

PSNS ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 1970

Waxwings at last! Though a few have been reported from Northumberland, in December, these seem to be the first in this district this winter. Fieldfare and Redwing seem rather scarce now, the large autumn flocks having broken up and dispersed completely. Some species show a movement into less severe weather conditions. Collared Doves seem to have moved back into the east of the county, possibly having spent the last few months away from that area. (This assumption is being checked.) A Cormorant was seen at the beginning and middle of the month near Bridge of Earn, whilst the oil slick which affected the coast line between Montrose and Fife Ness was responsible for at least 6 oiled seabirds found at Kingoodie and Monorgan, near Kingoodie.

A large response to the appeal for more reporters this month. The coverage has been more widespread as well. Late reports of Sparrowhawk in the Carse of Gowrie in December, and of dippers above Perth Old Bridge and in Bridgend burn again in December, were received (CMH). Following the report of a Magpie in Glenalmond in November, details of sightings of this bird have been received (EMH). In chronological order these were - 3 at Pilmuir (23.1.66), 1 on Blacklunans Road (? district) on 9.2.67 and 1 in Glenalmond on 29.6.69. These seem to suggest that this bird is present though secretive and very localised. Also, a Green Woodpecker visited a bird table at Pitnacree, Ballinluig, in March 1969. Lastly, a Great Grey Shrike was seen, firstly in October 1969, at Kirk-of-Muir, and in November, near Stanley (IRJ).

The weather this month started with hard frosts and snow, then fog, which brought the Geese right down in the Earn Valley, also heavy rain on the 13th and 14th. Then more snow, with east winds, and finally a return to milder weather at the end of the month. The stormy weather around the middle of the month may have been responsible for the pair of Common Scoters at Pitlochry.

CLASSIFIED LIST FOR JANUARY

- Black Throated Diver One sighted off Kingoodie on 31st (JG).
- Little Grebe Two seen on the River Isla on 18th (SL/IMcK), and a solitary bird at Bridge of Earn on 5th (PJO/EJM).
- Cormorant Reported near Bridge of Earn on 16th (immature bird) (EJM/PJO) and four on the river near Isla Bridge on 18th (SL/IMcK).
- Heron A pair recorded throughout month at Madderty (IMS). Single birds reported from Crieff on 3rd and Dalreoch on 25th (R&SW), whilst they were present at Pitnacree on 12th and 18th, and near Kenmore on 24th (EMH).
- Mallard Present throughout the month on waters from Loch Faskally to Loch Earn (St Fillans), Dalreoch, Glenfarg Reservoir, the River Tay and Isla mouth. Largest number reported was 320 on the Tay between Waulkmill and North Inch on 18th (CCS).
- Wigeon All reports came in the latter part of the month, perhaps due to the wet conditions at that time (or was it the monthly Duck Count?) Largest count was 160 feeding in flooded fields at Chapelbank Farm (? location) on 17th (SL/IMcK). Other groups noted about this time were 35 at Isla mouth (JK) and 50 on the Tay above the North Inch (CCS).
- Teal Only one report for the beginning of the month, from Crieff, but several records from the middle and end of the month. These were centred on Pickston Wood, Dunning and Dalreoch, and Monks Myre. White Moss Loch had 36 on 25th (R&SW).
- Pochard All reports from the weekend 24th/25th. 3 occurred at St Fillans (EDC/EMF). Though outside Perthshire, Lindores Loch had approximately 20 (CCS).
- Tufted Duck Again, most reports in latter half of month in the area of Loch Faskally, with 20 (MM), round Dunning to Perth where one was seen on South Inch Pond on 26th (CYM).
- Goldeneye Reported in many places in the east and south of the county. 20 were recorded on the Tay below Perth Harbour, and at the mouth of the Earn into the Tay (CCS/JK). A pair were seen regularly from the Queen's Bridge, Perth (JG). Maximum counts were 70 above the North Inch on 18th (CCS), and 57 on the Tay between Inchyra and the Pye Road on 24th (SL/IMcK).
- Common Scoter Two on Loch Faskally on 31st (MM).
- Goosander Pairs recorded at Pitnacree throughout the month (EMH) and on the Tay, Perth, on 23rd (JG).

