a successful year for ground breeding species. Whispers reaching the secretary suggest that this might also apply to T.B.C. members themselves. Congratulations to those concerned. In the absence of requests for publication it would be invidious to publish an incomplete list.

#### FIELD OUTING - Sunday, October 5th

Coach trip to HOLY ISLAND. Leader Tom Palmer.  
Meet Baxter's Tynemouth. 8.30am  
Hancock Museum. 8.30am

Cost: £1.30 approx.

Bookings and cash to MIKE HODGSON, 30 Clonsfield Grove, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay.

Tel. Whitley Bay 20511

Note: Mike has taken over the duties of field secretary on a temporary basis from Keith Walton pending election of the new committee in October.

Thanks Keith - Welcome Mike.

#### A.G.M. - Thursday, October 9th

Nominations for the committee should be sent to the chairman, using the attached form (A) to arrive at least 24 hours before the A.G.M.

#### WAYS & MEANS

A film show held in conjunction with the Whitley Bay Festival Committee netted £3.25. The poor support for this event, arranged at short notice, was mainly owing to lack of advance publicity, and the venue, Whitley Bay High School, which proved to be somewhat 'on the fringe'.

Reference has already been made to the high quality of the illustrations in 'Birds in Northumbria'. With the generous cooperation of Jim Deacon, we are publishing prints, suitable for framing, of 1) Merlin, 2) Long-eared Owl and 3) Garganey. (The last especially drawn for the purpose.)

Each print, in a strictly limited edition, will be signed and numbered by the artist. The cost is £1 per print, and in order to give club members the first opportunity

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

(A) T.B.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 9TH OCTOBER 1975  
NOMINATION FOR CLUB COMMITTEE

NAME .....

.....

.....

PROPOSED BY .....

SECONDED BY .....

Have nominees indicated acceptance? YES/NO

Please return this form by 7th October to  
John Ginnever, 32 The Crest, Dinnington, Northumberland.

---

(B) SIGNED PRINTS BY JIM DEACON

I wish to order the following prints at £1.00 each

Numbers required

11) MERLIN.....( )

2) LONG EARED OWL .....( )

3) PAIR OF GARGANEY .....( )

For which I enclose £ .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

(Cheques should be made payable to the T.B.C.)

Please return this order form to  
Keith Dures, 5 Bath Terrace, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear.

---

(C) WASHINGTON WILDFOWL TRUST MEMBERSHIP

I wish to take advantage of the reduced subscription (£1.50)  
offered to members of the T.B.C. and enclose £ .....in payment.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

(Cheques should be made payable to the T.B.C.)

Please return completed form to  
Keith Dures, 5 Bath Terrace, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear.

---

T.B.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 21st OCTOBER 1972  
Tyneside Bird Club  
NOMINATION FOR CLUB COMMITTEE

(A)

NAME .....

.....

.....

PROPOSED BY .....

SECONDED BY .....

Have nominees indicated acceptance? YES/NO

Please return this form by 7th October to  
John Ginnover, 32 The Crest, Dinnington, Northumberland.

SIGNED PRINTS BY JIM DEACON

(B)

I wish to order the following prints at £1.00 each

Numbers required

- (1) MERLIN..... ( )
- (2) LONG BARRED OWL..... ( )
- (3) PAIR OF GARGANEY..... ( )

For which I enclose £ .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

(Cheques should be made payable to the T.B.C.)

Please return this order form to  
Keith Dures, 5 Bath Terrace, Tyne & Wear.

WASHINGTON WILDBOW TRUST MEMBERSHIP

(C)

I wish to take advantage of the reduced subscription (£1.50)  
offered to members of the T.B.C. and enclose £ ..... in payment.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

(Cheques should be made payable to the T.B.C.)

Please return completed form to  
Keith Dures, 5 Bath Terrace, Tyne & Wear.

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

August 1975

### SUMMARY

The first three weeks continued to be fine and warm during anticyclonic conditions although on some occasions a sea mist developed resulting in very light 'falls' of Willow Warblers and Pied Flycatchers.

The final week was more unsettled, especially when a small depression moved into the North Sea on 29th/30th and produced strong NE winds and heavy rain.

This last week was the most interesting period in the month with seabirds moving offshore, including good counts of Shearwaters, some wildfowl and Skuas. An influx of Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers commenced and both Lapwings and Golden Plover were seen in large numbers. During the last two days 2 Laughing Gulls and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper appeared and a small influx of passerines included about 10 Barred Warblers, a Red-breasted Flycatcher and a Red-backed Shrike.

The other more interesting species of the month included Goshawk, Osprey, 2 Temminck's Stints, Pectoral Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice, where all were identified as Red-throated, 6N and 2S between 17th -31st(KW). Elsewhere, singles off Chevington on 25th(BG) and off Hauxley on 31st(HRS).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

At Colt Crag 17 on 16th increased to at least 20 by 29th. On 22nd there were 15 adults and 5 immatures. This is probably the largest inland concentration on record for Northumberland(RW et al.). 4 at Sweethope on 23rd(LGM) and 6 at Whittle Dene all month(RW et al.). 1 at Seaton Burn on 7th and 15th(ERM/BM).

#### Little Grebe.

Well reported with birds on at least 16 different waters. Largest concentrations were of 32 at Colt Crag on 23rd, including 7 different broods(LGM), 20-23 most of month on Northumbrian Loughs, 17 at Washington on 22nd(AT) and 16 at Holywell most of month(MN). Newly hatched young were noted at Holywell on 30th(AH).

#### Manx Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice 202N and 20S on 8 dates with a peak of 81N on 30th when a 'Balearic' was noted(ERM/KW et al.). A large flock of Shearwaters on the sea about 3-4 miles off Lynemouth on 22nd were probably Manx(BG/RGL).

#### Sooty Shearwater.

66N off Seaton Sluice during the month with 16 on each of 17th and 30th and 10 on 31st(KW et al.).

#### Fulmar.

60/hr N off Hauxley on 17th and a steady N movement on 30th(HRS). A 'blue' phase N off Hauxley on 26th.

#### Gannet.

Moving N on many dates with peaks off Seaton Sluice of 825 on 23rd, 539 on 25th and 369 on 17th when 40/hr N off Hauxley(KW et al.).

#### Heron.

Noted at 14 different localities. Many birds were probably on passage. The more interesting observations involved 9 at Warkworth on 31st(BG/ERM), 9 at Colt Crag on 23rd(LGM), 6 at Cresswell on 23rd(JPD/EML). 1 arrived from the E at Holy Island on 3rd(BM) and 1S over St. Mary's on 26th(BG/RGL).

#### Cormorant.

90 roosting off Holy Island on the Black Law on 17th(LGM).

#### Mallard.

A noticeable build up in the month progressed with some moving N offshore. During the last 8 days 225 at Holywell, 160 at Northumbrian Loughs, 150 near Bamburgh and 100 at each of Whittle Dene, Colt Crag and near Kirkley. 50N off Seaton Sluice on 31st.



### Teal.

Concentrations of up to 50 were not uncommon on many waters as far inland as Grindon, especially after midmonth with 80 near Backworth on 25th. Northerly offshore passage was particularly conspicuous with 915 noted off Seaton Sluice during month with peaks of 95 on 25th and 345 on 31st. Smaller numbers noted off Cresswell and Hauxley.

### Garganey.

1 near Kirkley on 4th(ERM), 2 at Holywell on 8th(MN), 1 at Cresswell on 17th(BG/RGL/ERM) and at least 2 at Newton Pool on 24th(BG).

### Wigeon.

2-4 on Northumbrian Loughs on 2nd (LGM) and 1 in Budle Bay on 8th(BU). Became increasingly regular after 14th and by 31st 22 on Northumbrian Loughs. Offshore passage involved 740N and 28S off Seaton Sluice with most occurring during the last week when 130N on 30th and 327N on 31st(KW et al.). Smaller numbers noted off Warkworth, Hauxley and Cresswell.

### Pintail.

2 at each of Backworth on 3rd and Seaton Burn on 7th(BG/ERM). On 31st 3 at Grindon (LGM) and 3N Hauxley(HRS).

### Shoveler.

Largest gatherings were 30-35 at Newton Pool(BG) on 24th, 29 at Seaton Burn on 24th(1K), 25 at Blaydon on 19th(P&ID), 16 at Colt Crag on 23rd(LGM) and 12 at Holywell on 8th(MN). Up to 7 on 6 other waters and 1N off Hauxley on 31st.

### Scaup.

A female at Colt Crag on 23rd(LGM).

### Tufted Duck.

At Whittle Dene 65 on 3rd increased to 121 by 28th(JSB/AJ et al.). 80 at Holywell on 14th(AJ), 79 at Sweethope and 55 at each of Hallington and Colt Crag on 23rd(LGM), 40 at Seaton Burn on 28th(AJ). Broods of young noted at Whittle Dene (1) and Halleypike (2). Offshore records involved 1 off Hauxley on 5th and 12N and 1S off Seaton Sluice on 4 dates after 14th.

### Pochard.

20 on Northumbrian Loughs on 16th increased to 35 by 31st(LGM). 17 at Seaton Burn on 24th(1K). 2 at Arcot Hall on 7th when 8 at Gosforth. Thereafter up to 10 at 5 other waters. Offshore records involved 6N off Seaton Sluice on 30th and 1N Warkworth on 30th.

### Goldeneye.

1S off Seaton Sluice on 16th(KW) 1 at Washington 20th-28th(AT), 3 at Colt Crag 23rd (LGM).

### Long-tailed Duck.

2N Hauxley on 31st(HRS).

### Velvet Scoter.

Singles N off Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 17th(HRS/KW).

### Common Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 980N and 164S during month with peak of 170N on 30th/31st(KW).

### Red-breasted Merganser.

40 off Ross on 17th(LGM) and off Seaton Sluice 4N on 17th and 1N on 31st(KW).

### Goosander.

20 at Bardon Mill on 10th(LGM) and 1 at Warkworth on 31st(HRS).

### Shelduck.

Continued moult migration resulted in up to 10 being noted off Seaton Sluice on 5 dates and 1 at Arcot Hall on 20th.

### Egyptian Goose.

1 in Sweethope/Colt Crag area 16th/23rd.

### Canada Goose.

82 at Colt Crag on 22nd(RW) was largest count from that area. On 26th 2 arrived at Cresswell from the E, 1 of which was ringed. Later the same day 2 near Backworth were perhaps the same birds moving S(ERM).

### Mute Swan.

3 cygnets at Bolam and 5 at Newton Pool.- 2 -

/Buzzard

Buzzard.  
2 in Alwinton area on 24th(SA).

Sparrowhawk.  
Of the many reports of 1-2 birds 1 chasing a Turnstone over the sea at Craster on 21st was the most interesting. The Turnstone escaped!

Goshawk.  
1 chasing pigeons over Blanchland on 27th(per BL).

Osprey.  
1 at Hallington on 15th(RW) and possibly the same at Colt Crag on 27th(per RW).

Peregrine.  
1 being mobbed by 5 Kestrels over R.Irthing in SW Northumberland on 25th(LGM).

Merlin.  
Dispersal from the hills and passage of N birds resulted in singles at Budle Bay, Washington and Hallington after 14th with 2 near Backworth on 31st.

Kestrel.  
13 along short stretch of R.Irthing in SW Northumberland on 25th(LGM). On 23rd 2 arrived from the E at Cresswell, 1 being mobbed by Kittiwakes(BG).

Corncrake.  
Pair bred successfully in Hexhamshire(per BL) and an adult with 1 young at Battleshiel in Upper Coquetdale in early August(per JCD).

Coot.  
240 at Seaton Burn on 12th(AJ) reducing to 50 by 22nd then 180 on 28th. 200 at Broomlee on 16th(LGM) and 250 there by 31st. 95 at Holywell on 24th.

Oystercatcher.  
450 off Holy Island, on the Black Law on 17th(LGM). On 25th/26th 150 at Budle Bay (MSH) and 150 at St.Mary's(BG). 70-80 at Cresswell 23rd/24th, 90 at Hauxley on 7th and 42 at Warkworth on 31st.

Lapwing.  
2500 at the Long Nanny on 24th(BG) with 1500 at Whittle Dene on 23rd and at Druridge on 25th(BG/LGM). 500 near Benton on 20th(MSH) and 400-450 in Blaydon area (MH) after mid month. Up to 300 at many other localities as far inland as Haltwhistle.

Ringed Plover.  
180 at the Long Nanny on 24th(BG), 50 in Ross area on 8th and 17th(LGMBU), 40 at Warkworth on 31st(BG) and 20 at St.Mary's 26th-30th(MSH). Inland up to 7 near Backworth and at Washington most of month. 3 colour ringed birds noted at Ross on 17th(BU).

Little Ringed Plover.  
At Washington an adult on 5th-7th and an immature 15th-28th(WWR).

Grey Plover.  
92 at Ross on 17th(LGM) and 21 in Budle Bay on 25th(MSH). 1-2 at Hauxley 24th-26th (HRS) and 1 inland over Holywell Pond on 28th(BU).

Golden Plover.  
During first week 430 in Budle Bay(BU) and 200 at Whittle Dene(JSB). An apparent influx after mid month with 2500 at Long Nanny on 24th(BG), 1500 at Whittle Dene on 23rd(WAK), 1000 in Budle Bay on 28th and up to 600 in Hauxley/Druridge area. On 31st 300 on Holy Island(IK) and 2 flocks, each of 500, arrived high from the NW over Morpeth(BG).

Turnstone.  
Between 5th-8th flocks of up to 12 in Seahouses/Bamburgh area(BU). 40 at Cresswell 17th inc. to 200 by 23rd. At St.Mary's up to 200 between 26th-30th(BG). An unusual number of inland reports indicated overland passage with 1 at Washington on 5th(WWR), 5 at Hallington on 9th(JSB), 1 at Seaton Burn on 14th was later found entangled in a fishing line on 20th but successfully released(AJ/ERM) and 1 at Swalwell on 17th(MH).

Common Snipe.  
Well reported in parties of up to 35 as migration progressed, being noted alongside 12 different waters in coastal areas. Largest numbers occurred at Ellington, Monks' House, Holy Island and Walbottle.

### Curlew.

The largest concentrations occurred in the Ross/Budle area with at least 450 there on 1<sup>st</sup> (LGM). 55 were at the Long Nanny on 24<sup>th</sup> (BG) and 30 gathered at the traditional inland haunt on the R. Coquet at Holystone on 10<sup>th</sup> (BG).

### Whimbrel.

Small numbers noted all along the coast but from the intensively watched Seaton Sluice 31N and 85S during month with 29S in a flock on 6<sup>th</sup> and 38S on 15<sup>th</sup> (KW et al.) At Hauxley 34 noted during month mainly passing S.

### Black-tailed Godwit.

2 in Budle Bay on 6<sup>th</sup> (BU) and 1 at Wallsend Swallow on 21<sup>st</sup> (PD).

### Bar-tailed Godwit.

400 at Ross on 17<sup>th</sup> (LGM) after 15 had been seen in Budle Bay on 8<sup>th</sup> (BU). 1-2 at Bamburgh, Newton, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice between 2<sup>nd</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> but a small influx was suggested on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> when 9 were at Alnmouth, 5 at Warkworth and 18 at St. Mary's.

### Green Sandpiper.

Well reported throughout the month with at least 43 individuals involved at a total of 16 localities. Most reports were of 1-3, but 4 were at each of Holystone in Upper Coquetdale (10<sup>th</sup>) and Backworth (9<sup>th</sup>) with up to 5 at Swalwell, Kirkley and Wallsend Swallow and 6 at Washington (5<sup>th</sup>).

### Wood Sandpiper.

All reports were between 5<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> with 1-2 at Washington, Wallsend, Backworth, Swalwell, Cresswell and Monks' House. No more than 10 individuals were involved.

### Common Sandpiper.

Widely reported in groups of up to 6, especially before 20<sup>th</sup>. The more interesting reports involved a flock of 12 gaining height at dusk over Lynemouth on 5<sup>th</sup> before making off S calling excitedly (BG/RGL) and a party of 4 landing on a road in Whitley Bay during heavy rain on 30<sup>th</sup> with some perching on garden walls! (CED).

### Redshank.

A suggestion of passage late in the month with 500 at Cresswell on 25<sup>th</sup> (MSH) and 410 at Warkworth on 31<sup>st</sup> (BG/ERM et al.).

### Spotted Redshank.

Very few reports. With the exception of 3 at Washington on 28<sup>th</sup> (LGM), all others were of singles at Monks' House, Hauxley, Warkworth, Budle Bay, Cresswell, Holywell and Seaton Sluice.

### Greenshank.

Many reports of single birds though up to 3 were not uncommon. 13 at Holy Island on 31<sup>st</sup> was unusually large flock (IK), whilst up to 8 were noted at Washington and up to 4 at Colt Crag. They are also attracted to river banks with 5 in a 6 mile stretch of the R. Irthing on 25<sup>th</sup> (LGM) and 1 at Holystone on R. Coquet on 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Knot.

15 at Bamburgh 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (BS/ERM), 45 at Cresswell on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30 at Warkworth on 30<sup>th</sup>. 1-7 noted at St. Mary's, Hauxley and Newton between 14<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

### Purple Sandpiper.

Only report was of 5 at Craster on 23<sup>rd</sup> (BH).

### Little Stint.

Many reports during an influx that commenced with 1 at Ross on 8<sup>th</sup> (BU) followed by 1 at Monks' House on 13<sup>th</sup> (WAK). By 18<sup>th</sup> 2 were at Cresswell (JNP/AH) where they increased to 9 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and to 27 by 31<sup>st</sup>, including a flock of 19 (ERM/MSH/BG et al.). Another large gathering of 14 was located at Warkworth on 30<sup>th</sup> where 5-6 had been present from 24<sup>th</sup> (JEF/HRS). Apart from 1-2 at Washington after 19<sup>th</sup> all other sightings were made between 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> with 1-6 on the coast at Newton, St. Mary's, Lynemouth and inland at Backworth, Arcot Hall, Derwent Res. and Grindon Lough.

### Temminck's Stint.

The bird seen near Backworth in late July remained throughout August and completed its moult into winter plumage (JEF et al.). Another was at Monks' House Pool between 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> (ERM/WAK/BG).

### Pectoral Sandpiper.

1 was seen with Dunlin at Monks' House Pool on 2<sup>nd</sup> (WSC).



#### Dunlin.

700 at Ross on 8th increased to 1400 by 12th(BU). 50-100 were noted at Long Nanny, Newton, Warkworth and Cresswell particularly late in the month when up to 200 gathered at St.Mary's(BG et al.). Inland up to 10 were noted at Hamsterley Mill, Whittle Dene and Arcot Hall. During June/July 21-22 pairs were found breeding in Northumberland, 5 of which were at sites not recorded in 1973/1974.

#### Curlew Sandpiper.

1 at Washington on 11th(PD) heralded an influx which was most apparent from 24th. Between 10-18 were at Warkworth and up to 8 were at Cresswell. 1-3 were at Backworth, Hauxley and St.Mary's with 1 inland at Derwent Res. The largest number occurred on 31st.

#### Sanderling.

8 at Hauxley on 3rd(HRS) increasing to 20 by 29th. 10 at Ross on 8th(BU) and 24 at Chevington next day(BG) when 2 at Lyhemouth. At St.Mary's 10 on 26th increased to 30 by 31st(BG/EML/JPD).

#### Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

On 31st 1 was watched at close range at Cresswell for about 5 minutes(MSH). This is the fourth record for Northumberland. The same bird, or perhaps another, was seen feeding with Golden Plover near Hadston, about 3 miles N, on 13th Sept.(BL).

#### Ruff.

Well reported though in fewer numbers than in recent years. The largest gatherings were of 14 at Cresswell on 31st(MSH et al.) with up to 10 there, at Monks'House and at Washington. 1-5 were not uncommon alongside waters as far inland as Grindon, especially from mid month.

#### Red-necked Phalarope.

1 was watched both swimming and resting on the shore at Ross on 8th(BU).

#### Arctic Skua.

As usual most were reported from the intensively watched Seaton Sluice, although very few were noted until after 15th. Monthly total was 271N and 258S with peaks of 52S on 16th and 106N and 98S on 30th(KW et al.). Small numbers noted off Cresswell, Hauxley, Bamburgh and Holy Island.

#### Great Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice 45N and 6S during month with peak of 29N on 31st(KW et al.). Only other report was of 1 off Hauxley on 31st(HRS).

#### Pomarine Skua.

On 4 days between 17th-31st inclusive 3N and 3S off Seaton Sluice.

#### Long-tailed Skua.

Off Seaton Sluice an adult N(KW) and an immature S on 30th(ERM/KW).

#### Great Black-backed Gull.

A flock of 300 adults at the Long Nanny nr.Beadnell on 24th(BG).

#### Lesser Black-backed Gull.

A locally bred family party seen on Whitfield Moor on 10th(LGM).

#### Common Gull.

The 'July arrival' continued with 50 adults near Jesmond Dene on 2nd when small numbers were moving W over Northumbrian Loughs/Wark Forest. By 21st 340 adults in Whitley Bay(ERM/LGM/ERM).

#### Laughing Gull.

On 30th 2 first year birds were watched for some time as they rested on the beach at Hauxley(BL/DPM). This is the first record for Northumberland and only the seventh for Britain of this rare visitor from America.

#### Little Gull.

Off Seaton Sluice 2S on 3rd, 2S on 16th, 3N on 30th and 11N on 31st(KW et al.). Included in the counts were 5 adults. Inland an adult at Holywell 1st-10th and 26th and another at Wallsend Swallow 8th-22nd(CED/PD/AJ).

#### Kittiwake.

Flock of 500 resting on the shore at St.Mary's on 30th(MSH).



Black Tern.

Between 13th-16th singles at Gosforth, Seaton Burn and St.Mary's. Between 23rd-26th singles N off Hauxley, Cresswell and St.Mary's and, on 31st, 1 at Derwent Res.

Commic Tern.

Further evidence indicating that overland passage is regular involved sightings of 25SW at dusk near Chevington on 1st(BG/ERM) with 1-2 at Seaton Burn, Blaydon and Holywell between 14th-26th. Washington Refuge attracted at least 30 most of the month with a peak of 125 on 7th(WWR). At the coast 200 rested on the beach at Chevington on 9th(BG) with steady N passage off Hauxley on 17th reversing to steady S off Cresswell on 23rd.

Roseate Tern.

A few noted off Seaton Sluice and Hauxley during month.

Sandwich Tern.

100 rested on the beach at Chevington on 9th and steady S movement off Lynemouth on 11th(BG).

Black Guillemot.

An adult in breeding plumage noted S off Newton on 14th(ERM).

Turtle Dove.

1 in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 8th and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 17th(KW).

Cuckoo.

1 at Cresswell on 2nd(JPD/EML), 1 at Whitfield Lough on 10th, 1 on Holy Island on 15th(BL) and 31st(IK), 1 near Morpeth on 25th(B&ME).

Barn Owl.

1 seen in Wallsend(PD) and at Druridge 3 young fledged from a nest 14th-16th(JNP).

Little Owl.

Only report was of 1 in Holywell/Seaton Sluice area in mid month(JEF).

Short-eared Owl.

1-2 at Wallsend Swallow from 8th(BB/AJ/PD), 1 near Kirkley on 17th(ERM) and 2 well inland at Threestone Burn on 5th(JCD).

Swallow.

1 pair reared 3 broods totalling 13 young found near Riding Mill and in same general area 7 pairs reared broods of 6 young - a very good breeding season! At Chevington 400 roosted on 1st decreasing to 100 by 6th(BG/ERM) whilst the roost at Blaydon attracted 300 on 23rd-26th increasing to 500 by 31st(LJM). Passage was observed on 23rd/24th when a flock of 120 were feeding low over sea near Newton before moving off S, at least 200 at Craster, 400 over Seaton Burn(included some Sand Martins) and moving steadily S at Cresswell(BG/BH/IK). On 27th 300 at Bamburgh(MSH).

House Martin.

Approx. 30 nests at Colt Crag on 23rd(LGM).

Sand Martin.

Colony of 8/9 nests in sand dunes at Ross on 17th(LGM). 50 roosting with Swallows at Blaydon on 23rd(LJM). 1 at Warkworth on 31st(BG/ERM).

Swift.

Large populations noted in Blaydon, Stocksfield and Prudhoe areas(BL/ERM). A general departure from the nest sites was apparent from 9th with only 3 left at Blaydon by 23rd(LJM). On 30th/31st 2-3 at Seaton Sluice and Holy Island(KW/IK).

Kingfisher.

1-2 noted at Mitford, Riding Mill, Alwinton, Blaydon and Washington Refuge.

Green Woodpecker.

As is usual noted in College Valley and Harthope Valley.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

1 visiting a bird table at Hamsterley Mill during first week(EP) and 2 juveniles only at Holy Island on 31st(IK).

Marsh Tit.

Noted near Mitford.

Mistle Thrush.

Flocks of 15 in N.Shields from 15th(JSS) and 35NW nr. Riding Mill on 18th(BL).

Fieldfare.

5 early birds on Holy Island on 31st(IK).

Wheatear.

Small numbers in coastal districts all month with peaks of 20 at Craster on 23rd (BH) and 20 in St. Mary's area on 30th/31st(PD/MSH) when small numbers were conspicuous at Holy Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth.

Stonechat.

Haltwhistle is yet another inland site where it was established that a pair bred (LGM). A pair still feeding freshly fledged young at Cresswell on 17th(BG/ERM/RW/JPD/EML).

Whinchat.

A distinct influx on 23rd/24th when 25 at Wallsend Swallow, 15 near Hauxley and 6 at Holywell. On 30th 6 arrived at Tynemouth after heavy rain.

Redstart.

A family of 6 at Craster on 23rd is a very late example of breeding if they had been reared locally(BH) and further singles were noted in breeding habitat in the Ponteland area on 27th(AKI) and on 30th(IK). Single migrants noted at Seaton Sluice on 14th(JEF) and in both Blyth and Whitley Bay Cemeteries on 30th(ID/ERM/CED).

Grasshopper Warbler.

1 singing near Ebchester on 7th(per BL).

Reed Warbler.

An adult was trapped at Chevington on 1st(HRS) whilst unstreaked acrocephalus warblers, probably Reed, were noted at Hauxley(1 on 16th) and at Newton Pool(2-3 on 28th) (HRS/JEF/WAK).

Sedge Warbler.

At least 40 at Blaydon on 2nd(LJM) with about 20 in Chevington area same day(BG/ERM) Still feeding young at Bamburgh, Newton and Hauxley at end of month.

Blackcap.

Single migrant at Hauxley on 5th(HRS) with 1 at Hamsterley Mill on 9th and 17th(EP) and 2 at Craster on 23rd(BH).

Barred Warbler.

1 near Hauxley on 24th and an influx was suggested on 30th/31st when about 8 were on Holy Island, including a party of 6(IK/KH), 2 were at Hauxley(HRS) and 1 was at Seaton Sluice(BG/KW et al.).

Garden Warbler.

Between 27th-31st 1-3 migrants at Bamburgh, Holy Island and Hauxley.

Whitethroat.

Still in evidence until late in the month with 10 in Cresswell area on 29th(IK).

Lesser Whitethroat.

1 at Blaydon on 17th(BL) and on 22nd 1 at Walbottle(MH) and 1 at Hartley(PD).

Wood Warbler.

About 15 singing males noted in Dipton area during summer(BL).

Spotted Flycatcher.

Noted to be scarce as a breeding species in some areas but common in others.

Pied Flycatcher.

Steady passage in very small numbers through coastal areas from 6th with 1-4 at many points, especially 30th/31st.

Red-breasted Flycatcher.

1 in Priors Park, Tynemouth on 30th/31st(AB/KGD).

Meadow Pipit.

A bird still feeding young at Cresswell on 24th(MSH).

Tree Pipit.

A very good breeding season was observed in some areas(BL).

Pied Wagtail.

Steady passage was suggested by parties of 10-40 occurring at Monks' House, Newton, Cresswell, Lynemouth, Whitley Bay and inland at Kirkley between 16th-24th(BG/ERM). A roost at Blaydon built up from 100 on 9th to 300 by 26th(LJM).

White Wagtail.  
An adult at Chevington on 2nd(BG).

Grey Wagtail.  
Away from breeding areas 1-2 at Washington, Denton and Swalwell.

Yellow Wagtail.  
Roost of 200-300 at Blaydon 2nd-26th(LJM).

Red-backed Shrike.  
An immature on Holy Island on 31st(IK/KH).

Goldfinch.  
A very successful breeding season with pairs rearing young in centre of Newcastle  
Resultant large flocks were of 80 at Whitley Bay on 30th(BG) and 45 at Dinnington  
on 26th(ERM).

Siskin.  
Probably bred in Dipton/Slaley area(BL) as well as in more usual areas in the W.

Linnet.  
300-400 in both Cresswell and Hauxley areas most of month with 100-120 at Bamburgh  
on 17th and Kirkley on 20th.

Redpoll.  
Large flocks in Hamsterley Mill area.

Crossbill.  
2 near Falstone on 3rd(LGM).

Chaffinch.  
A 'leucistic' bird noted in a flock of 40 at Falstone on 18th(ERM).

Omission:  
Willow Warbler.  
Conspicuous falls of migrants at Hauxley on 16th(20) and on 30th/31st at Whitley  
Bay(JDMcE et al.) and Holy Island(IK).

#### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

S. Anderson	C.E. Douglas	A. Heavisides	J.D. McElwee	M. Tulloch
K. Barratt	P. & I. Davidson	E.R. Harbottle	B. Martin	A. Temple
W. Brady	K.G. Dures	A.K. Ironside	E.R. Meek	B. Unwin
J.S. Booth	B. & M. Et Merington	A. James	L.J. Milton	T.H. Wall
B. Bowman	M.P. Franks	I. Kerr	D.F. Middleton	K. Walton
A. Belshaw	J.E. Fergusson	W.A. Kelly	M. Nattrass	R. Walton
R.N. Coates	B. Galloway	R.G. Lewis	C. Ord	Washington WmR.
W.S. Craster	R. Grey	E.M. Lindsay	E. Priestley	Hauxley R.S.
J.P. Deacon	M.S. Hodgson	B. Little	J.N. Prescott	Bamburgh R.S.
J.C. Day	M. Henry	G.R. Lawrence	J.S. Spence	
R.M. & J. Day	B. Hunter	L.G. Macfarlane	C.P. Taylor	

All September records to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Court, Westerhope, Newcastle  
upon Tyne NE5 1RX by 9th Oct. please. S.A.E. for supply of record cards.

Any correspondence relating to Bulletin/Annual Report distribution, address changes  
etc., should be sent to Keith Walton, 51 Beachcroft Avenue, Tynemouth.

#### CLUB NEWS & NOTES

Annual General meeting, Thursday, 9th October at 7.15pm

Nominations for the committee should be sent to John Ginnever (preferably using the  
form attached to the July bulletin), to arrive at least 24 hours before the meeting.  
We look forward to a large attendance and hope that members will take the  
opportunity of voicing their opinions of the present state of the T.B.C. Without  
'feedback' and ideas from the general membership it is difficult for a committee to  
know if the full potential of the club is being utilised.

ERIC BIRD has kindly agreed to be on hand to instruct and entertain you when the  
election procedure has been completed. Eric's films, whether made locally or  
abroad, are always excellent, as members who have seen them will know already.

James Deacon, signed prints.

The limited edition of 50 copies each of three subjects, will be available at the  
- 8 - /Club News & Notes cont.



Club News & Notes cont/

club meeting. Response from within the club has been good, but copies of Merlin, Long-eared Owl and Garganey are still available. It would help considerably if members who intend to collect the prints already ordered could bring envelope or wrapper to take 12½" x 10¼" prints.

Whitley Bay Sports Council.

Our application to join the organisation has been accepted and, as a result, we hope to announce some interesting developments in the near future.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1975/76 are NOW DUE

TREASURERS REPORT & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The pressures of inflation have continued to stretch the Club's financial resources. In spite of this your committee feel able to announce that subscriptions will remain at their present levels for at least the next financial year.

In the Treasurers Report presented to the 1974 Annual General Meeting it was stated that the committee would explore every means of reducing costs and raising further income. This policy has been pursued and the generous financial guarantee from the North Tyneside Recreation Committee, who have pledged to underwrite any loss to the Club in respect of 'Birds in Northumbria', is a most important development. The distribution of the Bulletin by hand has proved very successful with approximately 100 Bulletins (half the monthly total) being distributed to members by this method. The committee are extremely grateful to those who help with this scheme which has saved the Club over £50 in postage during the nine months or so that it has been in operation. It is hoped that during the coming year even more Bulletins will be delivered in this way.

Encouraging as these developments are, there is little doubt that the Club's finances will be faced with further strain as costs continue to rise, e.g. the forthcoming increase in postal charges will come into force right at the beginning of the new financial year. For this reason your committee will continue to review the Club's financial position at regular intervals throughout the year.

At the present time our greatest asset is the annual 'Birds in Northumbria'. Each year the Club must sell between 300 and 400 copies, over and above those supplied to members and to other organisations. If each member can sell just one copy of the report, the Club will be able to enter the year in a **much healthier** financial position.

The following statement of accounts has been forwarded for auditing to Gallon Lee & Co., Chartered Accountants.

Stationery : Great Crested Grebe	6.71
Survey	6.00
Station Sincis Observatory expenses	5.00
Advertisement in 'Birds'	12.38
Lecture Hall expenses	3.79
Sundries	
Balance in hand 30th September 1975	375.75
Cash at Bank	81.75
Cash in hand	

B. Martin & J.C. Day



# Receipts and Payments Account

1st October 1974 to 30th September 1975

Cash in hand and at Bank - 1st October 1974 £ 53.10

Receipts :-	Membership subscriptions	512.00	
	Sales of 'Birds in Northumbria 1971	1.00	
	1972	10.90	
	1973	155.24	
	1974	1.70	
	Sale of Club badges	20.20	
	Bank interest	10.22	
	Wildfowl Trust Subscriptions	7.50	
	Advanced sale of J. Deacon prints	6.00	
	Sales of Breeding Survey	3.35	
	Sundries	4.40	732.51

£ 785.61

Payments :-	Production and distribution of Bulletin	152.61
	New record cards	33.75
	Visiting speakers	28.00
	Advanced booking : coach hire	26.10
	Secretary's expenses	21.50
	Typist and art work 1974 'Birds in Northumbria'	20.00
	Hire of RSPB films	14.80
	Stationery : Great Crested Grebe Survey	6.71
	Seaton Sluice Observatory expenses	6.00
	Advertisement in 'Birds'	5.00
	Lecture Hall expenses	12.88
	Sundries	3.79

£ 331.14

Balance in hand 30th September 1975

Cash at Bank 372.72

Cash in hand 81.75

£ 454.47

B. Martin & J. C. Day

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

September 1975

### SUMMARY

In a month that was dominated initially by anticyclonic weather and then by an airstream from a westerly quarter no large scale arrivals of continental migrants took place.

Between 1st-7th, Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers reached peak numbers while the Temminck's Stint remained in the area. Teal, Wigeon and Arctic Skuas were conspicuous moving N. and 2 Sabine's Gulls were noted. Residual Barred Warblers were on Holy Island where, during the next few days, a Red-backed Shrike was seen. It was also during this mid month period that both Great Grey and Lesser Grey Shrike were reported. The weekend of 13th/14th produced a good movement of Shearwaters and Great Skuas into strong N.N.W. winds. Also reported were another Sabine's Gull, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper and 4 Dotterel. Hirundines were passing S. in numbers most of the month, especially 20th/21st and 2 large Swallow roosts were located.

During the last few days an assortment of interesting records included Barred and Yellow-browed Warblers, the first Redwings, Snow Bunting, Whooper Swans and Geese and an unusually large concentration of Goosanders.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Diver (sp.)

1 off Holy Island on 1st and between 7th-28th up to 9 per day off Hauxley and Seaton Sluice. On 28th about 20 off Cresswell. Some were identified as Red-throated.

#### Great Northern Diver.

3 off St. Mary's on 4th(EP) and 6 off Cresswell on 28th(KW).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

Well reported. Colt Crag continued to attract largest numbers with 15 there on 1st (RW) reducing to 5-6 after 11th. Up to 6 at Whittle Dene during month(EAS et al.) with 1-2 at Hallington, Tunstall and Smiddyshaw. Offshore 2N Hauxley on 14th, 1N Dunstanburgh on 21st and 1N Seaton Sluice on 27th.

#### Little Grebe.

30 at Colt Crag on 10th(MR) and 24 at Northumbrian Loughs on 13th(LGM). 10 at Cresswell Pond on 27th(BG) and up to 6 at Holywell, Westerhope, Wallington, Hallington, Hazelrigg, Whittle Dene and Tunstall.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Off Seaton Sluice a total of 60N between 7th-28th with peak on 13th/14th of 47(KW et al.). Smaller numbers noted off Hauxley, Bamburgh and St. Mary's.

#### Sooty Shearwater.

Noted off Cresswell(ID), St. Mary's(BG) and Seaton Sluice(BG/KW) with counts at the latter involving 5N on 7th, 18N on 13th, 6N on 14th and 1N on 27th.

#### Fulmar.

Off Hauxley 40/hr N on 2nd and 60/hr N on 7th(HRS). Off Seaton Sluice 20N on 13th (BG) and 41S on 27th(KW).

#### Gannet.

Heavy passage N noted on several dates, especially in first 3 hours after dawn. On 7th 912 off Seaton Sluice with 535 off Hauxley in 1½ hours. On 14th 1200N off Seaton Sluice. Smaller numbers noted off Holy Island.

#### Cormorant.

200-300 roosting on Marsden Rock during first part of month(THW). Southerly passage was apparent off Seaton Sluice on 12th when 35S and off Hauxley on 14th when 25S and on 28th when small parties passed S. 22 on Jarrow Slake on 12th(BE), 1-4 at Washington all month(WWR) and 1 at Colt Crag on 17th(CMA).

#### Shag.

A suggestion of S passage off Hauxley on 14th(HRS).

Heron.

Largest gathering was of 7 at Hallington on 17th(CMA). Birds arriving from the E at the coast involved 4 at Warkworth on 3rd(BG), 1 at Newton on 13th(KR), and 3 at St. Mary's on 21st(JDMcE). Up to 5 noted at eleven other localities inland and at the coast.

Pelican.

Still present at Warkworth(JRN).

Flamingo.

1 at Cresswell on 20th(AD) - an escape!

Mallard.

Largest counts were 272 at Northumbrian Loughs on 27th(LGM), 250 at Holywell on 8th(CED), 180 at Whittle Dene on 21st(AJR), 100 near Kirkley on 9th(ERM) and 140 at Pawston on 28th(LGM). Offshore passage involved 72N and 27S off Seaton Sluice during month(KW et al.).

Teal.

Well reported as return passage progressed. Inland concentrations included 120 at Holywell on 28th(CED), 120 near Kirkley on 9th(ERM), 95 at Colt Crag on 10th(MR), 80 at Grindon on 27th(LGM) and 60 at Pont Reservoir on 21st. Offshore passage was heavy with a total of 759N and 131S off Seaton Sluice during month with similar numbers off Hauxley. The peak took place on 7th with 372N with only 29S.

Garganey.

1 in wing moult at Cresswell on 2nd(BG) and 1-2 at Washington on 9th/10th(AT).

Gadwall.