- Red Breasted Merganser Occurred at Pitnacree throughout the month (EMH) with a maximum of 5 on 8th. A single bird visited the River in Perth on 14th (JG).
- Grey Geese Present in regular haunts throughout the month. Though not many in the east, eg 18 on 31st at Longforgan (BML), many flocks of over 100 were counted in the Earn Valley and around Isla mouth. Smaller flocks occurred around Pitnacree and Logierait. Maximum counts were 1,500 Pinkfeet near Balgowan on 4th (JRW) and 1,200 Greylag at Isla mouth on 18th (JK).
- Barnacle Goose 3 at Balgowan on 4th (JRW).
- Mute Swan Maximum numbers were 20 on 3rd in Pond of Drummond/River Earn, Crieff Area (R&SW), and 9 in Dalreoch/Dunning area on 17th (SL/IMcK).
- Whooper Swan 5 at Carsehead, Madderty, in the first week of January (TMS) and 5 at Dalreoch on 17th (SL/IMcK). 2 of latter were cygnets. No Whoopers this year at Fortingall (EMH).
- Buzzard 3 reports - 2 above the Glen Earn Estate on 4th (EJM/PJO), 1 at Dalreoch on 25th (R&SW) and possibly 1 on the Braco Road round Comrie on 29th (EMH).
- Kestrel Reported from Kingoodie on 18th (BML) and 31st (JG), Viewlands Reservoir on 13th and 20th (SL), around Dunning on 3rd (HRW) and 25th (R&SW), at Logierait on 6th and Pitnacree on 13th (EMH), and throughout the month on the Balmanno Estate (PJO/EJM).
- Red Grouse Reported from near Glenfarg Reservoir, and Pickston Wood, Glenalmond.
- Partridge Maximum numbers in a covey were 20 on 14th and 16 on 28th in Dron area (EJM). 9 on the 4th were seen at Balbeggie (BML) and 12 on the 7th above Oakbank, Perth (EMW).
- Moorhen Plentiful in Wicks of Baigie/Moncrieffe area (EJM) with reports coming from Loch Earn, Elcho Castle and at Stormontfield, where 26 were counted on 4th (CY & WJM). 24 were counted in Dalchonzie Mink Farm area (? location) on 3rd (EDC).
- Coot Not many reports, though the partly frozen Pond of Drummond, Crieff, had 200+ on 3rd (R&SW).
- Oystercatcher 20 near Kingoodie in the fields on 18th (BML), and 1 at Viewlands Reservoir, Perth, on 13th/14th (SL).
- Lapwing Plentiful in south of County. Flocks of over 50 were recorded during the latter half of the month around Longforgan (BML), north of Luncaarty (MM), Dalreoch (R&SW), and Forteviot Bridge (SL/IMcK).
- Golden Plover 1 on 25th at Dalreoch (R&SW). May be an influx as reports for this month (February) seem to suggest.
- Woodcock 1 on 22nd in Pitmedden Forest, Glenfarg (EJM).
- Snipe 3 on 4th at Glenfarg Reservoir, 2 on 6th at Balmanno (EJM/PJO), 1 on 13th at Cornhill (? location) (SL); and 1 in fields above Oakbank, Perth on 6th (EMW).
- Curlew Reported in the flooded fields around Dalreoch in the middle and end of month (up to 30), and around Longforgan, where 33 counted on 18th (BML).
- Bar Tailed Godwit 40+ on Kingoodie mudflats on 18th (BML).
- Redshank 50+ in fields between Kingoodie and Monorgan, with many more on the shore, on 18th (BML).
- Dunlin 200+, flying west, on 18th (BML), and a "large flock" on 31st (JG) at Kingoodie.
- Great Black Backed Gull 2 in fields near Kingoodie on 18th (BML), 3-4 at Dalreoch on 25th, and 1 around Pitnacree on 27th, with other gulls. Lesser Black Backed and Herring Gulls occur there as well (EMH).
- Guillemot 1, oiled, at Monorgan, Kingoodie on 24th (BML). Taken to Camperdown Zoo. Razorbill, Guillemot and Diver corpses have been found in this stretch of shore during January.
- Collared Dove 3-9 all month at Balmanno, Dron, with 16 on 24th (EJM/PJO), 5 in Longforgan on 31st (BML), and throughout the month in two locations in Perth (CYM/JG). 2 present in Crieff garden during month.
- Barn Owl 1 on 24th at Aberfeldy (EMH).
- Tawny Owl Apparently resident at Pitnacree during month (EMH).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker 1 on 4th in woods round sewage plant, Glenfarg (EJM/PJO).
- Corvidae Mixed flocks of up to 700+ recorded in Earn Valley, Balbeggie and Pitnacree throughout month.
- Hooded Crow 4 near Lawers on 24th (EMH).