A pair at Cresswell on 6th(KH/LGM).

Wigeon.

During a steady return passage the largest numbers were seen moving N offshore. At Seaton Sluice 736N and 176S during month, with peaks on 7th(280N), 20th(143N and 150S) and 27th(108N). Up to 10 were on many waters during first half of month but largest concentration was noted on Northumbrian Loughs with 64 on 13th and 100 on 27th(LGM).

Pintail.

On 7th 7S off Seaton Sluice(KW) and 1N off Hauxley(HRS). On 13th 8N Seaton Sluice (BG) and on 27th 3 at Shield on the Wall(LGM).

Shoveler.

Largest counts were at Gosforth Park where 37 were noted on 21st(LGM) with 16 at nearby Seaton Burn on 6th(ERM). 13 at Grindon on 27th/28th(LGM/AJR) and singles at Cresswell, Capheaton and off Hauxley between 1st-14th.

Scaup.

A drake at Monks House on 15th(CMA).

Tufted Duck.

72 at Whittle Dene on 6th(EAS) was largest reported gathering. Up to 40 at Gosforth and Northumbrian Loughs.

Pochard.

The usual mid September passage was illustrated by 85-87 at Northumbrian Loughs 13th and 27th(LGM) and 45 at Gosforth on 21st(LGM/AJm). Between 8th-24th 1-3 at Whittle Dene, Holywell, Coldrife and Seaton Sluice.

Goldeneye.

1 at Cresswell on 2nd(BG), 1 at Colt Crag on 10th(MR) and 1 at Grindon on 28th(AJR).

Long-tailed Duck.

1 off Cresswell on 6th(PD) and off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's 4N on 12th and 3N on 20th (BG/KW).

Velvet Scoter.

Between 13th-20th 3N off Hauxley and 9N off Seaton Sluice.

Common Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice during month 222N and 11S(KW et al.)

Red-breasted Merganser.

3 in Budle Bay 12th-16th(AJm) and off Seaton Sluice 2 on 14th and 4S on 20th(KW).



Goosander.

The largest gatherings occurred at Tunstall with 37 on 1st increasing to 89 by 29th (THW). Between 8th-28th up to 9 at Derwent, Grindon, Colt Crag, Bardon Mill and Warden.

Shelduck.

Small numbers associated with moult migration involved 1-3 off Hauxley, Seaton Sluice, at Monks House and near Backworth between 6th-28th.

Grey Geese (sp.)

29S off Seaton Sluice on 28th(RGL/KW).

Greylag Goose.

A pale bird with a white neck and head off Hauxley on 14th(HRS). At Hoselaw, just over the Scottish border, 14 on 14th(WLR) and 400 present by 28th(LGM et al.).

Egyptian Goose.

1 at Colt Crag on 10th(MR) and 1 at Washington Refuge 16th-30th(WWR).

Canada Goose.

150 at Colt Crag on 2nd(RG/WB) is probably largest concentration in that area. 1 at Newton on 28th(KW).

Whooper Swan.

First noted on 27th when 4 at Holy Island(WAK). Next day 16 at Holy Island(LGM et al.) and 5 at Cresswell(BG/B&ME/RW/KW). All were adults.

Buzzard.

Singles at Gosforth Park on 1st(EH/JP) and at Whittle Dene on 8th(AKI). 2 at Blanchland on 17th(per BL).

Sparrowhawk.

1-2 noted at Craster, Hauxley, Wooler, Falstone, Ponteland, Holywell, Kirkley, Pauperhaugh and Bardon Mill.

Peregrine.

2 in Cheviots on 10th(JKJ) and 1 near Elsdon on 24th(per BL).

Merlin.

Singles at Washington on 11th(WWR), Backworth on 12th(BG), Haughton Common on 27th (LGM) and near Alnmouth on 28th(WAK).

Kestrel.

Well reported throughout area in 'parties' of up to 6. 1 arrived from E at Hauxley on 20th.

Black Grouse.

Noted as usual on Otterburn ranges.

Coot.

300 at Seaton Burn on 6th(ERM) and at Broomlee Lough 300-310 on 13th and 27th(LGM). On 14th 110-120 at each of Wingates(RGL) and Holywell(CED).

Oystercatcher.

180 at St. Mary's on 12th(BG).

Lapwing.

Only reported flocks were 800 at Embleton on 12th(BE) and 2000 at Druridge on 28th (KW/B&ME).

Ringed Plover.

94 at the Long Nanny on 7th(LGM). 40-45 at Hauxley on 7th-11th(HRS) and up to 20 at Jarrow Slake 12th-14th(BE).

Grey Plover.

Up to 3 at Barwick, Hauxley, Budle Bay, Cresswell, Newton, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's after 12th. Inland reports involved 6 over Washington on 15th with 1 there 16th-28th(WWR/MMcC), 1 at Arcot Hall on 20th and 1 at Hazelrigg on 24th(BM).

Golden Plover.

Some large flocks. 1000 in Druridge area on 13th(BG/ERM) increased to 3000 by 28th (BM/KW et al.). 1500 in Budle Bay on 8th-16th(AJm), at Embleton on 12th(BE) and at Hadston on 14th(HRS). 1000 at Long Nanny on 7th(LGM) and at Jarrow Slake on 12th (BE). Up to 500 at Boulmer, Benton, Blyth, N. Sunderland, Holy Island and Whittle Dene.

Dotterel.

A very rare occurrence in the county of 4, an adult and 3 immatures, nr. Hauxley on 14th(HRS)



Turnstone.

An inland occurrence of 1 at Hazlerigg on 10th(BM).

Common Snipe.

40 at each of Walbottle on 28th(MH) and Washington all month(WWR). Up to 20 at many other suitable waters with probable immigrants noted at Hauxley and St.Mary's on 20th.

Woodcock.

Only report was 1 at Washington on 7th(WWR).

Curlew.

80-100 in Newton area 7th and 13th(RGL/LGM).

Whimbrel.

1-6 at Fenham Flats, Warkworth, Hauxley, Tynemouth and Seaton Sluice during month with a flock of 60S off Seaton Sluice on 7th(KW et al.)

Black-tailed Godwit.

2 at St.Mary's on 6th(EH).

Bar-tailed Godwit.

Between 4th-28th up to 7 in Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's area(KW/EAS et al.). During same period 8-13 at Budle Bay, Hauxley, Warkworth and Jarrow Slake. Inland a very tired or sick individual at Seaton Burn on 6th(ERM).

Green Sandpiper.

Apart from 1-3 at Washington on eight dates and 2 near Backworth on 7th(CFW/BM) all other reports were of singles at Warkworth, Arcot Hall, Colt Crag, Font Res. and

Wood Sandpiper.

Only reports were of 1 at Monks House on 7th(WAK) and 2 at Blaydon on 16th(LJM).

Common Sandpiper.

Reported only at Cresswell, Chevington and Warkworth until 15th.

Redshank.

200 at Jarrow Slake on 12th(BE) and 105 at Washington on 19th(WWR).

Spotted Redshank.

6 at Washington on 1st(AT) and 10 on Budle Bay on 6th(CED). All other reports of singles at Cresswell, Hauxley, Warkworth, Monks House, Berwick and Washington Refuge between 1st-30th.

Greenshank.

Up to 6 at Washington daily(WWR). Elsewhere 1-2 at Beal, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice, Backworth, Colt Crag and Grindon between 2nd-20th.

Knot.

1 at Cresswell Pond on 13th(ERM) and up to 100 at Hauxley between 6th-12th(HRS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

As reported last month 1 was seen with Golden Plover near Hauxley on 13th(BL), and another was watched near St.Mary's, both on the shore and on the golf course, on 20th(JSB). These are the fifth and sixth records for Northumberland.

Little Stint.

Unusual numbers continued to be reported until about 16th. 19 were at Cresswell on 1st/2nd(ERM/BG) with 14 there on 6th. 11 were at Washington on 1st/2nd(AT) and on 7th 13 at Holy Island, 8 at Monks House(LGM) and 7 at Warkworth(HRS). Thereafter numbers declined with 1-5 at Newton, Hauxley, Ellington, Backworth, Tynemouth and St.Mary's as well as at the previously mentioned localities. 2 at St.Mary's on 24th was latest report(JD).

Temminck's Stint.

The Backworth bird, first seen in late July, was last noted on 6th(ERM). It is possible that one that appeared at Washington Refuge on 6th, remaining until 9th, was the same individual(THW/AT et al.)

Dunlin.

Away from Lindisfarne 150 at Hauxley on 11th was largest concentration. Inland 1-6 at Washington and Whittle Dene during month.

Curlew Sandpiper.

Passage continued in unusually large numbers, especially between 1st-8th. Largest numbers noted on 6th when 20 at Warkworth(HRS) and 21 at Cresswell(BG). Still 12 at Warkworth on 8th and 5-6 at Hauxley on 11th-13th(HRS). 1-4 also noted at Holy Island, Monks House, Boulmer, Chevington, Ellington, St. Mary's, Washington and Ryton between 1st-14th. A late bird at Hauxley on 30th(HRS).

Sanderling.

Between 2nd-14th 35-50 at Hauxley(HRS) and up to 30 at St. Mary's(BG/EH et al.).

Ruff.

Steady passage in small numbers throughout month with up to 8 at many localities as far inland as Whittle Dene. A peak was suggested on 28th when 21 were at Ellington(RW) and 12 at Washington(MMcC).

Arctic Skua.

Largest numbers noted off the intensively watched Seaton Sluice and Hauxley. The former produced totals of 292N and 97S with peaks of 117N on 7th, 70N on 13th and 79N on 27th with 50S on 14th(KW et al.).

Great Skua.

Largest numbers noted off Seaton Sluice with totals of 44N and 6S, 21 of which flew N on 13th(KW et al.). Also noted off Newton, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Great Black-backed Gull.

On 12th 2000 at Jarrow Slake and 1000 nr. Embleton(BE). 350 at Seaton Sluice on 26th(CMA).

Glaucous Gull.

Singles at Amble on 7th, Hauxley on 13th and Blyth on 16th(HRS/ERM). All were first year birds.

Little Gull.

Off Seaton Sluice 3N on 13th and on four dates between 20th-28th 7N and 6S. Off Hauxley singles on 7th, 10th and 13th with 1 at Holywell on 28th(NJW). Only 4 immatures were reported.

Black-headed Gull.

At least 300 at St. Mary's on 7th(MSH).

Sabine's Gull.

Three sightings of this rare nearctic visitor, all off Hauxley. 2N on 7th included an immature, and 1N on 13th(HRS).

Kittiwake.

Heavy N passage noted in first 2-3 hours after dawn off Hauxley on 7th, 13th and 14th. Counts involved up to 1800 per hour(HRS).

Black Tern.

1 at Seaton Burn(BM/CFW) on 7th and between 8th-30th 1 at Holywell(CED et al.) 1 at Washington 14th-26th(BM/AT et al.) and off Seaton Sluice 1N on 13th, 2N on 16th and 1N on 27th(KW/EH/ERM et al.).

'Commic' Tern.

20S off Hauxley on 13th(HRS) and inland 20 at Jarrow Slake on 12th(BE), 1 at Colt Crag on 10th(MR) and up to 5 at Washington(WWR) until 24th.

Roseate Tern.

2 off Hauxley on 8th(HRS).

Sandwich Tern.

Late reports of 2 at Cresswell on 27th(BG) and 3 off Hauxley on 28th(HRS). 1 inland at Washington on 22nd(WWR).

Auk (sp.)

Largest movement involved 53N in 1 hour off Hauxley on 14th(HRS).

Cuckoo.

Late individuals on Holy Island 1st-11th(KH/JKJ et al.) and at Hauxley on 12th(HRS).

Barn Owl.

During breeding season a pair reared 2 broods near Wark( per BL).

Long-eared Owl.

An early immigrant at Hauxley on 20th when it was seen to arrive from the E(HRS).

Short-eared Owl.

Between 3rd-26th 1-2 at Hauxley, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow, Monkseaton and Washington.

Swift.

Between 6th-13th 1-2 at Cresswell, Whitley Bay, Tynemouth, Jesmond and Watergate. Late individuals over West Newcastle on 20th(MH) and at Hauxley on 21st(HRS).

Kingfisher.

1-2 noted at Jesmond Dene, Blaydon, Prudhoe, Blyth, Bothal, Mitford and Colt Crag.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Belsay, Ponteland and Washington. 2 on Holy Island 1st-3rd(KH/MH/AKI et al.), 1 at Cresswell on 6th(PD) and 1W over Team Valley, Gateshead on 24th(LGM) were possible migrants.

Sky Lark.

Small numbers S over Hauxley on six dates between 4th-30th(HRS). 600 on Holy Island on 25th(IK).

Swallow.

A roost of 5000 at Blaydon between 1st-20th decreased to only 20 by 28th(LJM). At Seaton Burn 1000 roosting on 9th decreased to 100 by 17th(IK). At Hauxley steady S passage of up to 200 a day until a very heavy S movement was noted on 20th/21st during a period of strong SW winds and fine, warm weather. Still a few passing on 28th(HRS). The movement of 20th/21st was also witnessed over Newcastle, continuing in reduced numbers on 22nd. Young fledged from a nest near Riding Mill during last few days of month.

House Martin.

Still present at the end of the month when 9 occupied nests were counted on the Royal Border Bridge at Berwick(LGM et al.). Between 4th-6th, 50 at Dipton(BL), many at Ponteland(AKI), 400S at Warkworth(HRS) and 'hundreds' at Whitley Bay/ St. Mary's(EP) indicated passage. Conspicuous moving S with Swallows on 20th/21st(HRS)

Sand Martin.

Small numbers moving S with other Hirundines even as late as 21st. On 14th flock of 15 feeding at Ellington(BG/RGL) and a late individual at Holywell 22nd-30th (JEF et al.)

Great Tit.

A coastal occurrence at Hauxley on 20th/21st when other tits were in evidence(HRS).

Blue Tit.

Conspicuous at the coast on 27th/28th when 25 at Hauxley and 8 in Blyth Cem.(HRS/ERM).

Marsh Tit.

12 at Craster on 7th(IK).

Coal Tit.

Coastal occurrence, possibly immigrants, involved 1 at Hauxley on 16th and 3 there on 28th with 1 remaining on 30th(HRS). At Priors Park, Tynemouth 1 on 30th(MSH).

Long-tailed Tit.

2 with other tits at the coast at Hauxley on 28th(HRS).

Wren.

Influx noted at Hauxley on 28th(HRS).

Mistle Thrush.

On 21st flocks of 20 at Plashetts, 12 at Shaftoe and 26 at Sweethope(DBC/JCD).

Fieldfare.

Early reports continued with up to 7 on Holy Island 1st-8th(KH/AKI/RGL), 20 at Colt Crag on 17th(CMA) and 20 at Falstone on 21st(MRS/ELS).

Redwing.

First and only report was of 2 at Hauxley on 28th(HRS).

Blackbird.

Influx at Hauxley of 20 on 30th(HRS).



Wheatear.

Many reports, mainly of small numbers, at the coast throughout month. 14 on Holy Island on 1st(KH) when 4 at Cresswell were thought to be Greenland birds(per BL). Another of this race was seen at Blyth on 25th(ERM). Peak passage was suggested between 7th-13th when 10-20 were at Boulmer, Hauxley, Newton and St.Mary's. Inland birds were noted at Westerhope and Slaley before 20th.

Stonechat.

Present at many localities on the coast between Holy Island and St.Mary's. Also noted at Wallsend.

Whinchat.

Largest 'gathering' was of 15 at Whittle Dene on 10th(BDG). At the coast passage was steady with several reports of up to 6 throughout the month. Still a juvenile inland at Walbottle on 28th(MH).

Redstart.

Only a handful of records. 1 at Cresswell on 1st and singles at Hauxley on 11th, 13th and 14th. Another at Cresswell on 21st. and 1 at Tynemouth on 30th(JKJ/HRS/MSH)

Robin.

Influx at Hauxley on 27th with peak numbers present on 30th when 20-30 were noted (HRS).

Sedge Warbler.

Some unusually late reports. They were especially plentiful at Blaydon with 50 early in the month(LJM). Elsewhere 1-3 noted at seven different localities until 12th. 1 at Hauxley on 14th(HRS), 1 at Backworth on 15th(TG), Blaydon on 17th(LJM) and 2, the last, at Holywell on 19th(JEF).

Blackcap.

Only reported at Hauxley where 1-2 were present on six dates between 3rd-28th(HRS).

Barred Warbler.

3 on Holy Island on 1st and still 1 present on 7th(KH/LGM). 1 at Warkworth on 6th and 1 at Hauxley on 27th(HRS).

Garden Warbler.

Only reported at Hauxley where singles were present on 3rd, 7th, 8th and 12th(HRS).

Whitethroat.

Noted only at Hauxley with 4 on 6th/7th and singles 12th, 20th and 28th(HRS)

Willow Warbler.

12 on Holy Island on 1st where 2 were in full song on 2nd(KH). Up to 5 at Hauxley 7th-10th when 1 trapped showed characters of the N race 'acredula'. A straggler at Hauxley 28th-30th(HRS).

Chiffchaff.

Singles in song on Holy Island on 1st(MH) and at Blaydon on 13th(BL).

Yellow-browed Warbler.

1 at Hauxley on 30th heralded an unusually large October influx(HRS)...details in October bulletin.

Goldcrest.

10 at Hauxley from 6th until an influx on 27th-30th brought 25 to Hauxley, and up to 10 at Blyth and Whitley Cemeteries, Priors Park and Whitley Bay Quarry.

Spotted Flycatcher.

Still apparent in breeding territory at Kirkley, Blaydon, Stocksfield, Falstone and Killingworth until 22nd. A migrant in Blyth Cemetery on 28th(CED).

Pied Flycatcher.

Very light coastal passage with 1-3 at Holy Island, Craster, Hauxley, Newton and Cresswell between 1st-13th. On 30th singles at Hauxley and Priors Park, Tynemouth.

Dunnoek.

At Hauxley influxes of 10 on 12th and again 28th-30th(HRS).

Meadow Pipit.

S passage noted over the coast between 4th-21st, being particularly heavy on 10th and 19th-21st when up to 500/hr. were counted at Hauxley and Tynemouth(HRS/KW/MSH/BDG).

Tree Pipit.

Only reports were of 1 at Hauxley on 8th and 12 on Holy Island on 25th(HRS/IK).

Rock Pipit.  
15 at St.Mary's on 30th(MSH).

Pied Wagtail.  
Roost of 400 at Blaydon 15th-30th(LJM). Conspicuous at Hauxley all month, indicating steady passage, with 12-20 daily, especially moving S on 20th(HRS). At Cresswell 30S on 7th(BG) and influx of 10 in Blyth Cemetery on 17th(ERM).

White Wagtail.  
1 at Chevington on 6th(LGM) and 2 at Newton on 13th(KR).

Grey Wagtail.  
Away from breeding areas 1-2 at Coquet Est., Hauxley, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay Quarry and Derwenthaugh.

Yellow Wagtail.  
Most were noted at Blaydon where a roost attracted 200 until 10th with 30 still present on 17th(LJM). 1-2 noted at many localities inland and at the coast until 17th. A straggler at Hauxley on 20th.

Great Grey Shrike.  
A very early bird watched for long periods at Newton by the Sea on 13th(RGL/TRP/KR).

Lesser Grey Shrike.  
A adult found dead at Elwick, near Belford, on 20th had been dead for about a week (DOC). This is only the third record for Northumberland.

Red-backed Shrike.  
A female noted on Holy Island between 8th-11th(RGL/JKJ).

Starling.  
7000 roosting near Belford on 13th(WLR).

Goldfinch.  
Many reports of flocks of up to 55 with some S coastal passage noted in Druridge area.