<u>Jackdaw</u>	2 pairs were seen "prospecting" for nesting places in Dunning on 3rd (HRW).
<u>Jay</u>	1 on 22nd at Pottiehill, Glenfarg (EJM).
<u>Coal Tit</u>	Daily at Pitnacree (EMH) with single birds at Glenfarg on 4th (EJM/PJO), the Path of Condie on 24th (R&SW), and the Moncrieffe Estate on 27th (PJO/EJM). Also reported from the Dron district and Scone Aerodrome, where 8 were counted on 4th (BML).
<u>Blue and Great Tit</u>	Common throughout the county. Seem to have paired in some districts, though a flock of 25 Blue Tits were counted at Crieff on 15th (IMcK).
<u>Longtailed Tit</u>	Many reports from Perth, Bridge of Earn and Kingoodie areas. Largest flock was 20 on Kinnoull Hill (SL) with flocks of 10 at Rosemount Golf Course (MM) and near Kingoodie (BML). Some flocks of 10 to 20 have been seen round Bridge of Earn.
<u>Tree Creeper</u>	Present throughout the month in areas from Pitnacree and Comrie to Kingoodie, Dunning and the Dron and Moncrieffe Estate region.
<u>Wren</u>	Common throughout south and east Perthshire.
<u>Dipper</u>	Present wherever flowing water occurs in Perthshire. Has this species increased in recent years in the county?
<u>Fieldfare</u>	This species offered to increase in numbers as month progressed. Large flocks were recorded at Inchyra on 24th (SL/IMcK), though reported to be fewer in numbers around Longforgan (BML).
<u>Redwing</u>	Like the above species, has increased in numbers as month aged. However, numbers have been small, not over 20, more often in ones and two's.
<u>Song Thrush</u>	Heard singing on 25th in Longforgan (BML).
<u>Stonechat</u>	1 seen on 25th somewhere around Perth (location, please, reporter).
<u>Goldcrest</u>	Single birds seen on 11th at Dron, 13th on Balmanno Estate (EJM), and 31st near Loch Faskally (MM). 6 were counted on Kinnoull Hill on 2nd, and 4 near Binn Tower on 4th (IMcK).
<u>Meadow Pipit</u>	Recorded from Balbeggie, Glenfarg Reservoir, Bridge of Earn and Dalreoch, where 40+ were counted on 25th (R&SW).
<u>Pied Wagtail</u>	Present throughout the month by the Tay in Perth (JG), in the Glenfarg Gorge (EJM/PJO), and at Scone and Dalchonzie (EDC).
<u>Waxwing</u>	9 on 24th in garden off Fairies Road, Perth (CCS). Slides on March 11th.
<u>Finches</u>	Only a few large flocks seen during month. 200+ around Dron on 6th (PJO/EJM).
<u>Greenfinch/Chaffinch</u>	Lack of these species in the east of the country (BML). A few Greenfinches were seen near Carsbeck (JG), along the Earn, Crieff, and on the Ballendrick Estate (R&SW). 15 were counted at St Fillans on 25th (EMT).
<u>Linnets</u>	A flock of 30+ on 17th on the Balmanno Estate (EJM).
<u>Goldfinch</u>	Besides occurring in flocks around Viewlands Reservoir, Perth (SL), a single bird was seen at Dalchonzie on 3rd (EDC), 3 on 4th at Dron (EJM/PJO) and Perth on 6th (EMW).
<u>Lesser Redpoll</u>	Present at Balbeggie and Longforgan at the beginning and end of the month (BML). Flocks of 8-15 occurred in Balmanno and Dron areas throughout the month (EJM) whilst they were seen in Comrie on 3rd and Scone on 31st (EDC).
<u>Bullfinch</u>	All over the area covered by the Club reporters. Largest number was 12 in Aberuthven on 3rd (HRW).
<u>Brambling</u>	3+ on Balmanno Estate on 17th (EJM), and 4 at Comrie on 24th (EMH).
<u>Yellowhammer</u>	Present in the Perth and Bridge of Earn areas during month. Maximum count was 16 on 20th on Balmanno Estate (EJM).
<u>Reed Bunting</u>	Kingoodie and the Balmanno Estate areas gave reports of this species, though it occurs in many more places where water occurs (eg Rhynd).
<u>Tree Sparrow</u>	22 reported in Perth area in a flock on 21st (EMW).