Siskin.  
1 in full song at Corbridge on 4th(ID), 20 at Craster on 14th(WSC) and on 11th and a mixed flock of Siskin/Redpoll at Stocksfield totalled 40 birds.

Linnet.  
Up to 400 in Hauxley area, especially in mid month and 200 at Ponteland on 29th (HRS/LSS).

Redpoll.  
Large numbers in Hamsterley Mill area all month(EP).

Bullfinch.  
1 in unusual surroundings at Hauxley on 28th(HRS).

Reed Bunting.  
Light passage suggested at Hauxley on 28th(HRS).

Snow Bunting.  
Early reports of 7 at Hadston on 20th(HRS) and 1 on Holy Island on 28th(LGM).

#### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	I.Davidson	B.D.Green	J.K.Jeffrey	M.McCann
B.V.Atkins	P.Davidson	R.Grey	A.James	B.Mecrow
J.S.Booth	J.P.Deacon	T.Goonan	W.A.Kelly	E.R.Meek
W.Brady	C.E.Douglas	E.Hawdon	I.Kerr	J.R.Norris
K.Barratt	A.Donnison	M.Henry	R.G.Lewis	J.O'Connor
W.S.Craster	B.Etheridge	M.S.Hodgson	E.M.Lindsay	E.Priestley
R.N.Coates	B.& M.Etherington	B.Hunter	B.Little	J.Park
D.B.Charlton	M.P.Franks	K.Hutton	B.Martin	T.R.Palmer
J.Day	J.E.Fergusson	W.Hills	L.G.Macfarlane	A.J.Richards
J.C.Day	B.Galloway	A.K.Ironside	J.D.McElwee	M.Richardson
W.L.Rimmer	E.L.Smith	N.J.Watmough	Hauxley R.S.	
K.Robson	A.Temple	C.F.Watson	Washington W.R.	
E.A.Stanley	T.H.Wall			
L.S.Stevens	K.Walton			
	R.Walton			

All October records to B.Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Ct.Chapel Park,Westerhope,Newcastle NE5 1RX, by 9th Nov.,please. S.A.E. please for supply of record cards.

Any correspondence relating to Bulletin distribution/change of address &c. to Keith Walton, 51 Beachcroft Ave., Tynemouth.

## CLUB NEWS & NOTES

At the October meeting the following members were elected to serve on the committee:

John Ginnever - Chairman  
Keith Dures - Secretary  
John Day - Treasurer  
Brian Galloway - Recorder

Geoff. Macfarlane, Brian Martin, Mike Hodgson, Tom Palmer, James Deacon

Club Meeting Thursday, 13th November at 7.15pm.

New members are particularly welcome to this meeting, the programme for which is at the time of writing not yet finalised as it is dependent on the weather.

Field Trip Sunday, 23rd November to Seafield, Prestonpans and Aberlady Bay.

Bus departs	Hancock Museum	8.00am	
	Baxter's, Tynemouth	8.20am	Cost £1.25

All bookings and cash to:

Mike Hodgson, 30 Closefield Grove, Monkseaton. (Tel W.Bay 20511)

Some of the club experts will be on this trip to help with identification of the large numbers of waders, grebes and ducks (particularly Scaup and Long-tailed) which we can guarantee will be present.

CONGRATULATIONS to Brian Little on his election to the B.T.O. Rarities Committee. The club is indeed fortunate to now have members on both Rarities and Ringing and Migration Committees.



any correspondence relating to Bulletin distribution/changes of address &c. to

Keith Walton, 51 Benchcroft Ave., Tynemouth.

#### CLUB NEWS & NOTES

At the October meeting the following members were elected to serve on the committee:

Chairman - John Ginnover  
Secretary - Keith Dures  
Treasurer - John Day  
Recorder - Brian Galloway  
Geoff. Macfarlane, Brian Martin, Mike Hodgson, Tom Palmer, James Pearson

Club Meeting Thursday, 13th November at 7.15pm.  
New members are particularly welcome to this meeting, the programme for which is at the time of writing not yet finalised as it is dependent on the weather.

Field Trip Sunday, 23rd November to Seafeld, Prestons Park and Aberlady Bay.

Bus departs Harwick Museum 8.00am  
Baxter's, Tynemouth 8.20am  
Cost £1.25  
All bookings and cash to:  
Mike Hodgson, 30 Clonsilla Grove, Monkseaton. (Tel W. Bay 20511)

Some of the club experts will be on this trip to help with identification of the large numbers of waders, probes and ducks (particularly Scaup and Long-tailed) which we can guarantee will be present.

CONGRATULATIONS to Brian Little on his election to the E.T.O. Rarities Committee. The club is indeed fortunate to now have members on both Rarities and Ringing and Migration Committees.

## TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

October 1975

### SUMMARY

Apart from the first four days when depressions crossed the country, the weather was predominantly anticyclonic and, as a result, unusually dry and sunny with light winds prevailing on many dates from an Easterly quarter.

With high pressure firmly established over the continent, conditions were ideal for passerine immigration from Europe and further East.

As was to be expected thrushes and Bramblings were noted arriving in large numbers, especially between 18th-25th when low cloud hindered their progress.

However, birds had been arriving in numbers since 9th and it was during the next few days that an unprecedented arrival of Yellow-browed Warblers was witnessed with at least 18 individuals being involved. At the same time Barred Warblers and Red-breasted Flycatchers were seen and on 15th a Rustic Bunting appeared. Goldcrests were in good numbers on the coast and a Firecrest was found on 22nd when the third Richard's Pipit of the month was discovered. Another rare pipit, a Red-throated, had been seen on 19th. Other well travelled visitors to be reported during this period were an 'Eastern' Stonechat, Mealy Redpolls, 'Northern' Bullfinches, Waxwings and both Long and Short-eared Owls.

Sea bird movements were rarely heavy but Little Auk, 4 Sabine's Gulls and a Mediterranean Gull were reported.

Wildfowl numbers were, as usual, well documented with geese being particularly noticeable, especially the Brent Goose that was seen wearing a Canadian neck-ring. Towards the end of the month a Smew was located.

By 31st the European high declined, admitting Atlantic depressions again over the British Isles.

Concluding, I would like to congratulate all contributors in helping to make October 1975 a record month - 82 individual contributors plus 3 group efforts and over 700 record cards submitted. A lot of work on my part, but the result is a very comprehensive summary of ornithological events in the Area.

### CLASSIFIED LIST

#### Great Northern Diver.

All reports between 11th-22nd when 2 off Holy Island(NRG), 3N off Seaton Sluice and 1S(ICD/KR/KW) and 1S off St.Mary's(MSH).

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

Noted on most dates all along the coast with up to 5 in Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley and Chevington areas. Particularly prominent off Seaton Sluice on 11th when 21N and 3S(SR/KW et al.).

#### Great Crested Grebe.

Noted at most breeding sites throughout month with up to 6 at Whittle Dene where some 'display' was noted between a winter plumage bird and one in breeding dress (EAS/JSB). 3-5 at Colt Crag on 18th(KB), 2 at Gosforth all month and 1 at Seaton Sluice 12th-31st(BH/AJm et al.). 1 on sea off Seaton Sluice on 15th(KW).

#### Red-necked Grebe.

Off Holy Island 1 on 11th/12th, 2 on 18th and 3 on 22nd(AJR).

#### Slavonian Grebe.

Between 18th-26th up to 5 present in Holy Island harbour(PD/MGC/KR et al.).

#### Little Grebe.

Only reported from Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Northumbrian Loughs, Washington and Tunstall. 12 at Northumbrian Loughs on 13th was largest concentration.

#### Manx Shearwater.

Noted only on 11th when 7N off Seaton Sluice(KW) and 1N off Hauxley(HRS).

#### Fulmar.

2 on cliffs near Craster on 17th was the only record(WSC).

### Gannet.

Still numerous off Holy Island, especially moving S, on 5th-7th(CMA/BU). Small numbers (up to 15) off many other points until at least 25th. On 26th an adult was found entangled in string on Holy Island. The string was removed and the bird swam slowly out to sea(RMD/JD).

### Cormorant.

Inland reports involved up to 7 on R.Wear at Washington and 1-2 at Wallsend Swallow, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene and Hallington, with 1 flying W up the Tyne at Newcastle.

### Shag.

Away from Lindisfarne the largest gathering was of 17 off Hauxley on 11th(HRS). A rare inland occurrence of 1 at Tunstall Reservoir on 16th/17th(THW).

### White Pelican.

Still in residence at Warkworth.

### Heron.

Many reports of up to 7, being particularly noticeable on Coquet Estuary, Budle Bay and at Holy Island.

### Mallard.

Well reported, even from moorland terrain. Largest gatherings noted at Holywell (350-450 from 14th-21st), Colt Crag (450 on 28th), Whittle Dene (250 on 25th), Northumbrian Loughs (224 on 25th), Derwent (215 on 20th). Up to 100 on many other waters but 'several hundreds - possibly thousands' in Budle Bay on 19th(WLR). An all white bird at Whittle Dene on 25th and at Grindon Lough the next day(EAS). Only indication of offshore passage was of 39N on 11th(KW) off Seaton Sluice.

### Teal.

Largest gatherings noted near Kirkley(300 on 3rd), Seaton Burn (120 on 10th) and Budle Bay (200 on 11th/12th). Up to 60 noted at many other waters with 80 at Holywell on 12th. Offshore records involved 20N off each of Seaton Sluice/Hauxley on 11th with 65 off Hauxley on 19th.

### Gadwall.

2 at Seaton Burn on 20th(AJ) and 3 at Gosforth Park on 29th.

### Wigeon.

Became increasingly common inland as the month progressed, the largest gatherings occurring on Northumbrian Loughs (345 on 13th), Derwent (170 on 11th) and Capheaton (large numbers on 4th). At Lindisfarne 10,500 were counted on 23rd(AJR) whilst offshore passage was most apparent on 19th when 849N off Seaton Sluice/Hauxley. Up to 60 noted on many other waters.

### Pintail.

1 at Grindon on 13th(LGM) and 1 at Holywell on 14th(AJm). On 24th 2S off Seaton Sluice(PD/NJM).

### Shoveler.

Most plentiful in the Gosforth Park/Seaton Burn area where respective max. counts were 30 on 20th and 66 on 15th(BM/AJ et al.). Grindon Lough attracted max. of 23 on 25th(LGM et al.) and 36 were just over the NW Border at Hoselaw on 26th. Up to 7 noted at Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Capheaton and Wallsend Swallow.

### Scaup.

1-2 at Lindisfarne, Monks House and Seaton Sluice after 4th. On 11th 8 at Lindisfarne, where 9 were noted on 20th, and 9S off Hauxley. Fresh water reports involved 2 at Holywell on 12th with 1 there on 25th(SR) and 1 at Derwent on 20th(RN).

### Tufted Duck.

Largest flock was of 70 at Gosforth on 20th(AJ) although just over NW Border 200 were at Hoselaw on 18th(WLR). Up to 50 on many other waters although a female on Tynemouth Park lake on 13th was particularly noteworthy.

### Pochard.

Continued passage brought 200 to Hoselaw on 18th(WLR) with 100 at Gosforth on 20th(AJm). 55 on Northumbrian Loughs 13th-25th(LGM) with up to 25 on many other waters.



#### Goldeneye.

On 10th 2S Hauxley and 6 off Cresswell(BG). Thereafter became increasingly common with up to 5 on several waters. On 19th/20th 21 at Amble and 20 on Derwent(J&RMCC/RN) and by 25th 13 on Northumbrian Loughs. Offshore 23N off Seaton Sluice on 11th (KR).

#### Long-tailed Duck.

Well reported. The most unusual occurrence was that of an immature female on Tynemouth Park lake on 9th. It was at first thought to be either sick, exhausted, injured or even an escapee, being approachable to within a few inches, but it fed and flew freely. It was seen almost daily until 28th although it did disappear for a few days about mid month. On several occasions it was seen being 'hotly pursued' by radio controlled model boats! It must be concluded that the bird was in fact truly wild(KW et al.). On 10th another was seen on fresh water at Seaton Burn (BM) and by 12th 10 had been reported N off Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's with 25 off Holy Island. During remainder of month up to 5 noted off several coastal points including 1 on the estuary at Amble on 24th/25th(EC/RN).

#### Velvet Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 2N on 3rd, 6N on 11th and 6N on 19th(KW et al.). From 14th 1-2 noted off St. Mary's, Hauxley and Holy Island. A rare occurrence on fresh water involved 1 at Monks House Pool on 22nd(RN).

#### Common Scoter.

Seen most often off Seaton Sluice and Hauxley, especially between 10th-19th with up to 90 per day moving N.

#### Eider.

Largest flocks were off Holy Island where many were heard 'crooning' on 11th/12th. Over 1000 birds were present(NRG).

#### Goosander.

Tunstall again attracted large numbers with most birds arriving from direction of Weardale in late afternoon. A peak of 64 was noted on 15th but only 1 adult male was seen on three occasions during eight visits(THW). A roost at Hoselaw attracted 67 on 18th(WLR) whilst 10 were seen off Ross on 22nd(BH).

#### Red-breasted Merganser.

Up to 20 noted off Lindisfarne during month. Smaller numbers further S on the coast although N passage accounted for 19 off Seaton Sluice and 14 off Hauxley.

#### Smew.

A female or immature at Colt Crag on 25th(JM/TW).

#### Shelduck.

Max. count in Lindisfarne area was of 22 on 10th(RNC et al.). Overland passage probably accounted for the following records; on 1st 1 at Washington and 1 near Backworth where 4 were present on 15th(BVA), on 18th/19th 2 at Holywell(JPD/EML) and 3 at Colt Crag(KB) and on 25th 3 at Seaton Burn(BM).

#### Geese (sp.).

130 at Rayburn Lake (Wingates) on 1st, 50 at Longhorsley on 5th, 11NW over Ponteland on 6th, 1 over Holywell on 18th when 20N over Durham and 80N over Slaley on 26th.

#### Greylag Goose.

Several reports of up to 15 from 5th, inland and at coast. On 12th 220 at Budle Bay(BM) whilst on 18th and 20th 400-600 near Holburn Ross and 1500 roosting just over NW Border at Hoselaw(WLR). On 18th/19th up to 47 in Colt Crag area(KB/RW) and 17 at Blanchland on 24th. 700 nr. Pressen on 26th were part of the Holburn roost (LGM).

#### Bean Goose.

6 seen in Budle Bay, over Fenham Flats and over Holy Island on 11th/12th(JPD/EML/NRG).

#### Pink-footed Goose.

32S near Hauxley on 5th(HRS) whilst 26th-28th there were 80 at E. Learmouth(LGM), 56S over Allenbanks(EAS) and 70W over Bardon Mill(BH). 1-4 noted at Washington, Derwent and Holy Island during month.

#### Brent Goose.

A pale bellied bird wearing a yellow neck ring was seen at St. Mary's on 5th(AS). The same or another on Fenham Flats on 22nd(RN) wore a neck ring coded D64. This bird had been ringed in Arctic Canada during summer 1975. Single dark bellied birds N off Seaton Sluice 19th(ABI/KR/NJW) and Holy Is. harbour 18th-25th. 9 of latter race on Fenham Flats 20th-22nd(BG/RN) allowed close approach.

Barnacle Goose.

On 3rd 88S off Seaton Sluice(KW), on 4th 66S off Holy Island(BL) whilst next day a single was watched moving S down the coast at Ross(BU), Boulmer, Hauxley(HRS) and Cresswell(BG/NJW). On 19th 29S over Hauxley and on 20th 4 in Budle Bay(BG). Singles at E. Learmouth on 26th(LGM) and near Haltwhistle on 27th(CLC).

Canada Goose.

150 at Sweethope on 27th(RMD/JD). 1 with Whoopers in Holywell area from 12th.

Egyptian Goose.

1 at Washington all month(WWR).

Mute Swan.

39 on Penham Flats 20th-22nd(RN/BG), 13 at South Linton on 5th(BG) and 17 at Broomlee on 19th(RMD/JD).

Whooper Swan.

In Lindisfarne area 4 on 4th, 27 on 11th and 46 on 22nd - all adults. At Holywell 5 on 9th, 12 on 15th and 19 by 31st - only 1 juv. At Rayburn Lake(Wingates) 11 on 11th included 1 juv. On Northumbrian Loughs 17 at Greenlee on 13th and on 25th 15 at Broomlee and 5 at Halleypike with 5 at Grindon next day - all adults. 1-2 at Washington after 5th, 2 at Cresswell on 7th, 4 at Chelton on 18th and 3 at S. Linton on 24th. Only 1 of the 11 was a juv. Total juvs. - 3.

Bewick's Swan.

2 on Holy Island Lough on 24th(MB).

Buzzard.

On 12th 1 over Cramlington (per BL) and 3 near Staward(per BG). On 15th 1 near Blyth Cem.(RW), on 11th 1 at Alwinton(MS) and on 28th 3 at Slaley(per BL).

Sparrowhawk.

1-2 from widespread locations throughout month.

Hen Harrier.

Single males at Harwood on 5th(HT), Slaley on 18th(per BL), Grindon on 25th(LGM) and Bygate Hall, near Alwinton on 26th(JCD). A female at Slaley on 29th(per BL).

Peregrine.

Singles at Killhope Law, Allenheads on 19th(LGM) and Doddington Law, Wooler on 24th(MH).

Merlin.

2 on Holy Island from 5th and singles noted at St. Mary's, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, Washington and Derwent from 2nd.

Kestrel.

Estimate of 25 in Kidlandlee area, Alwinton on 11th(EH) probably indicative of an abundance of voles.

Black Grouse.

Conspicuous in Upper Coquetdale during month(JCD).

Water Rail.

Inland reports involved 1-2 at Bolam on 7th(B&ME) and 1 at Washington on 14th(WWR). At coast 1 at Hauxley on 13th(HRS) and 1 at Newton Pool on 23rd(JCD/DBC).

Coot.

500-600 at Seaton Burn most of month(AJ et al.), 300-350 at Broomlee Lough 13th and 25th(LGM), 130 at Holywell on 10th(PW) and 60 at Grindon Lough on 28th(BH).

Oystercatcher.

300 at Ross on 24th(KR).

Lapwing.

Largest reported flock was of 800 at Seaton Burn 20th-29th(AJm).

Ringed Plover.

83 at St. Mary's on 15th(KW) whilst inland reports involved 1 at Washington 1st, 18th and 24th(WWR) and 2 near Seaton Burn on 25th(BM).

Grey Plover.

Up to 7 at Hauxley from 5th and up to 6 using Washington Ref. as high tide roost during month(WWR). 1-4 noted at six coastal points between Holy Is. and St. Mary's during month. 300 at Ross on 5th(BU).

### Golden Plover.

Up to 2000 in Druridge area during month whilst at Whittle Dene 1000 on 4th increased to 3000 by 19th(JSB/BG et al.). 1000 in Budle Bay on 25th(ICD). Up to 300 at Holy Island, Blyth, St.Mary's, Holywell, Wallsend, Annitsford, Colt Crag, Melkridge and Catton.

### Turnstone.

Only counts received were of 70 at St.Mary's on 4th(BG) and 42 at Bamburgh on 7th (CMA) - more counts, please!

### Common Snipe.

Max counts received were 63 at Whittle Dene on 4th(JSB), 55 at Yarrow Slake, Berwick on 26th(LGM), 50 at Monks House on 29th(MW) with 50 also at Washington and Blaydon most of month and up to 20 at Ellington(5th), Kirkley(3rd) and Newton Pool(25th).

### Jack Snipe.

Singles at Walbottle on 7th(MH), Robin Rock Flothers, near Greenlee on 25th and at Yarrow Slake on 26th(LGM). 2 at Washington on 10th(WWR) and at least 6 at Blaydon on 24th/25th(LJM).

### Woodcock.

A distinct influx was apparent from 19th when, during the next four days, 1-2 were noted at Holy Island, Hauxley, Whitley Bay, Earsdon, S.Shields, Gosforth, Cramlington and Seaton Burn.

### Curlew.

Only report was of 50 at St.Mary's on 25th(SR).

### Black-tailed Godwit.

1 on Holy Island on 4th(BL).

### Bar-tailed Godwit.

Several flocks of up to 500 in Holy Island area throughout month. 12 at Seahouses on 5th and 1-3 at Hauxley and St.Mary's all month. An unusual sight of 8 flying inland over Holywell on 11th(SR).

### Green Sandpiper.

On 12th singles at each of Whittle Dene and Kirkley Hall(JSB/IK/JMcC).

### Common Sandpiper.

Late reports of singles at Newton on 8th(RGL), Washington 24th-28th(WWR) and at Warkworth on 25th(JEF).

### Redshank.

Away from Lindisfarne largest concentrations were of up to 200 at St.Mary's and Washington with 80 at Alnmouth on 25th.

### Spotted Redshank.

1 at Washington on 2nd(WWR), 1 on Holy Island 4th and 11th(NRG) and 1-2 in Budle Bay/Monks House area 21st-29th(IH/RW).

### Greenshank.

3 at Washington on 1st/2nd then 1 till end of month(WWR). 1 on Holy Island on 11th then up to 7 between 18th-26th(LPH/AJR/PGW et al.). Singles at Amble on 19th (R&JMcC) and in Budle Bay on 29th(RW).

### Knot.

Away from Lindisfarne only reports were of 30 at Seahouses on 5th, 5 at Seaton Sluice on 11th increasing to 100 by 25th(SR) when 1 at Craster(EC).

### Purple Sandpiper.

6 at Seahouses on 5th with 20 at Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's 11th-18th(SR). 12 at Bamburgh on 7th(CMA) increased to 50 by 29th(RW). 30 on Holy Island 18th-24th (AJR).

### Little Stint.

Between 5th-8th 3 at St.Mary's(KW) with singles at Cresswell and Monks House(RGL/NJW).

### Dunlin.

At least 1000 in Budle area on 5th(BU). 150 at St.Mary's on 4th(BG). Up to 50 at Washington with 25 at Colt Crag on 28th(RG/WB), 13 at Seaton Burn on 25th(BM) and 1-9 at Whittle Dene 4th-12th(JSB). 1 along edge of boating lake in Tynemouth Park on 19th and 22nd(WAK).



Curlew Sandpiper.

Between 5th-8th singles at Hauxley and Budle Bay(HRS/RGL) and at St.Mary's on 15th (KW).

Sanderling.

70 at St.Mary's on 10th-15th(BG/KW) and 20 at Hauxley on 14th and 18th(HRS).

Ruff.

Up to 12 at Washington during month(AT/WWR). 1 at St.Mary's on 4th(BG) and at Monks House 1 on 4th(WSC), 1 on 18th(RGL) then 7-8 after 21st(MB/IK).

Arctic Skua.

Between 3rd-22nd several reports of 1-2 off a few points on the coast, especially Seaton Sluice.

Great Skua.

Between 3rd-18th singles noted off Hauxley and Seaton Sluice on five dates, all but 1 moving N.

Great Black-backed Gull.

2000 in Blyth Bay on 18th(BG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

All reports were of birds inland with 1-6 at Broomlee, Wolsingham, Seaton Burn and Gosforth Park between 4th-31st.

Glaucous Gull.

Single immatures inland at Seaton Burn on 4th(ERM) and at Seaton Sluice on 21st (MB) and at Amble and Craster on 25th(JSB/EC).

Little Gull.

Off Seaton Sluice 8N on 3rd(KW) and 2 on 21st(MB). Off Hauxley 7N on 11th(HRS) and 1N on 18th(HRS).

Mediterranean Gull.

An adult off Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's on 17th and 19th(MH/IK/ABI/KR et al.).

Sabine's Gull.

Single adults noted off Blyth on 5th(KW) and off Holy Island on 25th(PGW) bring the Northumberland sightings to 6 this autumn. There are only 8 previous records for the county - 1 in 1920s and 7 between 1946-1971. In addition, 2 off Sunderland seen from a fishing boat during month(JB).

Kittiwake.

N movements involved 250 off Hauxley in 1hr. on 10th and up to 500/hr. off Seaton Sluice on 22nd(NJW).

Black Tern.

A late bird at Holywell on 2nd(KB/JEF/EH/JP).

Commic Tern.

Up to 10 off Hauxley until 11th then no reports until 6 off Ross on 22nd(BH et al.)

Arctic Tern.

1 off Seaton Sluice on 1st(KB).

Sandwich Tern.

Still conspicuous early in month. Late reports off Seaton Sluice with 1-2S on 15th, 19th and 26th(SR/KW).

Auk(sp.).

Heavy N movement on 10th/11th, especially in first two hours after dawn. Rates varied between 60 and 1000 per hour off both Hauxley and Seaton Sluice.

Little Auk.

5N off Seaton Sluice during heavy Auk passage on 11th(KW et al.).

Puffin.

Only reports were of 2 at Hauxley on 11th - 1 dead and 1 lightly oiled.

Wood Pigeon.

Still young in nest at Gosforth on 5th(JPD/EML).

Turtle Dove.

Late reports of singles at Tynemouth Park and Whitley Cem. on 11th/12th(JSB/KW).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Tynemouth, Milfield, Hauxley and West Allotment.

Tawny Owl.

Noted at Ponteland, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Holywell Dene, North Shields. 1 in Whitley Cem. on 19th was noticeably grey and may have been a migrant(ABI/KR).

Long-eared Owl.

Singles at Hauxley on 19th/20th and 25th(HRS) and on Holy Island on 22nd(RN) were probably immigrants.

Short-eared Owl.

Well reported. Inland about 20 noted in S.Cheviots near Alwinton on 11th is indicative of an abundance of voles(EH). Also up to 7 noted at Wallsend Swallow from 2nd(EH et al.) and 1-2 at locations as far inland as Greenlee and Derwent. At coast 1-2 at many points all month. Birds arriving from E or moving S over the sea were seen on 10th/11th and 18th at Hauxley, Blyth and Seaton Sluice.

Swift.

Singles at Whitley Bay on 1st(B&ME) and at Ross on 5th(BU/DLS) were rather late.

Kingfisher.

Singles at Blaydon, Bardon Mill, Holywell Dene and in the harbour at Seaton Sluice, with 2 in Jesmond Dene.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Kyaloe, Wooler, Craster and Monks House. The latter were feeding on open fields adjacent to the pond(IK et al.).

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted at Gosforth, Hartburn, Styford and Holywell.

Skylark.

On several dates between 11th-26th a steady S passage was noted at many points on the coast. 250 at Hauxley on 21st and inland, flocks of 50 at Wallsend Swallow on 17th and at Ponteland on 22nd(AKI et al.).

Shore Lark.

Only 1 report. A single on Holy Island on 24th(AJR).

Swallow.

Well reported even from well inland at Mouncees and Alwinton. Only small numbers were involved but 17 on Holy Island on 24th-26th was unusual. During same period late birds were at Newton(1) and Craster(2) with 3 - the last - at Craster on 30th.

House Martin.

Surprisingly few reports. Still 20 in Seaton Sluice area on 15th(SR) and 10 at Blyth on 18th(BG) when 4 at Belford(WLR). Last sighting was of 3 at Craster on 25th(EC).

Sand Martin.

A late individual at Holywell on 4th(PD/ID/JEF/BM/KR).

Hooded Crow.

Singles at Druridge on 11th(JEF), near Wallsend Swallow on 14th(AG) and on Holy Island 18th-25th(LPH).

Blue Tit.

Coastal gatherings indicative of passage involved up to 50 in Hauxley area most of month with peaks on 11th and 26th. Smaller numbers noted at Holy Island, Blyth, Preston and Tynemouth, especially on 11th.

Coal Tit.

Coastal occurrences, possibly involving immigrants were noted at Holy Island, Hauxley, Bamburgh, Whitley Cem. and Tynemouth between 10th-25th. Up to 4 were seen at each locality.

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Howick and Heddon.

Willow Tit.

Noted at Wallsend Swallow, Gosforth and Blyth.

Long-tailed Tit.

Coincident with the arrival of other titmice on the coast the period 15th-18th brought 24 to Hauxley and 6 to Whitley Cem.(HRS/KB). Also 4 noted on Holy Island on 24th(AJR).

Wren.

Conspicuous at Holy Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth.all month with at least 60 on Holy Island on 11th/12th.

Mistle Thrush.

Small numbers arriving at Holy Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth.

Fieldfare.

Well reported as birds arrived from the E and N from 9th. The peak arrival commenced on 18th when thousands were seen arriving all along coastline in flocks of up to 1000, especially before 1100hrs. Continuing until 25th, the movement was witnessed as far inland as Northumbrian Loughs where hundreds were arriving from the N then turning W along S.Tyne valley. Large numbers were in the fields on Holy Island throughout this period although most quickly moved on.

Song Thrush.

Up to 30 noted arriving with other thrushes at Holy Island, Hauxley and Blyth, especially 21st-23rd.

Redwing.

Conspicuous arriving day and night from the E and N both inland and at the coast. Peaks were apparent on 8th/9th, 11th/12th, 18th, 20th, 22nd and 31st. Most daytime coastal arrivals took place before 1100hrs. and involved flocks of up to 500. Very few birds rested for more than a few minutes. The heaviest night arrival could have taken place on 31st.

Ring Puzel.

Late inland birds in Harthope valley on 12th(WAK) and at Alwinton on 19th(JCD/DBC). Only coastal reports were of several on Holy Island on 9th(per BL) and 1 at Bamburgh on 25th(R&JMcC).

Blackbird.

Steady arrivals with other thrushes, being most notable on Holy Island 20th-23rd when 500-600 were present. Noted at other points on the coast in smaller numbers though 300-500 in Holywell Dene 11th and 18th(MNC).

Wheatear.

A small influx 3rd-5th included a few 'Northern' birds. At Seaton Sluice/ t St Mary's 3 on 17th/18th and 1 on 25th with 1 at Newton on 23rd(AKI/SR/KW/JCD).

Stonechat.

More abundant than is normal with up to 15 between Blyth/St.Mary's and similar numbers in Druridge Bay. Smaller numbers all along coast including Holy Island where 1 of an Eastern race was seen on 18th(RGL/TRP). Inland occurrences involved 1-3 at Seaton Burn, Killingworth, Benton, Wallsend Swallow, Heddon, Derwent and Blaydon, especially from 10th.

Whinchat.

2 on Holy Island on 11th(NRG) with singles at Hauxley on 10th, Killingworth on 17th(JDMcE) and Bamburgh on 24th(MB).

Redstart.

1-2 on Holy Island on 4th, 11th/12th, 18th-25th. Singles at Hauxley on 4th and 10th, at Blyth on 1st, at Tynemouth Park on 21st and at Whitley Cem. on 23rd.

Black Redstart.

1 at Hauxley on 12th(HRS). Between 20th-26th singles noted in Blyth and Whitley Cemeteries, at Hauxley and on Holy Island.

Robin.

Steady passage noted at Holy Island and Hauxley with peak of 30 and 15 respectively on 11th/12th.

Reed Warbler.

1 trapped at Hauxley 10th/11th(HRS).



### Blackcap.

Well reported in small numbers throughout the area, especially at the coast after mid month. No more than 5 at any one locality. During month about 15 individuals trapped at both Tynemouth and Hauxley.

### Barred Warbler.

Singles at Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's on 5th(KW) and at Hauxley and Tynemouth on 10th/11th(HRS/KW).

### Garden Warbler.

Well reported, all at the coast, although not as numerous as Blackcap. Up to 3 seen together with late individuals at Tynemouth on 21st(MSH) and at Blyth Cem. on 25th(KW).

### Whitethroat.

Late sightings of singles at Holy Island on 5th(BU), Blyth on 14th and Seaton Sluice on 15th(KW).

### Lesser Whitethroat.

3 on Holy Island on 11th/12th(NRG), 3 at St. Mary's on 14th/15th(EH/KW/JP), 2 at Seaton Sluice on 15th(KW) and 1 at Hartley on 26th(KW).

### Willow Warbler.

Only definite report was of 1 on Holy Island 18th-26th when it was heard in sub-song on 1 occasion(AJR/PGW).

### Chiffchaff.

All reports were coastal with 1-3 at Holy Island, Hauxley, Hartley and Tynemouth between 10th-22nd. 1 at Warkworth on 25th(JEF).

### Yellow-browed Warbler.

An unprecedented arrival was noted from 10th when up to 9 were on Holy Island, 1 at Ross, 2 at Hauxley, 1 at Blyth, 1 at Whitley Cem., 2 at Tynemouth Park and 1 at Priors Park. Another was found dead at Seaton Sluice. Most were seen on 11th/12th but a few lingered until 19th and 1 was still at Whitley Cem. on 21st. At least 18 individuals were involved.

### Goldcrest.

Conspicuous all along coast with influxes noted on 4th, 11th and 18th-21st, especially at Hauxley and on Holy Island where max. of 150 were noted. Inland at Slaley an increase was apparent in the forest on 10th.

### Firecrest.

A single bird with Goldcrests at Blyth Cem. on 22nd(WAK).

### Spotted Flycatcher.

Late reports of singles at Newton on 5th(TRP) and at Matfen on 7th(RW).

### Pied Flycatcher.

Between 4th-12th 1-3 at Holy Island, Hauxley, Whitley Bay and Priors Park. Late individuals at Hauxley on 22nd(HRS) and Tynemouth Park on 25th(KW).

### Red-breasted Flycatcher.

2 on Holy Island 11th/12th(NRG) and 1 at Hauxley on 14th(HRS).

### Duncock.

Very conspicuous on Holy Island on 11th/12th, at Hauxley on 11th and 19th and in Jesmond Dene on 19th(AG).

### Meadow Pipit.

Steady S passage at Hauxley on 11th and 18th.

### Richard's Pipit.

3 reports of this rare pipit. 1 at Cresswell on 5th(BG), 1 at Ross on 11th(DC) and 1 on Holy Island on 22nd(AJR).

### Red-throated Pipit.

1 at Hauxley on 19th was heard to call on several occasions(HRS). The sixth record for Northumberland.

### Pied Wagtail.

400-500 roosting at Blaydon during month(LJM) with at least 200 roosting at Seaton Burn on 15th(BM).

Grey Wagtail.

Away from breeding areas 1-2 noted at Blaydon, Dunston, Whitley Bay, St. Mary's, Seaton Sluice, Hauxley and Holy Island.

Waxwing.

3 reports. 6 at Stakeford on 12th, 1 at Whitley Bay on 23rd(MB) and 12 at Morpeth on 26th(per BL).

Great Grey Shrike.

Singles at Blyth 5th and 15th(KW), Ross on 11th(DC), Newton on 12th(TRP), Hauxley on 19th(HRS) and Priors Park on 21st(KGD). At least 2 on Holy Island 20th-22nd (RN/AJR). Inland, singles at Thorngraston, Bardon Mill on 18th(LGM) and at Elsdon on 26th(IK).

Starling.

An arrival noted from the E on 14th at Hauxley involving small numbers. Large numbers in Whitley Cem. all month.

Hawfinch.

A pair at Hexham on 19th(per BL).

Greenfinch.

Between 18th-25th S coastal passage was suggested with up to 150 at Holy Island and Cresswell, and smaller numbers at Hauxley.

Goldfinch.

Largest flock was of 100 near Kirkley on 3rd(ERM).

Siskin.

A small flock on Holy Island on 9th(per BG) with 1 there on 18th(AJR). 11 at St. Mary's on 18th and 10 at Bamburgh on 24th(IH). 1 at Tynemouth Park on 21st (MSH) and another at Priors Park on 23rd(MB).

Linnet.

Up to 300 noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Cresswell between 5th-20th.

Twite.

3 on Holy Island on 19th, 6 at Fenham Mill(AJR) on 23rd and 1 at Warkworth on (HRS).

Lesser Redpoll.

Flocks of 40-100 noted at Hamsterley, Stocksfield and Allenbanks during month.

Mealy Redpoll.

A few of these northern birds, some of which are difficult to distinguish from Arctic Redpolls, were noted during month. Up to 4 on Holy Island 11th-26th(NRG et al.), 2 at Hauxley on 19th(HRS), 1 at St. Mary's on 18th(JSB) when 2 at Hartley(BG). 1 at Priors Park on 21st(MSH) and 1-3 at Blyth Cem. 22nd-26th(WAK/KW).

Bullfinch.

A male of the Northern race was trapped at Bamburgh on 25th(R&JMcC). A female at Druridge on 19th was judged to be of this race(RGL/BG), whilst a male at Priors Park on 21st was probably also 'Northern'(MSH/KGD). Singles at Hauxley on 11th and 25th, the latter a 'British', were unusual for the area(HRS).

Crossbill.

1 at Whitfield on 18th(LGM).

Brambling.

Well reported as they arrived from the E and N from 2nd. Heaviest influx was noted on 18th when flocks of up to 50 were noted arriving on Holy Island(RGL/TRP et al.) with smaller numbers all along coast. Birds quickly penetrated inland and 20-30 were noted at Holburn, Stamfordham and Matfen at approx. same time with small parties moving W over Westerhope on 20th. Still plentiful at end of month, although no large flocks reported.

Rustic Bunting.

1 in Blyth Cem. on 15th/16th was only the fifth record for Northumberland(ERM et al.).

Reed Bunting.

Suggestion of peak passage through Hauxley on 19th when 30 present(HRS).

Snow Bunting.

Only report was of 4 at Newton on 5th(TRP et al.).

## Tree Sparrow.

Coastal passage apparent between 11th-25th at Holy Island, Newton, Hauxley and Cresswell. No more than 20 per day.

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson	D.B.Charlton	L.P.Hird	J.Marshall	A.Simpson
B.V.Atkins	J.Day	B.Hunter	E.R.Meek	E.A.Stanley
J.Barker	J.C.Day	M.Henry	L.J.Milton	A.Temple
J.S.Booth	R.M.Day	M.S.Hodgson	B.Mecrow	H.Tegner
W.Brady	J.P.Deacon	E.Hawdon	L.Mead	B.Unwin
M.Bell	I.C.Deck	A.K.Ironside	R.Norman	R.Walton
A.Blackett	K.G.Dures	A.Johnson	E.T.Norris	K.Walton
A.H.Banks	P.Davidson	A.James	J.R.Norris	T.H.Wall
K.Barratt	I.Davidson	I.Kerr	J.Park	P.G.Williams
M.N.Coates	B. & M.Etherington	W.A.Kelly	E.Priestley	P.Weighill
R.N.Coates	J.E.Fergusson	B.Little	T.R.Palmer	T.Weston
C.L.Crane	M.P.Franks	H.G.Lewis	K.Robson	N.J.Watmough
W.S.Craster	B.Galloway	E.M.Lindsay	W.L.Rimmer	M.Wray
G.A.Cowen	R.Grey	B.Martin	A.J.Richards	C.F.Watson
E.Culwick	A.Guthrie	L.G.Macfarlane	S.Roddie	
M.G.Chadwick	I.Hall	J.D.McElwee	M.Skilleter	
D.Clugsdon	E.Harbottle	J. & R. McCutcheon	D.L.Sowerbutts	
Washington Wildfowl Refuge		Hauxley R.S.	Northumbria R.G.	

All November records to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Ct., Chapel Park, Westerhope Newcastle/Tyne NE5 1RX by December 15th, please.

## COASTAL WADER/WILDFOWL COUNT

Anyone interested in covering one of the following stretches of coastline on

December 21st

January 18th

February 15th

please contact Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Ct., Newcastle/Tyne NE5 1RX as soon as possible. Tel. Lemington 670216

- i) Newbiggin - Chevington Burn
- ii) Chevington Burn - Amble
- iii) Alnmouth - Cullernose
- iv) Beadnell - Budle Bay

Arrangements have been made to cover all other stretches in Northumberland. The project will be conducted on a National basis with the one in January being an international count.