Many thanks to the reporters who helped to compile this Bulletin: Mrs E.M. Harvey, S. Laing, I. McKinnie and M. Meyer, Misses C.M. Haggart and E.M. Watson, and Messrs E.D. Cameron, J. Grant, I.R. Johnston, J. Kirk, B.M. Lynch, E.J. Maguire, P.J. O'Brien, C.C. Sears, T.M. Smith, E.M. Tainsh, J.R. Weir and H.R. Wilson. Additional material came from C.Y. and W.J. Murray and R. and S. Willis (yet again!)

Would reporters get their February material to Mr R. Willis, Smithy House, Ballendrick Estate, Bridge of Earn, by March 6th 1970, please. Coverage of the county has become a lot better, but the western part of Perthshire is still not covered sufficiently. So, visitors to the Rannoch district, Tummel Bridge, Callendar, etc, etc, could you put your observations down and send them to the above address, please?

In the next few months, can reporters watch for the spring migrants? They usually arrive with first, a few "early birds", then the main body. So will each reporter try to record "early" and "main" separately, and we will see if we can trace the passage of these birds northwards. However, please do not forget the winter visitors. Reports of the last Redwings, Fieldfare, Grey Geese, Duck, etc, are always of interest. Lastly, the movement of Waders, eg Oystercatchers, Redshank, etc, from the coast to their inland breeding ground should be recorded as well. (Those covering the Earn Valley keep a lookout for Terns and Ringed Plover.)

The Committee had a meeting on 28th January 1970, and discussed three topics. First, the outings for the summer were provisionally arranged as follows: April - 5th, Craigrossie (2.30 p.m. from Museum); 19th - Eden Estuary (11 a.m. - depends on tide); 29th - Methven Moss (6.30 p.m.); May - 6th, Stormontfield (6.30 p.m.); 10th. Birks of Aberfeldy (2.30 p.m.); 16th, Cleavage Hills (6.30 p.m.); 23rd - The Hermitage, Dunkeld (2.30 p.m.); June - 3rd, Easter Rhynd (6.30 p.m.); 21st - Fowlis Heugh (10 a.m.); July - 26th, Bass Rock (limited to 15). These outings have yet to be confirmed in a few cases, and will be mentioned in forthcoming Bulletins.