## CLUB NEWS & NOTES

1975/76 subscriptions are now overdue. Further monthly bulletins will only be sent to paid up members.

### Club Meeting, Thursday 11th December 7.15pm.

Dr. J.D.Parrack will talk on Sea Bird identification. A past chairman of the T.B.C. Jim is well known to many club members as a bird watcher, but in recent years his interests have widened to embrace all aspects of Natural History. He author of 'Natural History of Majorca' and his 'Natural History of Northumberland' is currently awaiting publication. As an acknowledged expert se watcher, his talk should prove invaluable to all club members whether experienced or beginner.

### Field Trip, Sunday 14th December.

By coach to Stag Rocks/Budle Bay/Fenham Flats for sea ducks, divers, grebes, waders.

Bus departs Hancock Museum 8.00am

" " Baxters, Tynemouth 8.20am

Cost £1.00 approx.

Bookings and payment, please to Mike Hodgson, 30 Closefield Grove, Monkseaton

Tel. W.B. 20511

Mike will be leading this trip himself.



## CLUB NEWS & NOTES CONT.

### Ways and Means.

As the next fund raising operation it is intended to hold an Easter Draw. We have already received some offers of prizes, but in order to make the raffle as attractive as possible we appeal to the generosity of members to furnish more.

On Friday, 13th February (an auspicious date) the T.B.C. in collaboration with the Durham Bird Club, are holding an informal 'smoker'. Details will be published in the next bulletin.

At the December meeting, in addition to the usual items for sale, we are offering Temperley's 'A History of the Birds of Durham'. This was published by the N.H.S. as long ago as 1951 but has never been superseded. At 20p (it originally cost 15/-) it is a Christmas bargain.

The sale of Jim Deacon's prints has been an unqualified success. Only ten copies, all of the Long-eared Owl, remain; they make excellent presents!

### Honorary Club Solicitor.

Mr. S. Moffatt has agreed to serve in the above capacity. In welcoming him, the committee members have promised to keep within the law to the best of their ability!

### Future Field Trips.

In the provisional programme for 1976 listed below, our joint field secretaries have endeavoured to match sites with seasons and species. They would however welcome any other suggestions from club members, and would also like to sound out possible support for Saturday trips.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday, 18th January  | - Northumbrian Loughs or if weather is 'hard', a coastal trip will be substituted. |
| Sunday, 15th February | - Loch Leven/Aberlady Bay.   |
| Sunday, 17th March    | - Loch Ken district.   |
| Sunday, 25th April    | - Holy Island.   |
| Sunday, 16th May      | - Leighton Moss.   |
| Sunday, 20th June     | - Eden Valley, Cumbria.  |
| Sunday, 4th July      | - Farne Islands.   |

The Chairman and committee extend Christmas greetings to all members.

# TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

November 1975

## SUMMARY

A mixed month for weather with mild spells, severe frosts, gales and even a little snow. During the first few days thrushes and finches were apparently arriving from the Continent, but during a brief spell of Northerly winds between 7th-9th an into the wind movement of seabirds was noted. Many species were involved including divers, ducks, skuas, Kittiwakes and auks, and at the same time Snow Buntings became conspicuous.

Severe gales on 16th/17th forced Little Auks well S. of their normal feeding areas and during the abatement on the 18th a heavy N. passage was observed. It was about this time that wildfowl concentrations were at a peak with Gosforth Park being particularly attractive.

On 21st/22nd a steady N. movement of Goldeneye was observed offshore and a record count of Whooper Swans was made at Holywell.

Late summer visitors were a feature of the month involving the usual waders, Sandwich Tern; Swallow and warblers (including a Pallas'). A steady passage of Waxwings was witnessed throughout the month whilst at the close a party of Shore Larks was located.

## CLASSIFIED LIST

### Black-throated Diver.

Single birds noted off Cresswell on 5th(KB), N off Seaton Sluice on 9th(KW) and 29th(MGC/HW).

### Great Northern Diver.

Off Seaton Sluice 4N on 9th, 1 on 21st, 1 on 28th and 1N on 30th. 1 off Cresswell on 14th(AKI/MH).

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

Most notable on 9th when off Seaton Sluice 52N and 2S(KW et al.) with at least 30N off Hauxley. Noted off Bamburgh, Druridge and Seaton Sluice in parties of up to 8 throughout month.

### Great Crested Grebe.

2 at Whittle Dene until 8th then 1 until 30th. 1-3 at Gosforth Park until 13th (FC et al.) and 1 at Seaton Sluice on 7th(AJm). Offshore 2 in Druridge Bay on 8th (MH).

### Red-necked Grebe.

1 in Bamburgh area on 1st and 23rd(MH/ERM).

### Little Grebe.

Noted at Tunstall, Whittle Dene, Northumbrian Loughs, Hallington, Langley Dam, Cresswell and Northumberland Park. Noted on rivers at Haltwhistle(4), Riding Mill (1), Alnmouth(4) and Amble(2). No more than 12 on any one water.

### Fulmar.

Returning to the breeding areas after 6-8 weeks absence. 5 were at Bamburgh on 9th with 10 there by 12th(MW/BG).

### Gannet.

A light N movement noted off Hauxley on morning of 9th(HRS).

### Cormorant.

At least 180 roosting at Marsden on 18th(THW) with birds noted moving S towards the roost on several afternoons from as far away as cresswell(BG). 20 in Amble Harbour on 2nd whilst inland up to 9 at Hallington, 3 at Holywell, 7 at Washington 1 at Whittle Dene and 1 at Hexham.

### Flamingo.

2 'escapees' flying N at St.Mary's on 21st(KB).

### Heron.

10 at Alnmouth on 2nd(BG) and 18 at Tweedmouth on 16th(KR). Up to 6 at several locations mainly around ponds(e.g.Holywell and Gosforth) and reservoirs(Hallington and Colt Crag). On 5th at Cresswell 1 was watched trying to deprive a Kestrel of its prey in the sand dunes(KB).

### Mallard.

Largest inland concentrations were 1000 at Holywell on 21st(B&ME), 500 at Colt Crag on 13th(RG/WB), 500 at Whittle Dene on 30th(JSB), 400 at Hallington on 15th(LGM) and 330 at Derwent on 16th(J&RMCC). Offshore roosts involved 200 off each of Cresswell on 9th and Longhoughton on 19th(CR). A light N movement noted off Hauxley/Seaton Sluice on 9th(HRS).

### Teal.

Largest concentrations were in Gosforth Park with max. of 400 on 2nd(FC/BG). At Grindon max. of 160 on 8th(LGM) with 70/80 at Colt Crag and Holywell on 15th/16th. 50 roosting on sea off Cresswell on 8th(BG).

### Gadwall.

3 in Gosforth Park on 7th/8th(FC et al.).

### Wigeon.

Favourite haunts produced following maxima: 20,000 at Lindisfarne on 23rd(ERM), 320 on Northumbrian Loughs on 8th increasing to 450(at Grindon) on 18th(LGM/RG/WB) and 85 at Derwent on 16th(J&RMCC). Up to 50 on many waters. On 9th 237N off Seaton Sluice(KW et al.).

### Pintail.

5 on Fenham Flats on 16th(ICD) and 1-2 at Gosforth, Holywell, Newton Pool and Cresswell between 1st-22nd.

### Shoveler.

The Gosforth Park flock was at a max. of 60 on 4th and 13th(FC/BG). Still 35 on 29th. Up to 25 noted at nearby Seaton Burn(AJm/ERM) and 18 on Northumbrian Loughs on 2nd but only 2 on 8th and 29th(LGM). 3 at Holywell on 28th(AJm). At Hoselaw, just over NW border, 150-170 during mid month(CMA/RGL).

### Scaup.

On 9th 23N off Hauxley(HRS) and 1S Seaton Sluice on 29th(MGC). Fresh water records involved singles at Cresswell 1st and 8th and Holywell on 7th and 13th(AJ/SR).

### Tufted Duck.

170 at Gosforth Park on 22nd(BG) was by far largest gathering. Up to 75 on Northumbrian Loughs and at Seaton Burn with lesser gatherings on many other waters. Offshore 1N off Hauxley on 9th.

### Pochard.

At Gosforth Park max. of 160 noted on 22nd(FC/BG) whilst at Holywell 90 were seen on 2nd(BM). 52 at Northumbrian Loughs on 16th(LGM) with up to 30 on other waters. Offshore 1N on 9th off Hauxley.

### Goldeneye.

Largest numbers seen offshore. On 8th/9th 200 in Druridge Bay(MH), 365N Seaton Sluice(KW et al.) and on 21st/22nd 219N Seaton Sluice(B&ME). Smaller numbers N off Hauxley. Inland max. on Northumbrian Loughs of 48 on 8th(LGM) and 18 at Tweedmouth on 16th(KR). Up to 11 on many other waters.

### Long-tailed Duck.

Up to 50 in Bamburgh/Holy Island area during month. 1-2 at several other points further S but on 9th 25N off Hauxley(HRS). Fresh water records involved 1 at Holywell 21st-23rd(B&ME/SR et al.), 3 at Cresswell Pond on 22nd(J&RMCC) and 2 on R.Coquet at Warkworth on 26th(KB).

### Velvet Scoter.

Noted off Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and St.Mary's with 2 on 9th, 3 on 22nd and 1 on 30th. All but 3 were flying N.

### Common Scoter.

Off Seaton Sluice 211N on 9th with 8N there on 20th(KW et al.). 10 off Bamburgh on 4th(MW).

### Eider.

Hundreds sheltering in the lee of Holy Island during N gale on 16th(BG). 164 in Amble area on 22nd(J&RMCC).

### Red-breasted Merganser.

At least 26 off Ross Links on 1st(MH) and 25N Hauxley on 9th(HRS). Up to 5 noted off Chevington and Seaton Sluice mainly moving N.



Goosander.

Most Occurred at Tunstall(max. 28 on 10th), Greenlee Lough(max. 12 on 29th) and Gosforth Park(max. 10 on 26th). Also noted at Derwent, Hallington, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn and on rivers at Hexham, Riding Mill and Warkworth.

Smew.

The 'redhead' at Colt Crag remained throughout month. On 16th a drake was seen at Cresswell Pond(per BL) whilst on same day a redhead was at Hoselaw, just over the NW border(RGL).

Shelduck.

At least 100 in Budle Bay on 9th(CMA) and 30th(BG). A movement on 9th involved 100 passing N off Seaton Sluice(KW et al.) whilst inland occurrences at this time involved 1-2 at Gosforth Park(until 7th), 1 at Holywell 1st and 9th, and 1 at Hallington on 1st.

Greylag Goose.

500 at Holburn Moss on 2nd and 9th(MW) and at Budle Bay 150 on 3rd reducing to 65 by 30th(BG). 100 at Colt Crag on 2nd(MGC) and at nearby Hallington up to 136 counted during month(KB/EAS et al.). On 8th/9th up to 49 in Whittle Dene area (JSB/EAS). Up to 5 noted at Washington, Holywell, Cresswell. 1500-2000 just over NW border at Hoselaw on 9th.

Pink-footed Goose.

Only identified bird was a single at Colt Crag on 2nd(MGC).

Grey Geese(sp.).

Unidentified flocks involved 34S off Alnmouth on 3rd and 48N off Seaton Sluice on 9th.

Brent Goose.

24 at Fenham Flats on 9th(MW) increased to 300 by 23rd(ERM). 2S off Seaton Sluice on 2nd(KR).

Barnacle Goose.

2 very tired birds on rocks at Cullernose on 19th(CR).

Canada Goose.

Max. of 88 in Hallington/Colt Crag area on 15th(LGM/RG/WB et al.). 2 with Holywell Whoopers most of month.

Egyptian Goose.

2 at Colt Crag on 13th with 1 there and at Hallington for remainder of month. 1 at Washington all month.

Mute Swan.

Largest counts were of 10-12 at S. Linton on 8th(BG), 17 at Amble on 22nd(J&RMCC) and 35 on Fenham Flats on 23rd(ERM).

Whooper Swan.

Well reported. At Lindisfarne 150 on 8th increased to over 200 by 20th(MW/BG et al.). At Holywell 32 on 2nd increased to 123 by 8th and then to a record 178 (including 28 juvs.) by 22nd(BM/BG/SR et al.). In Linton/Cresswell area a max. of 58 on 8th but still 47 on 22nd(J&RMCC et al.). On Northumbrian Loughs 11 on 2nd increased to 72(including 25 juvs.) by 29th(LGM/EAS et al.). Up to 16 noted at Arcot Hall, Hazlerigg, Whittle Dene, Havannah, Langley, Catcleugh, Blaydon, Boldon and Washington.

Bewick's Swan.

Up to 4 on Fenham Flats most of month (MW/et al.) with a family of 5 in Budle Bay on 30th later flying off to Monks House Pool(BG). At the latter 3 were noted on 9th(per BL). On 9th 1 was also at Holywell(BG) with 1 on 22nd(SR) and a family of 4 present on 30th(CED). At Boldon Flats 2 remained from 18th-23rd(AT/THW).

Buzzard.

Early in month singles at Slaggyford and Hexham Common with up to 4 in Allendale (CMA/LGM).

Sparrowhawk.

Widespread reports of single birds even in urban Newcastle.

Hen Harrier.

A 'ringtail' at Broomlee Lough on 2nd(MGC).

Peregrine.

1 over Broomlee Lough on 8th(per BG) and 1 over Hexham Common on 9th(LGM).

Merlin.

Singles noted at Hauxley, Washington, Holy Island and Muggleswick with 2 at St. Mary's on 9th.

Kestrel.

Widespread reports.

Partridge.

Up to 40 seeking refuge of Gosforth Park during month whilst shooting was taking place on adjacent land(FC). Covey of 34 at Whittle Dene on 16th(JSB).

Water Rail.

Heard throughout month in Gosforth Park(FC). 1-3 at Holywell, Newton Pool and Washington throughout month with 1 in Holywell Dene on 13th.

Moorhen.

50 at Wallsend Swallow on 22nd(LGM) was only record received. More counts, please!

Coot.

About 550 at Seaton Burn all month(AJ et al.). 317 at Broomlee Lough on 2nd decreased steadily to 112 by 29th(LGM). 138 at Wallsend Swallow on 22nd(LGM) with 90 in Gosforth Park on 30th(FC).

Lapwing.

Largest flocks of up to 2000 at Seaton Burn (max.24th) and 1000 at Holywell on 11th (AJ).

Ringed Plover.

48 at Alnmouth on 30th when 23 at Newton(RW). 21 at Hauxley on 15th(HRS) whilst inland 1-2 at Whittle Dene 26th-30th(JSB/RW) and 1-2 at Washington until 16th(WWR).

Grey Plover.

Up to 5 noted at several coastal points with up to 4 at Washington until 12th. Even more remarkable was a report of a single bird at Colt Crag Res. on 30th(IK).

Golden Plover.

Largest numbers at Druridge(2000 on 8th) and Whittle Dene(1000 on 1st) with up to 500 at Holy Island, St. Mary's, Annitsford, Grindon, Colt Crag, Stamfordham and Morpeth.

Turnstone.

200 at Alnmouth on 2nd, 50 at Newbiggin on 8th and 150 at Newton on 16th(BG).

Common Snipe.

Max. counts were 60-80 in Blaydon/Derwenthaugh area most of month, 60 at Seghill on 8th(MSH), 56 at Newton Pool on 15th(JCB), 45-50 at each of Whittle Dene on 16th and Grindon on 8th(JSB/LGM), 36 at Alnmouth on 22nd(J&RMCC) and 26 at Wallsend Swallow also on 22nd(PD/KR).

Jack Snipe.

Well reported with 4 at Seghill on 8th(MSH), 2 at Whittle Dene 15th/16th(JSB/LGM), 2 at Derwenthaugh on 29th(MH) and 1 at Holywell 22nd-26th(SR/JEF et al.).

Woodcock.

Coastal reports, probably involving immigrants, consisted of singles at Cresswell, Hartley, Hauxley, Holywell and Washington between 8th-22nd. Noted at five localities well inland.

Black-tailed Godwit.

A winter bird at Budle Bay on 23rd(ERM).

Bar-tailed Godwit.

Away from the large Lindisfarne flocks 13 at Newton/Sea on 30th(RW).

Green Sandpiper.

1-2 at Whittle Dene all month(JSB/MNC/RW), 1 at Colt Crag on 13th(WB) and 1 at Washington on 8th(WWR).

Common Sandpiper.

Late, perhaps wintering, individuals at Washington all month(WWR) and at Warkworth on 2nd(JEF).

Redshank.

150 at Washington on 1st(WWR) and 59 at Alnmouth on 22nd(J&RMCC) were largest reported gatherings. 1-3 well inland at Whittle Dene, Derwent and Colt Crag on three widely separated dates.

Greenshank.

A late bird at Washington most of month(WWR/KW).

Knot.

At Seaton Sluice/St.Mary's 400 on 18th increased to 700 by 22nd(BG).

Purple Sandpiper.

Between 3rd-16th 100-150 at Bamburgh, Newton and Seaton Sluice(BG/KR/MW).

Little Stint.

A late bird in Washington area 4th-20th and again on 29th(WWR/KW).

Dunlin.

Away from the large flocks in Lindisfarne area 358 at Amble on 22nd(J&RMCC), 200 at Alnmouth on 2nd(BG) whilst inland up to 120 in Washington/Boldon area(WWR), up to 60 on Colt Crag Res. all month(EAS/LGM) and 3 at Whittle Dene 29th/30th(JSB/RW).

Sanderling.

200 at St.Mary's on 9th(BG) with 50-80 at Hauxley and Budle Bay after 11th(HRS/BG).

Ruff.

Monks House Pool and Washington Refuge each attracted late flocks with a max. of 14 at the former(on 9th) and 1 still remaining on 23rd, and a peak of 10 at the latter(on 8th-11th) with 1 remaining as late as 30th(MW/WWR et al.).

Arctic Skua.

Single late birds N off Seaton Sluice on 9th(KW) and S there on 16th(NJW).

Great Skua.

1N Hauxley on 9th(HRS).

Pomarine Skua.

1N Hauxley on 9th(HRS).

Great Black-backed Gull.

A typical inland roost involved 60 at Tunstall on 24th(THW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Up to 7 in both the Seaton Burn/Gosforth Park areas until 8th(FC/AHB/IK et al.).

Herring Gull.

As with G.B-b Gull typical reservoir roost of 40 at Tunstall on 24th.

Common Gull.

Roosts involved a few thousands in Budle Bay on 30th when they were noted moving steadily SW over Haltwhistle(BG/LGM), 700 at Broomlee on 2nd, 200 at Sweethope on 15th when 80 were at Wingates(LGM).

Glaucous Gull.

Only report was of 2 immatures at Brock Mill, near Beal, on 23rd(ERM).

Little Gull.

An interesting movement of 17N(13 adults and 4 immatures) off Hauxley on 9th(HRS).

Black-headed Gull.

Roosts of 600 at Tunstall on 24th(THW) and of several thousands at Budle Bay on 30th(BG).

Kittiwake.

N passage off Hauxley on 9th peaked at about 800/hr.(HRS). An adult inland at Washington on 1st(WWR).

Sandwich Tern.

A very late report of 1N off Seaton Sluice on 22nd(PD/KR/KW et al.).

Little Auk.

1N off Hauxley and Seaton Sluice on 9th(HRS/KW et al.). Following two days of severe N gales on 16th/17th at least 110N off Seaton Sluice in 1 1/2 hrs. on 18th(BG/EH/JP). On 20th a further 12N(EH).

Auk (sp.).

Passing N off Hauxley at up to 600/hr. on 9th(HRS). Mainly Guillemot/Razorbill but some Puffins identified



Wood Pigeon.