Secondly, for the Members' Night on March 11th, contributions are needed. Also at this meeting, Committee Members for the next session (Winter 1970/71) will be chosen. Could nominations for the various posts in the Committee be given to Mrs S. Laing, 8 Cornhill Terrace, Perth, on paper, by 27th February, ie by or at the next meeting.

Lastly, Finance. Several members had not paid their subscription for this year. Some had not paid for two years!! It was decided that, regrettably, members who do not pay their subscription of 10/6d (5/- Section, 5/6d Main Society) will have to be taken off the Bulletin mailing list, since, in any case, a member's Section subscription barely covers the postage etc. Hence, could any members who have not donated their subscription please have it ready at the next meeting or send it to Mr I. Johnston, Treasurer, Kirk-O-Muir, Kinclaven.

At the next meeting (an "open" one) on Friday, February 27th, at 7.30 p.m., Mr C. Campbell will be giving an illustrated talk on the "Wildfowl of Loch Leven". The multitude of Wild Geese and Ducks at Loch Leven is well known and the lecture should be of great interest.

Thereafter, there is the Members' Night on March 11th, at 7.30 p.m. We want a good turnout then to choose new Committee Members and to see what members have in the way of slides and interesting observations of bird life.

PSNS ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 1970

The month started with two or three days of strong winds, followed by squally weather and clear intervals. From about the 8th, sunny days occurred with frosty nights. Whilst the north of the County was covered with snow during this time, the southern part of the County had a heavy fall on the 17th and 18th, though a thaw occurred on the 19th, and, especially in the Earn Valley, the snow disappeared. The high pressure to the south of Britain during this time produced troughs of low pressure moving over the country, with typical squally weather.

Whooper Swans seem to have been widespread this month. Reports have come in from as far as the river above Aberfeldy and Loch Dochart. A dozen were seen on Loch Dochart and on the Tay above Aberfeldy in January (EMH). Heron seem to be pretty widespread as well. Reports of Scaup on the river near Ballinluig have been received. Lastly, a Merlin was ringed and set free, after colliding with a window of a house near Pitlochry.

CLASSIFIED LIST FOR FEBRUARY

- Little Grebe Two reports: 1 on 1st at Rossie Priory Pond (BML) and another single bird on 15th at Isla Bridge (SL/IMcK).
- Cormorant 1, immature, on rock in Tay off North Inch on 15th (CCS). 1, immature, flying up the Earn at Tay/Earn junction on 28th (R&SW).
- Heron Reported from Pitnacree, Crieff, Almondbank, Madderty, Dunning and Forgandenny/Bridge of Earn districts. Maximum numbers were 7-8 at Moncrieffe Pond on 28th (R&SW), and 5 on 1st at Crieff (ET).
- Mallard Plentiful throughout county. The largest numbers reported were 100+ in the Tay Estuary at Invergowrie on 15th (BML), 40 near Aberfeldy on 4th (EMH) and 30 at both Bertha Loch, Almondbank on 28th (JW) and Dalreoch Ford on 9th (SL/IMcK).
- Widgeon Reported as follows: 8 on Loch Dochart on 4th (EMH), 1 on the Earn near Aberdalgie, near Perth on 15th (EJM/PJO) and 9 on Bertha Loch, Almondbank on 28th (JW).
- Teal All reports in the latter half of the month. A total of 8 were present in the Longforan district on 21st (BML), 8 on the Earn near Aberdalgie on 18th (EJM/PJO), 10 in the Bridge of Earn/Carpow Ferry stretch of the Earn on 28th (R&SW) and a solitary bird on Loch Dhu on 22nd (JG).
- Pochard A pair near Crieff on 1st (ET) and 8 at Isla Bridge on 15th (SL/IMcK) were reported, together with a solitary bird on Loch Earn on 21st (EDC).
- Tufted Duck Reports from Perth, Isla Bridge, Rossie Priory and Lochs Tay, Dochart and Achray. Maximum number was 27-30 throughout the month on the Tay south of Moncrieffe Island, Perth (IMcK).
- Goldeneye A total of 10 in the Loch of Lowes district on the 1st (IRJ) was followed by 14 at Isla Bridge on 15th (SL/IMcK) and 34 on the Tay near Sawmill Stream on 21st (JG). Numbers on the Tay in Perth ranged from 2 to 7 during the month, whilst Loch Ard and Ochertyre had a few as well on 22nd (JG). Loch Dochart, Tummelbridge and Kenmore produced numbers up to 4 at the beginning of the month, whilst a maximum of 10 occurred at Pitnacree on 27th (EMH).
- Red-Breasted Merganser The Earn (above Dalreoch Bridge), Tummelbridge and Kenmore had 1 each at the beginning of the month, whilst a maximum of 5 was recorded on the river at Pitnacree on 21st (EMH). A pair were seen on the Tay in Perth on 21st (JG).
- Goosander Present throughout month at Pitnacree, maximum number 4 on 17th/18th (EMH). On the 1st, a total of 11 were counted in Loch of Lowes area (IRS), whilst other birds were seen near Aberdalgie, Bertha Loch, and the Tay in Perth in the latter half of the month.
- Scaup A report, of up to 6 on the Tay, near Ballinluig, for 3 days in mid-month, has been received, and is being investigated.
- Grey Geese Still plentiful, though there is an apparent movement northwards; possibly the Spring migration has started. Largest counts were 1000+ Greylag in the Invergowrie district on 28th (BML) with 550 Greylag inland at Weem on 23rd (EMH). Pinkfeet were not so numerous, 95 being counted at Comrie on 22nd (JG) and 200+ over Invergowrie on 15th (BML).