Some interesting movements noted during month probably associated with feeding and roost dispersal. On 14th 200S over Hauxley with thousands S over Whitley Bay (HRS/JDMcE). On 26th and again on 28th 1000 and 5000 respectively S over N.Shields at 0800 hrs.(AB). Up to 800 roosting in Gosforth Park during month.

Collared Dove.

Largest reported flock was of 60 at Heddon on 1st(EAS).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Robin Rock Drift, Ponteland, Monks House and Jesmond Dene.

Tawny Owl.

Noted only at Gosforth Park(FC).

Long-eared Owl.

Coastal migrants noted singly at St.Mary's on 8th(SR) and at Hauxley next day(HRS). During a N gale on 17th 1 arrived in a garden at Cochrane Park Est.Newcastle(IGD).

Short-eared Owl.

Well reported mainly as singles inland and at the coast. Largest concentrations were 4 at Holywell on 22nd(SR) and 5 in Wark Forest on 16th(LGM).

Kingfisher.

1-2 noted at Whittle Dene, Hallington, Bolam, Mitford, Jesmond Dene, Haltwhistle and Brasside.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Craster and Wark.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Noted from eight widely scattered localities including on bird tables at Gosforth and Hamsterley Mill.

Sky Lark.

Steady S movements of flocks of up to 10 over Alnmouth and Hauxley on 2nd(BG/HRS). Over 200 at Brock Mill, near Beal, on 30th(BG).

Shore Lark.

8 in Druridge Bay on 30th(per BL).

Swallow.

A very late individual at Newton/Sea on 26th(CR).

House Martin.

1 remained over Northumberland Park, N.Shields from 9th-14th(MNC).

Hooded Crow.

Singles noted at Washington on 8th(WWR), Low Newton on 10th(per BL), Craster on 23rd(WSC) and Fenham Mill on 30th(BG).

Blue Tit.

Up to 40 at Hauxley throughout month, especially during first week(HRS).

Coal Tit.

Coastal reports involved 1 at Hauxley on 8th(HRS) when 3 were in a garden at Preston, N.Shields(JSS).

Marsh Tit.

Noted at Mitford(KB).

Willow Tit.

Noted at Prestwick Carr, Gosforth Park and Killingworth.

Long-tailed Tit.

Well reported. Largest flocks were at Gosforth Park(up to 30 on many dates) and at Kirkley Hall(30 on 9th).

Nuthatch.

Noted at Wallington and Acomb and at new localities at Allenbanks(LGM), Capheaton (KB) and in Jesmond Dene(MPF).

Dipper.

Well reported in usual haunts in western parts of the Area including 1 at 'sea level' at Waren Mill on 8th(KB et al.).

Fieldfare.

Fieldfare.

No heavy immigrations reported. Largest flocks were of 1000 near Wooperton on 9th(per BL), 300 at Prestwick Carr on 18th(ERM) and 200 at Whittle Dene on 1st(PD).

Redwing.

Well reported. Only observation involving immigration was on night of 3rd/4th when many calls were heard as they passed W over Westerhope(BG). Largest flock was of 300 in Holywell Dene on 2nd(MSH).

Blackbird.

200 in Holywell Dene on 2nd(MSH) when many were in Gosforth area(FC/ERM). An arrival at Hauxley on 8th/9th brought 42 'new ringed' birds and at same time they were conspicuous in Prestwick Carr area. By 23rd they were relatively scarce in Gosforth Park indicating departure(FC) whilst on 21st a Danish ringed was trapped at Acomb(per BL). A very white bird in West Jesmond on 6th(BM).

Stonechat.

Continues to be well reported, especially in sand dune areas of the coastline, with for example 12 in Blyth Bay and the same number between Newton/Dunstanburgh. Noted at thirteen different inland locations including Harthope Valley, Sipton, Haltwhistle, Team Valley and Muggleswick.

Blackcap.

Well reported throughout month. At coast especially conspicuous until 9th when 1-3 were at Hauxley, Priors Park and Holy Island. Inland they were noted at Matfen, Gosforth Park, Eshott, Killingworth, Holywell Dene, Earsdon and Jesmond Dene. On 15th as many as 5 were in Holywell Dene(JEF/WAK et al.).

Chiffchaff.

Between 1st-11th singles noted at Hauxley, Priors Park and Gosforth Park. On 21st 1 in Holywell Dene(JEF) and on 24th 1 in Fenham(MH).

Pallas' Warbler.

1 at Hauxley between 13th-16th was seen by several observers but proved to be very elusive(HRS). It is the fourth record for Northumberland.

Goldcrest.

Up to 20 at Hauxley and in Holywell Dene until about mid month. Thereafter only small numbers noted.

Rock Pipit.

Gathering of 35 at Alnmouth on 2nd(BG).

Grey Wagtail.

Away from breeding areas where small numbers reside throughout winter 1-2 noted at Hauxley, Budle Bay, Whitley Bay, Gosforth and Hazlerigg.

Waxwing.

Well reported, especially at the coast, indicating that yet another invasion had occurred. Because of a shortage of berries, however, very few birds stayed and no large flocks formed. They were noted arriving on 2nd and thereafter with flocks of up to 14 penetrating as far inland as Stocksfield. The largest flocks were of 42 at Hamsterley Mill on 29th(EP), and of 25 at Stocksfield on 15th and at Morpeth after 23rd.

Great Grey Shrike.

Singles at Hauxley on 7th(HRS), Holy Island on 9th(per BL) and at Fatfield on 28th (LGM).

Starling.

A few arriving from E at Cresswell on 8th(PD/KR). A huge roost in a wood near Little Mill, Alnwick on 16th(BG) and another of up to 1500 in the reeds at Gosforth Park, especially after 15th(FC). A part albino noted at Boulmer on 19th(CR).

Goldfinch.

Many reports of up to 20.

Siskin.

Immigration on 2nd involved flocks of 17 and 14 arriving at Hauxley(HRS) with another single bird there on 8th. Inland flocks involved up to 50 at Gosforth Park during month(FC), 60 at Langleeford on 22nd(per BL), 25 at Colt Crag on 30th(IK) and 15 at Greenlee on 8th(LGM).

### Linnet.

300 at Hauxley and 9th and 15th and 100 at Brock Mill, near Beal on 23rd(ERM).

### Twite.

7 at Newton/Sea on 26th(CR).

### Redpoll.

Flocks of 13 at Allenbanks on 8th and 20 at Colt Crag on 15th(LGM) with a 'flock' at Hamsterley Mill on 19th(EP).

### Mealy Redpoll.

1 at Brock Mill, near Beal, on 30th(BG).

### Chaffinch.

60 in Holywell Dene on 2nd(MSH) and 200 in Gosforth Park on 22nd(MNC/MSH).

### Brambling.

Well reported in flocks of up to 10 from widely separated localities inland and coastal. Largest flocks were 50 at Holywell Dene on 2nd and in Gosforth Park on 22nd(MSH/MNC) and 30 at Widdrington on 14th(SR).

### Corn Bunting.

3 singing at Boulmer on 23rd(IK).

### Reed Bunting.

At least 50 at Brock Mill, near Beal, on 30th(BG).

### Snow Bunting.

Well reported. At least 80 at Ross on 8th(RGL) and next day 35 on Holy Island increasing to 50 by 14th(MW). At same time 50 at Hauxley on 7th with 80 there next day and still 70 present on 22nd(HRS). On 9th 83S off Seaton Sluice(KW) and by 15th 20 at Seahouses(MW). Thereafter small parties at a number of locations including 27 on Hedgehope on 22nd(per BL), 22 at Embleton on 26th(CR) and 1 at Broomlee Lough on 29th(LGM).

### Tree Sparrow.

Max. of 50 in Hauxley area during month(on 15th).

### House Sparrow.

Part albino birds noted at Craster(WSC) and in Holywell Dene(MPF).

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

C.M.Adamson

A.H.Banks

K.Barrattt

W.Brady

J.S.Booth

J.S.Bacon

A.Belshaw

D.B.Charlton

R.N.Coates

M.N.Coates

W.S.Craster

M.G.Chadwick

F.Colley

I.C.Dack

P.Davidson

J.C.Day

J.Day

R.M.Day

C.E.Douglas

B.& M.Etherington

J.E.Fergusson

M.P.Frankis

B.Galloway

R.Grey

E.Hawdon

E.R.Harbottle

B.Hunter

M.Henry

M.S.Hodgson

A.K.Ironside

A.James

W.A.Kelly

I.Kerr

B.Little

R.G.Lewis

L.G.Macfarlane

J.& R.McCutcheon

J.D.McElwee

E.R.Meek

B.Martin

E.T.Norris

J.R.Norris

J.Park

E.Priestley

C.Robson

K.Robson

S.Roddiss

A.J.Richards

M.R.Smith

D.L.Sowerbutts

J.S.Spence

E.A.Stanley

A.Temple

K.Walton

R.Walton

N.J.Watmough

T.H.Wall

M.Wray

H.Wilson

Hauxley R.S.

Washington W.R.

All December records to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Court, Chapel Park, Newcastle/Tyne NE5 1RX by 14th January, please.



## CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

Having put the Christmas festivities behind us, with all subscriptions being safely gathered in(?) we look forward to an eventful 1976.

### Club Meeting, Thursday, 8th January at 7.15pm.

Our speaker this month again is an ex member of the T.B.C. Dr. David Parkin of the Department of Genetics at Nottingham will give an illustrated talk on 'Birds of the Galapagos'. The material for this talk was gathered on one of his many expeditions which have taken him from South America to the Sudan.

### Field Trip, Sunday, 18th January.

By coach to the Northumbrian Loughs.

Meet	Baxter's Tynemouth	8.00am	
	Hancock Museum	8.20am	Cost: £1.25 app.

In the unlikely event of hard weather, the trip will be diverted to the North Northumberland coast. Bookings and cash to Mike Hodgson, 30 Closefield Grove, Monkseaton. (Tel. W.Bay 20511) or to Tom Palmer, 23 Manor Park, Washington.

### R.S.P.B.

Owing to family circumstances, Arthur Jones has had to relinquish the leadership of the Newcastle Group. His duties have been taken over by T.B.C. member IAN KERR. Ian can be contacted at 37 Denham Walk, Chapel House, Newcastle. (Tel. 676974).

### NATIONAL WILDFOWL COUNT

After the January count Capheaton and Bolam lakes will not be covered. Volunteer counter is required for these waters for 15th February and 14th March 1976. Offers of help, please, to Geoff. Macfarlane and 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington or at club meeting.

### PROGRAMME OF FIELD SURVEYS 1976

Having considered various suggestions, the Committee have agreed the following programme of field surveys for 1976. The B.T.O. have informed us that the only National Survey they plan for 1976 involves Nightingales, so this effectively excludes this area.

Members interested in participating in all or any of the following projects are asked to contact Geoff. Macfarlane at 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington or at any club meeting.

#### Inland Gull Roosts.

Members may recall that the B.T.O. conducted a survey of inland gull roosts in January 1973, but it has always been felt that as this took place during hard weather when many gulls had probably vacated inland districts the results obtained were unsatisfactory. In addition to the roosts known in 1973, others are now to exist at Broomlee Lough, Hoselaw Loch, Sweetthope Lough and Rayburn Lake (Wingates) and members may indeed be aware of others. The numbers of gulls inland are also much higher during April and October as large numbers of Common and Black-headed Gulls are moving through on passage but we have no idea of how many are present at any particular time. It is proposed therefore to hold three counts at as many roosts as possible during mid March, early October and mid December.

#### Stonechat.

The last census of breeding Stonechats in Northumberland was in 1967/8 when 19 pairs were found in coastal districts between Bamburgh and Cresswell and 1/2 pairs were found near Whittingham. However, since then there has been a dramatic increase in status, both in coastal and inland districts but particularly the latter. It is, therefore, proposed to have a repeat survey in 1976. It would be impracticable to hope to record all inland pairs, particularly as several recent records are from remote forestry plantations, but in coastal areas probably the whole area could be covered satisfactorily as most birds are confined to the coastline itself. The prolonged breeding season of the bird will enable fieldwork to be carried out from April to August.

#### Little Grebe/Mute Swan.

Like the previous species, the number of breeding Little Grebes has apparently increased in recent years and it is felt a census in 1976 would be useful. A total of 66.73 pairs was obtained in 1966/7. As a census of this species will

Programme of Field Surveys cont.

Having put the Christmas festivities behind us, we gathered (or?) we look forward to an eventful 1976. It was obviously entail visiting all principal waters and ponds in the district, it is felt appropriate that Mute Swans should be counted as well as it is such a conspicuous species and occurs in similar situations. The Department of Genetics at Nottingham will give an illustrated talk on 'Birds of the Galapagos'. The material for this talk was gathered on one of his many expeditions which have taken him from South America to the Sudan.

Field Trip, Sunday, 18th January.  
By coach to the Northampton Docks.

West	Baxter's Tynemouth	8.00am
Hancock Museum		8.30am
Cost: £1.25 spp.		

In the unlikely event of hard weather, the trip will be diverted to the Northampton coast. Bookings and cash to Mike Hodgson, 30 Clonsfield Grove, Monkseaton. (Tel. W.Bay 20511) or to Tom Palmer, 23 Manor Park, Washington.

R.S.P.B.

Owing to family circumstances, Arthur Jones has had to relinquish the leadership of the Newcastle Group. His duties have been taken over by T.B.C. member IAN KERR. Ian can be contacted at 37 Denham Walk, Chapel House, Newcastle. (Tel. 676974).

NATIONAL WILDBOW COUNT

After the January count Capheaton and Bolam lakes will not be covered. Volunteer counter is required for these waters for 15th February and 14th March 1976. Offers of help, please, to Geoff. Macfarlane and 31 Wreay Walk, Gillingham or at club meeting.

PROGRAMME OF FIELD SURVEYS 1976

Having considered various suggestions, the Committee have agreed the following programme of field surveys for 1976. The R.T.O. have informed us that the only National Survey they plan for 1976 involves Nightingales, so this effectively excludes this area.

Members interested in participating in all or any of the following projects are asked to contact Geoff. Macfarlane at 31 Wreay Walk, Gillingham or at any club meeting.

Inland Gull Roosts.

Members may recall that the R.T.O. conducted a survey of inland gull roosts in January 1973, but it has always been felt that as this took place during hard weather when many gulls had probably vacated inland districts the results obtained were unsatisfactory. In addition to the roosts known in 1973, others are now to exist at Broomlee Lough, Houselaw Lough, Sweetbridge Lough and Ryburn Lake (Wintates) and members may indeed be aware of others. The numbers of Gulls inland are also much higher during April and October as large numbers of Common and Black-headed Gulls are moving through on passage but we have no idea of how many are present at any particular time. It is proposed therefore to hold three counts at as many roosts as possible during mid March, early October and mid December.

Stonchat.

The last census of breeding Stonchats in Northumberland was in 1967/8 when 19 pairs were found in coastal districts between Barmouth and Gresswell and 1/2 pairs were found near Whittingham. However, since then there has been a dramatic increase in status, both in coastal and inland districts but particularly the latter. It is, therefore, proposed to have a repeat survey in 1976. It would be impracticable to hope to record all inland pairs, particularly as several recent records are from remote forestry plantations, but in coastal areas probably the whole area could be covered satisfactorily as most birds are confined to the coastline itself. The prolonged breeding season of the bird will enable fieldwork to be carried out from April to August.

Little Grebe/Mute Swan.

Like the previous species, the number of breeding Little Grebes has apparently increased in recent years and it is felt a census in 1976 would be useful. A total of 66.75 pairs was obtained in 1966/7. As a census of this species will

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

December 1975

SUMMARY

Generally a mild and windy month with westerly weather predominating. A substantial fall of snow took place on 12th/13th but most had disappeared by 14th.

Early in the month 2 ringed Pochard were shot and indicated the Eastern origin of most of our wintering birds. 3 groups of Shore Larks were reported and a large flock of Waxwings was located. A Grey Phalarope made a brief visit to St. Mary's Island and both Iceland and Mediterranean Gulls were seen at North Shields Fish Quay.

Brent Geese reached a peak on Lindisfarne mid month after which some large concentrations of Gulls were noted, especially Common/Black-headed.

A coastal wader count on 20th/21st produced some very interesting results although detailed records are not yet available for Lindisfarne - Beadnell and Alnmouth - Boulmer. Complete cover in January should present an accurate account of the numbers of waders wintering in the Area.

Towards the month's end Cormorants were in unusual numbers inland and both Smew and Lapland Buntings were seen.

Throughout month Hooded Crows were more plentiful than they have been for some years, whilst of course the usual 'out of season' visitors remained with us, the numbers of Ruff being perhaps the most interesting.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black-throated Diver.

Singles N off Seaton Sluice on 27th and 28th(KW) and S off Holy Island on 28th(BU).

Great Northern Diver.

Singles off Ross and Bamburgh on 14th(MSH/KR/TRP et al.) and N off Seaton Sluice on 28th(KW).

Red-throated Diver/Diver (sp.).

Most noted moving N off Seaton Sluice with 36 on 7th, 18th on 20th and 22 on 27th (KW et al.). Up to 8 noted on several other dates off Seaton Sluice, Bamburgh, Cresswell and Whitburn. On 20th a stranded oiled bird on the beach at Ross was savaged to death by three Labrador dogs(MJH).

Great Crested Grebe.

1 at Whittle Dene on 6th and 26th(JSB/RNC et al.), 1 at Tunstall Res. on 8th(THW), 2 off Ross on 14th(KR et al.) and 1 off Howick on 27th(EAS).

Red-necked Grebe.

2 off mouth of Budle Bay on 27th(MH).

Little Grebe.

1-6 noted at Whittle Dene, Tunstall, Cresswell, Halleypike, Washington and on R. Tyne between Heddon and Hexham. Up to 10 at Gosforth Park(FC et al.).

Fulmar.

25 around Tynemouth cliffs on 6th(SR) and 30 around Bamburgh Castle on 20th(ETN/JRN).

Gannet.

Unusual numbers for the time of year involved 100N off Seaton Sluice on 13th with 86 in 5 minutes on 30th(B&ME/KW). Small numbers also noted on 14th, 20th and 28th.

Cormorant.

Inland records were a feature with 1-3 noted at Holywell, Wallsend Swallow, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene. More numerous at Washington (up to 13), Hallington (up to 12) and R. Tyne at Heddon (up to 11). The high counts were made after 20th.

Heron.

Largest gathering was at a roost on Larch trees near Bywell when 7 were seen on 26th(MH). 1-3 at many other localities including well inland near Uswayford in Upper Coquetdale.

Flamingo.

2 made a brief visit to Cresswell Pond on 24th(WAK).



White Pelican.

The Warkworth bird was still present on 28th(LGM).

Mallard.

Largest concentration was of 500 on Northumbrian Loughs on 29th(EAS) but flocks of 200-300 were noted at Gosforth Park, Holywell, Derwent, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene and near Kirkley. Offshore roosts involved 300 off each of Bamburgh and Gresswell on 14th(MSH/BG et al.) with 110 off Howick on 27th(EAS).

Teal.

Largest concentrations were 200 in Budle Bay on 14th(LGM), 153 at Blaydon on 21st (JMG/LJM), 120 at Gosforth on 21st(FC), 115 at Grindon on 13th(LGM) and 100 at Washington on 28th(ERM/BL).

Gadwall.

Only report was of a female at Gosforth on 26th/27th(FC).

Wigeon.

Some large inland concentrations with 200-400 at Grindon all month with a peak on 12th(RG/LGM et al.), a max. of 417 at Derwent on 14th(J&RMCC), 150 at Whittle Dene on 13th (EAS) and 150 at Broomlee on 29th(EAS). Largest offshore count was of 50N off Seaton Sluice on 14th(KW).

Pintail.

All reports were between 14th-28th when 13 were on Fenham Flats(ETN/JRN), 1 at Holy Is.(BU), 2 at Monks'House(MSH), 2 near Kirkley(ERM) and singles at Derwent (J&RMCC) and at Whitley Bay Quarry(NJW).

Shoveler.

Max. at Gosforth Park was 40 on 16th and 21st(FC/AJ/BG). 7 at Broomlee on 13th (LGM) and 1-3 noted at Grindon, Wallsend Swallow and Colt Crag. Just over NW border at least 97 at Hoselaw on 7th(CMA).

Scaup.

Only reports were of 7N Seaton Sluice on 14th with 1N there on 25th(KW).

Tufted Duck.

Most were noted in Gosforth Park with a peak there of 210 on 25th-27th(LGM/FC). 40-70 were noted at Holywell, Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene and Northumbrian Loughs during month. Offshore 2N at Seaton Sluice on 14th(KW).

Pochard.

Most plentiful at Gosforth with 120-130 on 7th, 21st and 25th(FC/BG/LGM). Max. of 65 at Holywell on 14th(CED) and 20-40 at Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene, Colt Crag, Hallington, Northumbrian Loughs and Washington. The origin of our wintering population was suggested when birds wearing Latvian and Russian rings were shot at Belford and Blagdon respectively on 3rd/4th.

Goldeneye.

Well reported in parties of up to 8 on several waters. Larger gatherings involved 17W over Haltwhistle on 7th, 20-23 on Northumbrian Loughs on 13th and 27th(LGM), 22 at Derwent on 14th(J&RMCC), up to 23 on R.Tyne at Heddon with a peak on 28th (EAS), 14 on R.Tweed on 7th(CMA). Offshore, up to 18 on sea off Seaton Sluice with some N passage on 7th(217N) and on 14th(85N) (KW et al.).

Long-tailed Duck.

Up to 40 in Seahouses/Bamburgh/Ross area during month(LGM/MSH/TRP/KR). 1 near Alnmouth on 20th(J&RMCC) was only other record.

Velvet Scoter.

Off Hauxley 2N on 7th(HRS) and off Seaton Sluice 1N on 7th and 2N on 27th(KW).

Common Scoter.

19N Seaton Sluice on 7th(KW) and 79 off Alnmouth on 20th(J&RMCC).

Red-breasted Merganser.

Only reports were of singles off Seaton Sluice on 20th and 28th(KW).

Goosander.

By far largest gathering was of 41 at Hallington on 21st(EAS). 10-15 were noted at Colt Crag, Sweethope, Greenlee, Derwent and Gosforth Park with smaller numbers on R.Tyne at Heddon, Wylam and Hexham, also Tunstall, Washington, Seaton Burn and nr. Kirkley. Small numbers in breeding areas at end of month including pair in display at Catcleugh on 21st(JCD).

Goosander (continued)

Singles N and S at Seaton Sluice on 13th/14th respectively(KW). Over 100 at Hoselaw just over NW border on 28th(WLR).

Smew.

A female or immature at Colt Crag on 28th(BG).

Shelduck.

The usual offshore N December movement was witnessed on 13th/14th when small parties were seen off several points between Seaton Sluice and Ross(LGM/KR/KW). At Seaton Sluice 75 were counted on 14th(LGM). Over 170 in Budle Bay on 14th(LGM).

Greylag Goose.

65 at Hartburn on 13th(RGL), and on 14th 62 at Budle Bay(LGM) and 32 near Belford. 1-8 noted at Holywell Whittle Dene, Grindon and Druridge. On 5th a bird that had taken refuge on an North Sea oil rig was released at Washington Refuge(WWR). Up to 1000 noted at Hoselaw just over NW border(WLR/CMA). Unidentified Grey Geese, probably Greylag involved 15N at Seahouses on 14th and 30N over Benton on 24th.

Pink-footed Goose.

14S over Washington on 4th(WWR) and 1 at Budle Bay on 14th(LGM).

Brent Goose.

At Holy Is. counts of 480 on 13th(BL) and 250-300 on 28th(BJ). An immature bird (dark-breasted) in Coquet Est. on 6th and 13th/14th(RGL/AH/AMT/LGM) and possibly the same bird N off Seaton Sluice on 10th(KB).

Canada Goose.

63 at Colt Crag on 26th(LGM) and 2 near Holywell on 6th(CMA).

Egyptian Goose.

Single at Washington all month.

Mute Swan.

35 at Berwick on 8th and 30 at Warkworth on 13th(AH). 11 at Wallsend Swallow on 29th(MPF).

Whooper Swan.

A general reduction in numbers since November. Max. counts were 70 at Northumbrian Loughs(mainly Grindon) on 22nd - only 8 juvs.(LGM), 69 in Backworth/Holywell area on 31st - only 4 juvs., 70 near Ellington on 5th(per BL) and 72 near Coldstream on 30th(MH). Up to 8 noted at Catcleugh, Sweethope, Bywell, Craster, Blagdon, Langley and Washington.

Bewick's Swan.

2-7 noted at Monks'House between 6th-26th(WSC/LGM/MJH et al.). At Washington 5 on 2nd-6th then 4 on 9th-12th(AT/THW et al.). 1 at Holywell on 17th(JEF). At Ellington 4-8 between 14th-29th(ERM et al.).

Sparrowhawk.

Noted at ten widely spread localities, with two nest sites already occupied in the Slaley area. 1 forced a sparrow to take refuge inside a parked car in Newcastle on 12th whilst it glared at both sparrow and driver through the window!(per BL).

Hen Harrier.

1 near Linshiels Lake on 24th(JCD/DBC). A female.

Merlin.

Singles noted at ten widely spread localities, four being known breeding areas.

Kestrel.

A male found with a broken wing at Benton on 12th died very soon afterwards(FC). A female apparently habitually preying on sparrows/Starlings in gardens at Whickham(TRC).

Black Grouse.

Many in evidence on Otterburn Ranges all month(JCD).

Water Rail.

Noted at Gosforth on a number of occasions(FC/JPD/EML/KB/BG). Singles also noted at Newton, Bolam and Holywell(LGM/JEF/WAK).

Moorhen.

57 at Blaydon on 6th(LJM) and 16 feeding from trough with sheep at Holystone in Coquetdale on 27th(ERM)

Coot.

500-600 at Seaton Burn all month(AJ), 139 at Wallsend Swallow on 25th(LGM), 115 at Gosforth on 29th(FC) and 90-110 at Broomlee during second half of month(LGM). Up to 13 in Berwick harbour during first half of month(AH) and 3 in Coquet Est. on 20th (J&RMcC).

Oystercatcher.

Up to 480 roosting at Ross during month(LGM/KR/MSH/TRP).

Lapwing.

Few records received. 2000 at Whittle Dene on 26th(LGM) and 800-1000 at Seaton Burn most of month(AJ).

Ringed Plover.

On 20th/21st 25 Warkworth/Alnmouth(J&RMcC), 50 in Druridge Bay area(MSH/AH), 47 between Boulmer and Beadnell(JB/IK) and 38 Blyth-Tynemouth(KW). An unusual inland occurrence of 1 at Whittle Dene on 6th(JSB).

Grey Plover.

On 14th 91 in Budle/Ross area(LGM). On 20th/21st a typical count of only 7 made along Northumberland coast to S of Beadnell.

Golden Plover.

On 26th-28th 2000-3000 in Whittle Dene area(BG/LGM). Flocks of 250-500 noted at Henshaw, near Newton and at Bamburgh. Party of 25 on high moorland near Holystone on 28th(JCD).

Turnstone.

A coastal count on 20th/21st produced a total of over 700 between Beadnell and Tynemouth including over 300 in Craster/Beadnell area.

Common Snipe.

At least 100 in Blaydon Pond/Derwenthaugh area 21st-24th(MH/LJM), 57 at Whittle Dene on 6th(JSB) and 15-40 at Hallington, near Kirkley, Gosforth Park, Monks' House, Alnmouth and Washington. Many on Otterburn Moors all month(JCD).

Jack Snipe.

Singles noted at Hallington, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn, Havannah and Derwenthaugh.

Woodcock.

Singles noted in moorland terrain in Upper Coquetdale on 24th(JCD) and 27th(ERM).

Curlew.

200 near Waren Mill on 14th(TRP/MSH et al.) and 85 at Holystone in Coquetdale on 27th(ERM). Coastal count on 20th/21st produced total of only 53 between Tynemouth and Beadnell.

Bar-tailed Godwit.

9 noted during coastal count on 20th/21st between Tynemouth and Beadnell was a typical distribution for the time of year.

Green Sandpiper.

Singles at Whittle Dene most of month(JSB/EAS/RW) and at Colt Crag on 28th(BG).

Redshank.

246 counted on coast between Beadnell and Tynemouth on 20th/21st. 1-4 inland in Heddon and Whittle Dene areas throughout month.

Spotted Redshank.

1 in Budle Bay on 21st(RW) and 31st(CED).

Purple Sandpiper.

70 in Bamburgh area on 14th(LGM/TRP/MSH et al.). On 20th/21st 119 Tynemouth-Blyth (JDMcE/KW), 38 Chevington-Amble(AH) and 141 Craster-Beadnell(JB).

Dunlin.

A total of 1147 counted on coast between Tynemouth-Beadnell on 20th/21st including 394 in Coquet Est. Inland records of 3W over Plennmeller on 7th(LGM), 7 at Derwent on 14th(J&RMcC), 3 at Washington on 18th(WWR), 1 at Grindon on 21st(LGM) and 20 at Colt Crag on 28th(BG).

Sanderling.

Of only 135 on coast between Beadnell-Tynemouth on 20th/21st, 111 were in Seaton Sluice area(KW/JDMcE et al.).



Ruff.

Up to 9 on many occasions at Monks' House during month (LGM/IK et al.). 1 at Washington on 8th (WWR) and 3 at East Boldon on 27th (JEF).

Grey Phalarope.

1 noted at St. Mary's between 6th-8th feeding close to the causeway (TW et al.).

Arctic Skua.

1N Seaton Sluice on 2nd (BE).

Great Skua.

1N Seaton Sluice on 30th (B&ME).

Great Black-backed Gull.

About 900 noted on coast between Tynemouth-Beadnell on 20th/21st. Usual wintering birds, mainly singles, wandering moors in Upper Coquetdale on 27th (ERM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

A wintering single bird at Stannington on 4th (per BL).

Common Gull.

Some large gatherings reported, mainly of adults, with on 14th 3000 at Holywell and 4/5000 at West Monkseaton, on 26th 3000 roosting at Sweethope and on 27th 4000 at Holywell (BG/LGM).

Glaucous Gull.

1-2 in Seaton Sluice area from 12th (JEF/KR/RGL et al.). 2 at Amble on 20th (J&RMCC) and 1 at Druridge on 28th (KH).

Iceland Gull.

An adult at N. Shields on 6th (SR) and an immature N near Hauxley on 21st (AH).

Little Gull.

An immature N at Seaton Sluice on 25th (KW).

Black-headed Gull.

3000 in Seaton Sluice area from 20th (BG/KW et al.) and 500 in Coquet Est. on 20th (J&RMCC).

Mediterranean Gull.

A first-year noted at N. Shields Fish Quay on 6th (SR).

Little Auk.

Off Seaton Sluice 4N on 7th, 1N on 13th and 19N on 14th (KW).

Auk (sp.).

Off Seaton Sluice 103N on 7th and 173N on 13th (KW et al.).

Barn Owl.

Noted at Widdrington, Wylam and Ponteland.

Little Owl.

Noted at Matfen, Ponteland and Holywell.

Tawny Owl.

Noted at Stannington, Prestwick Carr and Ponteland.

Long-eared Owl.

6 at Cleadon on 20th (PD) and singles near Backworth on 15th and 17th (JEF) and near Belsay on 25th (KH).

Short-eared Owl.

4 near Washington on 7th (MMCC) and 1-2 at Ross, Amble, Holywell, Earsdon, Gosforth Park, Linshiels and Robin Rock, near Greenlee.

Kingfisher.

1-2 at Bolam, Whittle Dene, Washington and on the Ouseburn between Gosforth and Jesmond Dene.

Green Woodpecker.

Noted at Belsay.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Visiting bird tables at Gosforth, Benton and Hamsterley Mill.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

1 in a garden at Hamsterley Mill on 22nd (EP).

Skylark.

Flocks of 100-200 noted at Bamburgh(13th) and Holy Island(28th).

Shorelark.

3 reports. 4 in Druridge Bay on 3rd, 4 on Holy Is. on 5th(per BL) and 2 at Amble on 8th(per ERM).

Carrion Crow.

Flocks of 10-20 noted at Craster, Colt Crag and Gosforth Park.

Hooded Crow.

10 at Craster on 6th(LGM/RGL), 4 in Druridge Bay on 28th(KH) and singles at Ponteland(30th), Stocksfield(20th) and Blaydon(19th-29th).

Willow Tit.

Noted at Wallsend Swallow, Stocksfield and Prestwick Carr.

Long-tailed Tit.

Well reported. Flocks of up to 15 noted at Allenbanks, Heddon, Stocksfield, Bywell, Dipton, Warkworth, Gosforth, Hamsterley Mill and Riding Mill.

Nuthatch.

1-2 at Bolam all month(ICD/BH/WAK).

Fieldfare.

Flocks of 150-300 at Allenbanks(17th), Crookhall(12th) and Slaley(21st).

Redwing.

Roost of 600 at Gosforth on 13th(MSH). 150 at Seaton Sluice on 13th(KR) and 40-50 at Holywell(6th), N.Shields(23rd) and Hamsterley Mill(27th).

Stonechat.

Noted along almost the whole coastline with 15 between Blyth and St.Mary's being a typical distribution. Noted inland at four locations in N.Durham but at only one in Northumberland.

Blackcap.

On 6th singles in Jesmond Dene(MPF) and at Ravensworth(LJM). 1 at Craster on 8th(WSC) and 1 at Heddon on 31st(EAS).

Chiffchaff.

Singles noted in gardens at Cramlington and Killingworth on 26th-28th(per BG).

Grey Wagtail.

1 in urban habitat at Felling all month(MMcC).

Waxwing.

Largest flock was of 100 in Hamsterley Mill area on 4th(EP) when 30 were in Morpeth(per BL). 35 at Wylam late in month(per BG) and up to 20 at Heddon, Westerhope, Fenham, Whitley Bay and Washington.

Great Grey Shrike.

1 at Seaton Burn on 13th(BL) and late in month singles near Rothbury and at Budle Bay.

Starling.

The Gosforth Park Roost had broken up by 20th(FC).

Greenfinch.

Up to 300 at Druridge late in month(LGM/ERM) and 100 at Hauxley on 5th(WRS).

Goldfinch.

Widespread in flocks of up to 30 even in centre of Newcastle.

Siskin.

Up to 60 noted at Bolam(BH et al.) and up to 30 at Gosforth Park(FC et al.). 1-8 noted at Plessey, Colt Crag and Washington.

Twite.

Between 13th-28th up to 20 at the usual winter haunt on Coquet Estuary(AH/LGM/AMT).

Redpoll.

Flocks of 40 noted at Holburn(7th) and Colt Crag(26th). 20 at Stannington on 5th were reported to be 'Mealy'(per BL).

### Bullfinch.

An unusual number of reports suggested that population was higher than normal with up to 20 at Plessey, Belsay, Gosforth, Wylam, Holywell Dene and Riding Mill. 1 in a garden at Hamsterley Mill during last week was a large, bright male - probably a bird of N race. (EP).

### Brambling.

100 at Stocksfield on 27th(per BL) and small numbers at Byrness, Druridge and Apperley Dene.

### Lapland Bunting.

1 on Holy Island on 26th(MS).

### Snow Bunting.

120 in Hauxley area(HRS) and 65 at Long Nanny most of month. 25-35 at Ross(14th) and Amble(21st) with smaller numbers at Marsden and St. Mary's area.

### Tree Sparrow.

150 with Greenfinches at Druridge on 29th(ERM) and 30 at Hauxley on 5th(HRS).

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

B.V. Atkins	J.C. Day	A.K. Ironside	E. Priestley
C.M. Adamson	J.P. Deacon	A. James	T.R. Palmer
J. Bacon	B. Etherington	I. Kerr	W.L. Rimmer
K. Barratt	P. Etherington	W.A. Kelly	S. Roddis
W. Brady	M. Etherington	E. Lobley	K. Robson
J.S. Booth	M.P. Frankis	R.G. Lewis	E.A. Stanley
A.H. Banks	J.E. Fergusson	B. Little	M. Skilleter
F. Colley	B. Galloway	E.M. Lindsay	A. Temple
R.N. Coates	J.M. Gibson	L.G. Macfarlane	A.M. Taylor
D.B. Charlton	R. Grey	J. & R. McCutcheon	B. Unwin
W.S. Craster	B. Hunter	J.D. McElwee	K. Walton
T.R. Cook	K. Hutton	M. McCann	R. Walton
P. Davidson	M. Henry	E.R. Meek	T.H. Wall
C.E. Douglas	M.S. Hodgson	L.J. Milton	N.J. Watmough
A. Donnison	A. Heavisides	E.T. Norris	T. Winter
I.C. Deck	M.J. Harbison	J.R. Norris	Hauxley R.S.
			Washington W.R.

All January records to Bryan Galloway, 3 Grosvenor Court, Chapel Park, Westerhope, Newcastle/Tyne. NE5 1RX by 9th February, please. S.A.E. for supply of record cards.



## CLUB NEWS AND NOTES

### Club Meeting, Thursday 12th February at 7.15pm.

This will be our annual 'Members' Night' when club members give short talks on their own particular activities. Previous years have served to show the wealth of talent that exists within the club, and the scope and diversity of subject matter " has entertained and often surprised the rest of us.

Our February meeting promises to be of a high standard with (at the time of writing) contributions from :-

Jim Deacon on Wood Warblers, a species he feels is somewhat neglected in Northumbria.

Jack Barker whose birdwatching is largely done from the deck of his fishing boat 10 miles off the coast, and whose magnificent slides are the envy of dry land sea watchers.

Les Milton and Don Cook on Blaydon Pond and its birds. This area frequently features in the monthly bulletin, and is in process of being designated a reserve by the local council. This designation is mainly the result of the ringing programme and observations carried out by Les and John Orton during the last 4/5 years.

### Field Trip, Sunday, 15th February.

By coach to South East Scotland. This will be in the Musselburgh/Prestonpans/Seafield area and climaxed (we hope) by views of the geese flighting in to roost at Gladhouse Reservoir.

Meet at	Baxter's Tynemouth	8.00am	
" "	Hancock Museum	8.20am	cost £1.25

Booking for the trip to: Mike Hodgson, 30 Closefield Grove, Monkseaton.  
Tel. W. Bay 20511  
or Tom Palmer, 23 Manor Park, Washington.

### Inland Gull Roosts.

The spring counts of inland gull roosts are to take place over the weekend of 13th/14th March. There are still some known sites which are, as yet, without counters. Offers of assistance to cover these should be made to: Geoff Macfarlane, 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington or at the February club meeting.

### Colour Marked Ringed Plovers.

Ringed Plovers are being colour marked on the Lindisfarne Reserve by Mike Pienkowski. Sightings of any of these birds should be sent with full details to Mike at 5, Brock Mill Cottages, Beal, Berwick-On-Tweed. If the birds are seen on Lindisfarne itself details of the EXACT location would be welcomed.

### Easter Draw.

Some generous offers of prizes have already been made by members, but in order to amke this a 'bumper' effort, may the committee appeal for further contributions? Tom Palmer has the 'Ways' but seeks help with the 'Means'.

### Informal Smoker.

Back to T. Palmer again. This event will now take place on Friday, 12th March, a less auspicious date than originally planned, but the premises will at least be licensed on that date!!