- Mute Swan Old England (!) Loch had 3 on 3rd ("the first for many years") (IRJ), whilst 4 occurred on Loch Vennacher on 22nd (JG), at Isla Bridge on 15th (SL/IMcK) and on the Tay above North Inch on 15th (CCS).
- Whooper Swan As there is a survey of this species in progress, here is a complete list: 15th - 1 Monk Myre, 2 near West Banchory Farm, on the Isla, 4 flying west Aberdalgie: 19th - 6 Balmanno Estate in stubble fields where 3 were present on 20th. On the same day, 3 flew south over Pitlochry, and 5 west over Carsehead, Madderty. On 23rd, 5 were in the flooded fields at Dalreoch Br ge. 1 was present on 25th on the Isla at Coupar Angus, whilst 2 were on the Earn at Inverdunning. Lastly, 7 flew on to the Earn at Carpow Ferry on 28th. It is possible that the same species roosted in fields behind Aberargie at the beginning of the month. Lastly, 2 on 21st on Loch Earn.
- Buzzard Present around Loch Earn/Comrie district. Other reports were Loch Chon on 22nd (JG) and Bridge of Earn on 17th (PJO).
- Sparrowhawk A female at Dalchonzie, Comrie, on 22nd, whilst, though just outside Perthshire, 1 was present at Newburgh on 16th (PJO).
- Hen Harrier 1 female watched over small wood near Balmanno Hill (between Glenfarg and Bridge of Earn) on 8th (R&SW).
- Kestrel Single birds seen at Pitnacree, Balmanno, Bridge of Earn, Aberuthven and Almondbank during the month.
- Merlin Except for a dubious report for January, this is the first this year. HB et al caught the bird, a first winter male, after it had collided with a window in a house near Pitlochry, ringed it and, after recovering overnight, released it, none the worse, next morning, the 28th.
- Red Grouse 2 at Red Myre Moor were the only ones seen on 14th (BML).
- Black Cock 1 on Red Myre Moor on 14th (BML), and 12 at Glenartney, Comrie, on 25th (JHW), whilst 3 attempted tree life at Amulree on 12th (EMH).
- Partridge Small parties (maximum 5) in Bridge of Earn, Moneydie, Pitnacree and Carpow Ferry areas. Winter coveys are possibly splitting up.
- Moorhen Present on many waters. Maximum number in a flock was 20 at Pitnacree on 26th (EMH).
- Coot Present on many lowland waters, though not in large flocks as in last month. Maximum number was a dozen at Bertha Loch on 28th (JW) and at Crieff on 1st (ET).
- Oystercatcher Numerous on Invergowrie mudflats (BML). By the end of the month, apparent movement inland with 11 near Woody Island (River Tay) on 21st (JG). 2 were seen by the Isla at Coupar Angus on 25th (FAM), a were 2 at Kirkton of Mailler on 15th (PJO).
- Lapwing Flocks of 100+ reported from the Earn Valley and around Logierait during month.
- Golden Plover On 15th, 100+ on Invergowrie mudflats. By the 28th, some of these birds were beginning to attain summer plumage (BML).
- Snipe A single bird at Aberdalgie on 15th (EHM/PJO), whilst 2 or 3 were seen near Kingoodie on 25th and 28th (BML). and Carpow Ferry on 28th (R&SW).
- Curlew 4 alongside River Earn above Dalreoch Bridge on 1st and 1 on Tay opposite North Inch on 15th (CCS). A single bird at Callerfountain Hill and Bertha Woods on 28th (MM/JW). The number of birds on the Estuary mudflats seems to be decreasing (BML).
- Bar-Tailed Godwit 200+ on Invergowrie mudflats on 15th (BML).
- Redshank Numerous, though not in large concentrations, on Invergowrie mudflats (BML). Possible movement inland indicated by single birds seen on 26th/27th at Viewlands Reservoir, Perth (SL).
- Dunlin Still very numerous on Estuary mudflats. 1000+ on 15th (BML).
- Gulls Common and black-headed present throughout the County. The latter is beginning to obtain summer plumage. A great black-backed was seen at Pitnacree on 19th, whilst, at the same place on the 3rd, a lesser black-backed gull of the Scandinavian race was identified.
- Collared Dove Balmanno, Bridge of Earn, had 9 all month (EJM/PJO) whilst 1 was soon at PRI Laboratory on 10th (R&SW). Several in the Tullylumb Terrace/PRI area (CCS).
- Long Eared Owl 1 at Comrie on 11th (EMH).

Tawny Owl A pair heard at Pitnacree on 12th (EMH) and a single bird in Abernethy on 18th (RT).

Green Woodpecker A late report of a bird seen in Pitlochry last November (HB). On 28th, 2 heard "yaffling" in Moncrieffe Woods, Bridge of Earn (R&SW).

Great Spotted Woodpecker 2 at Pitnacree on 10th (EMH) and 1 at Pitlochry on 21st (HB).

Skylark Singing birds quite frequent by the end of month around Longforgan (BML). 50 at Comrie on 12th (EMH).

Rook By end of month reported started nesting near RN Store Depot, Almondbank (JW), Balbeggie and Dron (BML). Largest flock, 1000+ at Lanrick Castle on 22nd (JG).

Hooded Crow Several at Duallin on 4th (EMH).

Raven Heard in Loch Tubhair district on 4th (EMH).

Jackdaw The resident pair at Pitnacree now have competition for their chimney! (EMH).

Jay 1 at Rossie Priory on 21st (BML).

Magpie 1 at Ayton House on 6th (AC) and possibly another near Garry Bridge, Killiecrankie, on 2nd. This may be resident there. Could reporters please keep a lookout for it in this area?

Coal Tit Common in conifer plantations in Perthshire. Often seen at bird tables.

Blue/Great Tit Present in woods and around habitations in Perthshire.

Long Tailed Tit Again, parties of up to 12 seen in woods in Perthshire. Unusually, 2 were seen in Tay Street, Perth, on 11th (JG).

Treecreeper At least 5 inhabit Kinnoull Hill, Perth (JW/IMcK), and it is reported common in Longforgan district (BML).

Wren Reports of solitary birds from all over the county.

Dipper Groups of up to 3 reported from many parts of Perthshire throughout the month.

Fieldfare Recorded throughout month in groups of up to 50+. Possible drop in numbers as month progressed.

Redwing Small groups seen throughout the month, with a maximum count of 40+ at Dupplin Castle on 15th (EJM/RJO). Unusual for this species, 1 was seen at a bird table at Pitlochry on 14th (HB). Again, the numbers of Redwings diminished as the month got older.

Mistle Thrush Seen singing in a tree on 26th at Viewlands Reservoir (SL).

Song Thrush Heard singing on 23rd at Pitlochry (EMH) and 26th at Pitcairngreen, Almondbank (JW). A complete albino (not a blackbird) seen several times and heard singing at Almondbank junction on Crieff Road (CCS).

Blackbird 6 (!) in one garden in Invergowrie on 15th (BML).

Robin 7, again unusual, together on Buckie Braes on 26th (MM).

Goldcrest 1 on Wicks of Baiglie, above Glenfarg, on 8th (R&SW).

Pied Wagtail Reports from Viewlands Reservoir, a pair all month (SL) and Rhynd, a single bird on 28th (R&SW).

Grey Wagtail 1 at Pitlochry on 8th (HB). (A bird recorded as "yellow wagtail" in Scone, may have been of this species.)

Finches Many flocks of moderate size, eg 40-50, reported throughout the county. These usually contained Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Sparrows.

Linnet 8 at Viewlands Reservoir on 23rd (SL).

Twite 8 at Kingoodie on 28th (BML).

Lesser Redpoll Parties of up to 20 recorded throughout the month in stubble fields or larch trees.

Bullfinch Common in and around woods in Perthshire. Maximum number in one group was 15 at Weem on 23rd (EMH).

Goldfinch Only a few reports. Present in groups of 2 or 3 at Pitnacree, Longforgan, Balmanno, Carpow Ferry and Comrie.

Chaffinch Plenty in county.

/ Brambling ...

Brambling 1 bird at bird table at Pitlochry on 14th (HB). Numbers appeared to tail off in Balbeggie as the month progressed.

Yellowhammer Numerous throughout the county. A party of 12 bathed in an ice covered burn near Comrie during the frosty weather (EMH).

Reed Bunting Present throughout county, even away from reeds and water. Singing noted on 26th (SL/MCCK).

Tree Sparrow Reported from Comrie, 2 on 11th (EMH), and Bridge of Earn, at least 2 around the Smithy, on Ballendrick Estate, all mon h. 2 at Carpow Ferry on 28th (R&SW).

This report could not have been compiled without the help and work of many people. These include Mrs E.M. Harvey, I. McKinnie, S. Laing, and M. Meyer, Miss A. Coventry, and Messrs. H. Brown, E.D. Cameron, J. Grant, I.R. Johnston, B.M. Lynch, E.J. Maguire, F.A. Merrett, P.J. O'Brien, C.C. Sears, T.M. Smith, E. Tainsh, R. Turner, J.H. Wallace, J. Watt, and H.R. Wilson. R. and S. Willis helped with their reports.

A reporter (EDC) would like to know the reason why a party of rooks, jackdaw, blackbird, robin, hedge-sparrow, crow, moorhen and chaffinch were seen one morning standing often up to their bellies in slush and pecking at it. Were they after grit and/or salt? This occurred around 10 a.m. on 1st February on the Comrie/Methven Road. Any suggestions?

The outings for the Summer were listed in the last Bulletin, and you are referred to it for the first outing at the beginning of April.

Would reporters send their records for March to Mr R.G. Willis, Smithy House, Ballendrick Estate, Bridge of Earn, by April 6th, please.

Watch out for migrants! Spring is just round the corner and things will be on the move very soon.